

December 2018

# SIGNAL NEWS



**CERTA  
CITO**

**Seasonal Greetings  
To all members  
and your families**

Official Journal of the Royal  
Australian Signals Association (Tas)





**SIGNAL NEWS**

December 2018

**ASSOCIATION DIARY**

**PATRON - John McDermott**

**President**

LTCOL. Owen C Winter OAM RFD ED (RL)  
"Victoria Mews", 11/12 Bay Road  
Lindisfarne 7015  
(03) 62 43 9747  
oswinter@bigpond.com

**Vice Presidents**

Basil H Apted  
Mel N Cooper

**Secretary**

R J (Dick) Goodwin ADEM (Tas)  
102 Wells Parade  
Blackmans Bay 7052  
(03) 62 296124  
dickieg19@hotmail.com

**Treasurer**

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

**Committee**

Martin Potter  
Greg Rawnsley  
Denise Geeves  
Denis Hill

**Hon Auditor**

James Lyons

**Signal News**

**Editor:** Dick Goodwin  
**Distribution:** December 2018.  
March, June, September, December, 2019

**2019 "1st Friday's"**

Feb 1<sup>st</sup>, Mar 1<sup>st</sup>, Apr 5<sup>th</sup>, May 3<sup>rd</sup>, Jun 7<sup>th</sup>,  
Jul 5<sup>th</sup>, Aug 2<sup>nd</sup>, Sep 6<sup>th</sup>, Oct 4<sup>th</sup>, Nov 1<sup>st</sup>  
& Dec 6<sup>th</sup> **All Start at 4.30pm**

**End of Summer Lunch:-** Wed 6<sup>th</sup> Mar  
2019 Venue/timing TBA

**Anzac Day:-** Thurs 25<sup>th</sup> Apr 2019  
Hobart March and Cenotaph Service: –  
from 10.30am. Meet at "Waratah" by  
9.45<sup>am</sup>.for free transport.

Lunch back at Waratah Hotel at 12.30<sup>pm</sup>.

*Medals to be worn*

**Annual Luncheon:-** Wed 12<sup>th</sup> Jun  
2019 Venue/timing TBA

**Annual General Meeting (73<sup>rd</sup>):-**  
Friday 4<sup>th</sup> October 2019.  
5<sup>pm</sup> at RAAF Memorial Centre

**Commemoration Day:** Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> Oct.

**Service:** 11.45<sup>am</sup>.at Anglesea Barracks  
Signals Memorial

*Medals to be worn*

**Lunch:** RAAF Memorial Centre from  
12.30<sup>pm</sup>.

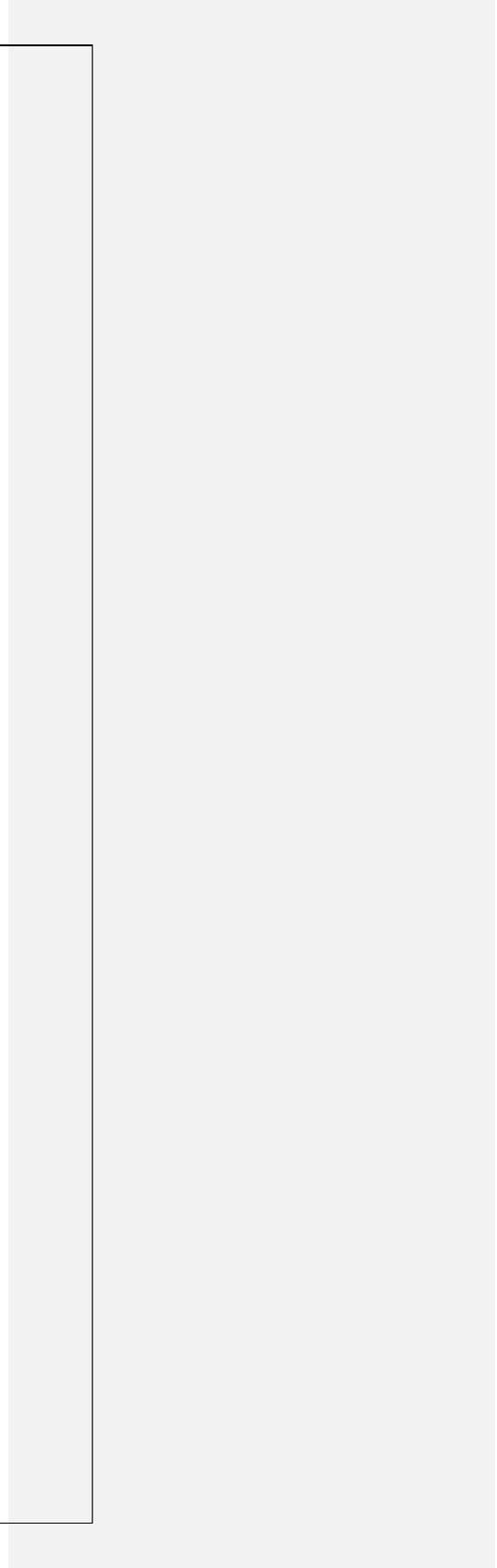
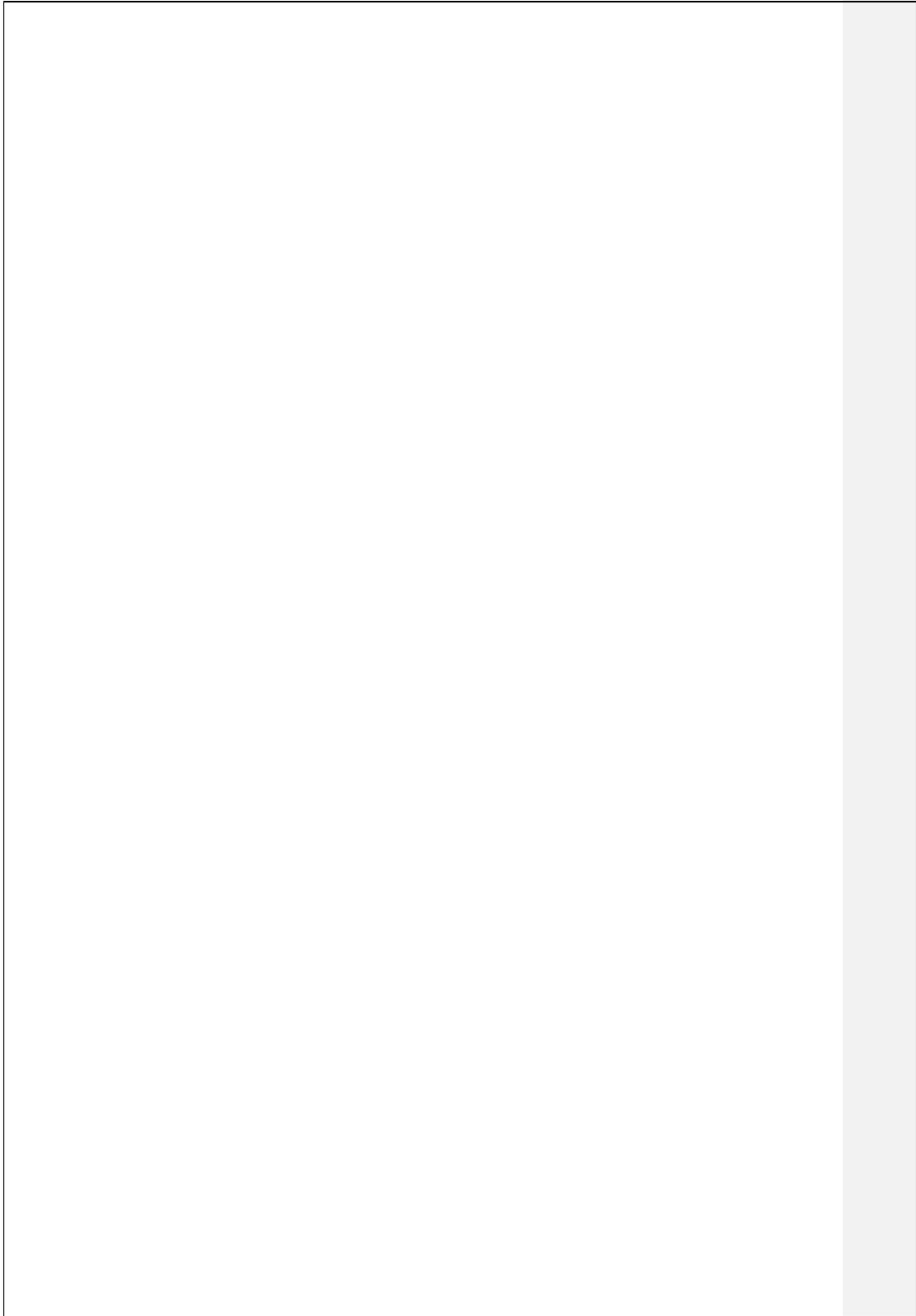
**Remembrance Day Lunch:** Nov 8<sup>th</sup>  
*Timing & Venue TBA.*

*Medals to be worn*

**Committee Meetings 2019:-**  
Meetings start at RAAF Memorial Centre  
at 3.15<sup>pm</sup> on 1 Mar, 7 Jun, 6 Sep, 1 Nov.

**Printed by the Hon. Will Hodgman,  
MP, Liberal Member for Franklin**

**A much appreciated Community Service**



### 3.

From the President

Welcome to the final edition of "Signal News" for 2018. The years seem to pass too quickly for me. This has been our busiest quarter for the year.

We started with our short AGM in October. Thank you for your confidence in allowing me to continue as President (*only nomination*).

New volunteers on the Committee are Denis Hill, Martin Potter and Basil Apled who has taken over the role of Vice President vacated by Ray Woolley, who has sort of retired. Welcome Denis, Martin and Basil and thanks Ray for your continuing support.

This followed with our Commemoration Day activities on the 14<sup>th</sup> of October. Our short service was held at the Signals Memorial at Anglesea Barracks (despite the access limitations currently operating) with our Padre, Rev. David Lewis. We then adjourned for a very nice lunch at the RAAF Memorial Centre. Our numbers were well up this year and a good day was had by all. Thanks particularly to the ladies for their efforts in the catering and cleaning up.

On the 9<sup>th</sup> of November we had our Remembrance Day Luncheon at Cooleys Hotel. A good rollup for a pleasant gathering. Thanks to David Harcourt for organising. This year we were joined by a group of American Ex-service people and cadets who were touring the State. Nice people. Tour coordinator Brian Watson in Launceston could not attend as his wife is unwell.

We have several new members. Colleen Currie has decided to continue her association with us and we have been joined by Craig Tompkins and Chris Goodwin. Welcome to you all. Unfortunately two of our stalwart members have passed on to the Signal Regiment in the sky. Lindsay McCarthy who was always about to help and Geoff Gard our Patron (a very early member of the Association). Our condolences to their families.

With Geoff's passing the Committee has nominated John McDermott as Patron and he was very pleased to accept.

I would again like to pay special thanks to our printing 'staff' for their continuing support.

Your efforts are much appreciated. I must also not overlook our ladies for preparing and presenting our 'bar meals' on 'First Fridays'. Thanks Chris.

Our social organiser, David Harcourt is not well at the present time so all the best and keep in there punching.

All that is left for me this year is to thank you for your participation and to wish you all the best for the Festive Season and look forward to a happy, healthy and prosperous 2019 and I will see you on the FIRST FRIDAY in FEBRUARY.

Yours in Signals

Owen

#### 4.

### 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ARMISTICE

*(The address to the Moama RSL Club on Remembrance Day 2018 by Air Commodore Michael Bennett, Rtd)*

We are here today to commemorate the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the signing of the Armistice when the guns finally fell silent on the Western Front on the 11<sup>th</sup> hour of the 11<sup>th</sup> day of the 11<sup>th</sup> month of 1918.

The Allies including Britain, France, Russia, Italy and the United States and the Central Powers including Germany, Austria-Hungary, the Ottoman Empire and Bulgaria finally agreed that enough was enough. Why there was a WWI is extremely complex but suffice to say national elites did not understand the implications of their actions and were busy playing the Great Game using their population as pawns.

#### **Russian Armistice**

Some of you may not know that this wasn't the first Armistice. The Russian Soviet Federative Socialist Republic (the precursor to the USSR) had signed an Armistice with the Central Powers to end fighting on the Eastern Front on 3 March 1918. By the terms of that Treaty, Russia recognized the independence of Ukraine, Georgia and Finland; gave up Poland and the Baltic states of Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia to Germany and Austria-Hungary; and ceded other territory to the Ottomans. The total losses constituted some 1 million square miles of Russia's former territory; a third of its population or around 55 million people; a majority of its coal, oil and iron stores; and much of its industry. In signing this Armistice, the Germans could concentrate its efforts on the Western Front while the Ottomans concentrated on North Africa. Australians continued to fight in both these campaigns.

#### **Australians at War**

Australia's involvement in the First World War began when Britain and Germany went to war on 4 August 1914, and both Prime Minister Joseph Cook and Opposition Leader Andrew Fisher, who were in the midst of an election campaign, pledged full support for Britain. The outbreak of war was greeted in Australia, as in many other places, with great enthusiasm.

The first significant Australian action of the war was the Australian Naval and Military Expeditionary Force's (ANMEF) landing on Rabaul on 11 September 1914. The ANMEF took possession of German New Guinea at Toma on 17 September 1914 and of the neighbouring islands of the Bismarck Archipelago in October 1914. On 9 November 1914 the Royal Australian Navy made a major contribution when HMAS Sydney destroyed the German raider SMS Emden.

The most famous and myth-like campaign at Gallipoli was conducted on both a joint and a combined basis, and at its peak directly involved more than 250 French and British warships. In addition to the troops of the AIF Australia had a naval presence, with the submarine, HMAS AE2, taking an active and important role at the outset of the campaign in penetrating the Dardanelles, and the later commitment of the RAN Bridging Train in support of engineering operations on the Gallipoli Peninsula. Indeed, this unit was awarded the most bravery medals of any naval unit during the war. However Gallipoli is best known for the part played by the Anzacs and has been discussed many times before. We all know that on the 25 April 1915 members of the Australian Imperial Force (AIF) landed at Gallipoli in Turkey with troops from New Zealand, Britain, and France. This began the campaign that ended with an evacuation of allied troops beginning in December 1915. The next year Australian forces joined the campaigns on the Western Front and in the Middle East.

#### **Middle East Campaign**

In the Middle East Australians of the 1st Australian Wireless Signal Squadron as well as the Mesopotamian Half-Flight of the Australian Flying Corps had been in action in Mesopotamia. A Turkish threat to the Anglo-Persian oil pipeline and the strategically important area at the head of the Persian Gulf (now known as the Shatt-el-Arab) convinced British strategists of the need to open a second front against the Turks. The Australian Government was asked to provide aircraft, airmen, and transport to support the Anglo-Indian forces assigned to the campaign. It responded by dispatching four officers, 41 men, and transport - called the Mesopotamian Half Flight - in April 1915. Arriving too late to help secure the Shatt-el-Arab and the oil pipeline, the Half Flight joined the British advance on Baghdad.

## 5.

*(Address cont.,)*

The operation was intended to exert additional pressure on the Turks. The attempt to reach Baghdad failed, and some 13,000 British and Indian troops found themselves besieged by superior Turkish forces in the city of Kut, about eighty miles south of their objective. Attempts to relieve the siege failed; and in April 1916 the garrison at Kut, including members of the Half Flight, surrendered. Taken prisoner by the Turks, few survived captivity.

The defeat on the Tigris marked the end of Australia's first experience of military aviation. The Middle East, the ground offensive began in 1916 for Australia with Australian troops taking part in the defence of the Suez Canal and the allied reconquest of the Sinai Desert. In the following year Australian and other allied troops advanced into Palestine and captured Gaza and Jerusalem.

The battle of Beersheba took place on 31 October 1917 as part of the wider British offensive collectively known as the third Battle of Gaza. The final phase of this all-day battle was the famous mounted charge of the 4th Light Horse Brigade. Commencing at dusk, members of the brigade stormed through the Turkish defences and seized the strategic town of Beersheba. The capture of Beersheba enabled British Empire forces to break the Ottoman line near Gaza on 7 November 1917 and advance into Palestine.

The conclusion to the Middle Eastern Campaign was a dramatic and rapid pursuit of Turkish forces and the capture of Damascus undertaken by the Desert Mounted Corps following General Allenby's success at the Battle of Megiddo in September 1918. Australian Light Horse units of this force entered Damascus on 1 October 1918 and by then they had occupied Lebanon and Syria and on 30 October 1918 the Ottomans sued for peace.

### **Western Front**

Meanwhile, throughout 1916 and 1917 losses on the Western Front were heavy and gains were small. From the summer of 1918, the five divisions of the Australian Corps had been at the forefront of the allied advance to victory. Beginning with their stunning success at the battle of Hamel in July, they helped to turn the tide of the war at Amiens in August, followed by the capture of Mont St Quentin and Peronne, and the breaching of German defences at the Hindenburg Line in September.

Following the breaking of the Hindenburg line, the attack on Montbrehain on 5 October 1918 represented an attempt to breach the final elaborate system of German defences based on the Beurevoir trench line system. The Beurevoir Line was the last of a series of German defensive lines known collectively by the Allies as the Hindenburg Line. It was approximately eight kilometres to the rear of the main Hindenburg Line and consisted of thick barbed wire entanglements and well-sited machine and anti-tank gun bunkers. The bulk of the trenches, however, were only partly dug.

The original attack on the Hindenburg Line launched on 29 September had been intended to smash right through the Beurevoir Line as well, but had not succeeded in this objective. Along with the 46th British Division, the 2nd Australian Division was ordered to break through the Beurevoir Line on 3 October 1918. The Australians were to seize the village of Beurevoir, and the British Montbrehain. The Australian attack was a success, but was stopped short of the village due to insecure flanks. The British captured Montbrehain, but were unable to retain it. After an ill-fated attempt to capture Beurevoir on 4 October, the 6th Australian Brigade was launched against Montbrehain the next morning. The village was secure by the end of the day, but came at the expense of 430 casualties - a cost regarded as excessively high for such a limited objective. The action at Montbrehain was the last battle fought by Australian infantry during the war.

### **The Beginning of the End**

By early October the exhausted Australian infantry were withdrawn from battle on the Western Front. They had achieved a fighting reputation out of proportion to their numbers, but victory had come at a heavy cost. They suffered almost 48,000 casualties during 1918, including more than 12,000 dead.

On the evening of the Armistice of WWI, the 2nd and 4th Squadrons Australian Flying Corps flew Sopwith Snipes and SE5s on the last aggressive operations by the Australian scouting squadrons, destroying railway bridges in Belgium. Post-Armistice, aircraft of both squadrons maintained balloon-line patrols for some days, but these were mainly practice exercises. It was the 3rd Squadron AFC who flew Bristolos on that unit's last offensive flight on the morning of Armistice Day to end the offensive war for Australia.

In the four years of the war more than 330,000 Australians had served overseas, and more than 60,000 of them had died. The social effects of these losses cast a long shadow over the post war decades.

6.

*(Address concludes)*

### **The Aftermath of the War**

Despite the war being over, and Australian troops not constituting part of the Allied occupying force in Germany, it was to be a long time before many Australians would return home. The day after the armistice the soldiers were told that we would be another 12 months in France.

Repatriation to Australia was organized by Lieutenant General Sir John Monash on a first come, first go basis.

While awaiting transport, some men took advantage of the opportunity to travel around France and Britain - one of the incentives for enlisting in the first place. A few hundred Australian servicemen went onto serve in Russia as part of a British force fighting Bolshevik forces. Some light horse units also helped with suppressing an Egyptian nationalist revolt in early 1919.

During this period of limbo, the AIF instituted a range of education and lecture programs to train personnel in peacetime occupation skills which was also enthusiastically used by some of the soldiers

### **Homecoming**

Once men started to arrive home, there was an unforeseen problem - the influenza pandemic, which had begun in mid-1918, and continued through 1919 sweeping through Europe and killing approximately 15 million people. As early as 26 June, Captain Ivor Williams wrote that 600 out of 750 men in his camp in France had contracted the flu. Although the decline in war time health due to rationing can be partly blamed for the immense impact of the flu, countries such as Sweden that were not involved in the war, also experienced high mortality from the virus. Many of the Australian transport ship passengers were held in quarantine upon arrival. As an example one soldier from the 7th Battalion, who arrived home in February 1919, after two and a half years of service in the AIF, was forced to wait another two frustrating months in quarantine before being allowed to return to his home in Victoria. Another from the 27th General Reinforcements, who enlisted in July 1918, never saw any action, but still saw many people around him die from an outbreak of flu on their transport ship when a group of soldiers who had just had shore leave in New Zealand arrived on board. This soldier contracted the flu, but was lucky to survive it.

### **At Home**

It is not unusual to read of men and women who returned home after the war "not being able to settle down" or "having a go at everything" because they weren't sure what to do with their lives. Many were restless for months or years after their experience in the war.

Some service personnel, upon returning after the war, were so traumatized by their experiences that they could not talk about them. Hundreds of thousands of men returned to Australia with permanent injuries - reminders of all they had experienced, and physical reflections of how the war had changed them.

There was also a sense of bitterness that people who had not served in the war would never understand exactly what it was like for those men and women who had served.

WWI had a very big impact on the families. As most soldiers had gone to fight in the war, women had to replace men in the workforce. This put a lot of pressure upon the older children in the family as they had to take care of the household duties and any younger children. Many of the men who came back from the War were suffering from serious injuries, the effects of Mustard Gas and or shell shock. This meant that some women had become responsible for supporting the entire family. The children were scared about their Dads' going to war because they might not see them again. They became more confused when their fathers did return because they did not understand the effects of trauma on their fathers and didn't know how to communicate with them. Today we call these effects Post Traumatic Stress Disorder but there were no real solutions back then.

The bottom line was that life became very difficult for the soldiers and their families because of the torment they had experienced on the brutal battlefields of WWI. None of the soldiers were prepared for the torment, neither were their families truly able to understand the full effects that War had upon their loved ones. While we commemorate the 100th anniversary of the end of WWI today, in 1918, the lives of millions of people had been changed forever. We now recognize that any war will cause PTSD for many of our combatants. The public of the day didn't really have a choice about going to war in 1914 but today, in our democracy, we all need to ensure that any decision to go to war is publicly justified and that we hold our government to task because those that go into harms' way will be paying a very high cost, potentially for the rest of their lives. It won't be the politicians, it will be the combatants and their families.

So on this 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the signing of the Armistice, I will leave you with some stark statistics. Of both the Central Forces and the Allies, there were an estimated 110 million mobilized forces. Of these, 13.5 million were killed, 33 million were wounded and almost 12 million were captured. By any reckoning this was a horrific war. **LEST WE FORGET**

*(Our thanks to former Association Vice President, Claude Bennett who forwarded this moving address)*

Commented [A1]:

Commented [A2R1]:

7.

#### SOME RECENT TALES OF MEMBER INVOLVEMENTS



When seeking quotes for some printing recently, Treasurer Mick Farley approached Paul Fallon at Xerox.

Paul was about to trek the Kokoda Track to fundraise for cancer research. We decided to donate \$200 to his cause.

Now Xerox has decided to donate a supply of our Association condolence cards.

Thanks to Xerox for its kind gesture.

*(Treasurer Mick presents our cheque to Paul Fallon at a Lodge function)*



Mark Collidge represented RASA (Tas) at the RA Sigs "Last Post" ceremony at the Australian War Memorial on 4<sup>th</sup> November  
*(Thanks Mark)*

#### IRISH QUICKIES

"Paddy, Oi missed the soccer. What was the score?" "Shure 'twas a great game they played Mick," said Paddy. "The score was nil all." "And what was the score at half time?" said Mick. "Oi don't know Mick. Oi was only there for the second half."

Did ya hear about Paddy, the Irish Grand prix driver?" He called into the pits 100 times during the race. - Four for fuel & the other 96 for directions!

Paddy: "Did yez mark the spot where we got all the fish today so we know where to come back to, Mick?"

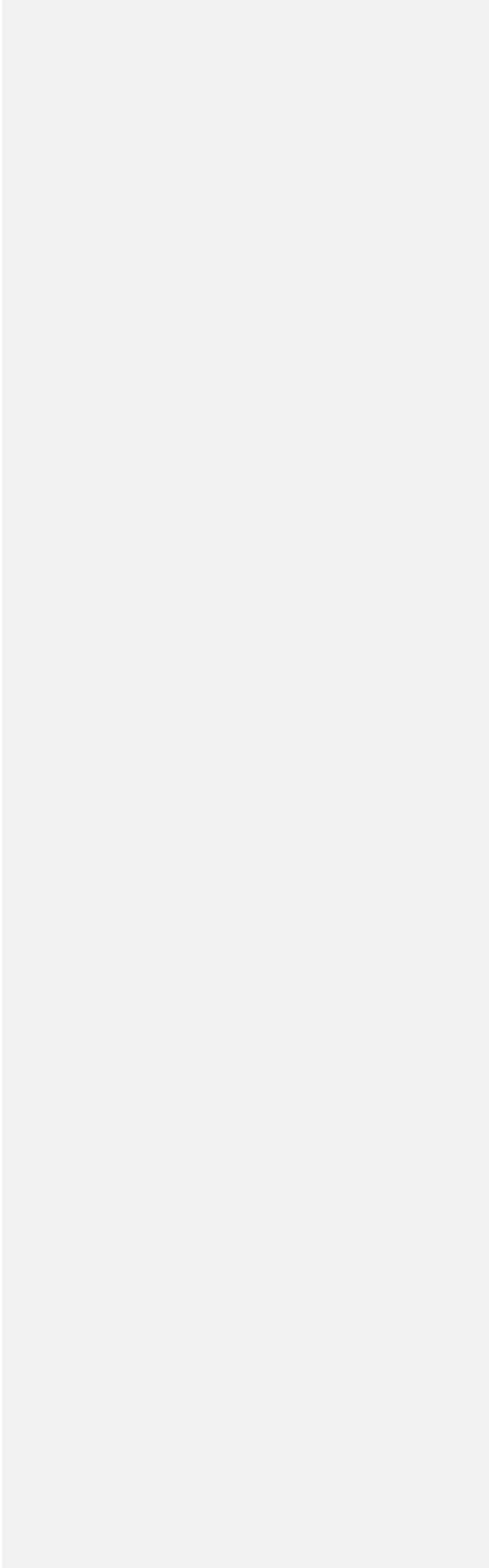
Mick: "Yes, I put an X on the side of the boat." Paddy: "Shure! But what if we take a different boat out next time?"

Did ya hear about the Irish water polo team? They drowned four horses during the first chukka.

In a "Top of the world" quiz the compere asked the Australian: "Complete this line of a song and spell your answer: Old McDonald had a...?" The Australian answered quickly: "Station, S.T.A.T.I.O.N."

Next it was the American who was asked the same question: He answered "Ranch, R.A.N.C.H."

Next he asked the Irishman. "Old Mc. Donald had a...? The Irishman answered "Farm." "Correct, said the compere, now spell it." The Irishman hesitated but then said... "E.I.E.I.O."  
*(Geeves)*



## 8.

### **INSTALLATION OF A SHOWER BASE & SCREENS - (*Confessions of a 'mug builder' – Sigs can do anything - a story with a moral!*)**

My older 50's weatherboard house had been built by a home builder. Consequently he had done many things on the cheap (he's now a millionaire in a multi-million dollar house) and I suffered from his short cuts and unusual building techniques. It originally had an old style iron bath with shower-over in the (smallish) bathroom and an external toilet. With the help of a plumber, I/we replaced the bath with a shorter fibre-glass unit with shower-over, thus allowing for the co-location of an internal toilet. My plumber told me to place a cement slurry under the bath for stability – but I knew better and used a solid concrete aggregate mix – big mistake No. 1. The bath never moved, but see later.

20 years on and I (we) decided to replace the bath (big mistake No. 2) with a 'you-beaut' discrete shower now that we are getting older and stepping into and out of the shower over the bath was getting difficult and her daughter had moved out and got married, thus removing the original requirement for a bath for a young girl (more dramas with the shower supply people because of the odd sizing of the bathroom –they really did get sick of me!).

I told wifey it'd take me a week to complete the project – big mistake No. 3 - and she arranged with friends to shower there. I could do with duck-baths in the laundry and occasional showers at a friend's place. Shades of army bush days – but without the 'choofa'. It took me the best part of a day to jack-hammer (literally) the solid concrete out and release the bath. It was good concrete – what a mess!

I thought we had discussed and agreed where the shower base would go – big mistake No. 4 – never assume – it makes an ass out of you and me – advice from training Sgt Mick M to a young (old) 2Lt - and cut the 200x200 hole in the floor to accommodate the base outlet. She came home, said that'd never do, it'd have to be moved; so I had to reinstate the floor and cut a new hole. Lost a day, but of course the oddly placed bearers and floor joists caused me heaps of heartaches and plumbing problems in the new loc. (*This time I used mortar mix for the base's support - buggie the concrete – I'm a fast (slow) learner – and prior to the base installation, spent a sleepless night worrying about it. Anyway, it turned out ok, more or less, after I cleaned up the mess.*)

Next problem was sorting out the walls for the shower screen underlay. Nothing was square. Studs were old imperial spacing (sort of) and 10 mm out of alignment/square (especially in the corner) and so I had to build out the walls with packing and put in a dummy stud – especially because I couldn't check the base into the studs and floor plates (see comment re bearer and joist placement). More pressure from you know who! Anyway it worked but by this time it was beginning to seem that the project was my life's work. After all, I was now into Day 13 of a projected 7.

After installing the base and the wall underlay, next was the liner and another sleepless night worrying about gluing it into place – did I measure and cut the holes for the taps and shower head accurately? Did I cut the liner to the right size? But it worked within 5 mm. Must have looked at the level cross-eyed. Home-brew didn't help. More pressure. Can we fit the glass tomorrow? (Day 14).

Another sleepless night worrying about fitting the glass panels together (never heard Macca on Sunday at 6am before – played The Snow Goose, which is pretty much the way I felt – re-read the instructions for the 'umpteenth' time forwards, backwards and upside down (they're designed for a builder, not a mug) – worse than reading equipment Technical Manuals – damned American TM's (the 25/77 re-broadcast graphs rarely worked anyway with the frequencies we were allotted). Reminded me of Meccano manuals of the 50's (journal rod A into trunnion B etc. - what the hell is a trunnion?).

Sunday, Day 14 and 'you know who' arrived back home about lunch-time and I was ready to go. Together we manipulated the panels together with the normal barks and snaps both ways; I screwed them up, siliconed my transgressions and it was done.

Day 15. Fitted the new shower head and taps and luxuriated in the glorious hot water. Like coming back to Brighton showers after Buckland or the Fort. Of course, the big test came on the morrow when 'she who must be obeyed' stepped into the breach, as it were. No dramas or yells, thankfully.

9.

*(The Shower Base and Screens concludes)*

And the moral of the story? Actually there are 3 morals:

1. Never volunteer for anything – especially if you're not sure you can do it, despite the size of your mouth. Shades of erecting a 292. Wonder whatever happened to all those banana –shaped support tubes?
2. Forget the costs and pay the grand for a pro installation, and
3. If you still decide to do the job yourself, double the time estimate and send wife to her daughter's place or Melbourne for a fortnight. (My father did this when I was a kid and he wanted to paint the kitchen – he sent my mother, brother and I to Launceston via the Tasman Limited pulled by an old steam engine – ah, memories ..... the Rhyndaston Tunnel, supper at Parattah, clouds of steam from the driving pistons relief valves, roaring flat- strap through the intermediate stations without a stop, Cavell Court Private Hotel, the monkeys at City Park, ice-cream-sundaes at Monaghan's..... but I wax lyrical).

**Post-script.** The shower got a grudging thumbs up and thus was approved by/after referral to, a Higher Authority. Now to re-instate the wall which I had half torn out for shower location No.1 (see above). Ever tried to joint new 10mm plaster board to old 5/8<sup>th</sup> in horse-hair plaster? Not fun. More packing. The saga continued .....pressure, pressure, pressure.

**Further Post-Post-Script.** Walls jointed, bathroom re-painted and it's a goer. But never again. Wonder if I can lay the new vinyl ..... Nah, get an expert.

*(Anon - King of the Showers)*

**AN ACTUAL 'PERSONALS' ADVERT**

**"To the guy who tried to mug me last night in Savannah"**

I was the guy wearing the black Burberry jacket that you demanded that I hand over, shortly after you pulled the knife on me and my girlfriend, threatening our lives.

You also asked for my girlfriend's purse and earrings. I can only hope that you somehow come across this rather important message.

First, I'd like to apologise for your embarrassment; I didn't expect you to actually crap in your pants when I drew my pistol after you took my jacket. The evening was not that cold, and I was wearing the jacket for a reason. My girlfriend was happy that I just returned safely from my 2nd tour as a Combat Marine in Afghanistan. She had just bought me that Kimber Custom Model 1911 .45 ACP pistol for my birthday, and we had picked up a shoulder holster for it that very evening. Obviously you agree that it is a very intimidating weapon when pointed at your head, isn't it?!

I know it probably wasn't fun walking back to wherever you'd come from with crap in your pants. I'm sure it was even worse walking bare-footed since I made you leave your shoes, cell phone, and wallet with me. (That prevented you from calling or running to your buddies to come help mug us again).

After I called your mother or "Momma" as you had her listed in your phone, I explained the entire episode of what you'd done. Then I went and filled up my tank as well as those of four other people in the gas station, -- on your credit card. The guy with the big motor home took 153 gallons and was extremely grateful! I gave your shoes to a homeless guy outside Vinnie Van Go Go's, along with all the cash in your wallet. [*That made his day!*]

I then threw your wallet into the big pink "pimp mobile" that was parked at the curb, after I broke the windshield and side window and keyed the entire driver's side of the car.

Earlier, I managed to get in two threatening phone calls to the DA's office and one to the FBI, while mentioning President Trump as my possible target. The FBI guy seemed really intense and we had a nice long chat (I guess while he traced your number etc.). In a way, perhaps I should apologise for not killing you ... but I feel this type of retribution is a far more appropriate punishment for your threatened crime.

I wish you well as you try to sort through some of these rather immediate pressing issues, and can only hope that you have the opportunity to reflect upon, and perhaps reconsider, the career path you've chosen to pursue in life. Remember, next time you might not be so lucky. Have a good day! Thoughtfully yours, Alex. *(Anon)*

## 10.

### LAST WISHES

Doug, a friend of mine, lived all his life in the Florida Keys and now is on his deathbed and knows the end is near. His nurse, his wife, his daughter and two sons, are with him. He asks for two witnesses to be present and a camcorder be in place to record his last wishes, and when all is ready he begins to speak:

"My son, Bernie, I want you to take the Ocean Reef houses." "My daughter Sybil, you take the apartments between mile markers and Main Street, "Jamie, I want you to take the offices over in the Marathon Centre." "Sarah, my dear wife, please take all the residential buildings on the bay side of town ".

Then Doug dies. The nurse and witnesses are blown away as they did not realize his extensive holdings and the nurse says, "Your husband must have been such a hard-working man to have accumulated all this property."

The wife replies, "**Bullshit .... There is no property. All the asshole had is a paper run.**" (Hodgy)

### THE SIX GUN CASE

This is a true story from Houston Texas. One night a woman was arrested, jailed and charged with manslaughter for shooting a man 6 times in the back with her pistol as he was running away with her purse he snatched off her.

She was taken to court and sworn-in and asked to explain her actions. The woman replied, "I was standing at the bus stop waiting for the bus to take me home. I'm a waitress at a local café and after I finished I was at the bus stop with my hand on my pistol in my right pocket & my purse hanging on my left shoulder. All of a sudden I was spun around, knocked to the ground and saw a man running away with my purse. I looked down and saw my hand on my pistol and said aloud, "No way punk! You're not having my tips and pay. I raised my right hand, pointed the pistol at him and started squeezing the trigger.

When asked by the arraignment Judge, "Why did you shoot him six times? The woman replied under oath, "Because when I pulled the trigger the seventh time it only "CLICKED". The defendant was adjudged not guilty of all charges and discharged! (Geeves)

### THE BEAR STORY *(Try telling this one after several "frothies")*

A bear walks into a bar in Billings, Montana and sits down. He bangs on the bar with his paw and demands a beer. The bartender approaches and says, "We don't serve beer to bears in bars in Billings." The bear, becoming angry, demands again that he be served a beer. The bartender tells him again, more forcefully, "We don't serve beer to belligerent bears in bars in Billings."

The bear, very angry now, says, "If you don't serve me a beer, I'm going to eat that lady sitting at the end of the bar." The bartender says, "Sorry, we don't serve beer to belligerent, bully bears in bars in Billings." The bear goes to the end of the bar, and, as promised, eats the woman.

He comes back to his seat and again demands a beer. The bartender states, "Sorry, we don't serve beer to belligerent, bully bears in bars in Billings who are on drugs." The bear says, "I'm NOT on drugs." The bartender says, "You are now. That was a **bar-bitch-you-ate.**" (Hodgy)

### QUICK DISPOSAL

While out walking with my soon to be ex-husband along the edge of a creek just outside our house in Darwin, discussing our property settlement, kids and other divorce issues, we were surprised by a huge 5 metre crocodile which suddenly emerged from the murky water and began charging at us with its large jaws wide open. The Croc must have been protecting her young and her home because she was extremely aggressive.

If I had not had my little \$5 Reject Shop walking stick with me I would not be here today! Just one hard wack to my estranged husband's knee cap was all it took. The Croc got him easily and I was able to escape by just walking away briskly. The amount saved in lawyer's fees was really incredible, I got the lot! (Geeves)

History repeats itself...

...and the tradition continues....

## Coming home to roost

### 7CSR searches high and low for mascot.

Jack, the Golden Phoenix Rooster has come back to his perch at 7CSR as the unit mascot after the former mascot flew the coop in the '90s. Jack arrived in the unit's Gallipoli Barracks lines in March after an exhaustive search throughout 2014. The tradition of a rooster being maintained as a mascot for RA Sigs stems from WW I.

In Egypt in 1916, Driver Walter Henry Farrell, of 2 Div Sigs Coy, AIF, kept a Rooster named Jack because it was black and white. The soldiers quickly discovered Jack was better than any guard dog, as he attacked any stranger who entered the Unit lines.

In conducting the search for the new mascot, 7CSR's Regimental Quartermaster WO1 Paddy Neiland wanted to get as close to the original breed as possible, but found a photo of Driver Farrell with the rooster on his shoulder, a challenge to work with because it was in black and white. "It took a long time to find one with white earlobes," he said. "We contacted a Veterinarian in Brisbane and he tried to breed one for us, however, the Queensland heat kept destroying the eggs. The Vet then found another breeder in Victoria who was honoured to donate a golden phoenix rooster and two phoenix hens to us."

WO1 Neiland said he was an old "bushy" who knew animals so he was best placed to organise Jack's arrival. "I brought an old incubator from home," he said. "When he is fully grown he will be a magnificent looking bird. We also brought in two hens so his lineage can continue into the future."

2IC 7CSR Maj Lisa Miller said the unit decided to reinstate its mascot when they went back to their lines in February last year after being in a temporary building, reinstating our traditional mascot, and then engaged with and sought approvals from Defence's DGPers-Army and the Queensland Environmental Officer to make sure our mascot management plans were workable," she said. "It is a long-standing tradition for our Unit and our Soldier's Club is even called "The Roost"."

MAJ Miller said that Jack was too young for this year's ANZAC Day ceremonies, but he would be on parade next year. "He'll be either on the arm or the shoulder of his handler, Pte Sarah Boden or Sig Nicholas Panas," she said. "They both volunteered for the duty of looking after Jack and between them and the regimental duty staff we have a very robust daily care plan in place for the mascot and his hens. *(Reprinted from "Thurunka" RASA, NSW).*

### ADAMS' MISTAKE

A woman ran a red traffic light and crashed into a man's car. Both of their cars are demolished but amazingly neither of them was hurt. After they crawled out of their cars, the woman said; "Wow, just look at our cars! There's nothing left, but fortunately we are unhurt. This must be a sign from God that we should meet and be friends and live together in peace for the rest of our days." The man replied, "I agree with you completely. This must be a sign from God!" The woman continued, "And look at this, here's another miracle. My car is completely demolished, but my bottle of 75 year old scotch didn't break. Surely God meant for us to drink this vintage delicacy and celebrate our good fortune." Then she handed the bottle to the man.

The man nods his head in agreement, opened it, drank half the bottle and then handed it back to the woman. The woman took the bottle, immediately put the cap back on, and handed it back to the man.

The man asks, "Aren't you having any?" She replies, "Nah. I think I'll just wait for the police."

Some years ago Adam ate the apple. Men will never learn! *(Geeves)*

## 12.

### NEW AND UPGRADED AWARDS FOR LONG TAN - BUT NO VC

Former Defence Minister Dan Tehan recommended that awards for participants in the Long Tan battle be upgraded. Each recommendation from the independent Defence Honours and Awards Appeals Tribunal's review into the actions of 13 individual soldiers during the Long Tan battle has now been approved.

The Battle of Long Tan took place on 18 August 1966. It was the most costly single battle fought by Australian soldiers in the Vietnam War, involving 105 Australians and 3 New Zealanders from D Company 6RAR and more than 2000 enemy troops. A total of 17 Australians were killed in action and 25 were wounded, one of whom later died from his wounds. D Company were greatly assisted by an ammunition resupply by RAAF helicopters, close fire support from New Zealand's 161 Field Battery, together with additional artillery support from the Australian task force base at Nui Dat and the arrival of reinforcements in APCs as night fell.

The Tribunal recommended Medals for Gallantry for Lieutenant Adrian Roberts, Sergeant Frank Alcorta and Lance Corporal Barry Magnussen (deceased) and Commendations for Gallantry for Second Lieutenant Gordon Sharp (deceased) and Privates Neil Bextrum, Ron Brett (deceased), Ian Campbell, William Roche, Geoffrey Peters and Noel Grimes.

The Tribunal did not recommend a Victoria Cross for the late Warrant Officer Class 2 Jack Kirby. The Tribunal found the Distinguished Conduct Medal awarded to W02 Kirby in 1966 was, "the appropriate award to recognize [his] distinguished conduct and leadership in the field during the Battle."

For Corporal William Moore (deceased) and Private Allen May, the Tribunal recommended the Chief of Army's original decision to not award an honour be affirmed.

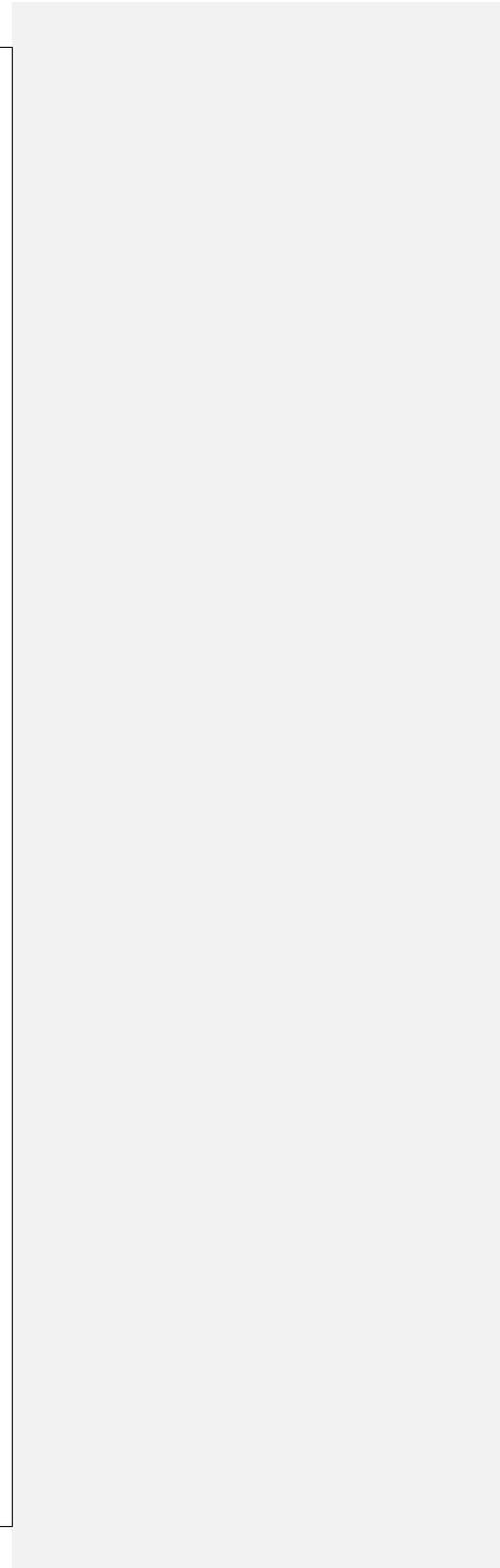
Mr Tehan paid tribute to Lt Col Harry Smith (Rtd) who was Commanding Officer of D Company 6RAR on the day and who fought for improved recognition for his soldiers for nearly 50 years. Speaking before this announcement, Lt Col Smith, now 82, said "he hoped the heroism of his men would finally be given the recognition they were robbed off so many years ago. "I think the tribunal now understands that justice has to be done. I'm heading to Canberra with a great deal of expectation that the injustice will be set right," he said. "It's time for this soldier and my men to put the battle behind us. I know that there are a lot of soldiers however that fought in other units, even in Afghanistan, who should have got awards and didn't."

"But Long Tan has been put up on a pedestal by the Australian public and the ex-service public and it needs to be put to rest and I hope that it is done before the 50th anniversary."

Speaking after the announcement to the Sydney morning Herald, Lt Col Smith said he was "a little bit disappointed about Jack Kirby, however, I accept the findings of the tribunal".

Mr Tehan said "the independent Tribunal was tasked with investigating the actions of 13 Australians during the Battle of Long Tan and to make a recommendation about awarding military honours. I thank the Tribunal members for their thorough research and considered recommendations. Awarding military honours is not something that is done lightly. It will be a great honour to write to the Governor-General and ask him to endorse the Tribunal's recommendations in full. The gallant actions of those who fought in the Battle of Long Tan are among the stories of the 60,000 Australians whose service and sacrifice we will commemorate on Vietnam Veterans' Day, which is also the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Battle of Long Tan."

The Tribunal's full decision is published on line at [www.defence-honours-tribunal.gov.au](http://www.defence-honours-tribunal.gov.au)



### DISJOINTED MEMORIES

Walking down to the Fish & Slippery on a Spring Sunday late-afternoon, listening to Hobart FM's over 40's music of the '60's and '70's and enjoying the sunshine, thinking about many things disjointed including for no particular reason, similar sun-drenched days in February at the Fort; Dave S's insistence on baseball after work, Sgt Blowfly (Hygiene NCO), the 'golden (rusted) triangle' fire alarm, Keitha's delicious and exquisite outdoor BBQ's at evening mess, the two cans per-man per-day per-haps beer ration on exercise, from a bar, a water filled 'Rover trailer run by and accounted for with an iron fist by Bob Muir, running to the end of the Fort past the old searchlight installation, para-rolls off the bar led by Geoff Breen, (and interesting games of Moriarty with a rolled up news-paper 'club'), La Marsellaise led by Hos, Basil - one night sweeping all the bottles off a blanketed tables FS so he could play 'Dolly', unhindered.

The interesting and fragrant long-drop, fishing and water ski-ing after work in Hos' little 15 footer half-cab, renditions of 'Galveston' in the back of the Sqn 1-tonner as Geoff McCord lead-footed it down Waterworks Rd after Rowallan Trophy practice at the Chimney Pot Hill training area (which the Sqn won that year under Geoff Breen's leadership and Dave Spratt's tutelage).

Frank Moore ('Whatever you want, the answer is 'no'- but go ahead and ask anyway') who always seemed to need to visit the Det latrine at every Det loc he suddenly and unexpectedly appeared at (must have had a weak bladder), Michelle M's embarrassment at a stallion's 'excitement' in a paddock we were traversing (must have been turned-on by the sight of our FWR), Laura's a-typical carriage of a tyre-gauge in the shoulder pen-pocket of her Howard Green (as she explained it, she was a driver after all), the call by a 6RAAPC SNCO clown to 'stand fast' as the Pay Corps pennant was lowered at 5pm in a shared camp (ignored!), trying to keep up with three young and fit Det Comds on a run across the neck back to the Fort.

Allan Nunn's spot-on caricatures of events and Sqn characters in interesting situations, a down-cast but strong and fit new-Committee Member who was chastised for only managing to cut 5-ton of firewood in a day, at Buckland - till someone suggested he ought to have actually started the chainsaw, the Sqn WRAAC who were permitted by Madame WRAAC to discard their drab and shapeless every-day work dress and attend the Sqn BBQ at the Sqn occupied Hospital Complex at Brighton in civilian attire and thus suddenly became young and nubile nymphs .....

Such things are but some of the memories of the Sqn in its various incantations. *Certa Cito (Tas)*



Stating the obvious!

## THE SECRETARY SAYS

Latest news from our Victorian “High Country” members, **Dave Wilson** about **Keith Price** (retrains via **Bob Geeves**) is that ex “Liney” Keith has been in hospital for a hip replacement and is now doing well. Hope you are soon back on your favourite seat at the Dargo Pub “KR”. “Geeves” and our man at Port Cygnet (**Bob Gray**) are in the news again, in the NSW RASA newsletter “Thurunka”. Both have had articles/jokes published in their September edition.

In our last Edition we put out the call for contact details of some former Sqn members. **Dave Marsh** was able to find one and your Secretary found another two. Surely other members can do better than that?? Our longevity is partially dependent upon our ability to keep in touch with former Sqn members.

Vic RASA Secretary, **Bill Little** has kindly searched the Corps Museum records and sent us copies of the photos held of our former Sqn members. He’s also chasing up the location of the 146 Sig Sqn unit flag/pennant – scanning that may prove a little difficult!!

Test message below received by **Denise Geeves** following our recent Remembrance Day lunch:

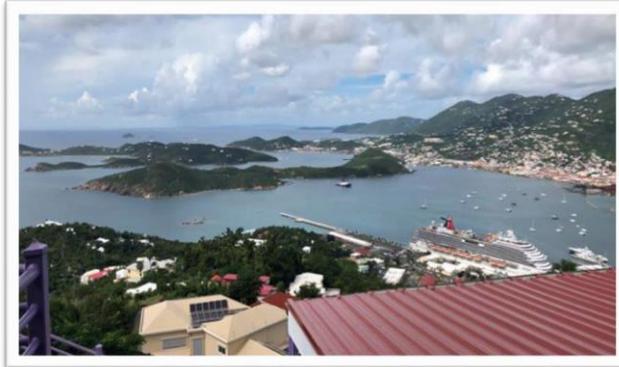
*Denise,*

*A big American thanks to you and the rest of your Australian Signal Vets Group for your hospitality today. The lunch was delicious and the opportunity to meet and talk even better. Please pass along our thanks to all your group.*

*Grace Edinboro  
California Cadet Corps*

More reports of RASA/former Sqn members travelling overseas recently. Comms from regular travellers **Kim Murray, Caroline Button, Frank Moore, Al Nunn** received via email and Facebook. Also received this great photo from **Pete Gibson**, touring the Caribbean and USA.

*(Thanks Pete - half your luck!)*



Some of the 30+ members and USA visitors attending the Remembrance Day luncheon at Cooley’s Hotel in Moonah on 9<sup>th</sup> Nov.

Good to see former SSM **Dennis “Sapper” Turner** join-in.

## 15.

### THE HARLEY

The inventor of the Harley-Davidson motorcycle, Arthur Davidson, died and went to heaven. At the gates, St. Peter told Arthur. 'Since you've been such a good man and your motorcycles have changed the world, your reward is, you can hang out with anyone you want to in heaven.'

Arthur thought about it for a minute and then said, "I want to hang out with God.' St. Peter took Arthur to the Throne Room, and introduced him to God. God recognized Arthur and commented, 'Okay, so you were the one who invented the Harley-Davidson motorcycle? Arthur said, 'Yeah, that's me...'

God commented: 'Well, what's the big deal in inventing something that's pretty unstable, makes noise and pollution and can't run without a road?' Arthur was a bit embarrassed, but he finally spoke, 'Excuse me, but aren't you the inventor of woman?' God said, 'Ah, yes.' 'Well,' said Arthur, 'professional to professional, you have some major design flaws in your invention.

1. There's too much inconsistency in the front-end suspension,
2. It chatters constantly at high speeds,
3. Most rear ends are too soft and wobble about too much,
- 4... The intake is placed way too close to the exhaust &
5. The maintenance costs are outrageous!!!!

'Hmm, you may have some good points there,' replied God, 'hold on.'

God went to his Celestial supercomputer, typed in a few words and waited for the results.

The computer printed out a slip of paper and God read it.

'Well, it may be true that my invention is flawed,' God said to Arthur, 'but according to these numbers, more men are riding my invention than yours.' (*Bob Gray*)

### CUNNING PENSIONERS

"What can I do for you?" asked the Doctor, as a new elderly couple entered his surgery. "We'd like you to watch us make love." Said the man. The Doctor agreed and when they'd finished he said. "there's nothing wrong with the way you make love." And charged them \$40.00.

This happened every week for 3 weeks, make love, pay the doctor and go. Unable to ever find anything wrong the doctor finally asked. "What exactly are you trying to find out?" "We're not trying to find out anything," said the old man, "She's married, so we can't go to her place, and I'm married as well, so we can't go to my place.

The Casino will charge us \$200.00 for a room, a cheap motel will still cost us \$120.00, so we come here for \$20.00 each and will get \$18.00 back from our Health Insurance Company." (*Geeves*)

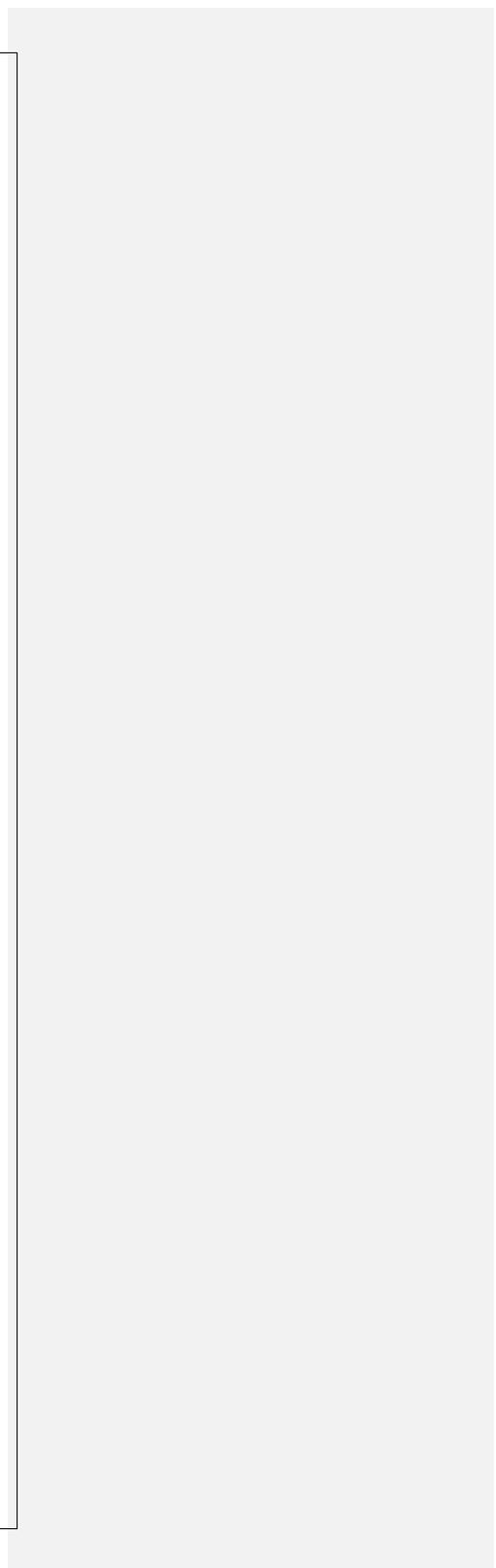
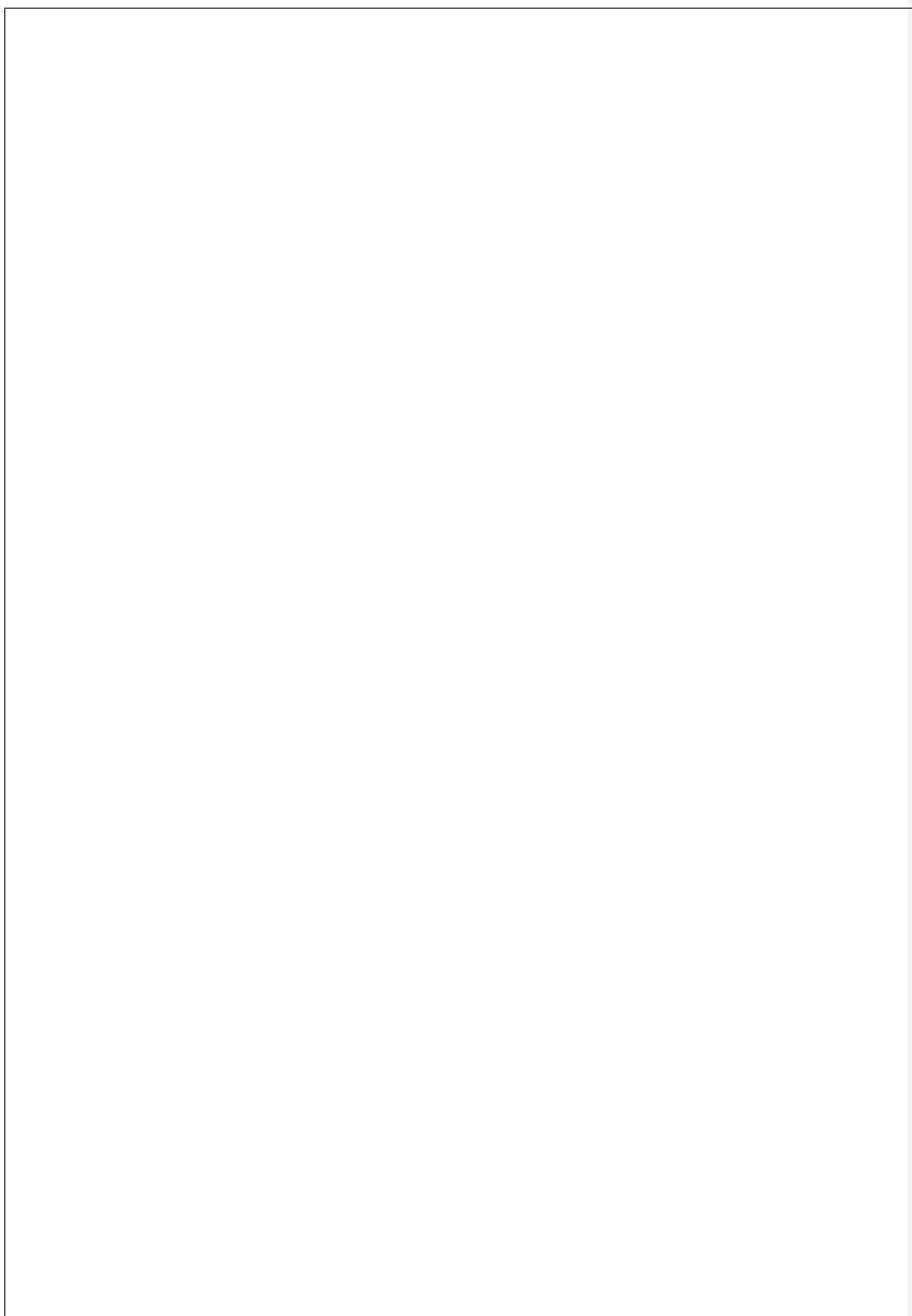
### THE SMART VET

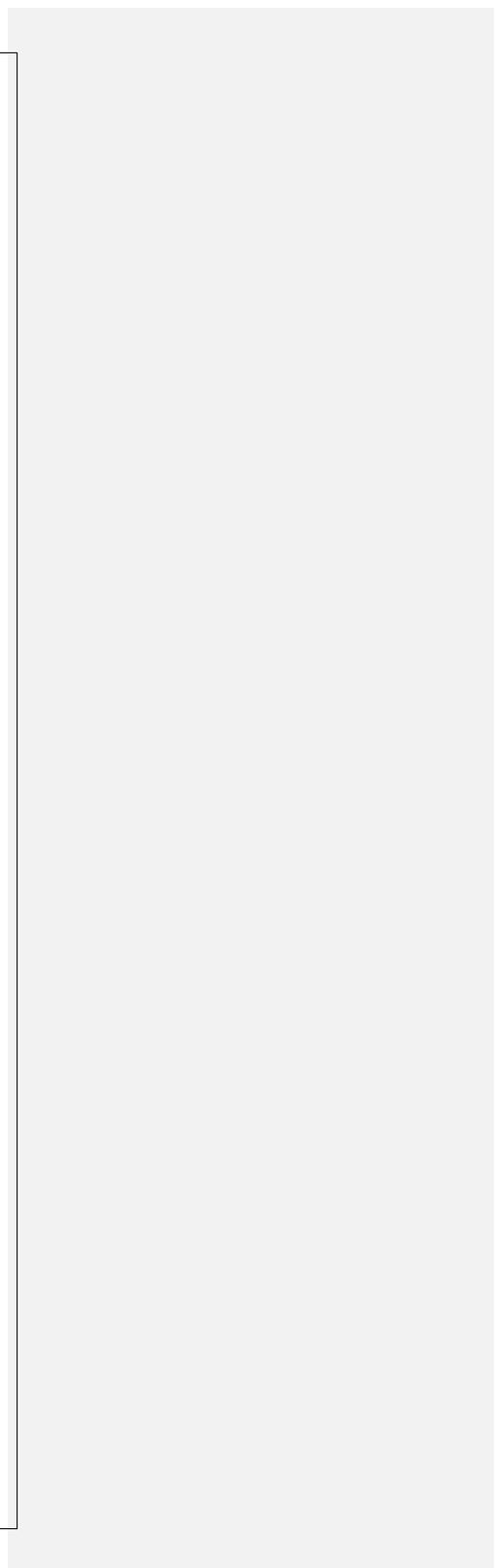
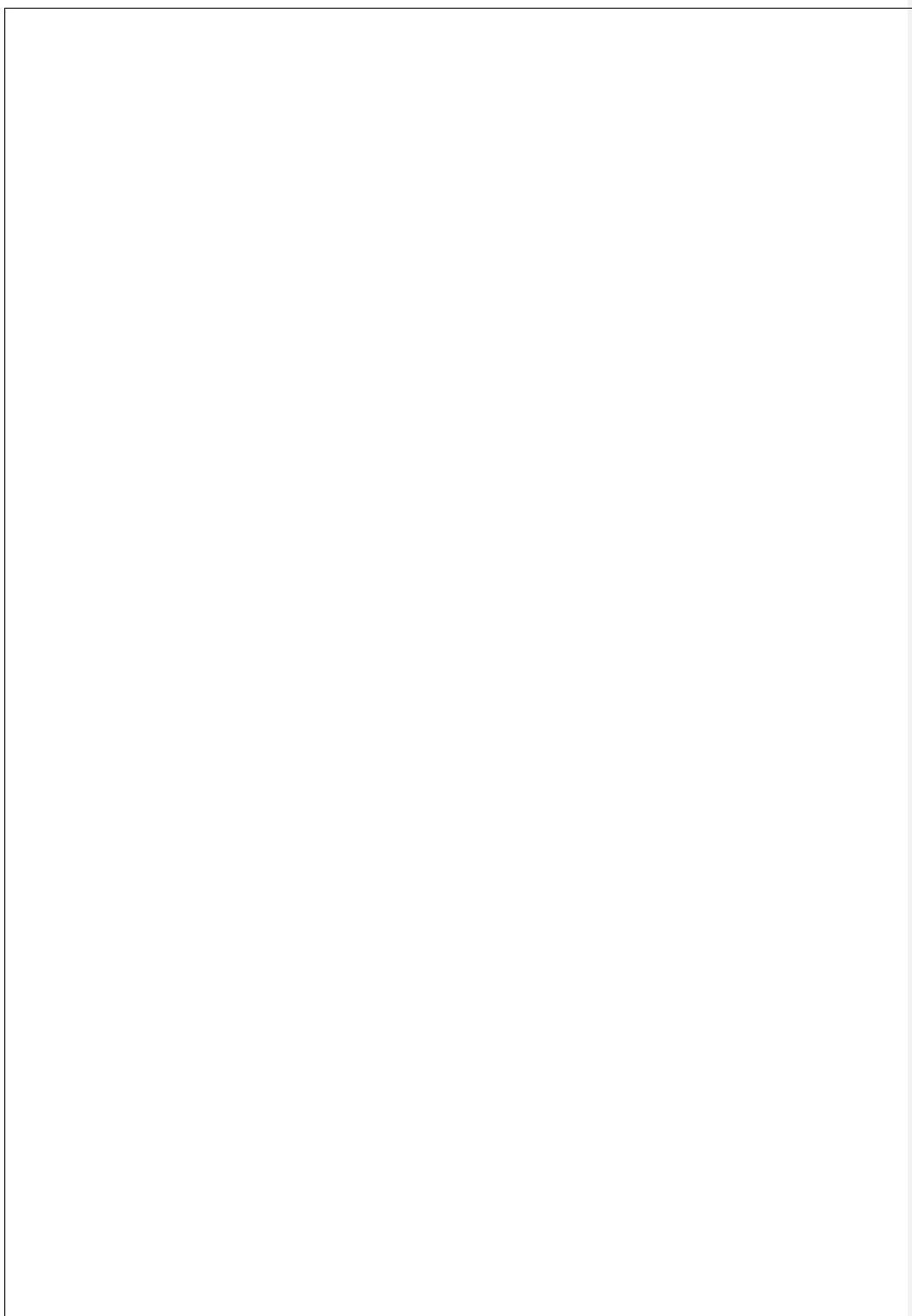
The only cow in a small town in England stopped giving milk. However, the town folk found they could buy a cow in Scotland quite cheaply. So, they brought the cow down from Scotland. It was wonderful, it produced lots of milk daily and everyone was happy. They then bought a bull to mate with the cow to produce more cows, so they'd never have to worry about their milk supply again.

They put the bull out to pasture with the cow, but whenever the bull tried to mount the cow, the cow would move away. No matter what approach the bull tried, the cow would move away from the bull, and he was never able to do the deed. The townsfolk were very disappointed and decided to go to their local Veterinarian to ask his advice. They explained to him. "Whenever the bull tries to mount our cow, she moves away. If he approaches from the back, she moves forward. When he approaches her from the front, she backs off. If he attempts it from the one side, she walks away to the other side."

The Vet rubbed his chin and pondered for a while, before asking, "Did you by any chance, buy this cow in Scotland?" The townsfolk were amazed. No one had ever mentioned to him that this cow came from Scotland. "You are truly a most knowledgeable Vet!" They exclaimed. "However could you know that we got the cow from Scotland?"

The Vet replied with a faraway look in his eye. "My wife comes from Scotland." (*Bob Gray – Ta mate!*)





16.

**VALE : 70065 LINDSAY LAMBERT McCARTHY**

Members will recall that Lindsay's life story was featured in our June edition. He passed on at Calvary Hospital, Hobart on 18 September 2018 aged 85. A very good turn-out of members, family and friends attended his graveside service held at Kingston (Tas) Cemetery.

Excellent eulogies were provided by representatives of the National Serviceman's Association, the Sound Preservation Society of Tasmania and Lindsay's family.

One of nature's gentlemen has passed. **R.I.P. "Linds"**

**VALE : GEOFFREY L GARD, OAM, BEM**

Geoff served the Association for 20 years in the positions of President and Patron prior to his passing He was awarded Life Membership in 1992.



Geoff joined the 2<sup>nd</sup> AIF in 1941 and trained in Tasmania before seeing active service in Darwin & Qld. As a champion amateur athlete, he held the State mile and half mile running records pre-war.

When Geoff returned to Tasmania he turned professional as an athlete, winning many State carnival events and competing at the Stawell and Bendigo (Vic) Gifts. As a coach Geoff was involved in AFL, badminton, squash and junior athletics and led the Buckingham Football Club as President, for 10 years. In recognition of his services to sport, Geoff was awarded a Queens Silver Jubilee Medal in 1977 and the British Empire Medal in 1980. He was further honoured in 1992 with Life Membership of the Sportsman's Association of Australia and in 1993 received the Order of Australia Medal for his services to sport and our Association.

Married to Association stalwart, Marj, they had three children, a girl and two boys. Geoff passed away on his 97<sup>th</sup> birthday and is remembered by members as a dedicated leader of our Association. **R.I.P. Geoff.**

**VALE : TX32956 Douglas NETTLESHIP**

Doug was born in NSW, the youngest of 4 siblings on 14<sup>th</sup> August 1919. He was still studying at college when WWII broke out Doug Nettleship passed away quietly on 6<sup>th</sup> September 2018, farewelled by his loving daughters.

He served in H Section, 2 Div Sigs in New Guinea from 1941 and was promoted to Lieutenant in 1942. He left the Army at war's end. He married Laurie Dunlop whilst on leave in 1943 and during a happy marriage of 68 years had 3 daughters - Lesley (dec), Julie and Maggie. The couple moved to Tasmania in 1989 and Laurie passed away seven years ago aged 93.

Army advice to finish his studies proved beneficial – Doug became an accountant after the war with C.I.G and other firms, rising to management in Philips Electrical Industries and eventually running his own business, organising and guest speaking at business forums for the NSW Chamber of Commerce, and then editing National Business Bulletin to 2004, when he was a sprightly 85!

Doug kept in touch with his wartime colleagues and attended a reunion in NSW. He didn't march on ANZAC Days but enjoyed the luncheons held in Hobart where he dined with other ex-servicemen. He continued the contact with veterans and regularly attended our Association functions with his friend Max Brett. They were both residents of Freemasons Home in Lindisfarne.

An avid reader and lover of facts, figures and good stories, he is remembered for his optimistic amiable personality which touched many lives.

*(Our thanks to daughter Maggie who contributed her father's Notice)*

**R.I.P. Doug**

