



# THURUNKA

June 2011

Newsletter of the  
Royal Australian Signals Association (NSW) Inc.  
Patron MAJGEN R.P. Irving AM PSM RFD (Retd)

Incorporating the  
Aust. Lines of Communication Signals Association



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## Coming Events - 2011

*Update your diary NOW!*

| Activity                                        | Day        | Date          | Time            | Location                       |
|-------------------------------------------------|------------|---------------|-----------------|--------------------------------|
| Reserve Forces Day Parade                       | Sun        | 3 Jul         | 1030 hrs        | Sydney                         |
| <b>Committee Meeting 4</b>                      | <b>Wed</b> | <b>27 Jul</b> | <b>1100 hrs</b> | <b>RACA Club</b>               |
| Battle for Australia Service                    | Wed        | 7 Sep         | 1100 hrs        | Cenotaph Sydney                |
| Rhumb Corps Luncheon                            | Wed        | 7 Sep         | 1200 hrs        | CTA Club                       |
| <i>THURUNKA</i> September edition Mid-September |            |               |                 |                                |
| <b>Committee Meeting 5</b>                      | <b>Wed</b> | <b>28 Sep</b> | <b>1100 hrs</b> | <b>RACA Club</b>               |
| * Eastern Region Corps Dinner                   | Nov        |               | 1900 hrs        | TBA                            |
| * DFSS Corps Dinner                             | Fri        | 4 Nov         |                 | Defence Force School of Sigs   |
| <b>Annual Memorial Service</b>                  | <b>Sun</b> | <b>13 Nov</b> | <b>1100 hrs</b> | <b>Signal Hill, South Head</b> |
| <b>Annual General Meeting</b>                   | <b>Sun</b> | <b>13 Nov</b> | <b>1230 hrs</b> | <b>Paddington RSL Club</b>     |
| * Committee Luncheon                            | Sun        | 4 Dec         | 1200 hrs        | TBA                            |
| Rhumb Corps Luncheon                            | Wed        | 7 Dec         | 1200 hrs        | CTA Club                       |

*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.

**Please note:** The Committee meetings now convene at 1100 hours, still at the Royal Automobile Club. And that the AGM and Annual Memorial Service are now on 13th

### Battle for Australia Day

#### Commemorative Service

Cenotaph, Martin Place, Sydney

1030 hrs for 1100 hrs,  
7<sup>th</sup> September, 2011

More details inside

### RESERVE FORCES PARADE

The Domain, Sydney  
on  
SUNDAY, 3<sup>rd</sup> JULY 2011



The Reserve Forces Day Council acknowledges the important role of the family's support for Reserve Service.

**DETAILS INSIDE**

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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@hotmail.com](mailto:thurunka@hotmail.com)  
NO LATER THAN  
19<sup>th</sup> August 2011.

# Coming Events . . . .

## Reserve Forces Day 2011 Parade

### *Year of the Reservist's Family*

**In** 2011 The Reserve Forces Day Council will acknowledge the important role of the family's support for Reserve Service.

A Reservist's service is unique and this is the reason the Reserve Forces Day Committee (RFDC) will acknowledge the family and in particular the spouse or partner of a serving or former Reservist by awarding that person with a Medallion in recognition of their wonderful support. The Medallion is 50mm in diameter and has the inscription "AWARDED IN RECOGNITION OF YOUR SUPPORT TO RESERVE FORCES" bordering the face of the medallion within a reflex blue infill and a clear cover of epoxy. The RFDAY logo is in the centre. The attractive medallion is golden and the logo and inscription are surrounded by gold. A royal blue neck ribbon adorns the Medallion within a presentation box. A space on the reverse side provides for the recipient's name and for the member to have engraved their own words of thanks for the years of support – which can be done later. The Medallion can be kept as a keep-sake. The medallion will only be presented to the eligible spouse or partner in person when they attend a RFDAY Launch or parade.

The ongoing objective of Reserve Forces Day is to raise the profile of the Navy, Army and Air Force Reserve Forces and to recognise serving and former Reservists and to thank families and employers for their support.

[From The RFDC website [www.rfd.org.au](http://www.rfd.org.au)]

### The Sydney Parade

*The parade will be reviewed by Her Excellency Professor Marie Bashir AC CVO, Governor of New South Wales accompanied by Sir Nicholas Shehadie AC OBE.*

#### **INFORMATION FOR MARCHERS**

The parade is only for serving and former members of the forces.

#### **NEATNESS OF DRESS AND GENERAL BEARING**

The Reserve Forces Day Parade is a military style parade and former members take pride in their unit Association turn out, as we did when we were serving. As a result the Association has taken the lead by adopting a uniform Association dress code.

#### **Dress Code for this year's Parade.**

**Beret:** Headwear is so important, as it unifies all marchers and is not expensive to purchase. Our Association has adopted the

beret to help standardise the headwear; dark blue is the correct colour for the RASigs. As a reminder the head band must be level and not more than 25mm/one inch above eyebrows with join at centre rear, with ribbon neatly knotted and tucked in, cap badge above the left eye, top of the beret pulled over to right side. Berets and Corps badges are available from military memorabilia and uniform suppliers such as "Christies" of 276 Pitt St Sydney, Ph 02 9264 6751. The RSMs will be checking the dress on the day.

**Suit or Jacket:** A navy jacket or suit to be worn. RASigs Association dress code is a navy blue jacket, white or blue shirt, (preferred blue), grey trousers, black belt, black shoes; alternatively a sports coat.

**Tie:** Official Association or Corps tie.

**Lapel Badges:** It is suggested that one or two is adequate.

**Gloves:** White gloves should be worn by all members of Banner Parties, Standard Bearers and RSMs (and equivalent) for each formation and dress standardised.

**Medals:** Only officially issued decorations, campaign and service medals should be worn as appropriate. *Medals such as commemorative or souvenir medals - i.e. medals that are purchased not issued by the Government - must not be worn.* Unlike ANZAC Day Reserve Forces Parades are a celebration of service and traditionally relative's medals are not worn.

**Saluting:** Leading members of Contingents wearing headwear are requested to salute to Her Excellency when marching past the dais.

**Serving Members' Dress:** We would like you to wear ceremonial uniform (for officers less sword). Otherwise please attend in the civilian dress as detailed above. This may make it easier for you to attend Association re-unions.

**Medallions:** The Reserve Forces Day Committee (RFDC) will acknowledge the family, and in particular the spouse or partner, of a serving or former Reservist by awarding that person with a Medallion in recognition of their wonderful support. (Nominations have already been accepted and closed. Further nominations will not be accepted)

#### **CEREMONIAL CONTINGENTS**

Ceremonial contingents comprising serving and former members are to form up in the area of Central Ave in the Domain opposite the Art Gallery of NSW by 1030hrs. Look for our RASigs Standard in the 2nd Division Formation. Enter via Art Gallery Road. If you are being driven to the parade please alight from the vehicle in the lay-back in front of the Gallery.

Report to our Association Sergeant Major (red ASM arm band) to ensure you know your position and where to go to when asked to fall in.

**Date:** Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2011.

**Location:** The Domain, Sydney. FUP is in Central Avenue in the Domain opposite the Art Gallery of NSW (behind Parliament House & Sydney Hospital).

**Format:** This will be a traditional military style parade with Associations marching on to a parade ground in The Domain, a Review by the Governor and a march past with salute to the Governor. The Association Banner and Standard will be on parade.

**Theme:** The Reserve Forces Day Council will acknowledge the important role of the family's support for Reserve Service.

**Timings: Medallion Presentation**

|                                                |         |
|------------------------------------------------|---------|
| Assoc Pres and Escorts arrive at FUP           | 0915hrs |
| Assoc Escorts' Briefing                        | 0915hrs |
| Assoc Escorts welcome and seat Recipients      | 0915hrs |
| Briefing to Recipients                         | 0945hrs |
| Recipients move to presentation area           | 1020hrs |
| Presentations commence                         | 1030hrs |
| Presentations end and return to seating/parade | 1045hrs |

**Parade**

|                        |         |
|------------------------|---------|
| Marchers Assemble from | 1000hrs |
| Form up by             | 1030hrs |
| March on               | 1100hrs |

**Morning tea & light refreshments** will be available in The Domain for a gold coin donation

**Re-union:** Ship Inn Hotel, Circular Quay. The RASigs informal get-together is again at the Ship Inn, Circular Quay, corner of Pitt and Alfred Streets, Sydney after the parade. This is the opportunity to get together with old and new,

serving and retired, members and friends of the Corps. Light meals are available from the bar.

Should you have any enquiry either contact a committee member or The Reserve Forces Day Committee information line on 02 9908 1863,

You do not live in Sydney? Similar parades are being conducted around Australia. Check the RFDC website [www.rfd.org.au](http://www.rfd.org.au) for further details and contacts.

Here is a list of contacts for the RFDay the Parades being conducted in NSW.

**CAUTION:** Parade Dates, timings and activities vary from parade to parade.

**Murwillumbah:** Contact: Kevin Cheetham; 'phone 02 6672 2550; mobile: 0428 850 842.

**Newcastle:** Contact: Fred Goode; phone: 0419 426 067.

**Parkes:** Contact Greg Godde; 'phone: 02 6861 2380; mobile: 0429 398 236.

**Sydney:** Contact Ian Meek; 'phone: 02 9451 7636; moile: 0423 209 394.

**Taree:** Contact Darcy Elbourne; 'phone: 02 6552 5519; mobile: 041 3841 422.

**Tamworth:** Contact: Barry Follington; 'phone: 02 6765 8816; mobile: 0427 024 609.

**Wagga Wagga:** Contact: John Bowman; mobile: 0413 008 109.

*The Association supports the Reserve Forces Day Parade and encourages members to attend the Parade and the re-union.*

*Spread the word and bring a mate along. ...ED*

## Battle for Australia Day Commemorative Service, Sydney

The Battle for Australia memorial service is to be conducted at the Cenotaph, Martin Place, Sydney on Wednesday, 7<sup>th</sup> September 2011 commencing at 1050hrs.

If you are attending the memorial service you are requested to be at the service at least 20 minutes prior to the scheduled start time so that the service can start on time. (Remember - the earlier you get there - the better chance of a good position.)

### *...and afterwards....*

Why not join us at the **Rhumb Corps Luncheon** to be conducted at the CTA Club, up Martin Place, across Pitt Street, (the mushroom building on the corner of Castlereagh Street). Meet in the Bistro lounge (Level two, one level down from the club's foyer). Just follow the crowd of Signallers.

# Recent Events . . . .

## ANZAC Day - Sydney, 2011

It was a wet and miserable day in Sydney on ANZAC Day, however that did not prevent over 80 members marching under the Association Banner in the Post WW2 Signals contingent. Fortunately the rain held off for just enough time to complete the march in a relatively dry state.

Our Secretary, Mike McEvoy represented the Association at a dawn service at Georges Heights, Mosman and committee member Barry Izzard attended the Sydney Cenotaph Dawn Service on our behalf. They were not as lucky keeping dry.

From past experience members were requested to form up from 1000 hrs for an anticipated march off within 1-1½ hours. To our surprise marshals were frantically trying to form up the post-WW2 contingents at 1030 hrs for immediate march-off. At that time our Banner Party from the 8th Signal Regiment was elsewhere with the WW2 2nd Divisional Signals Association Banner.

Volunteers from the old and bold were dragooned to form the Banner and Flag Party, however as luck had it, the march slowed down before Martin Place for sufficient time for our uniformed Banner Party to dash across the city and take up their positions.

The 17th Signal Regiment provided the Banner Party for the *Australian Lines of Communication Signals Association* whose small group of WW2 veterans completed the march in the back of a Land Rover. The support of the 8th and 17th Signal Regiments on the day certainly enhanced our turn-out and I understand we received good television coverage. No doubt having our member, Kinsey McDonald as the ABC Television ANZAC Day coverage consultant has assisted us over the years.

I think for the first time ever, the main group arrived at the reunion venue by 1130 hrs – at least an hour ahead of past years. Whilst the numbers at the re-union were down from the last couple of years, the publican estimated about 400 Association and Corps members were present. There



### Association 'On Parade'

Our President, Chris Ballantine, leads the Association in the Sydney Parade. The Banner Party was from the 8<sup>th</sup> Signal Regiment

were many re-unions between the old and bold as well as between the many serving soldiers, many of whom wore an impressive array of medals. As usual, the hotel's hospitality with gratis hot snacks and many complimentary drinks was appreciated and we look forward to our partnership in the future.

Our Treasurer, Peewee Johnston, established a good ambush position by the main door of the hotel and was able to maximize new memberships and renewals. Over 30 new members joined on the day. Peewee even managed to screw \$10 donations out of non-corps blow-ins!

Another successful ANZAC Day in Sydney.

*Chris Ballantine*

President



### Aust Line of Comms Sigs Assn 'On Parade'

Some of the Aust Line of Comms Sigs Assn members.

(L-R) Tony Cohen, Jack Rawling, Noel Makin, Norm McMahon, Walter Spratt, John Ryan.

## Lest We Forget

### HOW 1 SIG REGT REMEMBERED

TO all former and current RASigs personnel  
The Dawn Service was conducted at 1st Signal Regiment to commemorate ANZAC Day 2011; approximately 650 people were in attendance.

The Dawn Service was attended by 1st Signal Regiment, HQ 1st Division, 136th Signal Squadron, Joint Movement Control Centre, and hundreds of current and former members and their families.

The Catafalque Party was made up of the following Corps: RASIGS, RAAOC, RACT and RAEME.

WO1 Wayne McMillan,  
RSM 1 Sig Regt



The image is of the foreground of the Memorial with 23 F88 Styers inverted into the ground with Slouch Hats adorning the weapons with each weapon lit with a single candle to illuminate them. The 23 weapons symbolise the 23 Australian soldiers who have made the ultimate sacrifice on Op SLIPPER in the MEAO. The image was taken by WO2 **J.J. McKeown** (ART ELEC)

### 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.*

### Medical Survey into the use of solvents in the ADF

RASigs technicians and operators used solvents as cleaners for communications equipment and vehicles. I am sure that many of these solvents are probably now banned owing to Occupational Health & Safety legislation.

All recipients are requested to forward this on to their network members for their own consideration.

If YOU can assist, please reply direct to:

Eric Gimm

[gimms@internode.on.net](mailto:gimms@internode.on.net); and  
Russell Walker  
[russell.walker@three.com.au](mailto:russell.walker@three.com.au)  
Regards

*Ted (Blue) Hawkins*

### Russell Walker's e-mail to Ernie Grimm

*The following e mail has been received from Russ Walker who is trying to assess the relevance of tinnitus to chemical exposure so that this might be included in our health submissions. This interest has stemmed from information received from RAN sources.*

*The e-mail reads...*

Hi Ernie,

I have just had a two year review of my hearing last week and the audiologist asked if I had past chemical exposures because I have bilateral tinnitus which severely affects my hearing.

Would you be able to canvas the population seeking input from those with tinnitus? It would be valuable to ask whether people have:

- Tinnitus of any form

- Single ear tinnitus
- Bilateral tinnitus (both ears)
- The severity of the tinnitus
- Whether it affects sleep
- Whether it affects emotions
- Any other effects
- How much it affects hearing clearly
- Whether hearing aids are worn
- How effective are the hearing aids in managing tinnitus?
- Specify their Service work environment in relation to chemical exposures

We could then add this to our survey database.

Thanks

*Russ*

*End of e-mail*

Should you be experiencing problems as outlined above, we would like to hear from you.

My e-mail address for submissions is:

[gimms@internode.on.net](mailto:gimms@internode.on.net); or

Russell Walker at

[russell.walker@three.com.au](mailto:russell.walker@three.com.au)

Regards,

*Ernie Gimm*

# Association Matters

Association website: <http://www.rasigs.com/nsw>

*As you may know, our Secretary, Mike McEvoy, beavers away in the background, behind closed doors, managing and administering the affairs of the Association. From time to time he has matters that he wishes to bring to your attention, so we have introduced 'From the Secretary's Desk', where such matters can be raised; here is such a matter...ED.*



## FROM THE SECRETARY'S DESK

*In March I received a lovely letter from long-time Member of the Association, Shirley Rae:*

*Dear Mike*

Thank you for helping me. I joined the CMF WRAAC in 1958 attached to the RASIGS CORPS. I worked on the teleprinter at Dundas and Victoria Barracks. We were one of the few CMF groups to be taught cipher.

I worked as a civilian Physiotherapist from 1964 to 1990, I rejoined the Army in the Medical Corps to 1980. In that time I served in South Vietnam. I am a Member of the 1<sup>st</sup> Aust Field Hospital Association but I always preferred the Corps of Signals; I would have transferred back if I could.

Thank you for helping me subscribe to the RA Sigs Corps Fund.

Yours sincerely,

*Shirley E Rae*

*It has been a pleasure to assist Shirley, who like some others, does not have the means to make a payment online.*

*Mike McEvoy*

Secretary  
RASigs Ass'n (NSW) Inc.

## Welcome

**WELCOME** to our New Members. This year we had nearly forty new members join us over the past three months, most joining at our re-union on ANZAC Day. We welcome you all and trust that your membership will be a positive experience to us all. Unfortunately, the membership list is not available at the moment as the Treasurer is away on personal business. We will advise you of the new members in the next edition of THURUNKA.

## Annual Subscriptions

### *A gentle reminder...*

If you have not yet responded and paid your annual subscriptions from the last issue of THURUNKA, please remit you subscription now, while it is fresh in your mind. Also, if any of the details on the docket are in error please advise us by correcting the slip with your remittance.

You are requested to keep up-to-date and make your remittance by the end of June to the Treasurer.

Mr Allan Johnston  
PO Box 85  
SURRY HILLS NSW 2010

If you want, you can pay more than one year's fee in advance. You may pay as many years in advance as you want. *Now you can pay by direct deposit.* Simply deposit your remittance in the Association's bank account:

Royal Australian Signals Association (NSW) Inc.  
BSB 112 879.  
Account No 126 925 501.

**Then advise** the Treasurer of the deposit, with your name, date and time of transaction, so that he is able to trace your deposit. Or put your name in the deposit transaction.

**Receipts** are available for cash payments. If you require a receipt just ask. If you are paying by post and require a receipt; please enclose a stamped, self-addressed envelope with your remittance.

If you are not sure about your financial status, please contact the Treasurer, Allan 'Peewee' Johnston, on TPN 02 9319 0893 or by post to PO Box 85 SURRY HILLS NSW 2010.



*Norm McMahon has advised us of the following members from the Australian Lines of Communication Signals Association who have fallen since our last edition of THURUNKA...ED.*

**VALE - WF56813 Sigwmn. Merla Murphy** (Nee Thomas), 17 L of C Signals. Enlisted 17/7/1943 - Discharged 16/11/1945.

**VALE - NX168639 Sigmn. John Cochrane**, 13 Line Maint. Sec. Enlisted 17/5/1943 - Discharged 22/8/1946.

**VALE - NX151880 Cpl. Edward O. Spencer**, 19 L of C Signals. Enlisted 8/1/1940 - Discharged 11/10/1945.

**VALE - NX161114 Sigmn. Elvin M. Spratt**, 12 Tech. Maint. Sec. 17 L of C Signals. Enlisted 1/4/1943 - Discharged 21/10/1946.

**VALE - H.V. McDonald** - ex Aust Lines of Comms Sigs Assn.

### **Vale from Blue Hawkins**

*Blue has advised us of the following.*

**VALE - John Patrick Laurie**  
38104 SGT (ret) John Patrick (Blue) LAURIE  
104 Sig Sqn Vietnam  
Date of Birth 20 October 1937  
Date of Death 16 April 2011  
<http://www.vietnamroll.gov.au/VeteranDetails.aspx?VeteranId=1267931>  
'Blue' passed away 16th April 2011 in a hospital at Burnie Tasmania. Blue came to Burnie about nine years ago. He had served 27 years in the Army and was a bus driver afterwards - in Sydney I believe. I met him in 139 Sig Sqn at Enoggera in 1968 and he went with the group to Nui Dat 104 Sig Sqn in Jan 1969. He was called 'Blue' for obvious reasons then and I recognised him

immediately 30 odd years later. He was a Corporal Radio Operator and he told me he spent little time at Nui Dat but was in the field with, I think, 6 RAR, does that seem right? He came from Port Macquarie and from a large family of Lauries I believe. John was a member of The Burnie & Districts Branch of the VVAA.

I hope somebody from his 104 Sig Sqn days remembers him.

Regards and thanks for all that you do,

*Paul Stott*

*I recall serving with 'Blue' Laurie at 504 Air Support Signals Unit, Mosman NSW in the mid-1960s.*

*Chris Ballantine.*

**VALE - Karl Maurice Giersch**  
327416 CPL Karl Maurice (Frogger) Giersch  
School of Signals  
1st Signal Regiment  
152nd Signal Squadron, Special Air Service Regiment  
6th Signal Regiment  
7th Signal Regiment (EW)  
139th Signal Squadron  
South Queensland Logistic Group  
Karl served from 5 March 1986 to 9 September 1996

It is with sadness and regret that we were advised of Frog's passing. Frog was a valued family man, servant of Australia and the Royal Australian Corps of Signals. He will be sorely missed by his family and friends. Messages of condolence may be forwarded to:

Mrs Sue Giersch & Family  
1A Carrington St  
Balwyn North VIC 3104  
P 03 9816 4965

E [Karl.Giersch@optus.com.au](mailto:Karl.Giersch@optus.com.au)

**VALE - Vale Norman Duncan**

316875 SGT (ret) Norman Gregory ('Duncs') Duncan  
Transport Supervisor

It is with sadness and regret that we have been advised of the passing of another valued servant of Australia, the Royal Australian Corps of Signals and a good mate. He will be sorely missed by his family and friends.

'Duncs' did not see overseas service but his guidance of those he served with was invaluable to them when they went. I am sure that those who remember 'Duncs' remember his passion for a cold ale and I for one will raise a glass on Friday to his memory.

Messages of condolence may be forwarded to the family via his son:

Wayne Duncan  
M 0417 746 840

E [wayneduncan76@hotmail.com](mailto:wayneduncan76@hotmail.com)

Eternal Rest Grant Unto Him O Lord;  
May He Rest in Peace

*It is with sadness and regret that we have been advised of the passing of these valued servants of Australia and the Royal Australian Corps of Signals.*

*They will be sadly missed by families and friends.*

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

*Ted (Blue) Hawkins*

Phone 07 5499 3704

*Lest We Forget*



## CORPS MATTERS

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

### 104 SIGNAL SQUADRON NATIONAL REUNION 4 to 6 November 2011



### WEEKEND ON THE GOLD COAST At Twin Towns Services Club (Coolangatta/Tweed Heads)

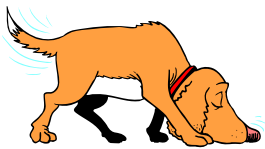
#### It's time to book your accommodation and complete registration.

All former and current members of RASigs and (especially) RNZSigs and USA Sigs who served with RASigs Units are invited to attend. Families and Friends welcome  
From: Denis Hare  
Subject: 104 Sig Sqn National Reunion  
4-6 Nov 2011  
For SIGS NET  
Reunion arrangement going well and

many have registered.  
However for anyone coming, it's time to book your accommodation and complete registration.  
The reunion web site has details of the reunion plus attendees, etc.  
Go to: 104 Sig Sqn National Reunion 4-6 Nov 2011  
<http://2011.au104.org>  
(All Sigs and Friends welcome)  
Regards  
*Denis*  
104 Reunion Committee

Denis Hare  
PO Box 115  
Glasshouse Mountains QLD 4518  
P 07 5438 7512  
M 0419 334 535  
E Home: [dhare@au104.org](mailto:dhare@au104.org)  
E Reunion: [reunion2011@au104.org](mailto:reunion2011@au104.org)  
W 104 Sig Sqn: [www.au104.org](http://www.au104.org)  
W Reunion: <http://2011.au104.org>  
Update your contact details with Reunion Committee ASAP.  
Go to <http://2011.au104.org/details.htm>

## Breaking News - ER Corps Dinner



OUR 'Sooper Snooper Trooper' has been out and about sniffing around the conferences of the 'Powers That Be' to sniff out the date of the Eastern Region Corps Dinner.

He found out that the DFSS Corp Dinner is scheduled for the 04/11/11. It is hoped that in the next edition of *THURUNKA* we should have the date for the ER Corps Dinner. It is rumoured to be at Victoria Barracks Officers' Mess (VBOM) and is expected to be on either Sat 5 Nov or Fri 25 Nov.

It is also expected that there will be a larger roll out of numbers this year because LTCOL Gary Barnes will be attending. Gary will have completed nearly 41 years of continuous service when he retires on 7 Nov 11. He is the

last continuous serving National Serviceman and Scheyville graduate (probably the longest current serving member of the Corps? Any Challenges?) and is well known throughout RASIGS and Army. Gary does not want a formal dinner to farewell him, but is happy to attend a "normal" RASIGS dinner. Gary plans to retire in the Philippines; he has just finished three years in Manila as the Asst DA and plans to return to live like a "king". So this will be an opportunity to farewell him. This is the main reason they are trying to 'de-conflict' with the main RASIGS dinner so GEN Milford (who knows Gary well) will be able to attend.

## RASigs 40th Anniversary Reunion Vietnam 15th to 22nd August 2012

### Warning Order and Date Claimer

THE 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the withdrawal of Signallers from Vietnam falls next year, 2012.

In conjunction with this major event ex members of RASigs are holding a re-union in Viet-Nam for all ex Sigs (Chooks), partners, family and friends, including our friends across the Tasman and the Pacific as well as associated Corps.

The Re-union will commence in Sai-Gon on 15th August then moving to Vung Tau for three nights and then back to Sai-Gon for the remaining two nights. We are having a concert in Vung Tau on the 17th and the next day a service will be conducted at the Long Tan Cross. The 19th will be a day visiting Nui Dat and Long Phuoc. The full itinerary is still being compiled and amended.

Consider this Warning Order a date-claimer to get you thinking of where you could spend your holidays in 2012. There are many special flights as this period is in the low season.

If you're interested, please send all names, including those of any partners, family or friends to [rasigsvn@hotmail.com](mailto:rasigsvn@hotmail.com).

A list of people intending to come is already before us (see the Attendees) and we are thinking realistically that 200 could be the maximum we can handle; (i.e. 5 coaches x 40).

If any of you are looking to book pre- or post-tours, a list of tours compiled by our tour operator in Vietnam, Mr Thai are shown on our Tours Page.

Some suggestions for you adventurous types are Sa Pa and/or Ha Long Bay in the north, Nha Trang/Da Nang on the central coast, Da Lat in the highlands, the mighty Mekong and the Cu Chi Tunnels or perhaps Angkor Wat/Siem Riep in Cambodia.

We welcome you to join us in Viet-Nam for what should prove to be a memorable trip back in time.

*Gregg*

Gregg Dickson  
Committee Chairman  
RASigs Reunion Vietnam August 2012  
[rasigsvn@hotmail.com](mailto:rasigsvn@hotmail.com)



## DEFENCE FORCE SCHOOL OF SIGNALS UPGRADE

ON 2 MAY 2011 new facilities at the Defence Force School of Signals (DFSS), Watsonia were opened by the Defence Parliamentary Secretary David Feeney.

A new three-story building will provide state-of-the art training facilities for more than 500 sailors, soldiers and air-men each year as they train in communications, information systems and electronic warfare.

The DFSS was established in 2002 with the amalgamation of disparate single-service schools and came together at the former Army School of Signals, Simpson Barracks, Watsonia, Victoria. A detached training wing at HMAS Cerberus is expected to move to the new facility during 2012.

The CO DFSS is Lt-Col Chris Rule.

*Source: Army Newspaper 26 May 2011*

### Show of interest in "Jimmy Statue"

RASIGS official website - <http://www.army.gov.au/rasigs/> - lots of information for current and former members of RASigs FYI below from the Corps RSM.

All of us oldies received a plaque with brass/metal/ anodised 'Jimmy' when we retired after our 20 plus years. Whilst this was the accepted practice at the time, it seems that the Corps is now considering upgrading the presentation to a modern equivalent. I think this is a great idea and my preference would be for the 9 inch (22.5 cm) sculpture at approx \$130 each; to my way of thinking, the 9 inch sculpture (22.5 cm) would be modest and understated whilst the 12 inch sculpture (30 cm) would seem loud and ostentatious.

All replies direct to:  
WO1 Mark Gaskell  
RSM

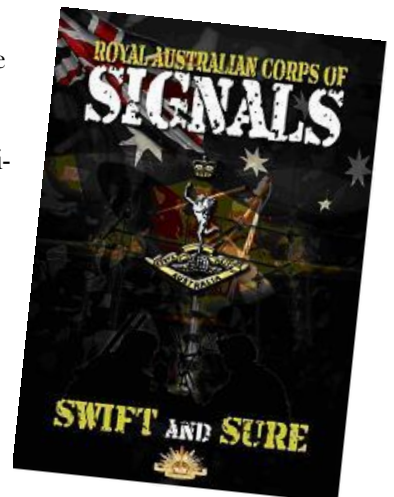
### Signalman Magazine Linked To Us

THE 2010 *Signalman* magazine is now linked to our website, [rasigs.com](http://rasigs.com), as well as its own website,

[www.signalman.com.au](http://www.signalman.com.au). Take the time to have a read and pass it on to all past and present members and their families and friends.

Feedback (via feedback button in magazine) would be greatly appreciated in order to make future editions better.

*Please note that Signalman magazine is only available at the above websites as hard-copy's are not produced. ED.*



## Perfect FIT for ADF on operations

By CPL Zenith King

A FORCE Installation Team (FIT) of six soldiers deployed to the Solomon Islands to maintain and provide communications to CTF 635.

LT Alison Heenan, of 17th Signal Regiment, said the team's main role was to supply the cabling to provide connectivity to the ADF while on operations.

"When new infrastructure is built we fit out the empty offices with everything required so that people can do their jobs, and for infrastructure already established check to ensure its serviceability," LT Heenan said.

She said the FIT was doing clean installations for the new logistic facility being built as well as fixing up a lot of cabling already in place that did not meet accreditation standards.

Aside from computer infrastructure, the team ensured phone lines were set up to meet the task force requirements.

"This includes the office phone lines and the welfare phones," LT Heenan said.

LCPL Clayton Browne, 17 Sig Regt, said the most time-consuming job had been the maintenance of existing infrastructure,

"In many of the buildings there was a lot of cable and old infrastructure that wasn't up to accreditation," LCPL Browne said.

"We had to remove all the old stuff, but to do that we had to put up the new infrastructure, which includes PVC pipes to run the lines through first to ensure that communications were maintained at all times.

"First we ran all our cables and put up our conduit according to what was required in each work space. We then had a planned outage to transfer everything over to the new system and remove all the old stuff"

The time it took for the team to complete each building

varied greatly depending on how many services were required.

"It can be as simple as putting an outlet in the wall and connecting it to the current infrastructure, but when you need to put in new switches it can become lime consuming," LCPL Browne said.

He said most of the work was carried out at night. "Everyone's workplace is our workplace, so we just try to work out what the best time is without disturbing everyone

LCpl Browne said at the Rove observation post the team climbed the tower to ensure all the nuts and bolts were secure and the antennae were working correctly.

"Once the riggers are up the tower techs on the ground can test the antennae and make sure they are to specification," he said. "If they are damaged we can replace the connectors or we can replace the whole cable."

The FIT deployed for five weeks and returned home in mid-August.

## Major Network Power Boost

AUSTRALIAN bases in Afghanistan will benefit from upgraded communication networks from mid 2012 under the Operational Data Exchange Network Expansion (ODENE). The expansion of the network will include enhanced video conferencing and linking voice over internet protocol with tactical radio networks.

The expansion will reach from Tarin Kot to Australian patrol bases and give a "stepped" enhancement to the existing network. It will be more survivable than current systems and will provide a "data backbone" for coalition and Australian communication networks.

ODENE was designed and built by the Army's Land Network Integration Centre (LNIC) in Canberra.

*Army Newspaper*  
Edition 1257

### *In The Blue Corner*

#### Searching for CPL Gordon HASTIE

RASIGS 16686 CPL Gordon Donald HASTIE

506 Sig Tp & 709 Sig Tp Vietnam

<http://www.vietnamroll.gov.au/VeteranDetails.aspx?VeteranId=1272499>

If YOU have contact details for the

above member, please advise both:

RASigs E-mail Network and Contact Dbase

Ted (Blue) Hawkins

P 07 5499 3704

E [hawkins2@aapt.net.au](mailto:hawkins2@aapt.net.au)

and

Terry Bowes

P 03 6225 1075

E [terry.bowes@bigpond.com](mailto:terry.bowes@bigpond.com)

*Ted (Blue) Hawkins*

#### Assistance requested to rebuild e-mail address book

RSTT 17899 WO1 (ret) Raymond

Victor WILSON

110 Sig Sqn Vietnam

<http://www.vietnamroll.gov.au/VeteranDetails.aspx?VeteranId=1244747>

Ray has suffered that most horrible of

all happenings - a computer crash -

and wishes old and new mates to contact him ASAP so he can rebuild his email address book.

All replies direct to:

Ray & Lorraine Wilson

33 Panorama Drive

Beaudesert Qld 4285

P 07 55414915

E [bushbumswil@bigpond.com](mailto:bushbumswil@bigpond.com)

*Blue*

# FYI

## FOR YOUR INFORMATION

DISCLAIMER: The thoughts and ideas and any views expressed in the articles of THURUNKA are those of the contributors and are not necessarily those of The Royal Australian Signals Association (NSW) Inc. or the staff of THURUNKA. Nor are we able to attest to the accuracy of the information so contained. While contributions are welcome not all of them can be published. Those published may be edited for length and clarity. Contributions are acknowledged as from our source, unless otherwise informed. Contributions cannot be returned unless arrangements are made with the Editor prior to or upon submission of the contribution for publication. We encourage contributions and thank those who contribute to the pages of THURUNKA.

## UK Armed Forces Veterans Lapel Badge

Gentlepeople,

This could be of interest to any of our members with previous service in the British Forces.

I have the pin and it is very distinctive. It is the badge that I modelled on ANZAC Day. If you have previous service in the British Forces you may wish to apply for the lapel badge.

I can confirm that they are still issuing the badge to ex-service personnel who are now retired from HM Forces. Application forms and criteria can be accessed via the website: [www.veterans-uk.info](http://www.veterans-uk.info) and clicking onto the section "SERVICE RECORDS, MEDALS & BADGES".

I hope this is of help.

Regards

*Henry Jones*

## DVA Application for Certificate of Appreciation

The Department of Veteran's Affairs has available the Application for Certificate of Appreciation in relation to the service of members in the following conflicts:

- World War II
- BCOF (Japan)
- The Korean War
- The Malayan Emergency
- The Indonesian Confrontation
- The Vietnam War
- The Gulf War
- Peace Operations

The two-page application form is available from the Department of Veteran's Affairs.

The application needs to be completed and forwarded to the electoral office of your local Federal Member of Parliament. Presentation of your certificate will be organized in conjunction with your local Federal Member.

*Bob Ferrari*

National Secretary  
RA Armoured Corps Association  
(Vietnam vet)

## VIETNAM ON CANVAS

KEN MCFADYEN: AN ARTIST AT WAR



SANDRA FINGER LEE

The first comprehensive survey of the life and work of the late war artist Ken McFadyen has just been published.

*Vietnam on Canvas:*

*Ken McFadyen, an Artist at War*

presents a unique perspective on the Vietnam War, containing the personal and artistic reflections of a man who was both official war artist and fellow member of the Australian Task Force in Vietnam.

Barrallier Books has produced a deluxe hardcover book which contains the highest quality paper and bindings. The book's 230 mm x 230 mm format gives full effect to Ken McFadyen's remarkable realistic and tonal style paintings and sketches. Vietnam on Canvas contains many of the artist's works, some not previously published.

You can contact Barrallier Books:

By e-mail: [books@barrallierbooks.com](mailto:books@barrallierbooks.com)

By telephone: +61(0)2 62608873 (office)  
+61(0) 405587800 (mobile)

By Post: Ian Gordon, 40 Barrallier Street,  
GRIFFITH ACT 2603,  
AUSTRALIA

## Saffin welcomes recognition for Prisoners of War

PAGE MP Janelle Saffin has welcomed the Australian Government's move to provide former Prisoners of War with a new supplement in recognition of their special service and sacrifice.

Ms Saffin said the new Prisoner of War (POW) Recognition Supplement of an extra \$500 a fortnight would be in addition to current benefits available to former POWs.

"This is long overdue recognition for POWs, some of whom I have had the pleasure and honour of meeting during veterans' functions across the electorate," she said.

"These are special men; they deserve our gratitude and respect for their service to Australia during the Second World War and Korean War, and for having to endure the cruelty and deprivations in the POW camps.

"Their numbers may be dwindling with the passage of time, but there are more than 900 former POWs nationwide, and up to 400 of them living in New South Wales."

Twenty-one former POWs from the Second World War and Korean War joined Prime Minister Julia Gillard and the Minister for Veterans' Affairs Warren Snowdon for the announcement at Kirribilli House. Ms Gillard said the payment acknowledges the severe hardship suffered by our former POWs. POWs were subjected to horrific conditions and many returned home with physical and psychological

scars that will stay with them for the rest of their lives. Minister Snowdon paid tribute to the diggers who looked out for their mates while in the POW camps, saying they reflected the Aussie spirit we are all so proud of.

The new supplement will apply from September 2011 and will be funded in the 2011-12 Federal Budget. It will cost \$27.2 million over the next four years.

Thursday, May 5, 2011.

Media Contact: Peter Ellem 0437 303 875.

Defence Force School of Signals

P 03 8481 8502

M 0419 442 938

E [mark.gaskell@defence.gov.au](mailto:mark.gaskell@defence.gov.au)

### *In The Blue Corner*

#### New e-mail Address Stuart Johnstone

My e-mail account [xaj02@live.com.au](mailto:xaj02@live.com.au) has a Trojan virus as such I am deleting that account. This is my new e-mail address: [edgembmmc@hotmail.com](mailto:edgembmmc@hotmail.com)

Regards

*S.M. Johnstone (aka Edge, 2Dogs)*

*Blue*

## RASigs Vietnam War Plaque installed at AWM Canberra

— at last!

*Dear Friend and Supporter,*

Andrew Smith of the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, advised me today by mail, as the AWM's RA Sigs representative, that the dedicated bronze plaque to commemorate the service of the Royal Australian Corps of Signals in Vietnam has now been installed in the Memorial's grounds. It is located in position number 157 on the southern side of the pathway linking the main car park to the Western Courtyard. In this important location it will be viewed by many visitors and become a focus for pilgrimage for all Vietnam veterans of our Corps.

I sincerely thank those who gave their support, assistance and/or encouragement to this long project of getting our plaque approved, designed, manufactured, dedicated and, at last, permanently positioned. I refrain from naming names for fear of unintentionally omitting someone very deserving.

Again I urge you all to kneel and touch our plaque when you visit so that future generations of your grandchildren and friends of your family can in turn kneel and touch you in body and spirit on this holy ground, remembering the



service you gave your country.

I also ask that when you visit, please remember the men of our Corps who died in Vietnam or as a result of their service there - Dennis Abraham, Denis Donnelly, Michael Gill, Barry Logan, Sydney Moore, David Wallis and Alex Young. Lest We Forget.

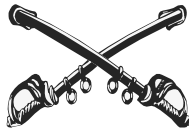
Best wishes, thanks and congratulations to you all.

Sincerely

*Peter Murray*

[pmurray@netspeed.com.au](mailto:pmurray@netspeed.com.au)

# Military history



*As we in Signals are aware, many of the members in our ranks were WRAAC personnel, before they were integrated into the units in 1984. Some of them are now members of our Association. They proved themselves capable reliable and efficient and were a nightmare for Sergeant Majors. We acknowledge their dedication to their duties and honour their service to their country in including these two articles in the pages of THURUNKA.*

*Happy Anniversary and Thank-you for a job well done....ED.*

## 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Women's Royal Australian Army Corps. Sydney, NSW - 11<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> February 2011.

Friday night 11<sup>th</sup> February 2011 at the Kirribilli Club in Kirribilli, four hundred and fifty ex WRAAC registered for the 60<sup>th</sup> Year Celebration of the WRAAC Corps, which was formed in 1951 and disbanded in 1985. Drinks and finger food were served amongst the backdrop of the continuous talking and laughing. A great night was had by all; so many familiar faces from years past.

Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> February 2011, we all gathered at the old WRAAC School site at Georges Heights for the dedication ceremony of a Memorial Plaque. Those capable joined the parade; filed six abreast; we marched through the specially re-created Kathleen Best Memorial Gates. (The original are now erected at Duntroon in Canberra).

The drill lesson by the Master of Ceremonies, WO2 Carolyn McMahon (Ret), prior to the march was beneficial; after a little practice we were good but not perfect. Our parade was reviewed by Her Excellency, Prof. Marie Bashir AC CVO, Governor of New South Wales.

Also in attendance were the Chief of Army, LTGEN. Ken Gillespie, The Hon. Bronwyn Bishop, Federal Member for Mackellar and Senator Michael Ronaldson representing The Hon Tony Abbot MP. There were many other official guests.



A ration pack (not the normal) was served for lunch. On Saturday night a formal dinner was held at the Kirribilli Club. Three hundred and fifty attended. The meal was excellent. The Guest Speaker, MAJGEN Liz Cosson, CSC (Retd) gave a very interesting talk, regarding her service in

Bombed:  
Soldiers in  
Darwin in 1942



both the WRAAC and the Australian Army as it is today.

On Sunday Morning a Church Service was held at the Rocks. Following the service we all gathered at Campbell Cove, for the departure on our four-hour harbour cruise. Whilst we boarded the vessel, the Royal Australian Army Cadet Band played many tunes especially for our group.

A large number of the ex WRAAC present were members of the RASIGS Corps. The reunion, in my view, was very well organised and enjoyed by all who attended. The organising committee has asked every member present to return to Victoria Barracks NSW in five years with an ex

WRAAC friend to celebrate the 65<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.

A book was published for the Anniversary:

*A Unique Corps - 1951-1985- 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Women's Royal Army Corps*

Submitted by Sally Napper (WRAAC) from 1971 - 1979

George Debnam

Daily Telegraph, 16 Feb 2011.

Sydney NSW.

## Women in Service

WAR TIME has a way of causing changes which could not have been previously envisaged. When Australia was in great danger in 1942 and servicemen of all skills were required to serve in forward areas there would have existed, a large gap in manpower to maintain the essential military system on our mainland. Enter the AWAS...that is the *Australian Army Women's Service*.

The AWAS of course had to be the forerunner of The Women's Royal Australian Army Corps the bestowment of the Title "Royal" being magnificently deserved for the service that women had given. There are very few if any jobs that they couldn't do. It is very difficult for the editor of this newsletter to write these things without appearing somewhat condescending but I should say that I have absolutely no doubt whatsoever that our fairer sex can do anything they put their minds to and do it extremely well. Engineering, maintenance and so on and in Britain at least, women were not allowed to fly in combat but were trained to fly in a transport ferrying type role. Deliver perhaps a Lancaster Bomber no problems and it happened all the time. It is only right to mention that women did serve over-

seas, in particular nurses, some tragically paying the supreme sacrifice.

Women have, over the years, provided fine service to Signals. Whatever task they were trained it would be executed in a way that only women are capable of, that is with dexterity, competence, talent and thorough loyalty. They were very spirited as well as there was a fair contingent of WRAACs at the School of Signals at Balcombe in the early sixties. They had their own barracks set away from the main camp so a very young and shy trainee Signaller could find it a bit daunting having copped the sometimes dreaded weekend duty at their barracks. Being the only male in the vicinity at the time you got looked at a lot and may even receive the occasional whistle. The best approach was to just mow the grass and keep your head down.

WRAACs first appeared at 7<sup>th</sup> Signal Regiment in 1965 to train as operators which was timely considering the commitments that the unit already had and were bound to increase with Vietnam hotting up. They made excellent operators, keeping the lads on their toes and those WRAACs who served in Singapore were highly esteemed by the powers to be there keeping in mind that the task in that place was a Commonwealth venture and had a mix of



Ex-WRAACs from 7 Sig Regt.

Army Navy, Air-force and civilian operators.

The picture above was lifted (with thanks) from the 7 Signal Regt newsletter and shows some of the ex-WRAACs who served with the 7th Signal Regiment.

Up until that time the unit was male only so having girls there was a bit strange considering the era where that old fashioned buffer of hesitant shyness existed between the sexes. There were the funny situations of course, operating a wireless set can be frustrating given interference from atmospheric, etc and occasionally an op would forget himself, let go a stream of invective being unaware that there were female operators present. Of course and as one can imagine this was considered "A hell of a joke" by those witnessing such an accident.

Where would be without these girls who filled in so many gaps whether it be in as a clerk, signaller, cook, or driver whatever their task our Army and Corps would have been much the poorer with their absence. Author not known Annexed to the '60th Anniversary of the WRAAC' article



WRAAC Sigs Operators.

## ***JAP ARMY RECCES "SECRET" TRUSCOTT AIRFIELD***

On the evening of the 14th January 1944 a special Japanese Army Reconnaissance party left Koepang in Timor on board a 25-ton fishing vessel called "Hiyoshi Maru". The party included:

- Lieutenant Susuhiko Mizuno
- Sergeant Morita
- Sergeant Furuhashi
- Lance Corporal Kazuo Ito (radio operator)
- 6 sailors
- 15 Timorese (used as decoys)

Their orders from the 19th Army Headquarters on Ambon Island were to land on the north-west shores of Western Australia. They were from the special "Maisu Kikan" (Pine-tree) secret agency which was commanded by Captain Masayoshi Yamamoto. They were all graduates of the Nakano Intelligence School.

Their mission was undertaken at the request of the Japanese Navy to verify intelligence received from Navy sources that the United States Navy was building a naval base at Admiralty Gull.

Lieutenant Susuhiko Mizuno's role was to:

- Look at the possibility of landing in Australia;
- Investigate the location for a landing place; and
- Look for the existence of military establishments.

They encountered a large storm and heavy seas and had to turn back to Koepang on the morning of the 15th January 1944. They departed again on the evening of 16th January 1944. The "Hiyoshi Maru" was given air cover for part of the voyage by a single Type 99 light bomber from the 7th Air Division based at Kendari. It was piloted by Staff Sergeant H. Aonuma with Hachiro Akai as Co-pilot.

On 16th January 1944, the aircraft was heading directly for Cartier Islet when it saw an Allied submarine heading in the direction of the "Hiyoshi Maru". The submarine saw the Japanese aircraft approaching and immediately began to dive. The Japanese aircraft only managed to fire two bursts of its machine guns at the submarine as it submerged. The tracer bullets could be seen hitting the submarine.

The Japs then dropped their six 50 kg bombs on the submarine. They then circled around the area three or four times to determine if they had hit it with one of their bombs. They suspected the submarine may have sustained some damage.

The aircraft continued south flying low to avoid the Allied radar sites situated along this remote coastline. They sighted the "Hiyoshi Maru" and continued south to try to locate Cartier Islet. When they could not find it they headed to the west. They then eventually located Cartier Islet.

At 9 am on 17th January 1944 the "Hiyoshi Maru" reached East Island which is actually a coral reef which is only

visible at low tide. They reached Browse Island at about 10 am on 18th January 1944. They landed on the island where they found the ruins of a watch house.

They stayed on Browse Island for about 3 hours. This was to time their arrival on the nearby Australian mainland. They left the Island at 1 pm on 19th January and the next morning, through a morning mist, they entered an inlet on the West Australian coast. They spotted some white smoke rising from a mountain and the mainland east of their location. They anchored by the shore at about 10 am on the 19th January 1944. The landscape in that area consisted of many red coloured rocks. They camouflaged the ship with tree branches and ate dried biscuits for lunch.

Three landing parties led by Lieutenant Susuhiko Mizuno, Sergeant Morita and Sergeant Furuhashi, went ashore and explored different areas of the Australian coast in that area for about two hours. They even took some 8-mm movie footage of what they saw. As it turned out they had landed only 25 km from where the RAAF was several weeks later to start building Truscott Airfield.

It was a very hot humid day. They all returned to the ship and reported to Lieutenant Susuhiko Mizuno on what they had seen. Besides some old campfires all they saw was lots of red rocks and lots of small trees. They slept on the ship that night and on 20th January 1944 they went ashore again and patrolled the area until about 2 pm. After finding nothing they decided to return to Timor.

This confirmed Japanese landing on the West Australian coast near Cartier Island and Browse Island coincided with suspected landing on Mornington Island and Rocky Island in the Gulf of Carpentaria.

### **Book References**

*The Hidden Chapters - Untold Stories of Australians at war in the Pacific* by Robert Piper.

## **Medal Mounting**

*Dear Ed*

Some time ago I had my medals mounted by Peter Scascighini of Gorakan; he did an excellent job at the right price. I have recommended him to quite a number of my friends and many have used his professional services. He can be contacted on 02 4392 4552 and would be happy to discuss possible mountings.

Cheers

*BT*

Barry Tinkler

*Thanks Barry. And to all who realised on ANZAC Day that your medals are due to be remounted, take advantage of this recommendation and contact Peter and get your medals ready for next time...ED.*

## Letters, e-mails and faxes

Dear Ed,

I am surprised that the "Ode To A Fullerphone" did not get a mention in the item in the September 2009 edition of **THURUNKA**. So I am including it in this missal to you as you may find a place for it in your next issue.

Regards

*Ray Beckett*

### Ode To A Fullerphone

By *Sigmn R. MELLOR*

*Published in Jimmy, the WW2 journal of the Royal Corps of Signals in the Middle East.*

What is my greatest joy in life,  
More precious even than my wife,  
So comforting 'midst all this strife?  
My Fullerphone.

How well I love your merry tricks;  
Even when your buzzer sticks;  
Delighting me with faint key clicks;  
Oh Fullerphone.

How tunefully your buzzer throbs  
As tenderly I turn those knobs.  
Most fascinating of all jobs.  
Oh Fullerphone.

Potentiometer, its true  
I'm not sure what to do with you.  
Yet even you add beauty to  
My Fullerphone.

Oh how I pity those poor souls  
Who daily work remote controls,  
Attached to crazy wireless poles.  
Oh Fullerphone.

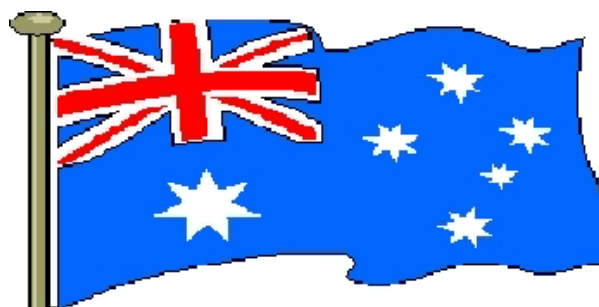
They never hear the tuneful tones  
Of perfect Morse within their 'phones:  
Just atmospherics, shrieks and groans.  
Oh Fullerphone.

But I must cease to write more verse.  
Communication getting worse.  
No wonder that I rave and curse  
At Fullerphone.

Asthmatic buzzers, - crazy keys.  
How can one live a life of ease,  
With damnful instruments like these  
Foul Fullerphones!

*Thanks for your contribution, Ray. We were not aware of the ode, but you have corrected that. It is appreciated and it is a great addition to the pages of THURUNKA...Ed.*

## Tail-end Charlie



### Our Flag

Our flag bears the stars that blaze at night  
In our southern sky of blue  
And that little old flag in the corner  
That's part of our heritage too.

It's for the English, the Scots and the Irish  
Who gave our Australia its birth  
And you who are shouting to change it  
You don't seem to understand  
It's the flag of our laws and language  
Not the flag of a farawayland.

There are plenty of people who'll tell you  
How when Europe was plunged into night  
The little old flag in the corner  
Was their symbol of freedom and light.

It don't mean we owe our allegiance  
To a forgotten imperial dream  
We've the stars to show where we're going  
And the old flag to show where we've been.

It's only an old piece of bunting  
It's only an old coloured rag  
But there are thousands who died for its honour  
And fell in defence of our flag.

- **Written by an anonymous Australian.**