

Dec 2011

# SIGNAL NEWS



Seasons Greetings to all

# CERTA CITO

Official Journal of the Royal Australian Signals Association (Tas)



December 2011

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**Signal News**

**Editor:** Dick Goodwin

**Signal News Distribution**

March, June, September, December

**First Friday Functions 2012.**

Feb 3rd, Mar 2nd, Apr 13<sup>th</sup> (in lieu of Good Friday – 6<sup>th</sup>), May 4th, Jun 1st, Jul 6th, Aug 3rd, Sep 7th, Oct 5th, Nov 2nd, Dec 7th.

**Annual Dinner**

Wednesday, 7<sup>th</sup> March 2012 - Venue TBA  
6.30pm for 7pm

**Anzac Day**

Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> April 2012. Lunch at the Waratah Hotel 12.30pm. Medals may be worn.

**Annual Luncheon**

6th June 2012 at Waratah Hotel, 12.30 for 1p.

**Annual General Meeting**

Friday 5th October 2012. 5.30pm  
at RAAF Memorial Centre

**25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Reunion of Disbandment of 146 Signal Squadron 13-14th October 2012**

**Commemoration Day**

Sunday 14th October 2012. **Service**, 12 Noon Anglesea Barracks Signals Memorial.  
**Lunch**, RAAF Memorial Centre.  
Medals may be worn.

**Remembrance Day****Association Luncheon**

Friday 9th November 2012 at the Waratah Hotel. 12.30pm for 1.00pm

**Committee Meetings 2012**

Feb 3rd, May 4th, Aug 3rd, Nov 2nd. at the RAAF Memorial Centre, at 3.30pm

*Printed by The Hon David O'Byrne MP.  
Labour Member for Franklin. A much  
appreciated Community Service.*

## FROM THE PRESIDENTS DESK

Welcome to the December issue for 2011. Now is the time to pass on our Seasons Greetings in December.

The last three months have been very busy. We commenced with our AGM in October and I thank you for extending my time as your President. To the other members of the Committee my thanks for making yourself available to assist in the conduct of our Association. Trevor has hung up his spurs as Treasurer. Thank you Trevor for a job well done. Michael (with Sue) Farley has volunteered to take on the duties of Treasurer. Thanks Mike (and Sue).

As normal we had our Commemoration Day Service and luncheon on the second Sunday in October and the day was fine, the turn up was about the same as last year. Padre David kept us on the straight and narrow and we had a very enjoyable luncheon to follow. Brian Watson came down from Launceston, as did Lynne Chaplin who also brought her mum along. A thank you to the ladies who did the cleaning up. Thanks to Mike Farley for organising the chairs.

The next social gathering was our Remembrance Luncheon on Friday 11<sup>th</sup> November at the Waratah. Twenty one starters and we were well looked after with a nice three course meal. Once again Brian Watson came down and with his friend Reg. They certainly enjoyed themselves. These functions are partly funded by the Association and we are always looking for new faces to join in. And of course we look forward to new members YOU encourage to join.

I am sure you all have many memories, anecdotes and other character assassinations which you could share with us all. Dick will always be in need of 'bits and pieces' for SIG NEWS so pass any items onto him for inclusion. He will protect the source if necessary.

I recently attended a gathering of all Association Presidents at the School of Signals. It is expected that this will be an annual event sponsored by the Corps. Issues discussed were interface between the Corps and the Associations, advising members on discharge where the Associations are located and Corps support for the data base <rasigs.com>. In general, the first opportunity for many years to discuss issues of common interest.

On a sadder note we lost three of our members this year, Harry Woolley, David Jones and David Riley and former associates Alan Twynam-Perkins and John McGreevey (a former Squadron OC). I extended your condolences to all members of their families..

Well that wraps me up for the year but not before wishing everyone a great Christmas and I hope a very prosperous New Year. See you all in February 2012.

Yours in Signals .

Owen

**THE GENESIS OF "SIG NEWS" – ASSOCIATION'S FIRST NEWSLETTER 60 YEARS AGO**

**THE ROYAL AUSTRALIAN CORPS SIGNALS ASSOCIATION**

(Tasmania Branch)

J E Marriott Hon. Sec  
2 Woodlands Avenue  
NEW TOWN

**NEWSLETTER**

OUR NEXT GENERAL MEETING AND SOCIAL WILL BE HELD AT THE RSL ROOMS

ON FRIDAY 26TH OCTOBER, 1951, AT 8.00 P.M.

This will cancel the evening programmed for Friday, 14th September.

No further notice of the function on Friday 26th October will be sent to members  
SO PLEASE REMEMBER THE DATE, PLACE AND TIME, AND BE THERE

BRING A GUEST AND COME PREPARED FOR A GRAND EVENINGS ENTERTAINMENT

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NEWSLETTER  
SPECIAL  
SERVICE

YOUR  
MEMBER'S  
AD

Members of the Signal Unit of the A.M.F. in Hobart will be our guests on  
Friday, 26th October. So be there to give them a real welcome.

-----  
Our final function for the year and our Annual Meeting will be held at the R.S.L. Rooms on Friday 7th December, 1951, at 8.00 p.m.

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MEMBER'S  
AD

So that souvenirs of particular interest to our members may be preserved and when we obtain a room displayed, "Trevor Taplin is collecting photographs, newspaper cuttings etc." - If you have any to add to the collection, bring them along on Friday 26th October.

-----  
LISTEN TO THE "ON SERVICE" BROADCAST SESSION FROM 7 H.O. EACH SUNDAY  
.When we have news of interest to members, we submit it for broadcasting

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Members in business on their own account - remember the more ads we receive the bigger the "Newsletter" and the bigger the  
"Newsletter" the greater the circulation -  
IT PAYS TO ADVERTISE THE SIGNALS WAY

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## LETTER FROM TERRY RIGNEY - MEMORIES OF A KOKODA "TRAILER"

We were thrilled to receive the following letter from Terry (now resides in Perth WA) following recent visits he made to Qld and Tas, including a special call he made to see member, Max Dransfield in Helensvale on the Gold Coast – a first reunion with his old comrade of some **69 years** ago.

"Just received 'Signal News' for September - thank you for the great contribution.

Enclosed is a photo of Max Dransfield and myself (reproduced below. Ed) taken at his retirement village in Helensvale Qld. Meeting Max after 69 years was a great event. We sat in his lounge and talked non-stop for an hour; it was though we had met yesterday as the saying goes. We covered topics about our time on the Kokoda Trail and names of fellows who served with us.

Max has been very busy over the years helping ex-servicemen and their wives and by the look of the Life Memberships hanging on the walls his work has been very much appreciated.

I read with interest the article (Sig News, Sep 2011). on what is the correct title of 'Kokoda', it is 'Kokoda Trail'. I have read Robyn Kienzle's book, just released and spoken to him on the phone. He is the youngest son of the famous Bert Kienzle who as Captain Kienzle did so much to organise native labour for the war in New Guinea. The book is titled the 'Architect of Kokoda' at \$35. I urge every ex-serviceman to read it.

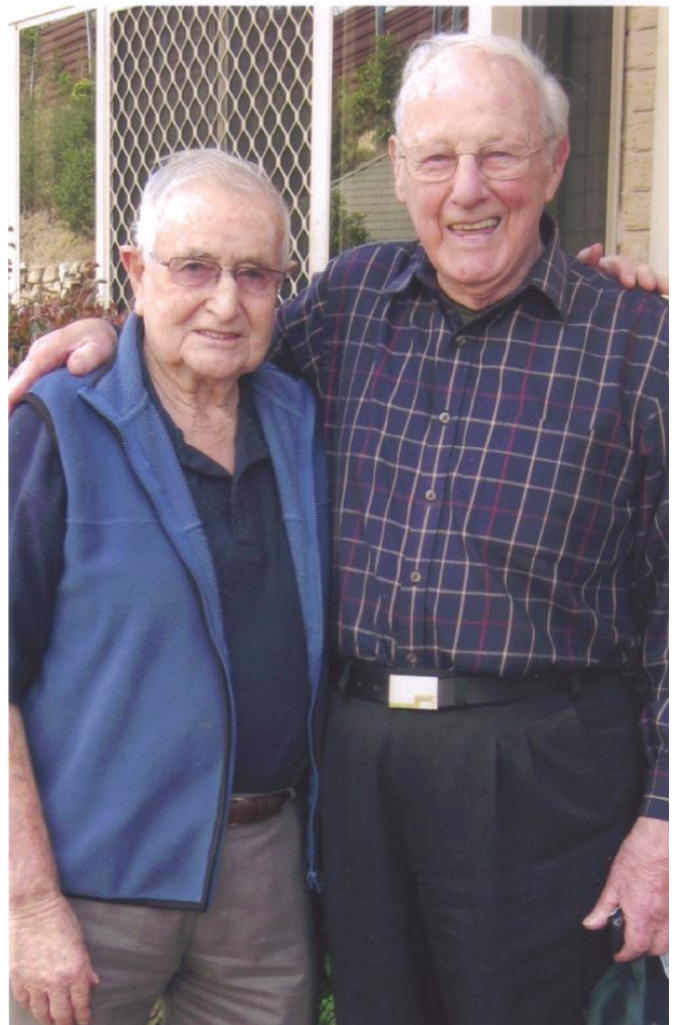
Another article in the 'Signal News' which I found interesting was of the Japanese float plane which flew over Hobart. It occurred in March as the article stated and was mid- morning. A group of us young guys were digging an air raid slit trench in front of the main entrance to Beaumaris House (Battery Point) when suddenly the plane appeared overhead, casually surveying the City, without opposition from our aircraft and as quickly as it appeared it disappeared.

Our visit to Tasmania was brief. We first visited our youngest son who is with the Defence Dept., in Canberra, then onto Queensland and then Hobart and finally Burnie where as a foundation member of the Burnie Highland Pipe Band we celebrated 70 years of progress.

Three of us who are the surviving original members cut the enormous Birthday cake which was piped in to a function at the Ridgley memorial hall, attended by some 200 guests.

Each of us related tales of our time in the Band so I told the story of my time at Balcombe while we were waiting to go to New Guinea. One particular event was air raid drill. Two columns of troops were marching up a country road with myself and a Drummer leading and as the Officer blew his whistle for the troops to disperse into drains on either side of the road. We could not hear the whistle sounding. When we stopped playing and looked back no one was in sight, so presumably on a real air raid Piper and Drummer would have been wiped-out !!

Good luck to all. "



(Max and Terry at the formers home in Helensvale, Qld.  
Both turn 90 in 2012)

## “THIS IS THE SPOT FOR A BARRACKS”

*(Provided by J C Taplin, former Assn., Sec/Treas and Life Member )*

Van Diemen's Land, a penal colony, was first settled on the Derwent River at Risdon Cove in 1803. The site, selected by Lieutenant John Bowen, 102nd Regiment, New South Wales Corps proved unsatisfactory, and the settlement was moved to Sullivan's Cove and named Hobart Town by Lieutenant Governor, David Collins in 1804. <sup>was</sup>

Colonel Lachlan Macquarie, Governor of New South Wales and Van Diemen's Land paid his first visit to the island in 1811. During his inspection of Hobart Town, Macquarie expressed concern about the accommodation provided by the township for the detachment of troops from his Regiment, the 73rd of Foot, which was responsible for the security of the settlement.

On the 2nd December 1811, Macquarie rode to the top of a small hill about 1.6km South-West of the town and examined the proposed location for a barracks. The hill has been known as Barracks Hill from that time. Macquarie directed that barracks were to be built to house 150 men with quarters for officers and a hospital to accommodate 32 patients.

Macquarie returned to Sydney but kept urging construction of the Barracks and demanding reports on its progress. In 1815 he assumed that "the Military Barracks had been completed long before that" but it was not until 1818 that a list of completed public buildings, included the barracks. Governor George Arthur named the barracks after the Right Honourable Henry William Pagent, Marquis of Anglesey (an army contemporary of Colonel Arthur) who was Master-General of the Ordnance during the periods 1827-1828 and 1846-1852. <sup>en</sup>

The buildings within the Barracks can be divided into three phases, those built between 1814-28 all constructed in brick; those buildings <sup>lat</sup> constructed from 1828-70, mostly of sandstone and <sup>th</sup> the buildings erected since the turn of the Twentieth Century. The hospital was completed in 1818 and is the oldest building within the Barracks.

Whilst many of the buildings within the Barracks confines are of historic and cultural significance a number of them are also of architectural significance. The Military Gaol, completed in 1846, was designed by Lieutenant Colonel Victor and is a blend of Grecian and Romanesque styles with large pieces of stone used for the pillars and carved lintels over the windows.

This building has had a number of uses over the decades and this has even included a time as the "Hobart Girls Reformatory". It is of note that Anglesea Barracks is the oldest continuously occupied barracks in Australia and that the offices of Governor and Military Commandant were combined from 1893 to 1925.

*(The official celebration of the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of Anglesea Barracks held on 2 Dec 2011 and a book covering that history was also launched on that day)*

## MEETINGS

*(Extracted from the Melbourne Legacy bulletin by "J.P")*

It concerned a lady who was doing family research. She found written on the back of a photo *"Remus Reid, horse thief, sent to Montana Territorial Prison 1885, escaped 1887, robbed the Montana Flyer six times, caught by Pinkerton detectives, convicted and hanged in 1889."*

She wrote to her Congressman who, like herself, was related to Remus Reid, Remus being their great-great uncle. Her Congressman, Harry Reid, obviously had a sense of humour and a turn of phrase. He acknowledged her letter thus:

*"Remus Reid was a famous cowboy in the Montana territory. His business grew to include acquisition of valuable equestrian assets and intimate dealings with the Montana railroad. Beginning in 1885, he devoted several years of his life to government service, finally taking leave to resume his dealings with the railroad. In 1887, he was a key player in a vital investigation run by the renowned Pinkerton Detective Agency. In 1889, Remus passed away during an important civic function held in his honour when the platform on which he was standing collapsed"*

## WHEN SOMEONE SAYS-

*(From Barry King)*

You don't know Jack Schitt! Now you'll know the whole story.

Jack Schitt was the only son of Owe and Awe Schitt. Owe Schitt, the fertilizer magnate, married Awe Schitt, who later ran a country hotel – "The Kneedeep Inn"

Jack Schitt eventually married Noe Schitt and together they produced six children.

Sadly, their first child, Holy Schitt passed away shortly after birth. Next came twin sons, Deep and Dip Schitt. Then they had two daughters, Fulla and Givva Schitt. Their last child born was named Bull.

As time went on, Deep Schitt married Dumb Schitt, a high school dropout. Deep Schitt's twin brother, Dip Schitt, married Lotta Schitt, who gave birth to a son Chicken. Fulla Schitt and Givva Schitt married the Happens brothers !

The Schitt-Happens children are Dawg, Byrd and Hawse Schitt.

Bull Schitt recently married a spicy Italian number, Pisa and together they await the birth of their first child Baby Schitt.

**So next time someone says "You don't know Jack Schitt" you can say, "Not only do I know Jack Schitt, but the entire family as well."**

## THE SECRETARY SAYS

Received the briefest of notes from **Nick Daddow** recently – definitely a man of few words ! Thanks for the subs Nick and a nice donation. Also **Mick Farley** reports mail with subs from **Ben Baker, Brian Kemp, Claude Shegog** and very generous donations with subs from “the Hon. Auditor”, **Graeme Boscoe** & another of our Kokoda Trail members in **Jim Warren**. Great to see Jim and his “lads” at Commem Day service too.

Had a lengthy and interesting phone call from a former 146 Sig Sqn Tp Comd, **Ian Rose** recently. Ian ran TR Services in Tas for some years before being “lured” to Melbourne. He has now retired and resides at The Patch in the Dandenong Ranges. Ian is a member of the Victoria RA Sigs Assn., Committee as well as our Association and is taking a strong interest in assisting his Vic colleagues with the current difficulties in retaining membership and interest in the garden state. Treasurer **Mick Farley** also reports a recent note from Ian enclosing a most generous donation. Good stuff Ian – yes, you are well and truly “paid up”!

**A quickie from my Sister-in-law** – A sweet grandmother telephoned St Joseph’s Hospital. She timidly asked, “Is it possible to speak to someone who can tell me how a patient is doing?” The operator said, “I’ll be glad to help dear. What’s the name and room number of the patient?”

The grandmother in her weak, tremulous voice said, “Norma Findlay, Room 302.” The operator replied, “Let me put you on hold while I check with the nurse’s station for that room.” After a few minutes, the operator returned to the phone and said, “I have good news. Her nurse just told me that Norma is doing well. Her blood pressure is fine; her blood work just came back normal and her Physician, Dr Cohen, has scheduled her to be discharged tomorrow.”

The grandmother said, “Thank you. That’s wonderful. I was so worried. God bless you for the good news.” The operator replied, “You’re more than welcome. Is Norma your daughter?” The grandmother said, “No, I’m Norma Findlay in Room 302. No one tells me shit.”

**A Request from Trevor Taplin** – members are requested to remember that Trevor has been moved “into care” (as he describes his situation !) and as such his new address for personal mail is now:

T C Taplin,  
Sandown Apartments,  
1 Wayne Ave, SANDY BAY 7005  
(Phone: 6225 2346, Email [graham@taplins.net.au](mailto:graham@taplins.net.au))

**All Association mail should now be sent to the Secretary or Treasurer (as appropriate) at the addresses listed on Page 2. of this publication, please.**

Many thanks to the ever increasing group of members (thankfully!!) who are regularly providing copy for use in “Sig News”. It’s much easier to have a folder of material to choose from than having to hunt around at the last minute before our print deadline. Please keep up the good work.

Taking a leaf out of Presidents Owen’s book, please also keep your eyes and ears open to opportunities to recruit new members. The vast majority of our former Sigs Squadron colleagues who are “still vertical” are no longer members of the Association, so every opportunity should be taken to encourage those people to join/rejoin. It would be a great effort if we could finish 2012 with a net increase in our membership ranks !!

The Association is looking to get in touch with the late **Alby Purcell’s** family and have lost touch with them. Many will recall Alby’s days as the NCO in charge of the Sqn Line Tp. He was a strong supporter of the Association. If any member assist, just give me a buzz or an email message.

**In closing, on behalf of Chris and my family, all the best to you all for the coming festive season. A very Merry Xmas and a safe and prosperous New Year to you all.**

## **ASSOCIATION TO SPONSOR 25<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY REUNION OF SIG SQN DISBANDMENT IN OCTOBER 2012**

At the September meeting, the Committee agreed the Association would again sponsor a reunion of former members of the Tasmanian Signal Squadron Units (1949-1987) to mark the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the disbandment of such Units. Members may recall that a very successful reunion was sponsored in 2007 when over 100 former members and partners took part and 23 new members joined our Association.

The milestone 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary reunion will be held over the RA Sigs Corps Commemoration weekend in mid-October, 2012. The functions will include a Reunion Dinner, the traditional Sunday Commemorative Service at the Signals Memorial at Anglesea Barracks followed by a luncheon at the RAAF Memorial Centre.

The Committee wish to contact former Sqn members and publicize the reunion and will appreciate advice about address changes (postal and email), which should be referred to Secretary Dick, at [dickieg19@hotmail.com](mailto:dickieg19@hotmail.com) or 102 Wells Pde, BLACKMANS BAY 7052 as soon as possible, please.

More details will be provided in future editions of “Sig News”, “The Mercury” and other ESO publications.

### **OLD MARRIED COUPLE**

An old married couple was at home watching TV. The husband had the remote and was switching back and forth between a fishing channel and the porn channel.

The wife became more and more annoyed and finally said,



“For God’s sake! Leave it on the porn channel. You already know how to fish !”

## THE SIGNALS SERVICE IN TASMANIA

*(The first of several, brief historical articles written by former Secretary/Treasurer, Trevor Taplin in 2006)*

The first signal service in Van Diemens Land was in 1820 when a semaphore signaling system was set up for the notification of shipping movements. Signal stations were set up at Mt Louis at the junction of the D'Entrecasteaux Channel and Storm Bay, Mt Nelson and at Mulgrave Battery at the end of Salamanca Place in Hobart Town. In 1833, Capt. O'Hara Booth erected an extensive semaphore system covering Hobart Town to Port Arthur and both Tasman and Forestier Peninsulas.

In 1876 a report by MAJGEN Jervois on Tasmanian defence included a recommendation for a Torpedo Corps to be recruited from the Electric Telegraph Department but no proposal for Engineers. Nothing came of this however except that Robert Henry, an officer of the Tasmanian Telegraph Service visited Melbourne to study submarine mining as practiced there. The original torpedo was made possible by the new electric telegraph invention and consisted of a submarine mine which could be exploded by an observer stationed on shore and exploding it through a cable run from shore when it was judged that the enemy vessel was above the submerged mine. The cable was frequently tested by transmitting a current too weak to explode the mine but strong enough to prove the circuit. They were first used by the Russians to defend their harbors during the Crimean War (1854-56) but were generally unsuccessful. In the United States Civil War (1861-65) torpedoes were more successful when they sank some 35 ships.

In 1882 a Royal Commission suggested that an Engineer Corps should be formed and this was done in 1883. From the start of its existence, both signaling and telegraphy were part of its duties. The Officer Commanding was CAPT. E Boddam RA who was one of the first officers in Australia to give unqualified support to the idea that the telephone ought to be key equipment in the control of submarine mines and related fixed defences. He had two particularly valuable subordinates, LIEUT Robert Henry and Quartermaster Sergeant J Falconer RE who came from England to an appointment as instructor.

The name of the Tasmanian Engineer Corps was changed to Tasmanian Torpedo Corps in 1886 and this was altered in 1898 to Tasmanian Engineers. Uncertainty about the unit's role was complicated by increasing commitment to field engineering but signaling for field and garrison forces was always one of its activities.. Communications were of limited capability which was typical of the period but in 1900 a cable wagon was taken on strength after which field telegraphy became a regular part of the unit's work.

In 1905 the Military Board announced the raising of the Australian Corps of Signalers and this was gazetted on the 23rd December as a voluntary part time corps with an establishment of 284 all ranks. The history of the Corps of Signals in Tasmania commenced on the 1st February 1906 when the Tasmanian organisation of the new Australian Corps of Signalers was formed. The Corps consisted of three sections of No. 9 Company and comprised 29 all ranks at both Hobart and Launceston. The Tasmanian Officers were 2LT F W Medhurst - 9.7.06 and 2LT W Fotheringham - 24.7.06. The Tasmanian No. 9 Company accompanied the field force and participated in minor exercises at Ross.

Following a report by FD MARSHALL Lord Kitchener the Australian Corps of Signalers was disbanded on 12th July 1912 and were incorporated into Australian Engineers as Signal Companies. The private of Signalers became the sapper of Signal Engineers.

In the period August - October 1914 the 1st Divisional Signal Company under MAJ H Mackworth was formed at Broadmeadows in Victoria and the sappers who came from most states were chosen after passing a morse code test.

On October 10th the Signal Company together with the 1st Signal Troop (Light Horse Brigade) sailed from Melbourne for Egypt, No. 4 Section of the Company under 2LT J M Grant was attached to 3rd Infantry Brigade and as this formation was the first to land at Gallipoli in 1915, LT Grant was the first officer of Signals to come under fire in WW1.

The 2nd Divisional Signal Company was formed in Australia in March 1916 and after training at Broadmeadows sailed on the "Ascanius" on March 27th and after arriving in England moved to Salisbury Plains for training. They were sent to France on 26th November 1916 and deployed in the line at Armentieres. The five Australian Signal Companies were then operating on the Western Front. When the four Australian Divisions were combined to form the Australian Corps in 1918 a new unit titled Australian Corps Signal Company was formed to service it and comprised HQ, Wireless Telegraph, Heavy Artillery,

*(The Signals Service in Tas cont)*

Airline and cable sections. When the war ended the Australian Corps was stationed at Charleroi in Belgium. The sapper's role was to maintain the normal formation communications using civil and military equipment until the AIF returned to Australia in 1919.

After WW1 the old Signal Engineer units disbanded and new ones raised. The most noticeable feature of the new arrangement was that the titles of the new units all featured the word "Signals" as a major designation. This was indicative of semi-independence of Signals although separation from the Corps of Engineers was not to come for another four years.

The obligation of all eligible Australian men to have compulsory military training was suspended in 1919 but resumed in a modified form in 1921. Compulsory military training was finally abolished in 1929.

On 12th July 1920 the Corps of Signals was created in Britain and on the 5th August was granted the prefix "Royal". In Tasmania, the 6th Military District, 12th Mixed Brigade Signals was formed in 1921 under CAPT S R Houghton DSO, MC, VD., formerly of the 12th Battalion AIF.

In Australia, AAO 7 of 1st January 1925 announced that approval had been given for the Signal Engineer units of the Citizen Forces to be formed into a separate corps and designated the "Australian Corps of Signals". Consequently, the description of certain of the rank and file as "Sapper" was replaced by that of "Signalman". The official announcement was made on the 14th February 1925.

The appointment of the new Corps first Colonel-in-Chief, HRH The Princess Mary was made in June 1937.

After 1929 all CMF signal units were manned entirely by volunteers and 12th Mixed Brigade Signals continued on that basis until 13th October 1939 when the name was changed to 6th Military District Signals.

Successive Officers Commanding 12th Mixed Brigade Signals were:

Capt S R Houghton DSO. MC. VD.,

Capt J A Letcher,

Capt H M Bamford.

From 1939 - 1987 the home of Signals in Tasmania was located at Beaumaris Training Depot in Sandy Bay Road, Hobart.

"Beaumaris" was the home of the Roberts family who built an impressive three storey building and conducted a private zoo in the grounds. After Mary Roberts died the Hobart City Council acquired the zoo in 1923 and moved it to a site on the Queen's Domain near Government House. The zoo was finally closed to the public in 1937.

Prior to 1939, (when the drill hall was built in the "Beaumaris" grounds), the militia unit, 12th Mixed Brigade Signals, trained in a building at Anglesea Barracks. The Royal Australian Signals Association (Tas) has erected a plaque on this building to record its occupation.

During WWII, Beaumaris house was used as officers sleeping quarters and an officers mess, orderly room and Quartermaster's store at the rear. The Signals unit raised and trained some 70 Officers and 700 other ranks for the Corps of Signals during WW11 for service in the Middle East, Europe, S E Asia and Australia. After WW11 it was used as married quarters for ARA officers.

**(We will pick up the next segment of the history of "Sigs in Tasmania" in a future issue).**

### **TEENAGERS !!!**

A teenage granddaughter comes downstairs for her date with a see-through blouse on and no bra.

Her grandmother just pitched a fit, telling her not to dare go out like that !

The teenager tells her "Loosen up Grams. These are modern times. You gotta let your rose buds show!"

And out she goes.

The next day the teenager comes down the stairs and the grandmother is sitting there with no top on.

The teenager wants to die. She explains to her grandmother that she has friends coming over and that it is just not appropriate ...

The grandmother says, "Loosen up, Sweetie. If you can show off your rose buds, then I can display my hanging baskets".

*Happy Gardening.*

*Don't mess with a Senior Citizen*

## 10.

### SEAWEEEDS – OFFER OF EARLY RETIREMENT

The Navy has too many officers and decided to offer an early retirement bonus. They promised any officer who volunteered for retirement a bonus of \$1,000 for every inch measured in a straight line between any 2 points in his body. The officer got to choose what those 2 points would be.

The first officer who accepted asked that he be measured from the top of his head to the tip of his toes. He was measured at six feet and walked out with a bonus of \$72,000.

The second officer was a little smarter and asked to be measured from the tip of his outstretched hands to his toes. He walked out with \$96,000.

The third one was a non-commissioned officer, a grizzly old Chief who, when asked where he would like to be measured replied, “from the tip of my weenie to my testicles.”

It was suggested by the pension’s man that he might want to reconsider, explaining about the nice big cheques the previous two officers had received. But the old Chief insisted and they decided to go along with him providing the measurement was taken by a Medical Officer.

The Medical Officer arrived and instructed the Chief to ‘drop ‘em’ which he did. The Medical Officer placed the tape measure on the tip of the Chief’s weenie and began to work back. “Dear Lord!” he suddenly exclaimed, “where are your testicles?” The old Chief calmly replied, “Vietnam Doc

### THE OTHER CUBICLE *(Another of J.P.’s “offerings from Legacy.)*

Travelling down the coast road I needed to use the toilet. I stopped at a rest area and headed for the toilets, went into a cubicle and this is what happened ...

“Hi how are you?” (now, I am not the type to start a conversation in a toilet and I don’t know what got into me, but I answered, “Doin’ just fine!”)

Then the other person said, “So what are you up to?” What kind of question is that I’m thinking, this is too bizarre, so I said, “Uhhhhh, I’m like you just travelling!”

At this point I was just trying to get out fast as I could when I heard another question, “Can I come over?”

Ok, this question was just too weird for me but I figured I would just be polite and end the conversation, so I said “No, I’m just a little busy right now !!!

Then I heard the person say nervously, “Listen, I’ll call you back, There’s an idiot in the other cubicle who keeps answering all my questions !!!

### MOBILE PHONES, DON’T YA JUST LOVE ‘EM !!!

### SOME “QUICKIES FROM BARRY KING

Son, “Dad, I’m considering a career in Organised Crime.” Dad, “ Govenment or Private Sector.”

Don’t let age get you done. It’s too hard to get back up !

A man is stopped by the police at midnight and asked where he’s going. “I’m om my way to a lecture about the effects of alcohol and drug abuse on the human body.” The policeman asks “Really? And who’s going to give a lecture at this time of night?”. “My wife”, comes the reply.

The High Court ruled that there could not be a Nativity Scene in the ACT this last Christmas season. That wasn’t for religious reasons. They simply were not able to find Three Wise men in Canberra. The search for the virgin continues. There was certainly no problem however, finding enough asses to fill the stable.

**JOINTING UNDERGROUND CABLE***(By DX690 Jack (Curly) Bawling)*

We were a 90-man Signals Section of the Darwin Infantry Brigade, which arrived in Darwin in December 1940, in the SS Zealandia. Prior to the 19th February 1942, our lines of communication were by Radio telephony (Voice only) to unit outposts at Adelaide River and Katherine, until the arrival of Bob DeStephanus and Tony Marshall, who joined our unit in 1941. They were both trained at the Marconi School of Wireless, and Bob trained us in Morse code skills, which became mandatory, at a later date, for radio communication.

The land lines were by PMG overhead lines to permanent subscribers, and by Army Don-3 cable between two sections for temporary short distance communication. When necessary, we could retract the cable for further use. I remember running a line by stringing it through trees through barrel insulators between Adelaide River and Coomalie Creek. The Army, Navy and Air Force were also able to use the PMG lines which were supplied by underground armoured cable, which the PMG maintained.

Then came the first raid; all the civilians and our indigenous friends and most of the Armed Services were ordered out of the Darwin Area. Crisis! Who was going to maintain and repair the Underground Armoured Cable?

Alan Player, Bill Cody and myself were detailed to a position near Winnellie to meet up with a civilian cable joiner, who was to teach us, 'PRONTO 1', the art of cable jointing. I cannot remember his name, but he was a Scott who was at the Darwin Post Office when it was bombed. He was a great bloke, but understandably very nervous.

We knew SFA about cable joining and we had to learn in two weeks which was normally a lengthy course. Firstly, there were the inner groups of copper wire, insulated by coloured paper wrapping. To distinguish the pairs you had to learn the colour-code, like Blue, Orange, Green, Brown etc. Then came the lead-covering sleeve that fitted over the join. That had to be cleaned and joined (what a job). Then came the steel wire armoured sheath that was around the cable, and around that, a hemp wrapping: impregnated with a mixture of tar and arsenic. Any small puncture of the join and the white ants, which are prevalent in the NT, would get into the cable and eat the paper insulation around the wires and short them out.

At this time, we were attached to a nearby Army unit for rationing, and were close to the cook-house. One very cloudy day, we could hear planes in the distance and our Scottish friend was the first to hear them and was on his feet in no time, but we assured him that they would be ours, as we hadn't heard, the Anti-Aircraft guns, so he settled down and we could hear the planes getting closer. As it was getting close to lunch time the cook in the nearby cookhouse decided to light his fire. He decided to break up a wooden box for kindling. "Crash" went the back of the axe into the box and the Scott took off straight through the scrub. We located him about an hour later, covered with scratches and torn clothing from the Pandanus fronds, which he went straight through rather than around.

It was in 1942 when we had a new Lieutenant join us. He had done various schools with the PMG and he was appalled by our work methods, but we reckoned that as long as it worked it was OK.

We were called upon a number of times to repair underground cable, cut during bombing raids. After one raid, a section of cable had to be replaced. We had started on the job, when the Lieutenant arrived. For a short time he watched, but it was too much for him, "Look men", he says. "I'll show you how to do this properly". He called for the hacksaw to cut the armoured cable and started to use it. He asked for a new blade and we told him that was the best we had (it wasn't). Much to his frustration and a lot of sweat, he achieved the first hurdle. He moves on to the joining of the wires, and asks for a pair of side-cutters, we hand him a pair of pliers, as that was all we had, more frustration! Now comes the part we had all been waiting for, the wiping and joining of the lead sleeve. He asks for the Stymie, used for wiping the lead, we handed him a candle in place of it, which is what we had to use, and told him it was blessed, as it came from the Darwin Catholic Cathedral. We eagerly waited for his next request which was the Blow Lamp; we told him we had to fill it with petrol first!

He says, "I don't want Petrol! Kerosene is what I want". We told him that we cannot get any Kerosene, but Petrol is OK as long as you remember to turn the tap off slowly, so it does not blow up. But we will move away a bit in case it does.

From then on, we continued to do it our way until supplies began to improve.

*Story from the Lines of Communication Newsletter – (Printed in "Shurunka Sept 2011 edition – Newsletter of the NSW RA Sigs Assn)*

*Contributed by Arthur Gentle*

*vallE* TX10503 CLAUDE McCULLAGH SHEGOG - 10 MAR 1921 - 19 NOV 2011

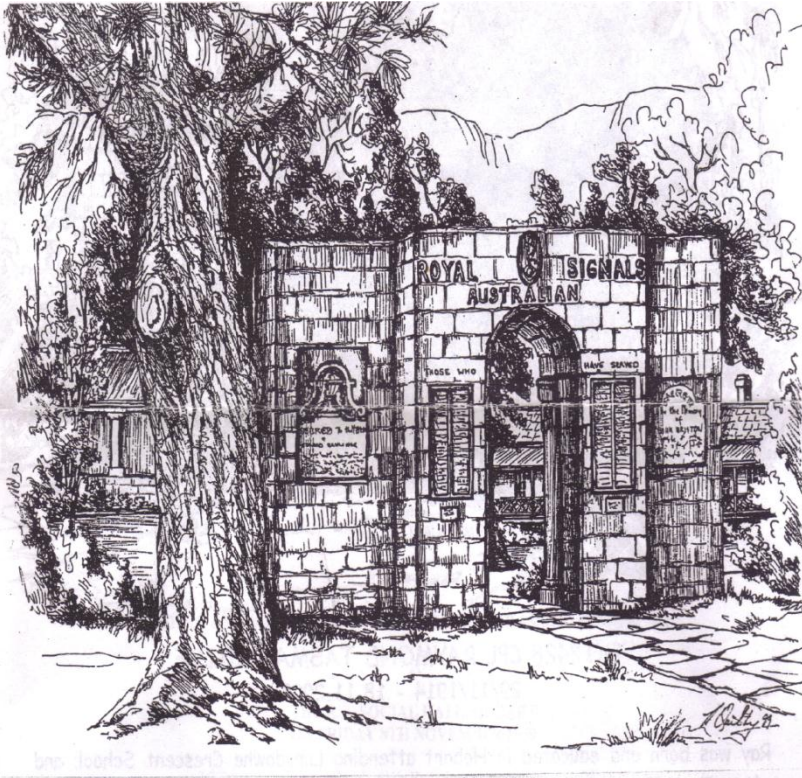
Claude was another of our thinning ranks of WWII Pacific Theatre “warriors”, born at Launceston and educated at the Dilston State School until the age of 14.

He performed farm work at Dilson in his teenage years and enlisted in the militia in 1941 before joining the AIF and served with Ack Ack Fortress Signals, Milne Bay, New Guinea, Oro Bay, & Buna. He later joined 37th Heavy Wireless Task Force and was stationed on Leyte Is and Cuzon Is. in the Phillipines and was located in Manila when the war ended. Claude’s unit was attached to the USA Army from mid-1944 until wars end.

On RTA, Claude worked in the timber industry, served for 10 years in the Police Force and then in 1958 went back to the timber industry, driving bulldozers and falling timber. His last 10 years of employment were in road transport where he retired as a Branch Manager

Claude married twice and has an extended family. His eldest son, Andrew followed his father into the Army, achieving the rank of Lt Col.

Claude passed away at his retirement home “Yaradoo” in Somerset Tas. Our condolences are extended to his family.



*R.J.P Claude*

### LAUGHTER IS THE BEST MEDICINE

The following humorous “quickies” were provided by our long-term member and ardent supporter, Paul Hodgman, who is now resplendent in his semi-retirement at Werribee in Victoria. Thanks “Hodgy”

#### Tell me this wont happen to us !

Three sisters aged 92, 94 & 96 live in a house together. One night the 96 year old draws a bath. She puts her foot in and pauses. She yells to the other sisters, “Was I getting in or out of the bath?” The 94 year old yells back, “I don’t know. I’ll come down and see.” She starts up the stairs and pauses, “was I going up the stairs of down?”

The 92 year old is sitting at the kitchen table having tea listening to her sisters, she shakes her head and says “I sure hope I never get that forgetful, knock on wood.” She then yells, “I’ll come up and help both of you as soon as I see who’s at the door.”

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Three retirees, each with a hearing loss, were playing golf one fine March day. One remarked to the other, “Windy isn’t it?” “No,” the second man replied, it’s Thursday.” And the third man chimed in, “So am I. Let’s have a beer.”

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A little old lady was going up and down the halls in a nursing home. As she walked, she would flip up the hem of her nightgown and say “Supersex.” She walked up to an elderly man in a wheelchair. Flipping her gown at him, she said, “Supersex”. He sat silently for a moment or two and finally answered, “I’ll take the soup”.

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Two elderly ladies had been friends for many decades. Over the years they had shared all kinds of activities and adventures. Lately, their activities had been limited to meeting a few times a week to play cards. One day, they were playing cards when one looked at the other and said, “Now don’t get mad at me. I know we’ve been friends for a long time, but I just can’t think of your name! I’ve thought and thought, but I can’t remember it. Please tell me what your name is.” Her friend glared at her for at least three minutes, she just stared and glared at her. Finally, she said, “How soon do you need to know?”

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As a senior citizen was driving down the fairway, his car phone rang. Answering, he heard his wife’s voice warning him, “Herman, I just heard on the news that there’s a car going the wrong way on the Interstate 77, please be careful” “Heck,” said Herman, “It’s not just one car. It’s hundreds of them!”

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**A MERRY XMAS & HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL MEMBERS & FAMILIES**