

To The Wife of a Vietnam Vet

*You've never visited the land of my
Nightmares; or experienced firsthand my fears.
But the aftermath of these you have endured
For what must seem like a hundred years.*

*But that night at the wall as I stood there
And wept those tears that were buried so long
And felt for a time so pathetically weak,
You were incredibly strong.*

*Now a new day's begun, a healing revived
And you deserve much of the glory.
So, from now on whenever I speak about 'Nam
You'll be a part of the story.*

Vietnam 1962 - 1972



*The Role Of RAEME Is To :-
" Provide Maintenance Engineering , Materiel Maintenance ,
Modifications , and Recovery Support to the Army."*

The Horse's Mouth

The Newsletter of the RAEME Association of WA (Inc.)

Winter 2003

This newsletter is the official journal of the **ROYAL AUSTRALIAN ELECTRICAL AND MECHANICAL ENGINEERS ASSOCIATION OF WA (INC.)**. Meetings are held on the first Thursday of each month, except for January, at 7.00pm, Kings Hotel, 517 Hay Street, Perth, in Restaurant annex. Membership or other enquiries may be made to any of the committee members. A list is printed on Page 2 of this journal.

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PO Box 186, Bayswater, WA 6053

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DEADLINE

All contributions for the next edition of THE HORSE'S MOUTH must be with the editor no later than 27th of MAY 2003.

DISCLAIMER

Thoughts expressed in articles in THE HORSE'S MOUTH are those held by the writer/contributors and not necessarily those of the Association.

From the President

The Annual General Meeting behind us for another year, again I have been trusted with the position as President. Turn out for the meeting was poorly attended and it is obvious to me that the members do not want become involved with the running of the Association. We do need the support of all that have become part of this organisation especially when it comes to organizing events such as the RAEME Birthday dinners, raffles and others.

Although we are still moving ahead and

going in the right direction, we need all the support that we can muster.

We need the younger members to come forward and give us some ideas. What is needed to keep this great association going? This is not a thing for the Old & Bolts only. We are doing this for you younger generation and to keep the motto "Arte et Marte" and the Corps principles going.

We have been trying to establish some social activities and information services for the benefit for all members young or old. We are trying to get many

3) Only in Australia... do people order double cheeseburgers, large fries... and a Diet Coke.

4) Only in Australia... do banks leave both doors open, have no armed guards and chain the pens to the counter.

5) Only in Australia... do we leave cars worth thousands of dollars in the driveway, and store our junk in the garage.

6) Only in Australia... do we use answering machines to screen calls and then have call waiting so we won't miss a call from someone we didn't want to talk to in the first place.

7) Only in Australia... do we use the word "politics" to describe the process of Government. "Poli" (poly) in Latin meaning "many" and, "tics" meaning blood sucking creatures".

8) Only in Australia... do we live by the saying "you're never too pissed if you can still find the floor".

Stand proud Aussie's.....!!!

The Best Drinking Story Ever

From the State where drink driving is considered a sport, comes a true story from the Sunshine Coast, Queensland. Recently a routine police patrol parked outside a local neighbourhood tavern.

Late in the evening the officer noticed a man leaving the bar so intoxicated that he could barely walk. The man stumbled around the car park for a few minutes, with the officer quietly observing.

After what seemed an eternity and trying his keys on five vehicles, the man managed to find his car which he fell into. He was there for a few minutes as a number of other patrons left the bar and drove off.

Finally he started the car, switched the wipers on and off (it was a fine dry

night), flicked the indicators on and off, tooted the horn and then switched on the lights. He moved the vehicle forward a few inches, reversed a little and then remained stationary for a few more minutes as more patrons left in their vehicles. At last he pulled out of the car park and started to drive slowly down the road.

The police officer, having patiently waited all this time, now started up the patrol car, put on the flashing lights, promptly pulled the man over and carried out a Breathalyser test. To his amazement the breathalyser indicated no evidence of the man having consumed alcohol at all!

Dumbfounded, the officer said "I'll have to ask you to accompany me to the Police station this Breathalyser equipment must be broken."

"I doubt it," said the man, "Tonight I'm the designated decoy."

A Good Pun Is Its Own Reward

A man's home is his castle, in a manor of speaking.

Shotgun wedding: A case of wife or death.

Sea captains don't like crew cuts.

When two egotists meet, it's an I for an I.

In democracy your vote counts. In feudalism your count votes.

If you don't pay your exorcist, you get repossessed.

Show me a piano falling down a mine shaft, and I'll show you a flat minor.

A plateau is a high form of flattery.

Once you've seen one shopping center, you've seen a mall..

Bakers trade bread recipes on a knead-to-know basis.

Acupuncture is a jab well done.

Life According to Perry

Here is the latest offering from our own home spun Philosopher Perry.

Picking on Glen

A sergeant was addressing a squad of 20 and said: "I have a nice easy job for the laziest man here. Put up your hand if you are the laziest." 19 men raised their hands, and the sergeant, noticing that Glen hadn't raised his hand, asked, "why didn't you raise your hand?" Glen replied: "Too much trouble, Sarge."

A squad of Australian soldiers was patrolling along the Iraqi border. To their surprise, they found the badly mangled dead body of an Iraqi soldier in a ditch along the road. A short distance up the road, they found a badly mangled Australian soldier (Glen) in a ditch on the other side of the road, who was still barely alive. They ran to him, cradled his blood-covered head and asked him what had happened. "Well," Glen whispered, "I was walking down this road, armed to the teeth. I came across this heavily armed Iraqi border guard. I looked him right in the eye and shouted, 'Saddam Hussein is an unprincipled, lying piece of trash!' He looked me right in the eye and shouted back, "Your Boss is an unprincipled, lying piece of trash too!" "We were standing there shaking hands in the middle of the road when the truck hit us."

A major is walking along with his aide. As young Glen salutes him he says "Same to you". His aide asks why he is saying this. He replies: "I was a digger once. I know what they're thinking when they salute me."

What is This?

An Infantry Soldier stands in the rain with a 35lb pack on his back, 15 lb weapon in hand, after having marched 15 kilometres, and says, "This is shit."

A Paratrooper stands in the rain with a 45lb pack on his back, weapon in hand, after having jumped from an airplane and marched 20 kilometres, and says with a smile, "This is good shit!"

A Navy Clearance diver lies in the mud, 55lb pack on his back, weapon in hand, after swimming 10 kilometres to shore, crawling through a swamp and marching 25 kilometres at night past the enemy positions, says with a grin, "This is really great shit!"

A Special Air Service Trooper, up to his nose in the stinking, bug infested mud of a swamp. He has a 65lb pack on his back and a weapon in both hands after jumping from an aircraft at high altitude, into the ocean, at night, swimming 12 kilometres to the shore, killing several crocodiles in the swamp. He then crawled 30 kilometres through the bush to assault an enemy camp, says, "I love this shit!"

A member of RAAF crawls out of bed, drives 10 kilometres to work, scales a few stairs into the building, sits in an easy chair in the air conditioned, carpeted office, turns on his computer and says, "The system's down! What kind of shit is this?!"

Why We Are All Proud To Be Australian!!

- 1) Only in Australia... can a pizza get to your house faster than an ambulance.
- 2) Only in Australia... do Supermarkets make the sick people walk all the way to the back of the store to get their Panadol's etc while healthy people can buy cigarettes at the front.

activities going so that we can enjoy each other's company and also to get the families involved.

Again the Army Museum has been in the news lately and it needs your support to keep this gem in our hands. We have to convince our politicians that this is ours and they should honour their pledge they made some time ago that the barracks would be handed to the City of Fremantle. But it is obvious that money seems to play a big role in this. So give it your wholehearted support wherever you can. You can preserve our heritage and the Artillery Barracks.

Well this is it from me, but I have one wish that the next meeting is fully attended. John Curtis and myself are still very much involved with the care of our veterans as Ex Service Officers for the Department of Veterans Affairs.

John Klein

Arte et Marte.
(By skill and by fighting.)

ANZAC DAY 2003

Anzac Day began with a good representation of **RAEME Veterans** attending the dawn service at Palmer Barracks, Guildford. Although the numbers are traditionally small at this service, it is unique in that we have been attending this service since the formation of the **RAEME Vietnam Association** some fifteen years ago.

The service was followed by a gunfire breakfast - rum and coffee along with bacon, eggs, baked beans and toast were the order of the day. Although it must be said that a backup supply of **Bundy** was necessary after Don Phillips acquired the taste.

The gathering of the troops at the Anzac Club commenced around 0830 and numbers began to accumulate quickly.

A few beers and a chat saw the time pass rapidly. Then it was on to the form-up position and prepare for the march proper. Our numbers continued to swell and by the time we stepped off we had in excess of fifty veterans marching behind the banner. This was an excellent number considering Anzac Day followed hot on the heels of the Easter week-end and it was expected that many would take a long break.

A fine and sunny day supported by a huge, receptive crowd made the march something to remember. It is always very heartening to see a large crowd on Anzac Day, but the most impressive aspect this year was the number of young people, particularly teenagers, who turned out to show their respect and support for the veterans. One could not avoid feeling emotionally touched by the people waving flags and cheering those who marched. This year we had the police band directly in front of us making it so much easier to keep step. Even Don Horsley managed to keep in step (well **most** of the time anyway).

After the completion of the march and ceremony, seventy people headed back to the **Ibis Hotel** located in Murray Street. Ample food and refreshments were available, lots of banter and reminiscing among other things saw the afternoon pass very quickly. A number of raffles were run to raise funds to cover the costs of the day. We are most grateful to **Kev Hickey, Col. Ian Stewart and to Don Gunn and his Family** for their wonderful support in donating the prizes. Please be aware that we are constantly on the look out for people to sponsor us each year. Kev and Don have been absolutely fantastic in past years, but it would be great if someone else could help out in future years.

At the end of the day, the organisers

met to quickly discuss the feed-back and sum up the day. It was decided that the room we used this year, although very good, was a little too segregated by the layout of the tables and booths. So a meeting with the hotel management enabled us to view and book a much more appropriate room for next year.

All in all, a great day was had by those who attended. Please remember, that next Anzac Day is only eleven months away and the plans for an even better day next year are already under way.

Peter the III

Many people have noticed the absence of the OC 13 CSSB Workshop Company in April – May. Perry and Michelle have been involved with a struggle no parent should go through. Little Peter has been in Princess Margaret Hospital, undergoing very serious surgery, on 12 April 2003, for a Brain Tumour.

When next we heard was that Peter was recovering satisfactorily from the surgery, although he was very seriously ill.

The Association received the following email from Perry on the 3rd of May 2003:

“Things were looking very good last week with Peter being discharged on April 24. Unfortunately we have had a bit of a setback with him having to be readmitted on April 28 due to a pressure build up on the brain. This has in turn led to a minor stroke the effects of which we are still trying to ascertain but hopefully appear to have been minor. (ie he is happily playing and carrying on much as usual) There are going to be another battery of tests on Monday to see where do we go to from here and whether a drain/shunt is required.

The latest scan on Friday showed everything seeming to start to settle down. Obviously Michelle and I are loath to take him home if this is likely to reoccur (with much more serious results) and we have to way of telling, but we should know a lot more next week.

Your kind thoughts and prayers are much appreciated.

Perry “

Then we received another email that was circulated to those who were asking about Peter.

“Back at work today.

Just finished unpacking all my boxes. Still going through the 200 odd e-mails. Peter is back to his old self too and going great. Now if only Michael had decided to wait another few weeks before starting teething.....

Perry “

To Perry, Michelle, Peter and the toothsome Michael we wish smooth waters and a fair wind to sail with for the future. Everybody who has heard of your problems have wished you all the very best. Please keep us posted about Peter (and Michael’s teeth).

AGM

The AGM for the Association was held on 12 April 2003 at 13 CSSB Workshop Company.

Reports were presented to those attending from the President, The Treasurer and the Welfare Officers. LT Jason Williams was requested to take over the chair when the President ordered a spill and all positions declared vacant.

Elections were then held and the following were elected for the year 2003 to 01 April 2004:

President: John Klein

and embedded itself in the back wall of the cabin. It was like an arrow shot from a bow. The horrified Americans sent the Canadian Research Facility the disastrous results of the experiment, along with the designs of the windshield and begged the Canadian scientists for suggestions.

The Canadian Research Facility responded with a one-line memo: “Defrost the chicken.”

Scriptures

An elderly woman had just returned to her home from an evening of church services when she was startled by an intruder. She caught the man in the act of robbing her home of its valuables and yelled, “Stop! Acts 2:38!”

(Repent and be baptized, in the name of Jesus Christ so that your sins may be forgiven.)

The burglar stopped in his tracks.

The woman calmly called the police and explained what she had done.

As the officer cuffed the man to take him in, he asked the burglar, “Why did you just stand there? All the old lady did was yell a scripture to you.”

“Scripture?” replied the burglar.

“She said she had an axe and two 38’s!”

True?? I Don’t Think So!!

A man wakes up at home with a huge hangover.

He forces himself to open his eyes, and the first thing he sees is a couple of aspirins and a glass of water on the side table. He sits down and sees his clothing in front of him, all clean and pressed.

He looks around the room and sees that it is in a perfect order, spotless, clean. So is the rest of the house.

He takes the aspirins and notices a note on the table: “Honey, breakfast is on the stove, I left early to go shopping. Love you.”

So he goes to the kitchen, it’s spotless, and sure enough there is his favourite hot breakfast and the morning newspaper. His son is also at the table, eating.

Man asks, “Son, what happened last night?”

His son says, “Well, you came home after 3 A.M., drunk and delirious. You stumbled a few times and broke several pieces of furniture, puked in the hallway, and urinated all over the bathroom floor.”

Confused, Man asks, “So, why is everything in order and so clean, and breakfast is on the table waiting for me?”

His son replies, “Oh that! Mom dragged you to the bedroom, and when she tried to take your pants off, you said, ‘Lady, leave me alone, I’m married.’”

Quotable Quotes

What would men be without women? Scarce, sir, mighty scarce. (Mark Twain)

By all means marry: If you get a good wife, you’ll become happy; if you get a bad one, you’ll become a philosopher. (Socrates)

I was married by a judge. I should have asked for a jury. (Groucho Marx)

My wife has a slight impediment in her speech - every now and then she stops to breathe. (Jimmy Durante)

I never hated a man enough to give his diamonds back. (Zsa Zsa Gabor)

Only Irish coffee provides in a single glass all four essential food groups: Alcohol, caffeine, sugar and fat. (Alex Levine)

comes not in what we do or whom we know, but by WHO YOU ARE. You are special - Don't ever forget it".

AND REMEMBER.....

Amateurs built the Ark. Professionals built the Titanic!!

Read this one carefully. I think Jim is a close relative to Anonymouse. The lynch mob will have to pay a lot for airfares to get Jim!!

Prawns

Far away in the tropical waters of the Caribbean, two prawns were swimming around in the sea - one called Justin and the other called Christian. The prawns were constantly being harassed and threatened by sharks that patrolled the area.

Finally one day Justin said to Christian, "I'm bored and frustrated at being a prawn, I wish I was a shark, then I wouldn't have any worries about being eaten..."

As Justin had his mind firmly on becoming a predator, a mysterious cod appears and says, "Your wish is granted", and lo and behold, Justin turned into a shark. Horrified, Christian immediately swam away, afraid of being eaten by his old mate.

Time went on (as it invariably does...) and Justin found himself becoming bored and lonely as a shark. All his old mates simply swam away whenever he came close to them. Justin didn't realise that his new menacing appearance was the cause of his sad plight.

While out swimming alone one day he sees the mysterious cod again and can't believe his luck. Justin figured that the fish could change him back into a prawn. He begs the cod to change him back so, lo and behold, he is turned back into a prawn.

With tears of joy in his tiny little eyes, Justin swam back to his friends and bought them all a cocktail. (The punch line does not involve a prawn cocktail - it's much worse). Looking around the gathering at the reef, he searched for his old pal.

"Where's Christian?" he asked. "He's at home, distraught that his best friend changed sides to the enemy and became a shark", came the reply.

Eager to put things right again and end the mutual pain and torture, he set off to Christian's house. As he opened the coral gate the memories came flooding back. He banged on the door and shouted, "It's me, Justin, your old friend, come out and see me again."

Christian replied "No way man, you'll eat me. You're a shark; the enemy and I'll not be tricked. " Justin cried back "No, I'm not. That was the old me. I've changed."

"I've found Cod. I'm a prawn again Christian".

Rocket Scientist!

Sometimes it DOES take a Rocket Scientist! (true story). Scientists at the Canadian Research Facility built a gun specifically to launch dead chickens at the windshields of airline and military jets, all travelling at maximum velocity. The idea is to simulate the frequent incidents of collisions with airborne fowl to test the strength of the windshields. NASA engineers heard about the gun and were eager to test it on the windshields of their new high speed trains. Arrangements were made, and a gun was sent to the NASA engineers. When the gun was fired, the engineers stood shocked as the chicken hurled out of the barrel; crashed into the shatterproof shield; smashed it to smithereens and blasted through the control console. It snapped the engineer's backrest in two

Vice President Ron MacKenzie
Treasurer Alan Stoner
Secretary John Curtis

The new committee was elected by show of hands. Their details are on Page 2 of this newsletter.

After the meeting the members repaired to the 13 CSSB OR's Club for "Drinkies" and a sausage sizzle paid for by the Association. The group finally broke up about 1830 hours.

The Association thanks the ASM for arranging the sustenance for this function. He has a terrific supplier of sausages and buns. We would also like to thank the CO of the CSSB and the OC of the Workshop for allowing us to use the facilities for our AGM and look forward to many more in the future at the same venue. LT Jason Williams served us admirably when he was dropped in the deep end at the last minute. Thanks, Jason!

Next years AGM will be held at the same venue and, after, will be followed by a sausage sizzle. Keep an eye out in the Horse's Mouth for details.

RAEME ASSOCIATION OF WA Financial Report AGM 2003 12Apr2003

This past year has been adventures and a new experience being Treasurer of the REAME Assoc of W.A. Inc. for myself.

The Incorporation of the Associations had a minor hiccup and is now being attended to by an Accounting Company at no cost to the Association. However we are waiting the approval from the Government for the incorporation.

You would have noticed that the Horse's Mouth has had occasional advertisements from various companies, write-ups, stories from other Units and the

odd joke or two.

Our funds have continued to remain at a level that keeps us afloat but we need more input from new members and existing members alike.

The S1 Account, or Membership Account began the year with \$434.05 and completed the year to date with \$345.66. The S1 Account is down this year because of the rising costs and the lack of financial input from members.

The S2 Account or Memorabilia Account began with \$322.15 and completed the year with \$622.15. The S2 Account is down, but we have memorabilia stock held, amounting to a value of approx. \$1000.00.

The S6 Account contained \$3.54. This account is a Holding Account for the Annual Corps Dinner and at present has \$224.35.

Currently it costs us approximately \$290.00 per quarter for each Issue of the Horse's Mouth.

Each copy costing in total (Envelopes, Postage, Paper, Printing, Maintenance Fee), \$1.16 each. Not to mention the voluntary work from John Klein and John and Clare. Curtis (Collating, printing, posting, mailing etc.)

The Association has been formally submitted a grant in purchase a new digital photocopier worth \$3750.00. We, however, provided 10% of that figure from our own funds.

The Association had a number of avenues in collecting that money, and for their help we are very thankful.

A further grant is being applied for to purchase professional level sound recording equipment to assist us with an oral history report of the Corps History in WA. This project is being developed by Mr. John Curtis and dependent upon

volunteers to help with the interviewing of the Old n' Bold.

Alan Stoner
Treasurer

24 ARMY APPRENTICE REUNION

The 24th intake is having a reunion in Melbourne at the Royce Hotel, St Kilda RD on the 24/01/2004 next year.[Contact though the below web site]. If possible could you please place this on your bulletin board and could you also post this web site on your links page?

Wayne Voss

24th Intake AAS 1969-1971
Visit our site at

http://au.geocities.com/balcombe_24th_appy

101 Fd Wksp Reunion

There is to be a 101 Fd Wksp reunion on 19 July 2003 to be held at Auburn R.S.L, 33 Northumberland St. Auburn N.S.W. The timings are 6pm for 7pm. (or 18o'clock for 19o'clock). The cost is \$35 per head. Monies to be sent in advance to :-

Frank Vella
870 Merrylands Rd.
Greystanes N.S.W. 2145
Ph. (02) 96363259
R.S.V.P 23 June 2003

The 'BRUCE ROCK VIETNAM VETERANS' Group

Will be hosting a "BACK TO THE BUSH" Reunion, on the 1st November 2003.

While plans are under way to hold events over a week, this is preliminary notice that this event will be taking

place, and ALL VETERANS FROM ALL CONFLICTS, are invited to attend.

The local community are organising things such as: golfing day, a bowling day, tennis day, squash and any other sport we have in Bruce Rock, following by evening social gatherings: ie. bingo, a fish and chip night, concert etc.

The Vietnam Veterans will be hosting a 50/50's concert on the Friday night 31 October at our Federation Amphitheatre. (Tickets at the gate)

Saturday morning 1st November we plan a large Market Day with food and entertainment. This will be followed at 3.00pm by A Veteran's March with Brass Band, to St Peter's Church for a "Relighting of the Memorial Candle" at the Vietnam Veterans' Peace window. All Veterans are invited to participate. All past theatres of war, where there was Australian participation will be represented.

A FREE barbecue dinner and drinks will be provided at the Recreational Grounds starting at 5.00pm. Impromptu entertainment will proceed throughout the evening.

Sunday morning there will be a FREE breakfast for those travellers who have to leave us, however we hope many will stay another few days and enjoy the country hospitality.

For further information please contact:
Merv Gould Ph: 0890611143
email: mjgould@bigpond.com.au
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Bill Stewart Ph: 0890611037

Government Bid To Protect 'Anzac' Internationally

The Australian Government has joined forces with the New Zealand Government to seek international protection

"The only way he could pull it off is with illegal inside information. He's going to sit in a jail cell on Rikers Island until he agrees to give up his sources."

The past year of nose-diving stock prices has left most investors crying in their beer. So when Carlssin made a flurry of 126 high-risk trades and came out the winner every time, it raised the eyebrows of Wall Street watchdogs.

"If a company's stock rose due to a merger or technological breakthrough that was supposed to be secret, Mr. Carlssin somehow knew about it in advance," says the SEC source close to the hush-hush, ongoing investigation.

When investigators hauled Carlssin in for questioning, they got more than they bargained for a mind-boggling four-hour confession.

Carlssin declared that he had travelled back in time from over 200 years in the future, when it is common knowledge that our era experienced one of the worst stock plunges in history. Yet anyone armed with knowledge of the handful of stocks destined to go through the roof could make a fortune.

"It was just too tempting to resist," Carlssin allegedly said in his videotaped confession. "I had planned to make it look natural, you know, lose a little here and there so it doesn't look too perfect. But I just got caught in the moment."

In a bid for leniency, Carlssin has reportedly offered to divulge "historical facts" such as the whereabouts of Osama Bin Laden and a cure for AIDS.

All he wants is to be allowed to return to the future in his "time craft."

However, he refuses to reveal the location of the machine or discuss how it works, supposedly out of fear the technology could "fall into the wrong hands."

Officials are quite confident the "time-traveller's" claims are bogus. Yet the SEC source admits, "No one can find any record of any Andrew Carlssin existing anywhere before December 2002."

Weekly World News will continue to follow this story as it unfolds.

Keep watching for further developments.

Thought For The Day.....

A well-known speaker started off his seminar by holding up a \$20 note.

In the room of 200 people he asked, "who would like this \$20 note?"

Hands started going up. He said, "I am going to give this \$20 to one of you, but first, let me do this. He proceeded to crumple the \$20 note up.

He then asked, "Who still wants it?" Still the hands went up in the air. "Well", he replied, "What if I do this?" And he dropped it to the ground and started to grind it into the floor with his shoe. He picked it up, now crumpled and very dirty.

"Now, who still wants it?" Still, hands went into the air.

"My friends, you have all learned a very valuable lesson today. No matter what I did to the money, you still wanted it because it did not decrease in value. It was still worth \$20.

"Many times in our lives, we are dropped, crumpled, and ground into the dirt by the decisions we make and the circumstances that come our way. We feel as though we are worthless. But, no matter what has happened or what will happen, you will never lose your value".

"Dirty or clean, crumpled or finely creased, you are still priceless to those who love you. The worth of our lives

Jim's Life in the US

I never ceases to amaze with what Jim can come up with. Here is his latest offering.

Where do they get young men like this?

CNN live interview with Martin Savidge on Sunday, 30 March 2003:

Martin Savidge of CNN, embedded with the 1st Marine battalion, 1st Marine Division, was talking with 4 young Marines near his foxhole this morning live on CNN. He had been telling the story of how well the Marines had been looking out for and taking care of him since the war started. He went on to tell about the many hardships the Marines had endured since the war began and how they all look after one another.

He turned to the four and said he had cleared it with their commanders and they could use his video phone to call home. None of these Marines had been able to talk with their families for many weeks. The 19 year old Marine next to him asked Martin if he would allow his platoon sergeant to use his call to call his pregnant wife back home whom he had not been able to talk to in over a month. A stunned Savidge, who was visibly moved by the request, nodded his head - yes. The young Marine ran off to get the sergeant.

Savidge recovered after a few seconds and turned back to the three young Marines still sitting with him. He asked which one of them would like to call home first? The Marine closest to him responded with out a moments hesita-

tion, "Sir, if is all the same to you we would like to call the parents of a buddy of ours. Lance Cpl Brian Buesing of Cedar Key, Florida, who was killed on the 23rd of March near Nasiriya. We would like to see how his folks are doing and let them know their son died bravely."

At that Martin Savidge totally broke down and was unable to speak. All he could get out before signing off was, "Where do they get young men like this?"

I Love This Guy... How Kool Is This!

NEW YORK-Federal investigators have arrested an enigmatic Wall Street wiz on insider-trading charges-and incredibly, he claims to be a time-traveller from the year 2256!

Sources at the Security and Exchange Commission confirm that 44-year-old Andrew Carlssin offered the bizarre explanation for his uncanny success in the stock market after being led off in handcuffs on January 28.

"We don't believe this guy's story-he's either a lunatic or a pathological liar," says a SEC insider.

"But the fact is, with an initial investment of only \$800, in two weeks' time he had a portfolio valued at over \$350 million. Every trade he made capitalised on unexpected business developments, which simply can't be pure luck.

Don't Forget

The HORSE'S MOUTH welcomes any correspondence, letters to the Editor, moans or groans. If you have a point of view, let us know. You can send contributions to the Editor at the address on page 2. Remember that you are responsible for what you write. The journal has a disclaimer, also on page 2. So let's have the articles and points of view that are just busting to get out.

for the word 'Anzac', the Minister for Veterans' Affairs, Danna Vale, announced today.

The two nations are making a joint application to the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) to control the use of the word 'Anzac'.

If the application was successful, the 164 countries that are party to the Paris Convention for the Protection of Industrial Property, administered by WIPO, would be required to refuse any application to register 'Anzac' as a trademark and to prohibit its unauthorised use as a trademark.

In 1921 the Australian Government legislated to protect the word 'Anzac', including its use as a trademark, and similar protection exists in New Zealand - a reflection of the significance of the Anzac legend to both nations.

Now we are seeking to extend this protection through international treaties.

The move to seek international protection for the word 'Anzac' was prompted by an attempt to register the word 'Anzak' as a trademark in Turkey (Anzak is the Turkish equivalent of Anzac). A joint Australia-New Zealand submission to the Turkish Patent Institute was successful in ensuring the registration was declined.

Our two nations have a proud and shared history in wars, conflicts and peace operations. Since the word 'Anzac' was coined to describe the joint Australian and New Zealand Corps during World War One it has come to represent the prized values of courage, determination and mateship epitomised by those who serve in the defence of our nations.

This joint application for international protection of the word 'Anzac' shows that the Anzac spirit is as strong as ever, and is evidence of the continuing

close relationship between New Zealand and Australia," said New Zealand Associate Minister of Arts, Culture and Heritage and Associate Minister of Commerce, Hon Judith Tizard MP.

Memorabilia

About 3 months ago we lost our supplier of RAEME Polo Shirts and Caps. We now have a new supplier and will be getting Caps back very soon. The Polo Shirts are on an order basis. Should you require any of these items you should contact our Property Officer, Tom Goodlich, at 13 CSSB Workshop.

We have also ordered in a quantity of Bullion RAEME Badges. These are for jacket pockets and clip in so that they can be removed when the jacket is dry-cleaned. The badges are full colour, including Gold and Silver threads and a Silver chain from the Coronet to the World. The badge is well and truly worth a look at. Because it is Gold and Silver bullion the cost will be \$30.00 each. Tom will have samples with him at the unit at Karrakatta.

Alternate arrangements can be made to purchase these items by contacting the Secretary of the Association or one of the Committee members.

Meetings

There have been a number of requests for the minutes of the meetings to be posted to members. If you want copies of the meetings, please contact the Secretary and let him know. Address or telephone number is on Page 2.

For those on the Internet, contact the Secretary by email on curtisj@bigpond.com and let him know. It would be better and more cost effective for the Association to send out multiple copies of the minutes by email.

By getting the minutes of the meetings you will see that the Association is doing a lot of work for the members.

Every person who is a member of the Association is entitled to attend any meeting. The monthly meeting is held in the King's Hotel in Hay Street Perth right next to the Central Law Courts. Parking is available.

The clan gathers at 1830 hours for a 1900 hours meeting start. The meeting usually for about 1½ hours and are not all serious and boring stuff.

If you want to come along we meet on the first Thursday of the month (except January).

The committee looks forward to meeting with members.

New Member Tells Us Why and Wherefore

One of our newest members has written to tell us about himself and what he is up to. Bill Hanson (Father Bill Hanson) was a member of the Corps during the Vietnam conflict. He has kindly volunteered to act as our Chaplain – South West Region. Welcome, Bill, I hope your association with us will be a long and happy one in more ways than one. Here's Bill's story:

Do you remember one of the first things that you were taught at recruit training? I know it's a long time ago but this was one of the most important things the army ever taught you and me. Well any way I thought I had it pretty well I under control. Although I admit I did say I would do a TIP course yes and that's going against what we were taught to do (I volunteered - bad move!). Still I thought I would get away with it fairly easily I am from Dunsborough no one will know me up in the big smoky. The other thing is that I am a priest that sort of puts me offside with a lot of blokes.

Yes, I think I'll make it up and back with out too much volunteering. Oh, yes, I forgot to tell you who I am Fr. Bill Hanson. What church this will through you A.C.C.A you are still not much wiser are you! Well I'll spell it out the Anglican Catholic Church in Australia. Ha! Still got you wondering. See, I still I've got you confused. You still don't know who I am or what I am. Part of that not volunteering bit the army taught. Actually, if you really want to know, I am part of the Traditional Anglican Communion. That should put you on the track.

Well, up to Perth. Everyone introduces themselves. Then the first slip. Someone had a shot at RAEME and I defended the Corps. It was probably done because John Curtis and Brian Cooper the instructors are both RAEME. John

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Three Wishes

A woman was out golfing one day when she hit her ball into the woods. She went into the woods to look for it and found a frog in a trap. The frog said to her, "If you release me from this trap, I will grant you three wishes."

The woman freed the frog and the frog said, "Thank you, but I failed to mention that there was a condition to your wishes: Whatever you wish for, your husband will also get ten times more or better!"

The woman said, "That would be okay," and for her first wish, she wanted to be the most beautiful woman in the world.

The frog warned her, "You do realise that this wish will also make your husband the most handsome man in the world, an Adonis that women will flock to."

The woman replied, "That will be okay because I will be the most beautiful woman and he will only have eyes for me."

So, KAZAM - she's the most beautiful woman in the world!

For her second wish, she wanted to be the richest woman in the world.

The frog said, "That will make your husband the richest man in the world and he will be ten times richer than you."

The woman said, "That will be okay because what is mine is his and what is his is mine."

So, KAZAM -she's the richest woman in the world!

The frog then inquired about her third wish, and she answered, "I'd like a mild heart attack."

The moral of the story:

Women are the clever ones. Don't mess with them!

an English soldier ("Jack Tar" for a sailor). The troops during the war rather despised the name and only used the term derisively. They also use it when imitating the style of jingoistic newspaper like "John Bull" or a patriotic and charitable old lady. It was used however, by troops from Australia, New Zealand and Canada and also by the French and Germans.

"Sources:

"How the regiments got their nicknames by Tim Carew; illustrated by Nicolas Bentley. - London : Leo Cooper, 1974. "Journal for the Society for Army Historical Research: Vol 1, No. 135; Vol 1, No. 18; Vol 2, No. 9-10; Vol 9, No. 175 "

Interesting?

John C

Equality

Famous journalist Barbara Walters did a major story on gender roles in Kuwait before the Gulf War. She drew attention then that women customarily walked about 10 feet behind their husbands.

She returned to Kuwait some weeks ago and observed that the men now walked several yards behind their wives.

Ms. Walters approached one of the women and said, "This is amazing. Can you tell me and the free world just what enabled women here to achieve this marvellous reversal of roles?"

"Land mines," said the Kuwaiti woman

Simple humour

Saddam sent his son shopping, he came back with his goods in a box. "Why the box?" asked Saddam, to which his son replied "....."well there's no Baghdad!!"

Sent in by Anonymouse so that the lynch mob can't find him.

When I'm in a good mood it turns green. But, when I'm in a bad mood it leaves a big red mark on his forehead.

Maybe next time he'll buy me a diamond!!!!

Tommy Atkins

Have you ever wondered why British Soldiers are called Tommys?

I have just now found time to read this about Tommy Atkins. The following was downloaded from Imperial War Museum's excellent site at <http://www.iwm.org.uk> and advises:

"Why are English soldiers called "Tommy Atkins" or "Tommy"?"

"The origins of the term "Tommy Atkins" as a nickname for the British (or rather English) soldier are still nebulous and indeed disputed. A widely held theory is that the Duke of Wellington himself chose the name in 1843. Lt. General Sir William MacArthur however, in an article in the Army Medical Services Magazine, says that the War Office chose the name "Tommy Atkins" as a representative name in 1815. Specimen forms of the "Soldier's Book" issued for both the cavalry and infantry in that year, bore against the space for the soldier's signature; "Tommy Atkins, his X mark". With the improvement of education 'his X mark' was dropped.

"The phrase "Tommy Atkins" however was used before 1815. Just over a quarter of a century before the Duke of Wellington was born, in 1743 a letter sent from Jamaica referring to a mutiny among hired soldiery there said "except for those from N. America (mostly Irish Papists) ye Marines and Tommy Atkins behaved splendidly". At about the same time the English soldier was also nicknamed 'Thomas Lobster', because of his red uniform coat.

"The Duke of Wellington's use of the expression is said to have been inspired

by an incident during the Battle of Boxtel (Holland) against the French on September 1794. Wellington, (then Arthur Wellesley), led the 33rd Regiment of Foot, and at the end of the engagement Wellesley spotted among the wounded the right-hand-man of the Grenadier Company, a man of 6 ft 3 inches with twenty years' service. He was dying of three wounds - a sabre slash in the head, a bayonet thrust in the breast, and a bullet through the lungs. He looked up at Wellesley and apparently thought his commander was concerned, because he said, "It's alright sir. It's all in a day's work", and then died.

"The man's name was Private Thomas Atkins. His heroism is said to have left such an impression on Wellington, that when he was Commander in Chief of the British Army he recalled the name and used it as a specimen on a new set of soldiers' documents sent to him at Walmer Castle for approval.

"Another version, given in 1900 by an army chaplain Rev E J Hardy, tells of an incident during the Indian Mutiny in 1857. When the rebellion broke out at Lucknow, all Europeans fled to the Residency for protection. On their way they met a private of the 32nd Regiment of Foot on duty at an outpost. They urged him to join them, but he said he must remain at his post, where he was killed. "His name happened to be Tommy Atkins", wrote Rev Hardy, "and so, throughout the Mutiny Campaign, when a daring deed was done, the doer was said to be 'a regular Tommy Atkins'".

"The poems of Rudyard Kipling helped to popularise the name throughout the quarter of the Nineteenth Century and especially during the Boer War, 1899-1902. Thus, by the outbreak of the First World War "Tommy Atkins" or "Tommy" was the almost universal nickname for

was as sharp as ever. "You were in RAEME, are you a member of the RAEME Association," says he. It was no good saying I did not know there was such a thing; the application form was out the pen ready. The little remark "you hope to pass the course Father" I think it was the only time he called me Father. I knew what I had to do then after I signed we have a Chaplain John said, (great I thought no volunteering, wrong!) but we could use a Chaplain in the South-West.

Well, here I am such as I am, just recovering from a heart transplant. You know, take the oil pump out and put a new one in type thing. Oh, yes, I'm a mechanic too, specializing in Automatic Transmissions. Well I used to before I had to give up my business at Busselton. Served in Vietnam, a national serviceman, only a poor old craftsman, but still rather proud of RAEME. Had some great times but that's another story and another time.

I have not met Rev Howard MacCallum, the Chaplain, but I am sorry to say, Howard, I hate V.W.'s. Anyway I look forward to meeting you Howard and every body else (sorry but the priest comes out here).

God bless you all
Fr. Bill.

Increased Penalties For Defence Medals Fraud

Penalties for fraudulently claiming Defence service will increase 15-fold under legislation introduced into Parliament today by the Minister Assisting the Minister for Defence, Danna Vale.

Our community holds veterans and serving personnel in the highest regard.

"Their service and sacrifice in Defence of our nation deserves protection from

those who wrongly seek to claim the same honour and respect.

Under the Federal Government's proposals, the penalty for wrongly claiming to be a returned soldier, sailor or airman, or wearing medals to which an individual is not entitled, will increase from a \$200 fine, to a maximum penalty of \$3,300 and up to six months imprisonment.

Defence legislation specifically excluded family members of service personnel who were permitted to wear the member's medals.

This Bill will also increase the penalty for defacing or destroying Defence medals or decorations from a \$200 fine to a maximum penalty of \$6,600 and/or 12 months imprisonment.

The changes were a result of concerns of the Government and the wider community regarding practices that were unlawful, deceitful and disrespectful to veterans and service personnel.

The increase in these penalties will enable the Government to better protect the honour of Defence veterans and service personnel.

Government Delivers Certainty For Veterans' Health

The Federal Government's new \$917 million A Fairer Medicare - Better Access, More Affordable package delivered Australia's veterans and war widows continued access to free, comprehensive, quality health care, the Acting Minister for Veterans' Affairs, Larry Anthony, said today. A key element of the package, announced today by the Prime Minister, is the introduction of a veteran access payment.

"GPs who register under the repatriation health scheme as Local Medical Officers will receive an additional \$3 for

each consultation given to the nation's 340,000 Gold Card and White Card holders," Mr Anthony said. "This payment is on top of the 100 per cent Medical Benefit Schedule fee already paid to LMOs for treating veteran patients.

"Overall it will deliver an extra \$61.7 million in Federal Government funding over four years into health care for the veteran community." As well as receiving more Commonwealth funding for treating veterans, doctors may also receive their payments faster by being able to electronically bill veteran and other consultations.

"A Fairer Medicare - Better Access, More Affordable provides Australian families with greater access to affordable doctors' services and meets the long-term health needs of the veteran and wider community," Mr Anthony said.

"A Fairer Medicare - Better Access, More Affordable recognises the concerns raised by doctors about the cost of providing services to veterans and delivers certainty to veterans and war widows that they will continue to have free access to the health care they need and deserve.

"The more than 80 per cent of LMOs who agreed to extend their contracts with the Government while the new fee arrangements were determined demonstrates the commitment of the overwhelming majority of doctors to caring for our veterans and war widows."

Gold Card and White Card holders wanting to know more about the veteran health package can contact their Department of Veterans' Affairs State office on 133 254.

If you do not wish to speak to anybody in the Department of Veteran's Affairs, You can give our Welfare Officers a call (see Page 2) and they will advise you on what you should do. This help is totally free to all veterans.

Improved Access To Hospital Services For WA Veterans

The Federal Government would introduce veteran partnering contracts for private hospitals in outer metropolitan Perth, enhancing veteran access to quality hospital care while recognising the special place held by Hollywood Hospital in serving the West Australian veteran community, the Minister for Veterans' Affairs, said today.

The package of changes was endorsed yesterday in a special meeting of ex-service leaders, as a sensible way of meeting the range of veteran preferences for hospital access.

As a first step, the Repatriation Commission will invite private hospitals outside a 20-kilometre radius from the Perth CBD to seek Tier 1 status under the Repatriation Private Patient Scheme.

To gain contracts, hospitals will need to meet the relevant quality and range of service standards and agree to acceptable fee arrangements. Successful hospitals will join Hollywood as being able to admit Gold Card and White Cardholders for treatment without the need for prior approval from the Department of Veterans' Affairs.

Metropolitan hospitals within the 20-kilometre radius will have the opportunity to take up Tier 2 contracts, enabling them to take veteran patients when Hollywood and any other Tier 1 private hospital in the wider Perth region is unable to do so.

Veteran partnering will then be expanded to offer Tier 1 status to all metropolitan hospitals in 2006, when the current contract with Hollywood expires.

Supplementary funding would be provided to assist Hollywood Hospital in making the transition to the new arrangements, and to ensure the hospi-

tation. An initial production version of the systems will be trialed in May 2004 with the remainder planned to commence delivery from late 2004.

Desert Duty for Mother and Son

By Corporal Sean Burton
and the Army News

Arriving at the hot, wind-swept desert camp on your first deployment, you drive through the high security camp gates to your new home and you're met by your mum??

Operation Falconer is very much a family affair for the Clausens, with a mother and son serving in the MEAO.

Nursing Officer Flight Lieutenant Chris Clausen, of No. 92 Wing, said it was a source of pride to serve with her son, Leading Aircraftman Shane Clausen, an image analyst with No. 82 Wing.

"I'm very proud of him, because he's doing what he's trained to do, but it's just a bit different having your son down the road in a military situation rather than a domestic one," she said.

Soon after arriving in the MEAO, LAC Clausen reported to his mother's medical centre for his initial check up.

Not many troops deploying on operations would have their mum waiting to welcome them with a big hug.

"When I first saw him at the front gate it was a bizarre experience, to be in another country, both of us in uniform at war, it was surreal, you can't imagine it," Chris said.

Three days before her son arrived in country she received an email from him telling her he would see her sooner than she thought.

In 1994 FLTLT Clausen deployed to Rwanda where she worked above and

beyond the call of duty helping victims of the African genocide, something she is modest and reluctant to acknowledge, although her son is aware of the conditions she faced.

"I went to Rwanda and he knew what I went through, but then he's always been interested in the Air Force. When we get together we don't talk shop, I think we make a sub-conscious effort not to," she said.

For some younger members, service in the ADF is their first taste of independence and freedom from protective parents but the Clausens leave each other to get on with the job in hand.

"No, I don't check up on him and he doesn't check on me," Chris laughed.

A big morale booster for anyone on operations is the welfare parcel from home. Chris made sure that Shane wasn't left out, presenting him with a welfare package soon after arriving.

"We put in all the normal stuff that you would send from back home like lollies, sun screen and a couple of fluffy toys which I'm sure he would have appreciated," she laughed.

As her son's deployment begins and hers draws to a close, FLTLT Clausen is positive about her time spent with the squadron.

"This trip has been very interesting and busy. The hardest part was the initial set up, getting the medical system working, all the plans in place for every medical eventuality. But a definite highlight has been living in another country, observing and learning about the Islamic culture."

Mood Ring

My boyfriend, not happy with my mood swings, bought me a mood ring the other day so he would be able to monitor my moods.

cal documentation.

An initial production version of the systems will be trialed in August 2004, with the full capability due to be introduced into service by December 2004.

The Lost is found

If you remember last December (sounds musical) we put an advert in the Horse's Mouth for anyone knowing the whereabouts of Allan Powell. Just recently I received an email from one of our members. It said

"The last time I saw Allan Powell was well over 10 years ago and he was living in Perth's northern suburbs possibly Kingsley and was involved in junior soccer. I know this is the same person being sought by Bob May as I served with him at 2 Base at Moorebank in 1967 and I know and he sustained permanent leg injuries in the mine incident." I have to thank Colin Elton for having a memory going back that far.

The person who wrote the original message is TPI Bob May, a well renowned Justice for Disabled Veterans and Service Personnel.

As the Editor of the HM, I was able to contact TPI Bob and let him know that I had found Allan after I had looked in the phone book and rang an A. Powell in Kingsley. That A Powell was not Allan. But when I explained what I wanted to find Allan for, the young lady I was speaking to said, "Well, I am Allan's daughter and here is his phone number." I was then able to speak with Allan who was very keen to get in contact with Rick Lapore because he was the man who had saved his life in Vietnam. Consequently, I let TPI Bob know what Alan's email and telephone number was.

I am sure that they have both had a lot to say to each other after all these years

and have very probably put some demons behind themselves.

To Allan and Rick, we wish all the very best for a renewed friendship and, to Colin and TPI Bob, our thanks for helping to bring them back together again.

Water Purification and Desalination

The Federal Government has signed an \$18 million contract with Pall Corporation Australia for the supply of new Water Purification and Desalination systems for the Australian Army.

The need for such equipment was identified in the 2000 Defence White Paper, and its benefits were clear when used in East Timor.

New South Wales-based Pall Corporation Australia produces a range of fixed and mobile medical, aerospace and water filtering systems for the international market. Pall has a number of current contracts with the ADF.

The systems will replace the current fleet of Water Purification equipment, which has been in-service for over 15 years, and will be operated by soldiers from the Royal Australian Engineers, who have the task of providing clean drinking water to deployed land forces.

The new Water Purification and Desalination systems will be modular in design and deployable on trucks and trailers or in RAAF C130 aircraft.

The systems will benefit all soldiers by providing high quality drinking water for training and operational deployments anywhere in the world. In particular, the ability to be able to desalinate large quantities of seawater was one of the key capability requirements learnt from the deployment to East Timor.

The contract will also provide for spare parts, training and technical documen-

tal continued to provide a centre of excellence in veteran care, particularly for aged and frail veterans and war widows.

This will involve supplementary payments of \$500,000 a year for the balance of Hollywood's current contract and the continuation of current teaching and research funding for two years beyond 2006, at a cost of approximately \$4 million per year.

This approach is consistent with that taken by the Government during the successful introduction of veteran partnering in South Australia, when funding was provided to the Daw Park Repatriation General Hospital to facilitate the transition in that State.

These new arrangements acknowledge the importance of Hollywood as a significant veteran health provider, while further improving the availability of private hospital services, in keeping with the Government's commitment to the health and well-being of all veterans and war widows.

Welfare Corner

Quite a few things have been happening in the Welfare World of recent months. Firstly, anyone who is a member of Highgate Branch of the RSL, now have Clare and I as Welfare Officers. We hope to do a bit of good in that area.

On to more important things. Veteran Partnering! This is a phrase coined by the "system" to refer to medical ser-

vices and hospitalisation for veterans. There have been quite a lot of negotiations being conducted in the past year. The culmination, of which, is the allocation of services by a number of regional hospitals in and around the metropolitan area of Perth. Previously, unless you lived close to Bunbury or Geraldton, you were obliged to travel to Hollywood Hospital for "in patient" services. Both Bunbury and Geraldton St. John of God Hospitals are "Tier 1" hospitals. Residents in those regions can attend them as Private Patients. Now, as a result of those negotiations there are hospital facilities in Armadale, Mandurah and Joondalup that you can go to instead of travelling all the way to Hollywood. Should you require further information you can contact the Department of Veteran's Affairs on 13 32 54 for the Metro Area or 1800 555 254 for country members. Alternatively, you can contact any of the Welfare Officers.

Due to the Privacy Act, Hollywood Hospital has introduced new restrictions on Official Hospital Visitors. Previously, we could go to the hospital and be given a list of members of the Corps without necessarily getting permission to see them. However, now we must be annotated on the admission forms so that we can visit should you want us to. A copy of the relevant part of the Personal Details Form is reproduced for you to see. Should you be going to Hollywood, give one of the Welfare Officers as call and let us know that you will be there.

Medicare Number: Medicare Ref Number: Pension Card Number:

Pharmaceutical Safety Net Card Number: SNICN

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS' AFFAIRS PATIENTS

DVA File No: Card Colour: Gold White

Were you serving as a member of: Army Navy Airforce War Widow

Are you a TPI? Were you a POW? Are you a Vietnam Veteran? Y N

If your association has a visitor would you like them to visit you? Y N

Are you a resident of Australia? Y N

We may be able to help you in some way.

In relation to hospitalisation, if you go to Royal Perth Hospital, be sure to let us know that you are there. We have fully authorised Hospital Visitors in that hospital who can help you if you need it.

For those members who are still serving, I remind you that John Klein and myself are accredited advocates for assisting to make claims with the Military Compensation and Rehabilitation Service. You can seek assistance from your Orderly Room staff to complete the forms. However, John and I have the ability to speak and negotiate with MCRS staff on any matters pertaining to your claim. We, also, have the time to work with you and help you through all the pitfalls of making a claim. Remember that MCRS is a Worker's Compensation agency just like those in Civvy Street, even though it is run by Veteran's Affairs. If you have any queries, give John or I a call. Our Phone numbers are on Page 2 of the Horse's Mouth.

Till next time,

John Curtis

Vale Jock McIntyre

On a sad note, those that don't know, but William McIntyre, also known as 'Jock' and / or 'Bill', has passed away.

I have been asked to pass on these details to all of you.

His wife is Yvonne McIntyre, and her address for cards is:

11 Cardigan Street, Guildford, NSW, 2161

Chris Jones
RAEME NSW

Vale Alan Nelson

I wish to inform you that Alan Nelson Ex RAEME, 10th Intake Apprentice, F/T, Vietnam 105 Bty RAA LAD 1965-66. passed away Friday 23 May 2003 from cancer.

Regards
Don McLeod
duckmc@iprimus.com.au

Honour Board

Dear Editor/ Secretary
Would you mind putting the notice below in your next newsletter and also could pin it on your notice board at your club or office.

Many thanks
Peter Sullivan.

If you attended St Josephy's or Channel College's Geelong and you served in the Navy, Army or RAAF in SVN between 62/73; and you would like to have your name on a honour board to be placed at St Josephy's in the near future; please write giving your Name, unit(s) you served with and the year(s) you served to,

Peter Sullivan
4 Turkeith Ave
Herne Hill
Vic 3218

The Dead line is ANZAC Day 2004, also if you know of any deceased Vietnam veteran who went to either College could you please send me a name and address of living relatives.

From RAEME Tasmamia

John, I am writing a not very happy letter. As you know our old boys just fade away. But what annoys me me is the chaps that can come and unite with us have other ideas.

I have been told by the President and

virtually unchanged since early in the Victorian era. They were first built for the "Crimean War". St Peter's Barracks" was used as a "Transit" and "Holding Centre" for the Continent in both the "Crimea" and the "First World" Wars.

No sooner had the bus come to a stop, we were instructed by the staff corporals aboard to "De-bus in orderly fashion". Another, but this time even smarter looking, much more polished, and quite sophisticated, Corporal, in full "Service Dress" complete with RASC regalia and the inevitable "Cane", but wearing black horn rimmed glasses, marched smartly towards our Group, and quickly introduced himself as our "Squad" Instructor. Myself and I think most of our group was immediately most taken with this man. Initially I think, because of his very smart, finished presentation. Something that we never saw him lapse from all the time we were in St Peters. But it was also his very positive, quick, efficient and assertive manner in everything he did that also had a specific affect on most of us. I don't remember him ever becoming the subject of any of the usual barrack-room conversation critique that was normally aimed at the rest of the Regimental Staff. But I do remember that he never allowed himself to get too close or personal with any one of us. When duties were over for the day he would disappear completely until next morning's parade. Unless of course there was to be a barrack room inspection the next morning.

He would, then, appear to make sure we were up to standard, before getting any sleep. Whilst today I regret not being able to remember his name, I'm sure that by now the poor fellow will have long passed away. I still however, vividly remember how he appeared, and especially his continuously red face

and neck which protruded slightly over the very snug fitting stiff collar of his "Service Dress" jacket. Thinking of this today makes me realise that the poor fellow obviously suffered from high blood pressure. His back was always as straight as a ramrod, and I never once saw him relax that stance. Looking back on it all now there is no doubt that myself and many of our group, greatly admired this man and very quietly, virtually made him a "Role Model" in respect of our military training throughout our time in Jersey. Further more, many of us are indebted to him for providing us with an excellent initial regimental education together with a specific sense of pride in our personal presentation, which has stayed with myself, and I'm sure many others of our group, throughout our lives.

New Precision Laser Gunnery Training System For Army

The Federal Government has announced the signing of a \$7.9 million contract with Swedish company SAAB Training Systems for a new simulation based training capability for the Army.

The new Precision Gunnery Training System is a laser-based capability that will help train Leopard tank crews.

The systems will be employed at the Army School of Armour and 1st Armoured Regiment to enhance the gunnery skills of Leopard crew commanders and gunners.

The new training system utilises state of the art laser technology to simulate all aspects of gunnery training.

This is an example of an effective use of simulation technology to achieve low risk, cost effective training.

The contract will also provide for training, maintenance support and techni

Following a few instructions from the Sergeant to the bus driver, we were once again on our way. But now travelling very slowly along the barrack roadway, with the other buses still following in convoy, passing more equally mundane looking buildings, the majority of which were of a similar construction to, and had the same garden surround, we had seen at the "Guard Room". Whilst there were a few military personnel walking around, some in "Service Dress" and others in the inevitable brown fatigue overalls, but wearing "Forage" caps in place of what we had, up to that time, become familiar with seeing and knowing as the "Service Dress" peaked cap. There were also a number of men who were obviously civilians. Many of who appeared to be engaged in tending the small gardens surrounding the buildings and others in various general maintenance activities. One thing that I noticed particularly at that time was the fact that many of them worked with a cigarette stuck continuously in their mouth. But these were not ordinary cigarettes, as we knew them, being extremely long and thin. So much so that, with the cigarette in their mouths the end drooped downwards, tending to almost burn their chin. As I learnt from practice much later, that the only way to light them one had to bring the lighter or match flame directly upwards to meet the drooping end of the cigarette. We were later to know these cigarettes as the famous French "Galois" being the cheapest and most popular smoke in France at that time, and basically equivalent to our "Woodbines". But very much stronger, containing a very harsh type of "Turkish" tobacco that could be smelt from a mile away. In those days, of course, there were no filter tips. This was also the case with the majority of U.K. cigarettes at that time. The only brands of that period I

can remember as having a filter tip were "Ardath" and "Black Cat" both of which died a natural death during the war. It was many of these civilian employees that, some short time later, at the risk of their jobs, became our friends and suppliers of the majority of our illegal local luxuries. "Galois" cigarettes being our principal requirement.

Finally our bus, still heading the convoy, as it had all the way from the docks, reached, what at first appeared to be, and the end of the road. But then suddenly without warning, made a left hand, followed almost immediately by a right hand turn and drove onto the near end of a large open, rectangular "tarmacked" area. The far end of this large area, seeming to us as we stepped off the bus, to be so far away as to disappear over the horizon. The width of this expanse, whilst also appearing to be very extensive, was much easier to judge as each side was lined with buildings, not dissimilar to those we had passed on our way inwards from the main gates. But in this instance they were all double storeyed, and had many more, high but relatively narrow, windows. Situated uniformly along the length of the buildings on each floor. Myself, together with the majority of the boys in that "Intake," were to curse the day they first saw these windows when their turn to clean them, prior to CO's inspection, came around. But more about that later. From the first moment I saw these particular barrack blocks they appeared to be most familiar, and it was then that suddenly I realised where I had previously seen this identical type of building. It was earlier in the year, I had been taken to "Glen-Parver Barracks" in Leicester to sit for my "Army Apprentices Entrance Exam", which was held in a building identical to these. They were of course the standard "British Army Barrack Block" of those days. As we found out much later, the design had remained

four others that we have to close down. The balance of us were not very happy. There are some Tassies that went to Korea and Vietnam, but they just want to keep to themselves.

The group said thanks to you for your tribute in sending us mail. Our President said that it was great to have members from other States thinking of us.

So, John, thanks again from our Treasurer, Reg Anderson and myself because, some time ago some one remarked that we would not be noticed. I told four RSL members when I went for dinner what a friend your Association has been to us.

President, Treasurer, Secretary and members RAEME Tasmania.

Removal Of Ministers Petition - On Line

The following petition is now available on line for signature at <http://www.petitiononline.com/denytipi/petition.html>

For those with their own email lists I ask that you pass this far and wide

It would be great if I could hand to Blue several boxes of paper at the Canberra Rally for presentation that part is up to all you out there

As well as on line anyone who wishes to collect signatures from any source can contact me for a copy of an authorised form that will be forward by email. You will also be issued with a block of line numbers. When you need more contact me and I will issue another block - each block will equal a number of pages. I would ask that you add the line number to the pages before printing. This will allow easy counting of the number of signatures and also as the time gets closer to know where outstanding pages are. I will advise where to return the completed pages and in an effort to share the costs around would ask that with the original

page you return 2 photocopies.

This is the wording of the Petition

TPI Bob
Justice for Disable Service Personnel and Veterans

REMOVAL OF MINISTERS

To: Australian Parliament

PETITION

TO THE HONOURABLE THE SPEAKER AND MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES ASSEMBLED IN PARLIAMENT:

The petition of undersigned members of the service and ex service community of Australia and their families and their supporters points out to the House that they do not have confidence in the Minister for Defence, Senator Robert Hill, as senior Minister, and his junior colleague the Minister for Veterans Affairs, Danna Vale, to represent disabled service persons and veterans in the Cabinet or the Parliament.

Your petitioners therefore pray that the House will take appropriate action to have the members removed from their portfolios.

We wish to state our determination that never again will those who gave so much for the freedom of this Country, be made to live with so little dignity.

Sincerely,

The Undersigned

Good Website Check it out

This web site is for anyone who has contact with ex REME apprentices. John Wade passed this information along by email. Here is his message:

I was wondering if you could include in the next HM this web address: www.hadriansoldboys.co.uk. It's a great site for any ex REME apprentices that did their training at Carlisle in the UK. Thanks John

The Original Editor of "The Horses Mouth"

As the Editor of the Horse's Mouth and have the history of the Corps in Western Australia as a passion, I was very surprised to receive the following message. I am looking forward to receiving all those back issues of the original Horse's Mouth.

Hello John,
My name is Shane Layt and I, along with Neil Siddall, was one of the original editors of The Horses Mouth (THM). I used to do the majority of cartoons for the editorial, and you can speak to my old friend, Ian Stewart "Black Bart" about that. He was my original OC at Perth Workshop Company and I have since served with, and later under, his son, Dave Stewart. I was a LCPL at Perth Workshop Company (PWC) and worked with SGT Ian (Dodgey) Turner and CPL Neil (Sid) Siddall in MT Section with the likes of Laurie Forsyth, Harry Chambers and Grant Pugh who where the Civvies in the section at the time. We also had the notorious Peter Leslie (Cyclops) as the ASM and a cast of characters such as SSGT Frank Nipperus who was once found one morning curled up under the front tree of his MQ in his mess dress after a rather heavy dining in night. I have attached a couple of files showing the original front and back covers and one of the cartoons I did under my pseudos name which was "The Masked Sparra" (Sparra was my nickname during my whole service career).

I also designed and built much of the OR's club at the back of PWC (I was a chippy before I joined) making the timber archways and bar tops around the centre posts. This served to haunt me later in my career as I went on the do many messes and bars, having built The Bluebell Tavern at 2 Base WKSPS



Front page of the Old HM

and many enhancements to the Moorebank Area Sergeants Mess. My best work was to be done for the RAEME Corps Sergeants Mess, with the then Corps RSM, Geoff Lowe as my willing and able bodied assistant. I was the improvements member at the mess for almost 4 years (I served at RTC for 6 years) and during that period, I built the new rear bar (The Reg Wildermuth Bar) and also made the Marquetry Muriel of the M816 that formed the centrepiece for that bar. If you did not get a chance to see it, I'll send along a copy of a photo. I just spoke to John Klein on the phone, and let him know that any copies I have of the original THM, I'll send along to you and you may use them as you see fit.

Anyway, thought I'd pass along this info and it's good to see that there are still some good RAEME dudes still about doing it "With Skill and by Fighting!"

I have a few of the old copies of THM and all the original cartoons that I did

still salute the flag, that gets draped over their coffins, and hopefully we shall still be the ones who will eventually give the people of Iraq the same freedom that the people of Aust, USA and the UK have. David.

Episode 9 Boy Service

Here is the next episode of Peter's life as a boy entrant into what became the Corps of REME. It is certain that many of us can remember what happened to us and Peter's story brings it all back. Now read on:

Whilst most of the details of that first day in His Majesty's forces are forever etched on my memory, from this point onwards so many things happened so closely together that I am not sure of their exact sequence. For other Ex-Boys reading this narrative many of the following happenings may no doubt appear to be common standard procedures and practices, so I will try not to bore you with too many of these happenings. Due to the period in modern history at which our enlistment occurred; coupled with the circumstances whereby our R.A.O.C. contingent was posted out of mainland England in our first few hours of service; most of us were still in our school clothes. Subsequently, accommodated as guests of another Corps, resulted in a series of unique circumstances that are particularly pertinent to our "Intake" NoJ38A alone. These circumstances did not necessarily cease upon our arrival at the gates of St. Peter's Barracks.

As we drew up to those rather ominous looking gates, already open to receive us, the bus stopped at the request of a very smart soldier in full "Service Dress" complete with web belt and cane. He was wearing a large black armband upon which were the large red initials R.P. This man had suddenly emerged from the large green painted wooden "Sen-

try Box" situated immediately inside the left-hand side of the gates. Little did we realise at that moment just how familiar we were to become with the inside of that box, the walls of which, before we finally left Jersey, were festooned with the engraved signatures of a large proportion of the Jersey contingent, including my own. Next upon the scene, again to our left, was an equally ominous, bleak looking single storey brick building standing a few yards further in from the gate. The building appeared as if, in some vain attempt to provide a more invitingly agreeable affect to anyone visiting this rather disengaging edifice. We were to come to know this imposing building as the "Guard Room". It had been surrounded by a small garden about six feet wide containing the odd plant or two. This had then been edged all round with very carefully placed and accurately spaced building bricks, standing on their ends and at an angle of about 30 degrees. All of which had been carefully "white-washed". The general maintenance of this latter condition, we were later to recognise as being a daily chore for any-one assigned to that unfortunate gang, generally known as the "Janker Walla's".

In almost immediate response to the shrill call of "SARNT!" from the man on gate duty, an even smarter and very much taller man with three very white stripes on both arms, emerged from the door of the "Guard Room". He was dressed in full "Service Dress", but with a large "Pace Stick" under one arm and a large Red Sash over his left shoulder. He appeared very similar to the "Guards Brigade" personnel that had met us, and looked after us, in London. Both of these men were also wearing, what we very shortly afterwards were to know as, the "Royal Army Service Corps" regalia of "cap badge", "collar dogs" and "RASC" numerals on their epaulettes.

A message from a friend in the Gulf!!

John, last year I sent a message to the troops before Xmas - from your e-mail. I have maintained contact with the gent on HMAS Darwin since.

The daily/weekly reality messages I get certainly remind me that my issues pale into insignificance

DF

Hi every one again, I would like to pass onto you something that was sent to us from the Captain. it has stirred up a lot of feelings in me. I am a patriotic person, I believe in that the men and women that have served before me in the Navy during other times of conflict are the ones that really gave this poem meaning.

It is the Soldier, the Sailor and the Airman,
Not the reporter,
Who gives us the freedom of the press.
It is the Soldier the Sailor and the Airman,
Not the poet,
Who gives us freedom of speech.
It is the Soldier the Sailor and the Airman,
Not the campus organiser,
Who has given us the freedom to demonstrate.
It is the Soldier the Sailor and the Airman,

Who Salutes the Flag, Who serves beneath the Flag,
And whose coffin is draped by the Flag,
Who allows the Protestor to burn the Flag.

We have been getting some disturbing reports from back home in the news. The politicians keep saying for the protestors to take their anger out on them, not the ADF. We have also seen reports that the messages to the troops have had to be censored due to personal attacks on us. It is a bit of a concern to me that when we get home we will be seen as warmongers, nothing could be further from the truth. The information that we have seen on what has been done to the Iraqi people make me a firm believer that we are liberators not aggressors in this war.

I wish the world was a lot less complicated and everybody could live in peace and harmony, but unfortunately the world has madmen like Saddam, and we have a job do. Our Govt has decided to join in with the US and UK for what I feel are the right reasons, we shall have to wait and see if Saddam uses his chemical weapons, and we are certain that he does have them. If that happens it will prove us right but also we shall have deaths of our fellow service men on our hands. We shall then be the ones who

Can We Help You

The RAEME Association is concerned about the welfare of RAEME members in Western Australia, Particularly if they have a disability or getting a bit on the elderly side. We would like to set up a practical help and support group who can provide a voluntary service such as gardening, home help, transport, or assistance with shopping, etc.

So, if you are fit and healthy and are willing to give a little of your time to help other members of the Corps, contact the Secretary and let him know. We will maintain a database of helpers and expertise.

If you need assistance because of age or infirmity, let us know. We will be only too glad to make sure that you have the help you need. And the best part of it is that it is all part of the service.

for it. I can send the THM editions as hard copy and I could scan the cartoons (like the ones I sent you in the last email) and send them across. Let me know what you want and I'll send them along. Don't worry about any costs as it will be my pleasure to send them across. I'm also trying to contact Neil Siddall, as he is a real bower bird and would probably still have every copy.



THE END

Last Page of the Old HM

I am now one of those dreaded contractors to Defence and am currently working in Victoria Barracks on Mondays and Tuesdays writing the Engineering Change Management Policies and Procedures for Mobility SPO. The rest of the week I am either at Tenix Defence Systems with the ANZAC Ship Project doing Data work or I am out at Laverton with the Maintenance Requirements Determination (MRD) Team on the Caribou. I am an Honorary Lifetime member of the Armed Forces Federation and still support many

in-service and ex-service personnel when they run into the bureaucratic blockades when it comes to their entitlements. I am, also, the Training Manager at my company, so keeping my head above water is a daily task.

Let me know if you want the cartoons electronically and I'll start getting together a package to sent across of the THM I find. Just so you know, I marched into Perth Workshops in January 82 and left in Mid 85 to go back to 2 Base Workshops. My last posting was as the ASLAV Data Manager/Technical Spares Assessor at MEA and I took discharge in December 98.

Shane Layt
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Australian SAS Trooper Awarded Medal for Gallantry

Prime Minister John Howard today presented a member of the Australian Special Air Services the Medal for Gallantry for his service in Iraq.

The Trooper cannot be named for operational security reasons.



Memories of days gone by

The announcement was made at the welcome home ceremony for the SAS personnel who have returned from Operation Falconer, the Australian Defence Force's contribution to the international coalition to disarm Iraq.

The Minister for Defence, Senator Robert Hill, Leader of the Opposition Simon Crean, Chief of the Defence Force General Peter Cosgrove and Chief of Army, Lieutenant General Peter Leahy, joined the Prime Minister and families to welcome home the SAS from the Middle East after a four month deployment.

The SAS conducted deep reconnaissance and surveillance missions in the Western Iraq Desert.

Their major achievements included the discovery of over 50 MiG aircraft at Al Asad air base and the apprehension of 59 fleeing Sedayeen and some suspected Ba'ath party members.

The Regiment's significant contribution to the success of the coalition's operation has drawn the highest praise and respect, including the Israeli Minister for Defence who wrote to the Defence Minister to thank the Australian Defence Force for its contribution to Operation Iraqi Freedom.

An edited version of the Trooper's citation reads as follows:

TO BE AWARDED THE MEDAL FOR GALLANTRY TROOPER X

For acts of gallantry in action in hazardous circumstances in Iraq while on Operation FALCONER

Trooper X's patrol was tasked with clearing an Iraqi installation, to prevent it being used for the command and control of Iraqi theatre ballistic missiles. Trooper X was the machine gunner in the exposed .50 Calibre mounting ring in his patrol vehicle. During the action, an enemy special operations force of

two vehicles and up to 20 heavily armed personnel engaged the SAS patrol. Whilst in contact with numerically superior enemy forces, Trooper X's actions in destroying the enemy vehicles gave the Australian force the freedom of movement to complete the mission.

In a hazardous situation and under fire, Trooper X immediately engaged and destroyed the first enemy vehicle with his Javelin missile system. Having limited the enemy's ability to manoeuvre, the patrol assaulted forward and Trooper X engaged a further Iraqi position located to the south with his machine gun. Trooper X re-engaged the enemy with his machine gun, demonstrating great composure.

Trooper X then re-engaged and destroyed the second enemy vehicle with the Javelin, dispersing nearby enemy soldiers who were setting up a mortar position. Subsequently, as the patrol closed on the enemy position, Trooper X engaged a mortar tube with his sniper rifle, hitting the tube with his first round and causing the weapon to explode. At this stage individual enemy started to surrender, creating a situation where surrendering soldiers were intermingled with other enemy who were still engaging the SAS patrol. Trooper X then judiciously placed well aimed shots within close proximity of the enemy that were still engaging from concealed positions, forcing them to surrender.

Throughout this engagement, Trooper X demonstrated skills and composure of the highest standard. He acted with very little direction and his decisions and subsequent actions had significant impacts on the outcome of the engagement. His actions in destroying the enemy vehicles gave the Australian assaulting forces freedom of movement and put the Iraqi forces under immediate pressure. For the entire engagement, Trooper X was subject to enemy

fire passing close overhead. He readily accepted the personal danger and disregarded his own safety while acquiring the enemy vehicles with the Javelin. His conduct whilst in a hazardous situation in contact with numerically superior enemy forces was most gallant and led to the success of the action.

Trooper X's acts of gallantry played a crucial role in gaining the initiative for his patrol and defeating an aggressive enemy force. His actions contributed significantly to the Coalition's strategic success in denying Iraq the use of their theatre ballistic missiles. His performance brings great credit to the SAS Regiment, the Australian Army and the Australian Defence Force.

It is likely that other awards will be presented to members of the ADF for their contribution to Operation Falconer at a later date

New Special Operations Command

Defence Minister Robert Hill officially launched the Australian Defence Force's newest command organisation, the Special Operations Command at a ceremony at Holsworthy Barracks in Sydney.

Senator Hill was joined by Minister Assisting the Minister for Defence Danna Vale, Chief of Army Lieutenant General Peter Leahy and Special Operations Commander Australia Major General Duncan Lewis.

The Special Operations Command has been established as a joint command with a command status equivalent to Maritime, Land and Air Commands and is headed by Major General Duncan Lewis. It will comprise:

- * A joint Headquarters with offices in both Canberra and Sydney;

- * The Special Air Service Regiment;
- * 4th Battalion the Royal Australian Regiment (Commando);
- * Tactical Assault Groups (West) and (East);
- * 1 Commando Regiment;
- * The Incident Response Regiment; and
- * The Special Operations Combat Service Support Company to provide the specific logistics, heavy weapons and communications support of Special Operations and Special Forces Aviation Support element.

The Special Operations Command will deliver an extra 330 highly trained combat personnel and associated support personnel to supplement Australia's existing Special Forces. It will also provide direct support to the Special Forces Training Centre through which all members of the Special Forces are trained.

The formation of the Special Operations Command represents a significant increase in Australia's ability to respond to terrorist threats at home and abroad.

It enhances the Australian Defence Force's domestic coordinated rapid response capability - as demonstrated by the recent operation to apprehend the Pong Su where all Special Operations units worked together under their new command structure in conjunction with Navy and Air Force elements.

It also recognises the critical importance of Special Forces in today's wars, able to operate with stealth, flexibility and precision strike in an integrated attack as we saw in Afghanistan and Iraq.

Soldier, the Sailor and the Airman

Here we have a message from David Flint who many of us know. David felt that this little message should be passed onto us all

Hi all