

The Horse's Mouth

RAEME Association WA - NEWSLETTER - April 2013 Edition

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In This Issue

What the Prez Sez	1
ANZAC Day	2
Our Banner	2
ANZAC Day Update	5
Advertise Here	5

WHAT THE PREZ SEZ

Hi, for those of you I have not met, my name is Wez Lynch. I am a 44th class VM, and have had the pleasure of serving in our great Corps for 22 yrs. I finished up as the EMEWO at Campbell Barracks and the Ace for a SOTG rotation.

I was nominated /knifed/appointed by the old guard of the association to this position with a goal to get the younger serving and discharging members of our Corp involved in the association.

2012 has come and gone in a blur and a highlight of the calendar was the Corps 70th birthday, which was well attended and an excellent night.

The goals going forward are:

Provide advice and support for current and ex-serving members of the Corps, link to DVA and local advocates.

Provide support to the group via organized functions and the provision of information services via a central website and newsletter.

Provide links to the National and State RAEME associations.

Thank you for the opportunity to represent the association and I look forward to meeting everyone at the next gathering. Please get involved and dig up any past members that you know of and bring them into the group.

Cheers

Wez

ANZAC Day 2013

A NZAC Day 2013 is fast approaching and activity arrangements are well under way.

THE DAWN SERVICE

At this point in time, the RAEME Veterans do not attend and lay a wreath at the Kings Park service. However, for a number of years the service at Palmer Barracks has been attended by RAEME Veterans and families.

The Dawn Service is well attended with a simple but relevant service at the Memorial Rock.

The RAEME Veterans will lay a wreath in honour of those who served and paid the ultimate price for our freedom.

The service is followed by a well prepared gunfire breakfast and all members and their families are invited to attend.

The details are:

Dawn Service: Palmer Barracks, Guildford

Time: 0530 hours for coffee/tea and 0600 start

Followed by Gunfire Breakfast.

THE PARADE

Details of the parade will be published by the RSL. The "West Australian" newspaper will have a lift out with all information publicised.

The RAEME Veterans normally form up in St Georges Terrace and we step off at approx 0930 hours. But, please look for the march details when they are published, as the step off point often changes. This can effect our step off time.

AFTER MARCH ACTIVITIES

This year we have worked hard to have a special licence granted to us so that we can be served food and drinks at 1100 hours rather than having to wait until midday. All are welcome back to the **John De Baun Room** at the **Melbourne Hotel** directly after the march.

Association Membership fees will be collected in the foyer and Corps merchandise will be available for purchase.

THE HISTORY OF OUR WA BANNER, FLAG & TRI-COLOUR PENNANT

The history of our banner goes back twenty-five years. The banner was modelled on the RAEME Vietnam Veterans Association banner that was produced in Victoria and paraded every ANZAC Day and Vietnam Day (formerly Long Tan Day) by the RAEME Vietnam veterans in Melbourne.

After forming the RAEME Vietnam Veterans Association WA Branch, our banner was produced and paraded for the first time on ANZAC Day 1988. At the time, the RSL sub-branch and the Vietnam Veterans' Association were hassling as to who should march in front of whom on the ANZAC Day parade. Both were separate entities and both believed they had the honour of marching first. The compromise was, that they march side by side on the parade. Because of the problems this was causing the RSL, they were in no mood to negotiate with what they termed a "breakaway group".

After much communication with the RSL, we were told we could parade our banner, but it had

to be directly behind and part of the Vietnam contingent with no gaps.

On the day of the parade, we stepped off (with very short steps) and opened a gap between RAEME and the other conglomeration in front. As we neared the first corner, a Parade Marshall saw the opening, held up his hand and inserted a band between us and the others.

Thus the tradition began.

We were the **FIRST** to parade the Corps Banner on the ANZAC Day parade in WA. The following year, the Tankies followed suit and today we have a very large number of Corps parading their individual banners.

In another **FIRST**, the RAEME Vietnam Veterans' Association WA, saw the need to expand the horizon. Some six years ago, it was noticed that there was a number of veterans from conflicts other than the Vietnam war who were left out on ANZAC Day, they had nowhere to march. A meeting was held by the Vietnam veterans committee and they decided to drop the words

"Vietnam" and "Association" and invite ALL RAEME veterans to march behind the banner. A promise was made to further update our banner so that ALL conflicts involving this great Corps of ours will be reflected on the banner.

At this point in time, it was decided to hold the banner update, as there was a chance that we could be without our banner for this years parade. Also, there is some points of discussion as to the wording that should appear.

This topic will be put on the agenda for discussion at the RAEME Association WA Annual General Meeting.

The outcome should be, that our Corps will remain at the forefront for many, many years to come. Our future looks very good indeed.

OUR AUSTRALIAN FLAG

At the Welcome Home Parade held in Sydney on the 3rd October 1987, the RAEME Vietnam Association was presented with five Australian flags, one for each member of the corps who died in Vietnam. These flags were to be distributed to the next-of-kin of the deceased members.

After the Welcome Home Parade, there was a second get together by Vietnam veterans'. This was a Dedication Parade for the opening of the Vietnam National Memorial in Canberra. There was a need to raise funds for the occasion. An Australian flag was to be given to any organisation who raised a certain sum of money (I believe it to be one thousand dollars). The RAEME Vietnam Veterans raised enough to be granted two flags, one of which was brought to WA as part of the birth of

the Association in this state. The flag has an insignia attached that reads "In appreciation to RAEME Vietnam Assn Australian Vietnam National Memorial".

This flag has been proudly displayed on every ANZAC Day parade and Vietnam Day ever since.

The flag is normally carried by Snowy Whykes who was one of the original members of the fund raising group.

OUR RAEME TRI-COLOUR PENNANT

Apart from the RAEME Vietnam veterans, there was another contingent of WW11, Malaya and Korean RAEME veterans who marched on ANZAC Day. They marched under the RAEME Pennant. A number of the veterans who served in Korea and Malaya also served in Vietnam, so those members marched under the Vietnam banner. This left the numbers marching behind the RAEME Pennant very small indeed. The number got down to one, when Ian Stewart (The Honorary Colonel at the time) asked the lone digger if he would like to march with us, he accepted the invitation, but unfortunately, he passed away before this could happen. So we inherited the Pennant, and it is also proudly paraded on ANZAC Day and any other day that is appropriate.

A LITTLE KNOWN TIDBIT OF NAVAL HISTORY

The U. S. S. Constitution (Old Ironsides), as a combat vessel, carried 48,600 gallons of fresh water for her crew of 475 officers and men.

This was sufficient to last six months of sustained operations at sea. She carried no evaporators (i.e. fresh water distillers).

However, let it be noted that according to her ship's log, "On July 27, 1798, the U.S.S. Constitution sailed from Boston with a full complement of 475 officers and men, 48,600 gallons of fresh water, 7,400 cannon shot, 11,600 pounds of black powder and 79,400 gallons of rum."

Her mission: "To destroy and harass English shipping."

Making Jamaica on 6 October, she took on 826 pounds of flour and 68,300 gallons of rum.

Then she headed for the Azores, arriving there 12 November.. She provisioned with 550 pounds of beef and 64,300 gallons of Portuguese wine.

On 18 November, she set sail for England. In the ensuing days she defeated five British men-of-war and captured and scuttled 12 English merchant ships, salvaging only the rum aboard each.

By 26 January, her powder and shot were exhausted. Nevertheless, although unarmed she made a night raid up the Firth of Clyde in Scotland. Her landing party captured a whisky distillery and transferred 40,000 gallons of single malt Scotch aboard by dawn. Then she headed home.

The U. S. S. Constitution arrived in Boston on 20 February 1799, with no cannon shot, no food, no powder, no rum, no wine, no whisky, and 38,600 gallons of water.

GO NAVY!

TRACKS



GRUNT

SAS

ME ON THE
WEEKENDLT WITH A
COMPASS

Incredible photos from an accident in Canada (Lethbridge). Check out the sequence of the canopy leaving the scene, the pilot in his rocket-powered seat coming out, the parachute opening sequence, and the separated seat falling away. Modern technology at its best. All of this happened in about two seconds from canopy off to the fireball.



There he goes! So that's what the striped handle does!

The left engine has the nozzle fully open, showing that #1 engine was developing no power.

Check out all the smoke from the canopy rocket motors.



The white thing is the seat-stabilizing drogue chute. Notice the pilot's head pinned to his chest from the severe "g" forces produced by the solid rocket motors in the ACES II seat. They burn for about 2/10ths of a second . . . Enough time to propel him at least 60 feet clear of the aircraft. One Hellova ride.



One millisecond from eternity for a beautiful FA-18.
Check out the now-unoccupied ejection seat following the aircraft to glory.





The fireball

The moment-of-impact photo shows flame shooting out of the left engine . . Its "last gasp". There goes the seat above the fireball. The pilot will be downing his first of several shots within the hour, soon as his hands stop shaking.



ANZAC DAY UPDATE

Any member who is interested in coming to Perth for the ANZAC Day festivities and requires accommodation. The Melbourne Hotel is doing a special deal for members and family/friends of the RAEME Association.

Dear Garry

Just wanted to advise that we are running a special promotion on Anzac eve night (Wednesday) for accommodation at the following rates in case any of your members may be interested. \$115 standard room and \$135 deluxe room based on two people sharing and including breakfast.

If any members wish to take up this offer please advise them to contact Brandon our Front Office Manager on 93203333 or by email:

fom@melbournehotel.com.au.

With Warmest Regards,

Josephine Redmond
Events Sales Executive

THIS SPACE IS AVAILABLE

Your Advertisement Here

The RAEME Association WA would be happy to hear from any individual/company who would like to advertise in our periodical "The Horse's Mouth".

If you would like to find out more, please contact :

**The PRESIDENT, Wes Lynch on
Mobile: 0477308475
Email: Wesley.Lynch@kfv.com.au**

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