

THE SPIRIT OF ANZAC.

Those Heroes that shed their blood
and lost their lives
You are now lying in the soil of a friendly country
therefore, Rest in Peace

There is no difference between the Johnnies and the Mehments
to us where they lie side by side
here in this country of ours

You, the Mothers,
who sent their sons from far away countries,
wipe away your tears

Your sons are now lying in our bosom
and are in Peace
after having lost their lives on this land. They have
become our sons as well

Atat Urk 1934

Spoken by the President of Turkey in reference to the ANZAC's at Gallipoli at the dedication of the Memorial overlooking ANZAC Cove



The Role Of RAEME Is To :-

*" Supply Mechanical Maintenance , Maintenance Engineering ,
Modifications , and Material Technical Support to the Army."*

The Horse's Mouth

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

Spring 2002

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.

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PO Box 186, Bayswater, WA 6053

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DEADLINE

All contributions for the next edition of THE HORSE'S MOUTH must be with the editor no later than 23rd of November 2002.

DISCLAIMER

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

President's Message

The time is rapidly drawing near for the organising of the Annual Dinner. This year is significant in that it is the Diamond Jubilee of the founding of our Corps. The past dinners that we have had have been very successful and everybody has enjoyed themselves. The committee of your Association is presently in the throes of getting things moving for this year's dinner.

It was unfortunate that many of our Corps members could not come to last

year's dinner because of commitments in other places. We really missed them and look forward to seeing them this year.

The Association would like to make this year's dinner the biggest and the best in order to celebrate the 60th Anniversary of the founding of our Corps. I would urge all those who intend to come to the dinner to fill out the form enclosed with this issue of the Horse's Mouth and get it in straight way. This year the dinner costs have been set at \$45.00 per head. That includes all the pre dinner goodies and wines, beers and

the morning after a hard night of drinking and thought 'How did I get home?' As hard as you try, you cannot piece together your return journey from the bar to your home.

The answer to this puzzle is that you used a beer scooter. The beer scooter is a mythical form of transport, owned and leased out to the drunk by Bacchus the Roman god of wine. Bacchus has branched out since the decrease in the worship of the Roman pantheon and bought a large batch of these magical devices. The beer scooter works in the following fashion:

The passenger reaches a certain level of drunkenness and the "slurring gland" begins to give off a pheromone.

Bacchus or one of his many sub-contractors detects the pheromone and sends down a winged beer scooter.

The scooter scoops up the passenger and deposits them in their bedroom via a trans-dimensional portal. It is not cheap to run a beer scooter franchise, so a large portion of the passenger's in-pocket cash is taken as payment. This generates the second question after a night out 'How did I spend so much money?'

Beer scooters have a poor safety record and are thought to be responsible for 90% of all UDI (Unidentified Drinking Injuries). An undocumented feature of

the beer scooter is the destruction of time segments during the trip. The nature of trans-dimensional portals dictates that time will be lost, seemingly unaccounted for. This generates the third question after a night out 'What happened?'

With good intentions, Bacchus opted for the EMIT (Embarrassing Moments In Time) add on, that automatically removes, in descending order, those parts in time regretted most. Unfortunately one person's EMIT is not necessarily the EMIT of another and quite often lost time is regained over a suitable period.

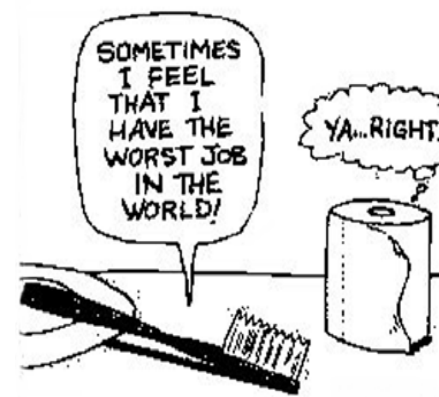
Independent studies have also shown that Beer Goggles cause the scooter's navigation system to malfunction thus sending the passenger to the wrong bedroom often with horrific consequences.

With recent models including a GPS, Bacchus made an investment in a scooter drive-thru chain specializing in half eaten kebabs and pizza crusts. Another question answered!!

For the family man, beer scooters come equipped with flowers picked from other people's garden and Thump-A- Lot Boots. These boots are designed in such a way that no matter how quietly you tiptoe, you are sure to wake up your other half. Special anti-gravity springs ensure that you bump into every wall and the CTSGS (Coffee Table Seeking Guidance System) explains the ring-barked shins.

The final add-in Bacchus saw fit to invest in for some scooters is TAS (Tobacco Absorption System). This explains how one person can apparently get through 260 Peter Jacksons in a single night.

PS: Don't forget the on-board heater that allows you to get home from the bar in sub-zero temperatures wearing just a t-shirt.



Life According to Perry

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

Facts to Ponder

Most people don't know that back in 1912 Hellman's mayonnaise was manufactured in England. In fact, the "Titanic" was carrying 12,000 jars of the condiment scheduled for delivery in Vera Cruz, Mexico which was to be the next port of call for the great ship after New York. The people of Mexico, who were crazy about the stuff, were eagerly awaiting delivery and were disconsolate at the loss. So much so that they declared a National Day of mourning which they still observe today. It is known, of course, as... Sinko de Mayo.

Men are like a fine wine. They start out as grapes and it's up to women to stomp the shit out of them until they turn into something acceptable to have dinner with.....

Love is grand; divorce is several hundred grand.

Politicians and diapers have one thing in common....They should both be changed regularly — and for the same reason.

Definition of a teenager? God's punishment for enjoying sex.

It used to be only death and taxes were inevitable. Now, of course, there's shipping and handling, too.

A blonde said, "I was worried that my mechanic might try to rip me off. I was relieved when he told me all I needed was turn-signal fluid."

I'm so depressed... My doctor refused to write me a prescription for Viagra. He said it would be like putting a new flagpole on a condemned building.

Women will never be equal to men until they can walk down the street with a

bald head and a beer gut, and still think they are attractive to the opposite sex.

The Hypnotist

It was opening night at the theatre and The Amazing Claude was topping the bill.

Hundreds of people came from miles around to see the famed hypnotist do his stuff.

As Claude took to the stage he announced, "Unlike most stage hypnotists who invite two or three people up onto the stage to be put into a trance, I intend to hypnotize each and every member of this audience."

The excitement was almost electric as Claude drew a beautiful antique pocket watch from his coat.

"I want you each to keep your eye on this antique watch. It's a very special watch. It's been in my family for six generations."

He began to swing the watch gently back and forth while quietly chanting, "Watch the watch, watch the watch, watch the watch....."

The crowd became mesmerized as the watch swayed back and forth, light gleaming off its polished surface.

Hundreds of pairs of eyes followed the watch, until suddenly and most unexpectedly it slipped from the hypnotist's fingers and fell to the floor, breaking into a hundred pieces.

"Shit!" said the hypnotist.

It took three weeks to clean up the theatre.

Bacchus and the scooter.

How many times have you woken up in

softdrinks up until coffee is served after the dinner. The only thing I can say is that we will have a real blast this year.

On other matters the Association has found that three of our number have plaques erected in the Honour Avenues in King's Park (the plaques at the base of the trees). We have identified them and will be keeping a regular eye on them so that they can be properly maintained.

The Welfare Officers for the Association are working full steam ahead. They have produced a good number of very successful outcomes for members who have claims with the Department of Veteran's Affairs (DVA) and with Military Compensation & Rehabilitation Service (MCRS). Should anybody have a problem with either DVA or MCRS, whether you are still serving or retired, you should use your Welfare Officers as the first port of call. All the Welfare Officers have been through training courses that are aimed at helping you, the members.

We now have a Hospital Visitors Scheme in place that is working well, particularly in Royal Perth Hospital. Should any member go into any hospital, please let us know and our Hospital Visitors will come to see you. The idea is to find out if you need anything at all and we will attempt to satisfy the needs of your stay in hospital.

The Association was successful this year in getting a grant from DVA for a Photocopier. The copier is working well and is a tremendous boost to the services we can offer to our members.

In the future, we will be asking the Army History Unit for a grant to research and record the history of our Corps in Western Australia. We will be advertising for a group of people who will be willing to visit other members and talk about the Corps and their

memories. Hopefully, we will be able to start that project within a few months.

Finally, I will urge you all to attend this year's dinner so that we can celebrate the Diamond Anniversary of our Corps founding in the proper manner.

John Klein President

Help Request

G'day John,

My name is Dave Cowan. I'm posted at South Bandiana as an instructor of Petroleum Operators. I'm chasing some photos or info about WO2 Clifford Stevens. He is my fiance's father. He passed away 8 years ago and I'm trying to get some photos of him on the Prince Philip parade in 1986. According to my fiance's mother, he was carrying the banner. I know he wasn't the Ensign or in the banner party, so I was wondering what his connection to the parade was.

If you could shed some light on this it would be great.

Thanks John.
Dave.

David.Cowan1@defence.gov.au

Ed's Note: If anyone can help Dave and you do not have email, contact the Editor and he will pass the message on.

Wanted

Gary Edwards, 49 Ardyne Street, Murrumbena, Victoria 3163 - Phone (03) 9504 2356 or Mob 0412 482 521, seeks information on CFN Peter BOARD. **He has a box of letters sent from Vietnam addressed to Mr. & Mrs. RW Board of Dee Why.**

If you know where Peter is you can let the Association Secretary know and he will pass on the information.

Looking for Greg Holmes

Here is a message appealing for help that we all should look into. This family has asked for help. If anyone knows of Greg would they please get in touch with the Secretary of the Association who will pass the message onto Greg's family. It is quite evident that they are worried about him.

Reference 574520 Cpl Holmes G N RAEME 102 Field Workshop.

To all Vietnam Vets

Has anyone seen or come in contact with my brother Greg Holmes, one of the many missing persons from Western Australia? Greg suddenly left his Mosman Park Newsagency on Easter Monday 1998 and has had no contact with his family since. Prior to his disappearance he had suffered several burglaries and armed robberies, two of them with threatened violence.

Two years ago, Greg was located somewhere in 'the Eastern States' by the police. He was living under an assumed name and indicated to them that he was not ready to return to his former life.

I am hoping that with the passing of time, he will at least wish to contact one of his family to let us know that he is okay. It would be a great relief to me personally if he would get in touch with me, or if he wished, I could fly over to meet him. Of course, our meeting would be strictly confidential. He is my only family member and to be frank, I miss him and am concerned for his welfare.

If anyone can help in locating Greg or relaying any messages from me to him or vice versa, I would be extremely grateful.

Ken Holmes (Phone/ Fax 08 9457 2184)

Looking for John Clarke

We received this message from 17 Const Wksp Assoc.

John Clark

John was an Engineer, can any one help??

From: Geoff Campbell
To: 17construction@agn.net.au

Anyone remember a John T. Clark that served April 66-April 67? Supposed to be from Inverell. Any info would be helpful.

Thanks.

Alan Pratt

Immediate Past President/Webmaster
17 Construction Squadron Workshops
Vietnam Association
www.17construction.org.au
17construction@agn.net.au

Do You Know Where?

Chris Pickering is looking for some old friends to look up on a trip to the Eastern States. He would like very much to make contact with them.

They are:
Bob CHURCH (Reg. No. 213966) in QLD;
Ron BITCHEM (Reg. No. 2784513) in NSW;
Danny TUCKER (Reg. No. 64336) in TAS; and
Jim BOOTOM (Reg. No 6708454) in TAS.

Chris can be contacted at Unit 28, 25 Dale Road, ARMADALE, WA 6112. His phone number is (08) 9399 1407. Chris can also be contacted by email at curtisj@bigpond.com leaving a message with the Editor of the Horse's Mouth.

friends, you owe me money. If you are a female, don't worry, I have LOTS of money.

5. A is for academics, B is for beer. One of those reasons is why we're not here. So, leave a message.

4. Hello! If you leave a message, I'll call you soon. If you leave a "sexy" message, I'll call sooner.

3. Hi. Now YOU say something.

2. Hi. I'm probably home, I'm just avoiding someone I don't like. Leave me a message, and if I don't call back, it's you.

And the Number 1 Actual Answering Machine Message Recorded and Verified by The World Famous International Institute of Answering Machine Messages.

1. Hello, you've reached Jim and Sonya. We can't pick up the phone right now, because we're doing something we really enjoy. Sonya likes doing it up and down, and I like doing it left to right...real slowly. So leave a message, and when we're done brushing our teeth, we'll call you back.

The Ticket!!!!!!

Three New Zealanders and three Aussies are travelling by train to a cricket match at the World Cup in England. At the station, the three Kiwis each buy a ticket and watch as the three Aussies buy just one ticket between them.

"How are the three of you going to travel on only one ticket?" asks one of the Kiwis.

"Watch and learn," answers one of the Aussies.

They all board the train. The Kiwis take their respective seats but all three Aussies cram into a toilet and close the

door behind them. Shortly after the train has departed, the conductor comes around collecting tickets. He knocks on the toilet door and says, "Ticket please." The door opens just a crack and a single arm emerges with a ticket in hand.

The conductor takes it and moves on.

The Kiwis see this and agree it was quite a clever idea. So after the game, they decide to copy the Aussies on the return trip and save some money (being clever with money, and all that).

When they get to the station, they buy a single ticket for the return trip.

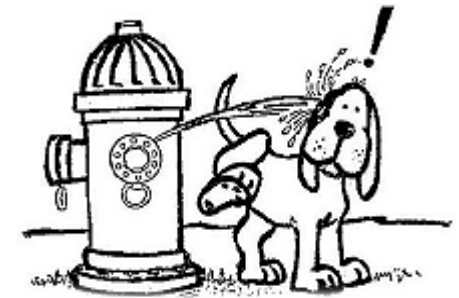
To their astonishment, the Aussies don't buy a ticket at all!!

"How are you going to travel without a ticket?" says one perplexed Kiwi.

"Watch and learn," answers an Aussie.

When they board the train the three Kiwis cram into a toilet and soon after the three Aussies cram into another nearby. The train departs. Shortly afterwards, one of the Aussies leaves the toilet and walks over to the toilet where the Kiwis are hiding.

He knocks on the door and says, "Ticket please."



Have you ever had one of those days when nothing went right?

option on one more. Sell one cow to buy a new president of the United States, leaving you with nine cows. No balance sheet provided with the release. The public buys your bull.

ANAUSTRALIAN CORPORATION:

- * You have two cows.
- * You sell one, and force the other to produce the milk of four cows.
- * You are surprised when the cow drops dead.

AFRENCH CORPORATION:

- * You have two cows.
- * You go on strike because you want three cows.

AJAPANESE CORPORATION:

- * You have two cows.
- * You redesign them so they are one-tenth the size of an ordinary cow and produce 20 times the milk.
- * You then create clever cow cartoon images called Cowkimon and market them worldwide.

AGERMAN CORPORATION:

- * You have two cows.
- * You reengineer them so they live for 100 years, eat once a month, and milk themselves.

ABRITISH CORPORATION:

- * You have two cows.
- * Both are mad.

ANITALIAN CORPORATION:

- * You have two cows, but you don't know where they are.
- * You break for lunch.

ARUSSIAN CORPORATION:

- * You have two cows.
- * You count them and learn you have five cows.
- * You count them again and learn you have 42 cows.
- * You count them again and learn you have 12 cows.
- * You stop counting cows and open another bottle of vodka.

A SWISS CORPORATION:

- * You have 5000 cows, none of which belong to you.
- * You charge others for storing them.

ACHINESE CORPORATION:

- * You have two cows.
- * You have 300 people milking them.
- * You claim full employment, high bovine productivity, and arrest the newsman who reported the numbers.

A NEW ZEALAND CORPORATION:

- * You have two cows.
- * That one on the left is kinda cute...

Top 10 Answering Machine Messages

10. My wife and I can't come to the phone right now, but if you'll leave your name and number, we'll get back to you as soon as we're finished.

9. Hello, you are talking to a machine. I am capable of receiving messages. My owners do not need siding, windows or a hot tub, and their carpets are clean. They give to charity at the office and don't need their picture taken. If you're still with me, leave your name and home phone number and they will get back to you.

8. This is not an answering machine - this is a telepathic thought-recording device. After the tone, think about your name, your number, and your reason for calling.... and I'll think about returning your call.

7. Hi! John's answering machine is broken. This is his refrigerator. Please speak very slowly, and I'll stick your message to myself with one of these magnets.

6. Hi. This is John: If you are the phone company, I already sent the money. If you are my parents, please send money. If you are my bank, you didn't lend me enough money. If you are my

Calling 10FSB

On April 13 2002, members of 10FSB paraded at Ross Island to receive the Meritorious Unit Citation (MUC) awarded to the unit for its service in East Timor. The parade included the presentation of the MUC emblems to the members of the unit who had been serving with the unit at the time of the award.

To date approximately 150 MUC emblems have been issued to qualified soldiers. More than 380 members, however, have yet to receive their awards. These are former members of the unit now serving elsewhere in Army, plus some members now discharged. Any member who served with 10FSB for a minimum of 30 days between September 20 1999 and February 23 2000, is entitled to the award of MUC with Federation Star.

To receive their MUC, entitled soldiers need to contact me at the Directorate of Honours and Awards. Once entitlement is checked and verified, a MUC will be forwarded to the member's unit for presentation, or, in the case of discharged members, to the member's current residential address.

G Wilson
SO (Meritorious Unit Citation)
Directorate of Honours and Awards
Canberra

Privacy

Recently there has been a couple of enquiries about the information that we have about members and the Privacy Act 1988 and its amendments.

The Association would like to reassure the members that no information is handed to any person or group who does not have any legal right to it. All your

information is treated as strictly confidential and will not be divulged to anyone.

Your information will only be used by the Association and its allied groups; the RAEME Officer's Association; the RAEME WO's and SNCO's Association; and the RAEME Vietnam Veteran's Association. But, only the information pertaining to their own members will be passed on to them. The members of these bodies are all members of the Association.

Should anyone have any queries about the privacy of your information, the Association would like to hear about them. We will be only too happy to answer your questions. If you wish to view the information that is kept about yourself, please contact the Secretary who will immediately arrange for you to see the record.

There have been a number of requests to put email addresses on our website. The question will be brought up at the next Annual General Meeting for comment by the membership. If any person wishes their email address to be put on our website, they are welcome to send a message to the Secretary at curtisj@bigpond.com and make that request. The Secretary will arrange with the Webmaster to include the email address on the website.

RAEME Plaques in the Avenues of Honour at King's Park.

Recently, the Association received an email message from Perry Beor that asked the question of Corps members who are remembered by Honour Plaques in King's Park.

Perry wrote:

I have only ever found one craftsman on a memorial plaque in Kings Park - he is behind the tennis club and died at Sandakan. Have you any history of him and are there any more?

The Plaque is the first or second tree on the road, which is the extension of the driveway to Royal Kings Park. There is also a small tricolour attached above the plaque. Perry's message has bought to the notice of the Association Committee that there are plaques in the King's Park Honour Avenues commemorating members of our Corps. The King's Park Board was contacted and, thanks to Celina, in their office, we now have a complete list of all the plaques in King's Park.

For those who are not quite sure of what we are writing about, the plaques are those that are in front of the trees in the avenues around the Park.

So far we have positively identified three members of the Corps that are honoured in this way. They are:

Cpl William A SWAN of the 2/10 Ordnance Workshop who died as a POW in North Borneo on the 1st of February 1945 aged 42 years. His plaque is at tree 296 in Lovekin Drive;

Cfn Denzil H JONES of the 73 Light Aid Detachment who died as a POW in Sandakan, North Borneo on the 13th of July 1945 aged 42. His plaque is at tree 57W in Marri Way; and

Cfn Charles R McKENNA of the 86 Light Aid Detachment who died as a POW in Sandakan, North Borneo on the 1st of February 1945 aged 34. His plaque is at tree 63W in Marri Way.

The Association will be negotiating with the RSL Honour Avenue Committee for permission to look after these three plaques and keep them painted.

A very special "Thank You" goes to Hawkeye, Perry Beor, for finding the

first one and bringing the plaque to our notice. We really appreciate getting information like this, because it helps to develop the history of the Corps in this State.

Now we have this database which includes all plaques in King's Park, should anyone want any information on any person who may have a plaque in King's Park, please give John Curtis a call on 9271 4520.

New Hope for a Medal Over the Suez

Veterans of the Suez Crisis are hoping for a breakthrough in their long fight for a campaign medal, an UK MP said last week.

Annette Brooke has been leading a delegation to discuss the issue with Civil Service head Sir Richard Wilson, who chairs the committee responsible for military honours and decorations.

"This was a dangerous campaign and some 60 lives were lost," said Mrs. Brooke, Liberal Democrat MP for Mid Dorset and North Poole. "Our hope is that these forgotten veterans will be able to wear a medal for their service on Remembrance Day in this the Queen's Jubilee Year."

Thousands of British troops were deployed in the Suez Emergency, which ran from 1951 to 1954 and resurfaced in 1956.

They faced appalling conditions and mob violence.

Campaigners say their cause has been overlooked because officials prefer to forget the entire Suez Crisis.

Ed's Note: There may be some of our members that were involved in the Suez Crisis. If you were, let the Association know and we will stay in contact with

the sight. She smiled as she read the card.

As she walked away, the card slipped from her fingers and she continued down the hallway. I stepped quickly to retrieve it, glancing at the handwritten words as I hurried after her, "To my sweet Elizabeth - you have been the greatest encouragement to my heart these last few days. I love and am proud of you. Win or lose, you will always be my little miracle from God. Love, Grandpa." She had disappeared around the corner, so I put the card in my pocket to give to her later.

Now attached to the little girl and her grandpa, I felt compelled to watch her Olympic event - a quarter-mile. She definitely was a fighter. I cheered as she crossed the finish line - second place. She smiled as she stood on the awards platform, and a tear slipped down her cheek as the medal was placed around her neck. She told the crowd, "I especially want to thank my grandpa for believing in me when I had no one else."

I found her later and returned her card. I said, "Congratulations!" As we talked, she revealed that she and her parents were hit by a drunk driver three years prior. She was the only survivor. Her grandfather shook my hand and said, "By the grace of God alone, this little

girl is alive and able to accomplish what she did today."

Elizabeth smiled and hugged her grandpa. "Everyone gave up hope that I would ever walk again. My grandpa was the only one who didn't."

The Economy

TRADITIONAL CAPITALISM:

- * You have two cows.
- * You sell one and buy a bull.
- * Your herd multiplies, and the economy grows.
- * You sell them and retire on the income.

AMERICAN CAPITALISM (or Enro-capitalism):

- * You have two cows.
- * You sell three of them to your publicly listed company, using letters of credit opened by your brother-in-law at the bank, then execute debt/equity swap with an associated general offer so that you get all four cows back, with a tax exemption for five cows. The milk rights of the six cows are transferred via an intermediary to a Cayman Island company secretly owned by the majority shareholder who sells the rights to all seven cows back to your listed company. The annual report says the company owns eight cows, with an

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.

A Little Story About a Cracked Pot

A water bearer in India had two large pots, each hung on the ends of a pole which he carried across his neck. One of the pots had a crack in it, while the other pot was perfect and always delivered a full portion of water.

At the end of the long walk from the stream to the house, the cracked pot arrived only half full. For a full two years this went on daily, with the bearer delivering only one and a half pots full of water to his house. Of course, the perfect pot was proud of its accomplishments, perfect for which it was made. But the poor cracked pot was ashamed of its own imperfection, and miserable that it was able to accomplish only half of what it had been made to do.

After 2 yrs of what it perceived to be a bitter failure, it spoke to the water bearer one day by the stream. I am ashamed of myself, and I want to apologize to you. I have been able to deliver only half my load because this crack in my side causes water to leak out all the way back to your house. Because of my flaws, you have to do all of this work, and you don't get full value from your efforts," the pot said.

The bearer said to the pot, "Did you notice that there were flowers only on your side of the path, but not on the other pot's side? That's because I have always known about your flaw, and I planted flower seeds on your side of the path, and every day while we walk back, you've watered them. For two years I have been able to pick these beautiful flowers to decorate the table. Without you being just the way you are, there would not be this beauty to grace the house?"

Moral: Each of us has our own unique flaws. We're all cracked pots. But it's

the cracks and flaws we each have that make our lives together so very interesting and rewarding. You've just got to take each person for what they are, and look for the good in them. Blessed are the flexible, for they shall not be bent out of shape. Remember to appreciate all the different people in your life!

A Grandpa's Love By Scot Thurman

I stared from the deck of my hotel room, intrigued. An older gentleman was assisting a young girl as she struggled to walk down the beach. He must be her grandfather, I thought. Somehow, I was drawn to the drama of the twosome, and winced as she fell. The graying man helped her to her feet, and she continued painstakingly plodding through the sand.

That evening, as I ate in the hotel restaurant, and watched as the same young girl proceeded to get up from the table and reach for her walker. She grasped it firmly with both hands, and leaning heavily, she made her way out of the restaurant, smiling as she went.

As I sipped my coffee in the lobby the next morning, I noticed a sign tacked to the announcement board. "Special Olympics Relays." Ah, I thought, that must be what the walking lessons are all about.

Over the next three days, I watched as the grandfather patiently worked with his student. "You can do it, Sweetheart. Let's get up and try again." And at this encouragement, she would struggle again to her feet.

On the morning of the Olympics, as I visited with friends in the lobby, a beautiful bouquet of roses was delivered to the front desk. The girl soon appeared for her delivery, her face brightening at

the REME Association to get follow up information. We thank the newspaper, The International Express, for this information.

Probe into UK Marine's Faulty Rifle

The faulty Assault Rifle used by the Royal Marines in Afghanistan is being investigated, Defence Secretary Geoff Hoon has revealed.

Some Marines found their modified SA80-A2 Assault Weapons jammed and misfired in the hot sandy conditions.

Mr. Hoon said he sent a Ministry of Defence team to Afghanistan - along with representatives of the manufacturers - to investigate the problem and report back to him.

A total of 34,000 SA80-A2s have been modified at a cost of £15.5 million. There are about 22,000 in service.

Ed's Note: Reminds me of the bureaucratic nightmare the US forces went through in Vietnam when they were given the AR15 Armalite, the weapon that never needed cleaning. One wonders if there hasn't been a few greased palms the way it was with the Americans. We thank the International Express (a UK Newspaper) for bringing this item to the attention of the public.

Another Dear John Letter

Dear John,

The Horse's Mouth, Vol 5, No 2, received. A good effort, plenty of amusing witticisms (is that an oxymoron, brief one liners (is that another oxymoron).

Also thought provoking. The bottom of column 1, page 14 rates a mention. A

rough calculation gives a figure of 126,720,000 gallons for a cruise from Southampton to Sydney. Seems like an engine tune-up required there

I was looking at some old photos of mine and found one taken at Puckapunyal in the early 60's (no kangaroos in sight). That was forty years ago, or four decades in the old currency. The photo shows Dick Garcia and I, looking younger and working on some task. The last I heard of Dick, he was a "Weapons Curator" in a museum in Perth. Is he still around? If so, regards to Dick.

Also regards and fraternal greetings to all. The stars are fading here in the East, the dawn of another day. We must take each day as it comes, good or bad.

Your's etc.,

George "Tiny" Hepburn

Mea Culpa!!! The editor went back and checked his facts. The QEII does use a gallon for every six inches it moves, but only in getting the big beast going. When it cruises, it is much more economical.

Revised Bushmaster Contract Signed

The revised contract for the production of Bushmaster Infantry Mobility Vehicles was signed today at ADI Limited in Bendigo.

The signing follows lengthy negotiations between Defence and ADI for 299 Bushmaster vehicles for the Army with the first vehicle scheduled to roll off the production line in October next year.

Defence Minister Senator Robert Hill says the revised contract will ensure ongoing work at the ADI Bendigo Plant, boosting the local job market and the economy.

He says ADI now has the chance to prove its abilities in the production of military vehicles for both the Australian and international defence markets.

The Bushmaster vehicles will be used by the Army's 7th Brigade in Brisbane and the RAAF's Airfield Defence Guards.

They are designed to provide protection for their occupants against land mines, mortars and small arms ammunition.

Each vehicle will be fitted with a weapon station capable of mounting the Army's family of light machine guns.

They can maintain speeds in excess of 90 km/h on Australian roads with a range of 600-km carrying nine infantry soldiers with sufficient supplies of food, water and ammunition to last three days.

The Bushmaster vehicles are designed to operate with Australian forces on operations both in Australia and overseas.

Benefit Moves Angers Veterans

Veterans groups are angry at the suggestion that future benefits for veterans could be reduced to encourage them to return to work.

A submission to a Federal Government review of veterans' benefits from the Department of Employment and Workplace Relations suggests that benefits be stepped down over time to ensure that veterans have the incentive to return to work.

The department said the changes should apply only to future veterans and people receiving pensions would not have their situation changed.

Counter terrorist and special recovery support group member and SAS veteran Ric Giblett said that incapacitated

veterans were getting only 43% of the average full time male wage and he could support further watering down of benefits.

He said any reduction would have an impact on recruitment.

The submission recommended any compensation scheme have an emphasis on prevention and rehabilitation.

A department spokesman said the submission, while not Government Policy, would have been cleared by the head of department and probably had some input from the office of Employment Minister Tony Abbot.

It also calls on the review not to extend Veteran's Entitlements Act benefits to SAS training and peacetime activity.

This is a key demand of other submissions to the review made on behalf of veterans' groups, who claim SAS training is as dangerous as active service.

More than 700 SAS soldiers have been seriously injured during training in the past 20 years but receive inferior benefits to veterans who get the same injuries on active service.

The review, being chaired by retired judge John Clarke, is due to report to Veteran's Affairs Minister Danna Vale in October.

Ms. Vale has met with veterans' groups in Perth

Eds Note: We thank the West Australian and their Journalist Ben Ruse for bringing this matter to our attention.

New Check on Vietnam Vets

The Federal Government has announced a new study into the health of Vietnam Veterans - the third in five years.

The study will monitor the mortality of

Real Groaners

*How do crazy people go through the forest?

*They take the psychopath.

*How do you get Holy Water?

*You boil the Hell out of it.

*What do fish say when they hit a concrete wall?

*Damn!

*What do Eskimos get from sitting on the ice too long?

*Polaroids.

*What do you call a boomerang that doesn't work?

*A Stick.

*What do you call Santa's helpers?

*Subordinate clauses.

*What do you call 4 bullfighters in quicksand?

*Quatro sinko.

*What do you get from a pampered cow?

*Spoiled milk.

*What do you get when you cross a snowman with a vampire?

*Frostbite.

*What lies at the bottom of the ocean and twitches?

*A nervous wreck.

*What's the difference between roast beef and pea soup?

*Anyone can roast beef.

*Where do you find a dog with no legs?

*Right where you left him.

*Why do gorillas have big nostrils?

*Because they have big fingers.

*Why don't blind people like to skydive?

*Because it scares the dog to death.

*What is the difference between a Harley and a Hoover?

*The location of the dirt bag.

*Why do Pilgrims' pants always fall down?

*Because they wear their buckles on their hats.

*How do you catch a unique rabbit?

*Unique up on it.

*How do you catch a tame rabbit?

*Tame way, unique up on it.

*What do you call skydiving lawyers?

*Skeet.

*How are a Tennessee tornado and a Texas divorce the same?

*Somebody's gonna lose a trailer.

Tough!

Three male mice are sitting at a bar with three shots of tequila arguing about how tough they are. The first mouse says, "I'm so tough I break into the cupboard just to eat the rat poison." He slams down his tequila and looks at the second mouse.

The second mouse replies, "That's nothing. I'm so tough I run through a mouse trap, grab the cheese, flip onto my back & benchpress the killer springed trapwire." He slams down his tequila and looks at the third mouse.

The third mouse slams down his tequila, slid off his stool and begins walking away from the bar. The other mice scream, "Hey, where do you think you're going?!!" The third mouse replies, "Home to play with the cat."

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.

The wife says nothing, keeps looking at the road ahead but slowly increases her speed to ninety kph. The husband speaks again. "I don't want you to try and talk me out of it" he says, "because I've been having an affair with your best friend, and she's a far better lover than you are." Again the wife stays quiet, but grips the steering wheel more tightly and slowly increases the speed to one hundred and ten.

He pushes his luck. "I want the house," he says insistently. Up to 120. "I want the car, too," he continues. 130kph. "AND," he says, "I'll have the bank accounts, all the credit cards and the boat." The car slowly starts veering towards a massive concrete flyover.

This makes him a wee bit nervous, so he asks her.. "Isn't there anything you want?" The wife at last replies - in a quiet and controlled voice. "No, I've got everything I need." She says. "Oh, really?" he enquires, "so what have you got?"

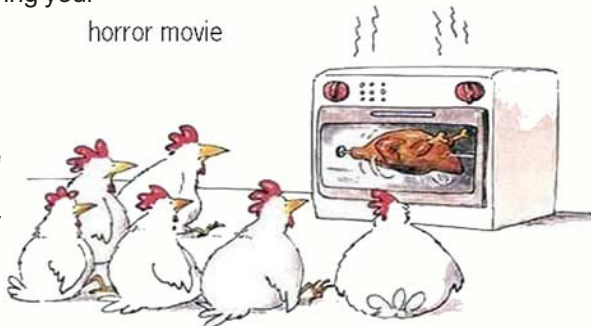
Right before they slam into the wall at 160 clicks, the wife turns to him and smiles "The airbag."

Relationships

You have two choices in life: You can stay single and be miserable, or get married and wish you were dead.

At the cocktail party, one woman said to another, "Aren't you wearing your wedding ring on the wrong finger?" The other woman replied, "Yes I am, I married the wrong man."

A lady inserted an 'ad' in the classifieds: "Husband wanted". Next day she received a hundred letters. They all said the same thing: "You can have mine."



When a woman steals your husband, there is no better revenge than to let her keep him.

Eighty percent of married men cheat in the U.S.A. The rest cheat in Canada.

A woman is incomplete until she is married. Then she is finished.

A boy asked his father, "Daddy, how much does it cost to get married?" And the father replied, "I don't know son, I'm still paying."

Young son: Is it true Dad, that in some parts of Africa a man doesn't know his wife until he marries her? Dad: That happens in every country, son.

Then there was a woman who said, "I never knew what real happiness was until I got married; and by then it was too late."

Marriage is the triumph of imagination over intelligence.

If you want your spouse to listen and pay strict attention to every word you say, talk in your sleep.

Just think, if it weren't for marriage, men would go through life thinking they had no faults at all.

You know the honeymoon is pretty much over when you start to go out with the boys on Wednesday nights, and so does she.

First guy: "My wife's an angel!" Second guy: "You're lucky, mine's still alive."

Vietnam Veterans compared with the rest of the population and will build on studies in 1997 and 2000.

Veteran's Affairs Minister Danna Vale said that Vietnam Veteran's Groups, the Returned and Services League and the Department of Veteran's Affairs would guide the study.

The 1997 study found that the veterans' mortality rate was 7 % higher than the general male population.

From Tasmania

Dear John,

John, I am fit again and thanks for the notes in the "Horse's Mouth" and the boys said to remember them to you. The President said to thank you for your mail ad news etc.

The few boys here appreciate it very much and our President said don't forget to thank you for your consideration of writing and letting us know what is happening over your way.

John, don't mistake me, but I have tried to get the Vietnam boys who went through some training with us at the workshop here before they went away. But I am sorry in my own way as they go their way and we go ours and me being in the service for 16 years when discharged.

Most of our chaps started in 1933. I joined in 1931 as a muso. Then I was OK for the position and when I was sworn in they gave me a trumpet. It was not so bad and I talked to the ex Army Bandboys about the past (its great). I finished with the Army Band. Those bandsmen took a dislike to me and, on the next wash day, I got dumped with the dirty water.

Yours truly

G. O'Donnell

Major Upgrade for Army Combat Vehicles

Approval has been given for a \$500 million project to upgrade 350 of the Australian Army's fleet of M113 combat vehicles.

Defence Minister Robert Hill made the announcement today at Tenix Defence's northern Adelaide facility saying he expects a contract will be signed between the Federal Government and Tenix in early July.

Senator Hill says this will fulfil another one of the Government's key commitments in the 2000 Defence White Paper, and further strengthen the combat capabilities of the Army.

"This upgrade to the tracked armoured personnel carriers will improve the protection provided for Australian soldiers in combat," Senator Hill says.

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SPECIAL
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SEPTEMBER-DECEMBER 2002

An amount equivalent to the deduction will be donated to
RAEME Assoc. of W.A.

**"ALAN STONER MARINE"
6 ADELA PLACE ,
SPEARWOOD
PH. 9434-4753
MOB. 0409-099806**

“New engines will be installed to improve mobility and meet stringent environmental standards and the interior space of the vehicles will be improved to benefit soldiers.

“Tenix is also designing and developing a new turret to improve the firepower and protection of the M113 vehicles. Tenix in Adelaide will carry out the production of the turret.

“The upgrade will ensure that our vehicles can perform safely and effectively in combat, and can be supported through to 2020.

“The project will be based on design work being carried out at Tenix in Adelaide that has been under way for more than a year.

“Production of the upgraded M113 fleet will take place at the Bandiana Defence facility near Albury-Wodonga which is managed by Tenix under a commercial support contract.”

The Army’s M113 fleet was first used in Vietnam, but was also valuable in recent East Timor operations. The M113 remains the backbone of many western armies, and was used by the United States in the Persian Gulf.

Several other nations are also choosing to upgrade their M113 fleets - including Canada, Germany and Denmark - as the upgrade represents excellent value for money compared with purchasing limited numbers of expensive new vehicles.

Senator Hill says the upgrade of the M113 fleet is just one of the Government’s strategies for enhancing armoured mobility for the Army.

“I recently announced plans to test and build Bushmaster wheeled armoured trucks for long distance troop transport in Bendigo,” Senator Hill says.

“Work is already well under way for Adelaide to supply an additional 150 Australian Light Armoured Vehicles with

turrets made in Adelaide for the world market.”

JOTTINGS FROM THE REAME VIETNAM VETERANS ASSOCIATION

Well the 18th Aug has come and gone again and although there was a smaller turnout this year for the Vietnam Veterans Remembrance Day Service, those who turned up had had a great day. The weather was just right for a change with the sun shining and no clouds to dampen the soul.

The association decided to change things a bit this year so instead of the normal Bar-B-Q get together at Kings Park, opted instead for a lunch at Café 26 in Subiaco. 11 members and their partners turned up for a splendid lunch and social gathering and because of the overwhelming support for this type of luncheon in preference to the Bar-B-Q in the park, it was decided to continue with them. The association committee encourages members and their partners/families to come along to these events and is hoping for a greater turn up next year. As the time draws nearer to the day next year, reminders will be published in the “Horse’s Mouth” so when you see it please give it some serious thought, we would love to see you there. After the meal and meeting we all left the café by 2.15 to move to the memorial in Kings Park for the service. Unfortunately because of the works being undertaken in the area around the memorial the normal march could not take place, the service though was very good and I am pleased to say nowhere near as long as last year’s. With the service out of the way we all gathered around the esky to have a chat and enjoy the company.

As per normal the AGM of the

Jim’s Life in the US

Jim has come up with a couple of good articles for us in this issue. Remembering September 11th, we all wish peace and goodwill to Jim and his countrymen and women. Jim suggested that we should visit a website and have a thought for those who died on September 11th. His email message reads:

THIS is a SPECIAL WEBSITE AND ITS GREAT!!!! ADD YOUR NAME TO THE MEMORIAL QUILT!!

www.911memorialquilt.com

I think you ALL will like it!!!

So, he goes down into the dark caves underneath the monastery where the original manuscript is held in a locked vault that hasn’t been opened for hundreds of years. Hours go by and nobody sees the old abbot.

So, the young monk gets worried and goes downstairs to look for him. He sees him banging his head against the wall. His forehead is all bloody and bruised and he is crying uncontrollably. The young monk asks the old abbot, What’s wrong, father? With a choking voice, the old abbot replies, “the word is ‘Celebrate’”!

Spelling Mistake

A new young monk arrives at the monastery. He is assigned to help the other monks in copying the old canons and laws of the church by hand. He notices, however, that all the monks are copying from copies, not from the original manuscript. So, the new monk goes to the head abbot to question this, pointing out that if someone made even a small error in the first copy, it would never be picked up. In fact, that error would be continued in all of the subsequent copies. The head monk says, “We have been copying from the copies for centuries, but you make a good point, my son”.

Marital Problems?

A married couple is driving along a highway doing a steady eighty kilometres per hour. The wife is behind the wheel. Her husband suddenly looks across at her and speaks in a clear voice. “Darling,” he says. “I know we’ve been married for twenty years..... but I want a divorce.”



Transport in the Workshop

1 x Bedford Soft Top Utility
1 x Wheelbarrow (c/w Steel Wheel)
1 x Sampson Hand Truck

The Workshop establishment was based on the fact that the Australian army was not yet mechanized and horses were the prime motive power.

Perhaps the main ongoing workload was the rebuild of wheels for wagons, limbers, mobile kitchens and ambulances. For these, Spokes and Fellos (the wooden rim segments) came from 5 Base Ordnance Depot, Nungarin, as spare parts. The rim was rolled and forge welded by our blacksmith and the central bronze bearing was cast at Galaway's Foundry in West Midland and machined in the workshop by we apprentices. The Nave (Central Hub) never needed attention.

Rims were shrunk onto the reconstructed woodwork in batches about every two months. This was a busy day for us. But! That is another story.

About mid 1940, the programme to convert 18 pounder Guns, 4.5 inch Howitzers, and their limbers to rubber tyres began. This was a very big job and soon we never repaired horse drawn equipment again.

The Horse drawn equipment remained in the big sheds at the far end of the depot. I understand that, after the war, it was towed out to an adjacent paddock and burnt.

Albury Company to Provide First-Class Live-Firing Practice Facilities for the ADF

Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Defence Fran Bailey welcomed the news that Defence had contracted ADI Limited to continue the nation-wide upgrade of Marksmanship Training Ranges (MTRs).

The new ranges would provide the Aus-

tralian Defence Force with the best-possible training by international standards, the Parliamentary Secretary said.

"Most importantly regional employment is assured," said Fran Bailey

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"Changing requirements, such as shooting with night-vision equipment, and the poor reliability of old target equipment highlighted the need for new systems."

Hiccups

A woman went to the doctor's office, where she was seen by one of the new doctors, but after about 4 minutes in the examination room, she burst out, screaming as she ran down the hall. An older doctor stopped her and asked what the problem was, and she told him her story. After listening, he had her sit down and told her to go relax in another room

The older doctor marched down hallway to the back where the first doctor was and demanded, "What's the matter with you? Mrs. Terry is 63 years old, she has four grown children and seven grandchildren, and you told her she was pregnant?" The new doctor continued to write on his clipboard and without looking up said, "Are her hiccups gone?"

MERGER PROPOSAL BETWEEN THE RAEME VIET- NAM ASSOCIATION (WA BRANCH) AND THE RAEME ASSOCIATION

It is proposed, by the committee of the RAEME Vietnam Association (WA Branch), that we become part of the RAEME Association using the following guidelines:

1. We remove the word "Vietnam", when referring to Returned Soldiers, and instead refer to them as "RAEME Veterans" to cover the ever-increasing conflicts from which RAEME soldiers are returning.
2. That an enrolment proforma be instigated by the RAEME Association to enable new members to nominate the appropriate entitlement (Veteran, Officer, WOs & SNCO, etc), under which they are joining the association.
3. When subs fall due they are all paid into the RAEME Association bank account to cover general expenses (death notices, flowers etc).
4. All notices to go through the Association Secretary to avoid doubling up.
5. Until subs fall due we will maintain our current bank account to cover our general expenses.
6. Once the association takes over the general expenses, we will transfer our remaining funds to the association bank account to be held in a separate sub-account.
7. Although the majority of our functions are self-funded, an advance amount will be allocated to assist with planning and setting up of ANZAC Day, Vietnam Day and any future remembrance day or social function.

association also took place on the day and the main item on the agenda was the merger proposal to merge the association with the RAEME Association and the changing of our name to the "RAEME Veterans Association". A nine point list of the guidelines that were past at the meeting is included with this update.

Also please note that after the 30th September, members who wish to pay their annual subs should send them to the Treasurer of the RAEME Association, Al Stoner at 6 Adela Place Spearwood with a notice that the subs are for the RAEME Veterans Association. In the meantime you can still send your outstanding fees to Dennis Rettig.

It should also be noted that in line with point number one, any RAEME Returned Service person is encouraged to join the association and come along to our social events.

With the merger, two of our members will represent our association at the RAEME Association monthly meetings. The members nominated were Rod Costolloe and Garry Whykes and any information derived from these meetings concerning our association will be given to the members via the "Horse's Mouth".

As a bit of general information for those interested, the Australian Vietnam Forces National Memorial is to be re-dedicated on the 10th anniversary of its unveiling this October. It will take place on the weekend 5-6 of October. The weekend will include a dawn service, gunfire breakfast, march of honour, re-dedication ceremony, reception and church service. Pud Armstrong and myself are going over so for those not able to attend we will let you all know how things went in the next addition of the "Horse's Mouth".

Don Phillips

8. That the 30th of September 2002 be the date we come under the RAEME Association.

9. A Corps Committee meeting be called immediately to dissolve the committee and allow their responsibilities to be taken over by the RAEME Association.

All these points were accepted and passed at the AGM held on the 18th August 2002. The minutes of this meeting will be published and distributed as soon as possible.

Profile

This month we are going to profile a person who is not a member of our Corps, But deserves a great deal of recognition for the work he has done for his local community and for the cause of peace. This is an email message sent to us by our roving correspondent, Kevan Gray (who is currently travelling Australia and having an all round good time).

John here is the promised profile, which has been approved by Merv and Judy. I am also mailing you a brochure about the lighting of the candle in November. Perhaps you could use some of it to encourage veterans to attend. It is well worth a visit. (Ed's note: See note below about Veterans of the Outback)

Merv's address for any correspondence is

M & J Gould
PO box 42
Bruce Rock 6418

Kev Gray

The Man in the Window

Mervyn Gould, born 1944 in Kalgoorlie WA, 10th of 11 children.

As you can imagine, in a family of that size everyone had to pitch in and help,

and Merv was no exception.

He rounded up cows for milking before school and delivered groceries after school to help out with the family budget.

On leaving school he commenced studying Geology at the Kalgoorlie School of Mines, but gave up and virtually ran away to the army to escape the trauma of his younger brother's tragic death.

He served with 1st Bn Anti Tank Platoon in Vietnam in 1965/66, where he received severe concussion from an explosion.

In 1966 he joined SAS where he served in 2 Sqn and also re-met Judy, the young lady who was to become his wife, and who remains so today. The meeting had such an effect on Merv, who although he did not realise it was already suffering from PTSD from the concussion and the horrors of Vietnam, that he stayed AWOL long enough to earn himself a courts martial where he received 28 days detention in Holsworthy army prison. The horrifically harsh conditions there did nothing to help his PTSD.

He left the army in 1968 and he and Judy were also married that year, and between 1969 and 1972 had 3 children: Daniel, Shane and Patricia All of who remain very close.

Like so many veterans Merv found it very hard to settle and had 14 jobs in the first 9 years of civilian life.

After struggling for many years with ill health, including almost losing his life to cancer, he was finally diagnosed, correctly, with PTSD and retired in 1995 from his job as an explosives expert and shotfirer on the gold mines.

Since his retirement Merv has dedicated himself to peace. He and Judy have stepped forward in the small com-

Recently one of the "Elder Statesmen" of our Corps wrote to the Editor and included in the letter a complete list of the workshop here at the start of World War II. We are thankful to "Cadet", now Lt Col Frank Parker for maintaining our links with the very early days when we were still part of Ordnance. This is information that is very precious to our history.

Manning Details

5th Military District Ordnance Workshop

(As at 04 Sep 1939, one day after war was declared)

Rank	Initials	Surname	Position or Trade	Note
Lieut.	G W	Kennerson	Officer Commanding	@
WO1	F G	Hanson	Armament Artificer	@
Sgt.	R G	Nettleton	Fitter & Turner	@
Sgt.	H M	White	Fitter & Turner (at Rottnest)	@
Cpl	G	Barrack	Instruments (at Rottnest)	@
Cpl	H W	Sewell	Instruments	@
Cpl	T	Fogarty	Electrical	@
Cpl	P D	Wilson	Fitter & Turner	
Cpl	J	Humble	Fitter & Turner	
Cpl	H	Hymus	Fitter & Turner	
Cpl	B	Twyford-Jones	Radio	@
Cpl	W	Smith	Vehicle Mechanic	
Cpl	H	Bradley	Vehicle Mechanic	
Pte	B	Rhodes	Storeman	
Pte	M	Case	Workshop Assistant	
Pte	C	Porter	Workshop Assistant	
Cadet	K M	Hodgkinson	Apprentice Fitter & Turner	#
Cadet	F R	Parker	Apprentice Fitter & Turner	#

@ Transferees from Sydney or Melbourne - "The Wise Men from the East". All other members were relatively recent local enlistees.

Enlisted on 31 Aug 1939 - Started work on 04 Sep 1939.

Civilians at the Workshop

04 Sep 1939

Title	Initials	Surname	Position or Trade	Note
Mr.	F E	Fry	Carpenter	
Mr.	R	Maxwell	Carpenter's Assistant	%
Mr.	L	Anderson	Blacksmith	
Mr.	R	Latham	Blacksmith's Striker	
Mr.	R V	Krauth	Painter	
Mr.	G	Walter	Saddler/Textiles	
Mr.	A	Brown	Saddler/Textiles	
Mr.	J	Turner	Armourer	
Mr.	W	Glen	Armourer	
Mr.	C	Mansfield	Armourer	
Mr.	A	Cruttenden	Armourer	&

% Known as Droopy Draws.

& May have arrived a little later.

ment we are running at about 8%. Other states have a failure rate anywhere from 25% upwards. You can see that we are very proud of our efforts to help the veterans in this state.

How do people make contact with P/W Officers?

You can contact the Pension or Welfare Officers by contacting your local RSL or Ex-Service Organisation. You can also write or ring into DVA (they prefer a phone call) on 133254 for local people or 1800 555 254 for country veterans. You can also ring (08) 9366 8300. This number is the ESO office in DVA and can be accessed any business morning to make an appointment or ask advice.

Not like the bad old days, DVA is now there to help the Veterans and they will go out of their way to help any vet or dependant once eligibility is confirmed.

From the Editor

Recently, the Association did an audit of financial and non-financial members and who receives the Horse's Mouth. Currently it costs in the vicinity of \$1.00 per copy to produce. We send out some 300 copies. There are a number of non-financial members who are still receiving the newsletter. If you are non-financial this will be the last copy of the HM that you will receive. To receive future copies you must have paid your subscription into one of the RAEME Associations in WA, the Officer's, the WO's & SNCO's, the Vietnam Vets or the RAEME Association of WA. We would like to be able to send the newsletter out free of charge, but it is just not possible. Honorary members will still receive their copy.

On another matter, a Disastrous Computer Crash has wiped out all of my email addresses. Would everybody who has an email account please send

me a short message so that I can get your email addresses back onto my computer. There is no need to put a note on the message, just my email address and a title. We do not use them very often. But, if we need to spread a message around very quickly, it is an ideal way of doing it. My email address is curtisj@bigpond.com

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munity of Bruce Rock where they now live. Together with friends Colin and Sue Turner, Paul and Heather Hutton and Bill Stewart and the backing of the local community they have been instrumental in the design, manufacture and installation of the Vietnam Veterans Peace Window in their local church. A lot of the cost came from their own pockets

This was dedicated last year 2001 and when he and Colin showed it to myself and my wife Sheila I had an extremely hard time holding my emotions in check its effect is so powerful.

The re-lighting of the candle is to be an annual event each November. I would urge any veterans to go there, your time will not be wasted.

Merv and Judy also walk each day because of Merv's health and spend the time cleaning the streets. I promise you that Bruce Rock is the cleanest and tidiest town you are ever likely to visit because of their efforts.

I salute you Merv Gould. To me you are a peacetime hero.

Eds Note: The Association has received a flier inviting all veterans and their families to celebrate the "Veteran's of the Outback" at Bruce Rock on the 2nd of November 2002. During the course of the weekend, the Peace window will be displayed for all those who wish to see it. From what we hear it is well and truly worth seeing. The program is for a march at 1400 hours from the War Memorial to St Peter's Church for a Remembrance Service. Following the service will be a concert and afternoon tea. The concert will be presented by local talent supported by the Challenge Brass Band. At 1800 hours a family barbecue and drinks will be held at the Recreation Grounds, followed by Supper at 2200 hours. A "Morning After" breakfast will

also be provided for travellers. Dress for the weekend is casual

Merv Gould on (08) 9061 1143 or mjgould@bigpond.com.au or Colin Turner on (08)9061 1197 or fang@wn.com.au can be contacted for further information.

Letter from Kevan Gray – Our Australia Trotting Correspondent.

Recently due to the fact that my home computer is on its last legs (after all its at least 4 years old) I decided to purchase a new one, and that this should be a "modern" lap top.

There were 2 reasons for this.

1: Being "modern" It should not go out of date within the week following its purchase.

2: It would be suitable to take on holidays in the motor home for e-mails etc.

Needing to go to Perth for a grandsons 3rd birthday and to attend a 2-day seminar, we decided to spend an extra couple of days there and check out the computer scene.

The most economical recognised brand name computer cost \$2799.00. This came with several programs none of which I use. My main program other than emailing is Microsoft Office and, as my version is outdated, \$800.00 for an up to date version. No case is supplied and as this computer would be carried in the motor home I thought that a case would be essential. \$50.00 minimum

As an insomniac I do most of my work between 3 and 5 am (It is now 4.45am) and not wanting to have to get dressed, go outside and open the rear storage area to switch on the inverter. I inquired

about running it off the 12volt household battery.

LAPTOP COMPUTERS ARE 19VOLT!!! Who the hell ever heard of a 19VOLT battery????? Battery cells are 1.5 volt each, so connecting these in series we naturally get 3, 4.5, 6 volt etc, but 19Volt? Never!! Also the works of a computer runs on + - 5 and 12 volt. As Pauline Hanson would say "Please explain".

Anyway, a mini inverter could be supplied at \$300.00.

Next the phone:

We have a 2-year-old CDMA mobile phone. "Out of date, use it as a fishing sinker." See what I mean about the computer? Ask any mobile phone salesman and they will tell you that CDMA is the only way to go as the digital network is destined to go the same way as the old analog network. How soon? A shrug of the shoulders. There are virtually no CDMA mobiles that will accept and transmit data. An ordinary digital mobile phone plus data cable and software to connect to the laptop \$490.00.

At this point we went and bought ourselves a leather jacket each instead. (Much warmer and more comfortable)

Happy Travelling

Kevan & Sheila Gray
CMCA 24846

Go Ahead Given To Build Amphibious Watercraft

Minister for Defence Robert Hill has today announced the signing of a \$32.73 million contract with Newcastle shipbuilder ADI Limited for the design and construction of six Amphibious Watercraft for the Australian Army.

Senator Hill also announced that a con-

tract for \$10.66 million has been concurrently signed with ADI Limited to provide 15 years through life support for the watercraft.

These lightweight vessels, to be built from aluminum and powered by two diesel engines and waterjet propulsion, will build on the total amphibious capability of the Australian Defence Force.

Senator Hill said the new watercraft will enable the Army to deploy greater amounts of tanks, vehicles, soldiers and supplies from ship to beach in a significantly shorter time than is currently possible with the existing capability.

In particular, the new watercraft will improve the discharge rate of unloading cargo by more than 30 per cent.

Senator Hill said the new watercraft will be carried on the decks of the Royal Australian Navy ships HMAS MANOORA and HMAS KANIMBLA. The craft will be based in Townsville at the 10 Force Support Battalion at all other times.

"This project is expected to create 40 jobs in the Newcastle area," Senator Hill said.

"When the watercraft are introduced into service they will be maintained in Townsville by ADI Limited through a sub-contract with a local company, which will create additional employment in the area.

"The first watercraft is planned to undergo extensive trials late next year with the final craft expected to be finished in 2005.

"I am pleased the negotiations on the contract have been completed and that work will commence on building the lightweight vessels following the completion of a Preliminary Design Review.

"The new watercraft will primarily be

erans in gaining those services that are required for them to lead as normal a life as they possibly can with their disabilities. They also assist the veteran's families should they require any help. I should stress that the Pension and Welfare Officers jobs quite often overlap and it is very important that each understands the other's role.

Are the Pension and Welfare Officers accredited?

Both the Pension and Welfare officers need to be accredited to ensure that they are fully trained to give the correct information to the veteran and to correctly assist in the preparation of and submission of claims whether disability or Service Pensions. The training for accreditation is government funded and concentrates on preparation of documents and analysis of the veteran's entitlements. Accreditation usually begins with the Pension Officer Course; progresses through the Welfare Officer's Course; to Case Officers and finally accredited Advocates. There are other courses that can be done to improve the Pension or Welfare Officers ability to help the veterans.

What is the TIP Program?

The Training and Information Program (or TIP) is a program that I mentioned that is funded by the government to train people up to the Advocacy level for the veterans. The training begins with the Pension Officers and progresses until the person being trained is able to appear and to support a veteran in any appeals which go to the Veteran's Review Board (VRB) and to the Administrative Appeals Tribunal (or AAT).

Apart from running the formal training courses for Pension and Welfare Officers, TIP also has courses in Electronic Tools which gives those who already have an understanding of computers, the necessary information to help them with the computerised information that DVA has. It also runs courses to help

the Pension and Welfare Officers in understanding how DVA works, particularly with the Guide to the Assessment of Rates of Veteran's Pensions. They also run refresher courses for the Practitioners in the field to keep them up to date with changes in DVA policies and procedures. Finally, TIP runs Advocacy Courses for experienced practitioners to bring them to a high enough level to effectively represent the veterans in the VRB and AAT. All practitioners receive a quarterly newsletter to bring them up to date with any developments in DVA.

TIP offers support to the practitioners in legal matters. All practitioners are covered by insurance should a legal action be taken against them for imparting erroneous information.

It is important to note that all TIP trained people are voluntary and will never ask for any remuneration. To the Veteran and their families, it is a totally free service.

Are there many P/W Offices in WA?

In WA, Ex-Service Organisations have at least one Pension and /or Welfare Officer that has been trained by TIP. There is also an office in DVA that is manned by Ex-Service Organisation (ESO) Representative, all trained by TIP. However, if you want to use that office, whether for information or assistance to fill out claim forms, you must make an appointment to see them. They are very busy in that office. You can usually get into see one of the advocates within a week.

Our aim in the TIP program is to have a trained person in every town in the state. That way we can provide the best possible service to the veteran community.

What sort of success do these officers have?

Since TIP has been in operation the number of failed cases has been steadily declining in WA. At the mo-

laid out below us, all the various activities being carried out alongside. Several dockside hands were scurrying around collecting the fore and aft ropes that the deck hands were throwing down to them and with which they were making fast the vessel to the dockside. A further team of deck hands was in the throes of putting in place the gangway leading down from the bulkhead door in the ship's side. It was the same bulkhead door we had entered the vessel so very long ago in Southampton. It went down to the wharf and provided the main entry and exit to the vessel from the dockside. Immediately subsequent to this, my attention was drawn to a scene that stands implanted in my memory as being the first really significant item I saw upon our arrival. Positioned in a row along the wharf, stood four, or possibly six, I cannot now really remember, green coloured Double Decker buses. It was almost as if we had brought them with us from London, dumped them on the dock and painted them green. Along the sides of the vehicles was painted "JERSEY TRACTION COMPANY". Below the words was the equivalent in French, which, thanks to the little I learned at school, I was able to translate. Over the period of our stay in Jersey, this was to prove an advantage to many of us who had received the privilege of this subject at school. No doubt these buses were to be the transport to our next, and possibly final, destination. Little did we realise at that moment however, the number of we boys who would, a little later, equate these wonderful vehicles to being the orbit of one of the very few periods of regular entertainment we were to enjoy during our time here, especially during our first few months.

Finally the feeling that, the beginning of the end of this, now over 30 hour-long saga, was about to occur. The feeling emerged when the corporals once

again started to organise us into single file. We commenced the journey back through the vessel to the inevitable bulkhead door and on to the top of the gangway. It was exactly as I had presumed when, from the bottom of the gangway we were directed straight onto one of the waiting buses. By this time all those previous feelings of trepidation that, emerged with each change of venue we were required to make, were long gone. At least they were as far as myself was concerned, and I cannot remember hearing any voices of concern from any of the remainder of our particular group, at this time. The principal feeling that I can remember at that time was one of excitement and anticipation for what the end of our journey was finally going to provide us.

Welfare Corner

Radio interview

The following are excerpts from a Radio Interview that was given on Radio 89.75 FM a short while ago. The interview gives you a good idea what your Pension and Welfare Officers are about.

What is DVA?

The Department of Veteran's Affairs (or DVA) is a Government Department that ensures that all Veterans receive everything that they are entitled to once they have what is called eligible service, mostly service in a war zone. I might add that this includes the dependants of a deceased veteran who has died from accepted war caused disabilities.

What is the Role of Pensions & Welfare Officers?

The role of the Pensions Officer is to interview veterans, prepare and submit claims for disabilities or a Service Pension. The Welfare Officer does the same, but, in addition, assists the vet

used in the Asia-Pacific region, particularly in coastal areas around northern Australia, offshore islands, territories and within the South Pacific."

Senator Hill said today's announcement follows recent announcements for the major upgrade of the M113 fighting vehicle for the Army, the go ahead for the Bushmaster vehicle contract for the Army, the development phase of the new Joint Strike Fighter and the shortlist for patrol boats for the Royal Australian Navy.

He said that the new watercraft underlines the Government's determination to implement its Defence White Paper commitments to improve the capability of the Australian Army.

DSTO and Eurocopter sign "Tiger" MOU

The Defence Science and Technology Organisation (DSTO) and French based company Eurocopter today signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on cooperation and exchange of information in the lead up to delivery to the Australian Army of the Armed Reconnaissance (ARH Tiger) Helicopter.

Chief Defence Scientist, Dr Ian Chessell, signed the MOU. The ARH Tiger Project Director, Marc Jouan, represented Eurocopter during a simple ceremony at DSTO Headquarters in Canberra.

Dr Chessell said with the on-going acquisition of the Eurocopter Tiger, DSTO is now focussing on various technology aspects of the capability in order to help the introduction into service and to advise Army of future capability options.

DSTO's Land Operations Division (LOD) is playing a leading role in the

evaluation of the capability through systems experimentation in the Synthetic Environment Research Facility (SERF).

Mr Jouan said during the early stages of the AIR 87 Project tender, and with the full support of the French Ministry of Defense, Eurocopter proposed the options to extend collaboration with DSTO for Co-operative Research Programs with a number of projects of interest to all parties. DSTO has expressed interest and enthusiasm to pursue the options.

He said all projects under consideration relate directly to Tiger helicopter trends, both technical and operational, and are principally focused on the context of operating efficiencies and future upgrade.

"By signing the MOU today, we can now commence the job of launching potential collaborative projects and move forward to the actual Research and Development tasks."

"This enhancement of our existing collaborative arrangements sets the stage for mutually beneficial Research relationships over the long term between Eurocopter, with its subsidiary Australian Aerospace, and Australian Defence."

Australia Welcomes Appointment of Singaporean Peacekeeping Force Commander in East Timor

Australia welcomes the announcement that Singapore's Major General Tan Huck Gim will fill the next UN peacekeeping force commander position in East Timor.

The appointment of Major General Tan recognises the significant, important and ongoing support Singapore has provided to East Timor. Singapore's commitment of peacekeepers, police services and medical aid, as well as sup

port at donors' conferences and in the UN Security Council, helped bring an end to the violence in East Timor and is assisting in the re-building of the world's newest nation.

Major General Tan is a respected and experienced officer. He will replace Thailand's Lieutenant General Winai Phattiyakul, who has rendered invaluable service in command of the UN's transitional peacekeeping force.

Peter is now back with us and he continues the story of his induction into the Corps of REME. We remember, as a fourteen-year-old he has had his first "sea voyage" and has been kept in the dark about where he was going. So read on and find out more of his adventures.

Episode 7 Boy Service Nostalgia.

The day was now bright and warm, and the seas relatively calm. A general "hush" having descended over the whole of the deck area. Any talk that did occur was in equally hushed tones, with maximum attention of all boys directed towards the horizon. To such a degree that, it probably wouldn't have mattered if we had been in the middle of a cyclone, no one would have taken much notice. As we drew closer to the emerging shoreline the concentration increased until there was rarely a sound, other than the "chugging" of the engines and the constant lapping of the sea against the bow of the vessel. As it continued on its consistent way. When I stop to think about it now, I realise how eerie those moments of waiting to see our future home really were.

At this time of writing it is over 64 years since the day we all stood on that deck and watched as the Island came into

view, and I have never had the privilege of returning to Jersey since our rather sudden departure in mid 1939. The reader's consideration is therefore requested as to the accuracy of some of the landmarks that will be mentioned, together with the various changes that have occurred in St. Helier and the surrounding districts, especially that of St Peters (San Pierre), since that time, and particularly during the German occupation.

Gradually the outline of the coast became more distinct, with the vessel having now changed course slightly, leaving the majority of the landfall to our left, towards which, all eyes on deck were still firmly glued. Apart from the rather flat rugged nature of the initial part of the coastline to come into view, the first item of prominence that I remember seeing was a tall round tower standing completely alone. It was set on a rocky protuberant area of the beach, which I first took to be an old unused lighthouse. But as we passed a little closer, it became obvious that this was some form of ancient fortification that had withstood the ravages of wars, the sea and time. Later I was to learn just how correct my presumption had been, for this was one of the famous fortifications built on the Jersey coast by the Crusaders in the 11th & 12 centuries, of which there are many more around Jersey and the coasts of the other three Channel Isles. This particular tower, I later came to know, was namely "La Rocco Tower" situated in the bay of "St. Ouen's" on the west coast of Jersey. It was in the St. Ouen's Bay area that myself, and several of the boys in our company, were later to spend many happy hours during our stay on the island.

The vessel continued its steady way, in what we later came to realise was a south / southeasterly direction towards the entrance to the Port of St. Helier.

The very pleasant, picturesque countryside of the Island became more discernible, with its hillsides of well laid-out green fields and hedgerows. Interlaced here and there were roads and lanes, creeping their way through the landscape. This was definitely beginning to look more like a holiday jaunt to the seaside for us boys, but that idea was soon to be quickly erased from our imaginations.

Quite suddenly the atmosphere at the foreword end of the deck changed again. But this time, what had initially been an almost inaudible murmuring, suddenly gained momentum until it became a shrill blast of excitement steadily spreading over the whole deck area. Being situated towards the rear of the main crowd, it was a few moments before our gang became fully aware of the cause of this sudden excitement. But upon straining necks a little in the direction of the current attention, a tall, stately, white tower presented itself, situated atop a bulbous, high point of rock at the end of a long outcrop, extending from the mainland. After a few moments it became quite obvious that this very stately looking piece of real-estate was not just another ancient fortification, but a most elegant, well maintained and currently operative "Light-House". Once again, later information proved all these original contentions to be correct. For this was the famous "Corbiere Lighthouse" built by the British in 1874, and the first in the British Isles to be constructed in concrete. It actually stands on the one hundred-foot (30 m.) high end of a 1,600 ft long, rocky promontory, extending from the mainland, which, at full tide, is completely submerged.

There was no doubt now that we were finally coming to the end of this virtual "Voyage of Discovery", and would very

shortly be back on dry land again. Our friend from Guernsey who rejoined us, pointing out La Corbiere lighthouse and naming it for us confirmed this. He also told us that La Corbiere was considered to be the principal landfall for the Port of St Helier, into which we must surely be turning very shortly. Whilst this was also his first visit to Jersey, he was quite familiar with the names of the various landmarks which he had heard at home quite regularly.

Shortly after leaving Corbiere to our rear, steadily but very positively, the bow of our vessel began to turn towards the shoreline. Until finally, dead ahead of us, we could now see the beginnings of a long breakwater leading into, what we presumed to be the Port proper. Then, as we continued onwards, other vessels tied -up along side the wharf, came into view. The engines of our vessel having now reduced to a steady "throb" as we slowly made our way towards our prescribed berth

I particularly remember that, initially it was most frustrating, because, from the position our group found itself in as we lined up on the deck, it was not possible to see over the side of the vessel as we drew into the harbour and came alongside. All we could see initially were the tops of some buildings and sheds as the engines reversed and the vessel edged, blunt end first, inwards to the dockside. Then, I presume that the Sergeant must have realised the situation the majority of the groups were in. He relented by relining us all up along the rails on the port side of the vessel. Thus we were provided with an unimpeded view of all that was in progress on the dockside.

We had just completed this manoeuvre as the vessel straightened up along side the wharf. From our new and most advantageous position we could now see,