

## A Soldier's Message

### TO ONE AT HOME

Do not be saddened for my sake,  
For I shall keep my tryst with you  
Some morning when the dawn shall break  
Upon a world where hope is new.  
Yes, I shall keep the rendezvous,  
Beloved One, which we have made-  
And all the past shall fade into  
A dim and dream-like cavalcade  
Of half-remembered griefs and fears,  
Which we shall doubt were ever true-  
And love shall fill the golden years  
With sweetness-when our pain is through.

“VX3668453”

Written by a World War II digger to his wife  
and illustrated by a mate.



## *The Horse's Mouth*

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

## Spring 2000

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, ANZAC House, 28 St. George's Terrace, Perth. Membership or other enquiries may be made to any of the committee members. A list is printed on Page 2 of this journal.

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

The RAEME Association Committee

President: John Klein 2 Wicks Street, Eden Hill Ph. 9279 3080  
 Vice President: Chris Thomas 31 Kiandra Parade, Ballajura Ph. 9249 7321  
 Sec/Treasurer: John Curtis 2 Whittaker Street, Bayswater Ph. 9271 4520  
 Editor: John Curtis  
 Welfare Officers: John Klein  
 John Curtis  
 Chaplain: Howard MacCallum  
 39 Rogerson Road, Mt Pleasant Ph. 9364 4948

**Colonel Commandant: Colonel Ian Stewart AM**

General Committee:

Tom Harris	9445 4867	Don Gunn	9345 1998
Peter Humpston	9306 4549	Michael Kerrison	9379 2682
Mal McWhinnie	9305 0085	Geoff Sutherland	9377 5227
Norm Wells	9276 7967	Ron MacKenzie	9294 3044
Chris Renall	9341 6941		

**DEADLINE**

All contributions for the next edition of THE HORSE'S MOUTH must be with the editor no later than 24th of November 2000.

**DISCLAIMER**

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

**Editorial**

Well here we are again at the end of another quarter. The preparations are now starting for the Annual RAEME Birthday Dinner. This year it is on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of December at ANZAC House. Spread the news of the dinner around, as we would like to get as many as we can to enjoy the evening. The past dinners have been a blast (if my hangover is any criteria). Seriously, it is a good time to renew old acquaintances and reflect on those who have gone before us. We hope to get one our compatriots from the East to visit us this year. Last year we had a small problem called East Timor blow up in our faces, which necessitated the

energies of our Head of Corps, and, unfortunately, he had to cancel at the last minute.

We have had quite a few new members join us this year, including a couple of the real old and bold. Those who were in the Corps at the very start, we say "welcome" and we hope their memories of the Association will be happy ones. I think comparing notes with them will be of great benefit to our younger members and vice versa. Even I, recently retired; (well three years ago) have noticed the changes in the system since I left. Imagine the changes the real old and bold can see. I hope to

1970: Growing pot.  
 2000: Growing pot belly.

1970: Douglas Street bridge.  
 2000: Dental bridge.

1970: Watching John Glenn's historic flight with your parents.  
 2000: Watching John Glenn's historic flight with your children.

1970: Trying to look like Marlon Brando or Elizabeth Taylor.  
 2000: Trying NOT to look like Marlon Brando or Elizabeth Taylor.

1970: Seeds and stems.  
 2000: Roughage.

1970: Popping pills, smoking joints.  
 2000: Popping joints.

1970: Being caught with Hustler magazine.  
 2000: Being caught with Hustler magazine.

1970: Killer weed.  
 2000: Weed killer.

1970: Hoping for a BMW.  
 2000: Hoping for a BM.

1970: The Grateful Dead.  
 2000: Dr. Kevorkian.

1970: Getting out to a new, hip joint.  
 2000: Getting a new hip joint.

1970: Rolling Stones.  
 2000: Kidney stones.

1970: Being called into the principal's office.  
 2000: Calling the principal's office.

1970: Screw the system!  
 2000: Upgrade the system.

1970: Peace sign.  
 2000: Mercedes logo.

1970: Parents begging you to get your hair cut.  
 2000: Children begging you to get their heads shaved.

1970: Take acid.  
 2000: Take antacid.

1970: Passing the driver's test.  
 2000: Passing the vision test.

1970: "Whatever"  
 2000: "Depends"

**Hotel notice, Tokyo**

IS FORBIDDEN TO STEAL HOTEL  
 TOWELS PLEASE. IF YOU ARE  
 NOT A PERSON TO DO SUCH A  
 THING IS PLEASE NOT TO READ  
 NOTIS.



I wish I was a glow worm,  
 A glow worm's never glum.

'Cos how can you be grumpy  
 When The sun shines out your bum!

JUDGE TWO: The best yet. Aggressive use of peppers, onions, and Garlic Superb.

FRANK: My intestines are now a straight pipe filled with gaseous flames. No one seems inclined to stand behind me except Sally.

Chilli # 7: Susan's Screaming Sensation Chilli

JUDGE ONE: A mediocre chilli with too much reliance on canned peppers.

JUDGE TWO: Very Ho Hum, tastes as if the chef threw in canned chilli peppers at the last moment. I should note that I am worried about Judge THREE: He appears to be in a bit of distress.

FRANK: You could put a grenade in my mouth and pull the pin, and I wouldn't feel it. I've lost the sight in one eye, and the world sounds like it is made of rushing water. My clothes are covered with chilli, which slid unnoticed out of my mouth at some point. Thank God! At autopsy they'll know what killed me. Have decided to stop breathing, too painful, not getting any oxygen anyway.

Chilli # 8: Helen's Mount Saint Chilli

JUDGE ONE: A perfect ending, this is a nice blend chilli, safe for all, not too bold but spicy enough to declare its existence.

JUDGE TWO: This final entry is a good, balanced chilli, neither mild nor hot. Sorry to see that most of it was lost when Judge Number 3 fell and pulled the chilli pot on top of himself.

FRANK: \_\_\_\_\_

(Editor's note: Judge #3 was unable to report)

## Age of Aquarius

### 1970 vs 2000

Ain't It The Truth

1970: Long Hair

2000: Longing for hair

1970: The perfect high.

2000: The perfect high yield mutual fund.

1970: Keg.

2000: EKG.

1970: Acid Rock.

2000: Acid Reflux.

1970: Moving to California because it's cool.

2000: Moving to California because it's warm.



Thanks Ben. We appreciate the way you make us laugh at ourselves.

see our new members at the dinner this year. I know the "young ones" will make them feel welcome.

So start getting in the party mood everybody. So far the dinners have been great fun and, I for one, see no reason to change.

## From the President

Sitting at my desk, I have come to the conclusion that twelve months is not such a long time anymore. Since the last Annual General Meeting already six months have gone by and it looks that the time moves faster. In approx. four months our Corps Birthday is upon us again, looking forward meeting some of the well known faces again, hoping of course on a good turn-out. The committee has been working very hard to get things together and make the birthday celebrations again a success as always.

I am still pushing to get more of our members to attend meetings, and become involved. We need members to assist with all sorts of functions we have planned, and this cannot be done by a few only. I would like to see members making apologies, after all we are only a telephone call away, the committee members are in the "Horses Mouth". Our meetings are held every first Thursday of the month (except January) at Anzac House in the city, starting at 7.00 pm, and prior to the meeting we like to have a chat and a drink together, and tell tall stories.

We are still looking for anyone that is willing to advertise in the Horse's Mouth, because we are in need of finance to produce this newsletter and as costs are continually rising it put a

great strain on our budget. So if you run a business or know someone that is willing to support, please give the Secretary a call.

I would like to remind all our members, do not forget the meetings, come and join us, and above all set aside the date for our RAEME Corps Birthday dinner.

John Curtis and myself are still heavily involved as Ex Service Officers (Welfare Officers) working with the-Dept. of Vets Affairs, and if any members require assistance don't hesitate to contact your association's own welfare officers.

In closing, let's see more of you at our meetings.

John Klein

**Arte et Marte**

## No Charge For Service

From time to time, DVA receives reports of so-called advocates who offer to help veterans get a special pension or increase the rate of an existing pension on payment of a fee - usually a hefty one.

The department does not employ advocates and the ex-service organisations which offer advocacy services to veterans do **NOT** charge - their services are given free.

The RAEME Association has a number of advocates. A list can be provided by calling the Secretary. It is stressed that all RAEME advocates work free of charge for any veteran who may wish to use their services, no matter what Service or Corps.

Further information - contact our Welfare Officers.

## Master heeds call to arms

A former armourer recently completed his master's degree in applied science (materials conservation) by restoring a Gatling Gun during his current reserve posting with the Army History Unit as Conservator of Army Museums.

Sgt John Land completed a hands-on course with the Australian War Memorial in 1990-1991 for skills in conservation of military memorabilia. In 1996 he elected to farther his studies and was accepted by the University of Western Sydney as an external student.

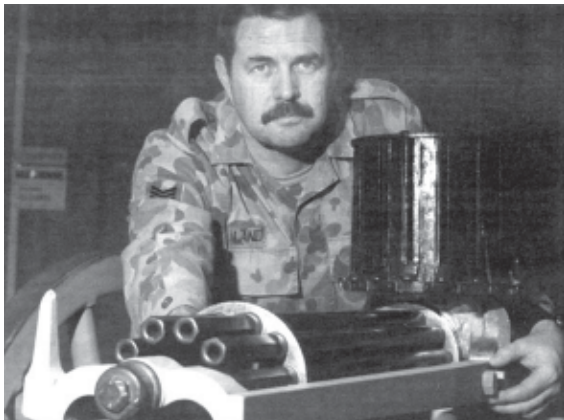
"The course was general conservation principles for all objects - organic, inorganic, conservation ethics and some archaeological conservation theory," he said.

Sgt Land chose a restoration project for his final assessment and a fascination with the Gatling Gun led him to begin work on an 1875-wheeled navy model.

"I worked on the carriage and gun system - the weapon's exterior was quite good under its coat of green paint but the rifling in the barrels is too corroded to even consider firing again."

John Land is to be congratulated for his interest in preserving the past for those to come. We also congratulate him on the attainment of his Masters Degree.

Thanks to the Army News and Bill Cunneen for the article and photograph.



## Raffles for the RAEME Birthday Dinner

**The committee is asking that anyone who has contact with any industry seek donations to help us have a successful raffle at our Annual Birthday Dinner. We would like to make this dinner a memorable one by having as many raffle prizes as we can get. All donations will be acknowledged in the Horse's Mouth and it would be a good way for the business to get a bit of local publicity. If you can get a prize for us please call the Secretary of the Association (Telephone Number Page 2) and he will arrange to pick up the donation. Don't forget the Dinner on 2nd of December 2000.**

*John Land and the Gatling Gun*

## Notes From an Inexperienced Chilli Taster Named FRANK, who was visiting Texas:

'Recently I was honoured to be selected as an outstanding famous celebrity in Texas, to be a judge at a chilli cook-off, because no one else wanted to do it. Also the original person called in sick at the last moment, and I happened to be standing there at the judge's table asking directions to the beer wagon when the call came. I was assured by the other two judges (Native Texans) that the chilli wouldn't be all that spicy, and besides they told me I could have free beer during the tasting, so I accepted.

Here are the scorecards from the event:

Chilli # 1: Mike's Maniac Mobster Monster Chilli

JUDGE ONE: A little too heavy on tomato. Amusing kick.

JUDGE TWO: Nice, smooth tomato flavour. Very mild.

FRANK: Holy smokes, what is this stuff? You could remove dried paint from your driveway with it. Took two beers to put the flames out. Hope that's the worst one. These hicks are crazy.

Chilli # 2: Arthur's Afterburner Chilli

JUDGE ONE: Smoky (barbecue?) with a hint of pork. Slight Jalapeno tang.

JUDGE TWO: Exciting BBQ flavour, needs more peppers to be taken seriously.

FRANK: Holy Cow! Keep this away from the children! I'm not sure what I'm supposed to taste besides pain. I had to wave off two people who wanted to give me the Heimlich manoeuvre. Shoved my way to the front of the beer line.

Chilli # 3: Fred's Famous Burn Down

the Barn Chilli

JUDGE ONE: Excellent firehouse chilli! Great kick. Needs more beans.

JUDGE TWO: A beanless chilli, a bit salty, good use of red peppers.

FRANK: This has got to be a joke. Call the EPA, I've located a uranium spill. My nose feels like I have been snorting Drano. Everyone knows the routine by now and got out of my way so I could make it to the beer wagon. Barmaid pounded me on the back; now my backbone is in the front part of my chest.

Chilli # 4: Bubba's Black Magic

JUDGE ONE: Black bean chilli with almost no spice. Disappointing.

JUDGE TWO: Hint of lime in the black beans. Good side dish for fish or other mild foods, not much of a chilli.

FRANK: I felt something scraping across my tongue, but was unable to taste it. Sally, the barmaid, was standing behind me with fresh refills to save me the run.

Chilli # 5: Linda's Legal Lip Remover

JUDGE ONE: Meaty, strong chilli. Cayenne peppers freshly ground, adding considerable kick. Very impressive.

JUDGE TWO: Chilli using shredded beef; could use more tomato. Must admit the cayenne peppers make a strong statement.

FRANK: My ears are ringing, and I can't focus my eyes. I farted and four people behind me needed paramedics. The contestant seemed hurt when I told her that her chilli had given me brain damage. Sally saved my tongue by pouring beer directly on it. Sort of irritates me that one of the other judges asked me to stop screaming.

Chilli # 6: Vera's Very Vegetarian Variety

JUDGE ONE: Thin yet bold vegetarian variety chilli. Good balance of spice and peppers.

Group will be forever in your debt.

We will ask Jim for further articles on how the equipment they are working on is progressing. Maybe we could get a photograph or two of the successfully completed Guns.

---

### Did You Know?

After the Iran-Iraq War 1980-88, 15 Australian Army Officers took part in the cease fire supervision. They were only allowed to serve on the Iran side of the border, because the Iraqis refused to allow them onto their areas. These officers endured harsh conditions, living in underground bunkers and eating the local rations of bread, soup and rice. They were continually exposed to mines, chemical weapons, artillery fire and disease.

---

### Book Review

***All Guts and No Glory: The story of a Long Tan Warrior.*** Bob Buick with Gary McKay, Alien & Unwin, 252 pages, maps, B&W photos. Softcover \$24.95.

LET me start by saying I am a great fan of Gary McKay's work, I own all of his books and have enjoyed every one of them. Perhaps that was why I was disappointed with this latest release. Although the book was written by Buick, Gary McKay's name on the cover set me up for something grander.

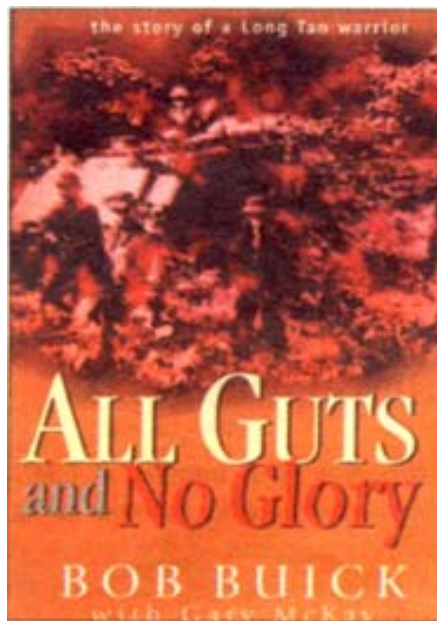
*All Guts and No Glory* is Bob Buick's personnel account of army service centring on his involvement at the Battle of Long Tan.

It is a strange book to read unlike most personal histories that are laced with good Aussie humour and the stupid things that make life in the army so interesting, this one comes across almost confrontational. It is without

doubt a great story and it deserved to be told but I'm not sure if a general-release book in this vein was the correct way to do it.

Bob Buick goes to great lengths to dispel the myths of Long Tan, particularly the ambush theories and rightly so. It is not so much what he is saying but the way he is saying that touches a raw nerve. I'm always of the opinion that personal bickering is better left inhouse. The arguments presented in this book could have left a better impression if they didn't seem like a personal attack - I would have thought it far better to let the facts speak for themselves.

On the upside, it is quite good to read another account of the battle and attempt to understand the pressures placed on a commander during the heat of battle. If you are a casual reader of *Duty First*, a lot of what he says will sound familiar but it is still a worthwhile addition to any library



### Purchase of Additional Armoured Vehicles

The Minister for Defence, John Moore, today announced that the Australian Defence Force would acquire up to 150 additional Australian Light Armoured Vehicles (ASLAV) and support equipment.

The vehicles will be purchased under the next phase of Project ASLAV and will enhance the capability associated with the existing fleet of 111 ASLAVs purchased between 1995 and 1997.

"Australia's existing fleet of ASLAVs performed very successfully in East Timor, and these additional vehicles have been developed for and proven against the Australian Army's requirement to conduct armoured reconnaissance operations," Mr Moore said.

"The Government has agreed to proceed with the contract, prior to the release of the White Paper later this year, because of the ASLAVs capability to enhance the Army's ability to conduct and sustain reconnaissance and surveillance operations.

"In addition to providing the ADF with a capable, state-of-the-art fleet of light armoured vehicles, the project will provide a significant boost for the South Australian Defence industry and Australia's exports," Mr Moore said.

General Motors Defence (GMD), through the Canadian Commercial Corporation, is the successful tenderer, and the contract will be managed by the recently established General Motors Defence Australia (GMDA) Asia Pacific Regional Headquarters in Adelaide.

In line with the Federal Government's commitment to Australian industry and self-reliance, GMD will establish a global fabrication and regional assembly plant in Adelaide to build the ASLAV turrets. This will be the sole turret fabrication facility for GMD's international program. Exports are expected to commence in March 2001, with a shipment of approximately 100 LAV-25 turrets to Canada. Other potential export opportunities may include up to 500 turrets within the next five years.

"The estimated value of transferring the turret manufacture to South Australia is \$37.9 million," Mr Moore said. "An estimated 50 full-time positions will be created at GMDA in South Australia as a direct consequence of the turret production. Overall, there is a potential for more than 100 new jobs to be created."

Australian industry involvement also will include extensive Australian sourcing of vehicle components for ASLAV, a contract for the manufacture and fit of Mission Role Installation Kits, as well as the assembly and test of the finished vehicles. This work will be subcontracted to Tenix Defence Systems in Adelaide and is expected to be to the value of \$40 million.

---

### Bigger and Better Things

**Chris Renall**, a truly staunch member of the Association has taken the leap and transferred from the Reserves to the Regulars. Chris is posted to Townsville and the Artillery Regiment as a Fitter Armourer.

Chris has done a tremendous amount of work for the Association and,

indeed, for all the OR's that have passed through 13 BASB Workshop Company. Chris was instrumental in starting the OR's News which was circulated through out 13 Brigade for the RAEME OR's. He is an inaugural member of the Association Committee and his input to the running of the Association is appreciated by all. At the workshop (and before we lost the OR's Boozer), Chris seemed to be the perennial PMC. He kept the club going with his sheer spirit and determination. If there was a function, you could guarantee that Chris was behind it.

Even though Chris was posted from the Workshop to 7 Field Battery, he maintained his links with the social aspect of the Workshop.

All we, at the Association can say is Chris is our loss, but a definite gain, technically and socially, to the TSSU at Townsville.



### Who is this person?

### What is he doing?

We all know he is a member of the Corps. And even Corps members get up to some weird things.

For the answer to these and other questions you may bring to mind, see page 22 of this issue.

We wish Chris and Nat well in their endeavours and hope that they will come back to visit sometime.

### RAE Reunion

Mick Ryan passed on this message to us from the RAE Association. Any RAEME member who has connections with this group may like to renew some old friendships.

Mick

Terry Hanrahan told me today that you were having trouble getting mail to me I'm still at the same address. Hope you get one of these, as I'm not sure which is your current address. Did Terry tell you that 2 FD Tp RAE Malaya 63 to 65 is having a reunion in Busselton 17th to 20 Oct 2001? Well that's what is planned and I have had a few OK's so far.

See you cobber  
Snow the senior

### Wanted - Dead or Alive!!!

**Are you a retired Fitter Armourer, a Vehicle Mechanic, a Blacksmith or a Welder? In fact, are you a retired anything technical? If you are, you are sorely needed!**

Jim Sinclair from the Artillery Heritage Group (and the WA Army Museum Workshop) has asked if there is anyone who still has their faculties and a bit of spare time to help with the refurbishment of Weapons in their workshop. Please contact them at the Workshop in Karrakatta any Wednesday. The workshop is between the Service Station and the Clothing Store at Karrakatta.

Jim tells the Horse's Mouth that the group has taken on a very ambitious project to refurbish all the Artillery Weapons that grace many of our War Memorials. There are also a number of captured weapons that are in need of a good service. Unfortunately this job is for love. Even though they do get some grants from various agencies, it is only enough to purchase parts, services and paint.

Currently the group is refurbishing 2 x 25 Pounder Artillery Weapons from the War Memorial at Guildford. They have been completely stripped, sand blasted to remove all rust, painted and are in the process of being rebuilt. These weapons look as good as the day they served in a Battery on the Gun Line. In the Workshop are a 88 mm German Artillery Piece captured by 10 Light Horse at Beersheba in Palestine during World War I; and a 75 mm also captured in World War I. Next door, in their storage shed, are various Vehicles and Guns, all in stages of dress or undress. A particularly good example of the work done in this workshop is the mobile and fully functioning Bren

Gun Carrier.

Jim is in dire need of a qualified Welder. So, if you fancy yourself as being pretty good, Jim will welcome you with open arms.

An example of the work done by this group is down at a small South West town of Kirup. This 25 Pounder has been completely rebuilt and is a source of pride for the town.

Jim also asks that, any RAEME or ex-RAEME member who live in the country towns spread all over the State, and who have a gun at their War Memorial (or outside the RSL), contact him. Jim wants to set up a list so that they can look at maintaining all the weapons in a condition that would bring pride to the memorials. Anyone who is willing to help would have to do visual inspections of the gun every three months or so and report back to Jim. If there is only small touch up jobs and the members is willing to do them Jim will arrange for the Rust remover and paint to be supplied. If there is further work or it is too big a job for the local member Jim will arrange for a crew to visit. If you are willing to help maintain your own district heritage you can contact Jim through the RAEME Association postal address. What Jim is asking will take very little time, particularly if you get together with a couple of mates (over a couple of beers on a Saturday afternoon).

In the meantime, get moving out there in retirement land and give Jim the help that he so richly deserves.

As a postscript, Jim would even take some of the young bloods on to teach them what has been. So all you who are still serving, if you have time on a Wednesday or Friday morning and nothing to do, go out and get some Heritage Grease on your hands. The

**AFL Grand Final 2000**

On 2<sup>nd</sup> September, this year, a Grand Final Day was held at 13 BASB Workshop Coy (formerly 113 Field Workshops) at Karrakatta. It was a fun day for all members of the unit and for the old and bold. All lunches were supplied in the form of a sausage sizzle, cheap drinks a specialty, and special entertainment for the masses.

A good day was had by all when Essendon came up trumps. It seems that the Melbourne supporters were definitely in the minority.

The special raffles included The Norm Smith Medal winner (the jumper number actually) (**LCpl. Hodge** was the lucky one here). The winning margin was a very popular "Guessing" competition (59 points is a big margin for the Grand Final) (**Dutchy Holland** was always way out with his guesses, but this time it came in). **Dale Henry** picked up the losing score raffle of 75 points (**Chris Thomas** is really put out, his guess was 74 points. He is still muttering!). The last raffle we had was for a bottle of Port summarily disposed of before the end of the day. The winner, who will remain unknown, has something to do with running the Tech Support at 10LH and is well known for liking a good Port. At least half of the raffle funds were passed back over the bar, so everyone partook of the winnings and celebrations.

Everybody was impressed by the quality of the video reception. The video was projected via a Light Pro Unit onto a big screen. The sound was amplified with a top quality sound system to give all the impression of being there.

The Workshop is in the process of organising another Sporting Day Function for all and sundry to be held on the day of the Bathurst 1000. Judging by the reception for the Grand Final afternoon, the Bathurst 1000 should be a blast. If you are interested in coming to this lunch and whatever, contact **WO2 Peter DUTTON or Sgt. Dale HENRY at 13 BASB Workshop Company**. They can be contacted by phone on:

<b>Peter Dutton</b>	<b>Hm 9581 8308</b>	<b>Wk 9535 6061</b>	<b>Mob: 0417174095</b>
<b>Dale Henry</b>	<b>Hm 94181903</b>	<b>Wk 9377 9777</b>	

**THE BATHURST 1000**

***The Bathurst 1000 function will be held on the 19<sup>th</sup> of November 2000. The function being organized is open to all members of RAEME and to the Old and Bold of the Corps. Members of the Corps Workshops not in Karrakatta are especially invited. There will be a levy to pay for the food and entertainment. Drinks are at reduced bar prices and raffles you pay for your own. Please give the organizers as much notice as possible in order to arrange catering.***

**Be there or be square.**

**Vale Neil "Bluey" JEANES**

It is with the greatest regret that the Association notes the sudden passing of another stalwart, Neil Maurice "Bluey" JEANES, Army Reg. No. 38609.

Neil enlisted in RAEME in June of 1965 as a Fitter Armourer. He had several postings to 21 Const Sqn and served in Vietnam with 3 Cav from June 1970 to June 1971.

After leaving the Army, Bluey worked in his Fitter Trade for a number of companies in Western Australia's North.

In 1990 he re-enlisted in the Army Reserves at 113 Field Workshop at the Artillery Barracks at Fremantle. He was then posted to 16 Battalion Tech Spt Unit.

Bluey lived in Glen Forest where he was a popular member of the Glen Forest Sporting Club, Playing Bowls and Pool.

The Association will miss a popular member and our sincerest condolences go out to his wife Mary, his children and his wider family.

**Eds Note:** I knew Bluey in 16 Bn Tech Spt where he was a very popular member of a close knit team. Blue could always be called upon to do the near impossible for the Battalion. He used to say, "Damned if I know! But I'll give it a go." That was Blue all over. He worked hard and used his considerable experience to help other less experienced members of the workshop. Even though I was his boss, he and I had an understanding that transcended the Boss, Worker ethos. We seemed to click.

All I can say is Blue will be greatly missed by those who knew him. Blue suffers no pain now.

**Goodbye, Mate!  
Till we meet again.**

**Arte et Marte**



***Bluey on the job.***

**TET Offensive Occurrences.**

Odd things happen at times.

Major Tremain recalls that on a journey from the AFV building to the Hotel Canberra in a van with a driver, he had the strange experience of travelling in a city of over a million people at 2 p.m. on streets that were literally deserted. There was no one to be seen anywhere. Obviously it was neither the time nor the place to stop and when they developed a flat tyre. Tremain and his driver finished their journey to safety on three tyres and a wheel.

## Vale - Colonel Frank Statham OBE ED

As a member of Headquarters 6<sup>th</sup> Division he sailed on the first convoy to the Middle East. He, then, transferred to and served with the 9<sup>th</sup> Division at Tobruk from March 1941 to May 1942.

On return to Australia he was appointed CRAEME, 1 Armoured Division and deployed to the Moora - Geraldton area then considered to be the most likely location for a Japanese invasion. When this threat abated, he saw service with the Headquarters First Army - Papua - New Guinea. He served there from December 1944 to September 1945.

In early 1950, he was the proprietor of a Trade Repair Company maintaining about 50 Grant Diesel Tanks at Pukapunyal, Victoria.

As Director of the Commonwealth Department of Works in WA (1965 -81), he was responsible for the construction of Garden Island Naval Base and Facilities. He was appointed the Colonel

Commandant, RAEME, 5<sup>th</sup> Military District for a period of six years.

In the mid eighties he married Sister Vivian Bullwinkle.

Frank was a most competent and outgoing Officer in our Corps. He was also a thorough gentleman. He will be sadly missed by all who knew him. Vivian, his wife passed away shortly after Frank.

**Farewell Frank,**  
**we will all miss you.**

**Vale Vivian Statham**

**Nurse a brave Symbol**

VIVIAN STATHAM AO, MBE

BORN: December 18, 1915

DIED: July 3, 2000

Sister Vivian Statham (nee Bullwinkle), one of Australia's greatest heroines of World War 11, died aged 84 this week. Her life was testimony to the endurance and tenacity of Australians in one of

Colonel Frank STATHAM and Mrs. STATHAM. (Mrs. STATHAM was formerly LT. COL. Vivian Bullwinkle). They are pictured here at a Mess function at the Karrakatta Officer's Mess.



## ADVICE FOR IDIOTS

An actual tip from page 16 of the HP "Environmental, Health & Safety Handbook for Employees: "Blink your eyelids periodically to lubricate your eyes."

## IDIOTS IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD

I live in a semi-rural area. We recently had a new neighbour call the local township administrative office to request the removal of the Deer Crossing sign on our road. The reason: Many deer were being hit by cars and he no longer wanted them to cross there.

## IDIOTS IN FOOD SERVICE

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

## IDIOT SIGHTINGS Sighting #1:

I was at the airport, checking in at the gate, when the airport employee asked, "Has anyone put anything in your baggage without your knowledge?" I said, "If it was without my knowledge, how would I know?" He smiled and nodded knowingly, "That's why we ask,"

## Sighting #2:

The spotlight on the corner buzzes when it is safe to cross the street. I was crossing with an intellectually challenged coworker of mine, when she asked if I knew what the buzzer was for. I explained that it signals to blind people when the light is red. She responded, appalled, "What on earth are blind people doing driving?"

## Sighting #3: Recognise anyone here?

At a good-bye lunch for an old and dear coworker who is leaving the company due to "downsizing," our manager spoke up and said, "This is fun. We

should have lunch like this more often." Not another word was spoken. We just looked at each other like deer staring into the headlights of an approaching truck.

## Sighting #4:

I worked with an Individual who plugged her power board back into itself and for the life of her could not understand why her system would not turn on.

## Sighting #5:

When my husband and I arrived at an automobile dealership to pick up our car, we were told that the keys had been accidentally locked in it. We went to the service department and found a mechanic working feverishly to unlock the driver's side door. As I watched from the passenger's side, I instinctively tried the door handle and discovered it was open. "Hey," I announced to the technician, "it's open!" "I know," answered the young man. - "I already got that side."

## The Garden Party

A wealthy woman is giving a garden party, and several well-to-do guests attend. While the party ensues, two gardeners are out on the back lawn working. One of the guests was watching the gardeners do their thing, and while one gardener was busy weeding the other jumped up and did graceful swirling dance movements. Taken by his grace, the guest remarked to the host, 'That man is such a talented dancer, that I'd pay him a hundred dollars to demonstrate his dancing before my aerobics class!' When the host asked the first gardener about such an arrangement, he yelled, 'Hey Fred! Do you think for a hundred dollars you could step on that rake again?'



## Jim's Life in the US

Here is the latest offering from our brother in arms from the US of A.

People often wonder why Presidents Lincoln and Kennedy are compared.

### Kennedy Vs Lincoln

Here's the Kennedy/Lincoln thing and a few extras.

Abraham Lincoln was elected to Congress in 1846.

John F. Kennedy was elected to Congress in 1946.

Abraham Lincoln was elected President in 1860.

John F. Kennedy was elected President in 1960.

The names Lincoln and Kennedy each contain seven letters.

Both were particularly concerned with civil rights.

Both wives lost their children while living in the White House.

Both Presidents were shot on a Friday. Both were shot in the head.

Here is an interesting one...

Lincoln's secretary was named Kennedy.

Kennedy's secretary was named Lincoln.

Both were assassinated by Southerners.

Both were succeeded by Southerners. Both successors were named Johnson.

Andrew Johnson, who succeeded Lincoln, was born in 1808.

Lyndon Johnson, who succeeded Kennedy, was born in 1908.

John Wilkes Booth, who assassinated Lincoln, was born in 1839.

Lee Harvey Oswald, who assassinated

Kennedy, was born in 1939.

Both assassins were known by their three names.

Both names are made of fifteen letters. Booth ran from the theatre and was caught in a warehouse.

Oswald ran from a warehouse and was caught in a theatre.

Booth and Oswald were assassinated before their trials.

And last but not least, (although not a matter of record, as is the above).

---

### Ever feel like you've worked with people like this?

I went inside a McDonalds one time and ordered 2 ice cream cones. I was asked if they were for here or to go and said, "What difference does it make?" The girl behind the counter said, "I can't let you have them if you don't answer my question". I said "One is for here and one is to go". I then paid for the 2 cones and left.

IDIOTS AT WORK...

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



*Mrs. Vivian Statham*

the darker hours of our history.

Her death marks a remarkable chapter in World War II bravery and has been marked by tributes from many Australian politicians. Premier Richard Court said Mrs Statham would be remembered for her outstanding courage and commitment to others.

"Her place in Australian history is assured and her memory will continue to inspire future generations", he said.

Status of Women Minister Jocelyn Newman said Mrs Statham would remain a symbol of the strength of Australian servicewomen. Sister Bullwinkel was one of 65 nurses evacuated from Singapore before the city fell to Japanese forces in February 1942.

She was the sole survivor of the infamous Banka Island Massacre in 1942, when Japanese troops marched 22 army nurses into the ocean and machine-gunned them.

She survived by feigning her death and

later helped nurse to health a British private left for dead in a nearby jungle. The pair surrendered days later and Sister Bullwinkel spent the next 3 ½ years in a prisoner of war camp.

She and other nurses tended to the sick and injured in the camp without medicines or equipment, which later inspired the movie Road to Paradise.

Sister Bullwinkel - as the only survivor of the Banka Island slaughter - gave vital evidence in Tokyo the Australian War Crimes Tribunal.

Her courage and heroism will live on through the chilling words of the diary she donated to the Australian War Memorial.

Vivian was an Associate Member of our Association. Her recently departed husband Frank was an Honorary Colonel of our Corps. Even though her life had been laced with tragedy, she always worked for the betterment of her fellow man. Vivian was one of the very few people who could honestly say that they had become a legend in their own life time. For this reason the Association will never forget her.

**Rest in peace, Vivian.**  
**Your life's work is done!**

---

### Did You Know?

The highest ranking member of the Australian Army to receive the Victoria Cross was Major Peter Badcoe. He received his award for action in Vietnam 23 February to 07 April 1967.

The highest ranking Australian was Wing Commander Hughie Edwards for his heroism over Germany on 04 July 1942.

## **Welfare Corner**

### **MORE CONCESSIONS for DVA PENSIONERS**

The Department of Conservation and Land Management (CALM) is extending the *National Park entry fee* concession to Veterans' Affairs pensioners. The concession was previously only available to Seniors Card and Age Pension Cardholders.

CALM rangers have been advised to provide the concession to holders of, the DVA Pensioner Concession Card, the Gold Card or the White Card.

The concession price is \$3 per vehicle, for up to 8 properly seated people. To be eligible for the concession, the Veterans' Affairs cardholder must be the driver of the vehicle. In the case of some EDA or TPI pensioners, rangers will have the discretion to grant the concession if the pensioner is a passenger but not the driver of the vehicle. The concession fee of \$3 will apply at some 25 major national parks around the State, instead of \$9 per vehicle, which will be the normal entry fee from 1 July 2000.

### **Cars for TPIs stay tax free**

With the introduction of the GST, the wholesale sales tax will be abolished along with a range of other state taxes and charges.

Veterans who are totally and permanently incapacitated (T&PI) and amputees are currently granted an exemption on wholesale sales tax when they buy a new car, provided it is not a luxury vehicle, and on motor vehicle spare parts.

A similar concession will continue to be provided under GST.

The concession will also be extended to second-hand vehicles purchased by eligible veterans. Currently, they receive a Quotation of Exemption Declaration form from DVA and it is expected a similar process will be used to obtain GST exemption.

### **Accord Gives DVA Compo Rights**

**Vet affairs offering one stop shopping for claims.**

Current and former members of the ADF can expect improvements in the management of compensation claims and rehabilitation as the result of a service-level agreement between defence and the Department of Veterans' Affairs.

The new arrangement gives the Department of Veterans' Affairs responsibility for the improved management of claims and the rehabilitation of injured members on behalf of defence.

Benefits flowing from these improvements include increased timeliness of service, greater consistency of decision-making and better management of information.

Service members will now be able to deal with one agency for military compensation and rehabilitation services and Veterans' Entitlement Act claims and treatment.

There will also be increased access to

her error. "But before I let you go, Ma'am, I have to ask... Is everyone in this car okay? These women seem awfully shaken and they haven't muttered a single peep this whole time," the officer asks.

"Oh, they'll be alright in a minute officer. We just got off Route 119."

### **\$242M Boost From Defence to Northern Territory**

The Minister for Defence, John Moore, and the Northern Territory Treasurer, Mike Reed, today announced that the ADF's East Timor operation had injected business worth \$242 million into 192 Northern Territory companies.

A report entitled *Impact of the East Timor Operation on Businesses in the Northern Territory* indicates that small to medium sized companies dealing with the Australian Defence Force over the period September 1999 to February 2000 increased their turnover by an average of six percent.

"It is rewarding to see the ADF, through its East Timor operation, making such a positive contribution to the people and economy of the Northern Territory," Mr Moore said.

"Defence personnel and planners always have enjoyed very high levels of cooperation and support from NT citizens and companies, and this was particularly so during the demanding East Timor operation. Without doubt, the extra level of support we received from the Northern Territory contributed to the overwhelming success of the mission."

The report found that involvement by NT

businesses in the East Timor deployment allowed many companies to identify future business opportunities with the ADF.

"Another encouraging finding of the report was the demonstrated ability of NT businesses to support, at short notice, the enormous logistics operation undertaken by the ADF," Mr Reed said.

"There was a tremendous surge in Defence activity, particularly in Darwin, and local companies met the challenge with innovative business practices and ideas.

"The companies also maintained service levels to existing clients without substantially increasing their cost base. Equally important to these businesses was the fact that they were able to return to pre-East Timor operational levels with minimal difficulty," said Mr Reed.

The report was jointly commissioned by the Defence Materiel Organisation and the Northern Territory Government. 192 of the 364 NT companies, which dealt with the ADF, participated in the survey.



*What Might Have Been!*

8. It may be that your sole purpose in life is simply to serve as a warning to others.

9. It is far more impressive when others discover your good qualities without your help.

10. If you think nobody cares if you're alive, try missing a couple of car payments.

11. Before you criticise someone, you should walk a mile in their shoes. That way, when you criticise them, you're a mile away and you have their shoes.

12. If at first you don't succeed, skydiving is not for you.

13. Give a man a fish and he will eat for a day. Teach him how to fish and he will sit in a boat and drink beer all day.

14. If you lend someone \$20 and never see that person again, it was probably worth it.

15. Don't squat with your spurs on.

16. If you tell the truth, you don't have to remember anything.

17. If you drink, don't park; accidents cause people.

18. Some days you are the bug, some days you are the windshield.

19. Don't worry - it only seems kinky the first time.

20. Good judgement comes from bad experience, and a lot of that comes from bad judgement.

21. The quickest way to double your money is to fold it in half and put it back in your pocket.

22. Timing has an awful lot to do with the outcome of a raindance.

23. A closed mouth gathers no feet.

24. Duct tape is like the force; it has a light side and a dark side and it holds the universe together.

25. There are two theories to arguing with women. Neither one works.

26. Generally speaking, you aren't learning much when your mouth is moving.

27. Experience is something you don't get until just after you need it.

28. Never miss a good chance to shut up.

---

### On Route

Sitting on the side of the highway waiting to catch speeding drivers, a State Police Officer sees a car pattering along at 22 MPH. He thinks to himself, "This driver is just as dangerous as a speeder!" So he turns on his lights and pulls the driver over.

Approaching the car, he notices that there are five old ladies—two in the front seat and three in the back—wide eyed and white as ghosts. The driver, obviously confused, says to him, "Officer, I don't understand, I was doing exactly the speed limit! What seems to be the problem?"

"Ma'am," the officer replies, "You weren't speeding, but you should know that driving slower than the speed limit can also be a danger to other drivers."

"Slower than the speed limit? No sir, I was doing the speed limit exactly... Twenty-two miles an hour!" the old woman says a bit proudly.

The State Police officer, trying to contain a chuckle explains to her that "22" was the route number, not the speed limit.

A bit embarrassed, the woman grinned and thanked the officer for pointing out

### A CAUTIONARY TALE

Recently I was speaking to the son of a deceased veteran who found an item of \$26.50 on an account from a solicitor for returning a gold card to DVA as part of winding up the veteran's estate. He was angry when he learned that DVA only require notification of the death of a beneficiary and not necessarily the return of the card. He thought you might wish to publish this so others might avoid such costs.

*Jan Lincke*

*Welfare and Pensions Officer RSL Victorian Branch)*

---

### Check Pension Eligibility

Partners of Totally and Permanently Incapacitated (T&PI) veterans should check to see if they are eligible to receive the partner service pension.

A service pension provides a regular income for people with limited means. It can be paid to an eligible partner of a veteran who meets certain criteria. It is subject to income and assets tests.

To be eligible for partner service pension, a person must be the partner of a veteran who is receiving an age or invalidity service pension, or is eligible to receive an age service pension.

As well as these criteria, in most cases the partner must be over 50 years of age, or have dependent children when the claim is made. However, partners of T&PI veterans with qualifying service are eligible for partner service pension at any age.

In all cases a person must be an Australian resident and in Australia

Veterans' Affairs' wider network of outlets, which is particularly important to retired or discharged members.

Gwen Wharton, Military Compensation Policy Directorate, said this change would effectively introduce one-stop-shop -for claimants.

"A lot of people have entitlements under, the Safety, Rehabilitation and Compensation Act and the Veterans' Entitlement Act, so they can now just go to one place to make a claim," she said.

"Veterans' Affairs has a long history of very good service delivery to veterans and we believe we can capitalise on the ethos making compensation claims.

Members or former members with compensation or rehabilitation claims can contact their local military compensation and rehabilitation service office for information.

Those members or former members of the ADF, eligible for benefits under both the SRCA and VEA, in particular, will benefit. Over the next six months, most MCRS offices will collocate with DVA but in the meantime, clients should make an appointment with their local MCRS office who will confirm their location.

Toll free numbers are:

1800 634 038 Adelaide  
 1800 670 616 Brisbane  
 1800 064 345 Canberra  
 1800 637 695 Darwin  
 1800 816 071 Hobart  
 1800 066 869 Melbourne  
 1800 624 761 National Office  
 1800 817 489 Perth  
 1800 645 451 Sydney  
 1800 620 532 Townsville.

when they claim.

Those who believe they are eligible to receive a partner service pension as a partner of a T&PI veteran should contact the nearest DVA office.

### **TPI WARNING**

The following message was passed to the RAEME Association as a warning to our members.

Dear All

The following message has been received. I believe that there is some credibility in this message as I have heard from other sources the same and other issues, relating to the T&PI payments.

Regards

John Pritchard  
Lieutenant Colonel  
RAE (Rtd) Formerly Trooper A Sqn 3  
Cav Regt 1966-67

G'day

I have been reliably informed that a very large number of TPI's are about to be or are already under investigation in relation to working and others not keeping up their medical treatment. Be warned "think how hard it was to get", so don't lose it as you won't get it back again.

John Graham JP  
50 Rosemeath Ave  
Kingsgrove  
NSW  
Australia 2208

**All TPI Pensioners should be well aware of their entitlements and the rules governing the granting of their pension. If you are not sure ask our Welfare Officers.**

### **NEW PENSION RATES**

These are the new Veteran's Affairs pensions that affect all of our Repat Recipients they are effective from **1st of July 2000**

Type	New Rate per fortnight)
<b>Disability Pensions</b>	
Special Rate (TPI)	\$683.00
Intermediate Rate	\$471.40
EDA	\$388.65
General Rate	
100%	\$259.10
90%	\$233.19
80%	\$207.28
70%	\$181.37
60%	\$155.46
50%	\$129.55
40%	\$103.64
30%	\$77.73
20%	\$51.82
10%	\$25.91
War Widow/er	\$411.90
<b>Income Support Pensions</b>	
Service Pension	
(Single rate)	\$386.90
(Partnered rate, each)	\$322.90
Income Support Supplement	\$124.90
<b>Allowances</b>	
Rent Assistance	(Total)
(Single)	\$85.00
(Partnered)	\$79.80
(Shared Renter	
DSS Age Pension)	\$56.70

**If you have any queries about your pension contact our Welfare Officers.**

### **Life According to Perry**

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

#### **Geek Joke!**

And, lo, it came to pass that the trader by the name of Abraham Com did take unto himself a young wife by the name of Dot. And Dot Com was a comely woman, broad of shoulder and long of leg. Indeed, she had been called Amazon Dot Com.

And she said unto Abraham, her husband, "Why doth thou travel far from town to town with thy goods, when thou can trade without ever leaving thy tent?" And Abraham did look at her as though she were several saddle bags short of a camel load, but simply said, "How, dear?" And Dot replied, "I will place drums in all the towns and drums in between to send messages saying what you have for sale and they will reply telling you which hath the best price. And the sale can be made on the drums and delivery by Uriah's Pony Stable (UPS)."

Abraham thought long and decided he would let Dot have her way with the drums. And Dot said, "There will be a lot of banging in the land."

And Abraham replied, "It is my most fervent wish that this be so." And the drums rang out and were an immediate success. Abraham sold all the goods he had, at the top price, without ever moving from his tent.

But his success did arouse envy. A man named Maccabia did secret himself inside Abraham's drum and was accused of insider trading.

And the young did take to Dot Com's trading, as doth the greedy horsefly to camel dung. They were called Nomadic Ecclesiastical Rich Dominican Siderites or NERDS for short.

And, lo, the land was so feverish with joy at the new riches and the deafening sound of drums, that no one noticed that the real riches were going to the drum

maker, one Brother William of Gates, who bought up every drum company in the land.

And indeed did insist on making drums that would only work if you bought Brother William's drumsticks. And Dot did say, "Oh, Abraham, what we have started is being taken over by others." And as Abraham looked out over the Bay of Ezekiel, or as it came to be known, "eBay," he said, "We need a name of a service that reflects what we are." And Dot replied, "Young Ambitious Hebrew Owner Operators."

"Whoopee!" said Abraham.

"No, YAHOO!" said Dot Com.

#### **Philosophical Words**

1. Do not walk behind me, for I may not lead. Do not walk ahead of me, for I may not follow. Do not walk beside me, either. Just clear off and leave me alone.

2. The journey of a thousand miles begins with a broken fan belt and a flat tyre.

3. It's always darkest before dawn. So if you're going to steal your neighbour's newspaper that's the time to do it.

4. Don't be irreplaceable; if you can't be replaced, you can't be promoted.

5. No one is listening until you make a mistake.

6. Always remember you're unique, just like everyone else.

7. Never test the depth of the water with both feet.

## **CD a Must For Veterans.**

INTERFET'S achievements in East Timor are being celebrated with the release of a CD-ROM that highlights humanitarian efforts of the multinational force.

"Images of INTERFET" is a visual record of the blood, sweat and tears that went into the intervention and peacekeeping operations in East Timor.

The CD has an attractive interface and simple controls, which make it very easy to navigate. The disc has a 1200-image database that can be accessed by browsing thumbnails or through a handy key-word search facility, which is great for looking up the name of a friend or family member to see if there is a picture of them.

The photos are very well presented, with the subject matter combining with a vibrant landscape to make them eye-catching.

Most of the images were taken by defence photographers and the collection highlights the fine work done by the photographers in East Timor.

The CD also incorporates video. These short grabs provide a greater insight to life on the ground, sea and air during INTERFET.

Included with the disc is poetry and a song written for the diggers by Queensland artist Nik Phillips.

The lyrics are set to some more excellent video make the words even more poignant.

All in all "Images of INTERFET" makes for interesting viewing. Even for one who has not been to East Timor I found the combination of attractive interface

and engaging imagery a pleasure to look at.

For those of you who took part in INTERFET or are currently serving in East Timor, this CD is a must for yourselves and your families.

And for those of us who have not been there it is a great insight into the outstanding job our fellow soldiers, sailors and airmen did in East Timor.

Images of INTERFET is available from Australian Defence Credit Union for \$10 including GST or \$13 including GST and Postage and handling from Myer Direct.

---

## **The Spirit of RAEME**

A feature of RAEME that affords its members much pride is its sense of unity and purpose. This comes from the knowledge that its soldiers are tradesmen whose skills are in demand both in peace and war - in other words, that there is always a worthwhile job to do. *Esprit de corps* derived from this knowledge extends also to RAEME's civilian employees and the soldiers' families for they, too, are members of the RAEME community. Together all have a sense of being engaged in a vital service and from this comes unanimity of purpose. Once an EME always an EME!

The Australian services are frequently called upon by civil authorities to help with important ceremonial occasions, emergencies, natural disasters and other events. When accidents or tragedies occur, RAEME is particularly wanted because of its specialised equipment and the skills of its technicians

**Theo Barker - Craftsmen of the Army.**

## **Changes to Medal Entitlements**

This is the latest decision of the Government that may affect some of our members. If it does, contact the Welfare Officers of the Association and you will be provided with the addresses you need to make application for your entitlements.

42 000 new medal entitlements for South East Asian service 1955-75

Australian sailors, soldiers and airmen who served in South East Asia between 1955-75 will benefit from an estimated 42 000 new medal entitlements, the Minister Assisting the Minister for Defence, Bruce Scott, said today.

Speaking at the RSL's 85th National Congress in Perth, Mr Scott said the medal entitlements had been identified following a detailed analysis by the Department of Defence into the recommendations arising from the Review of Service Entitlement Anomalies in Respect of South-East Asian Service 1955-75, released earlier this year.

"On the basis of the Review's recommendations, the Department of Defence has determined that:

- \* an area of operations be established in respect of Royal Australian Navy (RAN) operations off Malaya 1955-60, which will confer eligibility in accordance with the awarding criteria of the Imperial Naval General Service Medal 1915-62 (Clasp Malaya), Australian Active Service Medal (AASM) 1945-75 (Clasp Malaya), the Returned from Active Service Badge (RASB) as well as qualifying service

for repatriation benefits under the Veteran's Entitlement Act 1986

- \* introduction of a separate medal clasp, Clasp SE Asia, to the Australian Service Medal 1945-75, for land service 1955-71

- \* qualifying service under the VEA 1986 along with medal entitlements towards the Imperial General Service Medal 1962 (Clasp Borneo), the AASM 1945-75 (Clasp Malaysia), and RASB to those who saw service on Her Majesty's Australian Ships Parramatta, Sydney, Vampire and Yarra, off Borneo during the Indonesian Confrontation, and

- \* qualifying criteria for all operations that earned entitlement to the AASM 1945-75 be standardised to conform with modern criteria afforded to medals earned in warlike operations."

A separate detailed submission, to be completed by the end of the year, would address service in South East Asia after 31 October 1971 with the Australian, New Zealand and United Kingdom (ANZUK) Forces in Singapore and under other treaty arrangements after termination of the Far East Strategic Reserve. Service of the Royal Australian Air Force and the deployed Army Rifle Company at RAAF Base Butterworth, Malaysia would also be considered.

These measures are intended to recognise the vital contribution of servicemen and women to the stability of South East Asia during a period of significant international tension, Mr Scott said.

### **BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

- \* The area of operations for RAN service in support of operations in Malaya 1955-60 will be set at 12 nautical miles.

- \* This is consistent with the criteria

established for the award of the NGSM with Clasp 'Malaya' in accordance with the qualification requirement of 28 days patrolling off the Malayan coast in close support of operations against bandits.

\* This also in accordance with the modern criteria approved by Federal Cabinet for the definition of such an area of operations (and, for example, which has been applied to East Timor).

\* A Clasp 'SE Asia' will be instituted for land service 1955-71 rather than an extension of the Clasp 'FESR' as it involved service under other security treaties other than just FESR, for example, SEATO land forces.

\* The Clasp 'SE Asia' will not lead to 'double dipping' with the Clasp 'FESR' as both Clasps will recognise the one period of service in South East Asia, including that with the FESR.

\* The service of HMA Ships Parramatta, Sydney, Vampire and Yarra in Borneo during the Indonesian Confrontation in 1964 will now be eligible for all campaign medals, subject to meeting the relevant qualifying criteria. They will also be eligible to receive the Returned from Active Service Badge and entitlements under the VEA Act 1986.

\* The qualifying criteria for all operations involving the AASM 1945-75 and the current AASM will be standardised in line with modern criteria given to warlike medals. This is basically 'one day or more on the posted strength of a unit allotted (or assigned) to and serving in an operational area, one operational sortie into the area, 30 non-operational sorties or 30 days for visitors'.

\* A separate review of recognition of

service in South East Asia after Oct 1971 including Butterworth Malaysia, which includes both Rifle Company and RAAF service, is being conducted by Defence. It is expected that this will be completed by the end of the year.

### Puckapunyal Training Facility

The Minister for Defence, John Moore, today reaffirmed the Federal Government's commitment to a strong Defence presence in regional Australia, when he visited the Puckapunyal training facility near Seymour in Victoria.

"It is Government policy that there should be no reduction in the Defence presence in regional Australia," Mr Moore said.

"The Federal Government has a long-term commitment to Puckapunyal. There will be no reduction in facilities there, and no changes to Defence operations conducted at nearby Graytown.

Puckapunyal is Army's leading combat arms training establishment in southern Australia and a centre of excellence for developing combat doctrine. The range is extensively used by the Army Combat Arms Training Centre and the Reserve units of 4th Brigade, headquartered in Melbourne.

The Combined Arms Training Development Centre is the Army's centre for developing future capability. Its function is pivotal for the development of new capabilities to meet the future requirements of the Australian Army.

### ANZACS

Here is a message sent to us from Mick Ryan of the RAE Association that may be of interest to some of our military buffs. If anyone wishes to follow this up, contact Mick Ryan or the Secretary of this Association.

Paul,  
I read in the Legacy bulletin here in Perth that you have produced a booklet 'Researching the ANZACS'. I would like to purchase a copy. I have your address and would like to confirm that the cost is \$12. Would I be able to obtain a copy from you?  
Regards  
Mick Ryan OAM  
Pres RAE Assoc of WA

Dear Mick,  
Thanks for your email and your interest in my booklet "Researching the Anzacs". Sorry that it took me so long to reply. The booklet cost \$12 (includes postage and \$2 donation to Legacy). People usually send me a cheque and as soon as it arrives I send the booklet out. Thank you very much for your interest.  
Regards  
Paul Noonan

### Tobruk Military Medals

In early 1941, three men, Sgt W.M. Allison, Pte E.O.J. Dunning and Pte K. Smith all received the Military Medal for one action during the battle for Tobruk.

Prior to the Tobruk battle., the section was asked for a sub-section of three men to accompany the Tank Corps for the purpose of effecting minor repairs during the action and Sgt Allison and his two men were selected as the most suitable for the job, from the many who volunteered, and duly set off in a utility complete with tools, equipment and welding gear. From here on, we lost sight of these chaps and often wondered just how they were faring and it was not until after the battle that we heard of the magnificent part they had played. These men operated an oxyacetylene cutting torch on a number of disabled "I" Tanks. This work was done under heavy shellfire. Coolness and accuracy while using a dazzling, torch enabled 5 Tanks to re-enter the battle. These men can claim to be the first to carry out welding operations in the front line during an action. Doubtless, the work performed by these men played a real part in the ultimate result. Three Military Medals in a single action is a feat any combat unit would be proud to record.

#### Can We Help You

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

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

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

“Shorty”, “Southy”, “Tich”, the inevitable “Curly”, “Sparks” (the electrician), “Campsic”, an obvious Sydneyite-and “The Boogy Woogy Kid”! Everyone prefers these descriptive monickers to the official rank of craftsman. And the boys don’t mind; they’re no “snobs”

Each man’s great pride is his tool-kit; a steel box, complete with the strongest lock obtainable and bearing his name on the lid. Woe betide anyone who borrows and fails to return a spanner or screwdriver! In fact, it requires many solid reasons and much talking to borrow an item at all!

One great thing is common to both tankcrews and fitters, and that is the amount of wholehearted co-operation necessary at all times. A tank is chock-full of mechanical headaches and, although each man is a specialist in his job, there is always something about which, for example, “Tich” may have to consult “Curly”. It may even be necessary to bring “Shorty” into the picture, but sooner or later they emerge from the depths of the engines and say, “She’s fixed!”

For after-work hours, the fitters seem to have two main pastimes: souvenir-making and arguing about their home States! Maybe some day, they will decide on the winner and duly crown him, but as yet, the honours are even. Relations and friends usually receive the results of the souvenir-making hobby and these are well worth having too. Much work is put into those rings and knick-knacks arrive home in a matchbox, “passed Censor”, and with a covering note:- “Made out of a piece of tank, Mum.”

In any group of men, there will always be personalities which stand out. The Fitters teams are no exception. For example, our team has a real philosopher who, incidentally, enjoys the distinction of being the only English representative. His name is simply “Jungle”, to the army; the initials “J.W.” mean only one thing-jungle warfare. So “Jungle” works and quotes his little pieces of philosophy.

“I fold my trousers,” says Jungle, “and sleep on ‘em. That’s how I keep the creases.... And that’s how I keep my pants, too!”

And maybe he’s right both ways.

There briefly, is something about the “angels with dirty faces”. We call them that, knowing that they are anything but angels in the strict sense of the word - but these blokes certainly have dirty faces! Anyway, as good old Jungle says: “It shows you’ve been working.”

Australia’s armoured units owe a great deal to the fitters.

Any tank-crew member will vouch for that,

“NX 113826”

### What he is doing!

The person who appears on Page 6 is WO2 Roy Griffin. Roy has recently taken over the job of ASM at 10 Light Horse Regiment.

Why is his eyes shut? Well, he is doing his AFV Crewman’s swim test at the Challenge Stadium, Perth. Goes to show that, even the bosses have got to get into the swing of things. Roy can, at least, can say that he has done what all his troops are required to do.

We thank the Army News and Maj. Greg Smith for the Photograph.

## Senate begins defence Inquiry

### **Sale of Burt Street barracks the first to be examined**

The Senate has started an inquiry into the Federal Government’s sell-off of defence properties around the country starting with the Artillery Barracks in Fremantle.

The decision to hold the inquiry followed a visit to the Burt Street site six weeks ago by Senator John Hogg, chairman of the Senate foreign affairs, defence and trade references committee.

A Defence Department spokesman said the investigation would not impact continuing negotiations between the Defence Department and Notre Dame University, which has been given priority status to buy the prime 3ha site which is in a prime location overlooking the port city.

The barracks were built from 1910 to 1913 and housed the Army Museum, after it moved from East Perth to Fremantle in 1995, as well as the University Regiment.

The heritage-listed site is now classified as surplus to requirements by the department, which employed public relations firm Turnbull, Porter and Novelli, property agent Knight Frank and planning consultant BSD Consultants to soften the blow of the sale.

Senator Hogg, from the Queensland Labor Party, said any recommendation by the committee to halt the sale would ultimately be one for the Federal Government to act on.

He said the public tug-of-war over the Fremantle barracks site had triggered a broader inquiry into the Government’s disposal, sale and lease back arrangements for hundreds of millions of dollars worth of properties in Australia.

The committee will report back to the Senate by March 2001.

It members include Senator Sandy Macdonald, from the NSW National Party, NSW Democrat Senator Vicki Boume, NSW Labor, Senators Steve Hutchins and Sue West and WA Liberal Senator Ross Lightfoot.

The terms of reference and calling for public submissions will be advertised, with the first WA hearings expected before Christmas.

For those who don’t know the significance of the Artillery Barracks, most of the diggers that went to World War I spent their last night in Australia there. Many never came back. If only for that reason, it should be preserved .

Credit where credit is due, Senator Ross Lightfoot has done a terrific amount of work on behalf of the Army Museum. All veterans and serving members alike appreciate that work. We would dearly love to be able to say that we have our heritage in our own hands and not where we cannot visit it when we wish. To Ross - we can only say thank you!

We thank **Carmelo Amalfi from the West Australian** for writing this report on 8<sup>th</sup> of September bringing us important and good news for the Museum. At least we now have a chance, whereas before we had no chance.

## Vietnam Battle Commemorated in East Timor

The Battle of Long Tan was fought in Vietnam by D Company, 6th Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment (6RAR) on 18 August 1966.

In the battle 17 Australian soldiers lost their lives, and another later died of wounds - the opposing Viet Cong force of an estimated 2,500 sustained at least 245 killed.

In East Timor today (Friday August 18) soldiers of 6RAR commemorated that action, as they have done every anniversary, with a memorial Service and parade.

But this year's Long Tan Day held particular significance and poignancy for men and women of the Battalion on duty with the United Nations Peacekeeping Force.

It was just nine days previous they had suffered the loss on operations of one of their number, Corporal Stuart Jones, who died of an accidental gunshot wound.

This year's Service also was only the second to be held in an operational zone - the first being in 1969 when the Battalion undertook its second tour of Vietnam.

Regimental Sergeant Major, Warrant Officer Class One Dave Ashley, went to a lot of effort to replicate that first operational commemorative Service.

Close to the Battalion's Headquarters located in the village of Balibo, just 10 kilometres from the West Timor border, he had constructed and erected by the soldiers a cross, styled on that used in the Vietnam service.

The same Australian National Flag and Unit Flag flown in Vietnam were brought

to East Timor especially to be paraded at today's commemoration, the format of which followed closely that of the one held more than 30 years ago.

Another link to the past is the composition of the Battalion. In Vietnam its soldiers were drawn from the Regular Army and National Servicemen.

Today's Battalion has about 200 Army Reserve soldiers who have volunteered for full-time service, patrolling alongside their Regular Army comrades.

The Service was conducted by 6RAR Chaplain Mick Lappin, assisted by Chaplain Barrie Yesberg, and candles were lit in memory of those who died at Long Tan and for the five Peacekeepers - one Australian, three New Zealander, one Malaysian - who have died in the Battalion's Sector in UN service.

About 250 soldiers from the Battalion attended the commemoration but even that relatively small percentage was uncertain until the last minute as operational patrol commitments kept the remainder on duty.

The local East Timor choir from Balibo sang a hymn of reflection and Warrant Officer Ashley read the Ode; Battalion pipers added their soulful contribution to the ceremony.

An Iroquois helicopter from New Zealand's No 3 Squadron, based at nearby Suai, over-flew the congregation as the Last Post sounded.

The Commander of the Peacekeeping Force, Lieutenant General Boonsrang Niumpradit, representatives from the Australian National Contingent, the New Zealand Battalion, and local political and religious dignitaries accepted invitations to attend.

Following the Long Tan Service the Battalion held a representational medal parade at its Fort Balibo Headquarters

This story comes from the New Guinea campaign during World War II. It reflects how the Armoured Corps Tank Crews felt about their workers in the LAD. It seems as if we do exactly the same today. Work hard and play hard!

### Fitters Keep Them Rolling

It is hot-and unbelievably stuffy-in the tank. All hatches are closed down and the occupants are separated from the world by inches of armour-plate. In the turret, three men listen to the rhythmic crashing of two giant diesels in the next compartment. Even weird crash helmets and bulky headphones fail to keep out the terrific noise. The accompanying vibrations set every screw and rivet in sympathetic motion.... Everything vibrates....

Forward, in his own compartment, the driver notes this steady beat with obvious satisfaction. That tells him the engines at least are working well. And every driver knows the moods of his own engines.

The great mass of armour forges steadily, unerringly ahead, keeping its place in formation and guided-not by guess and by God but by radio and periscope.

But suddenly, the crew hears a variation in the engines' song; heads are inclined as each listens for confirmation of that first, ever-so slight change. Then the driver's voice comes in; his gauges and instruments have told their story.

"Driver here, sir. Right-hand engine over-heating. Oil pressure down. Can you hear it?"

"Yes," answers the crew-commander. "Seems a bit wonky. Can she make

harbour?"

"No, sir. I'll switch off. We'll crawl home on one motor all right."

"Very good. Go ahead."

The crew-commander switches on his transmitter and calls up the squadron leader:

"Hullo, Bolo ... six calling. Left motor out of action. Am returning to harbour....."

"O.K., six. Get the fitters cracking; we want you again by tonight."

Slowly, the sick tank chugs back to the harbour area; a mechanical casualty; a rush job for the fitters.

That's where the Armoured Fighting Vehicle Fitter comes into the picture. Fitters keep each tank rolling under all circumstances and difficulties, working behind the scenes and unpublicised. It is their job to keep mobile each tank under their care. Men's lives depend on that. On manoeuvres the fitters leave no "knock-off time" and very often it is necessary to work throughout the night with the massive, greasy innards of the lumbering landship. There are a thousand and one things, which can go wrong-and do! The fitters' reward comes, however, when creaking steel tracks carry the vehicle into action again. In the Middle East, fitters often worked under fire to achieve this and more than one died with a spanner still grasped in a grimy hand.

The fitters are a really distinctive lot, our particular team being a good example. Almost every State and a great variety of occupations are represented; nicknames figure prominently and these are used on every occasion. Here are some:





The artist's impressions with this article are computer generated "fly throughs" and give a good idea of how the Armoueurs Hall will look when it is finished. This image shows the typical Armourers Workshop, bench and all.

### Government support for Graytown

The Minister for Defence, John Moore, today refuted allegations by a Victorian Labor politician that the Department of Defence intends to close the Graytown ammunition and explosives test facility in Victoria.

"The Prime Minister and I have repeatedly stated that there will be no reduction in the Defence presence in regional Australia.

"The proof and experimental functions of Defence at Graytown have been market tested as part of the efficiency measures in the Defence Reform Program.

"The evaluation of the tenders has been completed. In accordance with the Prime Minister's commitment to rural and regional Australia, there will be no

change to Defence operations conducted at Graytown.

"Graytown will be retained, as well as all facilities at the nearby Puckapunyal Army Base.

"The Member for McEwen, Fran Bailey, is a strong supporter of Defence facilities in her electorate and she has worked vigorously to represent her community's interest in retaining this Defence presence."

"I fully endorse the recent strong statements she has made about the security of the future of Graytown and Puckapunyal," said Mr Moore. "Her comments and assurances represent Government policy."

**Ed's Note:** This facility is one of the most important as far as safety for all members of the Army. I hope the Government is not telling porkies.

### Don't Forget

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

during which local villagers presented about 60 soldiers with their United Nations Peacekeeping medals

### Government Welcomes Report into Army

The Minister for Defence, John Moore, today welcomed the report of the Joint Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade, From Phantom to Force: Towards a More Efficient and Effective Army.

"The Government currently is conducting a wide-ranging review of Australia's Defence policies - including public consultation - regarding the future of our Defence Force. The Committee's report is a welcome addition to that debate and consultation process," Mr Moore said.

"The Government's response to the report's recommendations will be considered in the context of the forthcoming Defence White Paper.

"Modernising the Australian Army has been a major priority since I became Minister. In the past two years, the Government has put in place policy initiatives which have revitalised the Army - increased their readiness, their ability to deploy and their combat capabilities," said Mr Moore.

The initiatives include:

- \* raising a second brigade to a higher readiness notice of 28 days, to increase the range of response options available to Government. The 1st Brigade, based in Darwin, was used as the basis for this increased preparedness, giving the Government the flexibility to mount the INTERFET deployment to East Timor;

- \* increasing the number of fully operational infantry battalions from four to six, by bringing to combat readiness an additional two, full-time Army battalion groups, raising Army's combat strength by 3,000 to 26,000 full-time personnel;

- \* enhancing the role of the Army Reserves by amending legislation to enable the call out of Reserves in peacetime, and providing appropriate, associated protection and incentives to both Reservists and employers; and

- \* expanding amphibious mobility and deployability through bringing the catamaran HMAS Jarvis Bay into service and fixing the LPA Amphibious Transport ships.

### Who's Counting

A woman woke in the middle of the night to find her husband missing from their bed. In the stillness of the house, she could hear a muffled sound downstairs.

She went downstairs and looked all around, still not finding her husband. Listening again, she could definitely hear moaning. She went down to the basement to find her husband, crouched in the corner facing the wall, sobbing.

"What's wrong with you?" she asked him.

"Remember when your father caught us fooling around when you were 16?" he replied. "He said, I had two choices: I could either marry you, or spend the next 20 years in prison."

Baffled, she said, "yes, I remember. So?"

"Well...I would have gotten out today!"

Here is a report from the new Armourers Museum set up by our sister Corps REME at Arborfield. The accompanying prints are from a computerised "Fly Through". For any of us who go to the UK, it would be a display area well and truly worth seeing.

### Latest plans for the Armourers' Hall unveiled

Scribe: Dr Anthony Medhurst

After the successful completion of Phase Two of the Museum Development Plan – the construction of the £400,000 Prince Philip Hall - I am delighted to unveil a computer-generated, artist's impression of Phase Three, the Armourers' Hall.

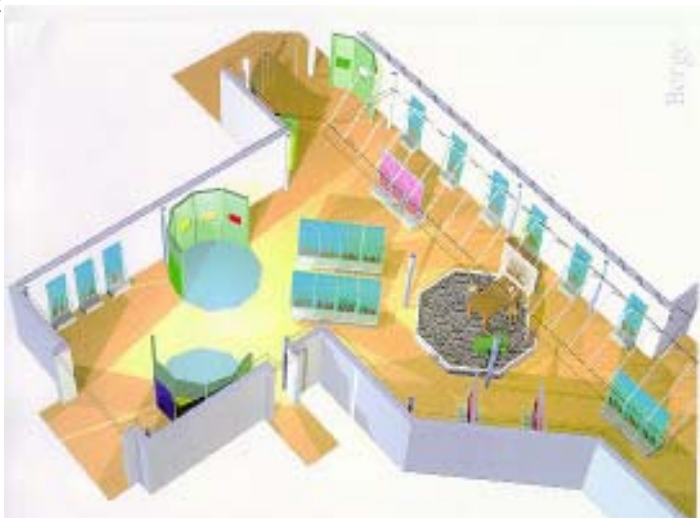
#### **What are the challenges facing us now?**

Although existing phases of the museum are equipped with vehicles and equipment from campaigns fought over recent decades, from a presentational point of view we have still to work on telling the story of REME effectively, particularly illustrating its resourcefulness, ingenuity and innovation in support of the British Army. Nowhere is this story better told than in the development and maintenance of weaponry. There are three problems that can be solved by the construction of this Hall. First, we do not possess high security facilities for our fully functional collection to be displayed openly to the public. Second, we have not been able to

use our specialist facilities to teach children about such related subjects as combustion, aerodynamics, pivots and levers, materials science and mechanics. Third, in a bid to move towards financial self-sufficiency, we need to provide additional facilities for corporate hospitality and education.

#### **How will we meet these challenges?**

As the artist's impression of The Armourers' Hall shows, the educational needs of visitors will be met in two ways: by installing the sounds and sights of a working area in small arms maintenance and repair, and providing computer interactives for a detailed understanding of related academic subjects. The Armourers' Hall has also been designed to provide multi-functional areas displaying not just our superb collection of historic weaponry, but allowing businessmen and children to gather for specific purposes in an



REME Museum of Technology, Isaac Newton Road, Arborfield, Reading, United Kingdom RG2 9NJ. Cheques should be made payable to 'The REME Museum Development Fund'.

• The Fundraising Manager can be

historical setting.

#### **How can you help?**

Museum Director, Lt Col Bill Cleasby said, "The contribution of serving members of the Corps towards reaching our target of £600,000 through fundraising events is more important than ever. Each of us will be doing our bit to reach this figure by 1<sup>st</sup> October 2002. The challenge is huge but, as I am sure you will agree, highly worthwhile. You can be certain that every penny of your fundraising activities will go directly to these project costs.

#### **What should you do next?**

- You can nominate the museum as your unit's 'Charity of the Year' sending the proceeds from events and activities to the Museum Fundraising Manager,



contacted through e-mail about alternative ways of raising money for the museum. Thank you for your help!

**Eds Note:** It would be great if we could have a dedicated museum such as this for our Corps. Our sister Corps has been working extremely hard to maintain their Corps History. We have quite a few members of REME that are members of our Association. They may like to heed the call of Lt Col Cleasby and do a little fundraising of their own. I, personally could not think of a better project to take up.