

astonished, and asked why she had married four men with such diverse careers.

She smiled and explained, 'I married one for the money, two for the show, three to get ready, and four to go.'

How The Fight Started

After retiring, I went to the Social Security office to apply for Social Security. The woman behind the counter asked me for my driver's licence to verify my age. I looked in my pockets and realized I had left my wallet at home.

I told the woman that I was very sorry, but I would have to go home and come back later. The woman said, 'Unbutton your shirt'.

So I opened my shirt revealing my curly silver hair. She said, 'That silver hair on your chest is proof enough for me' and she processed my Social Security application.

When I got home, I excitedly told my wife about my experience at the Social Security office.

She said, 'You should have dropped your pants. You might have gotten disability, too'

And then the fight started.....

My wife and I were sitting at a table at my high school reunion, and I kept staring at a drunken lady swigging her drink as she sat alone at a nearby table.

My wife asked, 'Do you know her?' 'Yes,' I sighed, 'She's my old girlfriend.'

I understand she took to drinking right after we split up those many years ago, and I hear she hasn't been sober since.'

'My God!' says my wife, 'Who would think a person could go on celebrating

that long?'

And then the fight started.....

I rear-ended a car this morning. So, there we were alongside the road and slowly the other driver got out of his car.

You know how sometimes you just get soooo stressed and little things just seem funny? Yeah, well I couldn't believe it.... he was a DWARF!!!

He stormed over to my car, looked up at me, and shouted, 'I AM NOT HAPPY!!!'

So, I looked down at him and said, 'Well, then which one are you?'

And then the fight started... .

A woman is standing nude, looking in the bedroom mirror. She is not happy with what she sees and says to her husband, 'I feel horrible; I look old, fat and ugly. I really need you to pay me a compliment.'

The husband replies, 'Your eyesight's damn near perfect.'

And then the fight started.....

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

PIGMY HUNTER

A hunter walking through the jungle, found a huge, dead mastodon, with a pigmy standing beside it. Amazed, he

War," Mr Snowdon said.

Planning is now underway to repatriate Private Fisher's remains home to Australia.

Private Fisher is the fourth and last Australian Soldier to be located and his return will complete the recovery of all Australian Army personnel who were lost on operations and not recovered during the Vietnam War. Lance Corporal Parker and Private Gillson were repatriated to Australia in June 2007 and Lance Corporal Gillespie in December 2007.

Two Royal Australian Air Force personnel, Flying Officer Michael Herbert and Pilot Officer Robert Carver remain unaccounted for from the Vietnam War.

Inquiry into Eligibility Criteria for the Australian Defence Medal Terms of Reference

The Defence Honours and Awards Tribunal shall inquire into and report on the eligibility criteria for the Australian Defence Medal.

The Australian Defence Medal, instituted by Letters Patent, dated 8 September 2005 and as amended on 20 March 2006 by the *Australian Defence Medal Regulations 2006*, recognises efficient Australian Defence Force (ADF) service since 3 September 1945.

Having regard to the purposes for which the Australian Defence Medal was instituted and the terms of the *Australian Defence Medal Regulation 2006* ('the Regulation'), the Tribunal is to:

(a) conduct an inquiry into decisions of the Chief of the Defence Force, or his delegate, concerning the eligibility of ADF personnel, as specified in these terms of reference ('the specified ADF personnel'), to be or not to be eligible to be awarded an Australian Defence Medal and make findings and

recommendations in regard to that review;

(b) examine any other circumstance, arising since 3 September 1945, where the services of ADF personnel have been, or could be, involuntarily terminated and the eligibility of such personnel to be awarded an Australian Defence Medal;

(c) examine the powers of the Chief of the Defence Force, to determine whether an ADF person 'has given qualifying service that is efficient service' and is therefore eligible to be awarded an Australian Defence Medal;

(d) report to the Parliamentary Secretary for Defence on its findings in regard to the above and any recommendations that arise from the inquiry. The Specified ADF personnel for the purposes of (a) above are:

(a) Defence Force personnel, who meet the minimum period of service as prescribed under the Regulation, but the period of service commenced prior to 3 September 1945;

(b) Mobilised wartime naval reservists, who, in or about 1947, accepted a two year engagement in the Royal Australian Navy and exercised their right to opt for a free discharge after the first 12 months of service.

(c) Defence Force personnel who were women and who were discharged:

- i. prior to 1969 on grounds of marital status;
- ii. prior to 1974 on grounds of pregnancy;

(d) National Servicemen, who do not meet the minimum period of service as prescribed under the Regulation and who elected to be discharged under the provisions of the *National Service Termination Act 1973*;

(e) Defence Force personnel who were discharged:

- i. with a non-compensable illness or injury;

following months used my new found knowledge by doing MAS Reviews of units such as 2/14 LH in Brisbane and 2 Cav Regt in Darwin both of which had plenty of ASLAV. Knowing that there was a requirement for an MAS Review of the Middle East coming up in October I threw my hat in the ring. As there was no other competition I was appointed for that deployment. You can imagine how I felt. Here I was, nearly 57 years old, in my 40th year in the Army and I was finally going on a recognised operation. Anyone who has been a soldier can understand the feeling of satisfaction to finally be allowed to round out my career albeit as a "Chocco". I had made up mind that after what had happened the year before I was not going to believe this until my feet were firmly on the sand in the Middle East. Well of course it did happen and this is a brief account of my experiences in what can only be described as a very dangerous place to visit.

We left Sydney at 1330 flying to Abu Dhabi, then to Kuwait where all personnel entering the Middle East Area of Operations (MEAO) transit for additional training and acclimatisation. Arriving at the Force Level Logistic Asset – Kuwait (FLLA-K) at 0730 the day after we left we were absolutely jet lagged. We were told to get into uniforms and that training would begin after breakfast at 0830. We were not allowed to go to sleep until after 2130 that night. This method actually did work and by day 3 we were fine. The heat was intense made worse by the glare off the sand. We endured 5 days of training including a half a day at the range in 50 degree heat wearing all our body armour and helmets. The air conditioned tents we lived in were a welcome return.

Our day came to move forward into Iraq. The 35 minute C 130 flight to Tallil airbase took about 75 minutes. Tallil was hot, dusty and featureless except

for the unmistakable shape of the 4500 year old Ziggurat. This monolith is about 500 metres from the base and was part of the ancient city of Ur and near the Garden of Eden. We did get to see it close up some days later and amongst the ruins is the house where Abraham was born and grew up. This area is where mankind began and the experience of being there is absolutely overwhelming. The explorational digs have been suspended due to the war. In Tallil, many different coalition forces here including Americans, British, Romanians, Koreans, Estonians, Japanese etc. At night one we are rocketed. The 122 mm rocket assisted rounds really help you wake up! We spent some time in the bunker until the all clear was given. This was the first time I had been bombed and I was hoping it would be the last. This was not to be the case and the next time they were really close. You know they are close when you are running out of the shower block with the loud speaker system saying "INCOMING, INCOMING, INCOMING" and there is a flash somewhere behind you followed by an almighty bang. The dust from the explosion then drifts across you. Apparently these things were fired from 18 km away. Some nights the good guys would open up but they sound just like the bad guys. Same affect though – little or no sleep, with the added constant noise of aircraft during the night.

Next stop was Baghdad. More tactical flying on takeoff and landing. Baghdad is an unreal place. The Australian contingent lives in one of Saddam's palaces and the furniture and decor is surreal and has no connection to a military environment. Camp Victory takes in the airport and all of the palaces all of which are situated around vast lakes. Gum trees, apparently gifts from the Australian Government in years gone by, are everywhere and it almost feels comforting. Thousands of

their evacuation is delayed beyond this time," the surgeon said. "In the frontline war setting, where injuries are more severe than in the civilian setting, military trauma units believe that soldiers must be evacuated within the 'golden 30 minutes' if they are to have a reasonable chance of survival.

"The most common cause of death when evacuation is delayed is bleeding to death in the field - a psychologically devastating outcome for the treating medic looking after the injured soldier at the time."

The ADF said the other two Australian soldiers injured on July 8 had returned to light duties. The third survivor, reported to be a US special forces communication specialist, was gravely wounded.

Defence Home Ownership Assistance Scheme Starts

The Minister for Defence Science and Personnel, the Hon. Warren Snowdon MP, today declared the new Defence Home Ownership Assistance Scheme (DHOAS) officially underway.

The Scheme is a part of a broader set of initiatives to encourage ADF personnel to stay in the Service.

It provides progressively higher home loan subsidies to permanent members who serve beyond critical separation points of four, eight and 12 years, and Reservists with service of eight, 12 and 16 years.

"DHOAS offers real help to ADF members and their families in achieving home ownership in the current competitive housing market," Mr Snowdon said.

The Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA) has been selected as the Scheme Administrator and will be the initial point of contact for Defence members seeking information on the Scheme and applying for the DHOAS subsidy.

A panel of three Home Loan Providers has been selected to support the DHOAS:

- * National Australia Bank Limited,
- * Australian Defence Credit Union Limited, and
- * Defence Force Credit Union Limited.

They have each undertaken as part of the tender process to offer products equal to or better than available in the general mortgage market.

The Department of Defence, DVA and the three Home Loan Providers will be undertaking an extensive information campaign aimed at informing all ADF personnel of the details of the DHOAS in coming months.

Mr Snowdon said that the Scheme will provide significant benefit for eligible members of the Defence Force.

"Members should get involved in the information sessions and contact DVA on 1300 4 DHOAS or access the web site at www.dhoas.gov.au to find out more," Mr Snowdon said.

Defence Force Welfare Association

Our mission

To promote and protect the interests of serving and former members of the ADF and their families.

The Association

- Was established in 1959.
- Is a nationally based organization with Branches and representatives in all States and Territories.
- Its Mission is supported by the CDF.
- Membership is open to all serving or former ADF members and their spouses.
- Staffed by serving and volunteer former ADF members.
- Relies on member subscriptions and donations to fund its activities.

1.00pm: Lawn Bowls. Numbers needed!! (See attached flyer) For more info please contact Paul Hutton on 90611853.

10th Light Horse

The Kelmscott/Pinjarra 10th Light Horse Memorial Group, as always, support the Bruce Rock Back to the Bush Week of activities, so keep your eyes open for them.

6.30pm Gates open for a 7.30pm: start. A Great concert is to be held in the Amphitheatre! Tickets will be on sale at the gate for \$10p.p. Children 14 and under free. Mr Mort Hansen, his didgeridoo and the Shire President welcome everyone, followed by a fabulous evening with: Fossil Rock, Pete Robson and Brent Kelly.

We are sure you will enjoy the music of Fossil Rock. Pete and Brent give of their time and talent every year for Veterans. Don't forget the Bruce Rock Veterans Group. The Vet's will be selling hamburgers near the front entrance throughout the evening.

Saturday 1st November

The Street Markets are on again (stall holders needed) and the town Hall full of information booths covering everything from health, to flags. The 10th Light Horse Avon Valley group will have their mobile museum on display.

The Bunker (previously railway station) will be open for you to browse through. The Challenge brass band will be performing throughout the duration of the day in the Amphitheatre. Free. Grab a bite to eat and sit in and listen to this great band.

2.30pm: Begin forming up for the March adjacent the cenotaph with the cadets, Brass Bands, 10th Light Horse and military car club. All Veterans and interested persons are welcome to march. Don't forget Hats, Sunglasses and Medals.

Step off at 3pm: Marching to St Peter's Church for a service and relighting of

the Candle at The Vietnam Veteran's Memorial Peace Window.

A military tank displaying its powers and a Free Barbecue, drinks and entertainment all at the Rec Centre will follow this. Please remember to bring a salad to share! And a plate of goodies for supper.

These can be left with the girls in the Rec Centre kitchen on Saturday morning. Your participation means we are able to continue to provide the evening cost free to you.

Sunday 2nd November

A free breakfast is provided for those who have to travel home. This will be held between 6.30am: & 8.30am; at the Rec Centre.

The Brass bands will be performing at the Town Hall from 10.00am and you are cordially invited to come along for you last opportunity to hear this great group under the guidance of music maestro, Peter Tuck. You will be able to purchase drinks at the bar.

The Ardath Hotel will also be putting a lunch for those wishing to experience a relaxing afternoon in a country pub. (Home of the Swan Brewery advertisement) Reservations please Ph: 90651046.

Finally, we hope you have enough energy left to join us around the campfire at Merv's Bards Pit (Northern end of the oval) where you get to entertain us with your favourite verse, (song, we'll have muso's to help you) Joke (Please keep 'em clean!) etc. Some food, drinks (Leftovers) will be provided free.

Sitting around the campfire, under the stars is a great way to wind down from a hectic week. Feel free to bring your toasting fork, bread, and jam, golden syrup, marshmallows or whatever!! We'll have the Billy on!

For more Information please contact one of the Vets listed below,

Chris Pickering: Ph: 08 90611604

members to receive *Camaraderie* three times per year, monthly E-Letter (The *UPDATE*) and access to the range of support from Branches including advocacy advice and welfare support.

DEFENCE FORCE WELFARE ASSOCIATION WA BRANCH

Hi Dick and John'

John, could you please include the below info in the next issue of the "Horse's Mouth" and Dick could you please pass the same info on to our serving members.

Thanking you in anticipation,

Don Horsley

WA Branch of DFWA has now opened an office in the Irwin Barracks area. The office hours are 10AM to 2PM, Wednesday and Thursday of each week with the exception of public holidays.

Phone Number :— [08] 9383 4055

All Serving members, Ex members and Widows of deceased members of the ADF are welcome to use this facility to gain assistance in solving medical, financial and welfare problems in general.

Association contact numbers outside office hours:-

Brian Cooper, Secretary [08] 9409 2491 &

Don Horsley [08]93062946

Vic/Tas Honorary Colone!

The following email was received from Ernie Hartshorn (QLD)

Dear Members.

I am delighted to inform you that COL Brian (Buck) Jones has been appointed COL COMDT Victoria/Tasmania.

Another very successful Apprentice.

He will do a great job in representing the CORPS.

Kindest Regards

Raymond Norman OAM
Chairman

RAEME Association Queensland
07 54766254

Helping People Plan For A Post-Military Life

The Minister for Defence Science and Personnel, the Hon. Warren Snowdon MP, recently inspected the Australian Defence Force (ADF) Transition Centre at Lavarack Barracks in Townsville.

The Centre forms part of a new enhanced transition process to help ADF members and their families move smoothly from military to civilian life.

Mr Snowdon said it's important that families can easily access all the available care and advice. The Townsville Transition Centre building also houses other aspects of regional support to ADF members in Townsville.

"I am pleased to see that Defence is providing an environment where the ADF member and their family can discuss, in a confidential manner, all aspects of their transition".

The enhanced transition support service provides separating ADF members and their families with an individually tailored service and accurate, high quality information about issues like rehabilitation and compensation; housing; medical and dental; financial; and family support to ADF members to assist them successfully plan their post-military life.

"Vitaly, the new transition service is working actively with other government agencies such as the Department of Veterans' Affairs and Comsuper,".

"There is still work to be done to better support our ADF members as they leave the services, but we hope to have the enhanced transition care implemented nationally by November 2008."