



"The Messenger"



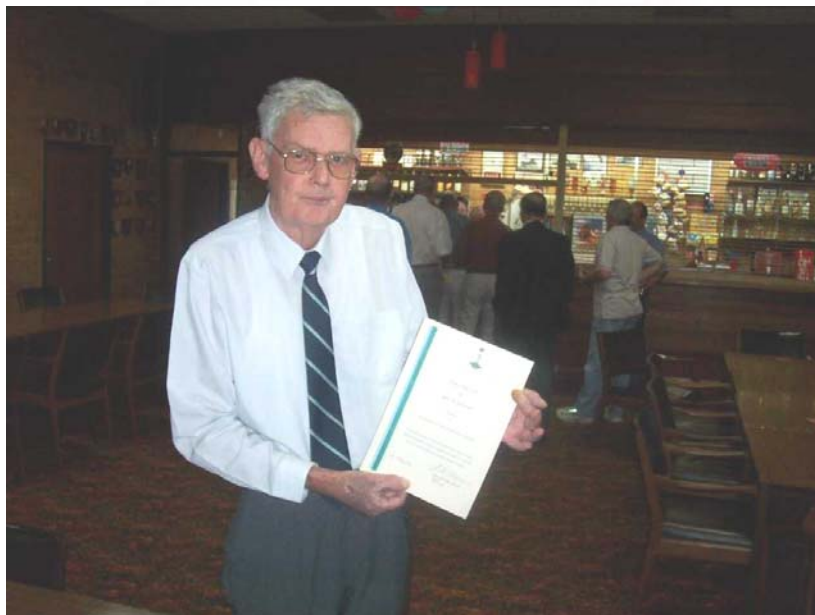
(Of The Gods.)

**Official Newsletter of the Royal Australian Signals Association (SA) Inc.
Issue 1. June 2006**

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.

A FINAL TRIBUTE TO A MAN WHO NEVER STOPPED

The Late Warrant Officer Class One Jim Erwin (Retired)



Over 50 years service to the Corps including over 25 years as a founding member of The Royal Australian Signals Association South Australia.



Warrant Officer Class One Jim Erwin (Retired)

It is with sadness that we must report the passing of Jim Erwin, loyal Corps and Association member for many years. Whilst most of us were aware of Jim's deteriorating health, it is always a difficult time to lose any member, particularly one like Jim. Jim has been the "Rock" that has held the Association in South Australia together for many years. His devotion to the Corps, the Association, and its members is second to none. For those of us who worked with Jim, we have seen his passion and determination to continue the association. Let us all do our best to continue Jim's life long work to ensure the longevity of the association here in South Australia. Please take a moment of your time to remember Jim when you read this notice.

THE ANNUAL CORPS AND ASSOCIATION DINNER 2006

The above dinner is to be held at 1900 for 1930hrs on Saturday the 19th of August 2006 at the Gillies Plains RSL. Invitations and details should be with this Messenger or close behind.

The dinner will be similar to the last two with a great meal, quiet music and good friends. Please make the effort ladies and gentleman.

It is suggested that we dedicate a portion of the dinner this year to the life time of effort by Jim Erwin to the association. Whilst I'm sure Jim would not want this dinner to be a mournful one, it would be appropriate to pay respect to a man that has done so much. The committee and I would ask that you please make a special effort this year to attend this important occasion. Look forward to seeing you all there. Returns by NLT 21st July 2006.

THE 144th SIGNAL SQUADRON FREEDOM OF THE CITY OF BURNSIDE PARADE

The 144th Signal Squadron is to Exercise its Right to the Freedom of Entry to the City of Burnside at 1000 on the 5th of November 2006! It was granted this Right in 1987! We have been advised that the OC 144 will be inviting Association Members to attend and view the occasion.

The SSM of the Sqn has asked that we advise all past and present members of 144 that it is intended to hold a re-union on Friday 3rd November at the Squadron commencing at 1930 hrs! (See below) Accordingly please note this date / time in your diary and pass this message on to all ex members of the Sqn you know or may happen to come in contact with! This would appear to be a good start to what could be an impressive weekend! We will keep you informed as and when further information comes to hand.

Congratulations to Nick Quigley - Awarded an OAM in the Queen's Birthday Honours list:

- Name: [QUIGLEY, Nicholas John](#)
- Award: Medal of the Order of Australia
- Date granted: 12 June 2006
- State: QLD
- Suburb: Rockhampton
- Citation: For service to the ex-service community, particularly through the Central Queensland Sub-Branch of the Vietnam Veterans Association of Australia.

Nick served with 104 Signal Squadron and has worked tirelessly for veterans in the CQ area, along with a long involvement with Cockscomb Veterans Retreat, building web pages for various veteran groups, including Pandanus Park. Nick is also known to amateur radio operators as VK4CNQ.

UPDATE ON KAPOOKA 2006

Army Recruit Training Centre (ARTC), located in Blamey Barracks, the "Home of the Soldier" Formerly known as the 1st Recruit Training Battalion (1RTB) was established at Kapooka in 1951. 1RTB was changed to ARTC 1 Dec 98.

In 1985, Kapooka assumed the responsibility of training female recruits. This is now achieved in mixed gender platoons. In 1996 1RTB assumed responsibility for all General Reserve (Part Time) recruit training.

Today, all the Army's newest regular and reserve soldiers undertake six weeks of recruit training at ARTC. There is 320 military and 350 civilian personnel staff to deliver the Australian Army's recruit training to both reserve and regular soldiers.

When parades are held for graduation, all visitors to the Parade are met at the front gate and loaded onto buses. A guided tour of Blamey Barracks is provided and delivered to the Parade Ground where there is a permanent seated and shaded accommodation for spectators. At the completion of the Parade all visitors are transported to the Edmonson VC Club (The Soldiers Club) to join the graduates for a buffet lunch.

Blamey Barracks is now a modern and beautifully landscaped Training Facility. All buildings are permanent brick, similar to other Army facilities around Australia.

INTERNET PATH TO LONG-LOST RELATIVES

By Kathryn Vukovljak, The Queensland Retiree April 2006

Beginning the project of tracing a family tree or tracking down long-lost relatives can seem like a huge task, but there are resources on the Internet that can help.

Perhaps the best-known is Genes Reunited Australia. It was launched in 2004 following the success of Friends Reunited, and over the last two years it has become one of the largest family tree, genealogy and ancestry sites.

Judy Weston, 51, from Kennedy, Queensland used the website to locate a sister she had never met. Judy only found out she was adopted at the age of 46, when her mum died in 2001, and so she decided to track down her correct birth certificate. When she did, she learned that she had an older, full sister called Aileen.

“Within two days of registering my birth family details on Genes Reunited, Aileen and I found each other,” said Judy.

Contact: Genes Reunited is free to join and search, with a fee of \$19.95 a year to make contact with other members. Visit www.genesreunited.com.au

Vale

1201301 Colin Francis 'Debbie' Reynolds, RASIGS

104 Sig Sqn Vietnam 15 July 1969 - 16 July 1970 and 26 August 1970 - 4 March 1972

I've just returned from attending Col's funeral service in Nambour. Col's partner, Christine, and her family were well represented, as were Col's brothers, sister and their families. Col's former wife also attended with her sisters.

RASIGS were well represented by, Geoff Sanders (and his oxygen bottle), Lorrie Johnstone, Mick Beeston, Bruce Levy (formerly Weightman), Liz Levy (nee England), Ted 'Blue' Hawkins, Ted Douglas, Phil 'Wally' Wallis, Arthur 'Jock' Morton, and a couple of RAINF types from his time in Alice Springs.

Phil did the RSL part of the service (he's also Secretary, VVAA, Brisbane North).

It's funny, we lived and worked with many old mates and after our Army days, we went our separate ways and spread all over Australia. We only met on special days such as ANZAC Day or didn't see each other for years. Yet, when we met again, it was as if the years passed by and it was only yesterday that we talked to our mates.

Please find attached, an original song, written by Col's niece and nephew, to honour Col for his service in Vietnam; Col used to love listening to it.

Regards

Ted (Copied from email received from Ted "Blue" Hawkins)

LOST & FOUND ONE

Searching for 3789348 Donald Arthur McKenzie, 104 Sig Sqn Vietnam 29 Apr 68 to 30 Apr 69
3790954 Alister Neil (Zac) Campbell, 104 Sig Sqn Vietnam 21 Jan 68 to 21 Dec 68 is searching for his old mate Don McKenzie.

Can anybody help ? Please reply to Zac - weneil@bigpond.com – and Blue – hawkins2@aapt.net.au
Zac – this email has gone out BCC to RASIGS Assns and some RASIGS individuals who will, no doubt, send it on to their email networks and also, I hope, put it in their newsletters.

Regards

Ted

LOST & FOUND TWO

From: [JF Lemoyne](mailto:JF.Lemoyne)

To: loughton@bigpond.net.au

Sent: Wednesday, June 07, 2006 3:29 AM

Subject: Request for assistance to locate Lcol Norell & Norman Swanson

Good day Sir,

This is a long shot... But i do hope you can forward this request to the appropriate office.

I am Lcol JF Lemoyne from the Canadian Armed Forces presently serving in Norway.

I am trying to reestablish contact with 2 former Australian colleagues who followed the same ATO course in the early 80s in UK with myself. I have lost contact with them in 2000 and I believe they (Norman and Norell) have both retired from the military since.

Understanding the sensitive and private nature of this request, may I suggest my e-mail address as well as the following contact details be forwarded to them hoping they will seek connectivity.

Lcol JF Lemoyne CA (service # N65 103 604)

NATO Joint Warfare Centre

Tel Office: 0047 51 34 23 21

Tel Home: 0047 51 69 92 77

Hotmail address: lemoynejf@hotmail.com

Sir, may I express my gratitude for your help in this matter,

Sincerely,

Lcol JF Lemoyne

144 SIGNAL SQUADRON REUNION

Date: 3rd November 2006

Time: 7:30 pm till late

Where: 144 Signal Squadron
Keswick Barracks

What is required:

**MEMORIES AND
GOOD WAR STORIES**

Urgent Plea for Assistance - DVA Problems - Current and Previous

Subject: Treatment of Veterans / Peacekeepers by the Department of Veteran's Affairs

Through your Associations, Ex-Service Organisations, ex-service members, serving members, etc, would you please be so kind as to put this request for assistance through any means possible such as emails, newsletters, word of mouth etc.

On behalf of my doctor and myself, I thank you in advance for your assistance.

My details: 1200907 SGT (ret) Edward John 'Ted' or 'Blue' Hawkins
23 Belcher St, Caboolture QLD 4510
Phone 07 5499 3704
Email hawkins2@aapt.net.au
110 Sig Sqn SVN 1967-68, ARA 1966-86, ARAER 1986-88 RASIGS

My local medical officer is:

Dr Ray Huntley
cnr Morayfield & Oakey Flat Rds, Morayfield 4506
Phone 07 5497 8888
Email (via Ted Hawkins) hawkins2@aapt.net.au

He is the Australian Medical Association of Queensland (AMAQ) committee chair for matters dealing with the Department of Veteran's Affairs (DVA). He is also a committee member of AMAQ. *He is extremely sympathetic to the health and plight of veterans and peacekeepers. His committee is taking up the baton on behalf of veterans and peacekeepers but needs actual cases to support his committee.*

Dr Huntley has asked me to use my network of contacts to request that all veterans and peacekeepers who have had trouble, *in any way*, when dealing with DVA, to put pen to paper and make a formal complaint, or just a good old-fashioned whinge, to:

Minister for Veteran's Affairs
The Hon. Bruce Billson
Parliament House
Canberra 2600
Email B.Billson.MP@aph.gov.au
Fax 02 6273 4140

with an info / cc copy to Dr Huntley via snail mail(as above)or email via Ted Hawkins
hawkins2@aapt.net.au

By directing our complaints to *one particular Member of Parliament*, the responsible Minister, rather than our individual electorate Members, it is hoped to show an Australia-wide pattern of dissatisfaction with DVA treatment of Veterans and Peacekeepers.

And whilst I mention Peacekeepers, why are they not classed as Veterans – in my eyes, they fully qualify for the title of Veteran.

Again, thank you for your time and assistance in this matter.

Yours sincerely,
Ted Hawkins

Association and Committee contact details.

President: Vacant

Vice President: Vacant

Secretary: Dean Hudson: Tel Home 08 8263 7268: Email: deanHUDSON@picknowl.co.au

Treasurer: Peter Cope Tel. Home 82547146 Email: N/A

Publisher: Bruce Long (Acting) Tel work 8342 3012 Email: brucelong@fivestar.austbiz.net

Association mailing address: (Secretary) PO box 881, Kent Town S.A. 5071

Contributing: News, articles etc. Send via the Publisher.

All of you out there please let the committee know if you can spend an hour or two a month to help us out in some form or way.

Disclaimer: In respect of “Commercial Advertising” which may appear from time to time in the “Messenger” the Committee neither recommends or endorses the goods and or services offered. Any dissatisfaction or dispute arising is to be resolved between the provider and the consumer. The consumer involved is asked to advise the Committee of the matter. The result may influence the Committee in respect of further advertising by the provider involved.

Note: The editor would like to thank those other associations and members for allowing us to disseminate some of this information included above.