



From the President
and Committee
of your
Association.



*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.)

Summer 2004-05

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

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DEADLINE

All contributions for the next edition of THE HORSE'S MOUTH must be with the editor no later than 25th of FEBRUARY 2005.

DISCLAIMER

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

From the President

As we are nearing the end of 2004, I can only say that as far as the Association goes all seems well. But I am not convinced that many of our members are taking notice of what is being printed in our own "Horses Mouth"

Every meeting we conduct is showing the same faces and the RAEME members are usually outnumbered by our sister Corps REME members. We need your attendance, so that we can have some input into the things that we like to organise. A lot of hard work is being put in by only a few to get these meetings of the ground and more the production of the "Horses Mouth"

I am particularly concerned at the lack of interest showed for our Annual Corps Dinner, which by the way had to be cancelled due to the lack of numbers. But I am more concerned for the people that had to do the organizing and setting up. In my opinion I think this will be the last time we organise a Corps Dinner.

As Ex Service Officers (Welfare Officers) for DVA, I have curtailed my duties due to health reasons.

May I wish you and yours a Merry Christmas and peace and happiness for 2005.

**Dealing With Rude Customers...
A Lesson For All Employees Who
Work With Rude Customers!!!**

Indeed, an award should go to the Virgin Airlines gate attendant in Sydney some months ago for being customer focused, while making her point, when confronted with a passenger who probably deserved to fly as cargo.

A crowded Virgin flight was cancelled after Virgin's 767s had been withdrawn from service. A single attendant was re-booking a Long line of inconvenienced travellers. Suddenly an angry passenger pushed his way to the desk. He slapped his ticket down on the counter and said, "I HAVE to be on this flight and it HAS to be FIRST CLASS". The attendant replied, "I'm sorry sir. I'll be happy to try to help you, but I've got to help these people first, and I'm sure we'll be able to work something out."

The passenger was unimpressed. He asked loudly, so that the passengers behind him could hear, "DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEA WHO I AM?" Without hesitating, the attendant smiled and grabbed her public address microphone:

"May I have your attention please, may I have your attention please," she began - her voice heard clearly throughout the terminal. "We have a passenger here at Gate 14 WHO DOES NOT KNOW WHO HE IS. If anyone can help him find his identity, please come to Gate 14."

With the folks behind him in line laughing hysterically, the man glared at the Virgin attendant, gritted his teeth and said, "F... You!"

Without flinching, she smiled and said, "I'm sorry, sir, but you'll have to get in line for that too."

Ed's Note: This poem comes straight from the walls of the Sari Club in Bali. It is exactly as it is penned by an Unknown (with no apologies for the venacular language). I think it epitomises the Spirit of OZ.

Spirit of OZ

You hurt us bombing Bali, but we can take the pain,
But if you think you will beat us you can think a-bloody-gain.
We battled at Gallipoli and we fought the bloody Hun,
Of all the assholes we've had to face you're just another one

You won't get your hands dirty, you won't fire a gun
Whenever danger threatens you, just pack your gear and run.
You brainwash innocent children to do your evil deeds
Careful not to let them know just where it really leads.

You get them to believe all your bigotry and lying
Until they cannot see there is no glory in their dying.
Now we'd like to pose a question, answer if you can.
Where does your Holy Book tell you to kill your fellow man?

Now listen hard and listen well, we're giving you the word,
You're never going to beat us you spineless bloody turd.
You'll never face us personally, you haven't got the guts
You know that if you did we'd have your bloody nuts.

Our spirit is unbroken, and our heads are still unbowed,
We sure as hell aren't scared of you and your gutless crowd.

So get your act together - you'll never win because.
What you are really up against is the spirit that is OZ.....

Q: Were you present when your picture was taken?

Q: So the date of conception (of the baby) was August 8th?

A: Yes.

Q: And what were you doing at that time?

Q: She had three children, right?

A: Yes.

Q: How many were boys?

A: None.

Q: Were there any girls?

Q: How was your first marriage terminated?

A: By death.

Q: And by whose death was it terminated?

Q: Can you describe the individual?

A: He was about medium height and had a beard.

Q: Was this a male, or a female?

Q: Is your appearance here this morning pursuant to a deposition notice which I sent to your attorney?

A: No, this is how I always dress when I go to work.

Q: Doctor, how many autopsies have you performed on dead people?

A: All my autopsies are performed on dead people.

Q: ALL your responses MUST be oral, OK? What school did you go to?

A: Oral.

Q: Do you recall the time that you examined the body?

A: The autopsy started around 8:30 p.m.

Q: And Mr. Dennington was dead at the time?

A: No, he was sitting on the table wondering why I was doing an autopsy.

Q: Are you qualified to give a urine sample?

Q: Doctor, before! you performed the autopsy, did you check for a pulse?

A: No.

Q: Did you check for blood pressure?

A: No.

Q: Did you check for breathing?

A: No.

Q: So, then it is possible that the patient was alive when you began the autopsy?

A: No.

Q: How can you be so sure, Doctor?

A: Because his brain was sitting on my desk in a jar.

Q: But could the patient have still been alive, nevertheless?

A: Yes, it is possible that he could have been alive and practicing law somewhere.

Retirement

Working people frequently ask retired people what they do to make their days interesting.

I went to the store the other day. I was only in there for about 5 minutes. When I came out there was a cop writing out a parking ticket.

I went up to him and said, "Come on mate, how about giving a senior a break?"

He ignored me and continued writing the ticket.

I called him a Nazi.

He glared at me and started writing another ticket for having worn tyres.

So I called him a piece of horse manure.

He finished the second ticket and put it on the windshield with the first.

Then he started writing a third ticket.

This went on for about 20 minutes!

The more I abused him, the more tickets he wrote.

I didn't care.

My car was parked around the corner.

I try to have a little fun each day now that I'm retired.

It's important at my age

It's not hard to meet expenses... they're everywhere.

Introduction to RAEME Website

The mission of RAEME in close support of fighting formations is to ensure that as many as possible of the battle, transport and logistic equipments in the Commander's inventory are available to him to plan, launch and execute actions against the enemy.

To get casualties and break-downs back into action as quickly as possible, repair must be taken as far forward as possible. Importantly, in respect to the level and type of repair, priority must be placed on the demands of the immediate operational situation rather than that needed to fully maintain and conserve equipment. The need is met by Supporting Repair Units deploying Forward Repair Teams to casualty sites, using any means available, and deploying FRTs with fighting Units' close support echelons, or in some situations, their fighting echelons.

Recovery deployed across the Area of Operations and the battle field, including integral to the fighting echelons, provides mobility support by unditching equipment, clearing routes of wrecks and casualties, and assisting equipment through defiles and over bad going. Battlefield clearance and backloading of casualties and break-downs, that cannot be brought back into action in the field, transfers repairable and salvageable equipment back to established repair facilities in a timely fashion.

A job, that only arises in active operations, is the devising of quick but controlled fixes to counter enemy anti-equipment tactics. The first priority is to temporarily modify equipment to save live and limb of the crews; the second is to reduce the severity of damage to a level which enables repair rather than writeoff, conserving the inventory

In a similar vane, there is frequently the

need to devise controlled fixes to overcome equipment defects due to the physical environment in the Area of Operations, and, to extend the capabilities of equipment by adaption.

With a repair regime which must, by its nature, result in some degrading of equipment during periods of intense action, or that involves locally approved special purpose modification, it is essential that equipment condition, reliability and status be continually monitored at unit, formation and higher command levels. It is this monitoring that both provides information to the Commander on the operational capacity of his Force, and, enables repair effort to be best directed to conserve the Inventory.

While established engineering principles and techniques remain the guiding light for engineering management and control, major adaptations have to be made in the Forward Areas especially during active operations.

Forward repair in the field, with limited engineering facilities in the way of cover, hard standing, services, pre-planning, test equipment, machine tools, power tools and repair parts immediately at hand, demands ingenuity and a certain attitude and foresight.

The field repair, recovery and engineering management techniques needed in an Operational Theatre are rarely used, or appropriate, in a base or training environment. Often the techniques used in previous conflicts need to be rediscovered. But as is said

"We can learn from history how past generations solved their problems. We can learn by analogy, not by example, for our circumstances will always be different than theirs were."

In the skilled men who have served with the Corps for over half a century,

there is a vast wealth of know-how gained from experience in Operations or preparing for them. The purpose of these pages is to tap that experience and hand it on by recording first-hand recollections irrespective of the equipment, Unit or era

If you are one of these please contact us on the link at the following email address knowhow@raeme.net for further information.

We have launched our web site www.raeme.net
Why not pay us a visit.

This website is gathering together a lot of interesting articles about the things that RAEME personnel get up to. Go and have a look and, maybe you would like to contribute. It all adds up to the history of our Corps. It is a thoroughly recommended website.

Army Trainers Return Home From Iraq

A group of 44 Australian soldiers returned home recently after a six-month tour of duty training the New Iraqi Army.

The Australian Army Training Team Iraq (AATTI) has done an outstanding job in preparing Iraqi recruits for their role in the new Iraqi Army.

They have made a significant contribution towards the reconstruction of the Iraqi Army, and in turn, the successful reconstruction and rehabilitation of the new Iraq.

Since May this year, the Team has had the task of training a brigade of some 2700 Iraqi troops at an isolated training base in far northern Iraq.

The soldiers in this team were hand picked for their experience and maturity. Most of them have had previous experience in training in Malaysia, Fiji, Vietnam, Papua New Guinea as well

as Australia."

Senator Hill said the AATTI had assisted in bringing the Iraqi Army back into operation by raising three battalions and applying the same approach as we do when training Australian soldiers in Australia.

Never before has the ADF been involved in training such large numbers in a combat zone.

The AATTI was responsible for developing and implementing the training for the brigade's officers and soldiers. The training covered all areas of basic military skills from drill, weapon handling, infantry tactics, navigation, leadership and teamwork. Training was also conducted in unit administration and logistics.

The team are to be commended for their work which complicated by ongoing threats from anti-Coalition and anti-Iraqi insurgent forces that attacked the base and intercepted supply convoys.

The team was renamed as the AATTI in early October in honour of its Vietnam War predecessors, the highly decorated Australian Army Training Team - Vietnam (AATTV).

Senator Hill was joined by the Chief of Army, Lieutenant General Peter Leahy and the Land Commander Australia, Major General Ken Gillespie to officially welcome home the soldiers at Sydney Airport.

On arrival in Australia, the soldiers were also presented with their Australian Active Service Medals for their efforts in Iraq. The Team was selected from officers and soldiers from the Australian Army's 1st Division who had experience in instructional and operational roles.

A second Australian Army Training Team is currently involved in the training of another Iraqi brigade.

friends and other politicians who had worked with him, everyone is very happy and in evening attire. They run to greet him, hug him, and reminisce about the good times they had while getting rich at the expense of the people. They play a friendly game of golf and then dine on lobster and caviar. Also present is the Devil, who really is a very friendly guy who enjoys dancing and telling jokes. They're having such a good time that before he realises it, it is time to go. Everyone gives him a big hug and waves while the elevator rises.

The elevator goes up, up, up and the door reopens on Heaven where St. Peter is waiting for him. "Now it's time to visit Heaven."

So the senator joins a group of contented souls moving from cloud to cloud, playing the harp and singing. They have an enjoyable time and, before he realises it, the 24 hours have gone by and St. Peter returns.

"Well then, you've spent a day in Hell and another in Heaven. Now choose your eternity."

The senator reflects for a minute, then answers, "Well, I would never have thought it, but while Heaven has been delightful, I think I would be better off in Hell."

So St. Peter escorts him to the elevator and he goes down, down, down to Hell. Now the doors of the elevator open and he is in the middle of a barren land covered with waste and garbage. He sees all his friends, dressed in rags, picking up the trash and putting it in black bags. The Devil comes over to him and lays his arm on his neck.

"I don't understand," stammers the senator. "Yesterday I was here and there was a golf course and club and we ate lobster and caviar and danced and had a great time. Now, all there is a wasteland full of garbage and my friends look

miserable.

The Devil looks at him, smiles and says, "Yesterday we were campaigning... Today you voted for us!"
VOTE WISELY DURING AN ELECTION!!

These were compiled by a court reporter

COURTS

These are from a book called Disorder in the American Courts. They are things people actually said in court, word for word, recorded and now published by court reporters who had the torment of staying calm while these exchanges were actually taking place.

Q: Are you sexually active?

A: No, I just lie there.

Q: What is your date of birth?

A: July 15th.

Q: What year?

A: Every year.

Q: What gear were you in at the moment of the impact?

A: Gucci sweats and Reeboks.

Q: How old is your son, the one living with you?

A: Thirty-eight or thirty-five, I can't remember which.

Q: How long has he lived with you?

A: Forty-five years.

Q: What was the first thing your husband said to you when he woke up that morning?

A: He said, "Where am I, Cathy?"

Q: And why did that upset you?

A: My name is Susan.

Q: Now doctor, isn't it true that when a person dies in his sleep, he doesn't know about it until the next morning?

A: Did you actually pass the bar exam?

Q: The youngest son, the twenty-year-old, how old is he?

Jim's Life in the US

Jim is an expert when it comes to things about his own country.

You Know You're a Redneck When...2004 Edition!

1. You take your dog for a walk and you both use the same tree.
2. You can entertain yourself for more than an hour with a fly swatter.
3. You burn your yard rather than mow it.
4. You think the Nutcracker is something you do off the high dive.
5. The Salvation Army declines your mattress.
6. You think fast food is hitting a deer at 65 mph.
7. You offer to give someone the shirt off your back and they don't want it.
8. You come back from the dump with more than you took.
9. You keep a can of Raid on the kitchen table.
10. Your grandmother has Ammo on her Christmas list.
11. You think a sub-division is part of a math problem.
12. Your kids take a siphon hose to show and tell.
13. You have used a rag for a gas cap.
14. Your house doesn't have curtains but your truck does.
15. You wonder how service stations keep their restrooms so clean.
16. You can spit without opening your mouth.
17. You consider your license plate personalised because your father made it.
18. You have a complete set of salad bowls, and they all say Cool Whip on the side.

19. The biggest city you've ever been to is Wal-Mart.
20. Your working TV sits on top of your non-working TV.
21. You've used your ironing board as a buffet table.
22. You think a quarter horse is that ride in front of K-Mart.
23. Your neighbours think you're a detective because a cop always brings you home.
24. A tornado hits your neighbourhood and does a \$100,000 worth of improvement

Vote——be careful what you wish for!!!!!!!!!!!!

A powerful senator dies after a prolonged illness. His soul arrives in heaven and is met by St. Peter at the entrance. "Welcome to Heaven," says St. Peter. "Before you settle in, it seems there is a problem. We seldom see a high official around these parts, you see, so we're not sure what to do with you."

"No problem, just let me in," says the senator.

"Well, I'd like to but I have orders from higher up. What we'll do is have you spend one day in Hell and one in Heaven. Then you can choose where to spend eternity."

"Really, I've made up my mind. I want to be in Heaven," says the senator.

"I'm sorry but we have our rules."

And with that, St. Peter escorts him to the elevator and he goes down, down, down to Hell. The doors open and he finds himself in the middle of a green golf course. In the distance is a club and standing in front of it are all his

Australian Vehicles Attacked In Baghdad

At approximately 0800 hrs this morning in Baghdad (1500hr AEST), an ADF Security Detachment (SECDet) Australian Light Armoured Vehicle (ASLAV) patrol was engaged by a suspected vehicle borne explosive device in central Baghdad.

Two vehicles were damaged and three Australian Army personnel suffered non-life threatening injuries. Those personnel are currently receiving medical attention in a nearby US medical facility. One Army member has since been released from this medical facility.

The SECDet ASLAVs were on a routine task in Baghdad when the attack occurred. There were three (3) ASLAVs in the patrol. The attack occurred about 350m away from the SECDet location, near the Australian Embassy.

Iraqi Police and Coalition personnel have secured the area.

No Australian diplomatic staff were travelling with the Australian patrol at the time.

No Australians were killed in the attack, however initial reporting indicates that there were civilians killed and wounded.

"This is the first direct attack on Australian ASLAVs. Iraq remains a dangerous place and our troops are equipped, prepared and well led to deal with these safety issues which confront Iraqis and all coalition partners working for a stable Iraq," Acting Chief of the Defence Force, Air Marshal Angus Houston said.

This incident does not affect the ADF's capability to provide security to the diplomatic staff and ADF deployed personnel in Iraq.

Next of kin of the soldiers involved in this incident are being informed.

New DVA Minister CV

The Honourable De-Anne Kelly MP

Born 21.3.1954, Rockhampton, Qld.

Married.

Parliamentary Service
Elected to the House of Representatives for Dawson, Queensland, 1996, 1998 and 2001.

Positions Held

House of Representatives Standing: Family and Community Affairs from 27.6.96 to 7.9.00; Primary Industries and Regional Services from 8.12.98 to 30.8.99; Employment and Workplace Relations from 20.3.02; Publications from 20.3.02.

Joint Statutory: Corporations and Securities from 18.6.96 to 31.8.98.

Joint Standing: Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade from 8.12.98 to 11.2.02; Treaties from 8.12.98 to 11.2.02.

Education, Qualifications & Previous Occupation: BE (Qld).

Sales engineer 1978-81.

Business proprietor 1981-88.

Cattle producer 1987-96.

Cane farmer 1994-96.

Delegations & Visits

Bilateral visits to Sweden and Estonia, October 1999.

Electorate Information

Description: Rural.

Location: Central Queensland coast; it includes the city of Mackay and the towns of Airlie Beach, Ayr, Bowen, Home Hill, Proserpine and Sarina.

Area: 22 440 sq km (approx.).

Electors enrolled: 86 647 (at 10.11.01). Industries: Small crops, prawn and fish farms, sugar growing and refining, beef cattle, dairying, coal mining, abattoirs and tourism.

State electorates: Dawson includes the Queensland Legislative Assembly electorates of Mackay and Whitsunday, and parts of Burdekin, Charters Towers and Mirani.

Army Participates in CBR Response Training in Singapore

Soldiers from the Incident Response Regiment (IRR) participated in chemical-biological-radiological (CBR) response training in Singapore as part of Exercise Black Orchid 2004. The exercise, conducted between 11-21 November 2004 involved the use of protective equipment in responding to a simulated contaminated environment.

The IRR exercised with units from the Singaporean Armed Forces, to develop inter-operability and enhance both nations response procedures to this type of threat.

"This exercise is an important part of the IRR's training cycle, and it enables us to maintain an effective force to respond to chemical, biological or radiological incidents against Australian interests here or abroad," said the Commanding Officer of the IRR, Lieutenant Colonel Nick Rowntree.

"The Singapore Armed Forces have a well-established capability in this area, and training opportunities like Exercise Black Orchid 2004 are the result of Government initiatives for closer defence ties with regional forces," said Lieutenant Colonel Rowntree. "We also get an additional challenge by conducting this training in a tropical environment, which has its own unique demands on our soldiers."

The exercise tested the IRR members in a variety of scenarios, based around fictitious terrorist activity in the exercise area. It addressed many capabilities in the unit's skill-sets, including decontamination, CBR medicine, Ex-

plosive Ordnance Disposal, communications and High Risk Search. Singaporean units also participated in similar training scenarios, and worked directly with their Australian counterparts.

"This training opportunity was an excellent opportunity to demonstrate our capability to our neighbours, and to learn from how they operate in their own environment," said Lieutenant Colonel Rowntree. "In return, we look forward to hosting the Singapore Armed Forces next year in Australia, and showing them how we do business here."

Newly appointed Deputy Special Operations Commander, Australia, Brigadier Tim Mcowan was escorted by the Singapore Armed Forces Chief Engineer Officer, Colonel Teo Jing Oiong to view the activities and discuss the exercise.

Exercise Black Orchid was the first of an annual activity between Australia and Singapore, with each nation hosting a deployment for the other in alternating years.

Soldier Dies During Training In Northern Territory

A soldier from Darwin based 2nd Cavalry Regiment died in Royal Darwin Hospital recently.

The soldier, Trooper Angus James Lawrence, was taking part in routine field training being conducted by the Regional Training Centre - Northern Territory (RTC-NT).

The soldier was evacuated from the Mt Bunday Training Area to Royal Darwin Hospital when he showed the symptoms of heat illness.

He was admitted to Royal Darwin Hospital and died from his illness later that evening.

The death of a soldier is always a trag-

have body fat, your ratio is one to one. If you have two bodies, your ratio is two to one, etc.

Q: What are some of the advantages of participating in a regular exercise program?

A: Can't think of a single one, sorry. My philosophy is: No Pain...Good

Q: Aren't fried foods bad for you?

A: YOU'RE NOT LISTENING!!! Foods are fried these days in vegetable oil. In fact, they're permeated in it. How could getting more vegetables be bad for you?

Q: Will sit-ups help prevent me from getting a little soft around the middle?

A: Definitely not! When you exercise a muscle, it gets bigger. You should only be doing sit-ups if you want a bigger stomach.

Q: Is chocolate bad for me?

A: Are you crazy? HELLO Cocoa beans ... another vegetable!!! It's the best feel-good food around!

Q: Is swimming good for your figure?

A: If swimming is good for your figure, explain whales to me.

Q: Is getting in-shape important for my lifestyle?

A: Hey! 'Round' is a shape!

Well, I hope this has cleared up any misconceptions you may have had about food and diets and remember,

Life should NOT be a journey to the grave with the intention of arriving safely in an attractive and well preserved body, but rather to skid in sideways - Chardonnay in one hand - strawberries in the other - body thoroughly used up, totally worn out, and screaming - WOO HOO! What a Ride!"

Skiing Trip.

Jack decided to go skiing with his buddy, Bob. So they loaded up Jack's mini van and headed north. After driv-

ing for a few hours, they got caught in a terrible blizzard. So they pulled into a nearby farm and asked the attractive lady who answered the door if they could spend the night. "I realise it's terrible weather out there and I have this huge house all to myself, but I'm recently widowed," she explained. "I'm afraid the neighbours will talk if I let you stay in my house."

"Don't worry," Jack said. "We'll be happy to sleep in the barn. And if the weather breaks, we'll be gone at first light." The lady agreed, and the two men found their way to the barn and settled in for the night. Come morning, the weather had cleared, and they got on their way. They enjoyed a great weekend of skiing.

But about nine months later, Jack got an unexpected letter from an attorney. It took him a few minutes to figure it out, but he finally determined that it was from the attorney of that attractive widow he had met on the ski weekend. He dropped in on his friend Bob and asked, "Bob, do you remember that good-looking widow from the farm we stayed at on our ski holiday up North about 9 months ago?"

"Yes, I do." said Bob

"Did you, er, happen to get up in the middle of the night, go up to the house and pay her a visit?"

"Well, um, yes," Bob said, a little embarrassed about being found out. "I have to admit that I did."

"And did you happen to use my name instead of telling her your name?"

Bob's face turned beet red and he said, "Yeah, look, I'm sorry, buddy. I'm afraid I did. Why do you ask?"

"She just died and left me everything." **(And you thought the ending would be different, didn't you?)**

The Real Meaning Of Words

ADULT:

A person who has stopped growing at both ends and is now growing in the middle.

BEAUTY PARLOR:

A place where women curl up and dye.

CANNIBAL:

Someone who is fed up with people.

CHICKENS:

The only animals you eat before they are born and after they are dead.

COMMITTEE:

A body that keeps minutes and wastes hours.

DUST:

Mud with the juice squeezed out.

EGOTIST:

Someone who is usually me-deep in conversation.

HANDKERCHIEF:

Cold Storage.

INFLATION:

Cutting money in half without damaging the paper.

MOSQUITO:

An insect that makes you like flies better.

RAISIN:

Grape with a sunburn.

SECRET:

Something you tell to one person at a time.

SKELETON:

A bunch of bones with the person scraped off.

TOOTHACHE:

The pain that drives you to extraction.

TOMORROW:

One of the greatest labour saving devices of today.

YAWN:

An honest opinion openly expressed.

WRINKLES:

Something other people have. You have character lines.

Healthy Foods

Q: I've heard that cardiovascular exercise can prolong life. Is this true?

A: Your heart is only good for so many beats, and that's it...don't waste them on exercise. Everything wears out eventually. Speeding up your heart will not make you live longer; that's like saying you can extend the life of your car by driving it faster. Want to live longer? Take a nap.

Q: Should I cut down on meat and eat more fruits and vegetables?

A: You must grasp logistical efficiencies. What does a cow eat? Hay and corn. And what are these? Vegetables. So a steak is nothing more than an efficient mechanism of delivering vegetables to your system. Need grain? Eat chicken. Beef is also a good source of field grass (green leafy vegetable). And a pork chop can give you 100% of your recommended daily allowance of vegetable products.

Q: Should I reduce my alcohol intake?

A: No, not at all. Wine is made from fruit. Brandy is distilled wine, that means they take the water out of the fruity bit so you get even more of the goodness that way. Beer is also made out of grain. Bottoms up!

Q: How can I calculate my body/fat ratio?

A: Well, if you have a body and you

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.

edy and our condolences and prayers go to his family and loved ones.

This is the first fatality in over 10 years of conducting similar courses in the Top End.

The soldier's next of kin have been notified.

An investigation into the death will be undertaken in accordance with Defence regulations. Defence will cooperate fully with the necessary investigations by civilian authorities.

VALE: MAJOR GENERAL D.M.M. FRANCIS AO. OBE

It is with sadness that we must note the passing of a distinguished engineer Major General (Rtd) Duncan MacKenzie Michael Francis to cancer on 26 October 04. General Francis will be remembered by the Sappers that knew him as a gentleman of the old school and a great thinker. I can recall that when he was CO /CI SME in the 70's we referred to him with affection as simply DMM. General Francis joined the Army as a cadet at RMC in 1954, he graduated with the Queens Medal for excellence in academic and military achievement. Duncan retired 37 years later as a Major General. Throughout his career he was renowned for his technical engineering ability and his sharp mind. His first posting was to 21 Construction Squadron and early on he served at the Maralinga Atomic Range Support Unit spending over a year at the test site. He served as Officer Commanding 18 Field Squadron and also 17 Construction 1 Squadron Group in South Vietnam. Duncan served 13 years in Army engineering postings before he moved on to other things. General Francis was a noted instructor and instructed at the School of Military Engineering, the Royal School of Military Engineering at Chatham UK, at Royal Military College and was a Directing Staff at the Aus-

tralian Staff College. He enjoyed his engineering service in Papua New Guinea, firstly as a Major and later as a Lieutenant Colonel, the country fascinated him. He commanded the 2nd Military District and then served for six years as Assistant Chief of the General Staff - Material. He was very proud of the fact that it was he that approved the introduction of the Steyr rifle into ADF service.

Farewell Major General D M M Francis, you served your Country and Corps well and with passion. Rest in Peace.

Facimus et Frangimus

Ubique

Maj Gen Duncan Francis was given a good farewell on Wed 4 Nov 04.

He was accorded a traditional Military Funeral-Federation Tri-service Guard, Military Band with muffled drums, gun carriage, eight Warrant Officers First Class as the Bearer Party. The eight Pall Bearers were provided by family (4), representatives of church and charitable organisations (3), and myself as the Army rep.

The Principal Celebrant at the Requiem Mass in St Christopher's Cathedral Manuka was Archbishop Carroll, Archbishop of Canberra and Goulburn. He was supported by the Army's Principal Chaplain (RC), Bishop Davis, and 16 other celebrants. Duncan Francis had been a significant supporter of his church and its charitable endeavours for his whole life but especially after his retirement in 1991. Duncan's very close friend Colonel John Kemp (ex D Engrs) read one of the prayers and I gave a summary of his significant service record.

The congregation of 500 included the Governor-General, Maj Gen Mike Jeffery, and his wife Marlana, also the CDF, General Peter Cosgrove. RAE was represented by the Representative Colonel Commandant, General (Rtd) John Baker. Deputy Chief of Army,

Maj Gen Frank Roberts, was the Official Mourner. Ex CDF and Gov of Tasmania, General Phillip Bennett, was there with many other VIPs. Retired Sapper Generals David Engel, Peter Day, Arthur Fittock and Bill Crews were there and many other retired sappers—just a few of the faces I noticed were Alan Hodges, Paddy Martin, Peter Morgan, Paul Cohen, Peter Rose, Ray Mc Cann, Graham Hellyer, Peter Knight. The NZ Sappers were represented by Brig (Rtd) Ken Rutherford from Auckland. There was a big rollup of Duncan's RMC classmates.

The interment was in the Military Section of the Woden Cemetery with the usual three volleys and Last Post.

Duncan marched through the pearly gates to the Sapper Quick March "Wings". It was a very fitting conclusion to the life of a good sapper.

Regards
John Stein

Many of our members will remember serving with Duncan Francis. Even though he was not a member of our Corps, we feel the passing of a friend, for that is what he was.

Lest We Forget

Vale COL Peter M Robinson

340180 COL P M Robinson MBE, PSC, Dip Mech Eng.

Peter enlisted in the regular army as an officer from the ARES. He had a number of staff appointments and is probably best remembered as the CO of 5 Base Wksp Oakey. It was during this posting that his engineering skills were used to their maximum and he confronted and solved many complex aviation problems. From there he returned to Melbourne in senior engineering postings.

He was a member of the Legacy Club of Melbourne and dedicated himself to

helping others even when his own health was not the best. He maintained contact with Army Aviation through his membership of the 161 Recce Association and maintained contact with the engineering world through the Australian Engineers Association. Peter passed on to the big Base Workshop in the sky after a long illness on 24 July 04.

Arte et Marte Lest We Forget

Vale George Swann

From: Michael Ryan (RAEA of WA)
John,

Ivan Hinks phoned me last night to let me know that George Swann, arguably the best known and remembered of the OC's of 3 Field Engineer Regiment Workshop, passed away in Cairns on Thursday. George, Ivan and I were good mates for more years than I care to remember. I liked George as colleague and OC and despite some of his quirky ways, George always put the serviceability of the Regiments equipment as the first and only priority of the Workshops.

I am sure that there are more than a few "Old's and Bold's" among the NQ Sappers who will remember George.

And also from Jim Hislop:

George Swann passed away this evening, Thu 14 Oct 04 in Cairns. He will be having a private family service up there next week. Unfortunately, I lost my e-mail address book recently when I had some work done on my computer. Therefore, I don't have any addresses for any ex-RAEME in Qld who may have served with George and who could feed this sad news into the Qld RAEME grapevine (except Ron Perry who has been told already by George's widow, Margaret). Could you please pass the word around to anyone who you think

me...er...one."

And the running part is kind of a waste of energy. I've never seen anyone outrun a bullet.

An 18-year-old has the whole world ahead of him. He's still learning to shave, to actually carry on a conversation, and to wear pants without the top of his butt crack showing and his boxer shorts sticking out.

He's still hasn't figured out that a pierced tongue catches food particles, and that a 400-watt speaker in the back seat of a Honda Accord can rupture an

ear drum.

All great reasons to keep our sons at home to learn a little more about life before sending them off to possible death.

Let us old guys track down those dirty rotten cowards who attacked our hearts on September 11. The last thing the enemy would want to see right now is a couple of million old farts with attitudes.

Share this with your senior friends (It's purposely in big type for us old guys...)

Life According to Perry

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

PROFOUND THOUGHTS...

1. If you're too open-minded, your brains will fall out.
2. Don't worry about what other people think; they don't do it very often.
3. Going to a church doesn't make you a Christian, any more than standing in a garage makes you a car.
4. It isn't the jeans that make your butt look fat.
5. Artificial intelligence is no match for natural stupidity.
6. My idea of housework is to sweep the room with a glance.
7. Not one shred of evidence supports the notion that life is serious.
8. It is easier to ask for forgiveness than permission.
9. For every action, there is an equal and opposite government program.
10. If you look like your passport picture, you probably need the trip.
11. Bills travel through the mail at twice the speed of cheques.
12. A conscience is what hurts when all your other parts feel good.
13. Eat well, stay fit, die anyway. (Just remember how lucky you were to get a free trip around the sun every year.)
14. Men are from earth. Women are from earth. Deal with it.
15. No man has ever been shot while doing the dishes.
16. A balanced diet is a cookie in each hand.
17. Middle age is when broadness of the mind and narrowness of the waist change places.
18. Opportunities always look bigger going than coming.
19. Junk is something you've kept for years and throw away three weeks before you need it.
20. There is always one more imbecile than you counted on.
21. Experience is a wonderful thing. It enables you to recognize a mistake when you make it again.
22. By the time you can make ends meet, they move the ends.
23. Thou shall not weigh more than thy refrigerator.
24. Someone who thinks logically provides a nice contrast to the real world.
25. If you must choose between two evils, chose the one that you've never tried before.

the Spanish?

Actually, sir, we're not.

We're not?

No, sir. The Frenchies and Spanish are our European partners now. According to the Common Fisheries Policy, we shouldn't even be in this stretch of water. We could get hit with a claim for compensation.

But you must hate a Frenchman as you hate the devil.

I wouldn't let the ship's diversity coordinator hear you saying that, sir.

You'll be up on a disciplinary.

You must consider every man an enemy who speaks ill of your King.

Not any more, sir. We must be inclusive in this multicultural age. Now put on your Kevlar vest, it's the rules.

Don't tell me - health and safety. Whatever happened to rum, sodomy and the lash?

As I explained, sir, rum is off the menu. And there's a ban on corporal punishment.

What about sodomy?

I believe it's to be encouraged, sir.

In that case - kiss me Hardy.

Fellow Veterans & RSL Mates

From: Richard Adams

Thought some of you would get a laugh out of this.

If I could, I'd re-enlist today and help my country track down those responsible for killing thousands of innocent people in New York City and Washington, DC. But, I'm over 50 now and the Armed Forces say I'm too old to track down terrorists. You can't be older than 35 to join the military.

They've got the whole thing backwards. Instead of sending 18-year-olds

off to fight, they ought to take us old guys.

You shouldn't be able to join until you're at least 35. For starters:

Researchers say 18-year-olds think about sex every 10 seconds. Old guys only think about sex a couple of times a day, leaving us more than 28,000 additional seconds per day to concentrate on the enemy.

Young guys haven't lived long enough to be cranky, and a cranky soldier is a dangerous soldier. If we can't kill the enemy we'll complain them into submission. "My back hurts!" "I'm hungry!" "Where's the remote control?"

An 18-year-old hasn't had a legal beer yet and you shouldn't go to war until you're at least old enough to legally drink. An average old guy, on the other hand, has consumed 126,000 gallons of beer by the time he's 35 and a jaunt through the desert heat with a backpack and M-60 would do wonders for the old beer belly.

An 18-year-old doesn't like to get up before 10 a.m. Old guys get up early every morning to pee.

If old guys are captured we couldn't spill the beans because we'd probably forget where we put them. In fact, name, rank, and serial number would be a real brainteaser.

Boot camp would actually be easier for old guys. We're used to getting screamed and yelled at and we actually like soft food. We've also developed a deep appreciation for guns and rifles. We like them almost better than naps.

They could lighten up on the obstacle course however. I've been in combat and didn't see a single 20-foot wall with rope hanging over the side, nor did I ever do any pushups after completing basic training. I can hear the Drill Sergeant now, "Get down and give

would be applicable. I thought of Ron Dyne, but his address was one that was lost.

There are many RAEME members of Engineer Workshops who will also remember George. We offer our sincerest condolences to Margaret and George's family.

Arte et Marte Lest We Forget.

Vale Capt. Anthony Chak-Hung See

21st March 1938 - 2nd October 2004

Over 250 friends gathered at the Inala Village Chapel to remember the life of Anthony.

The service was conducted by Rev Mark Goh, Rev Peter Dobson, Rev Nigel Lau and Inala Village Chaplain Capt. Dabak Lynn.

With Tributes from RAEME Association, Maj. Michael Newbond and the Asian Australian Family Association President, Cedric StaMaria.

Our sincerest condolences go out to Anthony's Family. Their loss is our loss.

Arte et Marte Lest We Forget.

Vale: WO Shorty Evans

The Horse's Mouth and the Association pass on their sincerest condolences to Shorty's partner Ruth. The Recovery fraternity are the poorer for Shorty's passing. He had a lot to do with their training in the "Olden Days". He is sure to be in the Tow Truck Driver's heaven.

From: Jim Hislop

John,

WO2 Ron (Shorty) Evans was born in Ramsgate Kent on 12 Oct 46, he migrated to Australia in 1953. He enlisted

in the Army in Oct 63, was allocated to RAEME, after his basic Recovery course he was posted to 101 Fd Wksp Ingleburn. In 1966 he was posted to SVN where he was later medivaced after sustaining some very serious burns when one of the old Choofers blew up. He returned to 101 Fd Wksp and was posted to RAEME Trg Centre in 1976 as a WO Recovery Instructor. He took his discharge in Oct 83 and took up employment at 4 Base Wksp first as a Crane driver and later as a clerk. He retired in 1995 and became a TPI in 1998.

Shorty enjoyed his retirement through involvement with the Vietnam and Associated Veterans club, darts competitions and golf and was the first and only member of the club to achieve the illusive hole in one.

Shorty like most Recovery Mechanics would become most irate when referred to as a tow truck driver. A tactic that could be used during golf or darts events. Shorty passed away on the 18th August 2004, he is survived by Ruth his partner of 14 years.

Arte et Marte Lest We Forget

Vale John Meadows

It is with great sadness and loss that we inform our members of the passing of one of our stalwarts, John Meadows. Although he had chronic and severe illnesses, John was always happy when around members of the Corps. He had a very special love for the Corps and was like a sponge when it came to information and current articles about the Corps.

Come hell or high water, John was at the ANZAC Day functions with all the other "Old and Bold". The level of support he gave to that function was "above

and beyond the call". It was unfortunate that, because of his illness, he was not able to join us for more functions.

John was born in 1937 and on entering the Army was given the Regimental No. 214081. John served in Vietnam on two occasions. The first was with 1RAR from 26 May 1965 until 09 Jun 1966 and, then, 08 Jul 1970 to 28 Sep 1971 with 106 FD WKSP. Our members, Steve Cartner, Norm Goodhew and Rolly Koops were among those who served with John in 106.

We must farewell a good friend and we wish Val and John's family our sincerest condolences in his passing.

Arte et Marte

Lest We Forget.

Special Unit Keeps SAS On The Move

By Trevor Robb

THE wheels of warfare may turn slowly but they would grind to a halt without the efforts of one highly-trained army unit.

Members of the Special Air Service Regiment's mechanical support staff were given the task of keeping the elite troops moving during the conflicts in Afghanistan and Iraq.

In Afghanistan, they endured horrific working conditions. Temperatures soared to almost 50C in the day and plummeted to minus 17C at night, there were problems with fuel freezing in lines while sand and dust chewed away at engine components.

In Iraq, the mechanics worked with minimal facilities, often making their own parts and improvising to keep the vehicles rolling where the SASR operates - behind enemy lines.

The unit, which is based at the regiment's Swanbourne Barracks, includes mechanics, electricians, fitter-armourers and an array of tradesmen trained in general engineering and maintaining optical equipment such as night-vision goggles, compasses, binoculars, lasers and sights.

They are all regular army members attached to the SASR.

"We often say we wouldn't do their jobs for quids and they say they wouldn't do ours for quids" Warrant Officer Rob (his surname is not printed for security reasons), who heads up the unit said.

But the real work for the team started when it was time to bring the vehicles home. Strict quarantine provisions meant they had to be stripped and each component cleaned thoroughly to prevent any potential contaminants, such as foot-and-mouth disease, from being brought into Australia.

All vehicles were dismantled and even plastic around electrical wiring which could have trapped dust had to be replaced before the vehicles could pass inspections.

The team faced a big task getting vehicles ready for Iraq after they had been used in Afghanistan.



On The Job at SASR Workshop

was allowed to board an RNLI Lifeboat, safety officials made him wear a life jacket over his 19th century admiral's uniform.

How would Nelson have fared if he's been subject to modern health and safety regulations.

You are now on the deck of the recently renamed British Flagship, HMS Apeasement with Admiral Nelson and his crew.

"Order the signal. Hardy."

Aye, aye, sir.

Hold on, that's not what I dictated to the signal officer. What's the meaning of this?

Sorry, sir?

England expects every person to do his duty, regardless of race, gender, sexual orientation, religious persuasion or disability. What gobbledegook is this?

Admiralty policy, I'm afraid, sir. We're an equal opportunities employer now. We had the devil's own job getting "England" past the censors, lest it be considered racist.

Gadzooks, Hardy. Hand me my pipe and tobacco.

Sorry, sir. All naval vessels have been designated smoke-free working environments.

In that case, break open the rum ration. Let us splice the mainbrace to steel the men before battle.

The rum ration has been abolished, Admiral. It's part of the Government's policy on binge drinking.

Good heavens, Hardy. I suppose we'd better get on with it. Full speed ahead.

I think you'll find that there's a 4 mph speed limit in this stretch of water.

Dammit, man, we are on the eve of the greatest sea fight in history. We must advance with all dispatch. Report from

the crow's nest, please.

That won't be possible, sir.

What?

Health and Safety have closed the crow's nest, sir. No harness. And they say that rope ladder doesn't meet regulations. They won't let anyone up there until a proper scaffolding can be erected.

Then get me the ship's carpenter without delay, Hardy.

He's busy knocking up a wheelchair access to the fo'c'sle Admiral.

Wheelchair access? I've never heard anything so absurd.

Health and safety again, sir. We have to provide a barrier-free environment for the differently abled.

Differently abled? I've only one arm and one eye and I refuse even to hear mention of the word. I didn't rise to the rank of admiral by playing the disability card. Actually, sir, you did. The Royal Navy is under-represented in the areas of visual impairment and limb deficiency. Whatever next? Give me a full sail. The salt spray beckons.

A couple of problems there, too, sir. Health and safety won't let the crew up the rigging without crash helmets. And they don't want anyone breathing in too much salt - haven't you seen the adverts?

I've never heard such infamy. Break out the cannon and tell the men to stand by to engage the enemy.

The men are a bit worried about shooting at anyone, Admiral.

What? This is mutiny.

It's not that, sir. It's just that they're afraid of being charged with murder if they actually kill anyone. There's a couple of legal aid lawyers on board, watching everyone like hawks. Then how are we to sink the Frenchies and

the end of the Second World War this book provides a fitting tribute for your own record or library. It would be appreciated if you could assist us by passing on the details of the book launch, by giving it the widest possible dissemination, particularly to former POW's, their families and friends.

My four-hour terror taped to a live bomb

(Then UXB squad told me it was part of an old Citroen)

WHEN David Page unearthed what he thought was a Second World War mine in his yard, his first big mistake was to pick the thing up.

His second - even bigger - blunder was to press a button on the device.

He was thrown into panic as the button depressed, leaving the father of five to believe that if he let it go he would be blown to pieces.

With his thumb still holding down the button and by now weeping, Mr. Page, 40, taped his hand to the device and used his free hand to call the police.

Advised that under no circumstances should he let go of the mine, he told the police operator. "Tell my family I love them if the worst comes to the worst!"

The operator assured him everything would be OK, but Mr Page replied, "You're not the one holding the bomb."

He managed to keep the button pressed down for four hours until Army bomb disposal experts arrived - and told him the deadly "mine" was a part from an old car.

It might sound funny now but it was horrendous," Mr Page said.

Mr. Page, a sandblaster, had been moving some soil at his yard in Coltishall, Norfolk when he found what looked like an old bomb. He began

messing about with it and without and, thinking pushed the button on the top. "God knows why I pressed the button, but I knew immediately I'd done the wrong thing" he said. I was terrified that if I let go of the button I would be blown into a million pieces. I thought I would lose an arm at the very least.

"I told the police operator to tell my parents and children that I loved them if anything went wrong.

Mr Page used masking tape to anchor his thumb to the button while he called the police. They put him through to an Army expert, who urged him not to take his thumb off the button. Police arrived and an officer helped Mr Page put his arm, still attached to the mine, in a barrel of sand to lessen the likely damage if it exploded. Despite pleas from the police Mr Page's wife Joanne refused to leave his side, giving support and trying to calm him down.

When Army, bomb disposal experts arrived, they carefully unwrapped the masking tape then announced that the "bomb" was in fact part of the suspension system from an old Citroen car - and assured Mr Page he was safe.

Mr Page, of Stalham, Norfolk, said: "The man from the Army said that he'd blown up a few similar devices looked so much like mines, so it was an easy mistake to make."

Ed's Note: This little story was sent in by one of our REME members to illustrate how easy it is to get caught.

Rum, Sodomy & The Life Jacket

It's almost 200 years since Lord Nelson's famous naval victory over the French and Spanish in the Battle of Trafalgar. To kick-start the anniversary celebrations, an actor dressed as Nelson posed for pictures on the River Thames at Greenwich. But before he

"The major push was getting the vehicles ramped up and ready to go," WO Rob said. "A lot of the vehicles had just come back from Afghanistan so they wore in pretty poor condition from being worked over there for 12 months. We virtually had to go through and refurbish the majority of cars and get them up to scratch."

Major repairs on the cars included transmission changes but without access to major equipment it meant improvisation was the key, with road signposts used to make an A-frame block and tackle.

Ed's Note: We thank Trevor Robb for the insight to what we do in our Corps.

Help Wanted

Dear Sir,

I am writing to you seeking information or some direction to obtaining information from somebody who may have worked on, operated, or had been involved with Lorries 3 Ton Breakdown No3A Ford.

I am currently restoring one of these vehicles and can find very little information on their service history. Photographs or information from unit personnel who can add some enlightenment on these phantom trucks would be most appreciated. I believe they served in Bougainville but have no confirmation.

I am an ex RAEME member who served in Vietnam as a recovery mechanic in 1968. Perhaps there is a recovery mechanic who can still remember the good or the bad points of this type of vehicle.



Lorries 3 Ton Breakdown No3A Ford

Hope you can assist me with a lead as to likely units which may have used this break down truck.

Regards,

Dave McCallum
22 Clegg Avenue
Wydon 3136
(03) 97211533

1970 Ceremonial Guard Photos

Max Moore (RAEME Vic) received the following email:

From: Bob Killoran
To: Max Moore
Subject: Sig/RAEME Ceremonial Royal Guard April 1970

Max,
In your archives, do you have any info or photos of the then Southern Command supplied Ceremonial Guard for the 1970 Royal visit. I was at Armoured Centre LAD and was selected (obviously for my natural beauty), we spent a week in Watsonia doing drill, then off to Canberra where we were billeted in the Forestry Commission Barracks in Yarralumla, and then around to the GG's residence for duty as required. After the final parade they took our photo but I have not heard of it since. I was in Canungra the next week, and then the funny country, so my copies are probably still in the Chemist's shop.

May be you might know someone else

involved or have access to copies of the photos.

Bob Killoran

If anyone can help, contact Bob through Max

Moore on Telephone 9802 9128

Mobile: 0412 378 183

E-mail: vraeme@nex.net.au

Ed's Note: if anyone can help Bob with a photograph I am sure he would be eternally grateful.

Army Apprentices School

Balcombe 6th Intake.: A 52nd year reunion is planned to be held in WA in October of 2005. Intakes 1 to 8 inclusive are invited to attend. Contact D. Hughes on (08) 9397 0874.

ANZAC Day 2005 MAREE GATEWAY TO SOUTH AUSTRALIA'S OUTBACK

Sunday 24th April Kapyong Day

A commemoration service will be held to remember the service of the men and women of the 3 services who served during the Korean War. Following the service a "Kapyong Day Luncheon" is to be served at the Marree Hotel.

Monday 25th April Anzac Day

A dawn service followed by the traditional breakfast at the Marree Hotel. A march by veterans to the newly developed memorial area for a commemoration service and dedication of the new area war memorial.

These activities are conducted and endorsed by the Vietnam Veterans' Federation SA Branch Inc.

Accommodation/meals are available at the following venues.

Marree Hotel Rooms and Cabins,
Ph: 08-86758344 or Fax: 08-86758328

**Drovers Rest Cabins & Caravan
Camping Ground:** Ph 08-8675 8371
or Fax 08-8675 8206

**Oasis Cabins & Caravan/'Camping
Ground:** Ph 08-8675 8352 or fax 08-
8675 8399

3rd Cavalry Regiment (Vietnam) Association & 1st Armoured Regiment Association Reunion Melbourne 2005

The 3rd Cavalry Regiment (Vietnam) and 1st Armoured Regiment Associations have put together a Committee to plan a reunion commemorating the 40th anniversary of the landing of the Armoured Corps in Vietnam by the Prince of Wales 4/19th, which was the first deployment of Armour in a conflict zone since the Second World War.

All Vietnam Veterans who served in the Armoured Corps during the Vietnam conflict are invited to attend the Melbourne Reunion over ANZAC Day Weekend in April 2005. For those of you who are unaware of this event and have not registered please contact the Committee at the address below and a registration form will be sent to you. Alternatively you can find one at one of the following websites:

<http://sitrepl.tripod.com/cav.htm>

<http://armoured.alphalink.com.au/>

You are welcome to attend if you are not a member of either Association.

The following committee members are available to discuss the reunion:

John Sheehan (03) 9846 4225 Email sheehanjohnf58@aol.com

Ken Turnham. (03) 9846 4906 Email: kturnham@optusnet.com.au

John Ockwell (03) 5964 3746 Email: treasurer@vvaavic.org.au

Address:

Reunion Committee

7 Ironbark St

ROSANNA EAST VIC 3084

international organisations recognised diplomatically by Australia.

In normal circumstances, foreign governments are asked to seek Australian Government approval before bestowing an award on an Australian citizen.

This requirement may be waived in the event of awards being presented to Australian citizens without warning, where the non- acceptance of the award might cause offence.

Nevertheless, in such cases arrangements are to be made as soon as possible for a formal approach to Australia through official channels.

Permission for the formal acceptance of foreign awards is given by the Governor General on the advice of the Prime Minister or of the Minister with portfolio responsibility for the Australian Honours system (at present, for the ADF the Minister Assisting the Minister for Defence).

In principle, foreign awards will receive Australian Government approval only if there is an equivalent or similar award in the Australian Honours System.

Awards that do not have Australian Government approval may be worn on the right breast in civilian dress on certain specific occasions.

Foreign awards with Australian Government approval are worn on the left breast and follow all other awards for service in the Australian Armed Forces.

For multiple foreign awards from one country, they are worn in order of precedence as defined by the issuing government.

For awards from a number of foreign countries where there is no clear distinction as to order of precedence, those awards would be worn in precedence of date of issue.

Individuals wishing to seek Australian Government approval for wearing of foreign awards, or who wish further policy

detail on this matter, should write to..
Assistant Director Honours, Decorations and Medals
Directorate of Honours and Awards
T-1-49

Department of Defence
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Eds Note: We Thank the RSL and the Listening Post for passing on this information.

POW Book Launch

THE BURMA RAILWAY a visual recollection

The Burma Railway a visual recollection is a fitting tribute to the 12,000 Prisoners of War (POW's) who lost their lives during the construction of the Burma Railway. Otto Kreeft, the author and artist, who was a prisoner of the Japanese on the Burma Railway, thought "if I ever get out of here alive I want to depict this". So he tells the story of those who were there in that far away foreign jungle in such atrocious circumstances so that they would be remembered.

With the use of original sketches retained from that time, the author has detailed the circumstances in which the POW's had to work and survive. The result is an outstanding and very high quality publication with value that far exceeds the purchase price of \$7.00. The book has 74 pages, each of the 40 illustrations (most in colour) that will have its own meaning for those who worked on the railway and for those who did not have to suffer it, the drawings tell more than a thousand words.

The Book will be launched from the Australian Special Air Service Association, Western Australian Branch, at The House located at Campbell Barracks, on Sunday 7th November at 1400.

As we approach the 60th year since

Honours and Awards

The following information is reprinted from the "Book of Rules". It covers information that will be of interest to all the members of the Association.

Defence – A Force for the New Century

(xi) Honours and Awards

In recognition of the contribution of veterans and servicemen and women to our national security effort (the Honours and Awards System), around 7,000 awards have been issued in the past 12 months to ADF personnel involved in recent overseas operations, and around 120,000 Anniversary of National Service Medals have been issued since 2002.

In recognition of the significant commitment and contribution that voluntarily enlisted servicemen and women make to the defence of our nation, a new Australian Defence Medal will be awarded. This award accommodates the changes in the structure of Australia's military service and enlistment policies over time.

Current and former Australian military members who have served for a period of enlistment of at least six years since 1946 will be eligible for the award.

In addition, eligibility for the Australian Defence Medal will be extended to ex-servicemen and women who:

- (a) have honourably served but, due to the Defence Force service and enlistment policies of the time, were unable to serve the required six years; or
- (b) have been severely disabled or have died in the course of duty, thus rendering them unable to serve the required six years.

To facilitate the timely issue of medals to eligible applicants, the Coalition Government has developed sev-

eral initiatives:

- In February 2004 the Coalition Government began trialling an Honours and Awards Processing System (*HONSYS*) designed to automate many of the tasks currently performed manually;
- In the past, the arduous task of researching paper service records has resulted in delays in processing World War II medal claims. As of February 2004, the imaging of approximately 700,000 World War II medals slips has greatly simplified the process of obtaining and viewing the service records of applicants;
- New campaign medals have been awarded to Australian Defence Force personnel for their service in Iraq, Afghanistan and surrounding areas;
- Twenty-two veterans of the Battle of Long Tan have been granted permission by the Governor-General to wear honours offered by the then South Vietnamese government 38 years ago. Following the Battle of Long Tan, the South Vietnamese Government sought to award the soldiers military decorations for gallantry. Presentation of the medals did not take place due to protocol concerns held by the Australian Government at the time. With the subsequent fall of the South Vietnamese Government, Australian governments over time have been unable to resolve the issue. The Coalition Government has taken the initiative in correcting this anomaly; and
- New targets have been set that will greatly improve the processing times of medal applications.

Protocols For Wearing Foreign Awards

Australian citizens may accept foreign awards when an offer is made by the head of state or the government of a country with which Australia maintains diplomatic relations; by an official agency of the United Nations; or by other

17th CONSTRUCTION SQUADRON UNTAG – NAMIBIA 15 YEAR RE-UNION

ACTIVITIES:

- 1. RE-UNION (Dress: Neat Civilian Attire)** at the School of Military Engineering (SME) 'SPORTIES CLUB'.
Date/Time - 1800h Sun 24 April 05.
BBQ Dinner – cost \$10.00 per head.
Refreshments from the bar at cost.
'Storey Telling' and catching up with Old Mates (over 200 personnel from across the world attending so far).
- 2. DAWN SERVICE** and Gun Fire Breakfast at the SME RAE MEMORIAL.
Date/Time – 0430h Mon 25 April 05.
- 3. MARCH IN SYDNEY (Dress: Medals and UN Beret).** Meet at the 'GRAND HOTEL' Hunter Street Sydney 0930h Mon 25 April 05. Form up with 17 Construction Squadron Association 1030h Mon 25 April 05. After March RAE Re-Union at the 'MACQUARIE HOTEL' College Street Sydney.

ACCOMODATION:

Limited rooms at SME.
Tentage at SME provided by 17th Construction Squadron.
Local Motels;
Jolly Knights Motel (02) 9602 6399
Hunts Motel (02) 9601 5088
Motel Formula 1 (02) 9822 2777
Fontaine Bleau Motel (02) 9602 7455

TRANSPORT:

Buses from SME after the Dawn Service to Holsworthy Station or Sydney CBD (TBC) for the Sydney March.

CONTACT:

Bob Dooley (02) 4721 9255
Russ Parish (02) 9600 4441
Pat Edmonds (02) 9600 4039

New Helicopters for Army

The Australian Army will be equipped with 12 new troop lift helicopters under a \$1 billion project approved by the

Government.

The Government had selected Australian Aerospace to supply the new MRH-90 aircraft to form an additional troop lift helicopter squadron, subject to satisfactory conclusion of negotiations.

This will bolster Australia's counter-terrorism capabilities by releasing a Black Hawk squadron to provide dedicated support to our Special Forces on the east coast.

The MRH-90 is the new generation of multi-role helicopters, equipped with state-of-the-art technology, a rear ramp that can be used to load small vehicles, a flexible cabin configuration, a full fly-by-wire flight control system and digital cockpit.

The helicopter can carry up to 18 troops plus four crew or 4000kg of underslung cargo, cruises at up to 300kph and has a maximum range of over 900km. It is a fully marinised helicopter that is able to operate from the Royal Australian Navy's current and future amphibious ships.

It is purpose-built for amphibious operations and includes extra corrosion protection, folding rotor blades and other enhancements to allow shipboard operations. This will give the Army an enhanced ability to move more soldiers further and faster from our amphibious lift ships, HMAS Kanimbla and Manoora, and their replacements.

The aircraft is certified for ditching and is designed to modern safety standards, including crashworthiness and tolerance to structural and system damage - offering excellent protection for our troops that will be conducting sea and land operations.

The first helicopter for the new squadron at Townsville would be delivered in 2007, with all 12 aircraft expected to be delivered by 2008.

The new squadron will increase Army's troop lift capability by more than half.

This will allow the relocation of a squadron of Black Hawk helicopters to the Sydney area to support the ADF's Special Forces, further strengthening the Howard Government's commitment to fighting terrorism.

The Black Hawk squadron will be located near our Special Forces soldiers that are based at Holsworthy and will enhance mobility and training effectiveness for this critical capability.

The Government has committed more than \$1.3 billion to the Australian Defence Force to fight the war against terrorism since 11 September 2001. This project will mean our Special Forces are better equipped to respond swiftly to any terrorist threat or incident.

The project would also provide a substantial boost for Australian industry.

The purchase of these new helicopters will include a support contract that may last for up to 20 years, and the overall Australian industry component of this project is expected to exceed \$300 million.

Benefits are expected to build on Australian Aerospace's industry commitment developed as part of project AIR 87 and the delivery of the Armed Reconnaissance Helicopter, the Eurocopter Tiger. Opportunities for Australian industry are anticipated in helicopter assembly, common and similar aircraft systems, avionics equipment, structural and engine technologies and training systems.

Fact Sheet

NH Industries NH-90

Length/Height/Width m: 19.56 / 5.31 / 3.64

Folded Length/Height/Width m: 13.50

/ 4.10 / 3.80

Engine Options: GE T700-T6E or RTM 322-01/9

Number of Engines: 2

Number of Blades: 4

Max Nos. fit on current LPA: 4

Troop Seating - Patrol Order: 18

Stretchers: 12

Ferry Internal/External Fuel km: 970/Yes

Useable volume m3: 12.43

Rear Ramp: Yes

Doors: Port and Starboard

C130 Transportable: Yes

Main Rotor Diameter m: 16.3

Empty Weight kg: 5400

Max All Up Mass kg: 10600

Slung Load Max kg: 4000

The MIVAC (Mine Victims and Clearance) Trust

From Michael Ryan RAEA WA

Sappers, SASR and our Spanner Mates,

MIVAC is the brainchild of a good mate Rob Woolley ex 1 Fd Sqn and the muse of Ranelagh Tasmania.

The object of this Trust, started by ex Vietnam Vets, was to help people effected by mines and war and to do so by making sure that as much of 100% of donations go to the task. The work is usually done by members. Apart from RAEA WA here there are many sappers involved such as Col Sandy McGregor MC, Major Carl Chirgwin (CSG Demining), LTCOL John Pritchard, Frank Duggan ex RSM SME, Major Craig Coleman OAM, CSM etc.

I urge all sappers and all people who want to make a difference to get behind Rob and his cohorts. The mem-

Watkins said.

The Commander of Australian Forces in Iraq and the Middle East Area of Operations, Brigadier Peter Hutchinson, said the best wishes of all Australians were with the British pilot injured in the incident.

Brigadier Hutchinson said that Captain Watkins was one of two Australian Army members serving on exchange with British units in southern Iraq. Neither of these two is serving directly with the Black Watch Battle Group deployed south of Baghdad.

A further seven Australian Army officers are serving in various staff positions with the Headquarters of the Multi-National Division - South East which based in Basra.

There are approximately 920 Australian Defence Force personnel deployed throughout the Middle East Area of Operations as part of the Australia's commitment to the reconstruction and rehabilitation of Iraq. Of these, about 250 are based inside Iraq.

New Campaign Gongs

Medals identified for Iraq and Afghanistan

AUSTRALIAN veterans of operations in Iraq and Afghanistan can soon expect to receive their campaign medals.

The Directorate of Honours and Awards has embarked on a tight timetable to have the new medals produced and ready to present by April next year.

There is no requirement to individually apply for the medals, as the component commanders will produce lists of eligible personnel.

Medals will be sent to each member's current unit address, as shown on PMKeyS, so with the posting period over Christmas members should make sure their information remains up to

date.

The designs of the medals are based on a traditional style that includes a generic obverse side, based on the Commonwealth Coat of Arms, and images with heraldic or symbolic relevance to the area on the reverse of each medal.

Afghanistan

The reverse side of the Afghanistan Medal is based on a portion of a snow-capped mountain range with a multi-rayed sun rising behind the mountains.

The mountains represent the dominant terrain of the country and the rising sun represents a "new dawn".

The word "Afghanistan" appears around the central device on the flange, in English and in the Arabic Script of the two dominant languages of Afghanistan, Dari and Pashtun.

The Ribbon is coloured Khaki for the predominant ground colour of the terrain; Purple for the ADF; Little Blue for the sky above the mountains; White for the snow on the mountain peaks; and Red for the conflict in Afghanistan.

Iraq

The reverse side of the Iraq Medal is based on a processional lion copied from a relief on the gateway of the Temple of Ishtar in Babylon.

The lion is one of the dominant "power symbols" of the Assyrian Empire, being reserved for the ruling house and the higher priesthood of the dominant sects.

The lion stands on a narrow plinth (for balance) and the word "Iraq" appears below.

The design of ribbon for the Iraq Medal is a combination of Sand Yellow representing the desert sands of Iraq; Purple for the ADF and red for the conflict in Iraq.

Cpl Joanne Edwards is the first ARA female soldier to complete the Basic Recovery Course at ALTC, North Bandiana.

Already qualified as an M113 driver and crew commander because of her work as a store person with 1CER, she got the taste for recovery work last year when on exercise at Shoalwater Bay.

The crew commander of an Armoured Recovery Vehicle had taken ill, so Cpl Edwards was asked to take his place.

She said the weeks that followed were thoroughly enjoyable, prompting her to apply for a corps and trade transfer.

The eighteen-week course that she has just finished proved to be a challenge.

"There are so many things to learn," Cpl Edwards said.

"There's the chainsaw qualification, oxy-cutting and operating the recovery vehicles.

"You are constantly having to tackle problems, and you really have to know your recovery vehicle."

The recovery course is designed to train soldiers in how to plan, calculate and conduct recovery operations, either as the equipment operator or as the task commander.

One of their key tests is to right a rolled-over vehicle and winch it up a cliff - no easy feat. And it must be conducted correctly and safely.

But all courses must end, and Cpl Edwards is now qualified and back in Darwin, looking forward to working in her new trade with 1CSSB.

"I hope to stay with armoured vehicle recovery," Cpl Edwards, said

"They represent a heavy challenge."

Eds Note: We thank the Army News and Cameron Jamieson for allowing us to reprint this article.

Aussie Pilot Lands UK Helicopter After Attack

An Australian Army pilot serving on exchange with the British Army in Iraq has safely landed a helicopter in which he was the co-pilot after it was hit by small arms fire south of Baghdad on Wednesday morning (10 November).

Captain Scott Watkins took control of the British Army Lynx helicopter after the British pilot was injured in the attack.

The aircraft was hit by three rounds of small arms fire while flying in support of the British Black Watch Battle Group south of Baghdad.

After taking control of the helicopter, Captain Watkins was able to land it safely at a Coalition base, Camp Dogwood south of Baghdad. The injured British pilot was then immediately evacuated to a Coalition military hospital in Baghdad where he is receiving treatment.

Captain Watkins was unhurt in the attack.

Captain Watkins is serving with the United Kingdom Joint Helo Force, Multi-National Division - South East which is based in Basra in southern Iraq.

He is more than a year into a two-year exchange posting with the British Army Aviation Corps. Before going to the United Kingdom, Captain Watkins served with the Australian Army's 161 Reconnaissance Squadron based in Darwin, Northern Territory.

He has been in Iraq for just over two months. Captain Watkins said his tasks in Iraq were varied.

"Tasks range from flying people to different locations around the area of operations, to doing a bit of overhead protection for convoy moves and trying to provide an eye in the sky on operations in Basra and other places," Captain

bership is a round of drinks and you know it will not be chewed up in administrative costs and inflated salaries and public relations .

Come onJOIN THE CREW and PLEASE PASS THIS MSG ON TO ALL YOUR MATES .

Remember our mottoes :
Facimus et Frangimus and Ubique .
This is a chance to still abide by those fine words.

A challenge to all associations and unitsWhy not have a fund raiser for the MIVAC boys and girls??

Mick Ryan OAM
RAEA WA

Attached is a letter from me as the NSW Trustee for the MIVAC (Mine Victims and Clearance) Trust. The letter is being sent for two reasons:

1. to advise you all of The MIVAC Trust and its work; and
2. to seek your assistance in helping to raise the \$25,000 need to undertake a project in conjunction with AUSTCARE.

If you cannot assist, please pass this on to employers and others on your lists. The wider this message is spread the better as it will assist The MIVAC Trust to make a better life for those people who have been plagued by landmines and other remnants of war.

I trust that you can assist us. I am also looking for Sydney/NSW based people to assist me in the management and fund raising for The MIVAC Trust. In addition we are seeking to expand our base into Queensland, Victoria and Western Australia and the ACT.

If you can assist with this we would all be ever grateful.

Regards

John Pritchard
Lieutenant Colonel RAE (RL)

NSW Trustee
The MIVAC Trust
Email: jprtc@iprimus.com.au
Web: www.raeheritagesociety.com

A Reunion of The Ninth Intake By Maj John Power (Rtd)

The 9th intake of the Army Apprentices met for their third reunion at the Hume Resort which is located near the Northern abutment of the Hume Weir, during the weekend 7/8 February 2004. The reunion was a great success, just as the preceding two had been, thanks to the organisational efforts of Jim Hislop, Charley Myhill and Graham (tank) Field, the guy who wore his original "poof suit" to the first reunion in 1993. And it still fitted him 39 nine years after it had been issued.

Most of us arrived during the afternoon of Friday 6 February, just in time for a drink. (As I said the organisation was great). That night we enjoyed a BBQ meal and most of us retired reasonably early to prepare for the events planned for Saturday.

Saturday morning was spent yarning and generally catching up, followed by a visit to the Army Museum at Bandiana. It has been developed into a most interesting series of displays one of which is associated with the Apprentices School. One of our group, Doug Young, features significantly because of the display of the sporting awards that he acquired at Balcombe. A visit to the museum is a must if you are travelling through the area.

On Saturday night we indulged in an excellent dinner at the Hume Resort. Everyone had a good time as we ate, drank and were entertained by Jim Hislop and Clive Connors, who refuses to allow a good story to be ruined by sticking too closely to the facts.

Sunday Morning was recovery time followed by a light lunch after which we

began to disperse back to our homes. Hence the mechanics of a reunion! No hint of the amount of work involved in organising and conducting such an event. You have no idea of the emotional impact as you walk into a group of people that you know you should know but do not as yet recognize. Some faces, especially those that you served with over many years, clarify rather rapidly. Others, those that left the group at the nine-year mark, and these were the majority, remain unidentified. Even so there is an immediate sense of acceptance and even acknowledgment from the group. Sipping your first beer you suddenly recognize a face or a voice or a mannerism and the person comes into focus, not as he is now but as he was back then. The leap forward is then easily accomplished. From there it's almost a logarithmic process with person after person coming into focus at an ever increasing rate. Suddenly you are back with the group that you spent three years of your teenage years with. There is no fuss, no embarrassment, no over reaction, just a quite "G'day Jim, how are you going." We have always liked to play it pretty cool.

The camaraderie, the easy acceptance had developed over three years of living, working, relaxing and what we then considered suffering in each others company over a period of three years. We were housed in unlined corrugated iron huts which were really dormitories containing 14 bed spaces with two cubicles at one end of the hut and these housed the apprentice NCOs who governed our day to day routine. Two of these huts were joined end to end by an ablation block which contained three WCs, three hand basins, three showers and a urinal. There was no room for modesty. It was all in or miss out. The memory of three people all using the same hand basin and mirror to shave each morning still elicits the odd smile.

Military discipline at the time was based on group punishment. We very rapidly learned that it was one in, all in. So if one member of the platoon erred we all paid the penalty. It wasn't long before we developed a group mentality to the extent that towards the end of our time we re-acted almost instinctively to any situation. For instances we had three standards of drill. Level one was for dagging around the camp between venues, and we did literally march every where. Level two was for drill under the RDIs and level three was for ceremonials parades, eg COs parade, Anzac Day, Coral Sea Day etc. And we automatically adopted the appropriate standard as required. But! We could also automatically and with out discussion adopt the wrong standard if a member of the staff upset us and once having done that we refused to budge until we had extracted the necessary penance. When you are that close to people for three years some thing has to stick.

If a member of your hut was under punishment, and this occurred regularly during the first year, every one banded together to provide items of equipment or clean them ready for use again. No body was ever left to their own devices. Another advantage of our accommodation arrangements was that we never needed to be alone. If the other members of your hut were on leave or guard duty for the weekend you could wander into another hut and spend time with other members of your platoon.

But there were limits! Borrowing when not on punishment was not popular and if you borrowed the item it would have to be returned on time and thoroughly cleaned, regardless of the condition in which it was borrowed. No exceptions! Money and tobacco were different. There were plenty of people who were prepared to lend either money or cigarettes at 25% compound interest, that

is borrow today and return with 25% on the next pay day which was often tomorrow. If you failed to meet the deadline the interest increased to 50% by the following payday and so on.

Like most new recruits we commenced the journey completely and utterly confused. Mind you, having our first army meal that looked a little like pig swill while a Scottish Sergeant paced the floor continually haranguing us about the length of our hair and an English Captain with an Oxford accent informed us in no uncertain terms "to bloody well eat it whether you liked it or not", may not have been the best way to impress new recruits. Then there was that first haircut – enough said, swiftly followed by an arm full of bedding plus a rifle and bayonet and a bedside rug, after which we had two arms full of clothing thrown across a counter with instructions to "sign here" and "makesureyoureceiveeverythingonthislistandthatitistherightsizebecausewewontacceptresponsibilityforanythingyouloseandwewontchangeanythingthatdoesn'tfitWhatthebloodyhell do you thinkyourdoingboy – we haven't got all bloody day". Need I go on? In the vernacular they stuck it up us without mercy. They had obviously got away with it with previous intakes and saw no need to treat the latest group of "boys" (another error) any differently. They were to learn the error of their ways.

We finished the journey when we graduated from Mace Oval, which still exists, on 15 December 1956. Just to prove we had triumphed we sang the full version of "We're a Pack of Bastards" at full volume as were marched off the oval and as one rather naive instructor had said on one occasion way back in 1954 the language was "red hot". The intervening years had seen many a battle royal between us and

the staff, who must have breathed several sighs of relief to see us go. The feeling of elation as we donned our slouch hats for the first time and travelled off to our first regular army units was almost beyond belief. It wasn't until we arrived at these hallowed institutes that we began to realise what had really happened. Regimentally we fitted like a glove. We were just like regular soldiers. We were absolutely amazed at how much the ARA had learned in three short years. And we were sure that the Staff of the Army Apprentices School was very grateful for the lessons that we taught them and we were sure they would agree that it hadn't been easy.

Most of the 9th intake left the army at the end of their initial nine-year engagement. In the main they have all done well, many operating their own businesses or achieving important positions in Australia or overseas. Most of those who re-enlisted completed a full twenty-year engagement, some even longer. With few exceptions they achieved warrant or commissioned rank. Some were decorated for various reasons either while serving or after they left the service. A few are deceased and we took a moment to remember them during that weekend. But mainly we just enjoyed being back together and having a quite beer while we pondered Clive Connors rejoinder to never allow the truth to spoil a good story. And we didn't! Hence the essence of a reunion was achieved.

Play it again Sam.

Reccy Mech Girl
By Cpl Cameron Jamieson

ANOTHER male bastion has bitten the dust with the successful graduation of one of the Army's newest recovery mechanics.