

ANZAC POEM

I saw a kid marchin' with medals on his chest
He marched alongside diggers marching six abreast,
He knew that it was Anzac Day - he walked along with pride
He did his best to keep in step with the diggers by his side.

And when the march was over the kid was rather tired.
A digger said "Whose medals son?" to which the kid replied,
"They belong to Daddy but he did not come back,
He died up in New Guinea on a lonely jungle track".

The kid looked rather sad and then a tear came to his eye.
The digger said "Don't cry my son and I will tell you why.
Your Daddy marched with us today - all the blooming way.
We diggers know that he was there - it's like that on Anzac Day".

The kid looked rather puzzled and didn't understand
But the digger went on talking and started to wave his hand.
"For this great land we live in, there's a price we have to pay,
And for this thing called freedom, the diggers had to pay."

"For we all love fun and merriment in this country where we live,
The price was that some soldier his precious life must give.
For you to go to school my lad and worship God at will,
Someone had to pay the price so the diggers paid the bill.

"Your daddy died for us my son - for all things good and true.
I wonder if you can understand the things I've said to you.
"The kid looked up at the digger - just for a little while,
And with a changed expression, said, with a lovely smile:

I know my daddy marched here today - this, our ANZAC Day,
I know he did - I know he did - all the blooming way...."



*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.)**

Spring 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.

The RAEME Association of WA (Inc.)
PO Box 186, Bayswater, WA 6053

Colonel Commandant: Colonel Ian Stewart AM

The RAEME Association Committee

President: John Klein 2 Wicks Street, Eden Hill Ph. 9279 3080
 Vice President: Ron MacKenzie 94 Natham Square, Swan View Ph. 9294 3044
 Secretary: John Curtis 2 Whittaker Street, Bayswater Ph. 9271 4520
 Treasurer: Clare Curtis 2 Whittaker Street, Bayswater Ph. 9271 4520
 Editor: John Curtis
 Welfare Officers: John Klein & John Curtis
 Chaplain: Fr. Howard MacCallum
 39 Rogerson Road, Mt Pleasant Ph. 9364 4948
 Chaplain (S-West) Fr. Bill Hanson 9 Prowse Way, Dunsborough Ph. 9755 3421
 Physician: Dr. Michael Daly
 Honorary Auditor: Terry Barrett

General Committee:

Al Stoner	9417 4550	Tom Goodlich	9293 3944
Don Gunn	9345 1998	Peter Humpston	9306 4549
Michael Kerrison	9379 2682	Mal McWhinnie	9305 0085
Fred Ordynski	9377 1252	Chris Thomas	9249 7321
Mark Vincent	9307 8725		

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.

The Prezzzz

John Klein is not writing a column for the Horse's Mouth this issue. He has his sister visiting from Holland. He has not seen her for over 30 years and feels that the time he will be spent with her and her husband is short enough.

We would like to welcome John's family and hope that their stay with him and Tina will be a very memorable one and that they take back a lot of happy memories to Holland.

**History of the Corps
in Western Australia**

The history of the Corps in Western Australia Project is now off the ground. In the coming year we will be interviewing volunteers who feel that they have something that can be added to our knowledge of the Corps in WA. The idea is to have a set questionnaire for the Interviewer and the interviewee can speak about those questions as much as they wish.

To help the Association with this project, Mal McWhinnie has very kindly

on steam tours and to open-days where he can meet other victims of the illness and exchange ideas with them. Friends and relations can aid recovery with free transport, free beer and meals. In case of emergency contact your nearest preservation society.

Rabbit-o

The CIA, the FBI and the LAPD are each asked to prove their capability at apprehending terrorists. President Bush releases a white rabbit into a forest and tells each agency to catch it.

* The CIA goes first. It sends animal informants into the forest. They question all plant and material witnesses. After three months of intensive investigations the CIA concludes rabbits do not exist.

* The FBI goes in. After two weeks with no leads it bombs the forest, killing everything, including the rabbit. It makes no apologies; the rabbit had it coming, it insists.

* The LAPD go in. They come out after just two hours with a badly beaten bear. The bear is sobbing, "OK, OK, I'm a rabbit, I'm a rabbit."

John Howard hears about George W's idea and decides to test Australian law enforcement agencies. He releases a white rabbit into the Stromlo Forest, near Canberra.

* The National Crime Authority can't catch it but promises that if it gets a budget increase it can recover \$90 million in unpaid rabbit taxes and proceeds of organised crime.

* The Victorian Police go in. They're gone only 15 minutes, returning with a koala, a kangaroo and a tree fern, all three shot to pieces. "They looked like dangerous rabbits and we acted in self-defence," they explain.

* The NSW Police go in. Surveillance tapes later reveal top-ranking officers and rabbits dancing around a

gumtree stoned out of their minds.

* The Queensland Police go in. They reappear driving a brand new Mercedes and scantily clad bunnies draped all over them.

* The WA Police actually catch the white rabbit, but it inexplicably hangs itself when the attending officer "slipped out momentarily" for a cup of tea.

* The SA and NT Police join forces and beat the inside out of every rabbit in the forest, except the white one. They know it is only the black ones who cause all the trouble.

* The Australian Federal Police refuse to go in. It examines the issues, particularly the cost, and decide that because of low priority, high overtime and the projected expense to the AFP as a whole, the matter should be returned to the referring authority for further analysis.

* ASIO goes into the wrong forest.

The Facts of Life

There was a mother and her small daughter in a taxi being driven past the Naval dockyard which was surrounded by young women who were scantily dressed even though it was winter. The small girl noticed this and it made her wonder. The conversation went like this:

Small girl: Mummy, what are those ladies doing?

Mother (trying to think quickly): Er, they are just waiting for their brothers to get off the boat.

Taxi driver: Madam, why don't you tell her the truth? Little girl, they are prostitutes. They make a living by having sex with the sailors.

Small girl: Oh! She pauses in thought.

Small girl: Mummy, do these ladies have children?

Mother: Of course they do. Where do you think taxi drivers come from?

even dead.”

“Dead, schmed,” replied the Jewish soldier. “Dead is EASY. Circumcision now that takes skill!”

Some Jokes For You

Anonmouse keeps sending them. One day, we, the lynch mob, will find out who he is!!!

1. How Do You Catch a Unique Rabbit?

Unique Up On It.

2. How Do You Catch a Tame Rabbit? Tame Way, Unique Up On It.

3. How Do Crazy People Go Through The Forest?

They Take The Psycho Path

4. How Do You Get Holy Water? You Boil The Hell Out Of It.

5. What Do Fish Say When They Hit a Concrete Wall? Dam!

6. What Do Eskimos Get From Sitting On The Ice too Long? Polaroids

7. What Do You Call a Boomerang That Doesn't Work? A Stick.

8. What Do You Call Cheese That Isn't Yours? Nacho Cheese.

9. What Do You Call Santa's Helpers? Subordinate Clauses.

10. What Do You Call Four Bullfighters In Quicksand? Quatro Sinko.

11. What Do You Get From a Pampered Cow? Spoiled Milk.

12. What Do You Get When You Cross a Snowman With a Vampire? Frostbite.

13. What Lies At The Bottom Of The Ocean And Twitches? A Nervous Wreck.

14. What's The Difference Between Roast Beef And Pea Soup? Anyone Can Roast Beef.

15. Why Do Gorillas Have Big Nostrils? Because They Have Big Fingers.

16. Why Don't Blind People Like To Sky Dive?

Because It Scares The Dog.

17. What Kind Of Coffee Was Served On The Titanic?

Sanka.

18. Why Did Pilgrims' Pants Always Fall Down?

Because They Wore Their Belt Buckle On Their Hat.

19. What's The Difference Between a Bad Golfer And a Bad Skydiver?

A Bad Golfer Goes Whack, Dang! A Bad Skydiver Goes Dang! Whack.

20. How Are a Texas Tornado And a Tennessee Divorce The Same?

Somebody's Gonna Lose A Trailer

Now, admit it. At least one of these made you smile....

Calling all members of the Lynch Mob!!!!

Beware Rail Enthusiasts Disease

HIGHLY INFECTIOUS TO PERSONS OF ALL AGES

THE SYMPTOMS: The sufferer becomes confused and bewildered when not near a railway. Will be observed wandering around with blank expression, muttering strange words. Rapid rise in temperature at sight of a train. Behaviour then becomes erratic: much rushing about and waving of arms. Foaming at the mouth is not unusual. Is sometimes violent to non-believers. The Patient spends much time and money at book and magazine shops. Seems not to notice presence of 'Normal' people.

THE TREATMENT: Patient must be kept well supplied with items of railway interest. Should be encouraged to go

arranged for the donation of a tape recorder. We now have that recorder and would like to register our sincere thanks to Mal. Quite a supply of tapes have also been donated by a person who wishes to remain anonymous. Thank you to that person for the tapes.

Any people who feel that they have information that can benefit the project and wish to participate please contact the Secretary of the Association. We intend to interview the older members of the Corps first. But the younger members have just as much information that can be recorded. So, if you feel that your life in the Corps was dull, colourless and boring think again. Without the junior ranks and the young ones in the Service today, it would cease to function. We need stories from the young members as well as the old.

We will be recording information on tape and then transferring the tapes to computer, both in the spoken and written word. Eventually the documents and the sound tracks will be burnt to a CD.

When this project is well advanced we will be releasing CD's to the members of the Association for their comment and use. Following that, it will be released to members of the Corps who want it and various historical collections around Australia.

Here is your chance to be a part of our history.

Fair, Comprehensive Support for Defence Personnel

Some sections of the media have misreported the tax status of Australian Defence Force (ADF) personnel and the allowances they receive for the outstanding job they are doing in the Solomon Islands and East Timor.

The facts are:

SOLOMON ISLANDS

All Australians serving in the Regional Assistance Mission to the Solomon Islands are receiving fair and comprehensive packages of pay and allowances.

Australian Federal Police (AFP) receive a deployment allowance of \$48.86 a day, which is tax-free after a qualifying period of 91 days of deployment.

By comparison, ADF personnel receive a deployment allowance of \$55.50 per day in recognition of the threat level in the Solomons. This allowance is tax-free from the first day of deployment.

All ADF and AFP personnel deployed as part of the Regional Assistance Mission to the Solomon Islands are entitled to the same tax treatment under the Income Tax Assessment Act.

The salaries and allowances of all ADF and AFP personnel will be tax-free after a qualifying period of 91 days of continuous service in the Solomons. The tax exemption applies from the first day.

EAST TIMOR

As a result of the peace and stability the ADF has helped to restore in East Timor and in recognition of the improved security environment, the Chief of the Defence Force recommended that service in East Timor should be declared non-warlike from 18 August.

While East Timor Peace Enforcement Allowance will continue to be paid at the rate of \$125 per day for the current rotation of troops, there will be different taxation treatment from 18 August, consistent with all other non-warlike ADF operations. Like the non-warlike deployment in the Solomons, ADF personnel will qualify for tax-free status from the first day in country if they are deployed for 91 days or more.

The current rotation of troops began arriving in early May and all were in place by 19 May 2003. Therefore, the vast majority has now qualified for the tax-free status and will experience no change during the deployment.

All personnel on the operation were advised of the change in the nature of service several weeks ago, and a signal was sent to personnel on 4 August providing details of the tax implications. All personnel have been surveyed to ascertain whether they expect to be in country for 91 days or more. Those who have responded in the affirmative will continue to receive a tax exemption and experience no change.

From the next rotation and subject to assessment of the security environment at the time, all personnel assigned to Operation Citadel will receive a tax-free deployment allowance of \$55.50 per day, together with other ADF allowances such as field, hard-lying and separation allowances where eligible. Once again subject to meeting the 91-qualifying period all salary and allowances for these people will be tax exempt.

They will also receive additional recreational leave and comprehensive coverage under the Veterans Entitlements Act. Personnel deployed for more than six months will also receive additional entitlements to removals, leave and travel.

Postcards To The NZ Oldies

This message comes from Mick Ryan, the President of the RAE Association of WA. He is asking members of the RAE Association to help their New Zealand cousins. Mick has asked that we join the RAEA in helping. Anyone who wishes to send a card will probably make some of the oldies very

happy. This project has the blessing of the Association.

Dear John

WO1 RNZE Jacko Jackson 's wife is a nurse at a home for the elderly. She has instituted a scheme whereby people send postcards from all over NZ to the home and the oldies then have to find out where the place is etc and discuss it and possibly communicate with the sender. It is designed to stimulate their minds / enthusiasm and keep them switched on. A worthwhile project for the seniors you would agree. He asked if anyone in Aust would be interested in taking a part, I said I would ask. It just means you buy a postcard and post it to the address with any comments you like.

..Interested?

It shouldn't be a huge cost and it would make the lives of some oldies sitting it out in a home a little brighter! So why not!

The address

Jane Hall
Summerset Retirement Village
PO Box 40262
Upper Hutt
Wellington
New Zealand

Regards
Mick Ryan
Ubique

Strong Partnership Between Government And Doctors Secures Veterans' Health

Doctors' services for eligible veterans and war widows are assured, with the overwhelming majority of Local Medical Officers taking up a new agreement

Blonde Joke

A blind man enters a Ladies Bar by mistake. He finds his way to a bar stool and orders a drink. After sitting there for a while, he yells to the bartender, "Hey, you wanna hear a blonde joke?"

The bar immediately falls absolutely quiet. In a very deep, husky voice, the woman next to him says, "Before you tell that joke, sir you should know five things

- 1 - The bartender is a blonde girl.
- 2 - The bouncer is a blonde gal.
- 3 - I'm a 6 feet tall, 200 pound blonde woman with a black belt in karate.
- 4 - The woman sitting next to me is blonde and is a professional weight lifter.
- 5 - The lady to your right is a blonde and is a professional wrestler.

Now think about it seriously, Mister. Do you still wanna tell that joke?

The blind man thinks for a second, shakes his head, and declares, "Nah not if I'm gonna have to explain it five times."

I like his style

A young man goes to church and to the confessional.

"Bless me Father, for I have sinned. I have been with a loose woman."

The priest asks, "Is that you, little Tommy Shaughnessy?"

"Yes, Father, it is."

"And, who was the woman you were with?"

"Sure and I can't be tellin' you, Father. I don't want to ruin her reputation."

"Well, Tommy, I'm sure to find out sooner or later, so you may as well tell me now. Was it Brenda O'Malley?"

"I cannot say."

"Was it Patricia Kelly?"

"I'll never tell."

"Was it Liz Shannon?"

"I'm sorry, but I'll not name her."

"Was it Cathy Morgan?"

"My lips are sealed."

"Was it Fiona McDonald, then?"

"Please, Father, I cannot tell you."

The priest sighs in frustration. "You're a steadfast lad, Tommy Shaughnessy, and I admire that. But you've sinned, and you must atone. You cannot attend church for three months. Be off with you now."

Tommy walks back to his pew. His friend Sean slides over and whispers, "What'd you get?"

"Three month's vacation and five good leads," says Tommy.

Samurai

Once upon a time a powerful Emperor advertised for a new Chief Samurai. Only three applied for the job: a Japanese samurai, a Chinese warrior and a Jewish soldier.

"Demonstrate your skills!" commanded the Emperor.

The Japanese samurai stepped forward, opened a tiny box, and released a fly.

He drew his samurai sword and "swish"; the fly fell to the floor, neatly divided in two!

"What a feat!" said the Emperor. "Number Two, show me what you can do."

The Chinese warrior smiled confidently, stepped forward and opened a tiny box, releasing a fly. He drew his samurai sword and "swish, swish"; the fly fell to the floor, neatly quartered!

That is skill!" nodded the Emperor. "How are you going to top that, Number three Samurai?"

Number Three contender stepped forward, opened a tiny box, released one fly, drew his Samurai sword, and "swoooooosh" flourished his sword so mightily that a gust of wind blew through the room. But the fly was still buzzing around!

In disappointment, the Emperor said, "What kind of skill is that? The fly isn't

Then - think about this:

1. The number of gun owners in the US is 80,000,000.
2. The number of accidental gun deaths per year is 1,500.
3. The number of accidental deaths per gun owner is 0000188.

Statistically, doctors are approximately 9,000 times more dangerous than gun owners.

Not Everyone Has A Gun, But Almost Everyone Has At Least One Doctor.

Please alert your friends to this alarming threat. We must ban doctors before this gets out of hand.

As a public health measure I have withheld the statistics on lawyers for fear that the shock could cause people to seek medical attention.

Nutrition facts

1. The Japanese eat very little fat and suffer fewer heart attacks than the British or Americans.
2. The Mexicans eat a lot of fat and suffer fewer heart attacks than the British or Americans.
3. The Japanese drink very little red wine and suffer fewer heart attacks than the British or Americans
4. The Italians drink excessive amounts of red wine and suffer fewer heart attacks than the British or Americans.
5. The Germans drink a lot of beers and eat lots of sausages and fats and suffer fewer heart attacks than the British or Americans.

CONCLUSION: Eat and drink what you like. Speaking English is apparently what kills you.

K K K - Mad Preacher

An Alabama preacher rose with an angry red face. "Someone in this congregation has spread a rumour that I belong to the Ku Klux Klan. This is a horrible lie, and one, which a Christian

community cannot tolerate. I am embarrassed and do not intend to accept this. Now I want the party who did this to stand and ask forgiveness from God and this Christian Family."

No one moved. The preacher continued, "Do you not have the nerve to face me and admit this is a falsehood? Remember, you will be forgiven and in your heart you will feel glory. Now stand and confess your transgression."

Again all was quiet. Slowly a "drop dead" gorgeous blonde, with a body that would stop traffic, rose from the third pew. Her head was bowed and voice shook as she spoke. "Reverend, there has been a terrible misunderstanding. I never said you were a member of the Klan. I told a couple of my friends that you were a wizard under the sheets."

Cute

An airline's passenger cabin was being served by an obviously gay flight attendant, who seemed to put everyone into a good mood as he served them food and drinks. As the plane prepared to descend, he came swishing down the aisle and announced to the passengers, "Captain Marvin has asked me to announce that he'll be landing the big scary plane shortly, lovely people, so if you could just put up your trays that would be super."

On his trip back up the aisle, he noticed that a well-dressed rather exotic looking woman hadn't moved a muscle. "Perhaps you didn't hear me over those big brute engines. I asked you to raise your trazy-poo so the main man can pitty-pat us on the ground."

She calmly turned her head and said, "In my country, I am called a Princess. I take orders from no one," to which the flight attendant replied, without missing a beat,

"Well, sweet-cheeks, in my country, I'm called a Queen, so I outrank you. Tray-up bitch!"

to treat Gold Card holders under the repatriation system.

Almost 13,000 general practitioners, or 97 per cent of registered Local Medical Officers, had taken up the Federal Government's offer of increased remuneration under a new three-year agreement announced by the Prime Minister as part of the A Fairer Medicare - Better Access, More Affordable package.

The LMO scheme has been the heart of veterans' health services throughout the history of Australian repatriation.

The implementation of this new agreement has been a key issue for the Government, in recognition of the high priority placed by the veteran community on securing the future of services under the Gold Card and White Card.

The overwhelming response demonstrates the commitment of doctors to working with the Government to ensure that veterans enjoy comprehensive, quality health care.

Almost 280,000 veterans and war widows have a Gold Card, entitling them to free medical treatment for any medical condition. Another 58,000 veterans have a White Card, which entitles them to treatment for any condition accepted as being related to their service.

Under the new agreement, which came into effect at the beginning of July, GPs registered under the LMO scheme are eligible for a veteran access payment of \$3 for each service to Gold and White Card holders. This is in addition to the 100 per cent of the Medicare Benefit Schedule fee already paid to LMOs for treating veteran patients.

The new agreement makes no change to the way veterans and war widows access their care - they simply need to present their Gold or White Card to their doctor.

However, the agreement means veteran

and war widow patients can be assured that they still have access to the care they need and the care they are entitled to.

The Department of Veterans' Affairs is still processing applications from doctors taking up the new agreement and I would encourage those few remaining LMOs to respond to the offer.

The LMO scheme is a traditional and successful partnership and we welcome the continued commitment of doctors to the health and well-being of the Australian veteran community.

Vale Frank MacDonald

Farewell to last Tasmanian hero of World War I.

Tasmania's last World War 1 veteran, Frank MacDonald, winner of the Military Medal, has passed away. Mr MacDonald was also Australia's last decorated World War I veteran.

Mr MacDonald died at the age of 107.

Mr MacDonald enlisted in the Australian Imperial Force in March 1916, at Claremont in Tasmania. After training in England, Corporal MacDonald was posted to France, where he served with the 40th Battalion until December 1918.

The 40th took part in many significant operations in France and Belgium, most notably the battalion attack at Morlancourt in March 1918. Despite this, Corporal MacDonald was never wounded, which was remarkable for an infantryman.

In early 1918, Corporal MacDonald was awarded the Military Medal for 'conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty in action' in Belgium on 12 October 1917. The medal was awarded for his key role in maintaining vital lines of communication between the Battalion Forward Station and the Battalion Headquarters under almost continuous heavy fire, until the battalion was relieved.

After the war, Mr MacDonald returned to Australia and civilian life as a clerk and paymaster, salesman and a real estate agent.

With the outbreak of World War II, Mr MacDonald again answered the call to serve, this time within Australia providing administrative support services in Sydney.

In November 1998, Mr MacDonald received the Legion of Honour from the French Government and the 80th Anniversary Armistice Remembrance Medal, the first commemorative medal in the Australian system of honours and awards. In 2002, he was also awarded the Centenary Medal as an Australian who was alive at the time of Federation in 1901.

With the passing of Frank MacDonald, only six known Australian World War I veterans still remain.

THE BRUCE ROCK VIETNAM VETERANS GROUP

INVITE YOU...to a 'BACK TO THE BUSH' REUNION on the 1st of November 2003

Start the day by enjoying many food venues and browse through a variety of stalls. Catch up with old friends, and make yourself comfortable in the BK Federation Amphitheatre. Be entertained by some fantastic local talent, followed by the performance of the Kalgoorlie and Challenge Brass and Pipe Bands prior to them leading the march at 3pm.

All Veterans and interested persons are invited to join the march, with members of the 10th Light Horse group through to recently returned PeaceKeepers.

Don't want to march ?? Then get yourself an advantage point to wave an Aussie flag and cheer the marchers on.

3pm: March to St Peter's Church where a relighting of the candle at the V V

Memorial Peace Window will be held, along with the Blessing of Banners and wreath laying will take place.

5pm: All are invited to a free barbecue and drinks at the local recreational grounds. (Please bring a salad and a plate of goodies for supper) Enjoy an impromptu concert at the venue.

Our program will cover several days so hopefully you will be able to join us a little earlier.

Thursday 30th Oct:

Have a game of bowls, or golf and enjoy a sumptuous meal at the club or hotel. (Reservations essential) Have an afternoon of Bingo, then after dinner; attend an outdoor movie at the Amphitheatre. (\$5:00 per person)

Friday 31st Oct:

Be taken on a tour of the town, and enjoy a leisurely 'Fish and Chip' luncheon, with a variety of lovely salads, at the Roadhouse. (RESERVATIONS ARE ESSENTIAL) whilst listening to the soothing sounds of the keyboard.

Friday night, come along to the Federation Amphitheatre and be entertained by the fabulously talented Ric Steeles Blues Band and Artists. Cost \$10:00 per person. (Tickets at the gate)

Saturday 1st Nov

A huge market with a variety of craft and food stalls starts at 9am. Throughout the day there will be a variety of local talent and the Brass and Pipe Bands playing in the Amphitheatre

3pm: Form up for the March with the Brass Bands. March to St Peters Church

3:30pm: Combined church service with the relighting of the Memorial Candle at the V V Peace window, also the blessing of Banners and Wreath laying.

5pm: Free barbecue and drinks commence at the recreational grounds, where an impromptu concert will start at 7pm. Closes at 11pm and the hotel/club will remain open for anyone wishing to stay up longer. (Please bring a

knocking him unconscious. The liquor store window was made of Plexiglas. The whole event was caught on videotape.

As a female shopper exited a New York convenience store, a man grabbed her purse and ran. The clerk called 911 immediately, and the woman was able to give them a detailed description of the snatcher. Within minutes, the police apprehended the snatcher. They put him in the car and drove back to the store. The thief was then taken out of the car and told to stand there for a positive ID. To which he replied, "Yes, officer, that's her. That's the lady I stole the purse from."

The Ann Arbor News crime column reported that a man walked into a Burger King in Ypsilanti, Michigan, at 5 a.m., flashed a gun, and demanded cash. The clerk turned him down because he said he couldn't open the cash register without a food order. When the man ordered onion rings, the clerk said they weren't available for breakfast. The man, frustrated, walked away.

Kentucky: Two men tried to pull the front off a cash machine by running a chain from the machine to the bumper of their pickup truck. Instead of pulling the front panel off the machine, though, they pulled the bumper off their truck. Scared, they left the scene and drove home. With the chain still attached to the machine. With their bumper still attached to the chain. With their vehicle's license plate still attached to the bumper. They were quickly arrested.

A 5-STAR DARWIN AWARD WINNER!

When a man attempted to siphon gasoline from a motor home parked on a Seattle street, he got much more than he bargained for. Police arrived at the scene to find a very sick man curled up next to a motor home near spilled sewage. A police spokesman said that the man admitted to trying to steal gasoline and plugged his siphon hose into

the motor home's sewage tank by mistake. The owner of the vehicle declined to press charges, saying that it was the best laugh he'd ever had.

Real Groaner

Bear walks into a bar in Billings, Montana and sits down. He bangs on the bar with his paw and demands a beer.

The bartender approaches and says, "We don't serve beer to bears in bars in Billings."

The bear, becoming angry, demands again that he be served a beer. The bartender tells him again, more forcefully, "We don't serve beer to belligerent bears in bars in Billings."

The bear, very angry now, says, "If you don't serve me a beer, I'm going to eat that lady sitting at the end of the bar." The bartender says, "Sorry, we don't serve beer to belligerent, bully bears in bars in Billings."

The bear goes to the end of the bar, and, as promised, eats the woman. He comes back to his seat and again demands a beer. The bartender states, "Sorry, we don't serve beer to belligerent, bully bears in bars in Billings who are on drugs."

The bear says, "I'm NOT on drugs."

The bartender says, "You are now. That was a barbitchyouate."

Ed: Now where is that Lynch Mob.

A Few Stats For You Gun Freaks

These figures are accurate and easily checked—vary year to year but are always close.

1. The number of physicians in the US is 700,000.
2. Accidental deaths caused by Physicians per year are 120,000.
3. Accidental deaths per physician are 0.171. (US Dept. of Health and Human Services)

Jim's Life in the US

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

The 2003 Darwin Award Winners

When his 38-caliber revolver failed to fire at his intended victim during a hold-up in Long Beach, California, would be robber James Elliot did something that can only inspire wonder. He peered down the barrel and tried the trigger again. This time it worked.....

And now, the honourable mentions.

The chef at a hotel in Switzerland lost a finger in a meat-cutting machine and, after a little hopping around, submitted a claim to his insurance company. The company, suspecting negligence, sent out one of its men to have a look for himself. He tried the machine and lost a finger. The chef's claim was approved.

A man who shovelled snow for an hour to clear a space for his car during a blizzard in Chicago returned with his vehicle to find a woman had taken the space. Understandably, he shot her.

After stopping for drinks at an illegal bar, a Zimbabwean bus driver found that the 20 mental patients he was supposed to be transporting from Harare to Bulawayo had escaped. Not wanting to admit his incompetence, the driver went to a nearby bus stop and offered everyone waiting there a free ride. He then delivered the passengers to the mental hospital, telling the staff that the patients were very excitable and prone to bizarre fantasies. The deception wasn't discovered for 3 days.

A man walked into a Louisiana Circle-K, put a \$20 bill on the counter, and asked for change. When the clerk opened the cash drawer, the man pulled a gun and asked for all the cash in the register, which the clerk promptly provided. The man took the cash from the clerk and fled, leaving the \$20 bill on the counter. The total amount of cash he got from the drawer...\$15.

(If someone points a gun at you and gives you money, is a crime committed?)

A thief burst into a Florida bank one day wearing a ski mask and carrying a gun. Aiming his gun at the guard, the thief yelled, "FREEZE, MOTHER-STICKERS, THIS IS A ****-UP!" For a moment, everyone was silent. Then the snickers started. The security guard completely lost it and doubled over laughing. It probably saved his life, because he'd been about to draw his gun. He couldn't have drawn and fired before the thief got him. The thief ran away and is still at large. In memory of the event, the banker later put a plaque on the wall engraved with the words, "Freeze, mother-stickers, this is a ****-up!"

Seems an Arkansas guy wanted some beer pretty badly. He decided that he'd just throw a cinderblock through a liquor store window, grab some booze, and run. So he lifted the cinderblock and heaved it over his head at the window. The cinderblock bounced back and hit the would-be thief on the head,

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.

salad and a plate for supper.)

Sunday2nd Nov.

A free hearty breakfast will be available for travellers at the recreational grounds. A game of tennis (visitors verses locals) has been arranged and a 'Bards' night under the stars, around the campfire, is also on the program. So polish up on your recitals, or dig out that old mouth organ or squeezebox. Would love to hear you.

Monday 3rd.

Stay and enjoy sightseeing around the district. In the evening bring a picnic tea to the Amphitheatre and watch a movie. (\$5:00 per person)
Tuesday 4th Melbourne Cup day. Enjoy a cup luncheon at the club or hotel before having to think about returning home. (Meal Reservation Essential)

ALL WELCOME

RSVP: Preferably ASAP or no later than the 15th October for 'barbecue catering' purposes thankyou.

For further information and replies:
Merv Gould : 0890611143, email: mjpgould@bigpond.com.au
Colin Turner: 0890611197, email: fang@wn.com.au
Bill Stewart: 0890611037
Paul Button: 0890611853

ACCOMMODATION

Hotel/Motel 0890611310
Roadhouse/Motel 0890611174
BK Caravan Park 0890611174
All accommodation taken ????? Then bring a tent, ute, swag, van and 'rough' it on the Recreational grounds. Toilets, showers and barbecues available free of charge. No power or water for individual sites.

MEALS

Hotel 0890611310
Roadhouse 0890611174
Club 0890611003

Eds Note: All accommodation in Bruce Rock has been booked. So you will have to camp at the Recreation Grounds.

John Klein and I went last year and had a wow of a time. We camped at the Rec Ground. Although basic and you camp in what you take, the company you keep will make up for any discomfort you may suffer. It is a visit that you should all make. It is one of the best towns in Western Australia.

Operation: Gathering of RAEME 2004

Date: ANZAC Day Weekend [Fri 23rd Apr to Sun 25 Apr 2004]

Venue: Brisbane, Queensland

Organiser: Phil "Buddha" Bond

Gentlemen,

I have forwarded these details to all Veterans and Associates seeking their, and their partners, company for the forth-coming function called "GATHERING OF RAEME" to be held in Brisbane over the 2004 ANZAC weekend to get everyone together for a chance to see many of your past mates / members who have been isolated / buried in the woodwork for over 35 years.

Your mates ask about you and you're whereabouts, so why not come and bring your wife or partner and make it a great weekend.

The "Gathering of RAEME" function shall commence on the Friday afternoon with Registration at Kedron Wavell Services Club which has easy access to all types of transport, for collection of your ordered items and the most important thing Your Nametags. Sit down and enjoy the company of other members who you have not seen for ages, tell a few stories and lies, have a good laugh and bring along some old photo's.

Saturday shall be a get together at the Borlace Club at Enoggera barracks and view some memorabilia. The ladies can either attend or shop in the Brisbane CBD or some of the other

close suburbs which have excellent shopping malls. So spoil them.

The Saturday evening Dinner Dance held at the Kedron Wavell Services Club is from 1830hours (hot & cold buffet) with ample sweets to soften up those that have soured over the years. Entertainment shall be at a leisurely pace provided by RADIO SAIGON, a Brisbane band, so we can enjoy the entertainment and that special moment with your wife or partner for a dance.

Sunday is the big event so make sure all your gongs are mounted and display them with pride. It doesn't matter who you were or with, Infantry, Tankies, SAS, Engineers, LAD, Workshops, Stores, Transport, Artillery or any other Unit. WE ARE STILL RAEME so let the people see the diverse tasks RAEME personnel have performed and march as ONE, behind the RAEME colours. Have your wives / partners cheer you on and at the completion of the march we shall get together at the Port Office Hotel. Food shall be provided and buy your own drinks and enjoy the day with your friends and forgotten mates.

Each Anzac Day in Brisbane we have some 70-100 members march. So in 2004 let's show Brisbane and Australia that we are a TEAM & proud of it. We're not getting any younger and our numbers are dwindling so make the great effort for "GATHERING OF RAEME".

Buddha

Report From The Investigation Into The Death Of Private Jeremy Williams

**Media Statement By
Ltgen Peter Leahy Chief Of Army**

In February 2003, Private Jeremy Williams committed suicide whilst undertaking training at the School of Infantry in Singleton New South Wales.

A Military Police investigation into the death of PTE Williams was undertaken immediately and found that there were no suspicious circumstances surrounding his death.

Realising that there were other factors involved, Army appointed a senior Army officer to undertake a further extensive investigation into this tragic event. The Williams family assisted in the development of the Terms of Reference for the investigation.

I thank Mr and Mrs Williams and their family for their assistance and cooperation with the investigation during what has been a very difficult time for them.

The Investigating Officer did not identify any single factor as the sole cause of Jeremy's decision to end his life. I believe, nevertheless, that

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died."

First woman—"Too bad you didn't look in the freezer — we'd both still be alive!!"

Widdle Wabbits

A precious little girl walks into a pet shop and asks in the sweetest little lisp, "Excute me, mithter, do you keep widdle wabbits?" As the shopkeeper's heart melts, he gets down on his knees, so that he's on her level, and asks, "Do you want a widdle white wabby or a thoft and fuwvy bwack wabby or maybe one like that cute widdle bwown wabby over there?" She, in turn blushes, rocks on her heels, puts her hands on her knees, leans forward and says in a quiet voice, "I don't fink my pet python weally gives a thit."

The Lawyer

A very successful lawyer parked his brand-new Lexus in front of his office, ready to show it off to his colleagues. As he got out, a truck passed too close and completely tore off the door on the driver's side. The lawyer immediately grabbed his cell phone, dialled 000, and within minutes a policeman pulled up.

Before the officer had a chance to ask any questions, the lawyer started screaming hysterically. His Lexus, which he had just picked up the day before, was now completely ruined and would never be the same, no matter what the body shop did to it.

When the lawyer finally wound down from his ranting and raving, the officer shook his head in disgust and disbelief. "I can't believe how materialistic you lawyers are," he said. "You are so focused on your possessions that you don't notice anything else."

"How can you say such a thing?" asked the lawyer.

The cop replied, "Don't you know that your left arm is missing from the elbow down? It must have been torn off when

the truck hit you."

"My God!" screamed the lawyer. "Where's my Rolex?"

Nutrition facts

1. The Japanese eat very little fat and suffer fewer heart attacks than the British or Americans.
2. The Mexicans eat a lot of fat and suffer fewer heart attacks than the British or Americans.
3. The Japanese drink very little red wine and suffer fewer heart attacks than the British or Americans.
4. The Italians drink excessive amounts of red wine and suffer fewer heart attacks than the British or Americans.
5. The Germans drink a lot of beers and eat lots of sausages and fats and suffer fewer heart attacks than the British or Americans.

CONCLUSION: Eat and drink what you like. Speaking English is apparently what kills you.

The GOOD, The BAD, And The UGLY!

Good: Your wife's cute when she's mad at you.

Bad: She wants a divorce.

Ugly: She's a lawyer.

Good: Your husband and you agree, no more kids.

Bad: You can't find your birth control pills.

Ugly: Your daughter borrowed them.

Good: Your wife is pregnant.

Bad: It's triplets.

Ugly: You had a vasectomy three years ago.

Good: Your son is finally growing up.

Bad: He's involved with the woman next door.

Ugly: So are you.

Good: Your husband understands fashion.

Bad: He's a cross-dresser.

Ugly: He looks better than you.

Life According to Perry

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

Rules Of Engagement And Combat

Army:

1. Bring a weapon. Preferably, bring at least two. Bring all of your friends who have weapons. Bring their friends who have weapons.
2. Anything worth shooting is worth shooting twice. Ammo is cheap. Life is expensive.
3. Only hits count. Close doesn't count. The only thing worse than a miss is a slow miss.
4. If your shooting stance is good, you're probably not moving fast enough, nor using cover correctly.
5. Move away from your attacker. Distance is your friend. (Lateral and diagonal movement are preferred.)
6. Watch their hands. Hands kill. (In God we trust. Everyone else, keep your hands where I can see them).
7. Be polite. Be professional. But have a plan to kill everyone you meet.
8. The faster you finish the fight, the less shot you will get.
9. Accuracy is relative: most combat shooting is more dependent on "pucker factor" than the inherent accuracy of the weapon.
10. Use a weapon that works EVERY TIME. "All skill is in vain when an Angel dribbles in the flintlock of your musket."
11. Some day someone may kill you with your own weapon, but they should have to beat you to death with it because it is empty.
12. Have a plan.
13. Have a back-up plan, because the first one won't work.
14. Your number one Option for Personal Security is a lifelong commitment to avoidance, deterrence, and de-escalation.

Air Force:

1. Kiss the spouse good-bye.

2. Drive to the flight line.
3. Fly to target area, drop off Army, fly back.
4. Pop in at the club for a couple with the guys.
5. Go home, BBQ some burgers and drink some more beer.

Navy:

1. Spend three weeks getting somewhere.
2. Adopt an aggressive offshore posture.
3. Drink Coffee.

The Pearly gates

Two women are new arrivals at the pearly gates, and are comparing stories on how they had died.

First woman— "I froze to death."

Second woman — "You froze to death - how horrible!"

First woman— "Well, it wasn't so bad. After I quit shaking from the cold, I began to get warm and sleepy, and finally died a peaceful death. What about you?"

Second woman— "I died of a massive heart attack. I suspected that my husband was cheating, so I came home early to catch him in the act. But instead, I found him all by himself in the den, watching TV."

First woman — "So what happened?"

Second woman- - "I was so sure there was another woman there somewhere, that I started running all over the house looking. I ran up into the attic and searched and down to the basement. Then I went through every closet and checked under every bed. I kept this up until I had looked everywhere, and finally became so exhausted that I just keeled over with a heart attack and

organisational failures, unacceptable conduct and inappropriate attitudes of staff and trainees toward other trainees at the School of Infantry, particularly injured trainees, contributed to a sense of despair and depression in Private Williams. I sincerely regret Private Williams and others were exposed to such conduct and attitudes. As the Chief of Army and the officer ultimately responsible, I have expressed my regrets and sorrow to the Williams family.

Sorrow is not enough. Army must do everything it can to ensure that circumstances such as these never occur again. With other senior Army Commanders I will work to ensure that these types of behaviour, conduct or attitudes no longer have any place within the Australian Army. The Army is committed to ensuring that it treats all of its trainees fairly and with respect, providing them with the opportunity to excel.

Army had already in place a set of procedures and protocols. Clearly these were not enough and we must now further our efforts.

The Army has learnt from this sad event and developed an Action Plan specifically designed to create an enduring climate of support, positive reinforcement and encouragement at the School of Infantry and all our other training establishments. The Plan addresses such things as:

- Creating separate rehabilitation and transfer centres that will improve the rehabilitation of injured soldiers and the administration and support of soldiers unable to continue training.

- Improving instructor performance and adherence to Army's Rules for a Fair Go and the Training Command Code of Conduct. This will be achieved through a new instructor development course and an instructor development and mentor program. This includes conducting equity officer training for all instructors.

- Putting in place a system of external audits to allow soldiers to report their treatment during training against the Training Command Code of Conduct which is drawn from the Army's Rules for a Fair Go.

- Restructuring Depot Company at the School of Infantry and increasing its staffing to better manage the welfare and performance of instructors and trainees.

- Reducing the workload on key commanders by re-arranging responsibilities so that commanders are given the time they need to devote to the leadership and welfare of their people.

As a result of broader issues identified by the investigation, the Military Police are currently investigating possible breaches of the Defence Force Discipline Act with respect to unacceptable behaviour at the School of Infantry.

A new rehabilitation centre to be established at Holsworthy base in Sydney will be named the Private Jeremy Williams Rehabilitation Centre.

I will keep the Australian public informed of the progress of the implementation of the Action Plan.

I thank the Williams' family for their help. With them I look forward to Army establishing an enduring environment of respect and a fair go for all throughout the Army and especially at our training institutions as a lasting memory for Private Jeremy Williams.

A copy of the Investigation Executive Summary incorporating Army's actions is available at www.defence.gov.au

Iraq Update

The RAE Association has given us permission to print, and we thank them for this insight, what has been going on in Iraq. We also thank "Buzz" for being a true communicator of the real story.

Gday everyone!

Just spent the last 10 days at home and I am due to return to Umm Qasr for 2 weeks and then Baghdad for 3 months, departing tomorrow.

The situation is very interesting and constantly changing by the hour. Having good intelligence is very important to operations and travel through the country, but having driven from Umm Qasr to Basra, Baghdad and Amman on coming out, there wasn't really any trouble that I could see.

You have to remember that Baghdad is a very large city, and you only get to hear the bad news in the media. It is still quite easy to buy weapons in the country, and each house is allowed to keep an AK for "personal protection".

The UK forces have done a great job in Basra. All the Northern Ireland "training" has proven its worth, and the place is definitely back on its feet. The infrastructure has always been bad, and the locals are looking forward to getting constant power supply. The main power lines to the city were cut in many places, not necessarily by Coalition forces during the war, but by sabotage attacks after. The extent of the aircraft strikes was very accurate, with precision hits on communications towers, military buildings and the like. The electrical supply was mainly hit with cluster munitions containing graphite string (a bit like fibreglass roof insulation) which shorted out the power and sub-stations, instead of destroying them outright.

The fuel riots shown on TV were not as bad as you think. The way some of the people make a living is to line up at the fuel stations, fill their cars up, drive to the end of the line, siphon the fuel out to be sold by the side of the road at a marked up price! Therefore there are always long lines at the fuel stations. The cost of fuel varies depending on where you are in the

country – anything from USD1 per litre in remote areas down to as low as USD1 for 75 litres in built up areas!!!!!! Some of the fuel ships that came into the port with supplies for Iraq about a month ago offloaded their supplies into the local fuel tankers. The tankers then drove into Kuwait and offloaded their fuel at petrol stations there!!! Quite an amazing thing to see.

The port area is now handling containers and car ferries, but the bulk grain and sulfur transfer facilities are still out of action. A fire, deliberately lit, at the sulfur terminal burnt the conveyor belts out completely and will probably take the next 3 to 4 months to repair.

The big boys in the north of the country are pressuring the Saddam supporters in the south to attack the CF and infrastructure. The north and the middle are fairly active, but the south has been fairly quiet – but this is expected to change.

Events that have occurred in Umm Qasr township have included: kneecappings, murders, extortion, theft, looting, arson, grenading of buildings, placing of command detonated improvised explosive devices along CF supply routes and random shootings. Coming into the port via the 23km long channel our supply ship, the Al Faisal out of Bahrain, was attacked by Iraqi pirates and looted of electronic equipment and roughed up the crew. They now have an armed escort to international waters. But generally things quiet.

When I travelled on the Al Faisal a team from HMAS Sydney boarded us. I was very impressed by their professionalism and the way they dealt with all personnel on the boat and they should be commended. I hope they have a safe tour of duty.

The short cut between the main road into Basra and the Basra International Airport along a dirt road was the site of a command detonated IED against a

engines were pulled by horses. The horses were stabled on the ground floor and figured out how to walk up straight staircases.

Richard Millhouse Nixon was the first US president whose name contains all the letters from the word "criminal." The second was William Jefferson Clinton.

On average, 100 people choke to death on ball-point pens every year.

Elephants are the only animals that can't jump.

Only one person in two billion will live to be 116 or older.

Women blink nearly twice as much as men.

It's physically impossible for you to lick your elbow.

The Main Library at Indiana University sinks over an inch every year because when it was built, engineers failed to take into account the weight of all the books that would occupy the building.

No word in the English language rhymes with "MONTH."

A crocodile cannot stick its tongue out.

The cigarette lighter was invented before the match.

Almost everyone who reads this trivia will try to lick their elbow.

The Mouse Trap - from Jerry

A mouse looked through a crack in the wall to see the farmer and his wife opening a package; what food might it contain? He was aghast to discover that it was a mousetrap!

Retreating to the farmyard, the mouse proclaimed the warning, "There is a mouse trap in the house, there is a mouse trap in the house."

The chicken clucked and scratched, raised her head and said, "Mr. Mouse, I can tell you this is a grave concern to

you, but it is of no consequence to me; I cannot be bothered by it."

The mouse turned to the pig and told him, "There is a mouse trap in the house."

"I am so very sorry Mr. Mouse," sympathised the pig, "but there is nothing I can do about it but pray; be assured that you are in my prayers."

The mouse turned to the cow, who replied, "Like wow, Mr. Mouse, a mouse trap; am I in grave danger, Duh?"

So the mouse returned to the house, head down and dejected to face the farmer's mouse trap alone.

That very night a sound was heard throughout the house, like the sound of a mouse trap catching its prey. The farmer's wife rushed to see what was caught.

In the darkness, she did not see that it was a venomous snake whose tail the trap had caught. The snake bit the farmer's wife.

The farmer rushed her to the hospital. She returned home with a fever. Now everyone knows you treat a fever with fresh chicken soup, so the farmer took his hatchet to the farmyard for the soup's main ingredient.

His wife's sickness continued so that friends and neighbours came to sit with her around the clock. To feed them, the farmer butchered the pig.

The farmer's wife did not get well, in fact, she died, and so many people came for her funeral the farmer had the cow slaughtered to provide meat for all of them to eat.

So the next time you hear that someone is facing a problem and think that it does not concern you, remember that when the least of us is threatened, we are all at risk.

On the first day God created the cow.

God said, "You must go to field with the farmer all day long and suffer under the sun, have calves and give milk to support the farmer. I will give you a life span of sixty years. The cow said, "That's a kind of a tough life you want me to live for sixty years. Let me have twenty years and I'll give back the other forty." And God agreed.

On the second day, God created the dog.

God said, "Sit all day by the door of your house and bark at anyone who comes in or walks past. I will give you a life span of twenty years. The dog said, "That's too long to be barking. Give me ten years and give back the other ten. So God agreed (sigh).

On the third day God created the monkey.

God said, "Entertain people, do monkey tricks, make them laugh. I'll give you a twenty year life span. Monkey said, "How boring, monkey tricks for twenty years? I don't think so. Dog gave you back ten, so that's what I'll do too, okay?" And God agreed again.

On the fourth day God created man.

God said, "Eat, sleep, play, have sex, enjoy. Do nothing, just enjoy, enjoy. I'll give you twenty years." Man said, "What? Only twenty years? No way, man. Tell you what, I'll take my twenty, and the forty cow gave back, and the ten dog gave back and the ten monkey gave back. That makes eighty, okay?"

"Okay," said God. "You've got a deal."

So that is why for the first twenty years we eat, sleep, play, have sex, enjoy, and do nothing. For the next forty years we slave in the sun to support our family; for the next ten years we do monkey tricks to entertain our grandchildren; and for the last ten years we sit in front of the house and bark at everybody. Life has now been explained.

Trivia

Anonymouse has sent some more bits of useless information for the lynch mob to ponder. (Ed)

Mosquito repellents don't repel. They hide you. The spray blocks the mosquito's sensors so they don't know you're there.

Dentists have recommended that a toothbrush be kept at least 6 feet away from a toilet to avoid airborne particles resulting from the flush.

The liquid inside young coconuts can be used as substitute for blood plasma.

No piece of paper can be folded in half more than 7 times.

Donkeys kill more people annually than plane crashes.

A Boeing 747's wingspan is longer than the Wright brother's first flight.

American Airlines saved \$40,000 in 1987 by eliminating 1 olive from each salad served in first-class.

Venus is the only planet that rotates clockwise.

Apples, not caffeine, are more efficient at waking you up in the morning.

Michael Jordan makes more money from Nike annually than all of the Nike factory workers in Malaysia combined.

All US Presidents have worn glasses. Some just didn't like being seen wearing them in public.

Walt Disney was afraid of mice.

Pearls melt in vinegar.

Thirty-five percent of the people who use personal ads for dating are already married.

It is possible to lead a cow upstairs...but not downstairs.

A duck's quack doesn't echo and no one knows why.

The reason firehouses have circular stairways is from the days when the

Royal Engineer convoy with 4 casualties only 3 weeks ago. During the main war fighting, 2 members of 33 Engineer Regiment (EOD) RE were hit through the door of their Landrover by a PG7 and were killed.

The terrain in the country is quite amazing, changing from desert to lush fields. After coming from Laos I thought that I wouldn't see a rice paddy for a long time – but I was wrong! The hottest day we have had so far was 73° Celsius, but averages in the mid to high 50's. Night reaches a cool 35°C on average.

The ammunition storage depots are a mess, with propellant spread over the ground in large areas where the locals have stripped down the rounds to get the brass shell casings. This caused an incident for one of the NGO UXO clearance organisations when a bunker exploded due to the propellant, but luckily no one was hurt. The search for WMD goes on with no luck. The running joke is: "Question - So, President Bush, how do you know the Iraqis have WMD? Answer: - We still have the receipts."

The investigation into the death of one of my divers, Peter Rudolf, is still ongoing. The post mortem was conducted in the UK, but the coroner has not released his findings yet. Talking to the other divers who went to the funeral they were told that the coroner had found "something", but no details have been released at this stage. Even with 6 dive medics (3 in the boat), a trauma kit, Oxyviva, a decompression chamber within 1 minute of the dive site, an ambulance within 3 minutes drive on call, a surgeon and 5 UK medics at a medical centre with the ambulance, a full field hospital within 30 minutes drive and a Casevac chopper 15 minutes flying time away, nothing could be done to save his life.

It has definitely been an interesting and trying 3 ½ months, and hopefully the next 3 months will be better.

Keeping my head down and my eyes open,

Chris "Buzz" Tierney

PS: If anyone has any specific questions just let me know and I'll see if I can answer for you. Buzz.

Welfare Corner

This issue we are making a little departure from our normal articles. We often see where some person has been conned by a scam set up to take anything they can from an unsuspecting victim. Well, this issue, we are going to look at how to spot a financial scam.

How to spot a financial scam

From the Australian Securities and Investments Commission

While the vast majority of investments are legitimate, there are a number of financial scams affecting Australians. Do you know how to spot the clues? Here are some tips.

It looks real

Scams that catch people often look realistic and are presented professionally. Scammers often go to lot of trouble to:

- * Print attractive documents and set up a business-like website;
- * Choose names that sound like reputable companies;
- * Tell a persuasive story using the right jargon; and/or
- * Mention names of people you know to build your trust.

The clues

Bigger and faster profits than real investments.

Scams always offer a higher return than genuine investments. Some offer 20% a year, others go for 300% a year or even more. It's too good to be true. By comparison, Australian shares are some of the most successful investments, and their value has grown about

7-9% p.a. over the long term.

Less risk, less effort than real investments. Most scams say that financial success is easy and risk isn't a problem. But real wealth demands careful planning and effort. Even regular investors have to weather market volatility.

Something special that genuine investments don't offer. It could be a 'secret' offer, 'inside information' or 'new techniques'. There's always some feature to make you feel like you've got an edge over other people. But chances are it's a fairy tale-and it won't have a happy ending.

More urgent than the real thing. Every seam gets dressed up as an opportunity, so scamsters often say 'don't miss out' and 'act quickly' to make you hurry 'before it's too late'. They're really just trying to grab your money before you have a chance to check properly.

Offered by a stranger.

Many scams come from overseas, through unsolicited email or surprise phone calls. Others get sold through 'wealth creation' seminars or on the grapevine. While the people can sound genuine, they rarely have any real credentials, such as an Australian Securities and Investments Commission (ASIC) licence to give advice or sell financial products.

Now to protect yourself

Always use Australian businesses that have an ASIC licence to sell financial products or give financial advice. Visit the ASIC consumer website **FIDO at www.fido.asic.gov.au** or call ASIC on **1300 300 630** to check for free.

Update On The Army Museum And Artillery Barracks

In early 2001 the Commonwealth Government announced it was going to gift the whole precinct (without Gun

House) to the State. The announcement included provision for the Army Museum of WA to remain at the site. Implementation of appropriate arrangements for the future operation and management of the precinct has been a drawn out process and is still not finalised.

Not until late 2002 was a Steering Committee formed, with representatives from the Commonwealth (Defence), the State Government and the City of Fremantle, to develop a business plan.

This Steering Committee appointed consultants, Ernst & Young and Considine & Griffiths, to carry out a feasibility study and assist in the development of an overall plan. Although the Museum Foundation has had representation on a Community Reference Group created early in 2003 out of various interested parties, the opportunities for input have been limited.

Given that one of the Terms of Reference for the study was that 'The Army Museum is to remain a prominent feature of the precinct', the lack of detailed and constructive consultation with the Army Museum continues to be very disappointing.

The Steering Committee also sought public submissions for the future of the precinct with closing date for these being 6 February 2003. Very few were received, however the University of Notre Dame Fremantle, who had shown previous interest in obtaining the site did make a submission in late March 2003, over 6 weeks after submissions closed.

The Notre Dame submission expressed interest in taking over all parts of the site not currently occupied by the Army Museum and developing this as part of a university campus. This would include the Western wing of the main barracks building when vacated by the WA University Regiment, plus the currently vacant married quarters cottages, the Naval Store building and other ancillary buildings. In return for being able to have

This Will Make You Feel Better

IDIOTS IN SERVICE: This week, our phones went dead and I had to contact the telephone repair people. They promised to be out between 8:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. When I asked if they could give me a smaller time window, the pleasant gentleman asked, "Would you like us to call you before we come?" I replied that I didn't see how he would be able to do that since our phones weren't working. He also requested that we report future outages by email. (Does YOUR email work without a telephone line?).

IDIOTS AT WORK: I was signing the receipt for my credit card purchase when the clerk noticed I had never signed my name on the back of the credit card. She informed me that she could not complete the transaction unless the card was signed. When I asked why, she explained that it was necessary to compare the signature I had just signed on the receipt. So I signed the credit card in front of her. She carefully compared the signature to the one I had just signed on the receipt. As luck would have it, they matched.

IDIOTS IN THE NEIGHBOURHOOD: I live in a semi-rural area. We recently had a new neighbour call the local township administrative office to request the removal of the Deer Crossing sign on our road. The reason: too many deer were being hit by cars and she didn't want them to cross there anymore. I could swear I've recently been with some of these people...

IDIOTS IN FOOD SERVICE: My daughter went to a local Taco Bell and ordered a taco. She asked the person behind the counter for "minimal lettuce." He said he was sorry, but they only had iceberg.

IDIOT SIGHTING #1: I was at the airport, checking in at the gate when an airport employee asked, "Has anyone

put anything in your baggage without your knowledge?" To which I replied, "If it was without my knowledge, how would I know?" She smiled knowingly and nodded, "That's why we ask."

IDIOT SIGHTING #2: The stoplight on the corner buzzes when it's safe to cross the street. I was crossing with a coworker of mine when she asked if I knew what the buzzer was for. I explained that it signals blind people when the light is red. Appalled, she responded, "What on earth are blind people doing driving?"

IDIOT SIGHTING #3: At a good-bye luncheon for an old and dear coworker who is leaving the company due to "downsizing," our manager commented cheerfully, "This is fun. We should do this more often." Not a word was spoken. We all just looked at each other with that deer-in-the-headlights stare.

IDIOT SIGHTING #4: I work with an individual who plugged her power strip back into itself and for the life of her couldn't understand why her system would not turn on.

IDIOT SIGHTING #5: When my wife and I arrived at an automobile dealership to pick up our car, we were told the keys had been locked in it. We went to the service department and found a mechanic working feverishly to unlock the driver's side door. As I watched from the passenger side, I instinctively tried the door handle and discovered that it was unlocked. "Hey," I announced to the technician, "it's open!" To which he replied, "I know - I already got that side."

Now don't you feel better?

The Explanation of Life

NOW READ THIS.....and then you will KNOW! (the explanation of life)

The secret is finally revealed:

said, "If you kiss me, I'll turn into a beautiful princess."

He bent over, picked up the frog, and put it in his pocket.

The frog spoke up again and said, "If you kiss me and turn me back into a beautiful princess, I will stay with you for one week."

The engineer took the frog out of his pocket, smiled at it, and returned it to the pocket.

The frog then cried out, "If you kiss me and turn me back into a princess, I'll stay with you and do ANYTHING you want."

Again the engineer took the frog out, smiled at it, and put it back into his pocket.

Finally, the frog asked, "What is the matter? I've told you I'm a beautiful princess, and I'll stay with you for a week and do anything you want. Why won't you kiss me?"

The engineer said, "Look, I'm an engineer. I don't have time for a girl friend, but a talking frog, now that's cool."

Famous military sayings

"Sometimes I think war is God's way of teaching us geography."
-Paul Rodriguez

"A slipping gear could let your M203 grenade launcher fire when you least expect it. That would make you quite unpopular in what's left of your unit"
-Army's magazine of preventive maintenance.

"Aim towards the Enemy"
-Instruction printed on US Rocket Launcher

"When the pin is pulled, Mr. Grenade is not our friend."
-U.S. Marine Corps

"Cluster bombing from B-52s is very, very accurate. The bombs always hit

the ground."

-U.S. Air Force

"If the enemy is in range, so are you."
-Infantry Journal

"It is generally inadvisable to eject directly over the area you just bombed."
-U.S. Air Force Manual

"Whoever said the pen is mightier than the sword obviously never encountered automatic weapons."
-Gen. MacArthur

"Try to look unimportant; they may be low on ammo."
-Infantry Journal

"You, you, and you . . . Panic. The rest of you, come with me."
-U.S. Marine Corp Gunnery Sgt.

"Tracers work both ways"
-U.S. Army Ordnance

"Five second fuses only last three seconds."
-Infantry Journal

"Don't ever be the first, don't ever be the last, and don't ever volunteer to do anything."
-U. S Navy Swabbie

"Bravery is being the only one who knows you're afraid."
-David Hackworth

"If your attack is going too well, you are walking into an ambush."
-Infantry Journal

"Any ship can be a minesweeper... once."
-Anon

"Never tell the Platoon Sergeant you have nothing to do."
-Unknown Marine Recruit

"Don't draw fire; it irritates the people around you."
-Your Buddies

"Do you want to walk to the war or ride."
RAEME VM to obnoxious Infantryman

free use of these buildings, Notre Dame has offered to upgrade and maintain them.

The Consultants have recently released a draft version of their report on the proposed use and management of the site to various parties involved, including the Army Museum Foundation. This recommends the cheapest option is the 'Educational Use' option as proposed by Notre Dame, which in effect 'gifts' the entire site to Notre Dame University with the exception of the areas currently occupied by the museum.

Members of the Museum community need to understand that these are initial recommendations only. The current status of the site is that it is still owned by the Commonwealth of Australia and managed by Defence Corporate Services Infrastructure Group (CSIG).

Furthermore Defence is still committed to maintaining the Army Museum at the site. However, in communicating its present position to the Steering Committee and to the Army Museum of WA Foundation Board, Defence has maintained that the Commonwealth offer never included the option of paying commercial lease rates for the barracks and that it will only pay a peppercorn rent to house the museum within the part of the site that it currently occupies.

The Army Museum Foundation Board understands there is ongoing commitment by Defence to continue to support the museum at the site. However, taking the Consultant's recommendations as outlined above into consideration and being limited to remain under existing space arrangements, the Board does have grave concerns at how practical this would be in future.

Leaving the Army Museum in an 'as is, where is' situation has the City of Fremantle carrying the museum over the next 20 years at an estimated cost of \$1.2 million.

Besides being an unnecessary impost

on the City of Fremantle, this would deny the Army Museum the chance to:

- * Consolidate its activities
- * Expand and grow from its current situation
- * Ever display more of its collection
- * Generate income through space to have a shop or run small functions, to continue to conserve the collection

The Army Museum would find it increasingly difficult to share the precinct, which would become swamped by the parking problems that dog all universities. This would slowly kill the museum.

The Army Museum Foundation is not prepared to accept such a dire fate and the Board has tasked a sub-committee to examine alternative options to the preferred option recommended by the Consultants. Options being examined by this group include a public awareness campaign, building on the original business plan put forward with a view to ensuring the precinct remains accessible to the public, provides the City of Fremantle with a major tourist attraction, and will become self supporting over time.

Official History Tells Story Of Soldiers In Vietnam

The latest chapter in the official military history of Australian soldiers in the Vietnam War have recently been released.

On the Offensive: The Australian Army in the Vietnam War 1967 - 1968, co-authored by Ashley Ekins and the late Dr Ian McNeill, is the second in a series of three volumes dealing with Australian ground operations in Vietnam.

On the Offensive covers the most tumultuous period of the Vietnam War, including the build up of the Task Force to three infantry battalions, the communist Tet Offensive and the Austra

lian response.

The Vietnam War was the longest conflict that Australian forces have been involved in and more than 50,000 Australians served there over a period of ten years

Of the Australians who served, 520 made the ultimate sacrifice.

By recording their deeds in this and other books within this series, we ensure that their service in the face of such adversity is acknowledged and commemorated now and in the future.

On the Offensive is the eighth volume of the Official History of Australia's Involvement in Southeast Asian Conflicts 1948 - 1975 and the second last in the series.

Through the publication of official war histories such as this, we create an enduring national record of the Australian experience of war, as well as providing an invaluable resource for researchers and the wider community.

It was appropriate that this volume of the official history was launched on Vietnam Veterans Day.

Today we remember the 520 Australians who died in Vietnam, and those who came home and continue to live with the memories of their service.

By coming together to commemorate the service of our Vietnam veterans today, and through the publication of this official history, we ensure that future generations will always honour and remember the Australians who served in Vietnam.

Copies of On the Offensive: The Australian Army in the Vietnam War 1967 - 1968 are available from the Australian War Memorial.

Ed's Note: This book would be well an truly worth getting for a serious mitliary history buff. You can check the book on the AWM website www.awm.gov.au

Government Extends Vietnam Nominal Roll

The Australian Government's nominal roll of Australians who served during the Vietnam War will be extended to cover the full period of warlike service, It has recently been announced.

The period covered by the Nominal Roll of Vietnam Veterans would be extended to take in service between 2 July 1973 and 29 April 1975.

The nominal roll published in 1997 listed all Australian Defence Force members who landed in Vietnam or entered Vietnamese waters between 23 May 1962 and 1 July 1973, as well as medical and surgical teams, Australian Forces Overseas Fund members and official civilian personnel who worked in Vietnam during the war.

A few months after the publication of the nominal roll, the then Minister for Defence Personnel signed a determination of warlike service, extending coverage for veterans' entitlements to include service in Vietnam to 29 April 1975.

Following representations from ex-service organisations including the Royal Australian Air Force Association, it has been decided that the end date for the Nominal Roll of Vietnam Veterans should be extended to match the determination of warlike service.

This will ensure that veterans who are entitled to repatriation benefits on the basis of their Vietnam service are able to be recognised as such by being included on the nominal roll.

The nominal roll had been a valuable research tool, providing the basis for mortality studies and the Vietnam Veterans' Health Study. The roll is currently being updated for a repeat mortality study of male Vietnam veterans.

As well as being used for such research, the nominal roll is an important commemorative document, record

Hmmmm.....!?!?!?!?

VERY INTERESTING.....!!!!

Saddam should have read up on his Muslim passages... The following verse is from the Quran, (the Islamic Bible)

Quran (9:11) — For it is written that a son of Arabia would awaken a fearsome Eagle. The wrath of the Eagle would be felt throughout the lands of Allah and lo, while some of the people trembled in despair still more rejoiced; for the wrath of the Eagle cleansed the lands of Allah; and there was peace.

(Note the verse number!)

Understanding Engineers

Everyone makes fun of blondes. Well, feast your eyes on the new targets...Engineers!

Understanding Engineers 1

Two engineering students were walking across campus when one said, "Where did you get such a great bike?"

The second engineer replied, "Well, I was walking along yesterday minding my own business when a beautiful woman rode up on this bike." She threw the bike to the ground, took off all her clothes, and said "Take what you want."

The second engineer nodded approvingly, "Good choice; the clothes probably wouldn't have fit."

Understanding Engineers 2

To the optimist, the glass is half full. To the pessimist, the glass is half empty. To the engineer, the glass is twice as big as it needs to be.

Understanding Engineers 3

What is the difference between Mechanical Engineers and Civil Engineers? Mechanical Engineers build weapons and Civil Engineers build targets.

Understanding Engineers 4

The graduate with a Science degree asks, "Why does it work?" The gradu-

ate with an Engineering degree asks, "How does it work?" The graduate with an Accounting degree asks, "How much will it cost?" The graduate with an Arts degree asks, "Do you want fries with that?"

Understanding Engineers 5

Three engineering students were gathered together discussing the possible designers of the human body.

One said, "It was a mechanical engineer. Just look at all the joints."

Another said, "No, it was an electrical engineer. The nervous system has many thousands of electrical connections."

The last one said, "Actually it must have been a civil engineer. Who else would run a toxic waste pipeline through a recreational area?"

Understanding Engineers 6

Normal people believe that if it ain't broke, don't fix it. Engineers believe that if it ain't broke, it doesn't have enough features yet.

Understanding Engineers 7

An architect, an artist and an engineer were discussing whether it was better to spend time with the wife or a mistress.

The architect said he enjoyed time with his wife, building a solid foundation for an enduring relationship. The artist said he enjoyed time with his mistress, because the passion and mystery he found there.

The engineer said, "I like both."

"Both?", the others said.

"Yeah" he said, "If you have a wife and a mistress, they will each assume you are spending time with the other woman, and you can go to the lab and get some work done."

Understanding Engineers 8

An engineer was crossing a road one-day when a frog called out to him and

we made our first entrance to the portals of our new home. I can also recall that most of us couldn't have cared less just what we were about to inherit as a home, as long as there was somewhere to lay our now extremely tired bodies. Also if we were really lucky, get some sleep into the bargain. . As it happened we were not really lucky, but we were shown where we would subsequently have the privilege of indulging ourselves in some blessed belated slumber. Following the Corporal's instructions, we duly trudged behind him, through the large double doors of the barrack block into a relatively large vestibule or entrance hall. To our left was a further set of double wooden doors with inset glass panels on each side just high enough to be able to see through at eye level. One half of the door happened to be lodged ajar at that time, displaying the commencement of what could only be part of a row of wash basins. Continuing to follow our Corporal we were lead immediately to our right, where we were again confronted with another set of double swing type doors identical to those we had just seen. It was through these doors that we were finally to come to the end of, what had proved to be for most of us, the longest day of our lives. It was now nearly 40 hours since I had commenced my journey out into the wide world of the British

Army, and probably much longer for some of the other boys. It was therefore something of an anti-climax as we entered that set of doors into the " Barrack Room " and were allocated that hallowed "bed space" that was to be the one and only place we could safely call our own for the rest of our time on the Island.

Medal Mounting - Stitches

Many of you will know Stitches Rayment who was the tailor at Karrakatta Clothing Store before commercialisation took over .

Stitches runs a medal mounting service and other badge business's . He made our vehicle banners and used to set up a stall in the back of RAEA meetings at one stage .

Stitches does a good jobcheck out my medals and at a reasonable price . His minatures and replicas are the best in town .

Call him on tel **08 -9339 0890** mob **0410 031 2201** or email **stitches1radar@ozemail.com.au** or his website **www.factory-info.com/stitches/** His address is **356b Canning Highway . Bicton . WA 6157**

Mick Ryan

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.

ing for future generations those who served Australia during the Vietnam War.

To ensure that this commemorative roll is as complete as possible, Vietnam veterans with service after 2 July 1973, or veterans who are not already recorded on the roll, are encouraged to contact the Department of Veterans' Affairs.

Veterans who believe they should be added to the nominal roll can contact DVA on **1300 780 133**, by e-mail to **nominal.rolls@dva.gov.au**, or by writing to:

**The Director
Nominal Rolls and Health Studies Support
PO Box 21
Woden ACT 2606.**

Request For Interest Announced For ADF Vehicle Fleet

A Request for Interest has been announced today as part of the first stage of a major program to replace the Australian Defence Force fleet of field vehicles and trailers.

This is a significant project for industry and for Defence, delivering many thousands of vehicles over the next decade at a cost expected to be over one billion dollars.

The fleet of field vehicles and trailers is the backbone of the ADF's war-fighting support and deployment.

The first stage of the project involves seeking expressions of interest from suitably qualified companies to tender for the supply of the vehicles and trailers.

The field vehicle and trailer fleets are used to transport personnel, combat supplies, materiel, replacement combat systems, and to evacuate casualties where necessary. They also serve as platforms and prime movers for

command, control, communications, computer and intelligence systems, and weapon systems.

The existing fleet was acquired between 1959 and 1994 and is made up of some 10,000 vehicles with a mix of trucks, trailers and motorcycles.

While recent upgrades have proved valuable to the fleet, the replacement program planned under Project Land 121 will equip Defence for the longer term.

The program will fulfil another commitment in the Government's 2000 Defence White Paper, ensuring that our soldiers continue to get the equipment they need"

The intention is to reduce whole of life cost, rationalise vehicle types and numbers, incorporate new road safety and legislative design features and bring together new ideas from industry.

Industry is being asked to offer alternative financing and replacement options, which may include a strategy to continuously update the fleet in a rolling program.

The replacement fleet will be phased in. It is likely that the high-readiness Townsville based elements of 3rd Brigade along with the RAAF's 382 Expeditionary Combat Support Squadron and 2 Air Field Defence Squadron located at Amberley will be the first to be supplied. The follow-on phase will continue and complete the replacement of the entire fleet.

Project plans have been released under an Invitation to Register Interest that will remain open until Wednesday 5th November 2003. In addition, an industry briefing will be held in Townsville on Thursday 9th and Friday 10th October 2003.

Medal for Suez Service 1956

For anyone who served in the Suez Canal area in the uprising of 1951 - 1956, the following is an extract from

the International Express newspaper, Tuesday June 17 2003.

"Medal for Suez army

Thousands of British troops who served in the "forgotten" Suez Canal emergency are finally to be honoured, half a century later. Tony Blair has announced that veterans of the campaign to keep open the canal between 1951 and 1954 would be eligible for the General Service Medal. More than 300 were killed. About 200,000 British troops saw service during the emergency of the Suez Crisis of 1956, when British and French troops seized control of the canal."

If you served in the Suez, contact the Secretary of the Association for further information.

Episode 10 Of Peter's Life in the Service of His Country

Herewith the latest epistle of St. Peter.

No sooner was his introduction to us completed, and as tired as he could readily see we were from our extensive journey, coupled with the fact that we were still dressed in our civilian clothes, which by now had become both highly odorous and some-what distressed, to say the least, our new Squad Corporal commenced to place us into some acceptable formal formation. This was in fact to be our first taste of, and general initiation into, "Drill" proper, and the "Barrack Square" as we were to know it from then onwards for the rest of our lives. It was also some-what unique in that it introduced us to a system of "4's formation Drill" which, whilst we were not aware of it at the time, we were to learn, and to a degree perfect with some difficulty, over the following two months, prior to it then being superseded by the standard "3's formation" as it is known and performed today. It is therefore doubtful that any "Ex-Boys" reading this, unless they joined at or before my time, would have experienced this particular drill formation, subsequently considered by the "powers-that-be" of that

time, to be unnecessarily complicated and time consuming. This being in spite of the fact that, the system had been in practice with the British Army, and no doubt all other British Services, for at least the last one hundred years. Possibly the pending influx of civilians about to be called-up for War Service, and the necessity to get them through their initial training as quickly as possible, was one of the principle reasons for introducing this change at this particular time. The only time I have seen this type of formation since has been purely for display purposes such as the "Tattoos" of "Edinburgh" and "Aldershot." and by the Guards Brigade during their various ceremonial activities.

Our Corporal's initial action was to call the roll, taking careful note of each of us by name. We did have a "Squad" and "Company" designation which was given to us at that time, and which we were required to remember at the expense of some dire punishment called "Defaulters". A word that today means virtually the opposite if you are computer educated. Unfortunately these designations now defeat my memory. But to the best of my recollections of that particular time I believe a Squad consisted of approximately 36 boys, or the compliment of two barrack rooms. Having taken us to one side, leaving the remainder to their respective Squad Instructors, our Corporal duly selected the tallest of our squad, and if my memory still serves me correctly this was a boy named Howes. A little later, and forever after to be known as "Lofty", which he most precisely was, standing at least 5ft 11ins. in his stocking feet at 14 years of age, and later becoming known as the "Gentle Giant" to all his closest friends. Lofty was subsequently instructed to take up a position further out onto that great expanse of tarmac we had just learnt was called, "THE SQUARE", and stand to "Attention". A position the Corporal,



Perth Workshop Company's Barber's Shop - A Cartoon from the Original Horse's Mouth.

who was slightly smaller than Lofty, quickly physically manoeuvred him into, indicating to the rest of us exactly what was required of us when instructed accordingly. This was really "Drill Lesson" number one, which left our poor Lofty standing out alone on the Tarmac looking like some long lost stone statue, with eyes riveted to the front, head up and definitely so frightened to move that we expected him to wet his pants any moment. Just how we managed to refrain from bursting into peals of laughter at this sight we will never know, but we made up for that later in the evening. We were then advised that Lofty, or who ever else was instructed to take up this position, was nominated as the "Right Marker" Leaving Lofty in his highly exposed position, the Corporal continued to explain that, once the "Right Marker" had taken up his position, on the order "Fall In Right Marker", the remainder of the squad would immediately receive the order "To the left in 2 Ranks fall-in". This required us to form two ranks, one behind the other, facing to the front and with the front rank extending to the left from the "Right Marker" The rear rank performing an identical manoeuvre commencing from the man who would take up position directly behind the "Right

Marker". So-far-so-good, but this was all becoming a little too complicated and tending to extend our learning abilities and physical endurance to the extreme under the current circumstances. A situation I feel sure the Corporal now sensed was becoming virtually untenable. By this time it was well into the afternoon, and apart from the ride on the bus we had not had any respite or a meal

since breakfast on the deck of the ship. And he obviously realised that we were well overdue to be settled down for a while. Having now manoeuvred us into two ranks with our small bags or cases of personal belongings at our feet, he told us to pick them up, turn to the right, stay in line, and just follow him. This was the last time any of us ever shuffled out of step across that "hallowed ground", as we duly followed him across the Square, towards one of the barrack blocks that was to be our home for the foreseeable future

At my age at the time of writing this narrative, long term memory is presumed to dominate, whilst short term remembrance tends to decrease in both it's efficiency and quality. There is no doubt that, from a purely personal point of view, the latter contention is correct, but I am currently having considerable doubts about the former presumption too, especially in regard to the first few days after our arrival at St. Peter's. So I would request my readers to be some-what forbearing in the event that any of my explanations from here onwards appear rather hazy in their definitions. I can however, still generally remember our initial approach to the barrack block that first day, and how tired and dishevelled we were feeling as