

SIGNAL NEWS



CERTA CITO

JUNE 2022

Official Journal of the Royal Australian Signals Association (Tas) Commenced 1951

(Founded 1945)

**Details of our Major Reunion in
November 2022, are included in this edition**

ASSOCIATION DIARY (2022)

SIGNAL NEWS

June 2022

PATRON: Lt Col Owen Winter OAM RFD ED (RL)

President

Richard (Dick) Goodwin ADEM (Tas)
 102 Wells Pde, Blackmans Bay 7052
 (03) 62 296124 or 0419 652 822
dickieg19@hotmail.com

Vice Presidents

Basil H Apled RFD
 1 x Vacancy

Secretary

Chris Goodwin
 102 Wells Pde, Blackmans Bay
 7052
 (03) 62 296124
chris6marg@hotmail.com

Treasurer

Mick F Farley
 170 Molesworth Road
 Molesworth 7140
 (03) 62 612514
farleymicksue@hotmail.com

ASSOCIATION BANK ACCOUNT

Name: Royal Australian Signals Association

BSB: 067-000 Account No. 28033880

Committee Members

Denise Geeves missgeeveous.d@gmail.com
 Chris Harcourt
 1 x Vacancy

Hon Auditor

Ian Hosan

Signal News

Editor: Dick Goodwin

Distribution:

March, June, September, December.

2022 "1st Friday" Reunions (remaining):Jun 3rd, Jul 1st, Aug 5th, Sep 2nd, Oct 7th, Nov 4th & Dec 2nd.

From 1615-1815 approx., at RAAF Centre
 61 Davey Street; Tpt provided for
 physically challenged members.

Contact:-

Denise Geeves, Dick Goodwin or Mick
 Farley to secure bookings.

Committee Meetings: July 1st,
August 5th, October 7th commencing 3.00p.

Mid-Year Lunch:- 12.30pm for 12.45pm on
Friday 24th June 2022
 At "Riverview", Strathaven Drive, Rosetta

Annual General Meeting (75th):- Friday 7th October
2022.
 5pm at RAAF Memorial Centre, 61 Davey Street

MAJOR REUNION – 35th Anniversary of the
Disbandment of 146 Sig Sqn: 4th-6th Nov 2022

Proposed Program:-

Friday 4th Nov – Usual First Friday + "Meet & Greet"
 from 4.15pm at RAAF Centre– **Tpt available.**

Saturday 5th – Anglesea Barracks & Museum

Tpt available

Tours from 11am

1pm Lunch - Venue TBA

7pm "Beaumaris Dinner" – Venue TBA.
Medals to be worn

Commemoration Day - Sunday 6th – Tpt available

Service: 11.45a at Anglesea Barracks,
 Signals Memorial
Medals can be worn

Reunion Farewell Luncheon:
 RAAF Memorial Centre from 12.30p

Remembrance Day Lunch: Friday, November
11th- Timing & Venue TBA.
Medals can be worn

LET US KNOW if you will possibly be
attending any of the events – Official
"Attendance Forms" will be available about
August.

Printed by: The Hon. Nic Street , MHA,
 Liberal Member for Franklin

A much-appreciated Community Service

FROM THE PRESIDENTS DESK

Anzac Day has passed again and we pause to reflect on our involvement and efforts. Firstly, I would like to acknowledge the special efforts of David Marsh and Perry McGlashan who took on the tasks of Flag and Marker bearers respectively, Mick Farley for organizing the bus to transport our people to and from the march and the service and return to the lunch venue and Secretary Chris for organizing the raffle at the lunch, which went a long way to offsetting the costs of the drinks.

The efforts of the young lady who handled ALL of the waiting of food and drinks at “The Globe” was much appreciated, on a day that the hotel did not open to the public; the only customers were our contingent of just over 20 for the lunch. I think everyone agreed, the meal was of a very good value and standard.

We were pleased to welcome Jamie Collidge, his mother Kerrie (a former Sqn WRAAC member of the 1960’s) and her husband to our lunch as well as a former member (now re-joined) in Geoff Asser and his partner. Rick Boreham (Ex 124 Sig Troop) with his ‘Assistance Dog’, both of who have marched with us for the past two years, also attended our lunch.

Good progress is being made to firm-up on the arrangements for our **Major Reunion marking the 35th Anniversary of the disbandment of 146 Signal Squadron** in 1987. The Reunion is to be held in Hobart over the weekend 4th-6th November this year. There has already been encouraging ‘numbers’ indicate they wish to participate, including some from interstate from as far away as North Queensland and a few former interstate Sqn personnel and locals who are not currently members of our Association (another challenge for Treasurer, Mick Farley). Please let Chris know if you are intending to attend so we can work on venues.

We are looking for a few volunteers to assist with planning and running some of the Reunion events so if you are able to assist, please let me or Chris know of your availability.

Our updated Constitution has been approved and printed. Any members wishing to read the document can contact Chris and she will email or post you a copy.

There is a possibility that we may be able to have some permanent seating installed at our Memorial at Anglesea Barracks. Your Association will need to obtain approval from Defence and suitable grant funding. We will need to ensure that by installing seating we don’t adversely affect the grounds maintenance in the memorials area.

The latest news on our Tas Signals Archives History Project is that we are now preparing to start saving the material on USB “smart drives” (sticks) and make them available for purchase. There is hundreds of hours of viewing and reading in the material. Your Committee has agreed to a modest “costs-recovery” price per “stick” of \$20 (*direct handover*) or \$25 (*if posted*). Orders should be lodged with Treasurer Mick with either cash or Bank Transfers for the purchase price. See Page 2. of this newsletter for our banking details, if you are transferring funds. There was a huge amount of material saved during our project spanning the years **1816** to the present era with most of it captioned and sequenced, in a logical manner. The collection also includes some material saved in “movie format” which can be “played” on a Laptop or Personal Computer or on many brands of modern “smart TV’s”.

At our June luncheon this year we will be joined by Bob Geeves who is celebrating his 75th birthday. Most would feel they know Bob through his constant stream of humorous contributions to this newsletter. Many happy returns Bob.

Finally, I take this opportunity to record our sympathy to the family of Denis Hill, a Committee Member and one of our voluntary bar staff at the RAAF Centre. Denis lived alone and passed away at his home in early April and was not found for several weeks.

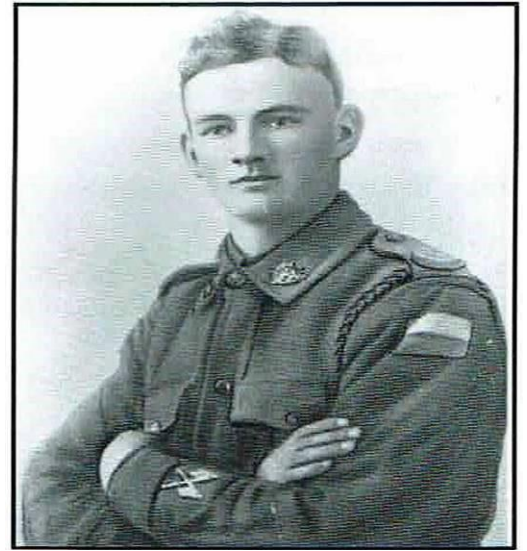
Yours in Signals,
Dick

THE SWANSEA SIGNALLER - MERV LEWIS

Merv was working in a Hobart fruit and vegetable shop when he joined the AIF in September 1916. He was two days short of his 19th birthday. His cousin Robert Nelson Lewis enlisted at the same time.

Merv spent time at Claremont Camp. During this time he absented himself for one day and had to forfeit a day's pay.

He was hospitalised on the *Seang Bee* but was discharged on his arrival in England. Merv went to Durrington Camp in May 1917. He had another brief visit to hospital in August 1917 with a boil on his left temple. He qualified as a first-class signaller in October 1917. In November 1917 Merv was transferred to the 9th Battalion and on 26th November he left for France. He became a frontline signaller. His job was to maintain communication between the front line and the officers behind. Messages were sent in Morse Code, one man operating the signalling device and one man using a telescope to read the message sent back. Merv operated the Morse signalling device and he also physically ran messages to the officers from different parts of the line.



Merv's last "stunt" was to go to the Hindenburg Line. In October 1918 he contracted influenza while on leave in England. When he contracted valvular disease of the heart it was decided to send him back to Australia.

Merv arrived in Swansea in 1919. He had been given 30 days' leave before his discharge so he decided to visit his brother Roy who was living in Swansea at the time. Roy drove the passenger and mail service bus for Bill Arnol who owned a Garage. Although Merv had said he was going to have a holiday and wasn't going to do any work for six months, he became bored. He began watching the work going on in Arnol's Garage. One day Bill offered him a job as an apprentice motor mechanic. Merv replied that he didn't know anything about motor cars but he'd like to have a go.



The Lewis home in Franklin Street Swansea

Kathleen Dilger lived next door to the garage. Her father owned the village store. After courting for about six years, Merv and Kathleen were married in April 1925 at All Saints Church. Merv recalled that it was a nerve-wracking task asking Kath's father for his daughter's hand in marriage. They moved into their new home at 9 Franklin Street where they reared their seven children and lived for the rest of their lives. The house still stands.

Merv was also a skilled electrician. He was a man ahead of his time. In 1929 after the Hydro Electric Commission told the Council that they were unlikely to be able to supply power for Swansea in the near future, Merv offered to supply power for street lighting in Swansea. In 1932 Merv ran overhead cables to his house from the generator in his garage, to supply electricity to his home, the doctor's surgery and the town hall. It wasn't until 1938 that a Hydro Electric power line was put in place for Swansea. That year Merv sat for his A Grade Wireman's Licence and over the years wired many houses between Triabunna and St Helens.

Merv and Kath had seven children: Ray, Douglas, June, Nora, Dorothy, Helen and Kay. They had many grandchildren and great grandchildren.

When World War 1 started Merv joined the Volunteer Defence Corps. He brushed up on his Semaphore and Morse skills by attending a course at Brighton for signaller's duties. There was a transmitter based at Swansea and he could contact various centres using a code. He drew up a schedule listing available cars, trucks, drivers and the number and names of people they would carry if it became necessary to evacuate the district.

His skills came in handy for the local volunteers who kept an overnight listening watch for enemy aircraft because Merv fitted an amplifier to the roof of the post so that the operator could remain indoors on cold nights.

During World War 2, Merv and Kath's sons Ray and Doug both served in the navy.

The Swansea Signaller Cont.,

Merv enjoyed fishing and cricket. He repaired clocks and generators and kept very active well into his old age. He sold the garage in 1961 but worked at his son's electrical shop helping with wiring and repairs. He drove a 1965 Wolsley which was his pride and joy. Merv always said: "It's important to have a challenge every day of your life."

Merv was always an active supporter of the RSL and in 1979 was made a Life Member. For many years he looked after the club's carpark gardens. In 1980 Swansea's RSL Park was renamed *Merv Lewis Park*. He spent many hours there trimming the rose bushes and keeping it tidy.



Merv and Kath in 1993

Merv was made a Knight of the Legion of Honour in 1998. The French Ambassador came to Swansea to make the presentation.

Kath died in 1997 at the age of 96. Merv peacefully passed away at home on February 8th in 1999. He was 101 years old.



Merv's medals on display in the Swansea rooms of the Glamorgan East Coast History Museum in Swansea – Story compiled from the records of the Museum

WAYS WITH WORDS**Number 1:**

If you ever testify in court, you might wish you could have been as sharp as this policeman. He was being cross-examined by a defence attorney during a felony trial. The lawyer was trying to undermine the police officer's credibility.

Q: 'Officer --- did you see my client fleeing the scene?'

A: 'No, sir. But I subsequently observed a person matching the description of the offender, running several blocks away.'

Q: 'Officer, who provided this description?'

A: 'The officer who responded to the scene.'

Q: 'A fellow officer provided the description of this so-called offender. Do you trust your fellow officers?'

A: 'Yes, sir. With my life.'

Q: 'With your life? Let me ask you this then officer. Do you have a room where you change your clothes in preparation for your daily duties?'

A: 'Yes sir, we do!'

Q: 'And do you have a locker in the room?'

A: 'Yes, sir, I do.'

Q: 'And do you have a lock on your locker?'

A: 'Yes, sir.'

Q: 'Now, why is it, officer, if you trust your fellow officers with your life, you find it necessary to lock your locker in a room you share with these same officers?'

A: 'You see, sir, we share the building with the court complex, and sometimes lawyers have been known to walk through that room.'

The courtroom EXPLODED with laughter, and a prompt recess was called.

The officer on the stand has been nominated for this year's 'Best Comeback' line -- and we think he'll win.

Number 2:

Now We Know Why He Was a General -----

In an interview, General Norman Schwarzkopf was asked if he thought there was room for forgiveness toward the people who have harboured and abetted the terrorists who perpetrated the 9/11 attacks on America.

His answer was classic Schwarzkopf. The General said, "I believe that forgiving them is God's function. OUR job is to arrange the meeting."

Number 3:

Dana Perino (FOX News) describing an interview she recently had with a Navy SEAL.

After discussing all the countries that he had been sent to, she asked if they had to learn several languages?

"Oh, no ma'am. We don't go there to talk."

Number 4:

Conversation overheard on the VHF Guard (emergency) frequency 121.5 MHz while flying from Europe to Dubai.

Iranian Air Defence Site: 'Unknown aircraft, you are in Iranian airspace. Identify yourself.'

Aircraft: 'This is a United States aircraft. I am in Iraqi airspace.'

Air Defence Site: 'You are in Iranian airspace. If you do not depart our airspace, we will launch interceptor aircraft!'

Aircraft: 'This is a United States Marine Corps FA-18 Fighter. Send 'em up, I'll wait !'

Air Defence Site: (... *Total silence*)

A Final Thought...

The guys at the golf course asked me to name an actress I would like to be stuck in an elevator with.

I told them the one who knows how to fix elevators...I'm old, I'm weary, and I have the urge to pee all the coffee I've had before our game.

(*Bob Gray*)

ANZAC DAY 2022 – BRISBANE & HOBART



Former Squadron SQMS and Qld member **Alan King** in Brisbane with his son **Darryl King** on ANZAC Day.

Alan served in 104 Sig Sqn, SVN in 68/69 and was SQMS at 124 Sig Sqn in Hobart shortly after.

Darryl served in Iraq and Afghanistan and is a past OC of 139 Sig Sqn and is currently 2IC, 7 Sig Regt.

(Photo: Courier Mail)



Some of the Sigs Marching in the Hobart parade on Lower Macquarie Street –

Flag Marshall is David Marsh.

First rank L-R, Rick Boreham, Mick Farley, Paul Hodgman & David Potter. Second rank Geoff Asser others obscured), Third rank Jamie Collidge & Steve Straughan.

The Corps Marker Bearer (Perry McGlashan) was out of picture. Photo by Fiona Farley (David is the last serving members of 146 Sig Sqn to still wear the ‘green skin’)

The well attended Association luncheon on Anzac Day was held as a “private function” at “The Globe” Hotel in South Hobart. The two course meal was of a very good standard & value for money.

The Association again hired a privately owned bus to transport participants to the March step-off point & the Service at the Hobart Cenotaph & return to the hotel carpark at the conclusion of the service.

A 2022 SPECIAL EVENT

An event took place on Monday, 16th of February 1942 at approximately 10:30am on Radji Beach, Sumatra that until recently had been totally forgotten by most of the Australian public.

2022 marks the 80th anniversary of when Japanese Imperial troops murdered 21 Australian Army nurses and a number of civilians and British troops who were survivors of the “*VYNER BROOKE*” sinking. The ship was evacuating nurses and wounded troops and civilians from Singapore. The vessel was attacked by Japanese aircraft and sunk with considerable loss of life.

Sixty-three Australian Army nurses were despatched to Singapore in September 1941. At the end of the war forty-one of the nurses never came home. One nurse who survived the massacre on Radji Beach (who was shot) and incarcerated for three and a half years was Sister Vivian Bullwinkle who passed away in September, 2000.

The incarceration was horrific and claimed many more Australian nurses’ lives. One of the other survivors was Sister Betty Jeffrey (*a Tasmanian*) who managed to keep a diary over the time she was incarcerated. Following the war Betty Jeffrey wrote the book “*WHITE COOLIES*” which became a very popular worldwide and was also turned into a major radio serial of 52 half hour serial episodes broadcast on the Macquarie radio network with an audience of close to five million in Australia and broadcast in 1956. The film “*PARADISE ROAD*” by Bruce Beresford is also based on the book.

On Sunday, 13th of February 2022 the Applecross RSL Sub Branch, located in Perth WA, conducted a remembrance service to mark the 80th anniversary of the tragedy that took place on Radji Beach to honour those 63 nurses, especially the 41 that never returned, one of which was Sister Shirley Gardham from Ulverstone who passed away during captivity.

The service took place at Bicton WA where the nurse’s memorial is located in Honour Avenue. With the Covid restrictions in place at the time, the service was broadcast to Australia via the Community Radio network and also to stream the service on the internet. *(Brian ‘Capt Kilowatt’ Watson)*

Editor’s notes:-

Brian has arranged to acquire a supply of the serialised edition of “*White Coolies*” in a 2 x CD’s set.

Brian will make the CD’s available for sale to Association and former Sig Sqn members, at the discounted price of \$45 plus postage (*where applicable*).

A summary of the CD contents will be provided once Committee members have been able to listen to the extensive, 26 hrs coverage and provide a review.

Readers wishing to acquire a copy, please contact Tas RASA Treasurer, Mick Farley to arrange your purchases. (*Mick’s contact details are on Page 2. of the newsletter*).

SURVIVAL MISSION

A Pom, a Scotsman and an Irishman were heading into the desert and jungle on a survival mission, the regulations stipulated each man could only take one item to contribute to the success of the mission.

The Pom decided to take a large broolly to provide him with shelter from the sun and the rain. The Scotsman would not be separated from his beloved bagpipes. They would provide the entertainment he needed to keep his mind off the struggle and also to frighten off any natives.

The Irishman decided to take a car door. The others laughed at him, but he knew that if he wanted a cool breeze, all he had to do was wind the window down. *(Geeves)*

HOW A TECH STOREMAN BECAME A SAFE CRACKER

Sometime in the 1970's (the exact year escapes me) I received a phone call at work. The caller was Ltpl Ted Jordan, who was a Tech Storeman serving in 146 Sig Sqn. as part of the ARA cadre. He was well liked and as I recall, carried out his duties in an effective and efficient manner.

Ted said that there was a safe in the old cipher room which needed to be opened, but nobody had the combination. He was supposed to call in a locksmith, but had a better idea. He asked me if I recalled being Paying Officer for a camp some years previously and had I used that safe to keep the cash secured until the pay parade.

I cast my mind back and replied that he was correct in his assumption. He asked if I had set a new combination. I replied that I had. He then asked if could I recall the numbers. Of course I had no recollection at all. A setting used just once does not become memorable. However more memories were bubbling to the surface and I recalled that the ARA Sgt Clerk who assisted me with the payroll, suggested that I write the combination down in a place where it could be found, so that if I was not around the following day for any reason, the troops would still get their pay.

The room had a notice board complete with some very old notices pinned to it. I selected one, (something to do with the 99th Regiment I think), wrote down the combination on the back and replaced it. I left the room, locked the door and advised the Sgt Clerk as to where he could find the combination if required.

The camp ended with the usual pay parade and all went upon their way rejoicing.

I mentioned all this to Ted and left him to it. A couple of days later he rang again and said that he had found the combination, tested it and it worked. He thanked me for my assistance and then asked that I keep this to myself, as he was telling all who would listen that a locksmith was unnecessary and that he could open the safe himself. Of course nobody took him seriously, but I later heard how the story unfolded.

At the appointed time in front of a small and sceptical audience, Ted put on a performance worthy of an Oscar. He inverted a beer glass over the safe door and put his ear to it. Insisting on dead silence, he milked the act with as much suspense as he could muster. Finally with the casual manner of one who cracks half a dozen safes before breakfast. he swung the door wide open, much to the astonishment of the lookers. As far as I know, nobody ever discovered the truth about how he was able to do it.

Another posting kept me away from the Sig Sqn for some time, and Ted had been discharged by the time I returned. I have kept my promise of silence until now as I am sure that Ted is spending his time counting batteries in the big Q Store in the sky, and would not mind me sharing his moment of glory with you. *(Frank Moore)*

COURAGE

Courage does not always roar, sometimes courage is the quiet voice at the end of the day saying 'You'll **TRY AGAIN TOMORROW**'

When things go wrong as they sometimes will,
When the road you trudge seems all uphill,
When the funds are low and the debts are high,
And you want to smile, but you have to sigh,
When care is pressing you down a bit,
Rest if you must, but don't you quit.

Life is queer with its twists and turns,
As everyone of us sometimes learns,
And many a fellow turns about, when
he might have won had he stuck it out,
Don't give up though the pace seems slow,
You may succeed with another blow,
Success is failure turned inside out.

The silver tint of the clouds of doubt,
And you never can tell how close you are,
It may be close when it seems afar,
So stick to the fight when you're hardest hit,
It's when things seem worst that you mustn't quit.
And that's worth thinking about.

A tourist is sightseeing in a European city. She comes upon the tomb of Beethoven and begins reading the commemorative plaque, only to be distracted by a low scratching sound, as if something were rubbing against a piece of paper. She stops a passing local and asks what the scratching sound is. The local replies "*Oh that's Beethoven he's decomposing*". *(Hodgy)*

YOUR SECRETARY SAYS

Dallas Stow, former Training Sgt at the Squadron is to pay us a visit in June. We hope it will be at the time of our Mid-year luncheon at Rosetta. The last contact in Hobart was on Anzac Day in 2021, Dallas had not lost his appetite.

Basil McClymont (Qld) has recently forwarded further material for "Sig News". Thanks Basil.

Julie Paul (Qld) has recently visited Tasmania for a catch-up with family members.

Ray Woolley remains on the sick list. We wish him all the best in his recovery (*your President advised that it was the first time in nearly 60 years that he could remember Ray being "justifiably horizontal"*).

Sean de Freitas has recently sold-up his property at Adventure Bay and has "gone travelling" – look out for more of his magnificent photo's in future editions.

It's highly recommended those interested "book-in" with me before 15th June to ensure a seat at the "**Riverview**" on **24th June**. Seats are limited and it's likely to be a popular event.

Any members who have contacts at a Hobart area venue suitable to conduct our "**Beaumaris Dinner**" in November are requested to advise the President. We need a few options to explore now that our regular caterers have retired.

We are hoping our Bar Manager **Denise Geeves**, is recovering well after recent surgery. Losing both our regular barpersons at once left us in a bit of a bind in May. Thanks to **David Harcourt**, we were able to struggle through at our last "First Friday". Thanks also to **David & Chris Harcourt** for agreeing to stand-in for Richard and I in June with organizing the "First Friday" snacks and building security.

Our popular "Master of The Wheel" for many years; **Alf Graves**, has also been on the sick list of late. We wish Alf a speedy recovery and return to his "calling-the-numbers" at our "First Fridays". **Ken Walsh** has also joined the sick list so we wish our former Sqn SSM a speedy recovery.

I am looking forward to receiving some early "expressions of interest" about attending our November Reunion – my email address in on Page 2. of this newsletter.

Chris

RACIAL DISCRIMINATION

After a hard day's work, the Lone Ranger and Tonto went into a saloon for a few beers, but the barman took one look at them and said, "I'm mighty sorry Lone Ranger, I can give you a drink, but I can't serve your Injun friend in this bar.

The Lone Ranger was very thirsty so told Tonto to wait outside while he had just one drink. A few beers later Tonto poked his head in the door to tell him it was getting cold waiting out there. The Lone Ranger said he wouldn't be much longer, so just run around a bit to keep warm while he finishes his beer.

An hour later a bloke sticks his head in the bar door and asks if The Lone Ranger was still here?

"Yes pardner, I'm over here." "Well I'm just letting you know you left your Injun running."

(Geeves)

RELIGIOUS INSTRUCTION

A priest, a minister, and a rabbi want to see who's best at his job. So they each go into the woods, find a bear, and attempt to convert it. Later they get together. The priest begins: "When I found the bear, I read to him from the Catechism and sprinkled him with holy water. Next week is his first communion." "I found a bear by the stream," says the minister, "and preached God's holy word. The bear was so mesmerized that he let me baptize him." They both look down at the rabbi, who is lying on a gurney in a body cast. "Looking back," he says, "maybe I shouldn't have started with the circumcision."

Swansea Golf Club

PRICELESS!

A little boy got on the bus, sat next to a man reading a book, and noticed he had his collar on backwards. The little boy asked why he wore his collar backwards. The man, who was a priest, said, 'I am a Father.' The little boy replied, 'My Daddy doesn't wear his collar like that.' The priest looked up from his book and answered, 'I am the Father of many.'

The boy said, 'My Dad has 4 boys, 4 girls and two grandchildren and he doesn't wear his collar that way!' The priest, getting impatient, said, 'I am the Father of hundreds', and went back to reading his book.

The little boy sat quietly thinking for a while, then leaned over and said, "Maybe you should wear a condom, and put your pants on backwards instead of your collar.

(Geeves)

LESLIE MORSHEAD

Nickname – ‘Ming the merciless’

Lieutenant General Sir Leslie James Morshead, KCB, KBE, CMG, DSO, ED (18 September 1889 - 26 September 1959) was an Australian soldier, teacher, businessman and farmer, whose military career spanned both world wars. During the Second World War, he led the Australian and British troops at the Siege of Tobruk (1941) and at the Second Battle of El Alamein, achieving decisive victories over Erwin Rommel's *Afrika Korps*. A strict and demanding officer, his soldiers nicknamed him "Ming the Merciless", later simply "Ming", after the villain in the Flash Gordon comics.

When the First World War broke out in August 1914, Morshead resigned his teaching position and his commission in the Cadet Corps to travel to Sydney & enlist as a private in the 2nd Infantry Battalion of the First Australian Imperial Force. He was commissioned as a Lieutenant in September. He landed at Anzac Cove, Gallipoli on 25 April 1915 and his Battalion made the farthest advance of any Australian unit that day.

Invalidated to Australia, he became commander of the 33rd Infantry Battalion, which he led on the Western Front at Messines, Passchendaele, Villers-Bretonneux and Amiens. Between the wars Morshead made a successful business career with the Orient Steam Navigation Company, and remained active in the part-time Militia, commanding Battalions & Brigades.

Early life

Morshead was born on 18 September 1889 in Ballarat, Victoria, the sixth of seven children of William Morshead, a gold miner who had emigrated from Cornwall via Canada and his wife Mary Eliza Morshead, formerly Rennison, the Australian-born daughter of a fellow Cornish immigrant. William died when Morshead was six years old. He was educated at Mount Pleasant High School where he was appointed a junior teacher in 1906. In 1909, he became a student at the Melbourne Teachers Training College to obtain formal teaching qualifications. After his graduation in December 1910, he was awarded a scholarship to complete an education diploma at the University of Melbourne, but decided to defer for a year in order to teach at schools in country Victoria. He became a schoolteacher, teaching first at Tragowell in the Swan Hill district, and then at Fine View State School in the Horsham district. In 1911 he entered Trinity College at the University of Melbourne. After failing an exam in deductive logic, he decided to quit the state school system, and in 1912 took up a position at The Armidale School in the New England district of New South Wales. In 1914 he moved to the prestigious Melbourne Grammar School.

Morshead had been commissioned as a Lieutenant in the Australian Army Cadets in 1908. At Armidale, he was appointed commander of the school cadet unit, and was commissioned as a Lieutenant in the Militia on 10 February 1913. He was promoted to Captain in September. At Melbourne Grammar he commanded a company in that school's much larger cadet unit. While at Melbourne Grammar, he met Myrtle Catherine Woodside, the daughter of a Happy Valley, Victoria, grazier, and the sister of one of Morshead's pupils.

First World War - Gallipoli

Morshead's teaching career was interrupted by the outbreak of the First World War in August 1914. He resigned both his teaching position and his commission in the Cadet Corps and travelled up to Sydney to enlist as a private in the 2nd Infantry Battalion of the First Australian Imperial Force (AIF) because it was commanded by Lieutenant Colonel George Braund, whom Morshead knew well from his time teaching in Armidale. Morshead's time in the ranks was brief, as he was commissioned as a Lieutenant in the AIF on 19 September. He embarked for Egypt on the transport *Suffolk* on 18 October 1914. While his battalion was in training there, he was promoted to Captain on 8 January 1915. The 2nd Infantry Battalion landed at Anzac Cove on 25 April 1915. Morshead's platoon transferred from the transport *Derfflinger* to the destroyer HMS *Usk*, which took it to within 500 yards (460 m) of the shore. They then transferred to wooden boats which were towed to the shore, arriving at around 09:30.

The battalion made the farthest advance of any Australian unit that day, reaching the slopes of Baby 700, but was driven back by a Turkish counter-attack in the afternoon. It beat off further counter-attacks over the next three days. Morshead assumed command of C Company on 28 April. The battalion defeated major Turkish attacks on its position on 18 May & 8 June. Promoted to Major on 8 June, Morshead distinguished himself in the Battle of Lone Pine on 6 August. So intense was the fighting that of the 22 officers in the battalion, Morshead was the only one who did not become a casualty. However, on 16 September, like many others, he succumbed to dysentery & paratyphoid fever.

Leslie Morshead cont.,

He was evacuated to the 3rd General Hospital on Lemnos & then to England on the hospital ship Aquitania, where he was admitted to the 3rd London General Hospital in Wandsworth, England. For his services in the Gallipoli campaign, he was mentioned in despatches.

In March 1918, the 3rd Division was sent to the Somme sector to help halt the German Spring Offensive. The 9th Infantry Brigade, of which the 33rd Infantry Battalion was a part, was detached from the 3rd Division & sent to Villiers-Bretonneux. On 30 March, the 9th Infantry Brigade's commander, Brigadier General Charles Rosenthal, ordered Morshead to restore the front around Aubercourt. With the aid of the British 12th Lancers, the battalion was able to restore the line, although it was unable to advance as far as Rosenthal hoped. The 33rd Infantry Battalion was then relieved & withdrawn to Villers-Bretonneux to rest. However, on 4 April, Morshead was astonished to find that the line had again been broken and Villers-Bretonneux threatened. In the First Battle of Villers-Bretonneux, the battalion participated in halting the advance, and prevented the Germans from capturing the town. On 18 April, the 33rd Infantry Battalion was still in the town when it was heavily shelled with poison gas. Many men, including Morshead, became mustard gas casualties. He did not return to his unit until June.

Morshead again led the 33rd Infantry Battalion in the Battle of Amiens. For the fighting in August 1918, he was awarded the French Legion d'honneur in the grade of Chevalier. His citation, written by his new division commander, Major General John Gellibrand, read:

For gallantry, initiative and ability in action during the operations on SOMME in August 1918. On 8 August 1918, during the attack east of Hamel, Lieutenant Colonel Morshead was in command of the special force for the purpose of clearing Accroche Wood. He executed this task with great skill and then fought his battalion to its objectives, capturing 500 prisoners, many guns and a large quantity of material at very little cost to his own force.

Subsequently during the advance north of Bray on 22 to 24 August 1918, when the situation on his left flank was uncertain, Lieutenant Colonel Morshead gallantly maintained his position refusing his left flank, thus enabling the remainder of his brigade to maintain its position.

Western Front

Morshead returned to Australia on 22 January 1916 where he was treated at the 4th General Hospital at Randwick, New South Wales. After he recovered, he was posted to the 33rd Infantry Battalion, which was being raised in Armidale as part of the 3rd Division. He became its commander on 16 April & was promoted to the rank of Lieutenant Colonel three days later. He embarked for England again with his battalion on 4 May 1916. The 33rd Infantry Battalion trained at Larkhill on Salisbury Plain in England until November 1916, when it embarked at Southampton for France. On 7 December it relieved a British battalion in the quiet "nursery sector" of the Western Front around Armentieres. Morshead was mentioned in despatches and awarded the Distinguished Service Order. His citation, written by his division commander, Major General John Monash, read:

This officer has displayed conspicuous ability in administration and organisation of his battalion, which has attained a high standard of fighting efficiency. His energetic attention to the training of his officers and men prior to embarkation was responsible for the smoothness and despatch with which his battalion relieved a British battalion in the line a few days after arriving at the front. Since the battalion has taken its place in the line it has proved itself to be an efficient fighting unit due to this officer's personality and marked capacity for command. He organised and controlled two raids on the enemy's trenches and carried them out successfully. His courage and strong personality has created an excellent spirit in all ranks of the battalion. This officer previously served at Gallipoli.

Official historian Charles Bean described Morshead as: *A dapper little schoolmaster, only 28 years of age, in whom the traditions of the British Army had been bottled from his childhood like tight-corked champagne; the nearest approach to a martinet among all the young Australian Colonels, but able to distinguish the valuable from the worthless in the old army practice; insistent on punctiliousness throughout the battalion as in the officers' mess, with the assistance of a fine adjutant, Lieutenant Jones: and an imperturbable second-in-command, Major White, and with his own experience of fighting as a junior Captain of the 2nd Battalion upon Baby 700 in the Anzac Landing, he had turned out a battalion which anyone acquainted with the whole force recognised, even before Messines, as one of the very best. Morshead subsequently led the 33rd Infantry Battalion through the Battle of Amiens. On 30/31 August, north of Clery, he again fought his battalion with great ability and success. His military ability, fine fighting spirit and cheerfulness under all circumstances had a most inspiring effect upon all ranks and contributed greatly to the success of the operation.*

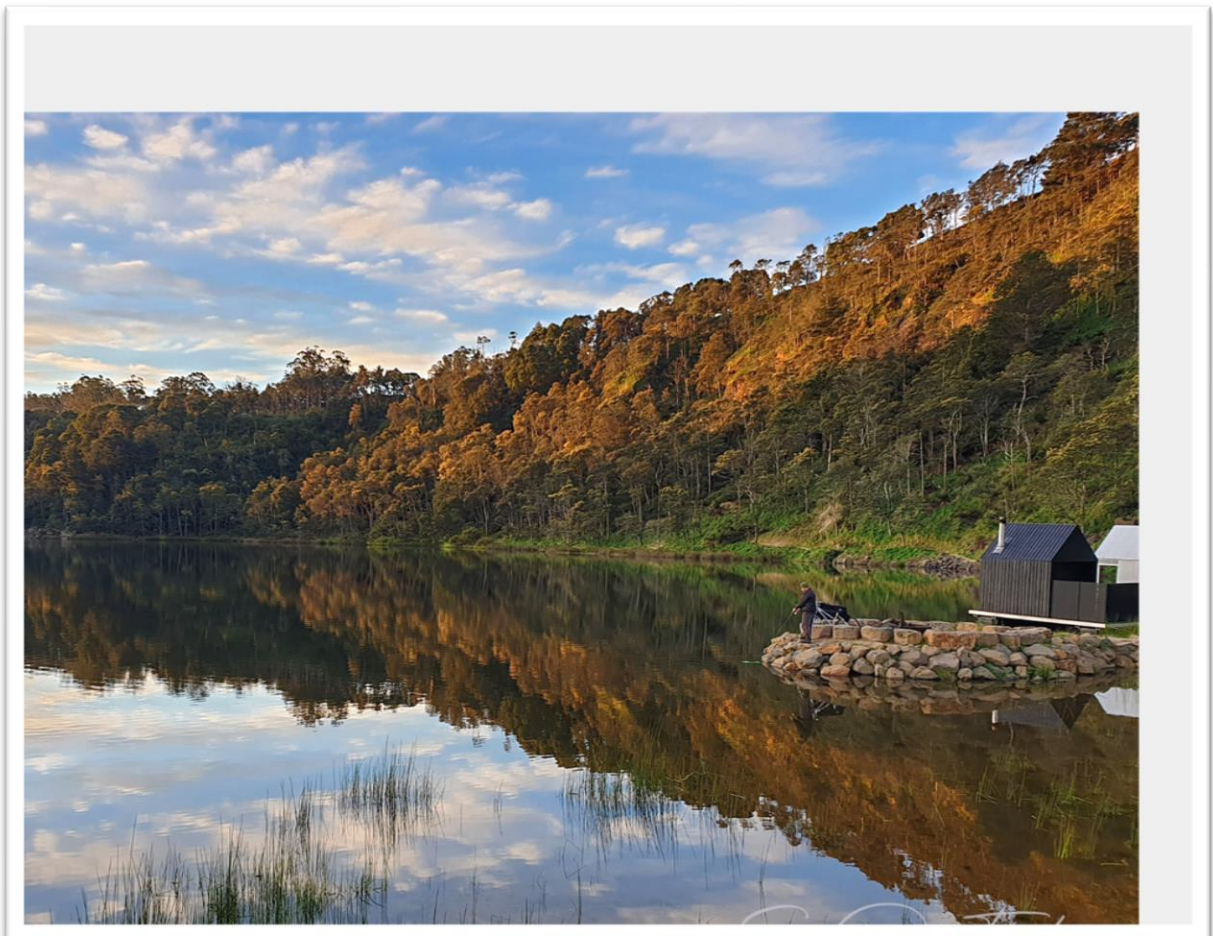
For his service on the Western Front, Morshead was made a Companion of the Order of St Michael and St George in December 1919 and was mentioned in despatches three more times. *(to be continued in the September 2022 issue Ed.)*

ENJOYING A SNACK AT “FIRST FRIDAY”

Some of the “regulars”, L-R: Ian Hosan, Sue & Mike Farley, Bruce Berwick, Chris Harcourt & Chris Goodwin



Another of Sean De Freitas’ magnificent photos of iconic Tasmanian scenery – the river at Derby



AUSSIE BUSH ETIQUETTE HINTS

I know that Aussie Bush Etiquette is recognised throughout the civilised world but we all need to be reminded from time to time.

In General:

1. Never take an open stubby to a job interview.
2. Always identify people in your paddocks before shooting at them.
3. It's tacky to take an Esky to church.
4. If you have to vacuum the bed, it's time to change the sheets.
5. Even if you're certain you're included in the will; it's rude to take your Ute and trailer to the funeral.

Eating Out:

1. When decanting wine from the box, tilt the paper cup and pour slowly so as not to bruise the wine.
2. If drinking directly from the bottle, hold it with only one hand.

Entertaining at Home:

1. A centre-piece for the table should never be anything prepared by a taxidermist.
2. Don't allow the dog to eat at the table, no matter how good his manners.

Personal Hygiene:

1. While ears need to be cleaned regularly, this should be done in private using one's OWN Ute keys.
2. Even if you live alone, deodorant isn't a waste of money.
3. Extensive use of deodorant can only delay bathing by a few days.
4. Dirt and grease under the fingernails is a no-no, it alters the taste of finger foods and if you are a woman, it can draw attention away from your jewellery.

Theatre/Cinema Etiquette:

1. Crying babies should be taken to the lobby and picked up after the movie ends.
2. Refrain from yelling abuse at characters on the screen. Tests have proven they can't hear you.

Weddings:

1. Livestock is a poor choice for a wedding gift.
2. For the groom, at least, rent a tux. A tracksuit with a cummerbund and a clean football jumper can create a tacky appearance.
3. Though uncomfortable, say "yes" to socks and shoes for the occasion.

Driving Etiquette:

1. Dim your headlights for approaching vehicles, even if your gun's loaded and the Roo's in your rifle sight.
2. When entering a roundabout, the vehicle with the largest Roo bar doesn't always have the right of way.
3. Never tow another car using panty hose and duct tape.
4. When sending your wife down the road with a petrol can, it's impolite to ask her to bring back beer too.

(Geeves)

SENIOR ON A MOPED

An elderly man, looking about 100 years old, and on a Moped, pulls up next to a doctor at a street light.

The old man looks over at the sleek shiny car and asks, 'What kind of car ya got there, sonny?'

The doctor replies, 'A Ferrari GTO. It cost half a million dollars.'

'That's a lot of money,' says the old man. 'Why does it cost so much?'

'Because this car can do up to 320 kph an hour!' states the doctor proudly.

The Moped driver asks, 'Mind if I take a look inside?' 'No problem,' replies the doctor.

So the old man pokes his head in the window and looks around. Then, sitting back on his Moped, the old man says, 'That's a pretty nice car, all right. But I'll stick with my Moped!'

Just then the light changes, so the doctor decides to show the old man just what his car can do. He floors it, and within 30 seconds the speedometer reads 160 kph. Suddenly, he notices a dot in his rear view mirror. It seems to be getting closer. He slows down to see what it could be and suddenly WHOSH. Something whips by him going much faster!

'What on earth could be going faster than my Ferrari?' the doctor asks himself.

He presses harder on the accelerator and takes the Ferrari up to 250 kph.

Then, up ahead of him, he sees that it's the old man on the Moped! Amazed that the Moped could pass his Ferrari, he gives it more gas and passes the Moped at 275 kph. He's feeling pretty good until he looks in his mirror and sees the old man gaining on him AGAIN! Astounded by the speed of this old guy, he floors the gas pedal and takes the Ferrari all the way up to 320 kph. Not ten seconds later, he sees the Moped bearing down on him again! The Ferrari is flat out, and there's nothing he can do!

Suddenly, the Moped plows into the back of his Ferrari, demolishing the rear end. The doctor stops and jumps out and, unbelievably, the old man is still alive.

He runs up to the banged-up old guy and says, 'I'm a doctor.... Is there anything I can do for you?'

The old man whispers, 'Unhook my bloody braces from your side mirror' (*Bob Gray*)

TRIP TO THE ZOO

A truck driver was paid \$1000 to take a load of Fairy penguins from Sydney to Adelaide Zoo but, nearing the end, his truck broke down and he was concerned about their welfare. Just then a second empty truck was going in the opposite direction, so he flagged it down and offered the driver \$500 to turn around and take them to the zoo for him. He accepted.

Eventually the truck was repaired, so he decided to go to Adelaide to make sure the delivery was made as he had requested. He was astonished to see the 2nd driver walking down the street with all the penguins following behind him, and confronted him;

"What's going on? I paid you \$500 to take them to the Zoo!" "I know, but I had some money left over so now I'm taking them to the pictures."
(*Geeves*)

TIT FOR TAT!!

A man was looking for a place to sit in a crowded university library.

He asked a girl: "Do you mind if I sit beside you?"

The girl replied, in a loud voice "*NO, I DON'T WANT TO SPEND THE NIGHT WITH YOU!*"

All the people in the library started staring at the man, who was deeply embarrassed and moved to another table.

After a couple of minutes, the girl walked quietly to the man's table and said with a laugh:

"I study psychology, and I know what a man is thinking;

I bet you felt embarrassed, right?

"The man responded in a loud voice: "*\$500 FOR ONE NIGHT? I'M NOT PAYING YOU THAT MUCH!*"

All the people in the library looked at the girl in shock.

The man whispered to her: "I study law and I know how to screw people"

(*Bob Gray*)



Right: Denis Hill & fellow Tas Signals Association., member, Ivo Bartonek, on a "tour of Tasmania", undertaken recently before Denis' passing



631416 DENIS STUART HILL: 17 FEB 1953-APR 2022

Denis Hill passed away at his Moonah home unit sometime on or after 4th April. He was not found until 2 May. Denis "reported-in" before our "First Friday" function in April, feeling ill. We did not hear from him again.

Denis was born in Hobart and had 2 brothers and an older sister; Lynne. He attended Glenorchy & Mt Stuart Primary Schools and then New Town High School between 1964-68. His mother, Jean Olive (nee Batchler) was the sister of Capt Jack Batchler; the Officer Commanding the first Tasmanian Signal Squadron (6 MD Sig Sqn) I 1950. During the early stages of our recent 'Tasmanian Signals Archives Research Project' several very good quality photographs of Jack were discovered (*taken pre and post WW2*). Denis was very pleased to receive copies for his family.

Denis started his military career with New Town High School Cadets in 1964, was appointed a Lcpl and enjoyed the training exercises. After leaving school he joined the AMP Society as a maintenance worker, soon after the time the AMP Society erected the multi-storey HQ's building in Elizabeth Street Hobart. He joined the local Signal Squadron in 1980 and served in the unit as an Operator Radio Cpl and as 2IC to his Radio Det Comd until the unit was disbanded in 1987.

He wanted to continue his AARES service and was posted to 124 Sig Troop at Anglesea Barracks and was involved in the 1989 major exercises in Northern Australia as a Platoon HQ Signaller. He eventually moved on to the Infantry B Coy Depot at Warrane and the 12/40 Bn RTR Support Coy at Dowsing Point where he trained Regimental Signallers on comms equipment, before finally electing to take his discharge in 1992, "logging-up" exactly 12 years of AARES service. Denis received a CO's citation for his 12 years of AARES service from the Bn Comd.

Then followed a civil career move for Denis. He became a Lawn Bowls Greenkeeper at two Hobart Clubs (Buckingham and St John's Parks BC.s) which lasted for 20 years. He was eventually forced to retire from full-time work due to neck and back injuries.

In more recent years, Denis, '*still jaded by his experience in the loss of the Sig Sqn*', (his words), joined our Signals Association to reacquaint with many of his former Unit members. He has served on the Committee, for the past five years, contributing to our Archives project by identifying discounted USB flash drive stocks and donating a large quantity of stationery for the securing of our historic material prior to lodgement with the Government Archives. He had also been assisting with the running of our Bar at the RAAF Memorial Centre.

Denis was looking forward to our forthcoming 35th Year of Disbandment Reunion in November and he will be sadly missed by his fellow Association members.

VALE Denis R.I.P.