



# THURUNKA

September 2009

Newsletter of the  
Royal Australian Signals Association (NSW) Inc.

Patron MAJGEN R.P. Irving AM PSM RFD (Retd)

President:  
Mr C.J. (Chris) Ballantine  
8/62-64 Lynwood Avenue  
CROMER NSW 2099  
Ph: 02 9972 4957  
Mobile: 0431 422 247  
[cjb47@optusnet.com.au](mailto:cjb47@optusnet.com.au)

Secretary  
Mr M. (Mike) McEvoy  
13 Mitchell Road  
MOSMAN NSW 2088  
Ph: 02 9968 1777  
[mmcevoy@bigpond.net.au](mailto:mmcevoy@bigpond.net.au)

Editor:  
Mr K.W.G. (Ken) Forway  
28 Mendelssohn Avenue  
EMERTON NSW 2770  
Ph: 02 9628 7511  
Mobile: 0402 373 494  
[thurunka@optusnet.com.au](mailto:thurunka@optusnet.com.au)

## Coming Events - 2009

Update your diary NOW!

|                               |     |                                   |          |                         |
|-------------------------------|-----|-----------------------------------|----------|-------------------------|
| Committee Meeting 5           | Wed | 30 Sep                            | 1800 hrs | RACA Club               |
| * Eastern Region Corps Dinner |     | Nov                               | TBA      |                         |
| National RASigs Re-union      |     | 5 <sup>th</sup> –12 <sup>th</sup> | Nov      | Vietnam                 |
| Annual Memorial Service       | Sun | 29 <sup>th</sup> Nov              | 1100 hrs | Signal Hill, South Head |
| Annual General Meeting        | Sun | 29 <sup>th</sup> Nov              |          | Paddington RSL Club     |
| Rhumb Corps Luncheon          | Wed | 2 Dec                             | 1200 hrs | CTA Club                |
| * Committee Luncheon          | Sun | 6 Dec                             | 1200 hrs | TBA                     |
| THURUNKA December edition     |     | Early-December                    |          |                         |

\* TBA: Dates and details to be announced / TBC: Dates and details to be confirmed

NB: Dates and details of events may change but are constantly reviewed in an attempt to advise changes to members in a timely manner.

**Eastern Region Combined Offrs/Sgts RASigs Corps Dinner**

[See inside for registering procedure](#)

**Annual Memorial Service**

Signal Hill, South Head

Sunday, 29th November, 2009 at 1100hrs

**And afterwards**

**Annual General Meeting**  
**Paddington RSL Club**

Followed by a 'get-together luncheon' with members and friends.

[See Attachment at end of THURUNKA for full details.](#)

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## Next Issue

Copy for the next issue of  
*THURUNKA* must be in  
the hands of the Editor,  
Ken Forway,  
28 Mendelssohn Avenue  
EMERTON 2770.  
Or by e-mail:  
[thurunka@optusnet.com.au](mailto:thurunka@optusnet.com.au)  
NO LATER THAN  
13<sup>th</sup> November 2009.

# Recent Events



## Reserve Forces Day Parade Sydney

Original photograph courtesy Noel C Christensen RFD

# 70

1939 - 2009

March Past by the Association at the Reserve Forces Day Parade, Sydney. The Salute was taken by Her Excellency the Governor of New South Wales, Professor Marie Bashir AC, CVO.

**O**n Sunday 5th July, 2009 fifteen Association stalwarts attended the Parade in The Domain, Sydney. Present for the first time, were John Petteit and Terry Cunningham.

Unlike the street march of previous years, the Parade on the Domain Parade Ground included the marching on of Association Banners followed by the Association Standards and members, forming an open square. Whilst sceptical of the format leading up to the Parade, it went surprisingly well, assisted by sunny, crisp weather.

The Parade Host was CA, Lt-Gen Ken Gillespie and the reviewing officer was the NSW Governor, Prof Marie Bashir AC, CVO who arrived in a vintage open staff car, escorted by the NSW Mounted Police and Light Horse.

The 2009 parade theme was the recognition of the members of the Militia, Naval Reserve and Air Force Reserve who enlisted in the permanent forces in 1939 at the outbreak of WW2. About 50 of these veterans were guests at the Parade.

Combined brass and pipe bands provided excellent support.

Convivial refreshments and fellowship followed the Parade at the Ship Inn, Circular Quay. We were delighted to be joined by Brig Bruce Trimble at the invitation of John Petteit.

It appears that the parade format in the Domain will continue.

*Chris Ballantine*

### *In The Blue Corner*

**Blue Hawkins has advised us of the following. If anyone is able to help Blue in any way, or you have your own enquiry, please contact Blue direct....Ed**

Ted 'Blue' Hawkins  
(Keeper of the RASIGS contact dbase)  
23 Belcher St  
Caboolture QLD 4510  
Phone 07 5499 3704  
e-mail: [hawkins2@aapt.net.au](mailto:hawkins2@aapt.net.au)

**Thanks...Ed.**

### **SIG Barry Arthur Logan**

RASIGS - KIA Vietnam 28/03/1967  
38324 SIG Barry Arthur (Lofty) Logan  
709 & 552 Sig Tps Vietnam  
All replies direct to:  
RSM  
17 Sig Regt  
WO1 Stephen Cheers  
Holsworthy Barracks  
Holsworthy NSW 2173  
E-mail [stephan.cheers@defence.gov.au](mailto:stephan.cheers@defence.gov.au)  
The RSM of 17 Sig Regt (formerly 3 LoC Regt, 2 Sig Regt, LFSU) is seeking photographs of Lofty Logan who was KIA in Vietnam. If you can assist him,

please contact him via e-mail or post.

### **Searching for Narelle nee Andrews**

Kapooka & Cabarlah 1985  
All replies direct to:  
Anne O'Brien  
Mobile 0402 568 510  
E-mail [anneobie@yahoo.com.au](mailto:anneobie@yahoo.com.au)  
Anne is searching for Narelle for a 25th anniversary reunion in 2010. Narelle may have married and changed her surname. If you can assist, please contact Anne as soon as possible.

*(Continued on page 3)*

# Association Matters

## Eastern Region Corps Dinner - 2009

Details are not yet available for the Eastern Region RASigs Corps Dinner, proposed to be conducted in November. If you wish to attend, please register with a committee member, (refer to the front page) then we will advise you as the details become known to us.

## Annual Memorial Service and Annual General Meeting

As the date of these functions are dependent upon the date of the Corps Dinner (we try to avoid having them on the same week-end), the date of the Annual Memorial Service and the AGM is not yet available. A date late in November is being considered, but the final date has yet to be confirmed. The timings and venues are planned to follow previous years. Please refer to the rear of *THURUNKA* for the Attachment concerning the Annual Memorial Service and the AGM; this includes the final details for that day. Attached are the Agenda for the AGM (with Nomination Form) and the Financial Statement.

**Welcome** We are pleased to advise you of our new member. He is Peter (Pete) Duff who spent 28 years in the Corps including Vietnam in both 110 Sig Sqn and 709 Sig Tp. We welcome Pete and trust that he will have a long association with us and continues the aims and traditions of both the Association and the Corps.

*Membership Officer*

## *In The Blue Corner*

*(Continued from page 2)*

### **New E-mail Address Bill (Blue) Burgess**

43269 SSGT (ret) William Thomas Burgess  
709 Sig Tp & 110 Sig Sqn Vietnam  
Please note new Address:  
[wburgess2@bigpond.com](mailto:wburgess2@bigpond.com)

## Royal Australian Signals Association (NSW) Inc.

### NOTIFICATION OF 2009 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

This document, along with a nomination form for committee, has been added as an attachment at the end of *THURUNKA*.

### FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2009

This document has been added as an attachment at the end of *THURUNKA*.

### **National Peacekeeping Memorial**

Please visit the Peacekeeping Memorial Website:  
[http://www.peacekeepingmemorial.org.au/...](http://www.peacekeepingmemorial.org.au/)

...For further information, membership of the Project and Donations.

All replies direct to:  
Paul Copeland OAM JP  
National President  
APPVA Inc  
PO Box 552  
TORQUAY VIC 3228  
AUSTRALIA  
Ph/Fx: 03 5264 8244  
Mob: 0419 355 226  
E-m: [president@peacekeepers.asn.au](mailto:president@peacekeepers.asn.au)  
Web: [www.peacekeepers.asn.au](http://www.peacekeepers.asn.au) <<http://www.peacekeepers.asn.au/>>;  
Skype: copey126

*(Continued on page 6)*



Vale – Garry Farthing, Association Member.

2791136 Gary Leonard Farthing  
104 Sig Sqn Vietnam (1969 -70).

It is with sadness that we have learnt of the passing of a long term member of our Association, Garry Farthing. Garry will be sadly missed by his family and friends.

Our thoughts and prayers are with his loved ones at this time.

Messages of support may be forwarded to his widow Irene at:

Irene Farthing

3/31 Sandon St

Hamilton NSW 2303

Phone 02 4023 1906

Mobile 0414 756 649

E-mail [garyirene1@optusnet.com.au](mailto:garyirene1@optusnet.com.au)

*Mike McEvoy,*

Secretary

A few words for Garry...

"I was with Garry in Radio Troop 104 Sigs, at the Horseshoe and the Dat, we trained together at Balcombe, Ingleburn an Enoggera. Garry was always a good bloke, a leader, a sportsman, and was known to have the odd can of VB or three. He could always invent a funny name for someone and have us all laughing at our selves.

"All of his working life was with the NRMA were he was the manager here in the Newcastle/Hunter Valley area. He retired TPI about 10 years ago and has been active in LEGACY and with golf, bowls and gardening."

*Phil Smith*

## OBITUARY

### Garry Leonard Farthing

22nd March 1948 – 27th July 2009

A MAN described as a people person

## VALE – Ted Kenna VC

Australia today expresses its sorrow at the passing of Australia's last remaining Victoria Cross recipient from the Second World War, Private Edward "Ted" Kenna.

This is a sad day for Australia. Ted Kenna was a great Australian. He demonstrated courage in the most trying of circumstances.

His story is extraordinary. On the morning of 15 May 1945, Private Kenna's company in New Guinea was given the task of clearing the Japanese from the Wirui Mission area. As the Australians approached, they were met with heavy machine gun fire. Private Kenna fired his Bren gun at the enemy machine gunners but was unable to get a clear shot over the rough ground.

To get a better shot he stood up in full view of the enemy and fired until out of ammunition. He then called for a rifle and engaged the enemy again. The machine gunners were only metres away and Private Kenna stood in a hail of fire. This brave and prompt action resulted in the position being taken with few casualties.

Three weeks later Private Kenna was struck in the mouth by an explosive bullet and hospitalised. The wound marked the end of his combat duty and he was discharged in December 1946.

who touched many through his work and showed integrity in business has died aged 61.

Garry Farthing died in Waratah Hospice after a 12-month battle with melanoma. Born in Balmain, Mr Farthing spent his younger years in Kingsgrove where he attended Kingsgrove North High. Leaving school at 15, he took on an apprenticeship as a carpet layer before he moved to the NRMA as a mail boy. "He liked the ethics of the company and found that if he worked hard he was rewarded for that with promotion," his wife, Irene, said.

He was awarded the Victoria Cross for 'his magnificent courage and complete disregard for his own safety'. Private Kenna made an outstanding contribution to the nation and will be remembered for his courage.

Together with wife, Marjorie, he returned to Hamilton, Victoria and went on to have four children, Alan, Robert, Annette and Marlene. "He was an active member of the Hamilton community and a lifetime member of the Hamilton RSL right up until his death.

"Private Kenna died aged 90 in Geelong, Victoria, and is survived by wife Marjorie, three of his children and many grandchildren.

From the Media Release VA058.  
9 July 2009

Media contact:

Belinda Cole (Griffin) 0437 863 109

Leanne Budd (Gillard) 0422 692 341



In 1969 Mr Farthing had a hiatus from his blossoming career at the NRMA when he was called-up for national service. He served with the army in the Vietnam War. While the bad experiences he had on the battlefield would plague him in later life, he valued the lessons he had learnt and the friends he had made.

On his return he met Irene at the Bondi Junction NRMA office where she worked as a cashier and, while his wife could not put her finger on the reason for the attraction, Mr Farthing was not one to let a good thing go. "We had our first date on October 31, 1970,

got engaged on December 31 and were married May 15 the next year," she said.

The couple settled in Sydney and in 1978 moved to Dubbo where Mr Farthing took the role managing the Dubbo and greater-west region office. After six years in that role Mr Farthing and his family moved back to Sydney where he took on the southern region management role before moving to Newcastle in 1987. The family moved to Adamstown Heights and easily adjusted with the two girls, finding neither the tyranny of distance that plagues country life nor the congestion of Sydney.

It was in 1989, in the aftermath of the earthquake that Mr Farthing's qualities as a manager of both business and people came to the fore. A former colleague said that Mr Farthing was always well respected but his conduct under such strain after the earthquake raised him further in their eyes. "Many staff will remember Garry for his ability to inspire staff and his hands-on approach." she said.

In 1998, after the earthquake and a major reshuffle of the NRMA corporate structure, Mr Farthing began to suffer under the effects of his post-traumatic stress and retired that year. It was then that he was able to apply himself more to his family and other loves and causes. He was vice-president of Belmont Golf Club. He also gave more time to his passion for helping war widows through Legacy. It was also during this time that he and Mrs Farthing were able to pursue a dream of travelling overseas.

Garry Farthing is survived by his wife Irene, two daughters Louise and Lesley, granddaughter Elodie and his brother Graeme.

From: *The Newcastle Herald* –  
Monday, 10th August, 2009.  
Reporter: Martin Dinneen.

Vale - 36171 SGT (ret) **David (Dusty) Miller**, 104 Sig Sqn Vietnam

It is with sadness that we have learnt of the passing of another valued member of the Corps and servant of Australia. David will be sadly missed by his family and friends.

Our thoughts and prayers are with his loved ones at this time.

*Ted Hawkins*

Phone 07 5499 3704

24 June 2009

Dusty was a former member of the Association and was ARA Transport SGT at Lidcombe in the early 8 Sig Regt days. A good fellow!...Pres.

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Vale - from Ted (Blue) Hawkins

It is with sadness that we are advised of the passing of the following loyal servants of the Corps and Australia:

5714828 **Allen John (Cal) Callaghan**

Det 152 Sig Sqn & 2 Sqn SASR  
Vietnam

36330 WO1 **James William (Jim)**

**Rayner**, Det 547 Sig Tp & 547 Sig Tp  
Vietnam

14th July 1926 – 7th August 2009

[http://www.vietnamroll.gov.au/  
VeteranDetails.aspx?VeteranId=1278766](http://www.vietnamroll.gov.au/VeteranDetails.aspx?VeteranId=1278766)

Jim had a long career with 7 Sig Regt with considerable overseas service, including SVN; he was the Advance Party for the deployment of 547 Sig Tp to Nui Dat in May/June 1966.

182562 CPL **Matthew W. Davis**,  
UNTAC

Messages of condolence may be passed to his widow, Sharon, and their three children via a family friend who will collate them for presentation to the family:

Ms Tara Duffy

Mobile 0488 183 141

E-mail [tara.duffy1@defence.gov.au](mailto:tara.duffy1@defence.gov.au)

NX3698 **Kenneth Rochester (Ken) Clift** DCM (W/W2)

7th January 1916 – 22nd July 2009

[http://www.vv2roll.gov.au/script/  
veteran.asp?](http://www.vv2roll.gov.au/script/veteran.asp?ServiceID=A&VeteranID=123373)

[ServiceID=A&VeteranID=123373](http://www.vv2roll.gov.au/script/veteran.asp?ServiceID=A&VeteranID=123373)

Mr Ken Clift DCM passed away 1230h Wed 22nd July 09 - he was 93 and had been deteriorating for some time. Ken visited the Defence Force School of Signals last year for the naming of the Holding Troop to Ken Clift DCM Troop.

Messages of condolence may be passed to Ken's widow:

Mrs Valerie Clift

1/5 Carlisle St

Tamarama NSW 2026

Phone 02 9130 3566

I would recommend you google 'Ken Clift DCM' for more information on this gentleman; there are some interesting articles.

215415 SGT (ret) **John Myers**

22nd March 1946 – 3rd June 2009

Borneo

104 Sig Sqn Vietnam

32 Small Ships Vietnam

John enlisted in the Australian Army in September 1963 at the age of 17 and saw Active Service in Borneo during the Indonesian Confrontation in 1966 and in Vietnam on two separate occasions In 1967 with 32 small Ships and in 1971 with the 104 Signal Squadron.

John was to serve a total of 23 years in the Corp of Signals and the Australian Army until his discharge in December 1988. He was proud to have been a soldier and to serve his Country and for that we are eternally grateful John will be sorely missed by his family and friends.

Messages of condolence may be forwarded to John's partner:

Margaret Savage

Lillis Lane

BARRABA 2347

Phone 02 6782 1282

E-mail [beam6@bigpond.com.au](mailto:beam6@bigpond.com.au)

Thanks to Paul Sams for providing us with this information; former RASIGS personnel visited John during the ANZAC Day 2009 period and some later attended John's funeral.

Our thoughts and prayers are with their families at this time.

*Ted (Blue) Hawkins*

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Vale - (T25995) TX12367 Signm

**Arthur Thomas Charlton**

11 September 1923 - 17 March 2009

Arthur Charlton was born at Campbell Town and educated at Albeura Street State School from where he went to work at the Tasmanian Government Railway.

Arthur enlisted in AASC in January 1942 and transferred to "H" Section

Signals on joining the AIF on 15th September 1942. He was soon transferred to AA and Fortress Signals and served with them at Milne Bay. After his discharge on 7th November 1945 he married Betty Killingback on 10th August 1946 and had two boys, Geoff and Ray and a daughter Lesley. He followed in his father's footsteps and worked for the PMG's Department for thirty two years. He was invalided out in 1976 and became an enthusiastic member and later President of the Glenorchy RSL Bowls Club. His wife Betty pre-deceased him. We will miss our long time member and comrade

and extend our sincere sympathy to Geoff, Ray and Lesley and their families on their sad loss

-----  
 Vale - VX64332 (340017) LTCOL  
**Frederick Browning (Fred) Wood**  
 MBE

[http://www.vv2roll.gov.au/script/veteran.asp?](http://www.vv2roll.gov.au/script/veteran.asp?ServiceID=A&VeteranID=838442)

[ServiceID=A&VeteranID=838442](http://www.vv2roll.gov.au/script/veteran.asp?ServiceID=A&VeteranID=838442)

It is with sadness that we learn of the passing of another valued servant of Australia and the Corps. He will be fondly remembered by those who knew him.

Our thoughts and prayers are with his

family at this time.  
 Messages of condolence may be forwarded to the family through:  
 President  
 RASigs Assn [VIC]  
 MAJ (ret) Peter Waller  
 26 Napier St  
 Mornington VIC 3931  
 Phone 03 5975 8515  
 E-mail [jwal2715@bigpond.net.au](mailto:jwal2715@bigpond.net.au)

*Lest We Forget*

## SICK PARADE



### Steve Thurlow

3/11157 SGT Stephen THURLOW  
 Ex British Army (1949 - 1951)  
 ARA 1952 - 1964

I RAR & 4 RAR Korea & Malaya  
 RA Sigs - 504 ASSU

CMF 1968 - 1972 (8 Sig Regt)

Steve is in poor health and was admitted to Liverpool Hospital in June. He has pneumonia and emphysema.

Steve was released from Liverpool Hospital, NSW in July after 31 days in hospital with emphysema, fractured

pelvis (from a fall at home) and a blood clot in his lungs. He told me that whilst he is feeling better, he is on additional permanent medication and on a very restricted liquid and food diet.

Steve's contact details can be obtained from me by telephone (02) 9972 4957 or e-mail [cjb47@optusnet.com.au](mailto:cjb47@optusnet.com.au). I'm sure he would appreciate contact from any old Army mates.

*Chris Ballantine*

President  
 RASigs Ass'n (NSW)

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**Ronald James Crewe**

Advice has been received that Ron is VSI in hospital in Melbourne at:

Warringal Private Hospital  
 216 Burgundy St  
 HEIDELBERG VIC 3084  
 Phone: 03 9274 1300  
 Strictly No Visitors 1.00pm-3.00pm  
 Visitors are welcome daily between the hours of 3pm and 8pm.

The home address for Ron and Winsome is:

2 "Ankatel Gate,"  
 2a Doodson Ct  
 ELTHAM VIC 3095  
 Phone: 03 9431 1671

Our thoughts and prayers are with Ron's loved ones at this time.

Regards

*Ted Hawkins*

Phone 07 5499 3704

## *In The Blue Corner*

*(Continued from page 3)*

### Searching for Photographs of Graeme Clare

Seeking photographs of 44726 Graeme Andrew (Hair-Bear) Clare, 110 Sig Sqn Vietnam

I am looking for any photographs of me in uniform and working between 1968 and 1980, including Vietnam. These shots will be used a part of a pictorial of my life.

Any photos can be e-mailed to:

Graeme Clare  
 Phone 03 5221 4491  
 E-mail [gmclare1@bigpond.com](mailto:gmclare1@bigpond.com)  
 Many thanks,

*Graeme*

### New e-mail address...

RASIGS - 44726 Graeme Andrew (Hair-Bear) Clare  
 110 Sig Sqn Vietnam  
 FYI, please amend your email address book:  
 New e-mail address  
[glendamclare@bigpond.com](mailto:glendamclare@bigpond.com)

As most are aware, Graeme is suffering from mesothelioma /

asbestosis, is now TPI and the prognosis is terminal. However, he and Glenda are making the best of the situation and welcome contact and information from old mates.

I am sure that our thoughts and prayers are with Graeme and Glenda as they continue this journey.

...and also advise:

**Ted (Blue) Hawkins**  
 (Keeper of the RASIGS dbase)  
 Phone 07 5499 3704  
[hawkins2@aapt.net.au](mailto:hawkins2@aapt.net.au)  
 In all cases.



# CORPS MATTERS

**RASIGS** Corps website: <http://www.defence.gov.au/army/RASIGS/default.htm>

## Fundraiser Website for Darrin Gibson

Victim of the 2009 Victorian  
Bushfires

Royal Australian Corps of  
Signals

Fundraiser Website for Darrin  
Gibson

[<http://www.darringibson.com/about-darrin.aspx##>](http://www.darringibson.com/about-darrin.aspx##>);

Dear fellow former and current RASigs service men and women and empathetic community individuals,

You are no doubt aware of the tragic loss of his wife and three children that our comrade, Darrin Gibson, suffered in the Victorian bushfires earlier this year. He himself continues to undergo extensive rehabilitation from his own injuries suffered in those bushfires.

Members of the 17th Signal Regiment, Holsworthy, have taken it upon their shoulders to support Darrin and have commissioned a fundraising website with fantastic products available for auction - <http://www.darringibson.com/> - you can also read Darrin's story via this website.

I strongly urge you to visit this website and possibly bid on any item in which you may be interested; there are many fantastic items!

Regards

*Ted Hawkins*

Phone: 07 5499 3704

## EXTENDED REGISTRATION

The Royal Australian  
Corps of Signals

Vietnam Re-union

5 - 12 November 2009



[www.rasigsvietnam.com](http://www.rasigsvietnam.com)

*Hi Guys,*

It is still obvious that there are still many SIGS out there who we do not know about or who don't know about the Reunion in Vietnam and other Sigs matters.

Just had a call from an Ex-Sig who just found out about the reunion last weekend at a meeting he attended and some guys were talking about it.

I know everything is in place to record members but we need to get out to all the members we have to tell their mates about the sites that are available to get information to them.

Can you please send out to all on your data bases about sites to register at so we can get everyone possible into a data base whether it will be at Blue's or the Adelaide data base that RASA (SA) has set up.

The Re-union registration will now remain open until the 31st August at the latest for any other application we might receive.

We now have 180 attendees accepted and most have paid.

Cheers,

*Gregg*

Gregg Dickson

Chairman of Committee

RASIGS Re-union Vietnam 2009

Re-union Web Site: [www.rasigsvietnam.com](http://www.rasigsvietnam.com)

***As you read from the above letter from Gregg, the Organising Committee for the RASigs Vietnam Re-union has extended the date to the end of August. I know that it is well past that date, and we have been advising you of the re-union over the past months. BUT if you want to go but have not yet got around to it, I cannot make any promises BUT THIS IS THE LAST CALL that we are giving. NO PROMISES, BUT contact Gregg NOW to see if he can fit you in.***

***Spread the word to your mates to ensure that they are aware.***

***As of the end of August, about eight of our members (plus partners, etc.) are going, including our President and me...ED.***

## Media Releases

*Here are some more MEDIA RELEASES that we received concerning the Defence Force, and particularly, veterans. We are unable to include all the content of these releases within the pages of THURUNKA, so what it has been decided is to list some of them for your reference with the relevant media contact details. Should you choose to follow them up. This by far is not the full list, but those brought to our attention and considered relevant to us.*

*If you wish to receive the Ministers' media releases automatically by e-mail please go to:*  
[www.minister.dva.gov.au/subscribe.htm](http://www.minister.dva.gov.au/subscribe.htm)

....ED.

### Media Release HMAS Sydney II Declared a National Memorial

PRIME MINISTER  
 MINISTER FOR VETERANS' AFFAIRS

The Australian Government today announced that the HMAS Sydney II Memorial in Geraldton, Western Australia, has been recognised as a national memorial.

The HMAS Sydney II Memorial commemorates a tragic event in Australia's military history – the loss of HMAS Sydney II and her entire crew of 645 men. HMAS Sydney II was the pride of the fleet and her loss was keenly felt by the whole nation in November 1941.

This declaration recognises the efforts of the City of Geraldton-Greenough and civic groups such as the Rotary Club of Geraldton in constructing and maintaining this fitting tribute to the crew of HMAS Sydney II. It also recognises the many volunteers whose dedication to sharing this memorial with visitors ensures that HMAS Sydney II will never be forgotten.

GERALDTON

21 MAY 2009

PRESS OFFICE (02) 6277 7744

MINISTER GRIFFIN'S OFFICE (02) 6277 7820

### Media Release VA038 - New Commemorative Projects

Friday, 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2009

Three new commemorative projects have been unveiled today at the Heidelberg Repatriation Hospital by the Minister for Veterans' Affairs, Alan Griffin.

Attending the Hospital's Veterans' Day celebrations, Mr Griffin said, "Since 1947 Heidelberg Repatriation Hospital has been serving the veteran community. My Department has provided a contribution to help fund the projects being unveiled today which will honour the service and sacrifice of the Australian servicemen and women who have been treated here."

"Designed by local artist, Simon Normand, my Department has contributed towards a Heritage Bell Tower in Heidelberg's Remembrance Garden to house its Heritage Bell – donated by an ex-Navy Vietnam veteran. When the Heritage Bell sounds during commemorative services at Heidelberg, I ask you to remember those who did not return from war and those who have suffered and sought treatment here," Mr Griffin said.

Mr Griffin also unveiled a piece of stained glass symbolising a four-year project to install stained glass windows in the Heidelberg Chapel. "Designed by Alison McMillan, this project has been helped by (a donation) from my Department and the generosity of the veteran community. The last piece of stained glass will be installed on Remembrance Day 2011 and I look forward to seeing the end result."

The final project involves the removal, renovation and relocation of a flagpole donated by the Red Cross in the 1940s. "The flag pole, Heritage Bell Tower and stained glass window projects are welcome additions to Heidelberg's rich commemorative heritage. The veteran community has also contributed generously to these projects and I congratulate them on their efforts," Mr Griffin said.

Media inquiries: Sasha Nimmo 0437 863 109

### Media Release VA039

Friday, 22<sup>nd</sup>, May 2009

### Bursaries Awarded To Ten Victorian Tertiary Students

The Minister for Veterans' Affairs, Alan Griffin, today announced ten Victorian students, all children of Vietnam veterans, would receive up to \$9000 each in Australian Government funding to help them complete tertiary education. Mr Griffin said the Long Tan Bursary scheme helps the children of Vietnam veterans pursue tertiary education.

"The Long Tan Bursary scheme aims to help dedicated students achieve their long-term study goals by easing the financial cost of their tertiary study," Mr Griffin said. "More than 250 sons and daughters of Vietnam veterans have benefitted from the bursary scheme since it was introduced in 2000."

Named after the Battle of Long Tan in which 18 Australians lost their lives, the Bursaries are available for tertiary students, including mature age students, who have achieved good academic results and have overcome personal challenges to successfully complete their secondary education.

"These students have proven their determination to pursue their studies and I congratulate them on their determination and perseverance to succeed in their chosen career paths," Mr Griffin said.

Mr Griffin said Long Tan Bursaries would be presented to 56 Australian students. The Bursary recognises that children of Vietnam veterans can face health and wellbeing challenges (owing) to their parents' service and relieves these students of

some financial burden so they can concentrate on completing their studies successfully.

For more information on the Long Tan Bursary go to Long Tan Bursary Information Page <[http://www.dva.gov.au/health/vvcsp/long\\_tan.htm](http://www.dva.gov.au/health/vvcsp/long_tan.htm)> or for more information on student income support reforms, go to 2009-10 Commonwealth Budget - Home <<http://www.budget.gov.au/2009-10/index.htm>>.

Media inquiries: Sasha Nimmo 0437 863 109

***Editors note: \*Four of the Long Tan Bursary recipients have asked to remain anonymous.***

## **Media Release VA040a - Veteran Health and Wellbeing Projects**

**Monday, 25<sup>th</sup> May 2009**

### **\$1.5m for Veteran Health and Wellbeing Projects**

Encouraging veterans, war widows, widowers and their families to become involved in local health and wellbeing activities, the Minister for Veterans' Affairs, Alan Griffin, today announced funding to support 103 initiatives across Australia.

Mr Griffin said the total funding allocation would benefit some 46,000 veterans, war widows and widowers as well as their families and demonstrates the Australian Government's support to organisations dedicated to caring for the veteran community.

"Veteran & Community Grants provide funding to local and community organisations to support their role in ensuring the veteran community have access to social and healthy activities," Mr Griffin said. "Today's funding will help support a range of initiatives including health, nutrition and exercise sessions. Veteran & Community Grants also help fund local initiatives that improve access to community care services and encourage social interaction through Day Clubs, Men's Sheds and social excursions. It is important that the veteran community has access to a range of programs that teach skills to help them remain independent and active, particularly for the elderly living by themselves." Mr Griffin said hundreds of local and community organisations benefit from Australian Government funding each year.

Mr Griffin encouraged local and community organisations interested in applying for funding to visit [www.dva.gov.au/health/grants](http://www.dva.gov.au/health/grants) or contact their nearest DVA office on 133 254 (for metropolitan callers) or 1800 555 254 (for non-metropolitan callers).

Media inquiries: Sasha Nimmo 0437 863 109

**Please note:** The VVCS - Veterans and Veterans Families Counselling Service can be contacted 24 hours a day, seven days a week on 1800 011 046.

## **OPERATION AUSSIES HOME Inc.**

Full and definitive accounting for the six Australian servicemen who were either killed in action or missing in action during the Viet Nam War and whose bodies have not been recovered.

## **Final Two Vietnam MIA's Returning to Australia**

***All Vietnam and other veterans owe a huge thank-you to Jim and his party of supporters for their efforts over the years to bring to finalisation this worthy project.***

***Ted (Blue) Hawkins***

Ladies and Gents,

For your information, at this stage it is intended that the aircraft carrying the coffins of Herbert and Carver will arrive at RAAF Base Richmond on 31 August 2009 at 1000 hours.

Funerals will be held on 2 September 2009 for Carver, in Toowoomba, and 7 September 2009 for Herbert, in

Adelaide. These funeral dates could change as planning progresses, but at this stage they are the dates being considered by the families.

The official party to accept the remains of Herbert and Carver at the Hand Back Ceremony in Hanoi, including members of both families, will depart Australia on 28 August 2009.

Regards,

*Jim*

LTCOL (ret) Jim Bourke

All replies direct to:

James R. Bourke

OPERATION AUSSIES HOME Inc.

[Jim.Bourke@austmia.com](mailto:Jim.Bourke@austmia.com)

Direct: +61 3 9762 2513

Mobile: 0412 826 744

Website: <http://www.austmia.com>

<http://www.austmia.com/>;

# FYI

## FOR YOUR INFORMATION

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## Cambodian Veterans

### Australian National University Peace-building Compared Project

My name is Kate Macfarlane and I am working with Professor John Braithwaite at the Australian National University on a project called 'Peace-building Compared'. The twenty year project is a comparative study of building peace across many countries, focusing on the important contribution and limitations of peacekeeping operations in building sustainable peace.

We are interviewing peacekeepers about their roles in peacekeeping operations to understand their 'on the ground' perspective of the peace-building process - these operations include Cambodia, West Sahara, Mozambique, East Timor, Solomon Islands, and Rwanda to name a few.

We are currently interviewing Cambodian veterans, which will be the focus of the project for the next year, but we are very interested in hearing from peacekeepers who have been involved in other operations.

The ANU is targeting those who served in Cambodia, within the:

- United Nations Advanced Mission In Cambodia (UNAMIC);
- United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC);
- UN Military Liaison Team (UNMLT);

- Cambodian Mine Action Centre (CMAC); and
- Others who served with the Defence Cooperation Program (DCP), who trained Royal Cambodian Armed Forces (RCAF) in Communications. Others are as listed.

Our website, <http://peacebuilding.anu.edu.au> <<http://peacebuilding.anu.edu.au/>>; provides further information about the project.

Thank-you

*Kate Macfarlane*

CONTACT:

Ms Kate Macfarlane

Project Officer

Regulatory institutions Network (REGNET)

RSPAS, College of Asia & the Pacific

Coombs Building No. 8

ANU Canberra, 0200

Ph: 02 6125 1511

## Important Read (Agent Orange) - Update

For those who made enquiries to me about John R. Howard and the Terry Fogarty's Vietnam Veterans Mortality Web site:

I have sent e-mails to John R. Howard at his e-mail address and I have not had any response. I did inspect the web site and found it very interesting. I suggest that persons wishing to contact John concerning any matters for him do so through the web site. DO not have a computer? Access can be made at your local council library, normally free of charge to residents, though you may need to join the library. See you council librarian for further details and instruction.

I have left the contact and website details for John R. Howard below.

[John.howard6@bigpond.com.au](mailto:John.howard6@bigpond.com.au)

Mortality Site Updated 1/3/2009 <http://amvif.com/mortality/>

Regards...ED

# Military history

*Here is the second of a three-part series contribution by our president from his visit to Vietnam last year. About eight of our members are lined up to go to the RASigs Vietnam Reunion in November (including myself) so you can expect more contributions on the view of members on the Vietnam of today in future editions of THURUNKA...Ed.*

## VIETNAM AND CAMBODIA 2008

Having completed my travel to Dien Bien Phu and Halong Bay, I boarded my flight on 22 September 2008 from Hanoi to Hue – the ancient capital of Vietnam. After settling into my hotel, I wasted no time locating the well-known DMZ Bar at the end of the street and established a good relationship with one of the bar-girls who was to look after my liquid needs over the next few days. She earned \$US1.50 per day plus tips and I was chastised by her when I gave some small change to the street kids instead of to her!

Of course, no trip to Hue would be

complete without a trip to the Citadel, seat of Vietnamese royalty for hundreds of years. It had been heavily bombed by the Japanese during WW2 and heavily fought over during the Vietnam (American) War. Whilst restoration is ongoing, there is still ample evidence of these conflicts. There were quite a few captured ARVN armoured vehicles and artillery pieces on display with signs referring to the ARVN as the “American puppets”.

Then disaster – a fall on a wet floor in the hotel and a night in Hue General Hospital. I had split the webbing between three of my toes and had torn my right ear. My warfarin medication

ensured plenty of gore. As ambulances are rare, two hotel staff drove to the hospital and stayed with me the entire night, acting as interpreters as very few medical staff spoke English. Having been asked for ID, I only had some Sigs Association cards on me displaying my presidential title. The Registrar was very impressed with this “VIP” patient and ensured that the best specialists in town would attend to my injuries that required about 10 stitches to the foot and likewise for the ear. The Registrar was also quick to point out that the costs would be great – “millions” he quoted, and would have to be paid in cash before I could be discharged. My heart sunk – was it dollars or dong?



**Taken at Marguerite's Bar & Restaurant, HCMC Sep 08**  
L-R Gregg Dickson, Chris Ballantine, Andy Anderson and Lindsay Evans.

Several hours later, after two surgical teams, twenty-odd very painful stitches using I suspect, left-over American anaesthetic from the Tet Offensive, I was told to rest until dawn on a stretcher in the very busy casualty ward surrounded by groaning, bloodied locals. With great relief the hotel boys arranged my escape the next morning – the hotel had paid the hospital bill and it was on my account – millions of something! To my great relief the bill was 2 million VND – about \$US160

The injury delayed my departure from Hue to Danang by a day and it was recommended that I should hire the hotel car to drive me to Danang rather than taking the bus. The trip was three hours and cost \$US65 which included the driver's return trip. The coastal route provided fantastic scenery and evidence of the war in the form of pill-boxes and larger bunkers at strategic points along the highway and mountain passes. The remnants of the large US base at Danang could also be seen, although most of the buildings surplus to Vietnam Government needs have been demolished.

After several days in Danang, I flew to Cam Ranh Bay which is now the airport for Nha Trang. During the war Cam Ranh Bay was a huge US air base, boasting the longest runways in the world for the B52 bombers. The extensive runways and taxi-ways remain with acres of building remnants from the former US base. A small modern terminal now serves the airport as does an elderly Russian crash tender.

Following about an hour's drive south in a bus to the beach resort town of Nha Trang, I booked into my hotel and decided to hobble along the beautiful beach and just perhaps, sample a cool ale at one of the pleasant beach bars. But alas, disaster was to strike yet again!

A tall local "lass" approached me and asked whether I would care for a massage and "boom boom" – local term for a shag. The person was wearing a face mask – not uncommon amongst Asian women, however the height, deep

voice, Adam's apple and a five o'clock shadow raised some concern. Suddenly my groin and his/her hand were in union, but I had the situation in hand, I thought. I pushed him/her away and within seconds he/she had disappeared. An instant check of my fastened cargo pockets revealed, however, that one of my two wallets had gone.

Without even undoing the two clips on the pocket, he/she had got away with about \$US40 in VND and my credit cards. To my relief, my second wallet with big US bucks was safe in my other pocket. Then a fast hobble back to the hotel to report the matter and an urgent call to Australia to cancel the cards. Within 30 minutes both my Visa and Amex cards were voided and no apparent attempt was made to misuse them. Whilst Amex was unable to replace my card in Vietnam, Visa (USA) had a replacement card hand-delivered to me in Saigon a week later. All my medical and theft expenses were fully recovered from my travel insurance.

Clearly all this stress and 36 degree heat warranted a cooling ale and what could be better than the Aussie Bar just up the road. This small bar is run by an Aussie ex-pat and is the haunt of other local ex-pats – mainly Australian and US war vets who decided to stay. A 72-year-old Swiss chap explained his idealistic life. He has a young Vietnamese wife and 8 year old son. His wife drops him at the bar by scooter early each afternoon and picks him up at 2000 hrs for dinner.

Thence further south to HCMC (Saigon) by air. Saigon's Tan Son Nhat airport still bears the evidence of war in the form of rows of concrete aircraft shelters and blast bays built by the Americans. I quickly settled in to my small, family-operated hotel in a narrow lane off Pham Ngu Lao Street, District 1 and then walked several doors down the lane to meet Association member and ex-pat, Gregg Dickson at Marguerites Bar. Gregg was a great host and guide during my stay in Saigon. The bar is popular with ex-pats who have a regular table outside in the lane, weather permitting. Many a refreshing

local brew ("dung cho da vao – no ice please") was had there.

The consumption of much beer meant an early morning visit to the loo and at 0400 hrs each morning I was awakened by a huge bell in a Buddhist temple, right beside my bedroom wall. It was chimed for 15 minutes followed by another 15 minutes of loud chanting by the monks. No better time I suppose, to attend to the call of nature!

High on my sightseeing list was the War Remnants Museum in HCMC. The museum was opened in 1975 and exhibits a collection of captured US aircraft, armoured vehicles, personal weapons, bombs and mines. The museum brochure defines its role "as the unique Museum in Vietnam to systematically study, collect, preserve and display exhibits on war crimes and aftermaths foreign aggressive forces caused for Vietnamese people" (sic). The various museums I visited throughout Vietnam were not surprisingly, full of anti-US propaganda.

After five days absorbing the Saigon culture, I headed further south by bus to meet my boat for a two-day trip up the Mekong to Cambodia. The next and final episode will cover my stay in Phnom Penh, the horrors of the Pol Pot regime and the wonders of the Angkor temples near Siem Reap.

*Chris Ballantine*

## *Letters, e-mails and faxes*

*We have changed the name of this column from 'Letter to the Editor' to 'Letters, e-mails and faxes' to broaden the outlook of the column and more accurately describe its contents...Ed.*

## **Release of the FSPB Coral Documentary on DVD**

All replies direct to:

Ray Curtis

7/9 Coral Dve

Jerrabomberra NSW 2619

Phone 02 6255 9426 or

Garry Prendergast

E-mail [pepev@internode.on.net](mailto:pepev@internode.on.net)

*The order form is attached as an annex so that you can order your own copy of the DVD...ED.*

## *Hi Coral/Balmoral Signal Veterans*

The documentary of the Battle of Coral was launched at University of Southern Queensland (USQ), Toowoomba, on Thursday, 14<sup>th</sup> May 2009. Three Signals Coral/Balmoral Veterans attended - Huey James, Mal Bennett and me. One Signal Veteran made his way into the documentary - Well done Peter Murray.

The documentary is great and a credit to Leonie Jones and all that assisted her in this important oral history of the largest battle for Australian Troops in the Vietnam War.

Attached is the ORDER FORM to purchase a copy of Leonie Jones' documentary via the 1RAR Coral Reunion Group. Please allow 2-3 weeks to be mailed.

The documentary, at present, is being pitched for the ABC and/or the History Channel. Once broadcast details, are known, I will e-mail the details.

Regards

*Denis Hare*

## **A brief on the 'Forgotten' Vietnam Battle...**

This is a documentary to Shed Light on 'Forgotten' Vietnam Battle. Some of the veterans gathered together for a launch of the documentary. For Vietnam veteran Rob Costello the Battle of Fire Support Base Coral in 1968 is still strong in his memory, despite the event being seen by many as the Vietnam War's 'forgotten' battle.

'The battle has a real lack of attention from the Australian public due to many reasons, be they political or the public's objections to the War at the time,' Mr Costello said. 'For the veterans we just want some acknowledgement and recognition.'

In what was the biggest and bloodiest battle of the Vietnam War for Australian soldiers, the Battle of Fire Support Base Coral claimed 26 Australian lives and lasted 26 days. In comparison Australia's most well known Vietnam War battle Long Tan only lasted four hours.

Now a new documentary directed by University of Southern Queensland (USQ) lecturer Leonie Jones, with the assistance of the University's Public Memory Research Centre, hopes to shed light on the battle and the stories of the many diggers involved in the conflict.

'About 250 Australian soldiers were involved in the conflict, which involved two major frontal attacks and then over the following four weeks 57 separate fire fights against a massive North Vietnamese Army (NVA) contingent,' Ms Jones said. 'There were 26 Australian casualties and hundreds of our soldiers wounded who only survived because they were able to get to US and Australian medical facilities quickly. 'It is a piece of Australian history that hasn't been told.'

Conducting a series of interviews and undertaking in depth research over a two year period, Ms Jones said that the project was a labour of love. 'The motivation for the documentary was really to get these diggers recognition as well as have on record their memories for future generations,' she said. 'Over

the two years I've conducted 125 interviews, of not only Australian soldiers but I also travelled to Vietnam and met with a group of NVA veterans to get their side of the story. "It was a complete (School of Creative Arts) USQ production, from the direction to the production of the documentary and I also received invaluable support from the Faculty of Art's Public Memory Research Centre.'

While the documentary no doubt raised some painful memories for the veterans, Mr Costello said that he was hopeful the documentary would help get him and his mates the acknowledgement that they deserved. 'We have been overwhelmed by the actions that Leonie has taken to get this documentary off the ground,' he said. 'All of the Veterans that were interviewed were happy to do so because we are determined to raise awareness of the battle.'

'We are working hard in finding public acceptance of the battle and this will help with that.' Last week a special launch of the documentary was held at the University, with Ms Jones expecting that the documentary will be broadcast nationally later in the year. 'At the moment we've pitched the documentary to the ABC and the History Channel so we are hopeful that either broadcaster will run it as part of Vietnam Veteran Day in August.'

Media Contact: Josh Ada, USQ Media  
07 4631 2559

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Denis Hare  
7 Sharwill Court  
(PO Box 115)  
Glasshouse Mountains Qld 4518  
Ph: 07 5438 7512  
Mob: 0419 334 535  
E-mail: [dhare@au104.org](mailto:dhare@au104.org)  
<<mailto:dhare@au104.org>>

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104 Sig Sqn Web Site [www.au104.org](http://www.au104.org)  
<<http://www.au104.org>>  
1 Combat Signal Regiment Web Site  
<http://1csr.au104.org>  
<<http://1csr.au104.org>>  
RASigs 40th Coral/Balmoral Web Site  
<http://coral-balmoral.au104.org> <http://coral-balmoral.au104.org>

# Tail-end Charlie

*One of our members, Dom. Sheridan has written this poem and has asked that it be published in the pages of THURUNKA. We are more than pleased to do so and thank him for his valued contribution.*

*Sig Alexander Young was a Lineman in 104 Signal Squadron, Royal Australian Corps of Signals, KIA in Vietnam, 16<sup>th</sup> May, 1968.*

*We take this opportunity to dedicate this poem to the memory of Sig Alexander Young and all others who paid the supreme sacrifice in the defence of their country...ED.*

## *The Liney* ©

*They say that running cable is a task for brave young men.  
For snipers love to pick them off before the day's 'amen'.  
But lineys are a special breed who love to get around.  
They hate the confines of the camp where army drill does sound.  
They might be wild young bushies or they might be life-guards too  
They might be free like dingoes all, or wild like kangaroo.  
They might be sportsmen one and all from cities far and wide  
But lineys have horizons great and freedom deep inside.  
Though members of the Signal Corps they work in dust and grime.  
With cable runs and switchboard shifts, in trench or trees they climb.  
And ev'ry liney knows his task as best a man can do  
A beast of burden with a skill, the liney's heart is true.  
A better mate you'll rarely find, the liney won't back down.  
He'll stand connected with his mates beneath the Army's Crown.  
And like those Sigs around the world who stride the silver globe  
The duty of the liney is to sneak and softly probe.*

*And when there's talk of mischief and the CO's beer is gone  
You'll find the liney in his tent with beer to sell anon.  
He'll risk his hide for industry and sow a quid or two  
He'll run a bar or game of swy; his mate the cockatoo.  
His enterprise is common to the Barber's forty thieves  
Though only for the fun and sport these things his mind conceives.  
And when he deems it proper he will damn the curs-ed regs  
He'll curse the day he ceased to crawl and stand on his two legs.  
The liney is the one who knows where all the units are  
He lays the cable to and froe; his street map near and far.  
And in his travels deals are done with blokes beyond the hue  
The liney is a cunning beast beneath the CO's view.  
They say that they are crazy, or perhaps a little mad;  
For ev'ry one is full of cheek, but never really bad.  
Their capers they are many and they always gad about.  
The liney is a larrikin; of this there is no doubt.*

But when it comes to duty and a job that must be done  
 You'll find the liney by his reel where duty is begun.  
 And on the field before his foe he lays his cable long  
 So signals may be sent to posts where wait some gathered throng.  
 That all important message must be sent with haste and care  
 For lives of those beyond the hue are hanging way out there.  
 To run across the vast anon they'll steel the land between  
 And join the posts beyond the hue where life is seldom seen.  
 Each one he knows the dangers of a run through no man's land.  
 But still the liney jogs along with cable-reel in hand.  
 And as he runs with stooping back to keep below the view  
 The liney's eyes are ev'rywhere about the lonely hue.  
 But unlike those young soldiers who will trot with blasting gun  
 The liney only takes his reel to mark his lonely run.  
 So off he goes with watchful eyes, those snipers he must clear  
 He'll run his cable's length till end beyond the land of fear.

And with his mate, the cockatoo, who'd watched when swy was on  
 He runs across the plateau in a desp'rate marathon.  
 And as they went they heard the wiz while sniper bullets fly  
 They run into the plateau's mouth where young men often die.  
 And as the reel un-wound its length of coiled black Don-10  
 The lineys watched with careful eye lest someone say 'amen'.  
 And in their kit an old K-phone and cutters dull from use  
 Their feet moved quick with feathered wings these two young sons of Zeus.  
 But still the snipers fired, while the lineys ran across.  
 They'll never stop with reel in hand, they'll never duty toss.  
 Their blistered hands were fraying and their strength was draining fast  
 It's funny how the plateau saps the will with ev'ry blast.  
 And as he ran that distance long, with reel unwinding fast  
 His mate stayed running by his side before the sniper's blast.  
 And then there came a fateful shot and wings the cockatoo  
 And down he fell, no more to warn, no more to life pursue.

With bullets flying all about and half the plateau run  
 The liney stopped to check his mate who fell from sniper's gun.  
 But there he lay on potter's field\* where strangers fill the earth  
 Each man will die it's sure enough; we know this from our birth.  
 They both had joined together and were always side by side  
 And now they sat on no man's land where one of them had died.  
 Then looking out beyond the hue the liney saw no end.  
 "This war will last forever now I've lost my closest friend."

*And as he said these mournful words his head bowed low with strain,  
 He stood up with the reel in hand to cross the fearful plain.  
 He heaved the weighty cable drum, unwinding as he went.  
 And ran like hell with all his might to reach some distant gent.  
 But as he ran each dreadful step he felt his life was run.  
 His heart lay on that plateau where his mate lay dead and done.  
 No more the games of swy and cheek; the time for fun had passed.  
 It's lonely on the plateau where there lay the war's outcast.*

*But still he had to make his run like lineys all must do.  
 He'd do it or he'd perish like his mate the cockatoo.  
 And as he crossed the plateau to those trenches out beyond  
 His heart was filled with deep regret for friendship's shattered bond.  
 But as he reached the trench's lip and tossed the cable in  
 A sniper's bullet grazed his neck and broke the liney's skin.  
 And down he fell upon the line, his mate the same had done  
 Their war had finished on that day when cables had been run.  
 When gods conspired to make a son; young Hermes<sup>†</sup> was his name  
 They clad his feet with feathers so his speed no man could tame.  
 Upon his head a wide brimmed hat with wings of silver true  
 And in his hand the herald's staff caduceus wrapt by two<sup>‡</sup>.  
 And as the message crossed the field beneath the lineys both  
 The liney's motto rang out true its fast and faithful oath:  
 "Certa Cita"<sup>§</sup> was the call and all those Sigs will say  
 That when a message needs to go 'the liney knows the way'.*

D.P.G. Sheridan  
 18/4/2007

\* "Potter's Field" Matt. 27:7 A burial place for strangers - called 'Haceldama' (the 'Field of Blood')

† Hermes is the original Greek name for the god Mercury

‡ Caduceus is the name of the herald's staff carried by Hermes on the Royal Australian Corps of Signals' insignia. It has two snakes wrapt around it representing those which once attached themselves to the staff after Hermes had found them fighting and laid it between them.

§ Sure and fast

(D.P.G. Sheridan © 2007)