

Just a Common Soldier

*He was getting old and paunchy and his hair was falling fast,
And he sat around the RSL telling stories of the past.
Of a War that he had fought in and the deeds that he had done.
In his exploits with his buddies, they were heroes everyone.*

*And tho' sometimes to his neighbours his tales became a joke,
All his RSL buddies listened for they knew whereof he spoke.
But we'll hear his tales no longer, for old Tom has passed away,
And the world won't note his passing, tho' a soldier died today.*

*He will not be mourned by many, just his children and his wife,
For he lived an ordinary, quiet and uneventful life,
Held a job and raised a family, quietly going his own way,
And the world's a little poorer for a soldier died today.*

*When politicians leave this earth, their bodies lie in state
While thousands note their passing and proclaim that they were great.
Papers tell their stories from the time that they were young,
But the passing of a soldier goes unnoticed and unsung.*

*Is the greatest contribution to the welfare of our land,
A guy who breaks his promises and cons his fellow man?
Or the ordinary fellow who in times of war and strife,
Goes off to serve his country and offers up his life?*

*A politician's stipend and the style in which he lives
Are sometimes disproportionate to the service that he gives.
While the ordinary soldier, who offers up his all,
Is paid off with a medal and perhaps a pension small.*

*It is so easy to forget them, for it was so long ago
That the Toms of our country went to battle, but we know
It was not the politicians with their compromise and ploys,
Who won for us the freedom that our country now enjoys.*

*Should you find yourself in danger with your enemies at hand,
Would you want a politician with his ever shifting stand?
Or would you prefer a soldier who has sworn to defend
His home, his kin and country and would fight until the end.*

*He was just a common soldier and his ranks are growing thin,
But his presence should remind us we may need his like again,
For when countries are in conflict then we find the soldier's part
Is to clean up all the troubles that the politicians start.*

*If we cannot do him honour while he's here to hear the praise,
Then at least let's give him homage at the ending of his days.
Perhaps just a simple heading in a paper that would say:*

'OUR COUNTRY IS IN MOURNING FOR A SOLDIER DIED TODAY'.

Author unknown – kindly sent in by BRIG Amos



The Horse's Mouth

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

Winter 2001

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		Ron MacKenzie	9294 3044
David Cooper	9479 1149	Alan Stoner	9434 4753

DEADLINE

All contributions for the next edition of THE HORSE'S MOUTH must be with the editor no later than 24th of August 2001.

DISCLAIMER

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

From the President

Sitting at my desk, I am wondering where time has gone. We are now in our fourth year and still going strong, with new members signing up making us even stronger by the day.

As you can see I have been nominated for the position of President for the ensuing year, Our AGM was held on the 28th of April 2001 at Karrakatta with a very good roll up of the usual members and even some faces not seen for quite a while. Although our Secretary was swanning in Sydney, he and the members that had not made the meeting missed the gathering we

had afterwards. The sausage sizzle prepared by the boys from the Workshops and, of course, the cold tinnies topped of a good get together.

I am hoping that in the coming twelve months we have more members attending our regular meetings that are held on the first Thursday of each month (except January).

We are still having a few problems with the costing of production of the "Horses Mouth" and the postage thereof, and I ask you all if you know of anyone who may like to sponsor us, we do need help.

Let us be true to our aims: "To maintain

The Kentuckians open a KFC
 The Floridians demand a recount and free Prozac.

The EU wants to set up a commission of 50,000 administrators paid for by the English.

The Swedes just want to screw.

The Michigan contingent issues a safety recall and sues General motors.

The Wyoming contingent asks, "What's electricity?"

Some Guy from Arizona swears that Elvis and Jimmy Dean are just over the dunes.

The Romanians and Albanians finally arrive and claim asylum.

The Coloradans cut off the Kansan's water supply.

New Mexico does not get invited.

H. M. the Queen will give anyone a Knighthood if they can grab her a few hundred acres or find a job for Charles.

The New Englanders say they can do a better job of the landing than the English can.

The New Hampshire contingent declares that everyone there is Sooooo Cruel and is going shopping to get over it.

The Chinese have no idea what is going on but blame America anyway.

The Pentagon field agents don't know what's going on but suspect the English.

Washington State NG builds a monument to Charlton Heston.

Washington DC waits to be told what to do.

New Jersey NG don't care (They just hate the English).

The Pakistanis build a Motel Six, a convenience store and gas station.

Subject: Cincinnati Bengal's

General Manager Mike Brown had put together the perfect Cincinnati Bengal's team. The only thing he was missing was a good quarterback. He had scouted all the colleges, and even the high

schools, but he couldn't find a ringer quarterback who could ensure a Super Bowl win.

Then one night, while watching CNN, he saw a war-zone scene in Bosnia. In one corner of the background, he spotted a young Bosnian soldier with a truly incredible arm. He threw a hand grenade straight into a 15th-story window 200 yards away-ka-boom!

"I've got to get this guy!" Brown said to himself. "He has the perfect arm!"

So, he brings him to the States and teaches him the great game of football, and the Cincinnati Bengal's go on to win the Super Bowl for the first time in history. The young Bosnian is idolized as the Great Hero of football, and when Brown asks him what he wants, all the young man wants to do is to call his Mother.

"Mom," he says into the phone, "I just won the Super Bowl."

"I don't want to talk to you," the old woman says. "You deserted us. You are not my son."

"I don't think you understand, Mother!" the young man pleads. "I just won the greatest sporting event in the world. I'm here among thousands of my adoring fans."

"No, let me tell you," the mother retorts. "At this very moment, there are gunshots all around us. The neighborhood is a pile of rubble. Your two brothers were beaten within an inch of their lives last week, and this week your sister was kidnapped in broad daylight."

The old lady pauses, and then tearfully says "...I'll never forgive you for making us move to Cincinnati."

Jim's Life in the US

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

Combined forces beach landing on a tropical island.

When the troops hit the beach:

The Royal Marines go fishing.
 The US Marines wait for CNN to arrive.
 The French don't care whose beach it is, it's French territory now and say the English gave them no other choice.
 The Canadians watch the Americans very closely, then offer to take over their railroad.
 The Dutch have a beach party and smoke some dope, saying the English don't understand them.
 The Italians go sunbathing.
 The Germans land and build a car factory.
 The West Indians go looking for the Dutch.
 The Poles just watch the Russians and Germans.
 The SAS/SBS win the natives hearts and minds then kill them.
 The SEALs arrive after dark and kill anyone who is not a SEAL.
 The Aussies and Kiwis land then start fighting each other over a sheep.
 The South Americans send a contingent of 2000 generals.
 The South Africans start shooting at anyone with a tan.
 The Saudi's start drilling for oil.
 The Russians open a chain of massage parlours.
 The Brit airborne troops get charged with murder even though they have not opened fire yet.
 The Spanish are late.
 The Portuguese are late but blame the Spaniards.
 Delta Force makes a movie about the landing.
 The Greeks and Turks turn up then send a bill to the Yanks and Brits.
 The British Army cannot come because all six of them have flu.

The UDT's don't know who owns what ships and decide to sink them all.
 The Californian Guard contingent won't land until someone does something about the decor.
 The New Yorkers paint their Amtraks yellow and will take you ashore for 50 bucks.
 The Irish Army will be late because they say the English stole their kit.
 The Israeli's start building a kibbutz and shell the Palestinians as a precaution.
 The Scandinavians like it off shore and stay there killing whales for the Japanese.
 The Japanese come up with a smaller, cheaper and more efficient plan and will sell it to us cheap so long as they get Texas in the deal.
 The Pennsylvanians tunnel under the beach looking for coal.
 The Palestinians say it used to be theirs but the English gave it away.
 The Oklahomans have no damn idea what a beach is.
 The Kansans don't care what a beach is.
 The Scottish claim to have found the beach first but accuse the English of stealing it.
 The Texans look for anyone bad mouthing them.
 The Mexicans invade Austin.
 The Welsh say it's King Arthur's last resting place but the English stole it.
 The Tri States think it should be turned into a national monument.
 The Belgian group think it should be closed on weekends and ban English tourists.
 The UN will send an Ambassador if the member states pay their dues.
 The Georgians open a Mason's Lodge.
 The Alabamans open a KKK lodge.
 The Swiss will shoot at anyone who enters their camp, but offer good cash exchange rates.

fellowship between serving and former members of our Corps and establish and maintain social activities.

Well, that is it from me and I hope you make the next meeting and have a good chat over a drink.

John Klein

Arte Et Marte.

Army's Latest Super Tow-Truck Rolls Into Service

The capabilities of the Army's 13.7 tonne 'tow-truck' will be on display when the last of the new vehicles is handed over to 7th Combat Service Support Battalion (7CSSB) in Brisbane on Tuesday.

Daimler-Chrysler Australia/Pacific Pty Ltd and local Brisbane company Evans Deakin Engineering Pty Ltd worked together with the Department of Defence to design and manufacture the Medium Recovery Vehicle (MRV).

The MRV is a military tow truck with specialist vehicle recovery capabilities. Its high mobility, extended range and advanced recovery systems mean that it can travel across difficult terrain to bring back accident- or battle-damaged military vehicles.

The MRV can recover fully laden Land Rover and Mercedes Unimog classes of wheeled field vehicles from road side crash sites or breakdowns across country.

The first MRV was delivered by Daimler-Chrysler to the Army Logistics Training Centre at Bandiana, Victoria, in October 1999, with a further 57 delivered since then under a contract worth \$25.85 million.

The Enoggera-based 7th Brigade will be the Army's biggest user of the MRV, although they will be operated by Army

units throughout Australia.

Three of the vehicles are currently operating in East Timor.

Major Phillip Forrest, Officer Commanding Workshops Company, 7CSSB, of the Army's 7th Brigade based at Enoggera will accept the last MRV to roll off the production line from the Senior Manager Special Projects, Mr Jack Wilson, in a handover ceremony at the Daimler-Chrysler Showrooms.

ANAO View On Reserves

A performance audit by the Australian National Audit Office of the Australian Defence Force Reserves was today welcomed by the Minister Assisting the Minister for Defence, Bruce Scott.

Mr Scott noted that the 13 recommendations contained in the ANAO report were broadly consistent with the Federal Government's Reserve initiative outlined in last year's Defence White Paper.

"The Defence White Paper highlighted changes in the strategic role of Reserves from mobilisation to meet remote threats to that of supporting and sustaining operations in which the ADF may actually be engaged," Mr Scott said.

"The Coalition Government is committed to ensuring that Reserves are an integral part of a modern readily deployable ADF."

"The Government has moved quickly to implement the White Paper's strategic guidance through the passing of two pieces of legislation to enhance the Reserves.

"On 19 April 2001, the Defence Legislation Amendment (Enhancement of the Reserves and Modernisation) Act 2001 and the Defence Reserve Service

(Protection) Act 2001 became operative.”

The Defence Legislation Amendment (Enhancement of the Reserves and Modernisation) Act 2001 has significantly broadened the range of circumstances under which Reserves can be called out. It also enables the Government to compensate employers and self-employed Reservists to undertake periods of continuous defence service.

The Defence Reserve Service (Protection) Act 2001 provides protection for Reservists in time of call out, on volunteering for protected continuous full-time service, and for the normal requirements of peacetime service.

“These two Acts provide for far greater employee and employer protection than has ever previously been the case.”

“Reserves play a vital role in the defence of Australia and reserve volunteers have also made significant contributions to our successful international commitments in Bougainville and East Timor. In excess of 1,000 reservists have given service in East Timor.

“The Government’s reforms to Reserve legislation will further enhance the capacity of the Reserves to participate in, and support, short notice operations.”

Apprentice Reunion

The 19th Intake Vehicle Mechanics are holding a reunion in Sydney from Friday the 7th September 2001 to Sunday the 9th September 2001. On the Saturday night we are having a Harbour Cruise, cost approximately \$60.00 per person, drinks are not included. We

extend an invitation to other army apprentices who have had an association with us at Balcombe, or during our army service, to join us on the cruise.

For more information please contact
 Danny Sullivan on:
 Wk: 02 96004084
 Hm: 02 96107449
 Mb: 0417 240393

Nasho Reunion

There is to be a reunion of National Servicemen 1951 - 1972 on October 27 and 28 2001. For any inquiries please call Kevin Dooley (08) 9561 5430



Supreme Kitchens

If you want a first class job done on any of your kitchen furniture, call Supreme Kitchens and be very pleasantly surprised at the cost.

Supreme Kitchens are situated at 2 Cullen Street Bayswater. Call Don Gunn on 9272 4422, and ask for a quote.

Don is a committee member of the Association.

under the 1965 - 1972 national service scheme.

“National servicemen saw service during the mid 1960’s in Malaysia and Borneo during the Indonesian Confrontation, and some 17 400 served with distinction in South Vietnam.

“During the 21 year period that covered the two post-war National Service schemes, 187 national servicemen paid the ultimate sacrifice, with some 1 500 wounded during their service,” he said.

Eligibility for the medal will be dependent upon individuals having completed their national service obligation under either scheme.

Design of the Anniversary of National Service 1951-1972 Medal and ribbon will be completed before July, and applications, to be coordinated by the Department of Defence, will be called for once the medal has been established.

It is proposed that initial stock of the medal and ribbon will be available for issue before ANZAC Day 2002.

Mr Scott said, the Anniversary of National Service 1951-1972 Medal would be worn after long service awards within the Australian Order of Wearing.”

Reserve Forces Service And Achievements Recognised

Sunday 1 July would provide all Australians with an opportunity to recognise the contribution and achievement of the men and women, both past and present, who make up the Australian Defence Force Reserve, the Minister Assisting the Minister for Defence, Bruce Scott said today.

Speaking in Melbourne at the Victorian launch of Reserve Forces Day, Mr. Scott said Reserves are a vital element of the Australian Defence Force.

“Increasingly we are drawing on the skills, expertise and qualifications of Reservists to support peacetime military operations. Reservists made significant contributions to the success of the Sydney 2000 Olympic Games and continue to contribute in East Timor and Bougainville,” he said.

Mr. Scott said that legislation which had been in place since April this year gave the Government flexibility to call out the Reserves, in whole or in part, for operations ranging from war and peacekeeping, to humanitarian assistance and disaster relief.

“The intention is not to routinely call out the Reserves. The current situation works well where most of the Defence Force’s needs are met by the voluntary employment of Reservists and we will continue to encourage this.”

“Effective Reserve capability depends on the support of civilian employers.

“In recognition of this dependency, the Government has introduced an Employer Support Payment Scheme to compensate employers and self-employed Reservists for allowing their employee-Reservists to undertake periods of continuous Defence service.

“Other new legislation offers various forms of protection for Reservists, including protection against discrimination and employment, partnership, education and financial liability protection.

“I am pleased to say that the objectives of Reserve Forces Day complements the Government’s commitment to enhancing Reserve capability and recognising the value of Reserve service.”

“The importance of the Reserves in Australia’s history is rightly highlighted by the inclusion of the 2001 Reserve Forces Day Parade as a Centenary of Federation event.”

Go-Ahead Announced For M113 APC's

I am pleased to today announce a \$10 million development phase in the upgrade of 350 M113 armoured personnel carriers.

This announcement follows confirmation in the Defence White Paper "Defence 2000: Our Future Defence Force" that the major upgrade of the armoured personnel carrier fleet will be a key element in a program of rapid enhancement for land force combat capabilities.

The 350 vehicles will be upgraded to provide a high level capability for the Australian Defence Force (ADF), with enhanced protection, mobility, habitability and firepower.

The upgrade program will deliver a first class close combat capability, the importance of which was highlighted by the M113's successful performance in East Timor.

The upgrade will address a number of safety issues with the M113. The results of ongoing studies into the affects of M113 diesel exhaust emissions will be factored into the tender specifications.

The Project Definition Phase announced will involve the production of a mock-up vehicle and the continuation of turret development. This work is to be carried out by the Australian prime contractor, Tenix Defence Systems, at its Adelaide based Systems Division.

In the longer term, production of the upgraded fleet is expected to occur at Army's Southern Logistic Group facility in the Albury/Wodonga area.

In addition to improving and sustaining an important ADF capability, the project will produce job opportunities in Adelaide and the Albury/Wodonga region in fields such as engineering design, project management,

integrated logistic support, installation and assembly.

Australian industry will also benefit in the long term through the technology transfer of modern vehicle and weapon system technology.

The M113 Upgrade represents another boost to the Australian Defence industry, following the Government's recent commitment to 150 additional Australian Light Armoured Vehicles (ASLAV) to be produced by General Motors Defence (GMD) in Adelaide.

330 000 National Servicemen To Receive Medal

The Minister for Veterans' Affairs and Minister Assisting the Minister for Defence, Bruce Scott said he was sure all veterans would welcome the Prime Minister's announcement that a new commemorative medal, the Anniversary of National Service 1951-1972 Medal, would be struck to mark the 50th anniversary of the introduction of universal conscription in 1951.

"More than 330 000 Nasho's from all walks of life were conscripted in to military service during the 50's, 60's and 70's and the Anniversary of National Service 1951-1972 Medal will recognise their contribution to the nation," Mr Scott said.

"Between 1951 - 1959 more than 227 000 young Australians undertook a period of full-time and part-time service under the national service scheme.

"From January 1965 through until December 1972, a further 63 000 national servicemen gave between 18 months and two years of full time service. In addition more than 30 000 Australians elected to complete their national service obligation as members of the Citizens Military Force

true fighting spirit in their attempt to climb Everest, the world's tallest mountain.

Success For Tenix Army Expedition On North Ridge Of Everest

Sergeant Brian Laursen (RAAF) reached the summit of Mt Everest (8850 metres) around 3.30pm EST today together with guides Chhewang and Nima Sherpa. SGT Laursen from Point Cook, Victoria, is part of Team One of the Tenix Everest 2001 Expedition. Major Zac Zaharias (Expedition Leader), Lance Corporal Tim Robathan and Major Mike Cook are continuing with their summit attempts today.

Team One, the first of three teams from the Tenix Everest Expedition, departed CISCO Camp 4 at 8300 metres at 1.40am local time and made their way up the summit ridge in the dark.

Along the ridge are the technically difficult first, second and third 'steps' - vertical sections of the ridge that require high-level mountaineering skills to negotiate. Each of the members of Team One are experienced climbers, having climbed at least one 8000 metre peak before selection for the expedition.

Teams Two and Three remain high on the mountain, waiting for their summit bids during the next couple of days, depending on weather conditions.

Today is also the 13th anniversary of the successful summit attempt of Mt Everest from the Nepal side in 1988 by LTCOL Pat Cullinan of Canberra as part of the Army Alpine Association's Bicentennial Everest Expedition.

Team One
Major Mike Cook, Sergeant Brian Laursen (RAAF), Lance Corporal Tim

Vale Joyce Whittingstall

It is with deep regrets that we must report the passing of Joyce Whittingstall of Albany. Joyce was the wife of one of our founding REME members Cliff Whittingstall. Even though Cliff and Joyce were far from most of us in Perth, they were still a part of our growing Association family.

To Cliff we offer deepest condolences on behalf of all the members of the RAEME Association of WA, especially the REME members of the Association and from all the members of the Corps of RAEME in this State.

ANZAC Day on the Roof of the World

The spirit of the ANZACs will be remembered on ANZAC Day on the roof of the world, in the shadow of the North Face of Everest at 8850 metres.

Members of the Tenix Everest 2001 Expedition will join with other Australians, New Zealanders and climbers from other allied nations in commemorating the courage and bravery of those who went before us.

The members of the expedition will conduct a ceremony, which will include the playing of the Last Post, to be followed by a gunfire breakfast.

Expedition Leader, Major Zac Zaharias, said, "It is important to remember past sacrifices, no matter where you are".

Though far from home, the expedition members are carrying on the ANZAC traditions of mateship, courage and the

Robathan and Major Zac Zaharias

Team Two

Captain Tanya Bylart, Captain Roger Grose, Mr. Bob Killip and Mr. Mark Whetu (cameraman)

Team Three

Major Dave Donaldson, Captain Jamie Hackett and Lieutenant Adrian McCallum (RAN)

15 000 New Medal Entitlements For South East Asian Service

Up to 15 000 veterans who served in Singapore and Butterworth, Malaysia between 1971 and 1989 are set to be awarded the Australian Service Medal, the Minister Assisting the Minister for Defence, Bruce Scott announced today.

Mr Scott said this latest announcement on medal entitlements follows the Government's acceptance of recommendations arising from the Review of Service Entitlement Anomalies in Respect of South-East Asian Service 1955-75, and a further review of the medal entitlements of those Defence personnel who served in Singapore until 1975 and in Butterworth until 1989 - the year in which the communist insurgency in Malaysia officially ended.

"These medal entitlements recognise the vital role that Australian servicemen and women have played in the stability and security of South East Asia during a period of significant tension," he said.

"The Department of Defence has received many thousands of applications for medals since the Review's findings were announced last year.

"I would ask all those who have submitted applications to be patient.

The applications are being processed as quickly as possible."

Mr Scott said the Government was determined to ensure proper recognition of the service and sacrifice of its servicemen and women in the defence of their country, and in assisting in the maintenance of peace and security of countries much less fortunate than Australia.

Background Information

In addition to the awards announced today, previously announced awards resulting from the Review of Service Entitlement Anomalies in Respect of South-East Asian Service 1955-75 and the follow-on Review include:

* Australian Active Service Medal (AASM) 1945-75 with Clasp 'Malaya' for service by the Royal Australian Navy in support of operations in Malaya during the period 2 July 1955 to 31 July 1960

* AASM 1945-75 with Clasp 'Thai-Malay' for land operations during the period 1 August 1960 to 16 August 1964 and Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF) air operations during the period 17 August 1964 and 30 March 1966 on the Thai-Malay Border

* AASM 1945-75 with Clasp 'Thailand' for service in Thailand at Ubon Air Base and with 2 Field Troop, Royal Australian Engineers, in Operation 'Crown' during the period 25 June 1965 to 31 August 1968

* qualifying criteria for all operations that earned entitlement to the AASM 1945-75 or current AASM standardised to conform with modern criteria for warlike operations, which is basically, 'one day or more on the posted strength of a unit allotted (or assigned) to and serving in

Okay! Why did the wagons have that particular odd wheel spacing? Well, if they tried to use any other spacing, the wagon wheels would break on some of the old, long distance roads in England, because that's the spacing of the wheel ruts.

So who built those old rutted roads? The first long distance roads in Europe (and England) were built by Imperial Rome for their legions. The roads have been used ever since.

And the ruts in the roads? Roman war chariots first formed the initial ruts, which everyone else had to match for fear of destroying their wagon wheels. Since the chariots were made for (or by) Imperial Rome, they were all alike in the matter of wheel spacing.

The United States standard railroad gauge of 4 feet, 8.5 inches derives from the original specification for an Imperial Roman war chariot. Specifications and bureaucracies live forever. So the next time you are handed a specification and wonder what horse's ass came up with it, you may be exactly right, because the Imperial Roman war chariots were made just wide enough to accommodate the back ends of two war horses. Thus, we have the answer to the original question.

Now the extra-terrestrial twist to the story...

When we see a Space Shuttle sitting on its launch pad, there are two big booster rockets attached to the sides of the main fuel tank. These are solid rocket boosters, or SRBs. The SRBs are made by Thiokol at their factory in Utah. The engineers who designed the SRBs might have preferred to make them a bit fatter, but the SRBs had to be shipped by train from the factory to the launch site. The railroad line from the factory had to run through a tunnel in the mountains. The SRBs had to fit through that tunnel. The tunnel is slightly wider than the railroad track,

and the railroad track is about as wide as two horses' behinds.

So, the major design feature of what is arguably the world's most advanced transportation system was determined over two thousand years ago by the width of a horse's behind.

And you wonder why it's so hard to get ahead in this world...

Spell checker poem

"Eye halve a spelling chequer
It came with my pea sea
It plain lea marques four my revue
Miss steaks eye kin knot sea.
Eye strike a quay an type a word
An weight four it two say
Weather eye am wrong oar write
It shows me strait a weigh.
As soon as a mist ache is maid
It nose bee fore to long
An eye can put the air err rite
Its rare lea ever wrong.
Eye halve run this poem threw it
Eye am shore your pleased two no
Its letter perfect awl the weigh
My chequer tolled me sew".

Inquisitive Blonde

A ventriloquist is touring clubs in Florida. With his dummy on his knees, he's going through his usual dumb blonde jokes when a blonde woman in the audience stands on her chair and shouts, "I've heard enough of your stupid blonde jokes. What does the color of a person's hair have to do with her worth as a human being? It's guys like you who keep women like me from being respected at work and from reaching our full potential!"

The embarrassed ventriloquist starts to apologize, when the blonde yells, "You stay out of this, mister! I'm talking to that little #*\$%&#\$*&!! sitting on your knee!"

Life According to Perry

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

Warrant Officers Rule - OK!

A crusty old General died and found himself standing before Saint Peter at the Pearly Gates. Peter welcomed him warmly, "Come right in, General! You're served your country well and you may enter Heaven!"

The General looked through the gates and stepped up to Saint Peter, "Just one thing, sonny. I hope there are no bloody Warrant Officers here. They are the rudest, most obnoxious variety of human being ever, and if there are any of them here, I'm not going in; I'd rather go to the other place".

"Don't worry, General," said Saint Peter. "No Warrant Officer has ever made it into Heaven. You'll find none of 'em here".

With that the General enters into Heaven. Moments later, he comes upon an amazing sight. It is a swaggering figure in full ceremonial's, cap cocked slightly on his head, a mostly empty bottle of Bundy OP in one hand, and a beautiful woman on either arm.

Incensed, the General rushed back to Saint Peter and bails him up, "Hey! You said there were no Warrant Officers

here! So what the hell is THAT?!?"

"Don't worry, General," says Saint Peter gently. "That's God. He just **THINKS** he's a Warrant Officer".

Ever Wonder Why?...

This article has been printed in the Horse's Mouth before. However, It has had a space age update which goes to show what impact the Romans have on today's technology.

The US standard railroad gauge (width between the two rails) is 4 feet, 8.5 inches. That's an exceedingly odd number. Why was that gauge used?

Because that's the way they built them in England, and the US railroads were built by English expatriates.

Why did the English build them like that? Because the first rail lines were built by the same people who built the pre-railroad tramways, and that's the gauge they used.

Why did "they" use that gauge then? Because the people who built the tramways used the same jigs and tools that they used for building wagons which used that wheel spacing.

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.

an operational area, one operational sortie into the area, 30 non-operational sorties or 30 days for visitors'

* introduction of a separate Clasp 'SE Asia' to the Australian Service Medal (ASM) 1945-75 and current ASM, for land service during the period 1955-89 in certain areas of South-East Asia outside of the Malayan Emergency 1955-60, Thai-Malay Border operations 1960-66, Indonesian Confrontation 1962-66 and South Vietnam 1962-73

Also approved by the Governor-General were extended entitlements for:

* ASM 1945-75 with Clasp 'Korea' for service with the British Commonwealth Forces Korea in Japan and Okinawa during the period 29 April 1952 and 26 August 1957

* ASM 1945-75 with Clasp 'Middle East' for service with 78 Wing RAAF for duties in Malta during the period 9 July 1952 to 1 December 1954

- ASM 1945-75 with Clasp with Clasp 'SW Pacific' for:

- War Grave Unit activities in Borneo, Labuan Island and Ambon during the period 25 November 1946 to 10 November 1956

- RAAF activities on Cocos Island with No 2 Airfield Construction Squadron during the period 18 November 1951 to 24 January 1954

Applications may be made by letter or on the form available on the Department of Defence web site at http://www.defence.gov.au/dpe/dpe_site/resources/index.htm, and addressed to:

**Navy Medals Section
Queanbeyan Annex
Department of Defence
CANNBERRA ACT 2600
Ph: 1800 065 149**

**Air Force Medals Section
Queanbeyan Annex
Department of Defence
CANNBERRA ACT 2600
Ph: 1800 065 149**

**Army Medals Section
GPO Box 5108BB
MELBOURNE VIC 3001
Ph: 1800 623 306**

British National Service Medal

The Association has just been informed that the British Government has produced a medal that is entitled the British National Service Medal. If anyone served as a National Serviceman in the British Forces then you may well be entitled to this medal. Please contact the Secretary at the address on page 2, email curtisj@bigpond.com or by phone **9271 4520**.

RAEME Room at Karrakatta

The RAEME Association is very much indebted to the OC of 13 BASB WKSP COY for allowing the Association to have use of a room within the Workshop.

The "RAEME Room", as it will be called, will house all the RAEME Memorabilia that has been collected over the years. Currently there is a move afoot to gather all the memorabilia from units that have now closed, particularly the old Perth Workshop Company and the 51 Supply Battalion Workshop. The "Room" currently has secure storage facilities in it where valuable items can be stored. Photographs will be displayed on the walls. Eventually, it is hoped that we will be able to display all the Corps Silver artifacts in proper display

cabinets.

If any Workshop, TSSU or LAD have any articles that they feel should be preserved for the future; they can be given to the Association to be looked after.

It is made quite plain to all that these items of memorabilia are on loan to the Association only. The Unit's will have control over the items, and the Association will be responsible for the safe storage of the items. Should any unit be bought back into existence, then that unit will have the opportunity to reclaim the memorabilia. In short, the "Room" will be used as a repository in order to protect the Corps History from being lost.

There will be a second use for the "Room" very shortly. The Association will be arranging for the Welfare Officers to attend the Workshop once per month initially to assist members with any claims with the Military Compensation and Rehabilitation Scheme or with the Department of Veteran's Affairs. The need for the Welfare Officers will be assessed and, if required, they will attend more frequently. An article elsewhere in this issue of the Horse's Mouth will deal with Welfare matters in more detail.

Welfare Corner

Over the past few weeks there have appeared a number of very important initiatives to help those who are about to separate from the Australian Defence forces. At a recent seminar the Military Compensation and Rehabilitation Scheme announced that there was a new process through which personnel should go before any medical discharge from the ADF

This process is called the Transitional Management Service (TMS). The

scheme is controlled by MCRS and it has been bought into being to assist those members of the Regular forces, within the ADF, who may be discharged for invalidity reasons, to get back into civilian life.

MCRS has informed the Association Welfare Officers that all members about to be medically discharged should be told of the scheme and that the units should recommend that each member find out what they can about it. You can use the TMS if you are a current full time member of the AADF and believe that you are likely to be discharged on invalidity grounds or you have been notified that you are to be discharged.

How Does The TMS System Work?

TMS helps members make a successful transition from service to civilian life and ensures that they get all the information and services available to meet their individual needs. This is provided by Veteran's Affairs on behalf of the Dept of Defence. TMS Coordinators work closely with Defence Staff involved in administering member discharges, particularly Discharge Coordinators and Education and Resettlement Officers.

When Can I Access TMS?

You can access information about this service at any time that you think you might be medically discharged.

Your first formal referral to TMS should be when the Medical Employment Classification Review Board (MECRB) notifies you CO/OC of its intention to review your medical classification. You will get a further chance when your CO/OC informs you of an invalidity discharge. You may use the service at any time until you are discharged.

Services of the TMS.

On notification of referral to the MECRB, your TMS Coordinator will

Commonwealth Superannuation Scheme (CSS) and the Public Sector Superannuation Scheme (PSS)," he said.

"The Treasurer's Budget night statement in relation to twice yearly indexation of Commonwealth superannuation pension applies to the CSS and PSS schemes and not military superannuation pensions.

"I want to assure the 53,000 recipients of military superannuation pensions that the external review of ADF remuneration arrangement, led by Major General Barry Nunn, will address the issue of indexation of defence force pensions for those who are serving and those who have served.

"The Minister for Finance and Administration's release 19/01 says "Consideration of any changes to the indexation arrangements for Defence superannuation pensioners has been deferred pending finalisation of the current review of Defence personnel remuneration arrangements including superannuation," Mr. Scott said.

"In the interim, it is important to note that military superannuants have not been disadvantaged in comparison to other Commonwealth superannuants by the decision to refer the issue of superannuation indexation to the Nunn Review. Arrangements for recipients of Commonwealth superannuation

benefits do not come into effect until 10 January 2002."

"The Nunn review is a comprehensive review that will bring forward a modern approach to remunerating a modern Australian Defence Force, and will not forget those men and women who earned the right to a military superannuation pension."

"The Nunn Review is expected to report to the Minister for Defence and the Minister for Finance and Administration by the end of August 2001.

Things to ponder!

If you throw a cat out of the car window, does it become kitty litter?
If you choke a Smurf, what colour does it turn?
Is it OK to use the AM radio after noon?
What do chickens think we taste like?
What do people in China call their good plates/dishes?
What do you call a male ladybug?
What hair colour do they put on the driver's license of a bald man?
When dog food is new and improved tasting, who tests it?
And how can it be improved if it is new?
Why didn't Noah swat those two mosquitoes?
Why do they sterilize the needle for lethal injections?

Swamp by Gary Clarke



Thanks Gary, it brings back many memories!

Since the introduction of the GST the Association has been obliged to apply for an Australian Business Number. This has been granted approximately four months ago. With the granting of an ABN, the Association can now apply for grants for equipment to help with the Welfare Work and the day to day running. The first item we will have an application into the Building Excellence in Support and Training (BEST) Scheme will be for a photocopier. If granted the money to purchase a photocopier, it will be available to all of the RAEME Associations in WA.

There is also an application submitted with the Australian Taxation Department for recognition as a Tax deductible status for gifts. If approved, any donation of goods or money will be allowed as a tax deduction. It is felt that this could greatly enhance the operation of the Welfare side of the Association. We have had meeting with the assessors at the ATO and a submission and statement of purpose has been passed to them. We should know the results of our application by the beginning of June 2001.

The incorporation of the Association has advanced to the point where we will have to start advertising in the news media and wait for any objections. It is envisaged that the full incorporation will have taken place by August of this year.

We actually finished the year in a much better financial position than we had last year. If things continue the way they

are, I can see great things for the Association in the coming years.

John Curtis
Secretary/Treasurer
RAEME Association of WA

19 April 2001

Military Superannuation Indexation Under Review

An external review of Australian Defence Force remuneration arrangements will examine the issue of indexation of military pensions, the Minister Assisting the Minister for Defence, Bruce Scott said today. The Nunn Review into ADF remuneration arrangements is examining the policy underpinning ADF superannuation as part of a broader remuneration and conditions of service, the Minister Assisting the Minister for Defence, Bruce Scott, said today.

Mr. Scott was responding to criticism from the Regular Defence Force Welfare Association that the Federal Budget did not address military superannuation indexation. Mr. Scott said on Budget night the Minister for Finance and Administration issued a media that addressed indexation of military superannuation pensions.

“Military pensions paid under the Defence Force and Retirement Benefits Scheme, the Defence Force Retirement and Death Benefits Fund and the Military Superannuation and Benefits Scheme are separate from the

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.

help you complete a Discharge Impact Statement for consideration by the Board.

Your coordinator will also:

1. Explain the discharge process and highlight the decisions you should make;
2. Advise you of possible entitlements and how to access them;
3. Refer you to appropriate MCRS or Disability Compensation office to discuss compensation issues; and
4. Refer you to external or community providers for additional assistance, where required.

After the decision that you be discharged, the TMS Coordinator will:

1. Help you develop a “Personal Transition Plan”, including optimising discharge entitlements; future employment options; post discharge medical services; superannuation; housing; financial planning; insurance and compensation;
2. Help you make informed decisions about the future;
3. Help you make contact with the services you need; and
4. Monitor your progress against your plan ensuring everything is covered before you discharge.

If you wish to learn more about the TMS scheme you can contact the **Welfare Officers for the Association**; or by ringing **1300 550 461**; <http://defweb.cbr.defence.gov.au/dpectap> on the Defweb or at DVA on <http://www.dva.gov.au>.

An Interesting Find

Recently one of our members, Alan STONER, found a dogtag in Timor. This tag belonged to an Australian Digger from Victoria and obviously dropped there during World War II. The details of the dogtag are being communicated to CARO in the hope that they can put the Association in contact with the gentleman or with his next of kin.

Alan has polished the dogtag and has very attractively mounted it in a frame together with World War II Rising Sun and Australia badges.

The Association will be following up this interesting artifact and will be reporting about it as time goes on. We would very much like to find an owner for the dogtag.

The details on the tag are VX84957, ORR W J.

If any member has knowledge, please let the Association know.

Tech Spt Tp SASR.

The Tech Spt WKSP is the home of RAEME within SASR. The ASM, Bob Meehan, is our fearless leader. He is on his second tour of duty here. We have, sometimes, two SGT's in the WKSP; Russ Earle was made up late last year and is currently away in East Timor. Mark (Wints) Winter has been attached to Marine Troop as the marine maintenance supervisor.

GE

We also have three new Fitters, Rob Ravot, Drew (Twiggy) Twigg and Chris (Robo) Robertson. Rob is the new GE CPL and the local “computer manufacturer” and Robo has also joined

GE. Twiggy has swindled a position down with Marine Tp. Also in GE is Peter (Gov) McGovern, recently returned from Marine Tp; Brian Morris, returning to the fold after some years as a door kicker, Matt Lovatt, still associating with Marine Tp, and Mr. Mark Churchill in the Armoury.

Tim Costin and David (Chalky) Cleary are lost in the bowels of the CT Armoury last seen looking very pasty and anaemic. Congratulations to Tim on his recent deployment to EX LONG LOOK. London is great this time of year. The boats are in the capable hands of Peter (Roo) Rutherford, Mark (Maggs) Carter, Trev Keenan and Drew Twiggy.

VEH

Joining the VM side of the house are Peter (Skins) Skinner, Graeme Peirce, and Mick (Bart) Bartlett. The remainders are Shannon Smith, Chris (Mouse) Armstrong, David Andersen. Col and Dave Priest, our civilian gentlemen mechanics, who, by the way, are not related, continue to churn out work without the added pressure of deployments and other Army compliancies.

Off in their own world of black, cloak and dagger operations are Matt (Flopo) Filipowski and Matt White.

TESG

Steve Cross and Dominic Richards

have joined Tristan (Jandels) Janle in what ever it is that Boffins do, something about small furry animals. Our new Elec/Fitter is George Woolmer and we have two new RAAOC storemen, Dan Sturges and Warren (Wozza) Ballantyne. Guess there is no stopping bad luck.

This Year

The WKSP has had an eventful year thus far. After the initial welcome and induction training for the year the WKSP was off for a week to Lancelin for some Infantry Minor Tactics with 152 SIG SQN. We were able to blow away a considerable amount of ammunition during the live firing phase in week one which was a welcome opportunity to become the equipment operator. Of course the patrolling through the tick-infested wasteland of Lancelin was not so great.

The Vehicle section has been kept on its toes with Drivers, and Motorbike CSE, Quad Bike CSE, and Mobility Courses all run back to back. Skins learned that riding a bike is a lot harder than it looks and how he didn't break any bones is a miracle having more tumbles than the Moscow Circus.

The yearly Combat Fitness Assessment was its usual unexciting walk, but the ASM and Dan managed to fit in a round of golf, courtesy of

FINANCIAL REPORT
RAEME ASSOCIATION OF
WA

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
28 April 2001

The year 2000 has been one of varying fortunes for the Association. The year started off with very little in the bank accounts. Every cent had to be rigorously accounted for. However, we did survive, largely due to those who paid their subscriptions early. I must register a vote of thanks to those who helped us in this way.

Another, very unexpected boost was a donation of \$200.00 from a very grateful client of our Welfare Officers who work out of Veteran's Affairs in the city. This donation was received in early May and certainly helped the Association get over a rough spot.

Our three accounts started the year with (S1) \$109.26; the S2 - \$433.70; and finally, the S6 (our Dinner Account) \$1.27. The S1 Account is tied to our Cheque Book and contains all subscriptions for the year. Funds are transferred from the other two accounts to the S1 whenever a cheque for the other accounts is to be drawn. The S2 Account is used to purchase memorabilia on behalf of the members and holds any funds paid to the Association for the memorabilia. The S6 is only used as a holding account for all payments for the Annual Corps Birthday Dinner. Once the Dinner is over and all accounts presented, the money is transferred to the S1 for payment. This account, ideally, should have as little as possible in it.

Currently the funds for the association stand at; S1 - \$453.13; S2 - \$544.89; and S3 - 121.65.

David Cooper
Don Gunn
Tom Harris
Peter Humpston
Michael Kerrison
Ron MacKenzie
Mal McWhinnie
Geoff Sutherland
Alan Stoner
Norm Wells

8.0 ANY NEW BUSINESS

8.1 Corps Shop Items
The gathering were informed that the Corps Shop at Bandiana was no longer in existence. Corps items were now purchased locally or from the RAEME Associations in other states.

8.2 Membership Intros
Members who had not previously been introduced to the gathering were asked to identify themselves and give the members some information about themselves.

8.3 Website Update
Ron MacKenzie reported that the website was being upgraded and will look even better.

8.4 RAEME Room
It was announced that a room was being set aside for the Association at the Workshop. This will be used as a place to store and display RAEME Memorabilia and as a meeting place for the Association Welfare Officers and clients.

9.0 There being no further business the 2001 Annual General Meeting was closed at 1520 hours

John Curtis **John Klein**
Sec/Treas **President**

Medals Medals Medals

**Full size medals mounted
(Swing or Court Style)**

- * Miniature Medal Groups supplied and mounted.
- * Ribbon Bars supplied (Plastic coated if required)
- * Replacement Medals Available
- * Whole Groups Replaced

All mail to : Walter Dennison, PO Box 21, North Perth, WA 6906
Phone, Fax, Message (08) 9444 9553
Home Suburb - Yokine. Please call to make appointment

Neither said a word. Neither had to. Their solemn faces wet with tears, expressed to each other in a universal language what could never have been said in words.

I watched as the two men, their reconciliation complete, went their separate ways, united in a way I had never imagined possible.

By Peter Baldwin Panagore

Thanks Peter for sharing your story with us!!

Minutes of the AGM held at 13BASB WKSP COY on 28 April 2001

1.0 OPEN MEETING

The President, John Klein opened the meeting at 1414 hours.

2.0 ROLL CALL

2.1 PRESENT: - As per Attendance Book.

2.2 APOLOGIES: - Clare Curtis, John Curtis, John Wade, Steve Sinclair, Dick Albury and Jim McCormick.

3.0 MINUTES OF 2000 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING .

3.1 The minutes of the Inaugural Association Meeting were read and accepted.

MOVED: Don Gunn
SECONDED: Tom Harris
CARRIED

4.0 MATTERS ARISING

There were no matters arising from the 2000 Annual General Meeting.

5.0 CORRESPONDENCE - Nil

6.0 TREASURER'S ANNUAL

REPORT

6.1 The Treasurer's Annual Report was read, in part. A copy is attached to these minutes. A copy of the Treasurer's Report will be included in the next issue of 'The Horse's Mouth'.

6.2 It was moved that the Treasurers report be accepted.

MOVED: Mal McWhinnie
SECONDED: Ron MacKenzie
CARRIED

7.0 ELECTION OF OFFICE BEARERS

7.1 Office of President
Nominations:

Mr. John Klein
Nominated: Don Gunn
Seconded: Ron MacKenzie
Mr. Chris Thomas
Nominated: Dale Henry
Seconded: David Cooper

A vote was taken and Mr. John Klein declared elected.

7.2 Office of Vice President
Nominations

Mr. Chris Thomas
Nominated: John Klein
Seconded: Dale Henry
Declared elected.

7.3 Office of Secretary/
Treasurer

Nominations
Mr. John Curtis
Nominated: John Klein
Seconded: Peter Humpston
Declared Elected.

7.4 Nominations for
Committee.

The following were nominated and elected as the new committee.

Wurth's customer relations program.

While we are on the topic of things physical, the SASR Triathlon was a hard fought competition in which the WKSP participated with some surprisingly good results. However, the event was marred by an incident of misdirection. Tim Costin led from the start, first out of the water, first off the Bike but got to a corner of the run leg before the marshall; thus went the wrong way and was disqualified. This upset, not only him, but also the two others that followed his lead. Gov also preformed well, and went the right way, finishing third. The rest of the WKSP competed in the team's event and produced some surprises for extreme efforts and a couple of not so good ones. Unfortunately we didn't produce the results as well as the individuals. The winner on the day was Triathlon, and the Army.

The remainder of the year is looking very busy for us. Maintaining equipment for a unit with an extremely high operational tempo; as well as, the usual suite of promotion and equipment courses to juggle is demanding. However, as we have done and continue to do, the Corps of RAEME and its soldiers continue to meet demand and exceed expectation.

CPL Matt Lovatt.

ARTE ET MARTE

Defence White Paper - Education and Training Initiatives

The inaugural Defence Education and Training Conference will be held at the Australian Defence Force Academy in Canberra from Tuesday 8 to Thursday 10 May 2001.

The Conference highlights a range of education and training initiatives set out in the White Paper 'Defence 2000 - the Future Defence Force' and will bring together over 200 delegates working in the Defence education and training system.

MAJGEN Simon Willis, Head Defence Personnel Executive, will present the keynote address followed by the Deputy Secretary of Defence, Mr Hugh White who will address the conference on the education and training aspects of the White Paper.

"The White Paper makes the point that investment in education and training is a critical investment in future capability. A modern, effective and efficient education and training system is one of the four elements in Defence's personnel strategy," MAJGEN Willis said.

"Education and training is a long term investment. We need to be very strategic in our thinking to ensure that we have the right people with the right skills in the right place at the right time."

MAJGEN Willis said another initiative in the education and training area was the Defence submission to the inquiry on Australia's Public Universities being conducted by the Senate Committee on Employment, Workplace Relations, Small Business and Education. Copies of the submission will be available at the conference.

"The submission highlights the strategic importance of universities to Defence and the many uses Defence makes of this important element in the national support base."

"We want the Committee and the universities to know just how important the university sector is in building Defence capability," he said.

MAJGEN Willis said Defence would be

looking to strengthen its links with the public universities in the years ahead and to accord them a larger and more visible role in helping sustain defence capability.

RAEME Logo for Funeral Notices in the West Australian Newspaper

The RAEME Association has a RAEME Logo set aside for placement at the top of any funeral notices in the paper. Should anyone wish to use this logo, please call the Secretary on 9271 4520 or email curtisj@bigpond.com to get permission to use it.

The logo is for official use and use outside the criteria set down by the west Australian will attract quite a heavy use fee. Used officially by the various RAEME Associations or by RAEME Units is much cheaper. All you need is official permission. The logo looks like this:



Interment of Ashes at The Craftsman Memorial

Questions have recently been asked about those who wish to have their ashes interred at the RAEME Craftsman Memorial. There have already been a number of members of the Corps who have requested through their wills that this be done. Should you wish to have your ashes interred at the

Memorial, please contact Major Doug Gammon and request the information and procedure to be taken for the interment.

Major. Gammon's Address is:

Major. Doug GAMMON
SO2 Corps (RAEME)

ALTC
Milpo
BANDIANA
Vic 3694

Ph (02) 60552193 Fax (02) 60552436

Email:

Doug.Gammon342884@armydefence.gov.au

Physio Phacts

Capt. Ross Railton

OIC Physiotherapy

219B

Anterior Knee Pain

ANTERIOR knee pain (AKP) is a very common problem found in military personnel. It is quite often associated with previous injury and/or wear and-tear. Painful knees may develop and create considerable distress for many soldiers due to the stressful nature of the various types of work and required.

Pain in or around the knees can be caused by damage to one or such as cartilages, articular surfaces of the kneecap (patella) or bones of the knee, ligaments, tendons, fat pads or nerves. Other factors that may be involved are:

- weak or tight quadriceps
- tight hamstrings
- angle of the leg bones (Q angle)
- foot/leg biomechanics
- disease (e.g. osteoarthritis)

The exact cause of non-specific AKP is difficult to accurately diagnose. However an imbalance in strength or length in the quadriceps, iliotibial band (ITB), gluteal muscles and hamstrings

tie, first at the neck and then near the belt, and tugged at the hem of his jacket. As if in preparation, he squared his shoulders, took a deep breath, and then exhaled. Alone, he somberly stepped forward toward the railing at the water's edge above the sunken warship. The other tourists swirled around him. From what I could see and hear, they were apparently all Americans. They were talking, laughing, looking, asking questions; some were listening to our minister's story, but none seemed aware of the tourist who had captured my attention.

I don't believe the Japanese man understood the minister's words. As I listened to one man and watched the other, the Japanese tourist came to the rail, bowed at the waist, and then stood erect. He began to speak; I heard his words but could not comprehend them. However from his tone and the look on his face, I felt their meaning. His manner conveyed so many things at once - confession, sorrow, hurt, honor, dignity, remorse and benediction.

When he had finished his quiet prayer, he gravely dropped the flowered wreath into the seawater - the same water the minister kept mentioning in his reminiscence - and watched as the wreath floated away on the tide. The man struggled to remain formal, to keep face, but his tears betrayed him. I guessed he must have been a soldier, a warrior of the air, whose own plane had showered the bombs and bullets that had torn through our soldiers, sinking their ships. It struck me that he had come on a pilgrimage of repentance, not to our government, but to the gravesite of those young men whose lives he had taken in the name of war.

Stepping backward one pace, the Japanese veteran then closed his eyes and bowed again, very deeply, and very

slowly from the waist. Then he stood tall, turned around and rejoined his family. His deed done, they began to leave. All the while, our minister veteran continued his narrative. He and the group were oblivious to the poignant counterpoint occurring behind them.

But I was not the only American to witness the Japanese man's actions. As I watched his family leave, I noticed another American step away from the wall on which he had been leaning. He was dressed casually, and wore a red windbreaker with the VFW emblem on it. He had a potbelly, thinning hair and held his hat in his hand. I assumed the man was a WW II veteran. 'Perhaps he had served in the Pacific,' I thought, and was himself on a pilgrimage.

As the Japanese family walked by him, the American stepped directly into their path, blocking their way. I immediately tensed, fearing a confrontation. The startled Japanese tourist, who had been deep in thought, stopped short, surprise and sorrow mixed on his face. His family, eyes on the ground, stopped abruptly, then crowded closer around him.

But the American simply stood at attention, once again a strong, straight-backed soldier. Then he raised his right hand slowly and stiffly to his forehead, saluting his former enemy. The American remained in salute until the Japanese, with dawning understanding, returned the gesture.

As the tourists milled by, the two men stood as if alone, joined by their shared pain, glories, honors and memories, until the American, while remaining at attention, slowly lowered his arm and formally stepped backward one pace. The Japanese tourist, when his arms were both once again at his side, bowed formally to the man in front of him. To my surprise, the American returned the honor.

Neither said a word. Neither had to.

immediately proceeded to get rid of some bad eggs. The case I wish to tell about concerns one Sgt. "Curly" Watson of the 15/19th Hussars. He was posted into the Training Regiment and when he was asked what he had done wrong to warrant the move to this regiment. This is his story. He was in command of a Troop of Daimler Scout Cars. He was patrolling the East-West German Border when a message came from Regimental HQ to the effect that when he reached a certain grid reference (it was a crossroad) he would be confronted by a troop of Russian T34 Tanks. He was asked, "What would his action be?" He immediately called up the Troop on the Radio and told them to repeat the following after him. "Our Father which art in Heaven, etc, etc."

Unbeknown to him the Brigadier was listening in on the net, and very nearly had triplets on the spot. Curly was sent for and chastised rather soundly. When he was asked why did give the reply that he had, he said, "I am in a Daimler Scout Car. It will stop a bullet, but not much else. The Russian Tanks are armed with a 105mm gun, what was I expected to do?" So he joined us 2 days later in Carlisle.

Hope some of your readers, I sure did. I still laugh when I picture him telling us all about his tribulations.

Sincerely

Brian Atkins

Former Enemies

Some years ago, while leading a church group on a tour of Pearl Harbor, I stood among the clergy and their spouses in the gleaming white-arched and covered Memorial above the USS Arizona. One minister in our group, a man from Maine, had been there on

December 7th, 1941 - the day the Japanese flew in to sink our Pacific Naval Fleet. He had not been aboard the Arizona, but his ship had also been hit. He described vividly the horror of being aboard the flaming and sinking vessel as bullets flew and bombs roared.

As I listened, out of the corner of my eye I noticed a Japanese tourist entering the Memorial. It was the man's fine clothes - long tie, buttoned sports jacket, and shiny brown lace-up shoes - that initially attracted my attention. In Hawaii, professionals like lawyers, corporate executives, soldiers and ministers seldom, if ever, wear ties or jackets. Even network television news anchors wear open-collared aloha shirts. This man, dressed as he was, stood out. Two women walked with him. The older one I took to be his wife, the other perhaps an older daughter. Both wore conservative dresses and fancy shoes. The man appeared to be in his sixties, and while he may have spoken English, I only heard him speak Japanese. In his left hand, he carried, almost shyly, an ornate and obviously costly multi-flowered wreath about eighteen inches across.

Our group's veteran continued to speak as we clustered around him. He described being caught below deck: feeling disoriented as the ship took on water where he stood, fire coming from above and the smoke stealing his breath. His buddy lay dead at his feet as the young sailor struggled in the darkness to escape, fear and adrenaline propelling him to the surface. Everyone in our group was so engrossed in his story, that no one, except for me, noticed the Japanese tourist and his family who walked quite near to us.

As I watched, the tourist stopped, turned to his wife and daughter and spoke to them. They stood quietly, almost solemnly. Then the man straightened his

Verdict In Trial Of Major Quinn

The trial of Major Troy Quinn, former member of Third Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment (3RAR), has concluded.

Charged with assault on an inferior, Major Quinn has been found guilty. His punishment is a fine of \$2000.

As in all cases under the Defence Force Disciplinary process, all proceedings resulting in a conviction are subject to automatic review by a Reviewing Authority. There are also provisions for appeal.

The trial before a Defence Force Magistrate, held at Victoria Barracks in Sydney, sat for four days.

New Grenade Launcher

By Pte Simone Heyer-Irwin

A NEW weapon is being introduced into service within the Australian Defence Force and is expected to be in most units by the end of 2001.

Maj. Steve Brewer, S02 Direct Fire Support Weapons Project Manager DMO, said the 40mm Grenade Launcher Assembly (GLA) was designed and manufactured by RMEquipment in the United States and its sight was designed by KnightsArmament, also in based in the US.

"The system is put together by ADI-Limited in Lithgow who also manufacture the interbar used to fit the launcher onto the barrel of the Austeyr," he said.

The new purchase has cost the ADF around \$1.1 million for over three thousand weapon systems. Maj. Brewer said the 40mm GLA was

may lead to poor biomechanics setting up a situation of increased forces on vulnerable structures. Over time, this situation may lead to knee pain.

Indicators of AKP often include:

- aches pain while sitting for long periods including driving
- pain going up or down stairs
- pain while running up or down hills
- painful squats

Management

Non-surgical treatment consists of maintaining strength, flexibility, proprioception (balance) and reducing aggravating factors. These aggravating factors would include running, especially up and down hills; squats into a painful range of movement; going up and down stairs; use of leg extension machines (these should have been banned years ago); and prolonged sitting. If it hurts - don't do it!

Taping, anti-inflammatory medication and ice may be helpful in the early stages of treatment.

Specific strength exercises consist of short range squats, lunges, hamstring curls, step-downs, theraband exercises, hydrotherapy, water running, cycling, walking, cross trainer machine.

Stretches include quads, hamstring, groin, calf, front of hip and buttock muscles.

Treatment can be successful for this condition, so don't suffer in silence.

Thanks to the Army News for allowing us to reprint this article. It is particularly important to us all including those who are now retired.

Look after your knees!!

introduced to fill a capability gap within the ADF.

“M203s that were fitted to M16s have been withdrawn from service. The M79, which was introduced into service in the Vietnam era, will become obsolete.

“It is difficult to get spare parts for the M79 and it will eventually be replaced by the 40mm GLA ‘ “

He said the Australian Army was one of the first countries to use the 40mm GLA in its improved version.

“Ours is a unique product, The M203 Product Improved (PI) use a quadrant reflex sight (QRS) that has a day/night capability.”

So by using NVG, in conjunction with the QRS, a soldier can accurately engage a target at night.

W02 Tony Minniti, DMO Armaments systems program office, has been involved with the evaluation of the weapon since the beginning and says the QRS gives the 40mm GLA its capability edge.

“The sight consists of four points and a red dot. The dot is provided by a L.E.D projection onto the lens of the sight.

“First, the operator has to estimate the range then set the quadrant to the estimated range, place the red dot in the centre of the lens and onto the

target. It’ll hit the target every time.”

W02 Minniti said firing an Austeyr fitted with the GLA does slightly affect the zeroing. “We found that if the Austeyr was zeroed, fitting and firing of the launcher would slightly change the adjustment. However, after re-zeroing, there was no further shift in zero.

The 40mm GLA is capable of firing practice, high explosive dual purpose (HEDP) and illumination rounds.

Its range is from 50 - 400 metres with a maximum effective range of 350 metres.

Strong enough to withstand the toughest treatment a soldier can put it through, the launcher has been tested in all environments and conditions such as dust, mud, water and sand. W02 Darby Matthews, CATC, said that training is to be conducted to convert soldiers to the new system.

“On completion of dry training, a test is run to ensure the users are safe and understand the weapon system and also complete a live-fire practice’ which two practice and two HEDP rounds are fired he said.

W02 Matthews has trained a small number of instructors from the School of Infantry and CATC who are to travel Australia from May through to August.

Conversion courses have already started in Perth and to every major

through the carriage door onto the chill damp of the platform where we were collected by a corporal. He, in turn, directed the head of the file towards the ominous dark side of the platform and instructed us to continue straight ahead until we reached the next corporal. So off into the dark of the night we plodded. As we continued the far side slowly became a little lighter and into view we could faintly see, what appeared to be, a very large wall with a door in the centre and through which could now be discerned a dim light. As we got nearer we could see a set of interim steps leading up to this door, at the bottom of which stood several bodies. But then came the shock for, as we came even closer, the wall suddenly turned into the part rusty hull of a reasonably large ship, complete with port holes all along its length, and a gangway leading up to the bulkhead door.

The obvious then dawned upon us that; it was through this door that all the boys ahead of us had disappeared, and that we were the next batch to follow and onwards into the bowels of the vessel. Even today I find it most difficult to fully explain just how we felt at this particular juncture of the days’ proceedings. To be suddenly confronted with the fact that, not only were we leaving our homes and families for the first time in our lives, and proceeding to some unknown destination, but we were also at the point of leaving the country as well. I remembered how sorry we felt for those boys who had joined us in London, having left their families in Ireland, and crossed the sea to a strange new country.

Now it was time to feel a little sorry for us. As we climbed up the gangway, in single file, these facts began to gain a degree of precedence in my mind. I’m sure, it was also in the minds of the majority of the rest of the intake that

night. This resulted in a feeling of partial apprehension coupled with a degree of foreboding, once again. But this reaction was quite quickly overcome by the anticipation of what more, this first day in H.M. Forces, which had slowly but surely turned into a day of “great adventure”, would produce.

How many of us have already related our first days in the Army with Peter’s? Does everything seem familiar and daunting just as our first days did? Read more of Peter’s story in our next Horse’s Mouth.

Letter to the Editor

Dear John,

Further to our telephone conversation yesterday, I will repeat a true story that may be of interest to your readers. In 1954 I was the WO in charge of Vehicle Repairs at the 67th Training Regiment Royal Armoured Corps near Carlisle in NorthWest England. It was a basic training regiment for the cavalry and was staffed by NCO’s from all of the Cavalry Units. The trainees did 8 weeks square bashing, then split into three groups, one as drivers for the Daimler Scout Car and the Daimler Armoured Car, gunners, being taught to fire the 2 pounder gun, with which the armoured cars were armed, and radio signallers.

Our Quarter Master Sergeant in HQ Squadron, one Reg Utton, was not shown as such. He was in the Life Guards, they have no Sgts, all being Corporals. His rank was Squadron Quartermaster Corporal. Eventually he went with me to the Aden Protectorate Levies, but that is another story.

The various regiments were asked to send qualified Sgt’s and above being suitable for Instructors. This was a green light for some, in that they

Dikko by Bob Dikkenburg



Thanks to Bob and the Army News for letting us have a laugh at ourselves.

suitcases and other personal effects, coupled with a continuation of visits to the toilet, including myself.

By this time it was well after midnight, and as long as the day had appeared to be so far, there was little, if any, indication that we were anywhere near the end of it. As may be imagined this latest move onto the train caused considerable consternation amongst the boys. Mainly because, as had been the case for most of us from the commencement, no one in authority was saying anything about where we may be finally going. As a result this was again the main subject of discussion throughout the train as it pulled slowly out of Waterloo. The only fact that we could be pretty sure of was that, emanating from "Waterloo" we must have been travelling south, and that in the U.K. south from London did have its limitations. But even in this presumption we were to be proved wrong, as we found later.

As the train gradually gained speed, we doubted that there would be any stops until we finally reached our destination, wherever that may be. So our only alternative was to try and read the names on the stations as we passed though. But to do this through the rain splashed windows at night with the train doing at least 70 mph, proved impossible. Naturally many educated guesses such as Bramly, Didcot, and "Pompy" or Portsmouth, where R.A.O.C. boys schools of some long standing existed, started to circulate, but non-of these presumptions proved to be correct. The train just continued on into the night as if it was never going to stop.

Slowly but surely the monotonous "clicketty-clack" of the train against the rails finally got the better of most of us, and interest in this prime subject was lost to the take-over of a rather

fitful kind of sleep. The luggage racks proving quite popular with those who managed to grab one first.

It was approximately two and a half hours later, and well after 2-30a.m, that we returned to a degree of consciousness through the change in the rhythm of the wheels on the rails. The train gradually slowed down to the point that we could discern the odd light at the side of the track, together with the walls of adjacent buildings. Then, with the train virtually crawling, the commencement of a platform came into view with its steel canopy and miscellaneous buildings,

Finally the answer to all our presumptions of the journey in the form of a large white board with large black lettering stating "Southampton". Knowing finally to where we had been travelling proved to be a partial relief to most of us that night. However, all this really did was to raise another query, why Southampton. Those amongst us that were in the "know" were not aware of any R.A.O.C. School in the area of, or anywhere near Southampton. Still our view through the windows was restricted to part way across, what appeared to be a very wide platform. When at last the train came to a complete stop and all was deadly quiet for a few moments, until the shrill voice of our sergeant rent the air with instructions to remain in our seats until we were told to move.

Once again the proverbial waiting period started prior to de-training. We could see boys from carriages further down the train passing our window and disappearing into the blackness of the night over the far side of the presumed very wide platform. , And as a result, quite naturally, our inquisitiveness together with a degree of apprehension was aroused. Then, quite suddenly, it was our turn, and we were formed up by the sergeant into single file and marched

garrison area in each state.

One to four conversion courses are to be conducted in each location to train unit instructors who will then train the rest of their units once the GLA is issued.

W02 Matthews said that, although this weapon is to be issued to a large number of ADF units, the priority is to equip Land Command units and those Training Command units responsible for their training.

The first units to be issued in Australia are the Regional Training Centres and the School of Infantry followed by RMC. Following them will be Land Command units in Townsville and Brisbane."

The 40mm GLA provides a significant increase in the firepower of combat elements, provides an excellent means of accurately delivering a fragmentation effect at short ranges by day and night while reducing the number of separate weapons soldiers must carry.

Scott Welcomes Report on ADF Postings

The Minister Assisting the Minister for Defence, Bruce Scott, today welcomed the ANAO report on the causes and consequences of personnel postings in the ADF.

"As a result of its own internal twelve month review by the Posting Turbulence Review Team, Defence already has initiatives underway in a number of these areas," Mr Scott said.

"In addition, I announced in this year's budget new outlays of \$100m per annum to deal specifically with high priority people issues, including recruitment and retention.

"With a strong economy and high

levels of employment, these are challenging times for recruitment and retention. Defence has tackled these challenges on a number of fronts.

"Since late 1999, an additional \$36m has been injected into ADF advertising and wider marketing activities.

"In addition, the recruiting process has been re-engineered through alignment of pre-enlistment standards, more flexible testing arrangements and streamlining of the psychological and medical testing. Greater use is being made of technology in the recruiting process through the defence service centre and an enhanced recruiting website."

Defence is also improving its personnel data capture and from September 2001 onwards its database will have the capability to record posting preferences and non-preferences as well as detailed reasons for separations. This information will enable better career management and earlier identification of separation trends.

In addition, Army is reviewing the recognition of prior learning (RPL) provisions for trades where civilian competencies may translate into relevant service competencies in order to improve lateral recruitment from the civilian community.

"Defence has clearly recognised the important place of people supporting defence capability. In February 2001 it established the Defence People Council to provide a strategic focus on personnel issues. As a result of the Council's recommendations, the Defence Committee has already agreed to allocate some \$72m directly towards Defence personnel and Defence family initiatives which will support recruitment and retention," Mr Scott said.

"The recommendations of the ANAO Report will be useful in assisting the Defence People Council in its work, particularly in relation to improving ADF posting processes and enhancing recruitment and retention."

Boy Service Nostalgia.

Episode 3

We continue with Peter Humpston's adventures as a Boy Entrant into the British Army. Remember that this is 1938 and Peter, aged 14 is getting his first taste of military life. We have already traveled the one train with him. Now read on.....

Shortly after making this astounding discovery, the whole assembly was once again descended upon by a batch of NCO's complete with clipboards. One obviously more senior individual, who we later correctly designated as a warrant officer, and who, above all the din of the assembly, called for, and immediately obtained, our complete attention. Under his instructions we were duly divided into groups in alphabetical order, each group being under the control of one of the NCO's who were either sergeants or corporals. It was in this manner that we duly filed out of the building in reasonable order, onto the six double Decker buses awaiting us outside. Naturally, there was, to say the least, a degree of competitive activity among us with the intention of obtaining a window seat on the upper deck, and resultantly the best view of the city at night, coupled with at least an indication of just where we may be going.

Fortunately, with the application of a degree of brute force and skilful maneuvering, I managed to obtain a top deck front window seat that I thought would give me an ideal view of all there was to be seen. But I had not allowed for the drizzling rain outside and the misting of the windows inside once the bus was full. However, in spite of these odds against me, using my only good handkerchief, I managed to maintain a reasonably clear area for my observation and those in my

immediate vicinity. As was to be expected though, once we were under way the arguments started again, as to where we were going. But as the majority of us were completely new to London we were not really getting anywhere towards a solution, in spite of being able to distinguish correctly several of the more prominent places we passed through and by. Fortunately we had, on the bottom deck of our bus, some local boys, and their contentions filtered up to us via the already operating "bush telegraph", to the effect that we were on our way to "Waterloo Station". This proved to be absolutely correct, as shortly afterwards the buses drew to a stop, one behind the other, at the entrance to the station

Waterloo station, at the best of times, is one of the busiest places in the city of London, as I have since learnt, and that evening it was certainly living up to it's reputation. As we filed out of the buses we were surrounded by a mass of people on either side of a passageway through to the platform which had been laid for us with wooden barriers on either side. At the entrance to the passage way were large notices with the heading "O.H.M.S. (W D) NO Entry. Platform reserved for troop movements." Thinking back to all this today, as we obeyed the order to "de - bus" (another new word to place into our new and fast accumulating military vocabulary) in spite of once again having to file out into the damp, and now, very cold night. We felt quite proud, virtually parading through the crowds of obviously very interested people. It didn't occur to us then, just what these civilians might be thinking to see 250, rather obvious teenagers, being transported away late at night by the War Department, as it was then called. Was the U.K. in such a bad way for troops that they had to call up 14 and 15 year olds? Or was this another form of Germany's "Hitler

Youth "that we had been hearing about and seeing so much of in the press at that time? Whether or not there were ever any press comments made afterwards we were not to know. It is doubtful, as at that time National Security was becoming very important with constant references to the "Fifth Column". At that time notices were being placed around the country to the effect that "Walls Have Ears" and "Silence is Golden" etc., although the war was, as yet, only a major topic of conversation. But the press would no doubt have been under a degree of pressure to be extremely conservative in regard to the mention of War Dept. personnel movements...

As we reached the train, in single file, we all entered by the first door of the first carriage and continued onwards along the length of the train from carriage to carriage until one reached the next empty seat. There were eight boys to a compartment, four on each side facing each other, and naturally, in spite of how tired most of us were by this time, scuffles broke out in some compartments where window seats were competed. Finally the total 250 boys were "en-trained," (another one for my military vocab) the staff, consisting of men corporals and a few sergeants, boarded the train, and took up their positions in the respective carriages for which they were responsible, visiting each compartment and laying down the law. Firstly and most importantly there was to be "NO SMOKING". This was not just applied to the train journey, but from now onwards for the rest of our apprenticeship, the sergeant told us. To say that this came as a shock to a great many of us, was the understatement of all time, as quite a large percentage of us were covert smokers, including myself, and had been so for some time, in spite of our age. It was also from this moment

onwards that the "fags" black market commenced, as I remember shortly after the train departed on it's way one lad from Belfast sneaked into our compartment trying to flog "Players" at six pence a stick and "Woodbines" at threepence. Fortunately I was well stocked at that time, but just when and where we were now going to be able to get a "drag", became another point of discussion. As far as the train was concerned the toilet appeared to be the only answer, and even then, we would have to be very careful, because, as the sergeant stressed, the punishments for being caught, either actually smoking or in possession there-of, were quite drastic. The first offence resulting in a minimum of 7 days "Jankers" (a terminology, the true meaning of which we were yet to understand) and the second offence was 14 days of the same. But in the event that you were foolish enough to get caught a third time the result was a minimum of 14 days no! Field Punishment. Naturally at the time we were not fully aware of just what these punishments consisted of, but we were soon to learn. Especially in regard to the No1 FP which meant a visit to the greatly feared "Glass House" in Aldershot, where, from the moment of arrival to the completion of the sentence, where - ever one went, it was done at the "double", and this even applied to the toilet. There were numerous other items of deterrent included within the daily schedule of the old "Glass House" which are too numerous to mention at this juncture, but will be dealt with later in this epistle. Suffice to say all we smokers were fast considering becoming ex-smokers in the very near future. Immediately upon the departure of the sergeant to deliver his sermon to the next compartment, there was a sudden requirement by the majority of personnel in our compartment to rearrange the packing of their