

The Messenger

OF THE GODS

Official Newsletter of the Royal Australian Signals Association (SA) Inc.

RASIGS Association, PO Box 881, Kent Town, South Australia. 5071.

December 2016

Web site address www.rasigs.com

Disclaimer: The views expressed in articles in the “Messenger” are those of the writers/contributors and not necessarily those of the “Committee” or “General Membership” of the Royal Australian Signal Association (SA) Inc.

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Merry Christmas and a Happy 2017

From The President's Desk

Dear Members,

Here we are December already.

The year has been somewhat quiet for the Committee.

In January, the Association Committee did a BBQ for the 144 Sig Sqn members; was very successful.

The Anzac Day Lunch at the Strathmore Hotel was enjoyed by many after the march.

The 144 Sig Sqn 50th Birthday Celebration was held in August; a well-attended night by past and present members. On behalf of the Association a donation of \$250.00 was given for the event. Unfortunately, we did not have our Annual Corps Dinner this year, due to the National Signals Reunion being held during Corps Day week in Victoria.

A few Committee members and our Patron attended the Reunion.

Congratulations to Victoria, the Reunion went very smoothly.

I had the pleasure of attending The Lionel Matthews Award presentation at 16 AD Regt, Woodside Barracks on Thursday 1 December 2016, with David Matthews and Brian Melville. The afternoon was very well organised.



At the End of Year Parade for 144 Sig Sqn on Tuesday 13 December 2016, I was honoured to present the Jim Erwin Encouragement Award for the RASIGS Association SA, to a delightful soldier, Sig Grant Paproth. Thank you to all my Committee members for their contribution throughout 2016.

A special thank you, to our Treasurer, Rudi Dancis. He will not be standing for re-election in 2017.

The Treasurer position will be vacant and we are seeking a nomination from members of the Association.

Please do your best to attend this coming AGM and enjoy a meal and a few drinks with fellow Sig's.

The AGM will be held at 4.30pm on Sunday 5th February 2017 at 144 Signal Squadron, Keswick Barracks.

More information is available in the AGM documents attached.

As we prepare for the Christmas/New Year break. The Committee and I would like to wish all our members and families a very Safe, Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

See you at the AGM.

Regards
Sally Napper
President

Lionel Matthews Trophy 2016



The recipient of the Lionel Matthews Trophy for 2016 is SIG Alicia Baird of 16 Air Land Regiment Inverbrackie.

David Matthews made the presentation to SIG Baird in front of her peers in the Club 16 Woodside Bks on Thursday 1st of December.

Winning the trophy was a complete surprise and her parents were also invited without her knowing.

The Adjutant and CO of 16 ALR spoke respectively about Capt. Lionel Matthew's

Exploits and sacrifice whilst a POW in Sandakan during WW2 and also the significance of the award to all Royal Australian Corps of Signals members serving in S.A. David Matthews gave an outline of the winner's accomplishments and many qualities.

He also explained how her personal integrity, dedication to duty and acceptance of responsibility beyond her status had ticked all the boxes of the trophies criteria.



RASIGS Assn SA President Sally Napper and Brian Melville also attended. Congratulations SIG Baird.

Membership

Membership subscription is due on 1 January 2017 and must be received by 31 January

2017; please note annual membership is now \$10. To ensure continuity of your membership **please pay your subscription by 31 January 2017.**

Payment can be made by the following methods:

- **PayPal** and accessed through the website www.rasigs.com (please note small surcharge by PayPal)
- **Direct to: Commonwealth Bank, Salisbury Branch.**
Account Name: Royal Australian Signals Association South Australia
BSB: 065 122 Account Number: 00904932
Reference: Your Name

Or

- **Cheque/money order to the Secretary, RASigs Association SA, PO Box 881 KENT TOWN SA 5071**

Long ago and far away!! (Courtesy RASigs Association QLD)

HISTORY NOT taught in High School!

Tinian Island, Pacific Ocean. It's a small island, less than 40 square miles, a flat green Dot in the vastness of Pacific blue. Fly over it and you notice a slash across its north end of uninhabited bush, a long thin line that looks like an overgrown dirt runway. If you didn't know what it was, you wouldn't give it a second glance out your airplane window.



On the ground, you see the runway isn't dirt but tarmac and crushed limestone, abandoned with weeds sticking out of it.

Yet this is arguably the most historical airstrip on earth. This is where World War II was won.

On July 24, 1944, 30,000 US Marines landed on the beaches of Tinian.... Eight days later, over 8,000 of the 8,800 Japanese soldiers on the island were dead (vs. 328 Marines), and four months later the Seabees had built the busiest airfield of WWII - dubbed North Field - enabling B-29 Super fortresses to launch air attacks on the Philippines, Okinawa, and mainland Japan. Late in the afternoon of August 5, 1945, a B-29 was manoeuvred over a bomb loading pit, then after lengthy preparations, taxied to the east end of North Field's main

runway, Runway Able, and at 2:45am in the early morning darkness of August 6, took off. The B-29 was piloted by Col. Paul Tibbets of the US Army Air Force, who had named the plane after his mother, Enola Gay.



Atomic Bomb Pit #1" where Little Boy was loaded onto Enola Gay

The crew named the bomb they were carrying Little Boy. 6 hours later at 8:15am, Japan time, the first atomic bomb was dropped on Hiroshima. Three days later, in the pre-dawn hours of August 9, a B-29 named Bocks car (a pun on "boxcar" after its flight commander Capt. Fred Bock), piloted by Major Charles Sweeney took off from Runway Able. Finding its primary target of Kokura obscured by clouds,

Sweeney proceeded to the secondary target of Nagasaki, over which, at 11:01 am, bombardier Kermit Beahan released the atomic bomb dubbed Fat Man.

The commemorative plaque records that 16 hours after the Bombing of Nagasaki, "On August 10, 1945 at 0300, the Japanese Emperor, without his cabinet's consent, decided to end the Pacific War."

Take a good look at these pictures. This is where World War II ended with total victory of America over Japan. I was there all alone. There were no other visitors and no one lives anywhere near for miles.

Visiting the Bomb Pits, walking along deserted Runway Able in solitude, was a moment of extraordinarily powerful solemnity.

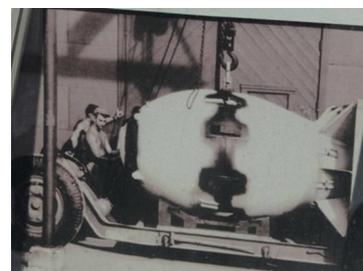
It was a moment of deep reflection. Most people, when they think of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, reflect on the numbers of lives killed in the nuclear blasts - at least 70,000 and 50,000 respectively.

Being here caused me to reflect on the number of lives saved, how many more Japanese and Americans would have died in a continuation of the war had the atomic bombs not been dropped. Yet that was not all. It's not just that the atomic bombs obviated the US invasion of Japan,

Operation Downfall, that would have caused upwards of a million American and Japanese deaths or more. It's that nuking Hiroshima and Nagasaki were of extraordinary humanitarian benefit to the nation and people of Japan. Let's go to this cliff on the nearby island of Saipan to learn why.



Little Boy being hoisted into Enola Gay's bomb bay.



Other side of ramp is "Atomic Bomb Pit #2" where Fat Man was loaded onto Bocks car

Saipan is less than a mile north of Tinian.... The month before the Marines took Tinian, on June 15, 1944, 71,000 Marines landed on Saipan.... They faced 31,000 Japanese soldiers determined not to surrender. Japan had colonized Saipan after World War I and turned the island into a giant sugar cane plantation. By the time of the Marine invasion, in addition to the 31,000 entrenched soldiers, some 25,000 Japanese settlers were living on Saipan, plus thousands more Okinawans, Koreans, and native islanders brutalized as slaves to cut the sugar cane.



There were also one or two thousand Korean "comfort women" (kanji in Japanese), abducted young women from Japan's colony of Korea to service the Japanese soldiers as sex slaves. (See *The Comfort Women: Japan's Brutal Regime of Enforced Prostitution in the Second World War*, by George Hicks.) Within a week of their landing, the Marines set up a civilian prisoner encampment that quickly attracted a couple thousand Japanese and others wanting US food and protection. When word of this reached Emperor Hirohito - who contrary to the myth was in full charge of the war- he became alarmed that radio interviews of the well-treated prisoners broadcast to Japan would subvert his people's will to fight. As meticulously documented by historian Herbert Bix in "Hirohito and the Making of Modern Japan", the Emperor issued an order for all Japanese civilians on Saipan to commit suicide. The order included the promise that, although the civilians were of low caste, their suicide would grant them a status in heaven equal to those honoured soldiers who died in combat for their Emperor. And that is why the precipice in the picture above is known as Suicide Cliff, off which over 20,000 Japanese civilians jumped to their deaths to comply with their fascist emperor's desire - mothers flinging their babies off the cliff first or in their arms as they jumped. Anyone reluctant or refused, such as the Okinawan or Korean slaves, were shoved off at gunpoint by the Jap soldiers. Then the soldiers themselves proceeded to hurl themselves into the ocean to drown off a sea cliff afterwards called Banzai Cliff. Of the 31,000 Japanese soldiers on Saipan, the Marines killed 25,000, 5,000 jumped off Banzai Cliff, and only the remaining thousand were taken prisoner. The extent of this demented

fanaticism is very hard for any civilized mind to fathom- especially when it is devoted not to anything noble but barbarian evil instead. The vast brutalities inflicted by the Japanese on their conquered and colonized peoples of China, Korea, the Philippines, and throughout their "Greater East Asia Co-Prosperity Sphere" was a hideously depraved horror. And they were willing to fight to the death to defend it. The only way to put an end to the Japanese barbarian horror was unimaginably colossal destruction against which they had no defence whatever. Nuking Japan was not a matter of justice, revenge, or it getting what it deserved. It was the only way to end the Japanese dementia. And it worked - for the Japanese. They stopped being barbarians and started being civilized. They achieved more prosperity- and peace- than they ever knew, or could have achieved had they continued fighting. The shock of the atomic bomb is responsible. We achieved this because we were determined to achieve victory. Victory without apologies. Despite perennial liberal demands we do so, America and its government has never apologized for using the bomb against Japan...Hopefully, America never will.

RASigs Reunion Healesville November 2016

For those who were fortunate enough to venture across the border to attend the reunion in Healesville Victoria. A great time was had by one and all that attended, with some venturing out on wine tours etc, but still say there is nothing like the good old Barossa Valley wines.



The dinner was held at the Melbourne Cricket Ground (MCG) in the Keith Miller room overlooking the wicket. The dinner was another highlight and it was great catching up with mates, with some of the local members just attending the dinner, so there were old and new faces to remember and shake hands with.

Farewell from Healesville, troops gathered at the Healesville RSL for the march down the main street behind the Princess Anne Banner.

But the gods were not with us started to rain again as it had done all night. All those old and bold who were not afraid of the rain marched with pride behind the new Victoria RASigs Association Banner. The Princess Anne Banner (with its escorts of one young Officer and two Sergeants), remained under cover at the front of the RSL, for an eyes right as we proudly marched by.



After the march it was back into the RSL for lunch and farewell drinks with old and new mates. The next reunion was briefly discussed and it was recommended that Queensland should be the next host state for the next reunion, details to be advised when a final decision is made.

A hearty congratulations also to the Healesville RSL for looking after all those who attended the reunion, they certainly excelled themselves with a great lunch on the Sunday.

The AGM will be held at 4.30pm on Sunday 5th February 2017 at 144 Signal Squadron, Keswick Barracks, Minutes, Agenda, Return Slip attached below



***THE ROYAL AUSTRALIAN SIGNALS ASSOCIATION (SOUTH AUSTRALIA)
INCORPORATED***

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

**TO BE HELD AT 144 SIGNAL SQUADRON CONFERENCE ROOM AT
KESWICK BARRACKS
COMMENCING AT 1630 HRS ON SUNDAY 5th OF FEBRUARY 2017**

AGENDA

1. Welcome & Roll Call
2. Apologies
3. Minutes of the Annual General Meeting, 1 February 2016 (previously circulated)
4. Business arising from the Minutes
5. Correspondence
6. President's Report (Previously circulated)
7. Business arising from President's report.
8. Financial Report
9. Business Arising from Financial Report
10. Election of Committee members for 2016.

 "As per the Constitution"
11. Elected President assumes the Chair.
12. Other Business
 - a) 2017 planned events & Dining In Night
 - b) National Website
 - c) Investment
 - d) Membership fee
13. Closure/Next Meeting.

Please complete and return this whole page and the questionnaire, to The Secretary, RASigs Assn S.A., PO Box 881, Kent Town, SA 5071. By **20th January 2017**.

ATTENDANCE AT THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 5th FEBRUARY 2017.

If you are unable to attend for any reason, it would be appreciated that you extend to the Committee the courtesy of returning this form and questionnaire tendering your "Apology". This will indicate you have some interest in the proceedings and your apology will be duly recorded in the Minutes of the meeting.

MEMBER DETAILS

Full Name:

I am unable to attend and tender my apology .() Box (Also see proxy form)
I will be attending.() I will stay for the Meal after the meeting ()

MEMBERSHIP (Please action even if not attending meeting.)

I acknowledge that my annual subscription fell due on **1 January 2017** and I forward herewith the sum of **\$10.00** for renewal of my membership until **1 January 2018**. () Box

Signature Required.

NOMINATION FOR COMMITTEE (Note that if you are unable to locate a Seconder you may still make a nomination, return this form, and a Seconder may be called for at the meeting.)

I hereby nominate _____ for the position of _____ on the
Committee of The Royal Australian Signals Association (S.A.) Inc. for the year 2016.

Proposers Signature _____ Name in block letters
Seconders Signature _____ Name in block letters

I agree to accept the nomination for this position. Signed _____ Date / /

FORM OF PROXY.(If you have tendered an apology you may appoint another member to vote on Your behalf. We will arrange for their agreement signature if you are unable to.)

I hereby appoint _____ to be my proxy at the AGM of The Royal Australian Signals Association S.A.Inc. on 5th February 2017.

Signature _____ Name in block letters

I agree to act as proxy for the above. Signed..... Date. / /

RASigs Data Base.

I. (full name). _____ agree to my personal details, Name, Address, Phone number, e-mail address (Delete any detail you do not want disclosed) being included on the above data base on the understanding that the information will only be released to **Colonels Commandant** and **Signals Association Secretaries** in each State/Territory of Australia. Please advise your e-mail address so we can update records

Signature _____ Email :



THE ROYAL AUSTRALIAN SIGNALS ASSOCIATION (SA) INC.

The Minutes of the Annual General Meeting
Held at 144 Signal Squadron, Keswick Barracks on the 7 February 2016

Present:

S. Napper (President), M. Napper (Secretary), D. Matthews (Patron), B. Long, D. Bolton, I. Fletcher, G. Giebel, A. Graves, I. Hart, Maj M. Haynes, D. Hudson, B. Melville, G. Roberts, WO2 R. Rountree, R. Rudis, Bryan Hewett, R. Materna and G. Williams

- 1. Meeting Opens.** There being a quorum present the President Sally Napper declared the meeting open at 1630Hrs and welcomed all members present. A special welcome to our Patron – Mr David Matthews. She acknowledged the passing of Frank Jones in March 2015. A strong supporter of the Association.
- 2. Apologies.** The Secretary indicated that written apologies (10) had been received.
- 3. Minutes of the Previous AGM held**
 - a) Moved by G. Giebel that the minutes be taken as read and confirmed.
Seconded by I. Hart. Carried.
- 4. Business Arising From Minutes**
 - a) Nil
- 5. Correspondence**
 - a) Nil
- 6. Business arising from correspondence**
 - a) Nil
- 7. Presidents Report (Previously Circulated)**
 - a) The President asked if there were any questions arising from the report.
Moved by B. Long that the President's Report be received.
Seconded by B. Melville. Carried
- 8. Business Arising from the President's Report**
 - a) Nil

9. Treasurer's Report

- a) The Treasurer, R. Dancis presented the Treasurer's Report. Copies were circulated and a copy to be attached with minutes.
- b) Claire Milne CA – I have examined the books and records of the Royal Australian Signals Assoc. (SA) Inc. and in my opinion the above statement represents a true and fair view of the Association affairs as at 31 Dec 2015.

10. Business Arising from the Treasurer's Report

- a) Rudi Dancis moved that the audit report be accepted. Seconded: G. Giebel
Carried.
- b) Paypal fees need to be adjusted in order for payments to be the exact amount owing.

11. Election of Officers for 2016 Committee

The President asked Maj Malcolm Haynes to conduct the election. She declared all positions vacant and handed over the chair to Maj Malcolm Haynes. Maj Malcolm Haynes thanked The Committee for their hard work during the previous year, for the Signals Corps and Association.

President

Sally Napper was nominated and agreed to appointment to this position. She was the only nominee.

Past President

Bruce Long was nominated and agreed to appointment to this position.

Vice President

No Nomination.

Secretary

Michael Napper was nominated and agreed to appointment to this position. He was the only nominee

Treasurer

Rudis Dancis was nominated and agreed to appointment to this position. He was the only nominee.

Committee Members.

The following nominations were received. Each had agreed to accept and were elected unopposed.

Dean Hudson (Membership Secretary), Andrew Graves, Gerry Giebel (Editor of Messenger), Brian Melville (Lionel Matthews Award Rep), Paul Arthur (IT Rep) and Ruth Rountree (144 Sig Sqn Rep)

Honorary Auditor - TBA.

Sally Napper the elected President assumed the chair. She thanked her committee for the year past and for continuing on the committee for 2016.

12. Other Business

a) 2016 Planned Events & Dining In Night

Dining In Night is also the 50th Anniversary for 144 Sig Sqn; planned for last weekend August 2016.

Car Rally with 144 Sig Sqn.

BBQ organised by Association for 144 Sig Sqn on Sunday 31 January 2016 was very well received.

National RASIGS Reunion to be held at Healesville, Vic from 9 November 2016 to 14 November 2016.

B. Long gave a brief outline of events happening during the Reunion.

He suggested that members book early as numbers for some events are limited.

Anzac Day Lunch to be held at Strathmore Hotel; S. Napper to book.

b) National Website Sitrep

President, Sally Napper asked B. Long to speak to members present, regarding the RASIGS website.

Website in hands of ASP Computers; a little more costly.

Colin from 144 Sig Sqn, P. Arthur and B. Long have been working hard to update website.

Association has been informed that Maj P. Irving will provide funds to cover cost to update the format and maintain Website.

c) Investment

Presently the Association has \$10,618.17 invested in a Commonwealth Bank Term Deposit and is due for renewal on 21 July 2016.

d) Membership Fee

B. Long moved that the Membership Fee for 2016 be reduced to \$10.00 for members.

Second: B. Melville Carried.

R. Rountree suggested that a RASIGS Association Membership Form be sent to Units with request for Lionel Matthews Award Nominations.

For those who have paid \$20.00 membership fee; will need to decide if they require refund of \$10; pay for 2 years; or give a \$10 donation.

M. Haynes thanked the attendees today for their support at the Break Up Parade 2015 at 144 Sig Sqn. Especially the interaction and presentation to 144 Sig Sqn members. He commended the return of the 104 Sig Sqn Vietnam Flag to its Unit of Origin.

13. Closure/Next Meeting

There being no further business the President thanked everyone for their attendance and invited members present to join her for light supper and drinks. The meeting was closed at 1720Hrs.

Michael Napper
Secretary

Sally Napper
President