



AEME/RAEME ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA INC.

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OCTOBER 2005 NEWSLETTER

Honorary COLCOMDT Central Region: COL Graham Smith (Rtd) Representative COLCOMDT

COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT

Executive Officers

President	- WO2 Grant Kuchel	Ph: (08) 8305 7023 (work)
Vice President	- Bob Killoran	Ph: (08) 8270 2222 (after hours)
Secretary	- David Turner	Ph: (08) 8381 3644 (after hours)
Treasurer	- Keith Tainsh	Ph: (08) 8326 2581

Ordinary Officers

- Mike Culley	Ph: (08) 8294 3820	- Brian Holmes	Ph: (08) 8362 3216
- John Howard	Ph: (08) 8447 7681	- Gary Howell	Ph: (08) 8262 3974
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- Frank Owen	Ph: (08) 8384 7291		

Auditors

- Robin Maslen OAM	Ph: (08) 8296 2768	- George Robinson	Ph: (08) 8272 9872
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Association Historian

Vacant

AEME/RAEME Association of South Australia Inc. Web Site

www.raemesa.com

Webmaster - WO1 Dean Ellis e-mail - jeddel@bigpond.com

2004 "RAEME Soldier of the Year" Awards, Central Region



MAJ Karel Dubsky presents the
ARA Award to
CFN Anthony Rann



MAJ Richard Moyses presents the
GRes Award to
CPL Martin Potter

Dear Members

Judy and I now have curtains, and retaining walls and fences at our new home. However, now the only access to the backyard is down the side of the house, which is less than a metre wide (approximately 3 feet in the old language), or through the garage. Access through the garage is also limited because all the stuff I had in the shed at the old home is now stacked in the garage (the car has been parked in the street for the last 3 months). So the pressure is on to get a new shed erected and a concrete floor installed. Then I can clear out the stuff in the garage. I finally have Council approval for the shed (and a verandah) and hope to take some leave from work and erect the shed during late November and December. Then the paving and lawn can go in.

It has been hard on Gemma (our 12 year old Border Collie cross) who finally moved in with us after the retaining walls and fences were erected. This took 3 months from the time we moved in (get quotes for fencing, then approval from the neighbours, and finally getting the tradesmen to actually do the job). The backyard is dirt that turns to mud after rain. Gemma then brings the mud inside so we've covered the family room carpet with a heavy duty painter's drop sheet.

Anyway, I hope this Newsletter finds you all in better spirits now the weather is warming up.

MAJ Dick Moyses, Officer Commanding 107 Field Workshop 9CSSB, Warradale Barracks, has advised that the date of the **2005 RAEME Corps Birthday Family Function** had to be changed to the afternoon of **Sunday 4 December**. The Executive Committee has decided to take up his suggestion that the **Annual General Meeting** should be held on the morning of **Sunday 4 December**. That way the personnel from 107 Field Workshop can join in the day's activities as that day will be their final parade for the year.

2005 RAEME CORPS PORT

MAJ Karel Dubsky, Battery Commander of Support Battery (the Workshop) at 16th Air Defence Regiment, Woodside Barracks, recently gave me a bottle of the 2005 "CRAFTSMAN'S PORT" to try. This bottling is sponsored by the Workshop at 16AD, and the theme is "Farewell to the Rapier" Ground Based Air Defence weapon system that was introduced into service in 1980.

The Port is produced by Lou Miranda Estate in the Barossa Valley, and is a mix of 20 year old (15%) and 6 year old (85%) Tawny Ports in an old style bottle, with gold artwork printed directly on the bottle. The cost is \$18 per bottle. The Association has purchased 2 dozen bottles, which should be available for sale at the Annual General Meeting and RAEME Corps Birthday Function (**it's not a bad drop!** - Ed).

DIARY DATES 2005

<u>Activity/Function</u>	<u>Date</u>
- RAEME Corps Seminar	20/21 October
- Committee of Management Meeting	Thursday 27 October
- Fort Largs Guns Restoration	Saturday 3 December
- Annual General Meeting	Sunday 4 December
- RAEME Birthday Family Function	Sunday 4 December

COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT MEETING

The next Committee of Management Meeting for 2005 will be held on **Thursday 27 October (note change of date)** at 7:30pm in the **Warradale Area Sergeants' Mess** (southern side of the oval, first building from the south west corner). Entry to Warradale Barracks is through the Oaklands Road gate. **All members are very welcome.**

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

MAJ Dick Moyses, Officer Commanding 107 Field Workshop 9CSSB, Warradale Barracks, has suggested that the Annual General Meeting should be held on the morning of **Sunday 4 December 2005 (note change of date)** in the **Workshop at Warradale Barracks** prior to the 2005 RAEME Birthday Family Function in the afternoon. The Executive Committee has decided to take up his suggestion. As the AGM usually lasts for approximately 1½ hours, the meeting will start at **10:00am sharp**. It will be held in the combined Warradale Area Officers' and Sergeants' Messes. That way the meeting will be finished in good time for the BBQ Lunch being put on by 107 Field Workshop personnel at the start of the Birthday Function.

Please give serious consideration to giving some of your time to the Association by becoming a member of the Committee of Management in 2006. We meet bi-monthly on the 3rd Thursday of the month at 7:30pm in Warradale Barracks (although the date / time is subject to the agreement of the Committee Members who are elected). Currently we have permission from LTCOL Ian Kennedy, Commanding Officer, 9th Combat Service Support Battalion, Warradale Barracks, to meet in the Sergeants' Mess. The meetings are of a relaxed, informal nature and include plenty of social chitchat. **Please let me, David Turner, know if you are interested.**

If you have any items for the Agenda, would you please let me have them, in writing, by **Sunday 30 October 2005.** The Committee of Management will then set the Agenda and post out the Notice of AGM so you receive it at least three weeks before the AGM, as per the "Statement of Purposes and Rules".

2005 RAEME BIRTHDAY FAMILY FUNCTION

MAJ Dick Moses, Officer Commanding 107 Field Workshop 9CSSB, Warradale Barracks, is organising a **mixed all ranks family function** to celebrate the RAEME Corps Birthday (we will be 63 years young). It will be held in the **combined Officers' and Sergeants' Messes at Warradale Barracks** on the afternoon of **Sunday 4 December 2005 (note change of date).** Entry to Warradale Barracks is via the Main Gate on Oaklands Road.

The function will commence at 11:30am. A BBQ Lunch will be available from 12:30pm. Cost will be \$7:50 per head for adults (children 12 years and under FREE). Refreshments will be available from the Bar in the Sergeants' Mess. The most senior and the most junior serving RAEME persons present will cut the Birthday Cake. The 2005 "RAEME Soldier of the Year" Awards for Central Region (sponsored by our Association) will be presented at this function. It is intended that the function will conclude at 3:00pm.

The function is for serving and ex-serving members, their families and friends. It will also be an opportunity to renew old acquaintances and reminisce.

An Invitation is attached to this Newsletter.

Please return the "tear off" slip to me, or ring me, after hours, on phone 08 8381 3644, before Sunday 20 November at the latest so we know how many to cater for.

2005 RAEME "SOLDIER OF THE YEAR" CENTRAL REGION

The 2005 Awards to the best ARA and GRes "RAEME Soldier of the Year" in Central Region will be presented at the **2005 RAEME Corps Birthday function on Sunday 4 December.**

MAJ Karel Dubsy, Senior RAEME Representative Central Region and Battery Commander of Support Battery (the Workshop) 16AD at Woodside Barracks, will select the winning ARA candidate. MAJ Dick Moses, Officer Commanding 107 Field Workshop 9CSSB at Warradale Barracks, will select the winning GRes candidate. All RAEME personnel in Central Region up to and including the rank of Corporal are eligible. They will be assessed on both trade skills and soldier skills. Each winner will receive a personalised Trophy, and his or her name will be inscribed on the "Perpetual Plaque" for each category, which is hung in the Orderly Room at the winner's place of work.

Platoon Commanders are urged to submit nominations, with supporting evidence, by **Monday 7 November** (good luck to all serving RAEME Soldiers - Ed).

WORLD'S SHORTEST FAIRY TALE

Once upon a time a guy asked a girl "will you marry me?"

She said, "No".

And the guy lived happily ever after.

- *Courtesy of an e-mail from a friend*

I wish there was a knob on the TV so you could turn up the intelligence.

They have one marked 'brightness' but it doesn't work.

- *Courtesy of an e-mail from a friend*

2005 CENTRAL REGION OFFICERS', WOS', & SNCOS' FORMAL DINNER

On Saturday 13 August 2005, 41 serving and ex-serving (including 20 ex-serving members and from our Association) Officers, WOs and SNCOs sat down to a traditional "Formal Dinner" in the presence of the RAEME Banner and the Corps Centrepiece, in the Sergeants' Mess at Woodside Barracks. This very enjoyable and successful occasion was organised by WO2 Shane Buckley from Support Battery 16AD at Woodside Barracks, who did an excellent job. The Dining President was WO2 (now WO1) Don Sizeland and the Dining Vice President was SGT Mark Allanson, both from Support Battery 16AD.

The theme for the evening was "Farewell to Rapier" and we sincerely thank LTCOL Inger Lawes, Commanding Officer 16th Air Defence Regiment at Woodside Barracks, who allowed a suitably floodlit Rapier to be set up in all its glory outside the large picture window of the Mess, to form a suitable backdrop for the evening.

Guests included BRIG David McGahey, (Head of Corps), COL Graham Smith (Rtd) (Representative COLCOMDT) and MAJ Graham Anderson (SO2 Corps Heritage) who brought the RAEME Banner and the Corps Centrepiece with him (thanks, Sir).

WO2 Grant Kuchel, EME WO 107 Field Workshop, recently located the cloth table runners and cloth napkins in the RAEME colours that came from the old 4 EME Services / 107 Field Workshop Sergeants' Mess at Warradale Barracks, and WO2 Shane Buckley arranged for these to be used at the Dinner. This certainly added to the atmosphere of the evening.

On behalf of those Association members who attended, I wish to sincerely thank MAJ Karel Dubsky, Senior RAEME Representative and Battery Commander of Support Battery at 16AD, for inviting us to take part in the Dinner. The recent Committee of Management Meeting of the Association agreed that it was an excellent evening and that letters of thanks should be written to all involved. Thanks were also expressed to MAJ Dubsky for providing a bus to transport Adelaide plains dwellers to and from the Dinner.

RAEME LUNCHEON

I have been asked by Joe Tuckwell to pass on his disgust at the number of persons **who did not attend** the six-monthly RAEME Luncheon at the Cremorne Hotel on Tuesday 13 September. Apparently only 11 persons were present.

These informal luncheons, which are organised by Max Adams and Fred Brown, are held on the second Tuesday in March and September. All Association members are invited. They are important because they provide an opportunity for those retired AEME and RAEME personnel, and even those who can get the day off from work, to get together socially and keep the spirit of the Corps of RAEME alive in South Australia. It is important to maintain some form of social contact for all ex-serving RAEME personnel. If the day / date is unsuitable, please advise Max or Fred so that they can pick a day / date that suits the majority. The Committee of Management and others work hard to organise social functions and it is very disheartening when so few turn up or bother to phone in an apology.

FORT LARGS GUNS RESTORATION REPORT

The final Work Party for the year will be held on Saturday 3 December. The main activity will focus using a high pressure water blaster to clean up the Guns and then grease and exercise all mechanisms. The intention will then be to finish the morning with a BBQ lunch or adjourn to a local Pub for a counter lunch like we did last year.

It is intended that the first Work Party in February 2006 will reinstall all handwheels etc and that will be the end of the restoration work. Future Work Parties will concentrate on maintenance, ie greasing and exercising mechanisms.

Members are very welcome to visit (you don't need to bring overalls) as we enjoy the chance to show people what we have achieved. I do ask that you contact me, on phone 08 8326 2581, or a member of the Work Party, prior to the scheduled date to check that the Work Party has not been rescheduled.

- Keith Tainsh

- "I wish people who have trouble communicating would just shut up." - Tom Lehrer -

RESTORATION OF THE WWI GERMAN FIELD GUN

In February 2004 107 Field Workshop personnel at the request of Bruce Watson and the Moonta branch of the National Trust, recovered an old World War 1 German Field Gun from its resting place at the Moonta Mines Museum to be restored at the workshops in Warradale. The National Trust is contributing to the cost of the restoration. The gun is believed to have been captured by "A Corps" some time during WW1 and became part of the official war trophies and subsequently allocated to South Australia. The gun, arriving by train, was presented to the town of Moonta in June 1921. The gun is a German 150mm leichte Feldhaubitze 16 (IFH 16 Light Field Howitzer model 16) introduced into the field in 1917 and designed mostly by Rheinmetall. It replaced an older Light Howitzer the IFH 98/99 with a longer barrel and a new breech. It fired the same ammo but was also able to fire a Gas shell.

On the 23 May 2005 the Warradale workshops came alive to the sound of hammering, drilling, oxycutting, welding and grinding when four (4) Association members, Keith Tainsh, Graham Janz, John Howard and Robin Maslen, took on the restoration project. Two volunteers from the Army Museum at Keswick, John Fuller and Eddie Olenshaw, later joined the group for the weekly Monday work party at the Warradale workshops. Cpl Scott Jenkins a Regular Army fitter armourer with the workshop gives a hand and advice to the "oldies" when available.

When restored the gun will be returned to Moonta Trust and be housed in a new purpose built building.

The gun is being completely stripped and all parts that can be cleaned of rust and be made to work again. Hopefully this will make the badly rusted weapon look like new. Some parts are being manufactured to replace missing and damaged bits. A professional Adelaide wheelwright will restore the wheels. LT Craig Williams, a Reserve Officer with 107 Field Workshop, has taken on the task of making a new set of trails at his metal fabrication workshop at Port Adelaide. At the time of writing the gun is almost disassembled and work is commencing on repairing and manufacturing missing and damaged parts.

There is lots more work to be done but if all goes well it is planned to have the gun reinstalled and ready for the opening of the new building at Moonta on Armistice Day 11 November 2006.

- Robin Maslen OAM

25 POUNDER PROJECT

From: SGT Mark Allanson, GE Section, 16th Air Defence Regiment

To: Senior Constable Bryan Dicker, Williamstown Police Station

Greetings Bryan,

Reference our telecon this morning, this is the information I have so far:

Senior Constable Bryan Dicker is hoping to have a 25 Pounder Artillery Gun refurbished. It's currently located at the disused Williamstown RSL & he eventually hopes to have it refurbished & re-located to a prominent public place in Williamstown. He is still chasing support from the local council & other organisations. Certain components of the gun can still be operated & it appears (without technical inspection) that the gun has not been fully rendered innocuous.

If you can provide me any more detail on your idea, please reply to this e-mail & I'll forward it onto the ASM of the workshop.

From: Senior Constable Bryan Dicker, Williamstown Police Station

To: SGT Mark Allanson, GE Section, 16th Air Defence Regiment

Mark thanks for the e-mail. Yes the picture you sent is very much like the one hear but this one is very rusty and neglected.

Williamstown was my home town and when I was a young pup the local RSL had the gun at the front of their meeting hall. (I can also remember 2 large machine guns that hung on the wall but they were unfortunately stolen at some time) Anyway since I have come back to the town as the OC of the Police Station I saw the gun has been much neglected and does not reflect the memorial value that it should for our old diggers.

Having been ex army myself and having been involved with township/unit projects I thought I would look into having it restored and rendered safe for its intended memorial value. I could get hold of some paint etc and do it myself but I thought this may be good value to have the army involved in a community based project.

I would be glad to meet either at Williamstown or at Woodside to discuss this further if your unit shows interest. I am sure also that I can arrange media interest for your units support if this was to be done.

The Barossa Council are the caretakers of the gun now and I will be writing to them to have permission to remove for refurbishment.

From: SGT Mark Allanson, GE Section

To: WO1 Dean Ellis, ASM

Cc: WO1 Mark Clayton, RSM

From: WO1 Mark Clayton, RSM

To: LTCOL Inger Lawes, Commanding Officer

Cc: SGT Mark Allanson, GE Section

Sir

This is a project that would not cost us any money and if the gun can be moved and worked on over a period months it would have very little effect on help gain some good PR in the Hills. SGT Allanson has the room to at GE to work on the gun without any major impact on his work area.

To: WO1 Don Sizeland, ASM

From: SGT Mark Allanson, GE Section

Greetings Sir,

CFN Thompson, PTE Menteith & myself picked up the gun from Williamstown yesterday & it's now located out the front of the GE Workshop. It was a challenging but enjoyable two hour recovery task, aided by the assistance of the local newspaper photographer & Senior Constable Bryan Dicker.

Weapon A161 details the rendering of artillery and associated equipment of the Australian Defence Force, therefore the gun will be inspected and rendered innocuous to the standard of this EMEI. Category 1 from the EMEI details armaments to remain permanently displayed in one position, in or around buildings or reserves & the gun will be rendered to comply with this category. A separate e-mail has been sent to Mr Brian Manns, Deputy Head (DH) Army History Unit (AHU) seeking written approval prior to the commencement of rendering action, reference EMEI Weapon A160. I've also asked if they can provide any recorded history on ARN L/11079.

Hopefully by the end of this year we can have the gun refurbished & mounted in it's new location at Williamstown.

Thanks must go to Senior Constable Bryan Dicker for giving us this opportunity to explore the Army's history.

- MAJ Karel Dubsky, Battery Commander, Support Battery, 16th Air Defence Regiment

ASSOCIATION HISTORIAN

Eddy Kaminski has announced his retirement as Association Historian. He took over the job from Reg Glass in 1995. Over the years Eddy has meticulously catalogued all the photos that the Association has accumulated over the years and continues to accumulate, and they are now all in albums which are housed in a very convenient wheeled luggage case (thanks, Eddy). The Association paper records are also housed in a similar sized wheeled luggage case.

On behalf of the Association, I wish to express my sincere thanks to Eddy for his dedication to the task of preserving the Association Historical records.

However, it is now time for someone else to continue the good work, and I invite any interested persons to contact me, David Turner on phone (08) 8381 3644, after hours. I'm sure that Eddy would be only too happy to explain to the new Association Historian how his system works over one of his famous cups of coffee.

WHAT IS A CAT?

1. Cats do what they want.
2. They rarely listen to you.
3. They're totally unpredictable.
4. When you want to play, they want to be alone.
5. When you want to be alone, they want to play.
6. They expect you to cater to their every whim.
7. They're moody.
8. They leave hair everywhere.

CONCLUSION: They're tiny women in little fur coats.

- Courtesy of an e-mail from a friend

WEAPONS TRIAL OFFERS NEW CAPABILITY OPTIONS FOR DEFENCE

The successful firing of a new type of remote-controlled weapon concept demonstrator has opened the door to potential new capability options for the Australian Defence Force.

Defence Minister Robert Hill congratulated the project consortium, led by the Defence Science and Technology Organisation (DSTO), on the success of the weapon concept trial held at Port Wakefield Proof and Experimental Range in South Australia.

Senator Hill said the consortium, which includes private sector companies METAL STORM LTD and NICO-PYROTECHNIK, used Metal Storm technology to develop a new weapon concept. The concept demonstrator is known as the Area Denial Weapon System (ADWS).

"If developed further this new weapons concept would have the potential to be used on operations to defend vital assets such as airfields and ships," Senator Hill said. The concept demonstrator includes a multi-barrel weapon pod linked to a fire control system and a central control station. Each pod had the capability to fire up to 20 projectiles using various rates of fire and firing sequences that are chosen by an operator at the control station. With further development this concept could potentially provide a type of remote-controlled weapons system that might be adapted to a number of Defence capabilities and used to protect assets or deny access to large areas of land. As the communications use Internet type technology, it is feasible to locate the control system anywhere in the world. It would also be possible for one operator to control a number of ADWS sites."

Senator Hill said the ADWS concept was designed as a replacement capability to anti-personnel land mines. Australia is a signatory to the 1997 Ottawa Treaty which bans the use of anti-personnel land mines.

Senator Hill said the ADWS was a good example of the use of concept demonstrators to build capability for Defence.

Defence has an established Capability and Technology Demonstrator (CTD) Program under which Defence and industry work together to develop concept demonstrator technologies with the potential to significantly boost future Defence capability.

- Courtesy Minister For Defence Media Release, Monday 8 July 2005

CAMPAIGN MEDALS FOR ADF PERSONNEL

Campaign medals for Australian Defence Force personnel who served in Afghanistan and Iraq are set to be issued by year's end, the Minister Assisting the Minister for Defence, De-Anne Kelly, said today.

Mrs Kelly said claims by Labor MP Graham Edwards that ADF personnel who had served in those theatres had been "denied recognition at home" were hogwash. She said personnel who had served in Afghanistan and Iraq have been recognised.

Mrs Kelly said ADF personnel who have served in those deployments are entitled to receive the Australian Active Service Medal. Eligible members receive their AASM soon after the completion of their deployment.

"Service in Afghanistan and Iraq also entitles members to the award of a campaign medal for service on each deployment," Mrs Kelly said. "The first issue of these campaign medals should occur before the end of 2005."

The new campaign medals were formally approved by the Queen and confirmed in October 2004. Within a tight schedule, the tender evaluation was disrupted by the illness of the chair of the evaluation board and the postings of senior Defence staff. A contract for the manufacture of these campaign medals was signed on April 26 this year.

"Australians are proud of the valuable role the men and women of the ADF play in Afghanistan and Iraq," Mrs Kelly said. "Mr Edwards should show the same level of respect rather than try and undermine the recognition of these people."

- *Courtesy Minister For Defence Media Release, Wednesday 3 August 2005*

SIGNIFICANT PROGRESS ON COMMUNITY PROJECTS IN SOUTHERN IRAQ

Significant progress is being made by Australian Defence Force personnel involved in delivering key community projects in southern Iraq which are improving the quality of life for Al Muthanna residents.

Defence Minister Robert Hill said a range of community projects are now underway as part of the Civil-Military Cooperation (CIMIC) program.

The Howard Government has approved \$2.2 million worth of community projects to be coordinated by a working group within the Al Muthanna Task Group (AMTG).

"Three new projects are now underway in addition to nine projects which were already approved in the first stage of the works program," Senator Hill said. The new projects include providing power lines and towers to a community within Al Muthanna that currently has no access to the electricity grid, upgrading one of the main bus stations in the region and providing veterinary equipment to assist in poultry disease eradication. Further projects are also being costed and planned to carry out further improvements to local power supplies and replacing a footbridge. After consulting with the community we have carefully selected projects that will boost the economy and provide the most benefit to as many people as possible and feedback has been very positive from locals within the Al Muthanna province."

Senator Hill said the primary role of the Al Muthanna Task Group (AMTG) is to conduct security operations in support of Japanese Forces as well as assisting in the training of local Iraqi Army units. However, the Government has identified capacity through CIMIC to also assist with local community projects.

All projects have been selected with close cooperation with the Al Muthanna Provincial Council and is using local labour that will in turn directly benefit the regional economy.

"The primary role of the AMTG hasn't changed however the CIMIC program provides an opportunity to work on much needed community projects without distracting the Australian contingent from its core task. The significance of these projects can not be overstated. They deliver benefits that many of us take for granted, but are having a significant impact on the quality of life for many people as well as demonstrating Australia's commitment to the people of Iraq."

To date the Government has committed over \$1.3 million across several projects including providing a mobile health clinic, water test kits, veterinary facilities, an Ambulance Station, renovating a community centre and providing media communications equipment.

"The construction of power lines as part of the CIMIC program will see electricity connected to 1700 homes that currently go without," Senator Hill said. The mobile health clinic will also be of enormous value to those people who have no access to hospitals and medical centres and the refurbishment of the bus station will offer people the capacity to move more freely within the region."

- *Courtesy Minister For Defence Media Release, Thursday 8 September 2005*

CATS AGAIN!

I've never understood why women love cats. Cats are independent, they don't listen, they don't come in when you call, they like to stay out all night, and when they're home they like to be left alone and sleep. In other words, every quality that women hate in a man, they love in a cat.

- *Courtesy of an e-mail from a friend*

WOMEN IN THE ARMY

The Australian Government has reviewed the roles of women in the Australian Defence Force and has confirmed the long-standing policy of restricting women from a direct combat role.

Army, however, will now allow suitably-qualified women to be posted to infantry, armoured and artillery units in support roles in headquarters and administrative companies. These tasks include areas such as clerical, medical, logistics, signals and transport duties. Previously women were prevented from performing these duties in combat units.

The Minister Assisting the Minister for Defence, De-Anne Kelly, said women serving in the Army will continue to be employed in non-combat supporting roles.

"Suitably-qualified women can apply to be posted to armoured and artillery units as well as infantry battalions in support roles in headquarters and administrative units," Mrs Kelly said. "Previously these support roles in combat units have only been open to men, but open to men and women in other units. Defence policy regarding the employment of women in direct combat roles will not change."

Mrs Kelly said that greater opportunities will be provided for suitably qualified women to serve in a wider variety of non-combat support positions. This will allow the Army to make the most of its existing personnel and resources.

Up to 50 women are expected to take up the postings from December this year.

Chief of Army Lieutenant General Peter Leahy said: "There is an increasing number of women entering the workforce and Army seeks to make the most of the available pool of qualified personnel".

Women in Defence are currently employed in supporting roles but not in employment categories involving direct combat. Women are eligible to serve in about 90 per cent of employment categories across the ADF and make up about 13 per cent of the Defence.

- *Courtesy Minister For Defence Media Release, Monday 22 August 2005*

NEW RECRUITMENT GAME BOUND TO ATTRACT

Minister Assisting the Minister for Defence De-Anne Kelly today launched another initiative in attracting young Australians to consider a career in the Australian Defence Force.

Mrs Kelly said the initiative - an on-line game called ADF Aviator - will build further on the way Defence Force Recruiting (DFR) uses on-line technology to attract people to the ADF.

The game, which joins a number of challenging exercises already on the "defencejobs" website, will show potential recruits what it takes to be a pilot in the Navy, Army or Air Force through a specially designed game.

"This innovative recruiting tool was commissioned as part of an integrated marketing strategy aimed at attracting people to the "defencejobs" website," Mrs Kelly said. "It might sound like a lot fun - but these games play a more important role. They help develop the fine motor skills required to become a pilot in the Navy, Army or Air Force. They also encourage positive approaches to learning because games often immerse players in complex worlds, encourage the player to keep on trying, reward persistence and encourage experimentation. They teach young people new forms of literacy brought about by technology and - in the case of the web site "defencejobs" - provide an insider's perspective of defence operations."

Significantly for Defence, the games create a community of interest in the many activities undertaken by the ADF and have proven to be a valuable tool in gaining the attention of young Australians.

The web site www.defencejobs.gov.au has increased from 45,000 unique users a month to over 115,000 a month in just over a year. Independent research shows it is the number one site for young males 16 to 24 years and the fourth most popular recruitment site. Over 100,000 Australians have now registered an interest in a career with the ADF via MyHQ - the online ADF database.

The on-line application became possible from 1 July 2003, and now more than 50 per cent of all applications are made over the net, with 80 per cent seeking appointment as an officer.

"This year we need to recruit around 8,500 people for full and part time employment in the ADF, an increase from previous years," Mrs Kelly said. "We know there is a serious shortage of skilled people in Australia - and Defence has to compete for those people just like every employer group in the country. DFR will continue to improve its strategies and the way that the ADF employment message is delivered; and will continue to provide young Australians with accurate and realistic information about taking up the challenge of an ADF career."

- *Courtesy Minister For Defence Media Release, Friday 7 October 2005*

HEAVIEST ELEMENT

A major research institution has recently announced the discovery of the heaviest element yet known to science. The new element has been named Governmentium. Governmentium has one neutron, 12 assistant neutrons, 75 deputy neutrons, and 11 assistant deputy neutrons, giving it an atomic mass of 312.

These 312 particles are held together by forces called morons, which are surrounded by vast quantities of lepton like particles called peons.

Since Governmentium has no electrons, it is inert. However, it can be detected, because it impedes every action with which it comes into contact.

A minute amount of Governmentium causes a reaction to take four days to complete, when it would normally take less than a second.

Governmentium has a normal half-life of 4 years. It does not decay, but instead undergoes a reorganization in which a portion of the assistant neutrons and deputy neutrons exchange places. In fact, Governmentium's mass will actually increase over time since each reorganization will cause more morons to become neutrons, forming isodopes.

This characteristic of moron promotion leads some scientists to believe that Governmentium is formed whenever morons reach a certain quantity in concentration. This hypothetical quantity is referred to as "Critical Morass."

When catalyzed with money, Governmentium becomes Administratium - an element which radiates just as much energy as Governmentium since it has half as many peons but twice as many morons.

- *Courtesy of an e-mail from a friend*

CRAFTSMEN ALSO DIED ON THE BURMA RAILWAY

By LTCOL T.R.Beaton (IARes)

Sixty three years ago on 15 February 1942, LTGEN H.Percival surrendered to the Imperial Japanese Army Commander in Malaya, GEN Yamashita. In surrendering to the "Tiger of Malaya", the British Malayan Command forced into captivity around 80,000 Commonwealth troops, including over 20,000 Australians. The Aussies came from the Australian 8th Division, which had valiantly fought down the unfortified West Coast of Malaya, through Jahore Bahru and had then fiercely opposed Japanese landings on Singapore until the surrender.

Contrary to common knowledge, prisoners were not initially housed in the renowned Changi Gaol, but instead sent to more than fifteen makeshift POW camps spread throughout Singapore. The infamous Gaol was originally used by the Japanese to hold male and female ex-pat civilian internees and their children. This situation did not change until the Changi airport was built by POWs in May 1944. Then once all civilian internees had been relocated, all POWs were shifted from Selerang Barracks on the Changi Peninsula to the Gaol, so that Japanese aircrews could be billeted in the vacated Barracks.

Once all POWs were confined after the surrender, the Japanese began a programme to persuade native troops in the Indian, Malayan and Singaporean Armies to defect and fight for the Japanese cause. Under skilful propaganda the Japanese claimed that their cause just cause was to rid Asia of all Western Imperialism and to make "Asia for Asian." Some 30,000 native troops defected to the Japanese cause, with the majority forming the basis of the Indian National Army, which fought alongside Japanese troops to force the British out of Burma and India. Of the 50,000 remaining Caucasian prisoners, by 1944 all but about 5,000, had been systematically sent on working parties throughout SE Asia and the Pacific as forced labourers

to help the Japanese war machine. One of the most notorious projects was the building of a 415 km light railway linking the existing British built state railways in Thailand and Burma. This infamous railway became known as the Burma railway or the “Death Railway”, due to the loss of over 110,000 lives during its construction as a result of starvation, deprivation and extreme brutality.

General knowledge of the Burma railway is unfortunately limited to an academy award winning movie directed by David Lean called “The Bridge on the River Kwai”. Although a great movie with fine acting and moving music, the movie was actually made from a fictitious story written by French author Pierre Buole in 1952, based on an actual event, but which has little factual content. Moreover, the movie was shot in Ceylon and the actors blew up a wooden bridge that did not look like any bridge ever built on the railway. In reality the steel spans of the real bridge across the Mae Klong River (now renamed the Kwai Yai River to conform with this popular movie), were stolen from the Batavia Railway in East Java and is one of only eight steel and concrete bridges out of the total of 688 bridges built by the Japanese railway engineers. The remainder were made from timber, which the POWs had to fell, move to the site and haul into position.

As usual, most people when discussing the railway think only about the men from the fighting units, which would have been captured with the Fall of Singapore. Yet there were tradesmen repairing equipment throughout the Orbat for the Australian 8th Division. Unit names included those possibly unknown to today’s young soldiers, such as LADs, FD WKSPs, Medium WKSP or Base Ordinance WKSP - there were no TSSUs in those days. At the time of the Fall of Singapore, responsibility for the maintenance of Army equipment was primarily an Ordinance responsibility, which had a dual supply and repair role. Other Corps, like RAE, also had their own integral workshop support. The birth of AEME came from the sands of the desert, when it was decided to centralise all repair and maintenance functions into one technical organisation, thereby creating our Corps on 1 December 1942. However for most POWs, that was the last thing on their minds, as they were trying to survive the next three and a half years of captivity and starvation. In fact, most never even knew of the Corps formation until well after their liberation from POW camps throughout Asia and Japan following cessation of hostilities on 15 Aug 45.

On ANZAC Day 2005, the Commemoration Service held in the beautifully maintained War Graves Cemetery at Kanchanaburi, where 1,362 Australian servicemen are buried, presented a rare opportunity to search for the graves of the eight Australian EME tradesmen who have rested there for nearly 60 years. I managed to find three graves. Interestingly, the headstones of the two “Crafties” and one Corporal had all been marked as having belonged to the “Corps of Elec. & Mech. Engineers”. Knowing that the original graves in 1946 had been marked by a 1 m high white wooden cross with just their number, name and initial, this Corps identification confirmed that the placement of the bronze plaque, to replace the plaque, occurred before the end of 1948, as RAEME was granted its “Royal” title on 10 Nov 48. The various inscriptions at the bottom of each plaque were wording provided by their respective families, following official notification of their confirmed deaths.

According to the Cemetery Registers, the eight AEME personnel in this cemetery are listed as follows:

- Bradley PTE Benjamin Walter - 84 LAD (AEME) died 23 Dec 43, age 33,
- Brown CFN William John - 2/4 FD WKSP (AEME) died 24 Jul 43, age 42,
- Curtin PTE Norman William - 2/4 FD WKSP (AEME) died 11 Dec 43, age 27,
- Hutchinson PTE Harry - 2/10 ORD FD WKSP (AAOC) died 6 Jan 44, age 30,
- Neale PTE John Graham - 87 LAD (AEME) died 13 Dec 43, age 27,
- Peterson CPL James Horace - 2/4 FD WKSP (AEME) died 6 Aug 43, age 31,
- Purcell CFN Matthew - 2/4 FD WKSP (AEME) died 2 Jul 43, age 31, and
- Wharton SSGT Kenneth - BASE ORD WKSP (AAOC) died 9 Apr 44, age 29.

Of the three graves photographed, each enlisted in a separate state. Brown was from VIC (VX40679), Peterson was from SA (SX11322) and Purcell was from NSW (NX36170). By comparison with the death of those from the Infantry Battalions, our AEME men were far older in age. Also apart from the four who had died from 2/4 FD WKSP, the percentage loss of life was much lower than the Infantry Battalions. Whether this was due to lower percentages of AEME on the railway or due to a better ability to survive, will never be known. In addition, as the Japanese used POWs to operate their railway workshops, sawmills and blacksmith shops, it is highly probable that these deaths resulted from Allied bombing raids on marshalling yards and workshop facilities, rather than through disease and malnutrition. It is therefore sad to think that these eight men and their REME counterparts, shown in the photograph taken of the Memorial Wall, were probably killed by so-called "friendly fire". The reason why the REME names appear engraved on a sandstone wall and not with individual bronze plaques is because their remains were never found or positively identified. Which therefore gives credence to the theory that they may have died due to Allied raids, because the American "carpet bombing" often resulted in large loss of life in the POW camps located near to targets. In Nong Pladuk POW camp, adjacent to the marshalling yards, 79 Dutch POWs were killed in one raid by US B-24 Liberators flying from China. Fortunately the RAF, using mixed crews of British, Australian, NZ and Canadian airmen flying Liberators from India, attacked targets from lower altitudes causing less POW casualties.

- Courtesy "RAEME CRAFTSMAN" Issue No.54 Winter 2005

RAEME VIETNAM VETERANS BLUEBELL

As members of this association were Australia wide it became harder to meet and elect members of the committee. As you are aware Geoff Trevor-Hunt as Secretary Editor, compiled the Bluebell Newsletter, and then it had to be published and mailed out to some 750 addresses. This became nearly impossible to coordinate with Geoff in Western Australia and myself in Victoria, so Bluebell went into recession.

However all is not lost, the Corps publishes the Craftsman twice a year and is mailed out to all known addresses. MAJ Graham Anderson is the editor and has been given the Bluebell mailing list in case you have not been receiving the Craftsman.

YOU can help by contributing articles, HATCHES, MATCHES, DESPATCHES, PHOTOS you may have, even a "Warrie" or two. Just because you have left the service you should not be lost to RAEME. RAEME was the second largest corps in SVN so there must be some tales to pass on.

The Corps has a fine exhibition at the Army Museum, South Bandiana, and unless you have visited in the past 3 months it is now a MUST see if passing through Albury / Wodonga. It really is magnificent and credit to all those who have and are still contributing their skills to this display.

You may have some memorabilia from SVN that you may like to contribute, and recognition will be acknowledged.

Which brings me to my final point:

THE FUNDS - DONATIONS

- \$5000 to the SVN MUSEUM PHILLIP ISLAND VICTORIA, and the members of the association will have their names on a plaque, acknowledging same,
- \$3000 to Army Museum Bandiana, to the RAEME Exhibition to assist in the purchase of a mannequin,
- \$2500 to assist the organisation of "The Gathering of RAEME", held in Brisbane April 2004.

I trust all of the above meets with member's approval, in keeping members informed of Corps matters and personnel, and a practical solution to the dispersal of funds.

ARTE ET MARTE

Brian Kelly

Ex President, Bluebell Association

- Courtesy "RAEME CRAFTSMAN" Issue No.54 Winter 2005

SPIRIT OF OZ.....

Ed's Note: This poem comes straight from the walls of the Sari Club in Bali. It is exactly as it is penned by an Unknown (with no apologies for the venacular language). I think it epitomises the Spirit of OZ.

You hurt us bombing Bali, but we can take the pain,
 But if you think you will beat us you can think a-bloody-gain.
 We battled at Gallipoli and we fought the bloody Hun,
 Of all the arseholes we've had to face you're just another one.
 You won't get your hands dirty, you won't fire a gun
 Whenever danger threatens you, just pack your gear and run.
 You brainwash innocent children to do your evil deeds
 Careful not to let them know just where it really leads.
 You get them to believe all your bigotry and lying
 Until they cannot see there is no glory in their dying.
 Now we'd like to pose a question, answer if you can
 Where does your Holy Book tell you to kill your fellow man?
 Now listen hard and listen well, we're giving you the word,
 You're never going to beat us you spineless bloody turd.
 You'll never face us personally, you haven't got the guts
 You know that if you did we'd have your bloody nuts.
 Our spirit is unbroken, and our heads are still unbowed,
 We sure as hell aren't scared of you and you gutless crowd.
 So get your act together - you'll never win because
 What you are really up against is the spirit that is OZ.....
 - Courtesy "The Horse's Mouth" Summer 2004-05

RAEME CORPS ITEMS

Below is an up-to-date list of RAEME Corps Items held by the Army Museum Bandiana and their costs. I have one of each of the RAEME items so that I can set up a display of most of the items listed below at our functions together with a supply of order forms (the items are not for sale as they belong to me, not the Association).

RAEME Tie	\$35:00
RAEME Tie Pin	\$7:00
RAEME Pewter Coaster (2 per pack)	\$8:00
RAEME Thermal Mug	\$15:00
RAEME Print - Presentation of the Prince Philip Banner (unframed)	\$5:00
RAEME Statue "The Craftsman"	\$85:00
RAEME Thermal Mug Khaki	\$12:00
RAEME Coffee Cup	\$7:00
RAEME Mouse Mat	\$6:00
RAEME / Artificer Cuff Links	\$15:00
RAEME / Artificer Tie Bar	\$8:00
RAEME / Artificer Tie Tack	\$7:00
Stubby Holder (RAEME, Blue Bell & Artificer)	\$7:00
Plaques (RAEME, Artificer, Balcombe & Latchford)	\$40:00
Army Apprentice Hat & Collar Badges	\$5:00
Apprentice Mouse mats	\$6:00
Field Message Note Book	\$10:00
Field Message Note Book Refills	\$2:50
Note Book Cover DPCU	\$15:00
40 Page Vuee Tuee	\$15:00

If you are interested in purchasing any items, contact **Army Museum Bandiana** on phone (02) 6055 2525 or fax (02) 6055 2886, Monday to Friday between 8:00am and 4:00pm, or via

e-mail bandiana.museum@defence.gov.au. The prices include GST, but not postage and handling. However, they will tell you how much your order will cost when you ring to enquire. Note that prices are also subject to change (please check prior to ordering). Payment can be made by Cheque or Postal Note. Credit Card facilities are available only on the premises. The postal address is:

**Army Museum Bandiana
PO Box 26
MILPO BANDIANA VIC 3694**

HONOURS AND AWARDS

The mailing address for all queries regarding medals is:

Directorate of Honours and Awards
Department of Defence
Locked Bag 2003
COOMA NSW 2630

WEB SITE ADDRESSES

AEME/RAEME Association of SA Inc: www.raemesa.com
AEME/RAEME Association - ACT: members.austarmetro.com.au/~lwedd/raeme
RAEME Association NSW Inc. www.raemensw.com
The RAEME Association of QLD: www.raemeqld.org
Army Apprentices: www.armyappies.no-ip.org
www.armyappy.com
National Service Association: www.nashos.org.au
Vietnam Veterans Federation: www.vvfagranville.org.au
Department of Defence: www.defence.gov.au
World War II personnel details: www.ww2roll.gov.au
Australian/Commonwealth Honours: www.itsanhonour.gov.au
Army Museum Bandiana www.defence.gov.au/army/AWMA_MUS/default.htm

If there are other Web Sites that you know of that may be of interest to other members, please let me know. If any of the Web Sites listed are not working please let me know.

MEMBERSHIP

Lost Members

If anyone knows the whereabouts of Don Sutherland, would they please advise me, or ask him to contact me, as he has not notified me of his new address.

New Members

On behalf of the Association, I would like to welcome the following new Member:

Marko Benazic, Dave Cawthorne, Col Howard, Rex Perry, Mick Reeve, Greg Robinson

Subs are due as at 1 July in the year your membership is "current to" ie if the date on your Membership Card is 2005, your Subs are now due. I would like to sincerely thank all members who have responded to my green "reminder slip" in the July Newsletter. Subs are still \$5 for one year or any multiple thereof eg \$20 for four years. You will need to be financial to vote at the AGM, which will be held in December.

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

Mike Culley, Reg Glass, Dutchy Holland, David Turner

Ordinary Members

Walter Ade (2006), Milton Ahrens (2009), Frank Aldous, (2006), Jeff Allen (2008), Ernest Atkinson (2007), Peter Badcock (2006), Joe Barton (2005), Richard Beare (2009), Gavin Bellis (2006), Marco Benazic (2007), Paul Berk (2008), John Black (2006), Helmut Bohn (2008), David Brand (2007), Bob Brown (2006), Dennis Brown (2009), Fred Brown (2007), WO2 Shane Buckley (2008), Roger Burzacott (2009),

Nicholas Cashman (2008), Dave Cawthorne (2007), Trevor Clerke (2015), Geoff Coat (2007), Brian Cogan (2006), Don Collins (2008), George Cooke (2011), John Corkran (2007), Peter Cox (2007), George Craig (2005), Bob Davis (2007), Gavin D'Cruz (2008), Graham de la Rue (2009), Chris Duffield (2007), Robert Duffield (2006), Nick Ebbs (2006), Len Edwards (2008), Bluey Etheridge (2007), Kym Everett (2013), Andrew Ferguson (2007), Jim Fisher (2005), Brian Flavel (2006), Jan Gancarz (2005), Pete Gaskin (2006), Charlie Gauci (2006), Bob Gell (2008), Nick Gogilis (2009), Steve Gough (2006), Steve Gould (2007), Tony Gow (2008), Robert Hansford (2007), Jock Hart (2008), Don Harvy (2006), Arthur Hasse (2009), Tracy Hatch (2006), Greg Hay (2010), Norm Hay (2008), Colin Haynes (2006), Tony Hinton (2005), Andrew Hobson (2006), Brian Holmes (2008), Darryl Horner (2006), Col Howard (2007), John Howard (2009), Gary Howell (2008), Rod Hussey (2009), Tony Ivens (2007), Graham Janz (2007), Juris Jaudzems (2006), Jeff Johns (2007), Lindsay Johnson (2005), Eddy Kaminski (2006), Eric Kelly (2008), Bob Killoran (2009), Bob King (2006), Geoff Kohler (2007), Les Kovacs (2007), Grant Kuchel (2007), Alf Lee (2006), Lou Leeuwrik (2011), Ken Lorraine (2009), Greg Lowe (2007), Chris Macintosh (2010), A.D.Marks (2007), Trevor Martin (2007), Robin Maslen OAM (2009), Bob Matthew (2006), Bob Matthews (2007), Alan McGregor (2006), Fred McInerney (2006), Philip McKelliff (2008), Pete McKenzie (2007), Gordon Mead (2005), Reg Mead (2006), Don Morgan OAM (2007), Richard Moyses (2006), Bob Murch (2007), Barry Naulty (2009), Timothy Newall (2005), Ian Nicholls (2006), Gary Nicolescu (2009), Murray Nitschke (2005), Jim Nurse (2010), Troy Oakes (2005), Dave O'Brien (2005), Alex Oschmanns (2013), Frank Owen (2006), John Owen (2008), Dick Pailthorpe (2007), Doug Pammenter (2009), Nick Papanikolaou (2006), Geoff Parker (2007), Trevor Parrott (2007), Roger Parsons (2006), Lionel Penley (2007), Rex Perry (2007), John Raftery (2006), Hank Ramm (2008), Tammy Rebeck (2006), Mick Reeve (2007), Lionel Renfrey (2007), Dave Renshaw (2006), Peter Reynolds (2007), Bluey Roberts (2005), Greg Robinson (2006), George Robinson (2006), Bill Roch (2007), Greg Rosser (2007), Ray Ryan (2007), Perry Sangster (2010), Brian Sayers (2009), Barra Schmidtke (2007), Glendon Shaw (2007), Dave Shelly (2009), Harold Shipp (2009), Robert Silcock (2006), Craig Smith (2008), Victor Sobotnik (2006), Walter Soroka (2006), Max Sparrow (2008), Debbie Spicer (2005), Ian Starick (2006), Murray Stock (2008), Donald Sutherland (2013), James Szpunar (2008), Keith Tainsh (2007), Ian Taylor (2007), Paul Teague (2010), Howard Terry (2008), Jim Thomas (2006), Noel Thomas (2009), Dick Tischer (2007), Donald Tremethick (2009), Danny Trewick (2005), Joe Tuckwell (2007), Damien van de Velde (2011), Mark Van Oostveen (2008), Eugene Wasilenia (2006), Bruce Watson (2007), Alan Webb (2006), Graham West OAM (2006), Brett Wilkeson (2008), Warren Williams (2012), Alan Wilson (2008), John Wilson (2007), Betty Winstanley (2008), Curly Woolcock (2007), Pat Wright (2008), Brian Yelds (2007), John Zander (2008), Pete Zander (2007).

Associate Members

Marg Culley (2006), Anne-Michelle Howell (2006), Joan Lorraine (2006), Judy Turner (2006).

VALE - LEST WE FORGET

Geoffrey John CHAPMAN (Ex 4/49 PWLH LAD) - 31 January 2005

Jim "Hick" or "Apache" McCORMACK - 10th Intake Vehicle Mechanic - 16 June 2005

Norm ROOKE - 12th Intake Vehicle Mechanic

Bill JONES - 13th Intake Vehicle Mechanic

- Courtesy "The Lightning Flash" Issue 45 August 2005

ARTE et MARTE

(Corps Motto: With Skill and Fighting)

David Turner

Hon. Secretary