



*Merry
Christmas*

and a

*Happy
New Year*

*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 2007-08

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, Bayswater Hotel, 78-80 Railway Parade, Bayswater, in the Function Room. 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 6933

Patron **Colonel Ernie McCart**
Colonel Commandant:

The RAEME Association Committee

President:	John Klein	2 Wicks Street, Eden Hill	Ph. 9279 3080
Vice President:	Peter Humpston	3 Shady Glen Mews Edgewater	Ph. 9306 4549
Secretary:	Dick Fenton	4 Harbour Court, Safety Bay	Ph: 9528 6860
Treasurer:	David Cooper	263 Robinson Ave Cloverdale	Ph. 9479 1149
Editor:	John Curtis	2 Whittaker Street, Bayswater	Ph. 9271 4520
Welfare Officer:	Don Horsley	11 Celestine Way, Wanneroo	Ph. 9306 2946
	John Power	34 Adenmore Way, Kingsley	Ph. 9309 2780
Chaplain	Fr. Howard MacCallum		
		39 Rogerson Road, Mt Pleasant	Ph. 9364 4948
Physician:	Dr. Michael Daly		
Honorary Auditor:	Terry Barrett		

General Committee:

John Curtis	9271 4520	Tom Goodlich	9293 3944
Clare Curtis	9271 4520	Marilyn Goodlich	9293 3944
Perry Beor	9275 8595	Michael Kerrison	9379 2682
Fred Ordynski	9377 1252	Mark Vincent	9307 8725
Lawrie Forsyth	9401 5039		

DEADLINE

All contributions for the next edition of THE HORSE'S MOUTH must be with the editor no later than the 22nd of FEBRUARY 2008.

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.

Another year has flown by and looking forward to the New Year. We have just finished our RAEME Birthday Dinner and I think it was a great success. Anyone that could not attend have missed a great get together. Many faces you don't see for a while turned out to enjoy being there, and I bet a few yarns were spread around. As for 2008, I hope we can have a few more bods together, join the meeting and at the same time have a nice meal and enjoy each other's company.

What has happened to all the people that turned out when we formed our

Association in 1998, we haven't seen or heard of many of them since I would like to see that all over again, but I suppose I am only hoping.

Again I ask the members to put our heads together and come up with any activity that we as a "family" can do. We should be able to organize outings, dinners like our interstate affiliates can, so why can't we have something going. So have a think about all this, we have a month to sleep on this and then bring it to the meeting in February 2008 it should make a good discussion session.

Well, from my family and I wish

state. Newspaper articles appear nationally explaining that teaching English as a requirement for graduation is racist. Class action lawsuit filed by anti discrimination commissioner against Education Dept and Pedro's English teacher. English banned from core curriculum. Pedro given diploma anyway but ends up mowing lawns for a living because he cannot speak English.

Scenario: Johnny takes apart leftover firecrackers, puts them in a model aeroplane paint bottle, blows up an ant bed.

1957 - Ants die.

2007 - Local police & AFP called. Johnny charged with domestic terrorism, parents investigated, siblings removed from home, computers confiscated, Johnny's Dad goes on a terror watch list and is never allowed to fly again.

Scenario: Johnny falls while running during morning tea and scrapes his knee. He is found crying by his teacher, Mary. Mary hugs him to comfort him.

1957 - In a short time, Johnny feels better and goes on playing.

2007 - Mary is accused of being a sexual predator and loses her job. She faces 3 years in prison while Johnny undergoes 5 years of therapy.

Efficiency!

HOW TO CALL THE POLICE WHEN YOU'RE OLD AND DON'T MOVE FAST ANYMORE.

George Phillips of Gold Coast, Australia was going up to bed when his wife told him that he'd left the light on in the garden shed, which she could see from the bedroom window. (Boy does this sound familiar!)

George opened the back door to go turn off the light but saw that there were people in the shed stealing things.

He phoned the police, who asked "Is someone in your house?" and he said

"no". Then they said that all patrols were busy, and that he should simply lock his door and an officer would be along when available. George said, "Okay," hung up, counted to 30, and phoned the police again.

"Hello, I just called you a few seconds ago because there were people stealing things from my shed. Well, you don't have to worry about them now because I've just shot them." Then he hung up.

Within five minutes three police cars, an Armed Response Unit, and an ambulance showed up at the Phillips' residence and caught the burglars red-handed.

One of the Policemen said to George: "I thought you said that you'd shot them!"

George said, "I thought you said there was nobody available!"

(True Story) I LOVE IT - Don't mess with old people!!

Useless Bits of Information

If you yelled for 8 years, 7 months and 6 days you would have produced enough sound energy to heat one cup of coffee.

The human heart creates enough pressure when it pumps blood to the body to squirt the blood 30 feet.

A cockroach will live nine days without its head before it starves to death. (Creepy.)

The flea can jump 350 times its body length. It's like a human jumping the length of a football field.

The catfish has over 27,000 taste buds.

Elephants are the only animals that cannot jump.

The strongest muscle in the body is the tongue.

Right-handed people live, on average, nine years longer than left-handed people.

pump. The doctor arrived shortly thereafter. One by one, they took each person into the master bathroom, gave them an enema and pumped out their stomach. After the last one was finished, the doctor came out and said, "I think everything will be fine now, and he left."

They were all looking pretty peaked sitting around the living room, and about this time, the town lady came in and said, "You know, that fellow that ran over Ol' Spot never even stopped!!

SO MUCH FOR THE DINNER CLUB!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

The Missouri Farmer

A Missouri farmer got in his pickup, drove to a neighbouring farm and knocked at the farmhouse door. A young boy about 12 opened the door.

"Is your dad home?" the farmer asked.

"No sir, he ain't," the boy replied. "He went into town."

"Well, said the farmer, is your mom here?"

"No sir, she ain't here neither. She went into town with Dad."

"How about your brother, Howard? Is he here?"

"He went with mom and dad."

The farmer stood there for a few minutes, shifting from one foot to the other mumbling to himself.

"Is there anything I can do fer ya?" the boy asked politely. "I know where all the tools are, if you want to borrow one. Or maybe I could take a message fer dad."

"Well, said the farmer uncomfortably, "I really wanted to talk to yer dad. It's about your brother Howard getting my daughter, Pearly Mae, pregnant."

The boy considered for a moment. "You would have to talk to Pa about that," he finally conceded. "If it helps

you any, I know that Pa charges \$50 for the bull and \$25 for the hog, but I really don't know how much he gets fer Howard."

School 1957 Vs. 2007

Scenario: Johnny and Mark get into a fight after school.

1957 - Crowd gathers. Mark wins. Johnny and Mark shake hands and end up mates.

2007 - Police called, SWAT team arrives, arrests Johnny and Mark. Charge them with assault, both expelled even though Johnny started it.

Scenario: Jeffrey won't be still in class, disrupts other students.

1957 - Jeffrey sent to office and given a good caning by the Principal. Returns to class, sits still and does not disrupt class again.

2007 - Jeffrey given huge doses of Ritalin. Becomes a zombie. Tested for ADD. School gets extra money from state because Jeffrey has a disability.

Scenario: Billy breaks a window in his neighbour's car and his Dad gives him a whipping with his belt.

1957 - Billy is more careful next time, grows up normally, goes to uni, and becomes a successful businessman.

2007 - Billy's dad is arrested for child abuse. Billy removed to foster care and joins a gang. Psychologist tells Billy's sister that she remembers being abused herself and their Dad goes to prison. Billy's Mum has affair with psychologist.

Scenario: Mark gets a headache and takes some aspirin to school.

1957 - Mark shares aspirin with Principal.

2007 - Police called, Mark expelled from school for drug violations. Car searched for drugs and weapons.

Scenario: Pedro fails high school English.

1957 - Pedro gets extra tuition, passes English, goes to Uni.

2007 - Pedro's cause is taken up by

everyone a Merry Christmas and a terrific 2008, hoping to see you all bright eyed and bushy tailed in the new year.

John Klein
Arte et Marte.

RAEME Birthday Dinner

The RAEME Association WA held it RAEME Birthday dinner on the 1st of December at the Bayswater Hotel. 56 members attended the function. The President took the opportunity of presenting the Patron Badge to the Association Patron COL Ernie McCart. Our esteemed REME member Peter Humpston did a stealer job of providing the Birthday cake and a Piper to ensure appropriate ceremony for the occasion. Mrs. Betty Parker presented a print of the RAEME Banner Parade to the Association on behalf of her late Husband LTCOL Frank Parker. The dinner also provided an opportunity for the presentation of Army Combat Badges to five of the Association members:

53882 SGT Jan Klein

Earned the Badge with service with 21 Construction Sqn Borneo Jan 66 and 3 RAR in Vietnam Dec 67 - Dec 68.

58731 WO2 Norman Wells

Earned the Badge with service with 3 RAR in Malaysia Aug 64 - May 65 and 1 Armd Regt Vietnam Feb 68 to Oct 68.

42673 WO2 Frank Clayton -Fitter Armt

Earned the Badge with service with 9 RAR in Sth Vietnam Nov 68 - Apr 69.

Two members were unable to attend the dinner.

Dick Garcia earned the Badge with service with 1 Armd Regt in Vietnam, and **Ron Brown** earned the Badge with service with 4 Fd Regt in South Vietnam.

A number of bottles of Craftsman's Port donated to the Association by John and

Clare Curtis and were used as raffle prizes. The winner of a 1985 bottle was coerced into opening his prize and it was unanimous that this bottle is for display purposes only.

The dinner was a very pleasant evening and the increase in attendance by 20% will mean the 2008 dinner will require a larger venue.

Dick Fenton

Army Farewells The Iroquois 'Huey' Helicopter

The Army farewelled the venerable UH-1H Iroquois 'Huey' helicopter today, with a lunchtime farewell flypast by three aircraft over Brisbane.

The 'Huey' has become synonymous with the Vietnam War and its distinctive "thwock thwock" sound evokes instant memories amongst the Vietnam Veteran community.

However it has served Australia faithfully both domestically and around the world in warlike conditions, peace keeping, disaster relief and humanitarian assistance since its introduction in 1962.

The Iroquois was initially operated by the Royal Australian Air Force before the capability was handed over to the Army in 1989. The Royal Australian Navy also operated Iroquois from 1967 with the type being withdrawn from Navy service in 1989.

Brigadier Nick Bartels, Commander of Army's 16th Brigade (Aviation) said it was a day of mixed emotions.

"The 'Huey' has been a part of the Australian Defence Force for 45 years and, in that time, it has been a part of life for so many people, both in the services and the general public," he said.

Its wartime role in Vietnam has been well documented and to a lesser extent its involvement in the Malayan Confrontation and duties with the

United Nations in Egypt and the Sinai. Brigadier Bartels said, however, that the activities of the Iroquois in disaster relief and humanitarian aid proved the versatility of the aircraft.

“From it being involved in Search and Rescues at sea and on land, fighting bush fires and carrying relief supplies in floods and drought, to aiding the villagers in isolated Aceh communities after the tsunami disaster in Sumatra, the Huey will live on in the hearts of those who have been helped long after today.

“The Iroquois has enabled the Australian Defence Force to serve the community in many different ways and although it is being retired today, the capability will not be lost.

“Towards the end of the year we will take delivery of the first of our multi-role helicopter, the MRH-90, which will take over all the duties of the Iroquois as well as providing important new capability,” he said.

The MRH-90 is larger, more powerful and more versatile than the Iroquois, and will be entered into service with both Army and Navy.

Help a Member

Ross Maggs, one of our members and the son of an old RAEME Member, Geoff Maggs, is looking for help from a generous older member of our Corps. Ross is making a memorial plaque for his father that will house all of Geoff’s medals, his Corps memorabilia and badges. Unfortunately Ross is missing one of the original AEME Craftsman Badge. Ross is trying to find this badge. If anyone has one that they are prepared to donate to the remembrance of Geoff, please contact Ross. He would be forever grateful. Ross can be contacted on his mobile (0412 725 467) or write to Ross Maggs at 43 Alive Road, CARDUP, West Aust 6201.

Army’s Latest Fighting Vehicle Arrives At 1 Brigade

A ceremonial handover took place at Robertson Barracks today to mark the introduction to service of the first four M113AS4 Armoured Personnel Carriers to the Army’s 7th Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment.

One of the vehicles on display was fitted with armour, spall curtains and track shrouds to reveal the appearance of the vehicle when fitted for operations.

Soldiers of 7th Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment, were thrilled to see the arrival of the upgraded M113; one soldier said “You can definitely notice the improvement in the performance and power of the new vehicles.”

The Commanding Officer of the 7th Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment, Lieutenant Colonel Shane Gabriel said he was pleased to oversee the M113AS4 arrival. “The extensive upgrade to the M113 has improved habitability, mobility and firepower of the vehicles and most importantly, provides superior protection for our troops,” LTCOL Shane Gabriel said.

The handover ceremony also highlighted the success of the joint effort between the Defence Materiel Organisation (DMO) and the prime contractor Tenix. The M113’s have successfully concluded a long and rigorous testing program and the ADF will receive a vehicle that delivers increased firepower, protection and mobility.

Project LAND 106 was established to deliver a major upgrade of 350 of the Army’s in-service M113A1 vehicles that provide transport and fire support for the Army’s mechanised forces. The upgrade provides significant enhancements in protection, firepower, mobility and habitability whilst also providing improved logistic supportability.

bat, a shotgun and a mean old pit bull. “What are you going to do,” the homeowner asks?

“I’m going to put this ladder up against the roof, then I’m going to go up there and knock the bear off the roof with this Baseball bat. When the bear falls off, the pit bull is trained to grab his testicles and not let go. The bear will then be subdued enough for me to put him in the cage in the back of the van.”

He hands the shotgun to the homeowner.

“What’s the shotgun for?” asks the homeowner.

“If the bear knocks me off the roof, shoot the dog.”

Dinner Party

A group of country neighbours wanted to get together on a regular basis and socialise. As a result, about 10 couples formed a dinner club and agreed to meet for dinner at a different neighbour’s house each month.

Of course, the lady of the house was to prepare the meal. When it came time for Jimmy and Susie Brown to have the dinner at their house, like most women, Susie wanted to outdo all the others and prepare a meal that was the best that any of them had ever lapped a lip over.

A few days before the big event, Susie got out her cookbook and decided to have mushroom smothered steak. When she went to the store to buy some mushrooms, she found the price for a small can was more than she wanted to pay.

She then told her husband, “We aren’t going to have mushrooms because they are too expensive.” He said, “Why don’t you go down in the pasture and pick some of those mushrooms? There are plenty of them right in the creek bed.” She said, “No, I don’t want to do that, because I have heard that wild

mushrooms are poison.” He then said, “I don’t think so. I see the varmints eating them all the time and it never has affected them.”

After thinking about this, Susie decided to give this a try and got in the pickup and went down in the pasture and picked some. She brought the wild mushrooms back home and washed them, sliced and diced them to get them ready to go over her smothered steak. Then she went out on the back porch and got Ol’ Spot’s (the yard dog) bowl and gave him a double handful. She even put some bacon grease on them to make them tasty. Ol’ Spot didn’t slow down until he had eaten every bite. All morning long, Susie watched him and the wild mushrooms didn’t seem to affect him, so she decided to use them. The meal was a great success, and Susie even hired a lady from town to come out and help her serve. She had on a white apron and a little cap on her head. It was first class.

After everyone had finished, they all began to kick back and relax and socialise. The men were visiting and the women started to gossip a bit.

About this time, the lady from town came in from the kitchen and whispered in Susie’s ear. She said, “Mrs. Brown, Spot just died!! With this news, Susie went into hysterics. After she finally calmed down, she called the doctor and told him what had happened. The doctor said, “It’s bad, but I think we can take care of it. I will call for an ambulance and I will be there as quick as I can get there. We’ll give everyone enemas and we will pump out everyone’s stomach. Everything will be fine. Just keep them all there and keep them calm.”

It wasn’t long until they could hear the wail of the siren as the ambulance was coming down the road. When they got there, the EMTs got out with their suitcases, syringes, and a stomach

Where Did The White Man Go Wrong?

Indian Chief, "Two Eagles," was asked by a white government official, "You have observed the white man for 90 years.

You've seen his wars and his technological advances. You've seen his progress, and the damage he's done."

The Chief nodded in agreement. The official continued, "Considering all these events, in your opinion, where did the white man go wrong?"

The Chief stared at the government official for over a minute and then calmly replied. "When white man find this land, Indians were running it. No taxes, No debt, Plenty buffalo, Plenty beaver, and Clean Water. Women did all the work, Medicine man free. Indian man spend all day hunting and fishing; all night having sex."

Then the chief leaned back and smiled. "Only white man dumb enough to think he could improve upon a system like that."

The Math Lesson

Last week I purchased a burger at Burger King for \$1.58. The counter girl took my \$2... and I was digging for my change. I pulled 8 cents from my pocket and gave it to her.

She stood there, holding the nickel and 3 pennies, while looking at the screen on her register. I sensed her discomfort.... and tried to tell her to just give me two quarters, but she hailed the manager for help. While he tried to explain the transaction to her, she stood there and cried. Why do I tell you this?

Because of the evolution in teaching math since the 1950s:

1. Teaching Math In 1950. A logger sells a truckload of lumber for \$100. His cost of production is 4/5 of the price. What is his profit?
2. Teaching Math In 1960. A logger sells a truckload of lumber for \$100. His cost of production is 4/5 of the price, or \$80. What is his profit?
3. Teaching Math In 1970. A logger sells a truckload of lumber for \$100. His cost of production is \$80. Did he make a profit?
4. Teaching Math In 1980. A logger sells a truckload of lumber for \$100. His cost of production is \$80 and his profit is \$20. Your assignment: Underline the number 20.
5. Teaching Math In 1990. A logger cuts down a beautiful forest because he is selfish and inconsiderate.... and cares nothing for the habitat of animals or the preservation of our woodlands. He does this so he can make a profit of \$20. What do you think of this way of making a living? Topic for class participation after answering the question: How did the birds and squirrels feel as the logger cut down their homes? (There are no wrong answers.)
6. Teaching Math In 2007. Un hachero vende una carretada de maderapara \$100. El costo de la producciones es \$80 Cuanto dinero ha hecho?

Bear Remover.

A man wakes up one morning to find a brown bear on his Roof. So he looks in the yellow pages and sure enough, there's an ad for "Bear Removers."

He calls the number, and the bear remover says he'll be over in 30 minutes.

The bear remover arrives, and gets out of his van. He's got a ladder, a Baseball

There are seven variants of the M113AS being produced. The first four being delivered to the Army's 7th Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment (mechanised infantry), are the Armoured Personnel Carrier (M113AS4 APC). The designation AS4 (Australian Version 4) refers to the upgraded capability of the vehicle to the Australian standard as well as its increased carrying capacity. 171 APC variants will be upgraded to the 18 tonne M113AS4 standard.

Crew and maintainer training have commenced and procurement of initial spares, special tools and test equipment to support the initial introduction of vehicles has commenced and will continue in parallel with vehicle production.

Commandos On Parade For Afghanistan Honours

The Governor General, His Excellency Major General Michael Jeffery, officially acknowledged the dedication and skills of Australian Commandos at a parade held in Sydney today.

The 4th Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment (Commando), soldiers who served in Afghanistan as part of the Special Operations Task Group, Operation Slipper, were presented with a Unit Citation for Gallantry.

Major General Jeffery said he was extremely honoured to present the award to the 4 RAR (CDO) soldiers for the work that they had achieved whilst deployed in Afghanistan.

His statements were echoed by the Chief of Army, Lieutenant General Peter Leahy.

"You should all be proud of what you have achieved. Congratulations on this achievement," said Lieutenant General Leahy.

Recently returned members of the Special Operations Task Group who have been serving in Afghanistan were

also officially welcomed home.

The parade was also attended by Special Operations Commander Australia, Major General Michael Hindmarsh and the Hon Danna Vale MP, Member for Hughes.

The parade was marked with sorrow as details of the death of Sergeant Matthew Locke were revealed to the assembled members by Major General Jeffery.

"Sergeant Locke provided outstanding service to his mates and to his country, and he was doing what he loved doing, commanding in the field.

"From my observations, he was a magnificent soldier, he was brave, he was an absolute professional, but he also had a wonderful sense of humour," Major General Jeffery said.

"The nation today has lost a genuine hero. The army has lost a gallant and respected soldier" said Lieutenant General Leahy.

Can You Help?

Seeking Ron Smith, ex-RAEME, graduate of Schriveham 1981, probably Captain at the time. Seeking on behalf of Glen Decker, retired Canadian Army. Contact Jeff Evans, jeffevans215@hotmail.com

Vale Frank Parker

Lt Col Frank Robert Parker

Frank was born on the 23rd February 1923 and completed his education at Northam High School. Seeing an ad in the daily news paper for Army Apprentices he applied and out of 182 applicants, he and Ken Hodgkinson were the two accepted and I might add that they become friends and remained that way up to the present day. Enlisting on the 31st Aug 1939, for a period of five years, making Frank the first and Ken the second apprentice to be taken into the Ordinance Corps. During his early training, he covered all aspects

of general engineering, some of which included working at Garden Island.

After three years Frank changed over to the Australian Imperial Forces, which then gave him the right to serve anywhere in the world. At approximately the same time in 1942 the Corps of the Australian Electrical mechanical Engineers was formed, which meant also a change of Corps.

Again, in 1948, He changed over to the newly formed Australian Regular Army, and in the same year, the Corps of AEME became the Royal Australian Electrical Mechanical Engineers and of which I must add Frank became very proud.

The next major change came early in the 1950's with the start of the Korean war and Frank being posted there to the Britcom Field Workshops. On completion of his Korean service he returned to Australia, serving in many other postings for the Corps until He finally retired and settled down in WA.

This was not the finish of his dealings with the Corps of RAEME as he then was asked to carry out the duties of the Honorary Colonel of WA and as always carry it out to a level far above and beyond the call of duty.

He will be sadly missed by, His wife, Betty, his daughters, Beryl, Helen, Denise, & Michelle, and all the rest of the family. He is also a sad loss for, the Corps of RAEME, and to all his friends.

Don Horsley 9th Oct 2007

Vale Billy Singh
An inspiration to all

On behalf of the members of 1 Avn Regt ground workshops, and the wider RAEME family within the regiment, I would like to offer our thoughts and condolences to Mrs Barbara Singh, wife of William (Bill) who passed away on October 22.

Bill was a great friend to a lot of people

and an inspiration to young and old soldiers over many years, not only RAEME.

Bill served in the Army for 38 years full-time, including two years' National Service in about 16 different units.

He was one of the last current members who served in Vietnam and was due to retire in May next year. Billy was widely regarded as the most experienced recovery mechanic in the Australian Army.

While on exercise in South Australia, Cpl Singh was rushed to Adelaide where he was diagnosed with cancer and passed away a few weeks later.

This was the first exercise in Billy's career that he did not complete, and while in hospital, apologised for "letting his mates down".

I personally was very humbled and honoured to be at the SME Chapel on November 3 to farewell a true friend and a real mate.

Bill will be sorely missed among this workshop and was, I believe, the absolute definition of what it means to be a RAEME soldier, displaying the attributes that all crafties should aspire to, such as loyalty, integrity, and professionalism in his trade.

A life of service: Vietnam vet and long-serving member - Cpl Bill Singh

Arte et Marte.

Cfn Simon Morrison

1 Avn Regt Robertson Barracks

Thanks to the Army News for allowing us to reprint this article and thanks go to Simon Morrison for the vale he wrote to a man who is arguably the best known member of the Corps. There are many of us who remember Billy's sojourn here in Perth and the good times we had with him. Like any Recovery Mechanic, Billy liked to work hard and play hard, but was a friend to all and a true mentor to many young members

Jim's Life in the US

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

Great Answer from Florida Sheriff!!!

As reported earlier this week, some dirtbag who got pulled over in a routine traffic stop in Florida ended up "executing" the deputy who stopped him. The deputy was shot eight times, including once behind his right ear at close range.

Another deputy was wounded and a police dog killed. A statewide manhunt ensued. The low-life was found hiding in a wooded area with his gun. SWAT team officers fired and hit the guy 68 times.

Now here's the kicker:

Naturally, the media asked why they shot him 68 times. Polk County Sheriff Grady Judd, told the Orlando Sentinel - "That's all the bullets we had."

(Talk about an all time classic answer!!!)

The Joy of Ageing

Just before the funeral services, the undertaker came up to the very elderly widow and asked, "How old was your husband?" "98," she replied. "Two years older than me." "So you're 96," the undertaker commented. She responded, "Hardly worth going home, is it?"

Reporters interviewing a 104-year-old woman: "And what do you think is the best thing about being 104?" the reporter asked. She simply replied, "No peer pressure."

The nice thing about being senile is you can hide your own Easter eggs.

I've sure gotten old! I've had two bypass surgeries, a hip replacement, new knees, fought prostate cancer and diabetes; I'm half blind, can't hear anything quieter than a jet engine, take 40 different medications that make me dizzy, winded, and subject to blackouts.

Have bouts with dementia. Have poor circulation; hardly feel my hands and feet anymore. Can't remember if I'm 85 or 92. Have lost all my friends but, thank God, I still have my driver's license.

I feel like my body has gotten totally out of shape, so I got my doctor's permission to join a fitness club and start exercising. I decided to take an aerobics class for seniors. I bent, twisted, gyrated, jumped up and down, and perspired for an hour. By the time I got my leotards on, the class was over.

An elderly woman decided to prepare her will and told her vicar she had two final requests. First, she wanted to be cremated, and second, she wanted her ashes scattered over Bluewater Shopping Centre, The vicar exclaimed. "Why Bluewater Shopping Centre?" "Then I'll be sure my daughters visit me twice a week"

My memory's not as sharp as it used to be. Also, my memory's not as sharp as it used to be.

Know how to prevent sagging? Just eat till the wrinkles fill out.

It's scary when you start making the same noises as your coffeemaker.

These days about half the stuff in my shopping cart says, "For fast relief."

Remember: You don't stop laughing because you grow old, You grow old because you stop laughing.

THE SENILITY PRAYER : Grant me the senility to forget the people I never liked anyway, the good fortune to run into the ones I do, and the eyesight to tell the difference.

Now, I think you're supposed to share this with 5 or 6, maybe 10 others. Oh heck, give it to a bunch of your friends if you can remember who they are! Oh and I've just found an Easter Egg!!!!

old friends, who were curious as to what the two were celebrating. The woman told her friends they were drinking to her impending end: "I have been diagnosed with AIDS." The friends gave the woman their condolences, and they had a couple more martinis. After the friends left, the woman's daughter leaned over and whispered, "Momma, I thought you said you were dying of cancer, and you just told your friends you were dying of 'AIDS.'" The woman said, "I don't want any of those bitches sleeping with your father after I'm gone."

Soooo True!!

Joe Smith started the day early having set his alarm clock (MADE IN JAPAN) for 6am. While his coffeepot (MADE IN CHINA) was perking, he shaved with his electric razor (MADE IN HONG KONG). He put on a dress shirt (MADE IN SRI LANKA), designer jeans (MADE IN SINGAPORE) and tennis shoes (MADE IN KOREA). After cooking his breakfast in his new electric skillet (MADE IN INDIA) he sat down with his calculator (MADE IN MEXICO) to see how much he could spend today. After setting his watch (MADE IN TAIWAN) to the radio (MADE IN INDIA) he got in his car (MADE IN GERMANY) and continued his search for a good paying AUSTRALIAN JOB. At the end of yet another discouraging and fruitless day, Joe decided to relax for a while. He put on his sandals (MADE IN BRAZIL) poured himself a glass of wine (MADE IN FRANCE) and turned on his TV (MADE IN INDONESIA), and then wondered why he can't find a good paying job in....Australia

The Redhead

A man is dining in a fancy restaurant and a gorgeous redhead is sitting at the next table. He has been checking her out since he sat down, but lacks the nerve to talk with her.

Suddenly she sneezes, and her glass eye comes flying out of its socket toward the man. He reflexively reaches out, grabs it out of the air, and hands it back.

"Oh my, I'm so sorry," the woman says as she pops her eye back in place. "I'm sure that must have embarrassed you so let me pay for your dinner to make it up to you."

They enjoy a wonderful dinner together, and afterwards they go to the theatre followed by drinks. They talk, they laugh, she shares her deepest dreams and he listens, he shares his and she listens. After paying for everything, she asks him if he would like to come to her place for a nightcap and stay for breakfast. They have a wonderful, wonderful time.

The next morning, she cooks a gourmet breakfast with all the trimmings.

The guy is amazed and totally impressed. Everything had been SO incredible! "You know," he said, "you are the perfect woman. Are you this nice to every guy you meet?" "No," she replies. . . . "You just happened to catch my eye."

Jack Who?

A new retiree greeter at KMart just couldn't seem to get to work on time. Every day 5, 10, 15 minutes late. But he was a good worker, real sharp, so the Boss was in a quandary about how to deal with it.

Finally, one day he called him into the office for a talk. "Charley, I have to tell you, I like your work ethic, you do a bang up job, but your being late so often is quite bothersome."

"Yes, I know Boss, and I am working on it."

"Well good, you are a team player. That's what I like to hear. It's odd though, your coming in late. I know you're retired from the Army. What did they say if you came in late there?"

"They said, 'Good morning, General'"

of our Corps. Farewell Billy!!!! Our world is the poorer for your passing. We can imagine the bright new Recovery Vehicle you are now driving.

Our thoughts are with Barbara and all of Billy's family and we offer our sincere condolences to them.

Arte et Marte

JC

The Wisdom of Billy Singh

Saddened to learn of the passing of Billy Singh. Did my Basic Towies Course with Billy and Tpt Spv Course. Served in a couple of units with him. He was quite a wag as I remember an episode when he was with the truckies at Ingleburn (Up the road from 101,1970), and he was dragging a chain across the compound when a 2nd Lt called out. "Cfn Singh, why are you dragging that chain?"

Quick as a flash, Billy replied, "Have you ever tried pushing one".

Cost him a couple of duties.

"Rest in Peace old friend".

Charlie Chase

OC REDUX

By

MAJ Perry Beor

"Now let's see, a Musorian Mobile Defence is one up and two back until the last final intercept line is crossed whereupon it reverts to an Area Defence of two up and one back or is it the other way round?" Why was a RAEME officer like me even trying to understand this stuff? Unfortunately with the end of my time as OC 113 I was now an instructor trying to teach LTs how to become CAPTs at LWC-WA. To be truthful it was a pretty good job and lots of fun but every so often my Loggy brain rebelled against all this Arms Corps stuff and cried out to be back in the real world.

These musings on the unkindness of fate were cut short by the ringing of my

phone.

"Boss, its Jas, (my former EMEOPS and currently 113's 2IC) they need someone to take over the Wksp for the next six months and it looks like you're getting another shot" RAEMENET, as always, worked a treat as not more than half an hour later APA rang to indeed make me an offer I couldn't refuse.

I got off the phone to APA and listened to the Gruntosauruses in the next office getting quite heated over the number of motorcycles in the Musorian Divisional Recon Platoon – it seems that the new pam may change the number from 14 to 12 – vitally important war winning stuff. Something snapped.

"Listen you flogbags, firstly in any real conflict you are never at 100%, 85% being the best you could hope for, secondly these blokes are cannon fodder and you would have to factor in at least 20% casualties per engagement and finally even if you had the bodies their sustainable logistic chain is so bad you would be lucky to have half the required number of bikes serviceable. Who cares whether it is 12 or 14 – all you can ever expect to face in reality is about half a dozen".

This outburst was greeted with the usual gruntosaurian response to any logistic reality – incomprehension. Apart from a few mumbled responses like "what would a bloody loggy know about recon", as expected they resumed their discussion. Did I care – NO – I was going home, I was getting 113 back!

Still I maintained my composure for the rest of the evening and it wasn't until I eased the VB out of Leeuwin Barracks that night, that I threw it back a cog, kicked the 308 in the guts, dropped the clutch and fishtailed down Riverside Road – YYYYYEESSSS!

I got in early the next Tuesday night

and re-immersed myself in the aromas of a workshop – stale oil, burnt insulation and something wafting out of Recovery which I didn't want to think about. One of the first people I came across was one of my old boffins:

"G'day Boss I heard you were back", "Gees word travels fast through this place"

"No, I actually heard you coming down the road. When was the last time you had the Commodore tuned?"

"2001, I was waiting for the greasers to do it last time I was here"

"Heh heh best of luck – are you back here doing a retest for OC then?"

That pretty much set the scene of my return.

With the VB and the 2IC's EJ in the HQ car park the place at least looked like a RAEME establishment again – though this was soon shattered by my new 2LT rolling up in a yellow corvette. Despite the fact that he rebuilt it himself – it was just plain wrong! As the other two LTs had blue and red cars the order of their parking places were pretty much set under the flagpole. This arrangement was pointed out to the CO when she came down to welcome me later that night, who just shook her head and looked at me pityingly.

Things were actually a bit different this time around. Numbers were much the same (as were the faces, only the hair a bit greyer/thinner) but I had a couple of RAAFies (Ground techs who needed to work on gen sets) and some Appys. Apart from the fact that it was great to see new faces in the place, they took the average age of the workshop below 40 for the first time in decades!

For better or for worse I seemed to set the tone of my new tenure rather quickly when the 2IC raised the issue of the imminent Bde Officer's Mess Fancy Dress Rock and Roll night in my first OGP. I looked at my officers and said:

"So gentlemen – who is it to be then,

Village People or the Jackson Five?"

The Jacksons was the unanimous choice.

That Saturday night, the five of us in flares, 'fros and black greasepaint rolling up in the EJ made an awesome impression. The CO gave me one of her looks again when she saw the photos, but I did point out that we were the only Coy in the Bde will a full turnout of the officers!

I was supremely lucky in that my tenure co-incided with a two week field deployment. In common with many other reserve units this was the first time we had managed to get out in the field for more than a weekend in seven years. The concept was simple – a mini sub 2 for the crafties (not allowed to do a real one - like 113 did in 2002 for reasons which I think related to the Eagles winning the 2006 Grand Final) and a mini ROBC for the officers.

Having the latest TMP and a couple of new senior chocks just out of the ARA covered the Crafty side like a doona on a damsel. Not being an official course allowed us to include the Appys as well as part of their pre Bandiana training. The officers' side was almost entirely written by the 2IC using stuff out of our old ROBC files. Quite what ratbags we were as 2LT's came home in one incident:

"Jas – is that all ROBC stuff in that file?"

"Yup"

"Awful lot of greens and pinks in there"

"That's 'cause it's yours"

"Oh"

"Check out mine"

"Nice to see we have the same taste in colours"

With the courses covered (complete with the DS solution) the concern then became location. The only criteria was that it was NOT Bindoon. The Army Training Area there is so well known by all of us in the WA Army that we virtually have our own dedicated hootchie trees

had gone to see "Closed for the Winter."

A blonde hurried into the emergency room late one night with the tip of her index finger shot off. "How did this happen?" the emergency room doctor asked her. "Well, I was trying to commit suicide," the blonde replied. "What?" sputtered the doctor. "You tried to commit suicide by shooting off your finger?" "No, Silly" the blonde said. "First I put the gun to my chest, and then I thought, 'I just paid \$6, 000.00 for these implants. I'm not shooting myself in the chest.'" "So then?" asked the doctor. "Then I put the gun in my mouth, and I thought, 'I just paid \$3, 000.00 to get my teeth straightened I'm not shooting myself in the mouth.'" "So then?" "Then I put the gun to my ear, and I thought: "This is going to make loud noise. So I put my finger in my other ear before I pulled the trigger.——

A blonde was driving home after a game and got caught in a really bad hailstorm. Her car was covered with dents, so the next day she took it to a repair shop. The shop owner saw that she was a blonde, so he decided to have some fun. He told her to go home and blow into the tail pipe really hard, and all the dents would pop out. So, the blonde went home, got down on her hands and knees and started blowing into her tailpipe. Nothing happened. So she blew a little harder, and still nothing happened. Her blonde room mate saw her and asked, "What are you doing?" The first blonde told her how the repairman had instructed her to blow into the tail pipe in order to get all the dents to pop out. The room mate rolled her eyes and said, "Uh, like hello! You need to roll up the windows first.

"A blonde was shopping at Target and came across a shiny silver thermos. She was quite fascinated by it, so she picked it up and took it to the clerk to ask what it was. The clerk said, "Why, that's a thermos.... it keeps hot things hot, and cold things cold." "Wow, said

the blonde, "that's amazing....I'm going to buy it!" So she bought the thermos and took it to work the next day. Her boss saw it on her desk. "What's that," he asked "Why, that's a thermos..... it keeps hot things hot and cold things cold," she replied. Her boss inquired, "What do you have in it? "The blond replied....."Two popsicles and some coffee."

AND LAST BUT NOT LEAST

A blonde goes into work one morning crying her eyes out. Her boss asked sympathetically, "What's the matter?" The blonde replies, "Early this morning I got a phone call saying that my mother had passed away." The boss, feeling sorry for her, says, "Why don't you go home for the day? Take the day off to relax and rest." "Thanks, but I'd be better off here. I need to keep my mind off it and I have the best chance of doing that here." The boss agrees and allows the blonde to work as usual. A couple of hours pass and the boss decides to check on the blonde. He looks out from his office and sees the blonde crying hysterically." What's so bad now? Are you gonna be okay?" he asks." No!" exclaims the blonde. "I just received a horrible call from my sister. Her mother died, too.

Only a woman would do this

A woman went to her doctor. The doctor, after an examination, sighed and said, "I've some bad news. You have cancer, and you'd best put your affairs in order. The woman was shocked, but managed to compose herself and walk into the waiting room where her daughter had been waiting. "Well daughter", she said "We celebrate when things are good, and when things don't go well. In this case, things aren't well. I have cancer. Let's head to the club and have a martini." After 3 or 4 martinis, the two were feeling a little less sombre. There were some laughs and more martinis. They were eventually approached by some of the woman's

North Berwick were involved in an unusual incident while checking for speeding motorists on the A-1 Great North Road. One of the officers used a hand-held radar device to check the speed of a vehicle approaching over the crest of a hill, and was surprised when the speed was recorded at over 300 mph.

Their radar suddenly stopped working and the officers were not able to reset it.

Just then a deafening roar over the treetops revealed that the radar had in fact latched on to a NATO Tornado fighter jet which was engaged in a low-flying exercise over the Border district, approaching from the North Sea.

Back at police headquarters the chief constable fired off a stiff complaint to the RAF Liaison office. Back came the reply in true laconic RAF style:

“Thank you for your message, which allows us to complete the file on this incident. You may be interested to know that the tactical computer in the Tornado had detected the presence of, and subsequently locked onto, your hostile radar equipment and automatically sent a jamming signal back to it. Furthermore, an air-to-ground missile aboard the fully-armed aircraft had also automatically locked onto your equipment.

Fortunately the pilot flying the Tornado recognised the situation for what it was, quickly responded to the missile systems alert status, and was able to override the automated defence system before the missile was launched and your hostile radar installation was destroyed.

Good Day...”

Spots On The Forehead

For centuries, Hindu women have worn a spot on their foreheads. We have always naively thought that it had something to do with their religion. The

Indian Embassy in Canberra has recently revealed the true story.

When a Hindu woman gets married, she brings a dowry into the union. On her wedding night, the husband scratches off the spot to see whether he has won a convenience store, a gas station, a donut shop or a motel in the Australia. If not, he must take a job in India answering telephones giving technical advice for Telstra.

Garfield on the oil crisis

A lot of folks can't understand how we came to have an oil shortage here in our country. Well, there's a very simple answer. Nobody bothered to check the oil.

We just didn't know we were getting low. The reason for that is purely geographical.

Our OIL is located in Bass Strait, East Queensland Shale Fields, Canning Basin, Perth Basin and North-West Continental Shelf

Our DIPSTICKS are located in Canberra!!!

Any Questions ???
NO? I didn't Think So.

Blonde time

Two Blondes With Hammers... Carol and Donna, were doing some carpenter work on a Habitat for Humanity house. Carol, who was nailing down house siding, would reach into her nail pouch, pull out a nail and either toss it over her shoulder or nail it in. Donna, figuring this was worth looking into, asked, “Why are you throwing those nails away?” Carol explained, “When I pull a nail out of my pouch, about half of them have the head on the wrong end and I throw them away.” Donna got completely upset and yelled, “You moron! Those nails aren't defective! They're for the other side of the house!”

Did you hear about the two blondes who froze to death in a drive-in movie? They

at every deployment location – many with our names on them.

Our first site was an ex prison to the east of Perth. It was a good location – well drained, lots of hard standing, a decent pie shop on the bitumen access road in and well known by many of the participants – either as cops, screws, or crims. One old ex WO2 reckoned that it was a holiday camp site – when he did his time as a youngster for armed robbery he spent it at Fremantle – in a real hard man's prison!

Unfortunately the site was a bit too much in demand for bogan burnout comps and trials for hopefuls for the next crusty demons of dirt movie so we eventually settled for a nice spot in the middle of the Mundaring Weir catchment area – 10 km from the nearest bitumen road and the ability to do 50km FRTs without encountering the public.

The fun then really started with getting the place ready to head bush. There were holes in places we never expected. Our CP box was eventually found on a pallet of wooden boxes to be burnt (still with the obligatory tube of half used condensed milk and grimy pack of cards). An appropriate set of SOPs proved even harder to find as the scenario did not fit the CSST ones developed by the CSSB. We eventually settled on the ones we used as 2LT's when 113 was still an Independent Workshop. So what if the returns use acronyms such as SLR and F1 at least we knew they worked!

With a couple of LTs fresh from the “Layout of an FRG lesson” on board, the 2IC went up as the advance party. With him went CAPT Rasmussen the 2IC of the Supply Coy, who wanted to see how RAEME does things. Two things spun her out – firstly how the LTs were allowed to set out the entire site on their own with the 2IC just tweaking it to get a final teardrop and the way RAEME always takes hot

salami and good cheese to the field (a view reinforced when I rolled up the next night with the rest of the FRG and brought up even more Jarlsberg and Pepperoni). Of course being on CR1M we were all walking that fine line between malnutrition and scurvy so, like in most RAEME field situations, jack rations were the go.

The deployment itself went like a dream, with vehicles out, cam nets up, K phones strung and FPDS running in near record time. The Appys were given the job of erecting the Clark mast, which was made a bit more interesting by putting the Omni directional head on it. After a few false starts they rose to the occasion and strangely enough a tricolour was also seen flying from the top. This proved to be a source of some mirth when a group of (illegal)roo shooters on trail bikes roared down the MSR and paused on seeing this “flag thingy”, but sped off in a cloud of dust when they noticed all the cam nets and armed soldiers off to one side. Strangely enough no one else came past for the rest of the exercise.

We quickly settled into the routine of a wksp in the field and the inevitable changes which occur when a chock goes from civilian to soldier. Questions you would never dare ask your wife such as “if Dancing with the Stars is supposed to cover all styles where is the pole and the cage?” became standard topics for discussions over a brew. One of the more enlightening competitions was to identify what main steam movies had adult movie counterparts. The depth of knowledge of this genre within the workshop put anything I had ever seen on the Movie Show to shame.

While on this subject, it was refreshing to see that despite all the changes over the past twenty or so years, Appys are still Appys

“G'day guys, how's it going?”
“Not bad Sir”

“Any reading material?”
 “I think the Sarge has the paper”
 “No I mean anything with....pictures”
 “But sir, you told us that we were not allowed to bring anything like that”
 “Hummm, and I suppose the drive on the laptop is clean as well?”
 “Of course Sir”
 “Sir, I think this phone call is for you” (passing me his mobile)
 “But we haven’t reception... AHH....you gotta love modern technology, full colour too”

There was also a hellava lot of work done. Everyone from CPL down got to plan, prepare, give orders and lead an FRT – even the Appys were given a go. They put their hearts and soul into them and did a superb job. There were more than a few suppressed smiles from the old hands at the emergence of the swagger factor upon the successful return of “their” FRT. Their keenness to do such things as tune a mog under blackout put many of us to shame.

They were still Appys though. One morning just on Stand To one of them came into the ops tent

“Lushy, what’s up”
 “Reporting in Sir”
 “From where?”
 “Sir, after my piquet last night I went down to the Tardis and after finishing my business, my torch battery went flat and I couldn’t find my wayback so IAW standing orders I waited in location until daylight and am now reporting in”
 “Very good Lushy but couldn’t you home in on the Boss’s snoring – I put him closest to the Tardis so he could act as a beacon”
 “Oj!”
 “Sorry Boss, but you are the only person that can be heard from 300m out.”
 “No sir, the Boss wasn’t snoring”
 “Thanks Lushy, you can go, 2IC – A WORD IF YOU PLEASE”

Any thoughts of some contact counselling the 2IC behind the RPS

truck was dispelled by news that the CO was coming up for a visit. Shirts were put on; the kettle was cleaned and fresh tea leaves put in the pot. The tricolour off the Clark mast got me one of her looks again but overall she seemed impressed. On reflection there should be no reason why she shouldn’t be – we had a fully manned and running CP and EME OPS, returns, ledgers and map boards were in use and up to date; FRTs were out and running as per the pam and production was running concurrently. In short we were running like we should, just doing our job.

The CO must have thought highly of the service at Cafe 113 as we next got word of an impending visit by the Padre. No drama, we scored the field altar set and the rod burners got to making a RAEME altar piece – even to the extent of painting it in DPCU colours. The Padre was rapt and the full attendance at the Church service in the Mess tent that night put in good stead with St Eligius for as successful camp.

In keeping with the egalitarian nature of our corps the officers also got their fair share. 2LT Fenn was set up beautifully with the old, “tell X that his daughter has just been killed in a car accident” routine. WO2 Symmans in a performance worthy of an Oscar got the shakes, dizzy spells and even tears. It was only the laughter from the ops tent which gave the game away

The culmination of the field phase was a bush dining in arranged by the ASM. Once again the rod burners got busy making candelabra and the local store got raided for suitably coloured candles. Table runners appeared and the Tricolour took pride of place. The dining was ala carte (everyone had to bring what they wanted to eat out of their rat packs) which was prepared by the head shed. Jack rations appeared out of nowhere and the Ord oeuvres were of a high order. The Appys, in bowties no less (made from pink flagging tape brought for the guy wires on the Clarke

even in basements of department stores.

The Japanese had devised a network of beach defences consisting of electronically operated mines farthest offshore, three lines of suicide divers followed by magnetic mines and still other mines placed all over the beaches. In the mountains behind the beaches were elaborate cave bunkers, command posts and hospitals connected by miles of tunnels with dozens of separate entrances. Some could hold up to 1,000 troops. Some were equipped with steel doors that slid open to allow artillery fire, then snap shut again. In addition to the use of poison gas, the most frightening of all was the prospect of meeting an entire civilian population that had been mobilised to meet the foreign invasion forces.

Had the invasion come about, the Japanese population, inflamed by a national slogan “One hundred million will die for the Emperor and Nation”, was prepared to engage and fight the American invaders to the death. 28 million Japanese had become part of the National Volunteer Combat Force.

Life According to Perry

Here is the latest offering from our own home spun Philosopher Perry.
Wise Old Jewish Man

A female CNN journalist heard about a very old Jewish man who had been going to the Western Wall to pray, twice a day, every day, for a long, long time. So she went to check it out. She went to the Western Wall and there he was, walking slowly up to the holy site.

She watched him pray and after about 45 minutes, when he turned to leave, using a cane and moving very slowly, she approached him for an interview. “Pardon me, sir, I’m Rebecca Smith from CNN. What’s your name?” “Morris Fishbien,” he replied.

“Sir, how long have you been coming

Every foot of Japanese soil would have been paid for twice over - by both the Japanese and American lives. Intelligence studies and realistic military estimates made over 10 years and not latter day speculation, showed quite clearly that the battle for Japan might well have resulted in the biggest bloodbath in the history of modern warfare. At best, the invasion of Japan would have resulted in a long and bloody siege. At worst it could have been a battle of extermination between two different civilisations.

In the Autumn of 1945, with the atomic bombs dropped and the war over, few Americans would ever learn the elaborate Top Secret plans that had been prepared in detail for the invasion of Japan

Written by Mat Thomson. Thanks to Melbourne Legacy

Eds Note: We thank Mat for researching and telling the story of might have happened had World War II continued. We also thank the Melbourne Legacy for printing what is arguably the most important historical planning in our age. We should be thankful that it never happened.

to the Western Wall and praying?” “For about 60 years.”

“60 years! That’s amazing! What do you pray for?” “I pray for peace between the Christians, Jews and the Muslims. I pray for all the wars and all the hatred to stop. “I pray for all our children to grow up safely as responsible adults, and to love their fellow man.”

“How do you feel after doing this for 60 years?”

“Like I’m talking to a damn wall.”

So It Was a Speeding Ticket You Say !!

Two British traffic patrol officers from

the RAN, operating so long with task forces of the US 7th Fleet, most probably would have participated).

In his summation, James Martin Davis states the overall plan called for use of the US 7th Air Force, 8th Air Force, recently deployed from Europe, the 20th US Air Force and for the American Far East Air Force.

More than 1.5 million combat soldiers with millions in support would be involved in the two operations. A total of 4.5 -million American servicemen - more than 40% of all still in uniform in 1945 - would be involved.

One US Admiral estimated there would be some 250,000 Americans killed or wounded on Kyushu alone. A General estimated American casualties for the entire operation would be one million men by the Autumn of 1946.

As the invasion drew imminent, the massive power of the US Navy would approach Japan, two awesome fleets, the Third and the Fifth.

For several days the fleet would put thousands of tons of high explosives into targets as a prelude to the launching of three land invasion forces.

During the early hours of 1 November 1945, thousands of American soldiers and marines would pour ashore all along the eastern, south-eastern, southern and western coasts of Kyushu.

The Eastern Assault Force made up of the 25th, 33rd and 41st Infantry Divisions, would land near Miyasaki (sic. Miyazaki) at beaches called Austin, Buick, Cadillac, Chevrolet, Chrysler and Ford moving inland to capture the city and its airfield. The Southern Force, consisting of the 1st Cavalry Division, 43rd Division and others to try and capture Shibushi then the city of Kanoya and its airfield. On the western shore of Kyushu at beaches Samod, Pontiac, Reo, Rolls Royce, Saxon, Star, Studebaker, Stutz,

Winton and Zephyr, the 5th Amphibious Corps would land marine Divisions 2, 3, and 5 sending half of its force to Senda (sic. Sendai) and the other half to Nagoshima. On Nov 4, the reserve force consisting of the 81st and 98th Infantry Divisions and the 11th Airborne Division, would be landed near Kaimondake at the southern tip of Kagoshim- Bay using beaches designated as Locomobile, Lincoln, LaSalle, Hupmobile and Moon.

If all went well with that initial **Operation Olympic** then **Operation Coronet** would be launch, on March 1, 1946, again involving massive US combat forces twice the size of the initial operation and using as many as 28 divisions on Honshu, the main Japanese island.

All along the coast east of Tokyo the American 1st Army would land the 5th, 7th, 44th, 86th and 96th Infantry Divisions along with the 1st, 4th and 6th Marine Divisions. 66 Aircraft Carriers would be loaded with 2,645 naval and marine aircraft for close support of the men hitting the beaches.

What the US Military leaders did not know was that by the end of 1945 The Japanese had been saving all aircraft, fuel and pilots in reserve and feverishly building new planes for the decisive battle for their home land. 20 suicide take-off strips had been built in southern Kyushu with underground hangers for an all-out offensive and in Kyushu alone, 35 camouflaged airfields and nine seaplane bombers would be used to attack the US Fleet.

In August 1945, unknown to intelligence, the Japanese still had 5,651 army and 7,074 navy aircraft for a total of 12,725 planes of all types. During July alone 1,131 planes had been built and 100 new underground aircraft plants were in various stages of construction. Every village had some type of aircraft manufacturing (plants) hidden in mines, railway tunnels, under viaducts and

mast) even had a wash and found some “product” for their hair – though there was more than the usual whiff of OMD 115 around them! As a full formal dining in it went off an absolute treat – Chatham house rules applying.

All good things must come to an end and after the last FRT made it back more or less in one piece we packed everything up and got ready to RTU. It was a bit sadder than usual because it was WO2 Harry Symmans last time “bush”. Harry, after over 41 years in uniform was retiring at the end of the year. Harry isn’t even RAEME; he is RAAOC but has looked after RPS for the wksp for most of his 41 years. We worked it out that this exercise was the 35th AFX he had done with 113 and it will not be the quite same without him. Good bye old friend.

Back at the unit as we started on the inevitable clean up the 2IC decided that we needed some music so he brought out an old stereo left in one of the offices and cranked up the volume. Unfortunately his taste in music was a bit too sophisticated for the Appys and I soon had a request for some “real music”. Luckily my 2LT rose to the occasion.

“Mister Fenn have you any music in that Corvette of yours?”
 “I’m an old rocker sir; all I have is some Cold Chisel and Angels”
 “Take a second pip and PUT IT ON”

Not to be outdone, the 113 T shirt (black of course) soon appeared - on everyone - and all we needed were the mullets to look like Bindoon Rock 83. The volume even brought down the CO and my comment, “Ma’am, it’s not rock and roll unless it’s loud”, just got a smile rather than the usual look. After two days of clean up and hard rock, our ears may have hurt but it was great to be RAEME and better to be 113!

Due to concerns about alcohol consumption from Bde HQ (after all RAEME hardly has a reputation for hard

drinking) there were a few concerns about having an end of course function. In true RAEME style – skuldugery saved the day. We had an employer and partner’s dinner instead. The lads got stuck into decorating with a vengeance and cam nets, scrim, a CLEAN Mac wrecker, white table cloths and satin tricolour table runners emerged like magic. The employers were rapt especially when we lied through our teeth telling them how good their appys were and even the wives appreciated getting some return for having to put up with the kids alone for two weeks. The CO even forgave me when I misquoted what CSSB stands for!

Overall a hugely successful exercise with RAEME just doing RAEME stuff and doing it well. We were back to being a field workshop again. Even the ASM over the course of the exercise went from referring to 113 as THE Workshop to MY Workshop. It was a great note to go out on.

So what pearls of wisdom did my retest as OC expose?

Firstly due to our low numbers across the board in the Reserve, we cannot regard the Bde Wksp as the primary maintenance facility in a reserve brigade, with the JLU taking up the excess. The Wksp is first and foremost a training institution with the added responsibility of managing the overall Bde maintenance program. As part of that training role we have to:

- Take on a broad range of jobs to ensure that all our competencies are maintained – this being especially true with the presence of apprentices;
- Be the insurance policy to get urgent work done which cannot be achieved by the JLU’s within the required timeframe.

The training role is to train all our

personnel to a level of competence that they could slot into any FT workshop which needs them in any environment. This means maintaining all those green grunt type skills which stop us doing production and those greasy green and black skills which involve operating as a FIELD workshop – everyone operating in the field including the Command element. ACSST is fun but we can only properly exercise our full range of skills as an FRG.

What we are not are base workshops. Remember that most of the blokes work and often run their own civvy shops and do not need to be told how to run a workshop in a building. Yes they enjoy swinging a spanner but if barracks based second line repair is only what is required then we might as well give it out to their own civvy shops – and defence would probably even save money!

Enough of the sermon!

As a final comment I will quote myself when I made my second farewell speech to 113, “Last time I said goodbye I stated that there is no greater pleasure for a RAEME Officer than to command a Field Workshop. I was wrong, there is something greater – doing it TWICE”!

And the Commodore still hasn't had a tune up.

Michael Lyddiard

Michael was the EOD specialist that was hurt in Afghanistan. He was taken to hospital in Germany and we wondered how he was going. Thanks to sharp eyed Lawrie (with a W) he saw a report on the 106 Field Workshop website. As you all can see he is coming on quite well. We wish him all the very best for a speedy recovery and, after a decent holiday, a return to work albeit in a different world than the one he was used to.

Hi All.

Today is Sunday and it is the first time

that Nancy and I have stopped to scratch ourselves, we are sorry that it has taken so long to get around to this update on Michael's condition.

Michael continues to improve every day, he has regained his sense of humour and fighting spirit although he does lament not being able to see some of the hot young nurses that are constantly hovering around; his hospital treatment has been first rate, and he reckons that he will still need to take a paper bag with him when he goes out but not for the girls but for his head.

He has been receiving a number of visitors from the Chief of the Army, Brigade Commanders and even the RSM -A, he has been lucky that no politicians have been near him as they are too busy with next weekends election, and the only media that has been allowed to see him is the Army Public relations.

It seems that Michael will be retained by the Army for as long as he wishes and will be given a training role in his current unit and after that in a training establishment in Townsville (time will tell), he is very happy with this situation and keeps telling his minders that he wants to get back to the “Ghan” (why he wants to get on a train is beyond me) and again his minders keep telling him anything is possible (not), I keep telling Michael that my gut, creaking bones and grey hair have more of a chance of going than he has and Katri (the boss) agrees.

Michael starts the first of his major operations on Wednesday, it will be a skin graft to the remainder of his left hand and the removing of garbage from his left eye; they are still concerned about the amount of sight that he may or may not keep and only time will tell. He still wants to be home for Xmas but it seems that late January or February is more realistic and he is aware that he has many years of follow up work to be done.

Operation Downfall

The following article will be of interest to those who served in WWII and escaped the possible result of having to be involved in the attack and landing on the Japanese islands. Others can pass this information on to their children to show how lucky we all were to have the Atomic Bombs.

Operation Downfall

Now declassified, only a few Americans back in 1945 were privileged to have access to a plan which, to this day, few Americans and still fewer Australians know about.

Buried for decades in the US National Archives in Washington, thousands of yellowing pages marked Top Secret now reveal the enormity of ‘Operation Downfall’. The invasion of Japan. Atomic bombs dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki nullified the need for any invasion of the Japanese homeland.

The incredible story of the planning for American forces to invade Japan has been summarised by James Martin Davis following a study of the so-secret material once it was declassified.

Two massive military undertakings were planned. They were to be carried out in succession. **Operation Olympic** on November 1, 1945 and **Operation Coronet** on March 1, 1946.

In the first invasion, combat troops would be landed by amphibious assault after an unprecedented naval and aerial bombardment. Fourteen combat divisions of American forces would land heavily fortified and defended Kyushu.

The second invasion in the following March would send 22 more American combat divisions against a million Japanese defenders to assault the main island of Honshu and the Tokyo Plain in a final effort to obtain unconditional surrender. With exception of a part of the British Pacific Fleet it would be a strictly American operation (though it is reasonable to assume that ships of

“It was an emotional experience, one in which I was proud to visit and respect Finley and the other 1347 fallen Australian soldiers who gave so much and paid the ultimate sacrifice,” he said. “We also visited two other Commonwealth War Grave Commission cemeteries while en route to Thanbyuzayat and laid gum leaves.

“All were in an immaculate condition and anyone who visits Thailand and Myanmar should take the opportunity to visit these cemeteries to pay their respects.”

About 500 people from countries such as Australia, The Netherlands, India and Britain visit Thanbyuzayat each year.

Eds Note: Thanks for Stuart McLea for the article that shows the respect and compassion one of our own has for his fallen father and the rest of the Australian Servicemen who died on the infamous Thai Burma Railway. We also thank “The Times” for printing the article.



Don Elder at the war memorial flanked by his two stepsons, Murray Cribb (left) and Phillip Cribb.

Specialist Exercise Services

Available

Members of the veteran community can now access clinical exercise services following the addition of exercise physiologists to DVA's range of allied health providers.

Exercise physiologists are university-trained exercise science professionals who can design and deliver clinical exercise and rehabilitation services to assist people at risk of, or recovering from, major injury or illness.

Exercise physiology contributes to the management of diabetes, cardiovascular disease, osteoporosis, arthritis, cancer and chronic musculoskeletal conditions.

Exercise physiologists assess patients' functional capacities, advise on practical steps to improve health and prescribe specific physical activities.

Exercise physiologists also provide full supervision to ensure the intensity, duration and type of exercise are appropriate and safe.

Only exercise physiologists registered with the Australian Association of Exercise and Sports Science (AAESS) may provide exercise physiology services to members of the veteran community under DVA's arrangements.

Gold Card holders will receive exercise physiology services based on their clinical need while White Card holders can access exercise physiology services related to their accepted disabilities.

Your Local Medical Officer will need to assess you as requiring exercise physiology services and refer you to an exercise physiologist who is a DVA allied health provider.

For more information about exercise physiology services visit the DVA website www.dva.gov.au or call DVA

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on 133 254.

A Mission To Myanmar

Trip ends with visit to POW father's grave
By **STUART McLEA**

Don Elder's long-planned pilgrimage to Myanmar (Burma) came to a head with an emotional experience when he visited the grave of his father Finley six decades after his dad's death while a POW on the Thai Burma Railroad.

The 77-year-old Padbury resident, known as "Shorty" to his mates, recently travelled to Myanmar with his two stepsons to visit a Commonwealth War Graves Commission cemetery at Thanbyuzayat, about 240km south of Rangoon.

His father was buried there shortly after his death from pneumonia in 1943.

A craftsman with the Australian Corps of Electrical and Mechanical Engineers, "Shorty" and his family did not hear of Finley's death until 1945. "Shorty" then made a vow to visit his father's final resting place.

Until recently, it was relatively unsafe to visit the region. The trip looked in doubt just as he and stepsons sons Murray and Phillip Cribb were about to set off. However, the trip was an outstanding success.

After being welcomed by the Thanbyuzayat cemetery curator, "Shorty" placed a capsule of personal effects and photographs next to his father's headstone.

He also left a GPS device so other family members in Australia could look at the cemetery and grave using Google Earth.

A wreath was placed on the main memorial, which had the Australian flag on it for the day. Gum leaves, rose petals and beach sand from WA were also placed on other graves containing unknown soldiers and WA servicemen.

Phillip Cribb said the cemetery grounds and graves were in outstanding condition.

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That's the news for now, Nancy and I wish to thank all again for their best wishes and mail.

Cheers.....John and Nancy

Michael Lyddiard Latest

Update on Michael Lyddiard from John and Nancy Lyddiard

"Hi All,

A quick note to let you know where Michael is with his recovery.

It appears that the most painful injury now is not from the explosion but the skin and muscle grafts taken from his left and right legs to repair his left hand and the right arm stub. He keeps telling me that his right leg is by far the worst and it is also the largest graft which was used for his arm.

As of today he has had his left hand repaired and made ready for either a toe or rib to be grafted onto his hand to form a thumb, he is not keen on a perfectly serviceable being removed and made into a thumb, the 2nd alternative of a section of a rib being used sounds a lot better to him and us.

His right arm graft has also taken well and at this stage it has not been confirmed as to what type of prosthesis

is to be fitted and who is going to fit it. He is at this stage against the 1960 style of mechanical claw and shoulder strap fitment being offered by a local Australian company, Boston (USA) University Medical college is offering a bio-mechanical nerve activated artificial limb and hand. If the latter is selected it has yet to be decided if it will be fitted here or in the USA, only time will tell and Michael is obviously more keen on the USA prosthesis (can't blame him).

His remaining (left eye) was operated on yesterday, the shrapnel at the back of the eye was removed as was a cataract, the lens was also replaced, and this afternoon he could see fuzzy shapes but he did know that the Doctor was giving him the V sign. The general opinion is that his sight will continue to improve but as to what extent it is up to the big fella upstairs. However it could be at least 6 months which is better news than 2 years.

Facial marks from shrapnel and crap is still a problem and Laser surgery has yet to be scheduled to fix that problem, so Michael reckons he may need to keep the paper bag with him for some time yet.

At this stage we are hopeful that he may even get out of hospital by Xmas

Bayswater Hotel

The Baysie allows the Association the use of their Function Room every month for our meetings. This they have done at no charge as the Association is a non-profit veteran's organisation. All members are welcome to come along. Remember that our meetings are on the first Thursday of each month except January.

Dinner, at the Baysie, is from 1800 hours to 2030 hours and is relatively cheap, wholesome food. It is served as a Buffet Style meal and you can have hot dinners or a cold salad style meal. Should you wish to go more up-market you can order from the Al-a-Carte menu. If you wish to have a private function with a buffet style meal the Baysie staff is only too pleased to cater for you.

If you drive to the Baysie there is a Carpark at the rear with room for about 100 cars. Alternatively you can get to the Baysie by train. The Hotel is about 100m the north side of the railway line from the Bayswater Railway Station.

Further information can be supplied by the Secretary.

even if it is only for a short period of time at first.

That's it for now you have all the latest news, I shall let you know if and when anything news worthy happens; Michael asked me to pass on to one and all his thanks to everyone.

Cheers.....John and Nancy”

Commandos On Parade For Afghanistan Honours

The Governor General, His Excellency Major General Michael Jeffery, officially acknowledged the dedication and skills of Australian Commandos at a parade held in Sydney today.

The 4th Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment (Commando), soldiers who served in Afghanistan as part of the Special Operations Task Group, Operation Slipper, were presented with a Unit Citation for Gallantry.

Major General Jeffery said he was extremely honoured to present the award to the 4 RAR (CDO) soldiers for the work that they had achieved whilst deployed in Afghanistan.

His statements were echoed by the Chief of Army, Lieutenant General Peter Leahy.

“You should all be proud of what you have achieved. Congratulations on this achievement,” said Lieutenant General Leahy.

Recently returned members of the Special Operations Task Group who have been serving in Afghanistan were also officially welcomed home.

The parade was also attended by Special Operations Commander Australia, Major General Michael Hindmarsh and the Hon Danna Vale MP, Member for Hughes.

The parade was marked with sorrow as details of the death of Sergeant Matthew Locke were revealed to the assembled members by Major General Jeffery.

“Sergeant Locke provided outstanding service to his mates and to his country, and he was doing what he loved doing, commanding in the field.

“From my observations, he was a magnificent soldier, he was brave, he was an absolute professional, but he also had a wonderful sense of humour,” Major General Jeffery said.

“The nation today has lost a genuine hero. The army has lost a gallant and respected soldier” said Lieutenant General Leahy.

Further Strengthening Of Security For Weapons, Munitions And Explosives

The audit of Defence's security policy and practices applying to weapons, munitions and explosives has resulted in a series of recommendations to tighten arrangements.

The Government and Defence treat the security of weapons, munitions and explosives very seriously. Defence has already started implementing many of the recommendations to further enhance security.

The audit confirmed that significant improvements have been made since 2000 in Defence's security procedures with regard to weapons. It made recommendations to further tighten those procedures, including through a stronger oversight and compliance regime. The audit also recommended improvements for the security of munitions, including the M72 rocket launchers, and security arrangements applying to explosive ordnance.

Key recommendations include:

- * introducing higher levels of physical security and access controls across Defence's weapons, munitions and explosives storage facilities;

- * enhancing personnel security checking procedures for individuals handling weapons, munitions and

New PTSD Therapy Trial Under Way

DVA is funding a world-class research project that may have great benefits for the treatment of veterans with post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD).

VVCS-Veterans and Veterans Families Counselling Service, the Australian Centre for Posttraumatic Mental Health and the University of NSW have begun a trial of cognitive processing therapy (CPT) to treat posttraumatic mental health problems.

CPT is a 12-session cognitive behavioural treatment which systematically helps people with PTSD identify and resolve negative attitudes about the trauma they have experienced.

Australian Centre for Posttraumatic Mental Health Associate Professor David Forbes said CPT can be an alternative treatment to imaginal exposure therapy, a well-validated and effective treatment which researchers and practitioners recognise may not work for everyone.

CPT was developed in the United States 14 years ago and has been proven effective in numerous laboratory-based trials. However, the VVCS trial will test for the first time CPT's effectiveness outside the laboratory setting.

The trial will include practitioners from VVCS, a community clinical service, treating clients with PTSD who have voluntarily sought their help.

Associate Professor Forbes said that the trial hoped to demonstrate that practitioners could use CPT to effectively treat veterans with PTSD.

The preparations for the trial began in July with 18 therapists taking part, nine delivering CPT and the rest providing treatment as usual. It will be completed at the end of 2009.

Ed's Note: Thanks to DVA for bringing our attention to this important trial.

and Merlin was killed in a vehicle accident a short while after.

“An existing memorial at the home of the EDD, the School of Military Engineering will be expanded to incorporate and pay tribute to the hard work of the EDD. In this case the dogs have paid the ultimate sacrifice to ensure the safety of Australian soldiers on operations,” said Major General Ash, Commander of Training Command Army.

The Australian Army have employed working dogs since World War One. In 1981, The Royal Australian Engineer Corps ceased training of mine detection dogs and commenced training of EDD. Since then, the explosive detection dogs have had a varied role supporting operations in the below operational environments.

EDD operational employment:

- * 1993 SOMALIA (OP SOLACE)
- * 1994 OP LAGOON (BOUGAINVILLE PNG)
- * 1997 US PRESIDENTIAL VISIT (PORT DOUGLAS)
- * 1998 EXPO 88 (BRISBANE)
- * 1999 EAST TIMOR “OP STABILISE”/ VCP's- WEAPON CACHE HIDES
- * 2000 SYDNEY OLYMPICS (OP GOLD)
- * 2002 Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting
- * 2003 SOLOMON ISLANDS WEAPONS AND EXPLOSIVES (OP ANODE)
- * 2003 Rugby World Cup (OP Scrummage)
- * 2006 COMMONWEALTH GAMES MELBOURNE (OP ACCOLYTE)
- * 2005 Current AFGANISTAN WEAPONS AND IEDs (OP SLIPPER)

It takes 19 weeks of training to qualify an explosive detection dog and 15 weeks of training to qualify a handler at the School of Military Engineering.

mowing the lawn, then you should protect your ears with earplugs or earmuffs. Earplugs are cheap and can be purchased at a pharmacy or hardware store. Cotton wool does not provide adequate protection.

Sudden loud noise, such as explosions, gunfire, loud whistles or sirens can also cause instant and permanent damage to your hearing.

4. You should give your ears frequent rest from noise.

5. Be aware that the risk can increase if you are occupationally exposed to solvents or toxins or if you are taking certain drugs as well (particularly some powerful antibiotics).

6. Remember CAT: C - Cover your ears, A - Avoid the noise, T - Turn it down!

Limit your exposure by reducing the time of exposure and/ or the loudness of the noise.

LOOK AFTER YOUR EARS. IF YOU DAMAGE YOUR HEARING, IT WON'T COME BACK.

Ed's Note: Thank you to Australian Hearing for permission to reprint their brochure. In the next few issues we will be looking at hearing and the protection of our precious means of communicating.

Australian Hearing'

Australia's Hearing Specialist
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www.hearing.com.au

Australian Hearing provides Government subsidised services and the latest digital hearing aids to pensioner concession cardholders, most veterans, Aboriginal and Torres Strait islander peoples aged 50 and over or participating in a Community Development Employment Project, people on rehabilitation programs with CRS Australia and Australians under the age of 21.

When Was The Last Post First Played And Who Wrote It?

The Last Post is a bugle call used at military funerals and ceremonies commemorating those who have fallen in war. The Last Post was originally a bugle call used in British Army camps to signal the end of the day. The name derives from the practice of inspecting all the sentry posts around such a camp at the end of the day and playing a bugle call at each of them. The "last post" was thus the last point of this inspection, and the bugle call signalling that this post had been inspected marked the end of the military day. This custom dates from at least the 17th century and originated with British troops stationed in the Netherlands, where it drew on an older Dutch custom, called Taptoe. During the 19th century, the Last Post was also carried to the various countries of the British Empire, including Australia. In all these countries it has been incorporated into military funerals, where it is played as a final farewell, symbolising the fact that the duty of the dead soldier is over and that they can rest in peace. The Last Post was incorporated into the finale of Robert Steadman's In Memoriam, a choral work on the subject of remembrance. The Last Post is also incorporated into Karl Jenkins' Mass, The Armed Man. SOURCE: [en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Last Post](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Last_Post)

Ed's Note: This article was in the West Australian in the "Burning Questions" column. We thank the "West" for telling us of our Military Heritage.

Explosive Detection Dogs To Be Honoured

The recent deaths of Army Explosive Detection Dogs (EDD) serving in Afghanistan, who were named Razz and Merlin, will be honoured in a memorial to be erected at the School of Military Engineering in Sydney. Razz was a casualty of a Taliban Improvised Explosive Device (IED) attack recently

Having Their Say

Time to honour commitment

IN response to Richard Usher's letter (Pensioners battle injustice, Community, October 18), I feel cheated but more than that, I feel let down.

All this time I have assumed the Government was playing fair by me and my pension. I do not want more than anybody else - but I would like to be treated like a full citizen of the country I have served and loved. It is time for the Government to honour its commitment and pay those who have served their country fairly, and not unfairly tax us in our retirement either.

*Brian Cooper,
Kingsley.*

Canberra fails ADF pensioners

RETIRED members of the Australian Defence Force are forgotten.

From the age of 19, I served my country in two wars, Korea and Vietnam, in other countries such as Japan, the Antarctic and England as well as fighting numerous bushfires and floods in both NSW and Victoria.

After 26 years, I retired but have continued on helping and serving those members who have left the Australian Defence Force and who have medical problems.

Now at 79, I find we have a Government that refuses to bring our pension adjustment into line with other Government-funded pensions.

I am very proud of having served my country, but I feel that the Government has failed the very people who were prepared to put their lives on the line in defence of Australia.

*Don Horsley,
Wanneroo.*

Eds Note: These two letters, from two of our stalwarts, were printed in the Community Comment of the Northern Suburbs "Times" and we thank "The

explosives;

* introducing more searches at all large scale weapons, munitions and explosives facilities;

* implementing a mandatory 'two person' policy to prevent unsupervised access to weapons, munitions and explosives, including during disposal activities;

* creating a weapons, munitions and explosives security section in the Defence Security Authority with a capability to audit, review compliance and mandate remediation of WME security issues;

* ensuring a Defence wide understanding of weapons, munitions and explosives security requirements through a single reference point managed by the Defence Security Authority;

* undertaking a security validation program across all Defence weapons, munitions and explosives storage facilities;

* more rigorous monitoring and evaluation of the security performance of contractors with a role in managing and handling weapons munitions and explosives; and

* introducing a Defence wide security information system to monitor security management procedures and performance.

The audit recommended that there should be a single authority within Defence with oversight for weapons, munitions and explosives at all stages of handling from acquisition through to use or disposal. The Vice Chief of the Defence Force, assisted by the Commander Joint Logistics Group, will provide the oversight function.

I have asked for a detailed, fully costed, implementation plan to be developed and I will be closely and regularly monitoring progress against each of the recommendations.

Times” for supporting the ex-Service Community and printing the letters.

Unlawful Taxation on DFRB and DFRDB Entitlements.

This could be an interesting concept. What would our legal eagles have to say about the idea?

Mr Alan Griffin MP
Member for Bruce
Shadow Minister for Veterans' Affairs
Shadow Special Minister of State
Copy: Mr Rod Hilton

Dear Alan,

Re: The unlawful taxation of DFRB and DFRDB entitlements.

You may recall that I was one of the guest speakers at the Veterans' Forum at Highfields in Queensland during July 2007 and that I conversed at length with you during our discussions at the legal panel held in the suburb of Greenslopes in Brisbane on the day following the Forum?

I bring to your attention the fact that (I contend that) it is legislatively unlawful for the Department of Defence (or any other Federal Government Department) to either deduct 'taxation instalments' from DFRB or DFRDB entitlements or to forward those deductions of 'taxation instalments' to the Commissioner of Taxation.

Under the common headings of:

Assignment of pensions

Section 85 of the Defence Forces Retirement Benefits Act 1948 and Section 129 of the Defence Forces Retirement and Death Benefits Act 1973 (with minor variations in wording) both state that

“no pension benefit or other benefit under this Act is capable of being assigned or charged or of passing by operation of law” . Please note the words in that paragraph which have been printed in bold.

It is my contention that the legislative

and legal effect of those words renders it unlawful to deduct 'taxation instalments' (a 'charge') from DFRB or DFRDB entitlements or to 'forward' (an 'assignment' and a 'passing by operation of [taxation] law') those 'taxation instalments' to the Commissioner of Taxation.

Taxation of any kind is a 'charge'.

The deduction of 'taxation instalments' from DFRB and DFRDB entitlements constitutes not only a form of 'assignment', but also a form of (albeit unlawfully imposed) 'passing by operation of law'. In plain English, it already is (and always has been) legislatively unlawful for taxation of any kind to be imposed upon DFRB or DFRDB entitlements!

In accordance with the legal concept of pre-existing legislative entitlement, it is my further contention that the proposed new 'Superannuation Simplification' legislation does not have the Constitutional, legislative or legal authority to amend, repeal, abolish, effect, or overpower the legislative entitlements which already exist under the provisions of either the Defence Forces Retirement Benefits Act 1948 or the Defence Forces Retirement and Death Benefits Act 1973.

Yours faithfully,
Graham MacLeod TPI (OHS
Inspector, retired)

Advocate
Legal Liaison Officer
Veterans and Pensioners Advocacy
Post Office Box 748,
ARMADALE
WESTERNAUSTRALIA 6992

This letter has been widely circulated on the Internet and has bought forward a lot of discussion from the "Barracks Lawyers". Thanks to Graham for alerting us to his argument for a fairer treatment of long term service personnel.

Unclaimed Medals - Does Defence have your current address and contact details?

Whether you are a current or former Defence Force member, you can ensure that you receive any medals you are eligible for by providing the Department with your current address and contact details.

If you have not advised us of your new address then the delivery of medals may be delayed, or they may be returned to Honours & Awards as 'unclaimed'.

If you are a current serving member or an active Reservist you should regularly check and update your address and contact details via PMKeyS Self Service using the My Personal Details > Personal Data page. You can also view your current honours and awards data by using the My Qualifications > View Qualifications page.

If you do not have access to PSS and are a current member or Reservist, complete an AD150 ADF Personal Data form and submit it to your administering unit, Military Personnel Administration Centre or reserve administration cell for processing on PMKeyS.

If you are a former Defence Force member and are not a Reservist, please notify your change of address by completing the change of address form at www.defence.gov.au/medals via the Have you Moved link.

Ed's Note: Thanks go to the Defence Honours and Awards for bringing this to our notice.

Noise and Your Hearing

EXPOSURE TO LOUD NOISE CAN LEAD TO PERMANENT HEARING LOSS. YOU SHOULD TRY TO REDUCE THE NOISE WHENEVER POSSIBLE, OR LIMIT YOUR EXPOSURE TIME TO PROTECT YOUR HEARING.

How much noise is too much noise?

If you need to raise your voice or shout in order to be understood in background noise, then the noise is too loud. Either do something to limit the noise, such as turn it off or turn it down, or move away from the noise.

If your ears "ring" after you have been in loud noise, or the world sounds a little quieter, then the noise level was hazardous to your hearing.

Leisure and music

Don't imagine for a moment that it is only workplace noise that has an effect on your hearing.

If you attend discos, motor races or fireworks displays take earplugs with you. Learn to fit earplugs correctly, because they offer little protection if poorly fitted.

Take "time out" periodically in a quiet area, or limit the amount of time you spend there.

If you are listening to your personal stereo with your earphones and you don't hear someone speak to you, then the music is too loud. Personal stereos turned to hazardous levels are an increasing cause of hearing damage, particularly amongst young people.

What can you do?

Damage to hearing due to noise exposure is cumulative. This means the higher the noise level and the longer the exposure, the greater the damage. It's like exposure to the sun and ultraviolet radiation. There is a degree of recovery during non-exposure time, but in the long term, the more exposure, the more damage.

1. Do not deliberately expose yourself to very high sound levels such as noisy machinery or loud rock concerts.
2. If your work place is very noisy, talk to your OH&S officer about making it quieter. It is an employer's responsibility to provide a safe work environment.
3. If you cannot avoid loud sound, eg