



AEME/RAEME ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA INC.

25 Deepdene Crescent
O'HALLORAN HILL SA 5158
Phone: (08) 8381 3644

MARCH 2002 NEWSLETTER

Patron - Honorary COLCOMDT (RAEME) Southern & Central Regions - COL Jack Wilson

COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT

Executive Officers

President	- Mike Culley	Ph: 8294 3820
Vice President	- Grant Kuchel	Ph: 8305 7023 (work)
Secretary	- David Turner	Ph: 8381 3644 (after hours)
Treasurer	- Keith Tainsh	Ph: 8326 2581

Ordinary Officers

- Dutchy Holland	Ph: 8294 4401	- John Howard	Ph: 8447 7681
- Eddy Kaminski	Ph: 8261 1446	- Bob Killoran	Ph: 8270 2222
- Frank Owen	Ph: 8384 7291	- David Renshaw	Ph: 8270 4207

Auditors

- Robin Maslen OAM	Ph: 8296 2768	- George Robinson	Ph: 8272 9872
--------------------	---------------	-------------------	---------------

Association Historian

- Eddy Kaminski Ph: 8261 1446

AEME RAEME Association of South Australia Inc. Web Site

www.diggerz.org/users/raasa

Webmaster

- Wayne Birch e-mail wbirch@adam.com.au

Dear Members,

Well, 2002 has well and truly started (it's the end of March) and I'm still wondering where the time has gone. I have been on leave from my civilian employment again (Long Service Leave this time) for all of March, still trying to finish off some badly needed home maintenance that was started several years ago. Consequently, I haven't been doing any Secretarial duties for the Association. I've got a chance now because I have had the 'flu for the past week, however I now realise that the RAEME Mixed Anzac Reunion is less than four weeks away. Anyway, I hope that this Newsletter finds you and your families in good health.

60 YEARS SINCE THE FORMATION OF AEME

As I mentioned in the January Newsletter, this year, 2002, marks 60 years since the formation of AEME (1 December 1942). The Committee of Management, in conjunction with **Maintenance Company** 9CSSB, Warradale Barracks (note the change of name), and Support Battery 16AD, Woodside Barracks, are well advanced with preparations for the 2002 RAEME Mixed Anzac Reunion (an Invitation is attached to this Newsletter).

A WOs, SNCOs and Officers Formal Dinner will be held in the Officers' Mess at Woodside Barracks in mid to late June. MAJ Martin Griffiths, Battery Commander, Support Battery 16AD, and Senior RAEME Representative in Central Region is organising this function.

A "Back-to-RAEME" Function will be held on the oval at Warradale Barracks in August. WO2 Doug Pammenter, Maintenance Company 9CSSB, is organising this function.

Please make every effort to take part in these activities to help celebrate the 60th Anniversary of the formation of the Corps.

APOLOGY

As I mentioned in the January Newsletter, I was extremely surprised and a little embarrassed about being elected to Honorary Life Membership at the 2001 AGM. It has been brought to my notice that the list of Honorary Life Members I mentioned was incomplete. I apologise to the families of Vern Claxton and Frank Winstanley for this omission. However, I still don't think my contribution to the Association has been as significant as that of any of the other Honorary Life Members.

REG GLASS (HONORARY LIFE MEMBER)

Mike Culley received the following letter from Gloria Glass regarding her husband Reg.

18 Feb 2001
phone (08) 8342 0550

2/124 Walkerville Tce
WALKERVILLE 5081

To the President, and
members of the RAEME Association

I am just writing to let you know how much Reg enjoys receiving the RAEME Newsletter. We read it, and he is interested in everything; news of his former colleagues and what they are doing, etc, but particularly the information regarding the guns at Fort Largs.

Reg was based at Ft Largs Drill Hall, 1958/59, when various sections of the then C Comd Wksps were dispersed all over the metropolitan area after the fire at Keswick Barracks and the Workshops destroyed.

Reg has been in the Salisbury Private Nursing Home for two and a half years and his overall health has improved, especially this last 12 months. He now has his own room and is mobile, spending some of the day getting around in a wheel chair.

He would love to receive a postcard from any of his old colleagues, the address is Salisbury Private Nursing Home, 147 Frost Road, SALISBURY SOUTH, 5106, or can be contacted on his own telephone. If you would like his number you can contact me and I can give you his number and the best times to call. I know he would be thrilled to hear from any of his friends of Workshop days.

Cheers everyone, and keep up the interesting news in the Newsletter.

Yours sincerely

Gloria Glass

DIARY DATES 2002

<u>Activity/Function</u>	<u>Date</u>
- Committee of Management Meeting	Thursday 18 April
- 2002 RAEME Mixed Anzac Reunion	Saturday 20 April
- Fort Largs Guns Restoration	Saturday 4 May
- Committee of Management Meeting	Thursday 20 June
- 2002 WO/SNCO/Officer Formal Dinner	(tentative) June
- Fort Largs Guns Restoration	Saturday 3 August
- Committee of Management Meeting	Thursday 15 August
- 2002 "Back-to-RAEME" Reunion	(tentative) August
- Committee of Management Meeting	Thursday 17 October
- Fort Largs Guns Restoration	Saturday 2 November

COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT MEETING

The next Committee of Management meeting will be held on **Thursday 18 April** at 7:30 pm in the **Warradale Area Sergeants' Mess** (southern side of the oval, first building from the south west corner). All members are very welcome.

2002 RAEME MIXED ANZAC REUNION

As mentioned in the January Newsletter, LTCOL Tim Hanna, Commanding Officer, 9th Combat Service Support Battalion, has given approval for our Association to conduct the 2002 RAEME Mixed Anzac Reunion in the **Warradale Other Ranks Canteen** (southern side of the oval, second building from the south west corner), on **Saturday 20 April** commencing at 7:00 pm. Format will be similar to last year, with a BBQ Meal available from approximately 7:00 pm to 8:15 pm at a cost of \$5 per head. Refreshments will be available at special Bar prices. A "Remembrance Ceremony" will be held at 9:00 pm with a recitation of "The Ode" followed by the "Last Post", a period of silence, and "Rouse". The function is expected to conclude at approximately 11:30 pm.

This function is for serving and ex-serving members and their partners and friends. It will be an opportunity to renew old acquaintances and reminisce. Help will be required with Set-Up, cooking the BBQ, selling Raffle Tickets and Clean-Up. If you can assist in any way please let me know. An Invitation with all the details is attached to this Newsletter.

Please ring Keith Tainsh on 8326 2581 before by Tuesday 9 April at the latest and let him know whether you will be attending and who your guests will be!

Because we over-catered again last year (lost money on the BBQ), the Committee of Management has decided that **WE WILL ONLY CATER FOR THE NAMES NOTIFIED.**

ANZAC DAY 2002

The Anzac Day Commemorative March will be held on Thursday 25 April commencing at 9:30 am.

The AEME/RAEME Association of South Australia will be lead, as usual, by our Association President, Mike Culley. Two members are required to carry the Association Banner, and this will be decided on the day. Any Anzac Day March queries should be directed to our own March Marshals, Dutchy Holland (8294 4401), Bob Killoran (8270 2222), or Alf Lee (8294 9138).

The Assembly Point for Group 6 is the same as last year, ie the eastern side of Pultney Street with head on Rundle Street and extending south to the Grenfell Street intersection.

The route is north along Pultney Street, west along North Terrace and north along King William Road to the dispersal area in Pennington Gardens.

Salutes (Association Banner is to be lowered on "eyes right") are to be paid at the State National War Memorial and the South African War Memorial on North Terrace, and the Official Dias on the eastern side of King William Road opposite the Torrens Parade Ground.

Someone asked recently whether the Committee of Management could arrange for a transport to follow directly behind "AEME/RAEME" for those who can no longer march. Permission has been given for a vehicle to follow directly behind "AEME/RAEME" to allow WW2 veterans who can no longer walk the distance to participate. We had to find our own vehicle, so, at short notice, MAJ Martin Griffiths, Battery Commander, Support Battery 16AD has offered his personal 110 Land Rover for the occasion (it has one seat in the front and will seat three in the back). If you are a WW2 veteran who would like to participate in the Anzac Day March, but can no longer walk the distance, contact David Turner (8381 3644) to see if there is a spare seat. If there is a lot of interest, then the Committee of Management will inquire about a vehicle with more seats for the 2003 Anzac Day March.

All persons who have:

1. Served in the Armed Forces of the Commonwealth of Australia, British Commonwealth countries or any other country which, at the time of such service, was an ally of Australia, or
 2. Been allotted for duty in the March,
- are eligible to March.

Children are not permitted to participate in the March other than those who are Next-of-Kin of a deceased veteran and are 13 years of age or over. Those participating are required to wear the medals of the deceased relative (over the right breast) and are required to march with either the "Next of Kin" (Group 12 - Assembly Point on the eastern side of Pultney Street with head on

Grenfell Street) or, if a Legacy Ward, with "Legacy" (Group 1 - Assembly Point on the southern side of North Terrace 50 metres east of Kintore Avenue).

The participation of the next-of-kin in the Anzac Day March is a vexed issue. The RSL policy has been and remains, that next-of-kin marchers shall have reached their 13th birthday and march with Group 12. It is expected that one next-of-kin will march for a deceased family member unless, in extraordinary circumstances, a carer for the next-of-kin marcher is required.

Next-of-kin marchers shall, wherever possible, wear the service medals of their deceased relative on their right breast and must always be dressed in a manner appropriate to a march of this nature.

Whilst policy is that the next-of-kin will only march within Group 12, the RSL recognises that certain exceptional circumstances may exist within individual units, which may prompt units to invite selected next-of-kin to join them. Whilst not encouraging or condoning this practice, the RSL recognises the unit's right to decide upon and implement such exceptions if they so desire.

The recognition of these exceptions should not be viewed as any change in the RSL policy that has existed for many years.

Free car parking facilities will be provided upon display of Service Medals or RSL Badge at:

1. Gawler Place Car Park 5:15am - 6:00pm (No entry/exit during March 9:00am - 11:00am)
2. John Martin's Car Park 5:15am - 6:00pm (No entry/exit during March 9:00am - 11:00am)
3. Hungry Jack's Car Park 8:00am - 6:00pm (No entry/exit during March 9:00am - 11:00am)
4. Harris Scarfe's Car Park 8:00am - 6:00pm

Toilet facilities will be provided as follows:

1. Council toilets in Hindmarsh Square
2. Ground floor level Hungry Jack's Car Park
3. Austin Street corner Pultney Street (portaloos x 1)
4. North Terrace opposite Pultney Street intersection (portaloos x 1)
5. Kintore Avenue opposite State National War Memorial (portaloos x 2)
6. South eastern side of City Bridge for WWI veterans and VIPs
7. Rear of Adelaide University Oval and the Adelaide Oval
8. Portable toilets will be provided by the Adelaide City Council at the south east corner of Pennington Gardens.

Approval has been given for Members to use the excellent facilities of the Keswick Barracks Sergeants' Mess after the March. At the time of inquiry, the Mess Manager, Mr. Paul Gower, thought that a light lunch would be available as in previous years for approximately \$5. Mr. Gower has advised that the Standard of Dress for inside the Sergeants' Mess is neat civilian attire with a collared shirt. Blue denim is now acceptable provided there are no holes or patches, although runners are still not acceptable footwear.

NAVAL GUNS AT FORT LARGS (RESTORATION PROJECT)

John Howard and I were the only ones who could attend the February Work Party. The time was put to good use however, lubricating and exercising the mechanisms of both Guns.

The next Work Party will be on the morning of Saturday 4 May 2002. All members are most welcome to drop in for a chat. In case of inclement weather you can check with me on 8326 2581 to see if it has been postponed.

Keith Tainsh

THE "RAEME CRAFTSMAN" MAGAZINE

Thanks to WO Brian Tuohy, currently posted to Townsville, but transferring to the GRES after 28 years, and WO Grant Kuchel, currently posted to Maintenance Company 9CSSB at Warradale Barracks, who donated back issues of the "RAEME Craftsman" magazine to the Association. The Association "RAEME CRAFTSMAN" Magazine collection is complete.

I intend to re-print some of the articles from the early magazines in future editions of our Newsletter for your edification.

VALE CALLS ON NATIONAL SERVICEMEN TO APPLY FOR MEDAL

National Servicemen who served between 1951 and 1972 can now apply for a medal marking the 50th Anniversary of the introduction of universal conscription in Australia, the Minister assisting the Minister for Defence, Danna Vale announced in December.

Mrs.Vale outlined the medal application process following advice from Government House that Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II had granted Royal Assent for the Anniversary of National Service 1951-1972 Medal (ANSM).

"More than 300,000 former National Servicemen are expected to apply for the ANSM and to help fast-track the process Department of Defence has specially designed an application form," Mrs.Vale said.

"The application, in the form of a purpose-designed statutory declaration, requires basic information relating to the National Serviceman's service. It will be available through the electorate offices of all Senators and Federal Members of Parliament, and State Branches of the National Serviceman's Association and the Returned and Services League of Australia. It can also be obtained via the Internet at www.defence.gov.au/dpe/dpe_site/honours_awards/.

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

Mrs.Vale said National Servicemen or Nasho's as they became known, were conscripted from all walks of life into military service during the 50's, 60's and 70's and the ANSM will recognise their contribution to the nation.

"The ANSM obverse features a distinctive emblem representing the Navy, Army and Air Force, below the Federation Star. It is surrounded by the words Anniversary of National Service 1951-1972.

"The medal's reverse features a central device of radial lines overlaid with the stars of the Southern Cross. Surrounding the device is a cog, symbolising the spirit of cooperation between the Australian Defence Force and the Australian community.

"The medal ribbon colours are drawn from white, green and light blue representing the then colours of the Navy, Army and Air Force, while the central yellow and dark blue colours represent Australia's national colours of the time, with the outer ochre stripes representing the soil of Australia."

The Anniversary of National Service 1951-1972 Medal will be worn immediately after long service awards with the Australian Order of Wearing.

Mrs.Vale said applications for the ANSM would be processed in receipted order and she hoped that a great many National Servicemen would be able to wear their medal with pride on Anzac Day 2002.

MEDIA BACKGROUNDER - NATIONAL SERVICEMEN

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

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

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

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

- Courtesy "The Horse's Mouth" Summer 2001-02

COMMONWEALTH AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS SECURE JOBS AND MUNITION NEEDS

(Recently) the Prime Minister and Mayors of Moira, Delatite and Corowa Shire Councils jointly signed an agreement on the future of the Mulwala Propellant Production Facility on the

NSW/Victorian Border. The agreement follows the 9 July (2001) announcement by Dr. Brendan Nelson MP that the Howard Government will commit to the ongoing production of propellant at Mulwala through a modernised plant and a long-term agreement to produce munitions for the Australian Defence Force.

Dr. Nelson said, "This agreement between the Howard Government and the people of the Border region, represented by the Mayors and Chief Executive Officers of three local Shire Councils, recognises the pivotal role played by the factory in both direct and indirect employment in the region."

The Mulwala propellant plant, operated by ADI Ltd provides jobs for over 350 people and indirect employment for at least another 300 in the Border region. The Government commitment to upgrade the plant will not only support the biggest single employer in the region but sends a message to the wider community about support for families in regional and rural Australia," said Dr. Nelson.

"Of equal importance is the strategic commitment to retain a domestic capability to produce high quality propellant for munitions production to meet long term Australian Defence Force needs."

"The signing of this agreement follows the successful negotiation of a Memorandum of Understanding between the Department of Defence and ADI Limited signed only two days ago," said Dr. Nelson.

Full text of the Agreement follows:

The following commitment is made by the Hon. John Howard MP, Prime Minister of Australia, to the people of Mulwala and surrounding districts and signed on behalf of those people by the Mayors of Moira, Delatite and Corowa Shire Councils.

1. The Commonwealth Government is committed to the long-term domestic production of propellant and high explosives at Mulwala to meet the requirements of the Australian Defence Force.
2. The Commonwealth Government is committed to the long-term domestic production of munitions at Benalla to meet the requirements of the Australian Defence Force.
3. The Commonwealth Government is firmly committed to invest up to \$220 million to the upgrade of the propellant production facility at Mulwala in addition to the current Government funding for environmental works at Mulwala.
4. The Commonwealth Government will link the production of propellants and high explosives to a long term supply agreement for the provision of a range of munitions to the Australian Defence Force thus ensuring maximisation of employment at Mulwala and Benalla.
5. The Commonwealth Government is committed to entering into a contract for the modernisation of the Mulwala facility and the long-term arrangements for the supply of munitions and seeks to have these new arrangements in place by 2004.

- *Courtesy "The Horse's Mouth" Summer 2001-02*

WARNING

Province of British Columbia Ministry of Fish and Wildlife:

Due to the rising frequency of human-bear encounters, the B.C. Fish and Wildlife Branch is advising hikers, hunters, fishermen, and any persons that use the out-of-doors in a recreational or work related function to take extra precautions while in the field. We advise the outdoors man to wear little noisy bells on clothing so as to give advanced warning to any bears that might be close by so you don't take them by surprise. We also advise anyone using the out-of-doors to carry "Pepper spray" with him or her in case of an encounter with a bear.

Outdoors men should also be on the watch for fresh bear activity, and be able to tell the difference between black bear excrement and grizzly bear scats.

Black bear excreta is smaller and contains lots of berries and squirrel fur. Grizzly bear scats have bells in them, and they smell like pepper.

- *Courtesy "The Horse's Mouth" Summer 2001-02*

DID YOU KNOW?

When the ANZAC Mounted Division Workshop took the opportunity to repair and overhaul their equipment at Jerusalem in the summer of 1918 they used 700 wheels and repairs were carried out to 120 wagons.

- *Courtesy "The Horse's Mouth" Summer 2001-02*

HEY! YOU APPIES OUT THERE!

Sid Cheeseman is writing a book about the whole period of the Army Apprentice Scheme. The book includes both Balcombe and Bonegilla Army Apprentice Schools. The Balcombe Period has been finished. However, Sid is looking for information and photographs of Bonegilla.

If you are interested in helping Sid, you can write your experiences and/or lend him some of your photos. Sid will have them copied and returned as soon as possible. If you want any further information you can call Sid on (02) 9871 2221 or send information directly to:

Sid Cheeseman

39 Alamein Avenue

CARLINGFORD NSW 2118

- *Courtesy "The Horse's Mouth" Summer 2001-02*

ARMY APPRENTICES' WEB SITE

Attention all Australian Army Apprentices. Craig "Crash" Cranston (ex 39th Intake) has created a Web Site for all interested ex-Appies. This will allow you to look up names and Email addresses for Appies by Intakes, thus allowing you to stay in contact with each other.

The address is:

<http://www.bit.net.au/~crashman/index.html>

To have your name and address included e-mail to:

crashman@bit.net.au

18 POUNDER - AUSTRALIAN ARTILLERY IN THE GREAT WAR

By Michael Cecil

Federation saw the newly formed Commonwealth with an odd assortment of field artillery weapons, consisting mainly of 12 and 15 pounder Breech Loading (BL) guns. These had been purchased by the individual colonies, were of a variety of models and were not fitted out to a common standard. They were also becoming out-moded by developments in Europe, particularly the advent of the quick firing (QF) gun which used the expansion of the cartridge case as a means of sealing propellant gases within the breech.

The newly introduced British field gun that used this method of obturation was the Guns, QF 18-Pounder Mk 1. This gun offered all the advantages of a modern, up-to-date weapon, and was first ordered by the newly formed Australian Army in November 1904.

Initially, 20 guns were ordered, but this was increased in 1905 to 24 guns. By the end of 1909, the Australian Field Artillery was more or less evenly divided with 36 each of the older 15-pounder BL and the more modern 18-pounder QF field guns in both Marks 1 and 2. The 15-pounder, however, had had its day, and the initial field artillery piece of the First AIF was the 18-pounder QF gun. The Guns QF 18-pounder Marks 1 and 2 were very distinctive with the buffer and recuperator mounted above the barrel, and a pole-type trail. The ordnance was of wound wire construction, that is, an inner tube covered with a series of layers of steel wire, which were in turn housed within an outer steel jacket. Various modifications and methods of assembly were developed, and these were indicated by the changes in barrel nomenclature. The Mark 1* barrel differed from the earlier Mark 1 by having a slightly tapered inner tube fitted under hydraulic pressure into a modified Mark 1 outer jacket, while the Mark 2 barrel was originally manufactured with a taper to both the inner tube and the outer jacket. The breech mechanism of the Mk 1 and 2 guns was an interrupted Maelstrom type screw thread, single motion mechanism, whereby one pull on the lever unlocked the breech and swung the breech screw and carrier into the open or loading position. Once a cartridge was placed in the breech, a similar pull on the same lever swung the carrier and breech screw back into the closed and

locked position ready for firing. Unlike later artillery pieces, the motion of the breech mechanism would not engage or cock the firing mechanism. It took a sharp pull on the firing lanyard to partially revolve the firing lever, which in turn drew the firing pin to the rear and compressed a spring until the release point was reached. At that moment, the firing pin became free to move rapidly forward and strike the percussion cap in the base of the cartridge case. The buffer and recuperator of the Mk 1 guns combined an hydraulic piston assembly filled with mineral oil as the buffer to absorb the recoil, and coiled springs as the recuperator to bring the barrel back to the firing position. Later 18-pounder guns, however, utilised both air and mineral oil in a hydro-pneumatic buffer and recuperator mechanism.

The 18-pounder field gun was a rugged and dependable field piece that was widely used by the Australian field artillery throughout WW1. The usual means of traction was a six-horse team that dragged the gun and an ammunition limber.

Firing an 18-pounder projectile of 3.3 inches diameter, the ammunition natures available for the 18-pounder included High Explosive (HE), Shrapnel, Armour Piercing (AP), smoke, gas and star. The ammunition was of the fixed type, with the projectile attached to the slightly tapered brass cartridge case by having the mouth of the case pressed into a groove in the body of the projectile just below the copper driving band.

Late in WW1, the 18-pounder Mark IV was introduced, which was visibly different to the earlier Marks 1 and 2. Most noticeable was the riveted box trail and the location of the buffer and recuperator under the barrel. The cradle was also radically modernised, being much longer and consequently providing increased stability to the gun during recoil. The breech mechanism was also changed to a Welin-type interrupted screw thread with a single-motion Asbury breech mechanism.

During the inter-war years, horse teams continued to provide the basic means of moving the 18-pounder field gun. By the early 1930s, however, the move to mechanisation was slowly taking hold, and the use of motorised tractors and specialised artillery vehicles became more common. In Australia, a series of experimental field artillery transporter trailers were built for towing by motorised transport. In all cases, the field gun and ammunition limber were unmodified and carried on a specially designed trailer with pneumatic tyres and an axle fitted with semi-elliptical leaf springs. This allowed the field gun and limber to be moved at the relatively higher sustained speed provided by mechanical tractors without damage to the timber-spoked wheels of the gun and limber. The early versions of these trailers were known as Vector trailers, and later, Wilton trailers, after MAJ Wilton who provided the initial interest and designs. Improved versions were developed and built during the 1930s, including two Fordson trailers built by Malcolm Moore Ltd of Port Melbourne, Victoria, in late 1935. The Fordson trailers included such improvements as a winch for pulling the gun and limber onto the trailer.

These trailer-transporters were very much an interim measure, however. With the introduction of the purpose-built Ford Marmon-Herrington artillery tractors in early 1939, a better solution was required for the 278 18-pounder guns then in service.

The solution was to remove the wooden spoked wheels altogether and install an entirely new axletree. This new axle carried steel wheels fitted with pneumatic tyres. Tapered roller bearings with inner and outer grease seals allowed sustained high speed running without undue wear or overheating. Light steel-mesh mudguards were also installed, covered with removable canvas. The modified guns and limbers were subsequently given a "P" suffix to indicate fitted with pneumatic tyres, and "LP" suffix to indicate Local Pattern. By the outbreak of WW2 in September 1939, only a small number of 18-pounder guns had been modified in this way, with the rest soon to follow.

Despite the introduction of the 25-pounder into British service, Australian artillery was still dependent on the venerable 18-pounder at the outbreak of war, and it was these that the 2nd AIF took in small numbers to the Middle East. Both 18-pounder Mk4P(LP) provided from Australia, and a small number of 18-pounder Mk5P and 18/25-pounder guns from British stocks were used by the Australian artillery in the opening stages of war in the Middle East. The

18-pounder Mk5 was distinctive in having a split trail, while the so-called 18/25-pounder was a combination of a 25-pounder ordnance mounted on an 18-pounder Mk5P carriage.

In the Middle East, these guns were gradually superseded by the more modern 25-pounder. In Australia, however, deliveries from the United Kingdom and local production were initially unable to satisfy the requirement fully, and various Marks of the 18-pounder, converted to pneumatic tyres, remained in forward operational areas as late as mid-1942. 18-pounders saw service with the 8 Div in Malaya and with Australian forces in such widely scattered places as Ambon, Nauru, Ocean Island, New Caledonia and New Guinea as well as on the Australian mainland.

The days of the 18-pounder, however, were numbered, as the production rate of the newer and more versatile 25-pounder field gun caught up with the demand. Gradually, the 18-pounder was withdrawn from front-line service to see out its days as a second-line weapon, mainly within Australia. All marks of the 18-pounder were declared obsolete at the end of WW2, and were disposed of. The type is undoubtedly one of the more significant artillery pieces to see service with the Australian Army, having served with distinction for more than forty years and through two world wars.

Technical and comparative data - 18-pounder Mk2 and Mk4

MK 2		Mk 4
1.32 tonnes	Weight	1.6 tonnes
3.3 inches (84 mm)	Calibre	3.3 inches (84 mm)
Percussion	Firing mechanism	Percussion
Hydro-pneumatic	Recoil mechanism	Hydro-pneumatic
Two wheel, tubular pole trail	Carriage	Two wheel, riveted box trail
Fixed	Ammunition type	Fixed
10 (reduced to 8 for P versions with mechanised tractors)	Detachment size	10 (reduced to 8 for P versions with mechanised tractors)
Up to 6,000 metres (with streamlined projectile)	Range	Up to 10,000 metres (with streamlined projectile)
16 degrees	Maximum elevation	37.5 degrees
5 degrees	Maximum depression	5 degrees
Up to 20 rounds per minute	Rate of fire	Up to 20 rounds per minute
Interrupted Maelstrom-type screw thread with single-motion mechanism	Breech mechanism	Interrupted Welin-type screw thread with Asbury single-motion mechanism
HE, AP, Star, Smoke, Gas, Shrapnel	Ammunition natures	HE, AP, Star, Smoke, Gas, Shrapnel

- Courtesy "Army Magazine" No.48 Sep.01

WEB SITE ADDRESSES

AEME/RAEME Association of SA Inc: <http://diggerz.org/users/raasa>

AEME/RAEME Association - ACT: <http://users.netinfo.com.au/~lwedd/raeme5.html>

The RAEME Association (Vic) Inc: <http://www.nex.net.au/users/vraeme>

The RAEME Association of WA Inc: <http://www.redbackwebs.com.au/raemewa/index.html>

The RAEME Association of QLD: http://www.geocities.com/raeme_association

102 Field Workshop: <http://www.users.bigpond.com/redotter/102.html>

National Service Association: <http://www.nasho.asn.au>

Vietnam Veterans Federation: <http://www.webmaster.net.au/vvf>

Department of Defence: <http://www.defence.gov.au>

Australian/Commonwealth Honours: <http://www.itsanhonour.gov.au>

LIFE ACCORDING TO PERRY

Military Intelligence

When the pin is pulled, Mr.Grenade is not our friend.

You don't win a war by dying for your country. You win a war by making the other son-of-a-bitch die for his. - General Patton

If it's stupid but works, it isn't stupid.

Cluster bombing from B-52s is very, very accurate - the bombs always hit the ground.

If the enemy is in range, so are you.

The difficult we do immediately. The impossible takes a little while longer - US Navy Seebes.

It is generally inadvisable to eject directly over the area you just bombed.

Whoever said the pen is mightier than the sword obviously never encountered automatic weapons.

When in doubt, empty the magazine.

If God had meant for us to be in the Navy, we would have been born with grey, baggy skin.

Try to look unimportant, they may be low on ammo.

"You, you and you: Panic. The rest of you, come with me."

Odd objects attract fire - never lurk behind one.

Incoming fire has the right of way.

Don't look conspicuous: it draws fire.

Tracers work both ways.

Five-second fuses only last three seconds.

A slipping gear could let your M203 grenade launcher fire when you least expect it. That would make you quite unpopular in what's left of your unit - The Army's Magazine of Preventive Maintenance.

Who cares if a laser guided 500 lb bomb is accurate to within 9 feet?

The easy way is always mined.

Don't ever be the first, don't ever be the last, and don't ever volunteer to do anything.

Never share a foxhole with anyone braver than you.

Bravery is being the only one who knows you're afraid.

If your attack is going well, you have walked into an ambush.

Never trust a private with a loaded weapon, or an officer with a map.

If you can't remember, the Claymore is pointed towards you.

Teamwork is essential - it gives the enemy someone else to shoot at.

Push to test... Release to detonate.

Those who beat their swords into ploughshares will plough for those who don't.

There is no such thing as an atheist in a foxhole.

No combat ready unit has ever passed inspection.

Make it too tough for the enemy to get in and you can't get out.

Any ship can be a minesweeper.... once.

Never tell the Platoon Sergeant you have nothing to do.

The more you sweat in peace, the less you bleed in war.

Don't draw fire, it irritates the people around you.

The enemy invariably attacks on one of two occasions:

1. When you're ready for them, and
2. When you're not ready for them.

Combat will occur on the ground between two adjoining maps.

Friendly fire - isn't.

Sometimes I think war is God's way of teaching us geography - Paul Rodriguez.

The side with the simplest uniforms wins.

When you're short of everything but the enemy, you're in combat.

Mines are equal opportunity weapons.

We are not retreating, we are advancing in another direction.

If you find yourself in a fair fight you didn't plan your mission properly.

Instruction printed on US Rocket Launcher - "Aim towards Enemy."

- Courtesy "The Horse's Mouth" Summer 2001-02

THE ARMY MUSEUM

Corps Shop Bandiana

RAEME

History Book	\$ 45:00
Tie	\$ 25:00
Tie Pin	\$ 6:50
Coaster (pewter)	\$ 11:00
Thermal mugs	\$ 16:00
Stubby holders	\$ 7:00
Plaque	\$ 35:00
Prince Philip Banner	
Print (unframed)	\$ 5:00
Prince Philip Banner	
First Day Cover	\$ 2:50
Diary of Capt B.Dittmar	
while on duty in	
South Vietnam 1968	\$ 5:00
Arts Lapel Badge	
& Tie Tack	TBA

OTHER ITEMS

Corps Plaques for	
RAAMC, RAANC	\$ 35:00
Stubby holders for	
RAAMC, RAANC,	
RAADC, VIETNAM,	
UNITED NATIONS,	
MUSEUM LOGO,	
AUST ARMY RISING SUN,	
ARMY	
APPRENTICES	\$ 7:00
Thermal mugs for	
RAAMC, RAADC	\$ 16:00

MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS

Hats, cloth with Museum	
pictured on front	\$ 7:00
Hats, Suede with Army	
History Unit logo	\$ 15:00
Key rings, assorted	\$ 3:50
Army Apprentice badges	
(collar & hat)	\$ 5:00

For further enquiries phone *The Army Museum Bandiana* on (02) 6055 2525, Monday to Friday between 9:00 am and 4:00 pm or fax them on (02) 6055 2886. The prices include GST, they do not include postage and handling.

- Courtesy "RAEME CRAFTSMAN" Issue No.45 Summer 2000/2001

BREAKOUT "Bushido - code of honour"

By WO2 Paul Cross

Emotions in Compound B ran deep. Anger, frustration, shame - the gamut of perturbation bubbled just beneath the surface of routine life for the prisoners. Once they were the all-conquering warriors of the Japanese empire but were now stripped of their pride - they were sitting out the war behind barbed wire in the country NSW town of Cowra.

Throughout its short history Camp 12 contained thousands of prisoners of war and internees broken up into four compounds. Compounds A and C held Italians, while Compound D held Japanese officers, Formosans and Koreans - Compound B was dedicated to Japanese enlisted men.

Just 3,500 people lived in Cowra in 1944, a scant population compared to the thousands of prisoners that lived a mere 3 km to their north. Cowra was just one of 28 sites around the country that housed captured combatants, resident enemy aliens and men such as merchant seamen caught in Australian ports at the outbreak of war. Guarding these men were the soldiers of 22 Garrison - men unable to deploy on service overseas but keen to do their part. Many were veterans of the Great War.

As the Imperial Japanese Army continued to suffer defeat in the islands to the north of Australia and prisoners were transferred to installations south, many of the camps were bursting at the seams with this new influx to the already crowded population. By August 1944 the population of Compound B had reached 1104 and was becoming increasingly difficult to manage. In the preceding months, the prisoners had managed to cache an armoury of weapons, including

knives, chisels, baseball bats and axe handles. And although the camp was regularly searched, this armoury was not located.

On 3 June 1944, a Korean prisoner, Takeo Matsumoto, informed the guards that the Japanese were planning a mass escape and attack on the nearby 19 INF TRG BN - an infantry-training centre. Armed with this knowledge, CO, LTCOL Montague Brown requested from his headquarters in Sydney two Vickers machine guns, extra Lewis guns and more rifles, all of which were despatched to the camp without argument. Conferences were held with the commandants of the four compounds and a set of emergency mass-escape orders were drawn up. Simultaneously, the commanding officer of 19 INF TRG BN, located close by, devised plans for the security and defence of his unit.

At about 2 pm on 4 August 1944, in an attempt to relieve the overcrowding, Compound B Commandant MAJ Robert Ramsay advised senior Japanese officers in the camp Tadao Minami, Akira Kanazawa and Masao Kojima that he intended to separate the private soldiers from the NCOs. It was intended that soldiers below the rank of lance corporal would be transferred to the Hay camp the following Monday.

Tadao Minami received the news with the remark "...very bad business, why can't we all go."

In less than 12 hours after being notified of the intended split, the prisoners would rush the barbed wire at an horrific cost in blood.

Nothing unusual was noticed for the rest of the day but at about 1:30 am the next morning, in clear moonlight, a small group of Japanese were seen loitering in their compound - some only 20 m from the perimeter fence. At the same time a prisoner walked towards the compound gates. He wanted to give a message and spoke excitedly - the guard, however, could not understand Japanese. The guardroom was advised but before the prisoner could be escorted away, a bugle sounded and the Japanese prisoners opened their hut doors and rushed the perimeter wire - in groups of 200 to 300 men they launched themselves at four points on the fence.

As they reached the wire, blankets were thrown over the barbs and men climbed over or crawled under. Many others, wearing protective layers threw themselves on the barbed wire making a bridge for the following horde. A small party of guards were ordered to withdraw as the Japanese breasted the wire. The guards then moved through the South Gate, which was secured. At 1:50 am the general alarm sounded and the training centre was warned by the firing of flares.

The two Vickers machine guns were trained on Compound B and brought to action, firing on the escaping Japanese. A rifle section spotted a group of POWs heading towards one of the machine-gun posts and began firing but despite the intensity of fire, the Japanese overran the post clubbing to death PTE Ben Hardy and stabbing PTE Ralph Jones, who managed to stagger towards his company lines before dying soon after. During the melee PTE Jones had managed to remove the lock from the Vickers, rendering it inoperable and probably saving many lives with his action.

As the Vickers post was being attacked, other Japanese attacked the company lines to the southeast. They were driven off under heavy fire but not before PTE Charles Sheppard was stabbed and killed as he left the B COY guardroom.

While two groups of prisoners attacked the northern and southern gates, others forced the gates of Compound D, where the Japanese officers were held. Several were shot and one officer killed.

When Compound B was later checked, 138 prisoners were found, mostly Korean and Formosan. Also inside the compound were many bodies with their throats cut or severe abdominal wounds. Some Japanese surrendered after being found in drains, while others were captured walking around in a dazed condition. But more than 350 prisoners were now on the loose in rural NSW.

During the next nine days soldiers scoured the countryside looking for the escapees. It was then that the fourth Australian met his untimely end. LT Harry Doncaster was leading a patrol from 19 INF TRG BN about 11 km north of Cowra on the Canowindra road when he came upon a group of the prisoners. On approaching them they attacked, killing LT Doncaster instantly.

Within 48 hours the majority of the Japanese had been recaptured, many surrendering peacefully en masse. On the run in a strange country, disoriented and lacking leadership the escapees were confronted with the reality that they had nowhere to go and were ill equipped for survival outside the camp. Many decided that suicide was a better option to recapture. Two prisoners died after placing their heads on the railway track in the face of an oncoming train. Another, Kobe, told how he attempted the same fate and would have succeeded but for the lack of a train. Others hung themselves from trees and some used rudimentary knives.

During the nine-day period 334 prisoners were recaptured, while a further 25 killed themselves. Civilians shot and killed at least two and Australian soldiers shot several others. There is also evidence to suspect their own countrymen killed some, but whether this was assisted suicide has not been determined.

During the breakout and the days that followed 231 Japanese soldiers were killed and 108 wounded, while four Australians were killed and three wounded. PTEs Ben Hardy and Ralph Jones were posthumously awarded the George Cross for their actions in the early hours of 5 August 1944. The Cowra prisoner of war camp - Camp 12 - officially closed in 1947 and was immediately torn down.

Special thanks to Marion Star and to the Cowra Shire Council Economic Development Department.

- *Courtesy "ARMY Magazine" No.48 Sep.01*

KIWI SPEAK

Have you spent years trying and failing to understand what New Zealanders are saying? Just by following these easy steps, you too can hold a conversation with a New Zealander.

What you hear and what it really means:-

BETTING: Betting Gloves are worn by batsmen in cricket,

BRIST: Part of the human anatomy between the "nick" and the "billy",

BUGGER: As in "mine is bugger than yours",

CHULLY BUN: Also know as an Esky,

DIMMER KRETZ: Those who believe in democracy,

ERROR BUCK: Language spoken in countries like "Surria" "E-Jupp" and "Libernon",

EKKA DYMOCKS: University staff,

GUESS: Flammable vapour used in stoves,

SENDLES: Thongs, open shoes,

COLOUR: Terminator, murderer,

CUSS: Kiss,

DUCK HID: Term of abuse directed mainly at males,

PHAR LAP: NZ's famous horse that was actually christened "PHILLIP",

ERROR ROUTE: As in "Arnotts mulk error route baskets", and

FITTER CHENEY: A type of long flat pasta not to be confused with "rigger tony".

- *Courtesy "The Horse's Mouth" Summer 2001-02*

ACT TWO

The date is 24 June 1859. Suddenly, there he is atop a hill overlooking the plain of Solferino. Napoleon's troops prepare for battle with the Austrians below, and Henri Dunant has a box-seat view from his place on the hill. Trumpets blare, muskets crack and cannons boom. The two armies crash into each other, as Henri looks on transfixed. He sees the dust rising. He hears the screams of the injured. He watches bleeding, maimed men take their last breaths as he stares in horror at the scene below.

Henri doesn't mean to be there. He is only on a business trip - to speak to Napoleon III about a financial transaction between the Swiss and the French. But he arrived late and now finds himself in a position to witness first-hand the atrocities of war. What Henri sees from his hill,

however, pales in comparison with what he is soon to witness. Entering a small town shortly after the fierce encounter, Henri now observes the battle's refugees. Every building is filled with the mangled, the injured, and the dead. Henri, aching with pity, decides to stay in the village three more days to comfort the young soldiers. He realises that his life will never be the same again. Driven by a powerful passion to abolish war. Henri Dunant will eventually lose his successful banking career and all his worldly possessions only to die as a virtual unknown in an obscure poor house.

But we remember Henri today because he was the first recipient of the Nobel Peace Prize (in 1901). We also remember him because of the movement he founded - the Red Cross.

Act One of Henri Dunant's life closed on 24 June 1859. Act Two opened immediately and played the remainder of his 81 years.

- Courtesy "The Horse's Mouth" Summer 2001-02

MEMBERSHIP

Thanks to all members who responded to green "reminder slips" in the June and September Newsletters and paid their Subs. Subs are still \$5 for one year or any multiple thereof eg \$20 for four years. Subs are due at 1 July in the year your membership is "current to". Notices advising that Subs are due are sent out in the June Newsletter. Reminders are sent out in the September Newsletter.

According to my records, the following persons are financial members of the Association. The number in brackets is the year your membership is "current to".

Honorary Life Members

John Bicknell, Reg Glass, Dutchy Holland, David Turner

Ordinary Members

Walter Ade (2002), Sharen A'Hang (2002), Milton Ahrens (2005), Ernest Atkinson (2003), Peter Badcock (2005), Joe Barton (2003), Howard Bergstrom MBE (2003), Wayne Birch (2002), John Black (2002), Helmut Bohn (2003), David Brand (2003), Bob Brown (2003), Fred Brown (2003), Ian Burgess (2003), Roger Burzacott (2003), Chris Castle (2003), Trevor Clerke (2003), Geoff Coat (2003), Don Collins (2002), John Corkran (2003), Brian Cox (2002), Peter Cox (2003), George Craig (2003), Mike Culley (2003), Bob Davis (2003), Graham de la Rue (2005), Chris Duffield (2003), Robert Duffield (2002), Nick Ebbs (2002), Bluey Etheridge (2003), Kym Everett (2004), Andrew Ferguson (2003), Jim Fisher (2003), Brian Flavel (2002), Jan Gancarz (2005), Bob Gell (2002), Nick Gogilis (2005), S.J. Gough (2002), Robert Grant (2002), Merv Grose (2002), Robert Hansford (2002), Jock Hart (2004), Arthur Hasse (2003), Brenton Hawke (2003), Greg Hay (2005), Norm Hay (2004), Colin Haynes (2002), Viv Helps (2004), Andrew Hobson (2002), Brian Holmes (2003), Darryl Horner (2002), John Howard (2005), Gary Howell (2004), Tony Ivens (2003), Graham Janz (2003), Jeff Johns (2002), Lindsay Johnson (2002), Michael Johnstone (2003), Eddy Kaminski (2006), Eric Kelly (2004), Bob Killoran (2003), Bob King (2002), Les Kovacs (2004), Grant Kuchel (2003), Les Lavis (2002), Alf Lee (2002), Lou Leeuwrik (2003), Ken Lorraine (2005), Greg Lowe (2003), Chris Macintosh (2002), A.D.Marks (2003), Trevor Martin (2002), Robin Maslen OAM (2002), Bill May (2005), Fred McInerney (2002), Philip McKelliff (2002), Pete McKenzie (2003), Gordon Mead (2005), Jake Meaney (2002), Don Morgan OAM (2003), Richard Moyses (2002), Barry Naulty (2003), Ian Nicholls (2003), Gary Nicolescu (2003), Murray Nitschke (2005), Bluey Nobes (2005), Jim Nurse (2005), Dave O'Brien (2005), Alex Oschmanns (2003), Mick O'Toole (2004), Frank Owen (2003), John Owen (2004), John Page (2002), Dick Pahl (2002), Dick Pailthorpe (2003), Doug Pammenter (2002), Nick Papanikolaou (2002), Geoff Parker (2003), Trevor Parrott (2002), Roger Parsons (2002), Greg Payne (2002), R. Payne (2003), Lionel Penley (2004), John Raftery (2003), Harry Ralph (2003), Hank Ramm (2002), Lionel Renfrey (2003), Dave Renshaw (2006), Peter Reynolds (2002), George Robinson (2002), William Robinson (2002), Bill Roch (2003), Greg Rosser (2003),

Ray Ryan (2003), Perry Sangster (2005), Brian Sayers (2003), Barra Schmidtke (2003), Glendon Shaw (2003), Dave Shelly (2002), Harold Shipp (2003), Robert Silcock (2002), Victor Sobotnik (2002), Walter Soroka (2002), Max Sparrow (2004), Debbie Spicer (2005), Ian Starick (2002), Murray Stock (2002), Donald Sutherland (2006), James Szpunar (2008), Keith Tainsh (2003), Michael Tamassy (2002), Ian Taylor (2003), Paul Teague (2005), Simon Telleria (2003), Howard Terry (2003), Noel Thomas (2002), Dick Tischer (2007), Donald Tremethick (2003), Joe Tuckwell (2003), Shane Venning (2002), Bruce Watson (2003), Bruce Waye (2003), Graham West OAM (2002), Richard Williams (2002), Warren Williams (2002), Alan Wilson (2002), Betty Winstanley (2004), Pat Wright (2002), Brian Yelds (2003), John Zander (2004), Pete Zander (2002).

Associate Members

Marg Culley (2002), Anne-Michelle Howell (2002), Joan Lorraine (2002), Judy Turner (2003).

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Please inform me or a member of the Committee of Management of any Change of Address. This is a means of ensuring that you receive the latest copy of the Newsletter.

VALE

Lottie McCoubrie

Bill Challons

Geoff Maggs, 7 December 2001

- *Courtesy "THE LIGHTNING FLASH" January 2002*

THE CRAFTSMAN MEMORIAL

The Craftsman Memorial, located at Gaza Ridge Barracks South Bandiana, not only provides a means of recognition to those who served in the Corps of RAEME but also as a repository for the ashes of a deceased member and their wife or husband. The theme is "COMRADES IN ARMS" where the ashes are scattered in the flower garden surrounding the bronze statue of the Craftsman and a bronze plaque placed on the Wall of Remembrance, recording the member's details. Individual placement of containers is not allowed.

There are eleven members ashes interned in the Memorial.

All inquiries regarding the Memorial and the internment of ashes should be directed to:

SO2 CORPS RAEME MAJ Doug Gammon OAM,

phone (02) 6055 2193 fax (02) 6055 2436

or e-mail doug.gammon@defence.gov.au

To cover the cost of the plaque a charge, currently \$150, is made.

- *Courtesy RAEME CRAFTSMAN Issue No.47 Summer 2001/2002*

ARTE et MARTE

(Corps Motto: With Skill and Fighting)

David Turner

Hon. Secretary