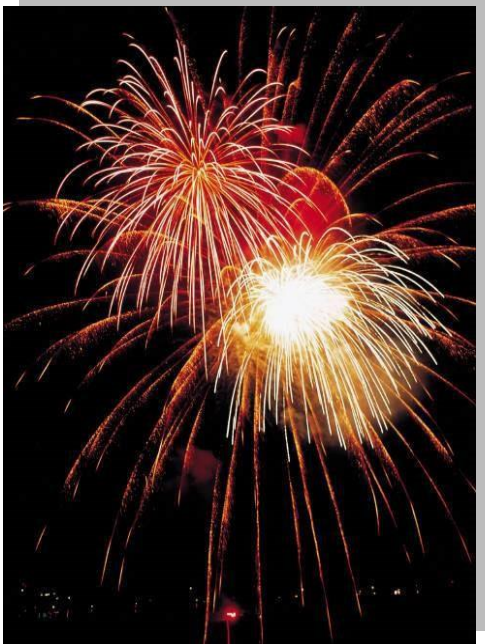


December 2021

SIGNAL NEWS



Season's Greetings to all our Members and Readers



Official journal of the
Royal Australian Signals
Association (Tasmania)
CERTA CITO

SIGNAL NEWS

December 2021

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Distribution:

March, June, September, December, 2022

2022 "1st Friday" Reunions

Feb 4th, Mar 4th, Apr 1st, May 6th, Jun 3rd, Jul 1st, Aug 5th, Sep 2nd, Oct 7th, Nov 4th & Dec 2nd. **All start from 1615**

Committee Meetings 2022:- Meetings start at RAAF Memorial Centre **at 1515** on 4th Mar, 3rd Jun, 2nd Sep & 4th Nov

End of Summer Lunch:- Wednesday 9th March 2022.

Venue: "The Globe" Hotel, 12.30p for 12.45p

Anzac Day:- Monday 25th April 2022

Meet at Globe Hotel carpark by 10.15a for transport to the Hobart March &/or Cenotaph Service. *Medals to be worn*

Lunch: at The Globe Hotel from 12.45p

Mid-Year Dinner:- Friday 24th June 2022

Venue/Time - TBA

Annual General Meeting (75th):- Friday 1st October 2022.

5p at RAAF Memorial Centre

Commemoration Day: Sunday 8th Oct.

Service: 11.45a

Anglesea Barracks
 Signals Memorial

Medals to be worn

Lunch:

RAAF Memorial Centre from 12.30p

Remembrance Day Lunch: Friday, November 11th Timing & Venue TBA.

Medals may be worn

Printed by:

Nic Street , MHA,
 Liberal Member for Franklin

A much-appreciated Community Service

Your President's Report

Firstly, may I take this opportunity to put on record our sincere thanks to Lt Col Owen Winter and his family for their unstinting loyalty and service to the Corps, Association and the membership over the past 19 years as our President and beforehand, as our Vice President, for a further 8 years. Owen was formerly the Officer Commanding our local Signal Squadron and later he was the RA Signals Colonel Commandant for many years. He served with distinction in all four roles and is a Life Member of our Association. We were very pleased at the recent Association Annual General meeting that Owen agreed to become our Patron.

As another turbulent year draws to a close, Australia appears to be coming to grips with combating Covid 19 and returning to relative normality. In Tasmania, we are conscious that many of our interstate members have put up with far more depressing living conditions than we have endured in here and we sincerely hope that the improvements will be sustained.

Our Association social activities are planned to resume on the first Friday evening of February, 2022 and our next event after that will be the traditional 'Summer Lunch' at "The Globe" hotel in South Hobart, on Wednesday 9th March – *see the Calendar on Page 2. for details*. We are hoping to greet some members who we haven't seen for some time. Bring a partner and/or a friend or two if you wish. Just let Secretary Chris or I know you would like to attend, a couple of weeks beforehand so we can confirm our numbers with the hotel.

The Committee is pleased to at last be able to announce that the archived records we held covering the period from the early colonial Van Diemen's Land military signals telegraph system (1816), the various Tasmanian Signals Units and the Association, through to modern-day activities, have now been digitised and are recorded on USB. Copies will soon be available for purchase from the Treasurer. I can assure members and families as well as former Sig Sqn members you will find much of interest when viewing the extensive material (*several thousand pieces*). Copies are also held by and can be viewed in the State Archives public viewing rooms in Hobart and Launceston. There will be further announcements about the records and the formats in the new year.

The end of 2022 is the 35th anniversary of the time the local Signal Squadron was disbanded. Your Committee is intending to conduct a 5th Reunion of former Unit and Association members, to mark that occasion, should there be sufficient interest to do so. Interstate people may find it is difficult to commit to attending given the restrictions we have experienced on travel since early 2020 and continuing uncertainty with such arrangements. However, if you believe you would **like** to attend, if circumstances permit, please let Chris or I know. That will assist in our planning.

As we take a break for the traditional Christmas and New Year season, please accept the seasonal best wishes of your Committee. We thank you all for your continued loyal support by retaining your membership and interest in Association affairs. Our membership remains at a strong level (*just under 120*) and there has been a steady trickle of new members over recent years replacing those veterans who have passed on. There are many more ex-Squadron members with whom we don't have contact currently and it will be appreciated if current members, who do have contact with past Sqn members, can recommend they join us and in doing so, assist to "keep the Sigs flag flying".

All the best for Christmas to you and your family. May 2022 be a much more positive year for all.

Yours in Signals,

Dick G

4.

A SOLDIER

We left home as teenagers or in our early twenties for an unknown adventure.

We loved our country enough to defend it and protect it with our own lives.

We said goodbye to friends and family and everything we knew.

We learned the basics and then we scattered in the wind to the far corners of the Earth.

We found new friends and new family.

We became brothers and sisters regardless of colour, race or creed.

We had plenty of good times, and plenty of bad times.

We didn't get enough sleep.

We drank too much.

We picked up both good and bad habits.

We worked hard and played harder.

We didn't earn a great wage.

We experienced the happiness of mail call and the sadness of missing important events.

We didn't know when, or even if, we were ever going to see home again.

We grew up fast, and yet somehow, we never grew up at all.

We fought for our freedom, as well as the freedom of others.

Some of us saw actual combat, and some didn't.

Some of us saw the world, and some of us didn't.

Some of us dealt with physical warfare, most of us dealt with psychological warfare.

We have seen and experienced and dealt with things that we can't fully describe or explain, as not all of our sacrifices were physical.

We participated in time-honoured ceremonies and rituals with each other, strengthening our bonds and camaraderie.

We counted on each other to get our job done and sometimes to survive it at all.

We have dealt with victory and tragedy. We have celebrated and mourned.

We lost a few along the way.

When our adventure was over, some of us went back home, some of us started somewhere new and some of us never came home at all.

We have told amazing and hilarious stories of our exploits and adventures.

We share an unspoken bond with each other, that most people don't experience, and few will understand.

We speak highly of our own branch of service, and poke fun at the other branches.

We know however, that, if needed, we will be there for our brothers and sisters and stand together as one, in a heartbeat.

Being a Veteran is something that had to be earned, and it can never be taken away.

It has no monetary value, but at the same time it is a priceless gift.

People see a Veteran and they thank them for their service.

When we see each other, we give that little upwards head nod, or a slight smile, knowing that we have shared and experienced things that most people have not.

So, from myself to the rest of the veterans out there, I commend and thank you for all that you have done and sacrificed for your country.

Try to remember the good times and make peace with the bad times.

Share your stories.

But most importantly, stand tall and proud, for you have earned the right to be called a Veteran.

I'M A VETERAN! I WOULD DO IT ALL OVER AGAIN AND AGAIN!

(T.P.I Assn., Tas)

5.

WIRELESS FOR THE WARRIOR - THE FULLERPHONE

For many years I have been intrigued by the Fullerphone. Over the past 20 years I have gathered a lot of information on the history, operation and practical use. I have compiled some basic historical and technical information on this relatively unknown but very remarkable DC Morse telegraph set. I am convinced that you will enjoy reading these pages as much as I have as I arranged the compilation.

This model is fitted in a wooden case, which has no provision for stowing the headphones in the lid. Headphones without a metal clip such as 'Receivers, headgear. C.L.R. double, No. 3' or 'Receivers, headgear, C.L.R. double No. 5' (shown in the photo) were normally used in this type of wooden case.

Fullerphone Mk 4.

What is Fullerphone and how does it work?

The Fullerphone is a portable line Morse telegraph, devised in 1915 by Captain (later Maj.Gen) A.C. Fuller of the British Signal Service. The main feature of the Fullerphone is that the transmissions are practically

immune from overhearing which made the system at the time very suitable for use in forward areas. In addition, the Fullerphone is very sensitive and a line current of only 0.5 microampere is sufficient for readable signals. In practice however, 2 microamperes are required for comfortable readings and it can be worked over normal Army field lines, 15-20 miles long. When superposed on existing telephone lines, telephone and Fullerphone signals may be sent over the line simultaneously without mutual interference.

It must be noted that Fullerphone signals are much clearer than those of a Buzzer telegraph as the start and end of a signal depend on the starting and stopping of a vibrating armature and hence the possible speed is bigger than that with the Buzzer telegraph.

The Fullerphone should not be compared with other DC telegraph systems and Buzzer telegraphs, since its operation principle differs considerably. The Fullerphone employs direct current in the line. By means of a chopping device and a filter circuit the current which flows in the headphones of both transmitting and receiving Fullerphones is interrupted at an audible frequency (about 400-550 Hz). That means that no call can be received (or side tone heard) unless the chopping device (also known as Buzzer-Chopper) is working and properly adjusted. Therefore, the Buzzer-Chopper must always be running whether transmitting and receiving. Adjustment of the Buzzer-Chopper is not a difficult job, but requires so from the same accuracy to operate.

Reception

If a DC voltage is applied between the terminals and the circuit is momentarily closed a current will flow through the choke coil, the headphones and the Morse key. When the circuit is broken the current cannot flow through the headphones but into and charge the condensers. If the circuit is again closed the condensers partially discharge through the headphones. Therefore, when the chopper is working, an intermittent current at audible frequency flows through the headphones while the line current alternately flows through the headphones and into the condensers. The line current remains practically constant. Thus, Morse code dots and dashes sent by the single current Morse key at the distant Fullerphone are received as short and long notes in the headphones while the current in the line is of much the same nature as that sent by a single current Morse set. The line current in this case, however, is very much smaller and clicks are not perceptible due to the smoothing action of the filters in the Fullerphone.



The Fullerphone Cont.,

Transmitting

When transmitting, the Buzzer-Chopper is kept working as on reception. If the circuit is closed at the contact and the Morse key is pressed, a current from the battery flows through the contact, headphones, the chokes and the line to the distant Fullerphone. At the same time, the condensers are charged to the voltage of the battery. When the circuit is broken, no current can flow from the battery or through the headphones. But the condensers are now able to discharge and send a current to the line in the same direction as the battery current. The combined action of the chokes and condensers maintains a steady flow of current to the line as long as the key is pressed in spite of the fact that the battery current is being continually interrupted at the contact. This arrangement enables the sending operator to hear his own signals in his headphones.

Potentiometer

The potentiometer is used for balancing out certain forms of DC earth potentials which may be picked up by the Fullerphone line circuit, notably on those where the earth is used as return line. Such a DC potential results in a current flow which is heard at the same frequency as the signals, thereby confusing them. The potentiometer is energised by an independent 1.5volt dry battery and connected through a reversing switch so that a voltage can be in the line equal and opposite to the voltage which is causing the interference. As the currents picked up will not necessarily be the same at each end of the line, each Fullerphone station must adjust its own potentiometer to suit the earth current received. In normal operation the potentiometer is not required and the reversing switch left in the centre position.

Overhearing

A filter combination of chokes and condensers prevents any variation in the line current during a signal and prevents any frequency currents produced either by induction from other lines or by a buzzer or telephone speech on the line from passing through the headphones. It also ensures that the rise and fall of the line current is relatively slow and thus prevents clicks being heard in the receiver of a telephone set superposed on the same line. Therefore, the Fullerphone cannot be directly connected to the line. It was found that with the use of very sensitive equipment (believed to be valve amplifiers), it is possible to overhear a Fullerphone when the existing earth is within 180ft of the it's earth.

Historical development

World War One : two large armies were densely packed in their trenches at places only a few hundred yards apart. Signal communication was principally by telephone and telegraph instruments connected, in single line and earth return. The earth was thus alive with buzzer and telephone induction. During mid-1915 the Germans were extraordinary well informed of Allied plans. Carefully planned raids, were met by hostile fire exactly timed and directed. Relieving troops would be greeted, if not by shells, by shouts of welcome from the opposing trench. On one occasion a Scottish battalion took over its new front to the strains of its regimental march played by a German cornet! Espionage was suspected but an interned British civilian brought back the information that induction of lines led to widespread overhearing or signals.

Hastily conducted experiments carried out, within the Allied lines left no doubt about the cause of the leakage, and measures against eavesdropping were rapidly introduced by using metallic circuits (twisted pair of wires instead of an earth return) within 3 miles from the front line. The ultimate solution to this problem came toward the end of 1915 when Captain AC Fuller devised the Fullerphone.

The Fullerphone Cont.,

In October 1915 Fuller bought two prototypes to 5 Corps in Flanders. His invention was tested on a 5-mile loop of cable, part of which ran through the water-filled moat of Ypres, with a 10 Ohm leak to earth. The instruments worked well and were obviously the answer to the problem of overhearing which had brought the British Expeditionary Force signal system almost to a standstill.

Used in Two Wars

Initial issues of Fullerphones were made up from converted field telephone sets. This type however, appeared to be not the most successful. Towards the end of 1916 the Fullerphone was firmly established, and by 1918 most Divisions had adopted Fullerphones for all their forward communication circuits. After the armistice more improvements and modifications of the instrument were carried out. The basic principle however, was never changed. In 1939 a fully redesigned model Mk IV, went into service. This can be considered the most successful model, not only being more sensitive than its predecessors, it had also a modified buzzer-chopper and was easy to use as it carried no telephone set. Although the Fullerphone was designed as a non-over-hearable signalling set for static warfare, it was again widely used during World War 2 because of its capability to work simultaneously with a telephone over the same line and working through very long and leaky lines where telephone or telegraph traffic was impossible. In the South-West Pacific for example, the Australians made extensive use of the Fullerphone notably in New Guinea. During World War 2 cases arose where submarine cable circuits were available but the necessary terminal equipment was found to be totally destroyed or not immediately available. To ascertain to what extent Fullerphones could be used on submarine cables of various lengths, trials were carried out on the request of the War Department, by Cable & Wireless Ltd. The results exceeded all expectations and ranges of up to 700 miles were obtained with faint but readable Morse signals at a maximum of 20 words, per minute.

The Fullerphone was also widely used in the Western Desert campaigns including in the Australian Headquarters in 1942, in the communications centre at Tobruk.

A GEEVES "SHOCKER" !!

The husband and wife were having a drink in the local when he leans over and asks his wife, 'Do you remember the first time we had sex together over fifty years ago? We went behind this village tavern where you leaned against the backfence and I made love to you.'

Yes, she says, 'I remember it well.' OK, 'he says, 'how about taking a stroll around there again and we can do it for oldtime's sake? Oh Jim, you old devil, that sounds like a crazy, but good idea!'

A police officer sitting in the next booth heard their conversation and, having a chuckle to himself, he thinks, I've got to see these two old-timers having sex against a fence. I'll just keep an eye on them so there's no trouble. So, he follows them.

The elderly couple walk haltingly along, leaning on each other for support aided by walking sticks. Finally, they get to the back of the tavern and make their way to the fence. The old lady lifts her skirt and the old man drops his trousers. As she leans against the fence, the old man moves in. Then suddenly they erupt into the most furious sex that the policeman has ever seen. This goes on for about ten minutes while both are making loud noises and moaning and screaming. Finally, they both collapse, panting on the ground. The policeman is amazed. He thinks he has learned something about life and old age that he didn't know.

After about half an hour of lying on the ground recovering, the old couple struggle to their feet and put their clothes back on. The policeman, is still watching and thinks to himself, this is truly amazing, I've got to ask them what their secret is.

So, as the couple passes, he says to them, 'Excuse me, but that was something else. You must've had a fantastic sex life together. Is there some sort of secret to this?' Shaking, he replies, "Fifty years ago this wasn't an electric fence."

A Tribute to the Royal Australian Corps of Signals

Communications are vital to the conduct of modern warfare; without them the finest army is helpless, the finest battle plan unworkable.

Victory or defeat may depend on the receipt or non-receipt of a single message. The responsibility resting on the humblest signaller in war may thus be enormous.

The duty of the members of the Corps of Signals is to get the message 'through' at whatever cost or difficulty, realizing that the lives of their comrades and the success of the operations may depend on their determination.

Australia has the unique distinction of having had the first regularly formed signal unit in the whole of the British Empire. In 1869, there existed in New South Wales and Victoria two small 'Torpedo and Signal Corps'. These continued until 1882, when they were disbanded. In 1885, a 'Signalling Corps' composed of one officer and 12 other ranks existed in South Australia, and remained active until 1901.

Before the advent of self-contained signals units, the complement of signallers was on a regimental basis, each unit having on its establishment a proportion of regimental signallers. Great attention was paid to the training of these personnel; prizes and badges were awarded to those qualifying at what was known as a signalling school.

Instruction was imparted by a staff officer designated 'Inspector of Signalling'. After the inception of the Commonwealth Forces, an 'Australian Corps of Signallers' was formed on 12th January 1906. This date is regarded as the birthday of the Corps.

The Corps remained as a self-contained unit until the introduction of universal training in 1911 when it was merged with the Australian Engineers. This continued until the divisional organisation was introduced in 1921 when the terms 'Cavalry Divisional Signals' and 'Divisional Signals' were introduced for the first time.

Coinciding with this change in nomenclature, all signal units separated from the Australian Corps of Engineers and, in 1925, the Australian Corps of Signals came into being.

Thus began the evolution of the Corps which reached a total strength of 24,000 members in the Second World War.

On the 10th November 1948 His Majesty King George VI conferred the title 'Royal' on the Australian Corps of Signals. This day is recognized as 'Corps Day' and commemorative functions are held as near as possible to that day each year.

We continue that tradition as we assemble here today. Long may it continue.

This tribute was delivered at the "Corps Day" service at Anglesea Barracks on 10 Oct 2021

BATTLESPACE COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM (LAND)



Project 2072 Battlespace Communications System (Land) (BCS(L)) Phase 2A is delivering Combat Joint Radios & Ancillary Equipment to replace the Wagtail, Pintail & Raven fleets for the majority of the Land Force. Phase 2A will also establish the mature support system for the new generation Combat & Tactical eqpt (Les Bourne)
 (Wouldn't we like to see lot on the Parade ground at "Beaumaris" ?)

THE IRISH DECLARE WAR ON "THE FROGS"

The French President is sitting in his office when his telephone rings.

"Hallo!" a heavily accented voice said. "This is Paddy Down at the Harp Pub in County Clare, Ireland. I am ringing to inform you that we are officially declaring war on you!" "Well, Paddy," the President of France replied, "This is indeed important news! How big is your army?" "Right now," says Paddy, after a moment's calculation, "there is meself, me Cousin Sean, me next door neighbour Seamus, and the entire darts team from the pub. That makes eight!" The President paused. "I must tell you, Paddy, that I have 100,000 men in my army waiting to move on my command." "Begorra!" says Paddy. "I'll have to ring you back.

Sure enough, the next day, Paddy calls again. "Mr. President, the war is still on. We have managed to get us some infantry equipment!" "And what equipment would that be, Paddy?" The President asks. "Well, we have two combines, a bulldozer, and Murphy's tractor." The French President sighs amused. "I must tell you, Paddy, that I have 6,000 tanks and 5,000 armored personnel carriers. Also, I have increased my army to 150,000 since we last spoke." "Saints preserve us!" says Paddy. "I'll have to get back to you."

Sure enough, Paddy rings again the next day. "Mr. President, the war is still on! We have managed to get ourselves airborne! We have modified Jackie McLaughlin's ultra-light with a couple of shotguns in the cockpit, and four boys from the Shamrock Pub have joined us as well!"

The French President was silent for a minute and then cleared his throat. "I must tell you, Paddy, that I have 100 bombers and 200 fighter planes. My military bases are surrounded by laser-guided, surface-to-air missile sites. And since we last spoke, I have increased my army to 200,000!" "Well Fook me!" says Paddy, "I will have to ring you back."

Sure enough, Paddy calls again the next day. "Top o' the mornin' to ya Mr. President. I am sorry to inform you that we have had to call off the war." "Really? I am sorry to hear that," says the French President. "Why the sudden change of heart?"

"Well," says Paddy, "we had a long chat over a few pints of Guinness and decided there is no fookin' way we can feed 200,000 French prisoners!"

(Bob Gray)

A BANK LOAN TO A SCOTSMAN

A Scotsman (*wearing his kilt and a bonnet*) walks into offices of private bankers Coutts & Co in the Strand, London (*Bankers to the Royal Family since 1820*) and asks to speak to the manager. He informs him that he is going abroad on business for two weeks and needs to borrow £5,000. The Manager tells him that Coutts & Co would be delighted to meet his requirements, but that he should understand that since he is not a client of the Bank, it would need some modest security for the loan.

So, the Scotsman opens his sporrán, takes out the keys and documents of a brand-new Ferrari parked in front of the bank and hands them to the manager saying “Will this do?” He also produces the car’s log book and after a phone call everything checks out fine. The manager agrees to accept the car as collateral for the loan; the cashier hands out £5,000 while bank’s porter drives the Ferrari into the bank’s underground garage for safe keeping.

Over lunch the manager tells his colleagues the amusing little story of how a simple-minded Scot from North of the Border secured a loan for £5,000 offering a £120,000 Ferrari as collateral and they all enjoy a good chuckle as they sip their Port.

Two weeks later, the Scotsman returns, repays the £5,000 and the interest, which comes to £15.41. The manager says, “Sir, we have been more than happy to have had your business and this transaction has worked out very nicely, but we are just a little puzzled. While you were away, we checked you out and found that you are in fact a wealthy property investor. What puzzles us is why would you bother to borrow £5,000 from us?”

The Scotsman replies:” Where else in London can I park my Ferrari for two weeks for only £15.41. **(Bob Gray)**

THE UNKNOWN COMIC – DAD’S JOKES

1. Dad, are we pyromaniacs? Yes, we arson.
2. What do you call a pig with laryngitis? Disgruntled.
3. Why do bees stay in their hives during winter? S'warm.
4. If you’re bad at haggling, you’ll end up paying the price.
5. Just so everyone’s clear, I’m going to put my glasses on.
6. A commander walks into a bar & orders everyone around.
7. I lost my job as a stage designer. I left without making a scene.
8. How much did the pirate pay to get his ears pierced? A buccaneer.
9. I once worked at a cheap pizza shop to get by. I kneaded the dough.
10. I lost my girlfriend’s audiobook, & now I’ll never hear the end of it.
11. Why is ‘dark’ spelled with a k & not c? Because you can’t see in the dark.
12. Why is it unwise to share your secrets with a clock? Well, time will tell.
13. When I told my contractor I didn’t want carpeted steps, they gave me a blank stare.
14. Bono and The Edge walk into a Dublin bar and the bartender says, “*Oh no, not U2 again.*”
15. Prison is just one word to me, but for some people, it’s a whole sentence.
16. Scientists got together to study the effects of alcohol on a person’s walk, & the result was staggering.
17. I’m trying to organize a hide and seek tournament, but good players are really hard to find.
18. I got over my addiction to chocolate, marshmallows, jelly and nuts. I won’t lie, it was a rocky road.
- 19.. Do you say to comfort a friend who’s struggling with grammar? There, their, they’re.
20. I asked at toy store where the Schwarznegger dolls are & he replied, “*Aisle B, back.*”
21. What did the surgeon say to the patient who insisted on closing up their own incision? Suture self.
22. I’ve started telling everyone about the benefits of eating dried grapes. It’s all about raisin awareness.

(Les Bourne)

A man petitions the court for a marital divorce. He tells the Judge that “*He just can’t take it anymore, my wife is out every night until after midnight, just going from bar to bar.*” The Judge asks, “*Well, why is she doing that?*” The man answers, “*Looking for me!*”

Officer: “*Soldier, do you have change for \$10 ?*”

Soldier: “*Sure, mate.*”

Officer: “*That's no way to address an officer! Now let's try it again! Do you have change for \$10 ?*”

Soldier: “*No, SIR!*”

(Les Bourne)

THE KRAIT TOOK THE FIGHT TO THE JAPANESE DURING WW 2

A Japanese fishing boat was used by a group of Australians to destroy Japanese shipping during World War For 20 years Pittwater was home to one of the most fascinating elements of Australian military history. The boat was the *Krait* and the men who took it to Singapore during the -darkest days of the War in the Pacific trained at a secret camp at Refuge Bay, just around the corner from Pittwater. But the boat that is now a national war memorial had humble beginnings.

The vessel was built in 1934 at the Harnagami shipyards in Nakahama, a small port on the Japanese island of Shokuku. Built of teak, the 47t vessel was 21m long and just 3.5m wide and initially was powered by a German-built ,four -cylinder diesel engine. She began her working life as a fishing boat called the *Kofuku Maru*, meaning Happiness or Good Fortune and for seven years plied the waters of south-east Asia. But the *Kofuku Maru* was in Singapore when Japan attacked Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941, and was immediately impounded by the British authorities as a prize of war.

The *Kofuku Maru* lay in Singapore harbors for two months until the final days before the island fell to the invading Japanese, ignored by almost everyone because of its decrepit appearance. But Bill Reynolds, an Australian master mariner who had been working in Burma, Malaya and Indonesia for 20 years, saw in the *Kofuku Maru* a vessel to evacuate himself and as many others as he could ferry to freedom.

After managing to rustle up provisions and a crew, Reynolds escaped from the doomed island on February 12, 1942, and made his way to Sumatra. Over the following 10 weeks, Reynolds and his crew made 10 dangerous trips between Sumatra and the many small islands around Singapore and rescued hundreds of people who had fled the Japanese invaders. In deference to his mainly Chinese crew, Reynolds renamed his vessel *Suey Sin Fah*, a star-shaped Chinese water flower.

When the Japanese invaded Sumatra, Reynolds decided to head to India but before he left, he met a British officer, Ivan Lyon, who was attracted by the idea of using a native-style boat like the *Suey Sin Fah* in a commando raid against Japanese shipping in Singapore harbour. Reynolds and Lyon met again in Bombay a few weeks later to discuss the plan, then Lyon returned to Australia to organize the logistics while Reynolds stayed in Bombay to oversee the overhaul of the *Suey Sin Fah*.

In Australia, Lyon gained the support of the authorities for the raid and established a secret camp at Refuge Bay, on the western side of West Head, to train the men who would go on the raid. The planned raid on Singapore was called '*Operation Jaywick*'. But while the commandos were kept busy in Refuge Bay gaining fitness, practicing unarmed combat and training in small arms and explosives, Reynolds was struggling to get the *Suey Sin Fah* ready for the voyage to Australia.

Unable to meet the deadline, Reynolds eventually arranged for the *Krait* to be shipped to Australia as deck cargo on the steamer *Shillong*, which arrived in Sydney on Christmas Day, 1942, by which time her name had been changed to *Krait*; a small venomous Indian snake. After more work in Sydney, the *Krait* sailed for Refuge Bay where she arrived on January 17, 1943. The *Krait* only stayed at Refuge Bay for one night, just long enough to load the men and equipment, before setting sail the following day for Exmouth on the northern Australian coast. But the trip to Exmouth was plagued by mechanical problems and it was not until early September that the *Krait* finally sailed.



The *Krait* in Sydney harbour

The Krait Cont.,

On board the *Krait* were 15 British and Australian army and naval personnel. The plan was to motor to within a few kilometres of Singapore, drop six men on a nearby island and then retreat from the area, while the task of the six men was to row three collapsible canoes into Singapore harbour, attach limpet mines to the hulls of ships and then hightail it back to the small island to await the rendezvous with the *Krait*. The attack was a stunning success. On the night of September 25/26, the commandos sank six vessels of varying size, including a tanker, and were able to elude the Japanese and rendezvous with the *Krait* a few nights later.

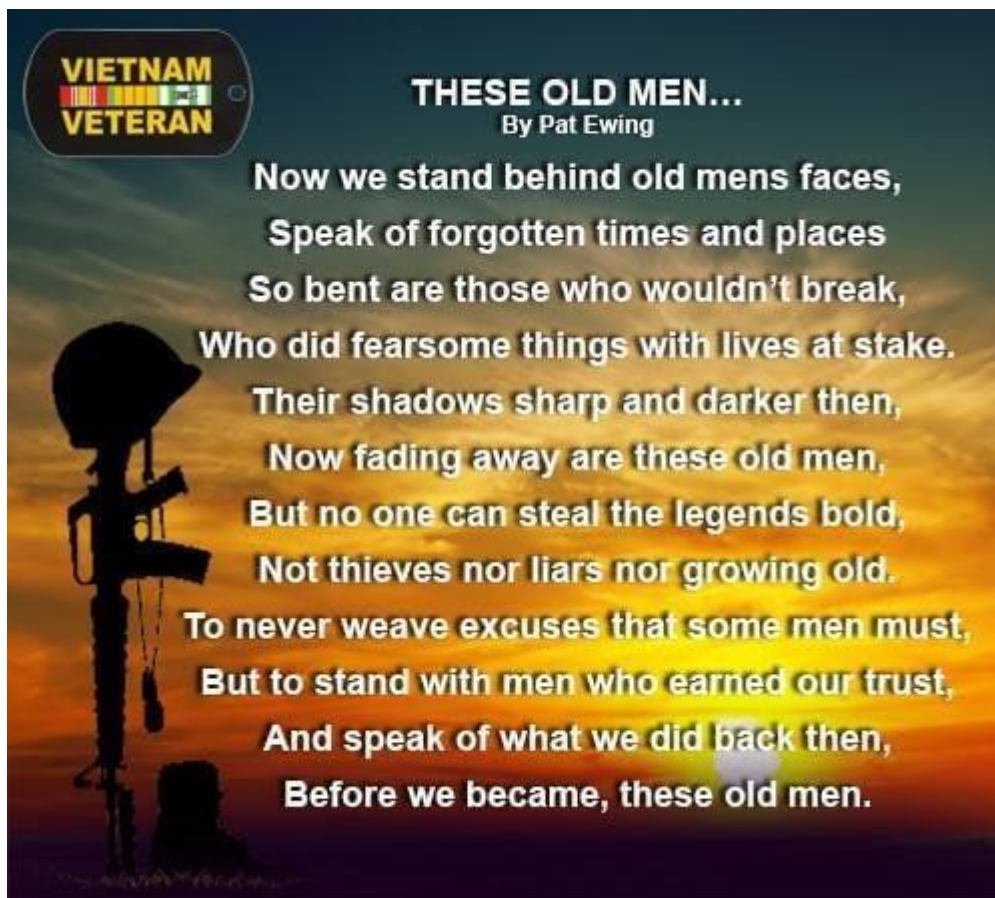
Seven weeks after leaving Exmouth, the *Krait* was back in port, the raid had been a success and the men on board were heroes, except that wartime secrecy meant that only a few people knew about the raid. For the rest of the war the *Krait* was used for less dramatic but still valuable espionage work in and around Indonesia.

At the end of the war the *Krait* was taken to Borneo and eventually sold to a timber company and was renamed *Pedang* and used as a workboat.

But a group of Australians tracked down the *Krait* and over a 10-year period and with public support, was able to arrange for the return of the *Krait* to Australia. The heroine of the Singapore raid was shipped to Brisbane aboard the P&O steamer *Nellore* in early 1964.

After a quick overhaul in the riverside Brisbane suburb of Bulimba, the *Krait* set sail for Sydney and arrived back at Refuge Bay on April 24, 1964, but again stayed for just one night. On Anzac Day 1964, the *Krait* made a triumphal entry to Sydney Harbour, cheered on by thousands.

But the *Krait* was about to become the subject of another battle that raged for nearly 20 years. Who was going to look after her and where was she going to be kept, in the water in Sydney or on dry land at the Australian War Memorial in Canberra? Initially the *Krait* was handed to the Royal Volunteer Coastal Patrol at Pittwater, which maintained her and used her as a training vessel for 20 years until she was taken over by the Australian War Memorial and berthed at Birkenhead Point in Sydney Harbour in 1985. The *Krait* was finally transferred to the Australian Maritime Museum at Darling Harbour and opened to the public as a floating war memorial and museum in 1991. *(T.P.I. Assn., Tasmania)*



THE LAST POST STORY

If any of you have ever been to a military funeral in which The Last Post was played; this brings out a new meaning of it. Here is something everyone should know. Until I read this, I didn't know. We have all heard the haunting song, 'The Last Post.' It's the song that gives us the lump in our throats and usually tears in our eyes. But, do you know the story behind the song? If not, I think you will be interested to find out about its humble beginnings.

Reportedly, it all began in 1862 during the American Civil War, when Union Army Captain Robert Ellicombe was with his men near Harrison's Landing in Virginia. The Confederate Army was on the other side of the narrow strip of land. During the night, Captain Ellicombe heard the moans of a soldier who lay severely wounded on the field. Not knowing if it was a Union or Confederate soldier, the Captain decided to risk his life and bring the stricken man back for medical attention. Crawling on his stomach through the gunfire, the Captain reached the stricken soldier and began pulling him toward his encampment.

When the Captain finally reached his own lines, he discovered it was actually a Confederate soldier, but the soldier was dead. The Captain lit a lantern and suddenly caught his breath and went numb with shock. In the dim light, he saw the face of the soldier. It was his own son. The boy had been studying music in the South when the war broke out. Without telling his father, the boy enlisted in the Confederate Army.

The following morning, heartbroken, the father asked permission of his superiors to give his son a full military burial, despite his enemy status. His request was only partially granted. The Captain had asked if he could have a group of Army band members play a funeral dirge for his son at the funeral. The request was turned down since the soldier was a Confederate. But, out of respect for the father, they did say they could give him only one musician. The Captain chose bugler. He asked the bugler to play a series of musical notes he had found on a piece of paper in the pocket of the dead youth's uniform. This wish was granted. The haunting melody, we now know as 'The Last Post' used at military funerals was born.

The words are:

*Day is done. Gone the sun. From the lakes, From the hills. From the sky.
All is well. Safely rest. God is nigh.*

*Fading light. Dims the sight. And a star. Gems the sky. Gleaming bright.
From afar. Drawing nigh. Falls the night.*

*Thanks and praise. For our days. Neath the sun, Neath the star, Neath the sky.
As we go. This we know. God is nigh.*

I too have felt the chills while listening to 'The Last Post' but I have never seen all the words to the song until now. I didn't even know there was more than one verse. I also never knew the story behind the song and I didn't know if you had either so I thought I'd pass it along.

I now have an even deeper respect for the song than I did before. Remember Those Lost and Harmed While Serving Their Country. Also Remember Those Who Have Served and Returned; and for those presently serving in the Armed Forces.

(Basil McClymont)

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

A Glenorchy doctor was addressing a large audience in the cabaret room of the Glenorchy RSL on health issues for older people in the community. "The material we put into our stomachs should have killed most of us sitting here, years ago. Red meat is full of steroids and dye. Soft drinks and booze corrode your stomach lining. Chinese food is loaded with MSG. High trans-fat diets can be disastrous and none of us realises the long-term harm caused by the germs in our drinking water".

"But there is one thing that is the most dangerous of all and most of us have, or will eat it. Can anyone here tell me what food it is that causes the most grief and suffering for years after eating it?" After several seconds of quiet, the 71-year-old man, (Bob) in the front row raised his hand & softly said, "Wedding Cake" (*Geeves*)

YOUR SECRETARY SAYS

As your recently elected new Secretary I should provide you with some background to my becoming a member and my personal life experiences. I joined the Association a few years ago as the spouse of a Corps member.

As most would realize, I am married to your President. We have 3 adult children (a GP, a Social Worker and a Builder). Both my father and elder brother were members of the Army at various times. After leaving high school I worked for a short period with the PMG's Dept., before transferring to the ATO where I supervised the Accounting Machinist section for several years. I have secretarial experience through a long-term appointment with North-West Bay Golf Club and of course, in assisting Richard in his interests at Blackmans Bay Cricket Club, our Association and the RSL.

I look forward to meeting many more of you and former Sqn members in future years.

There have been only a dozen responders so far to the request in our September Edition about your thoughts of holding another 5 yearly **Unit Disbandment Reunion** in late 2022 (*Covid restrictions permitting, of course!*). Please let's have your thoughts before the end of next January. We will need at least 6 months to make the necessary bookings and arrangements. A quick email or text message to me or Richard is all that's needed.

THE "BIG" JOB is nearly completed !!

The records of our Archives should be available for purchase early in 2022.

Details about how to purchase your copy will also be available shortly.

Great to hear from **Les and Helene Bourne** (in Adelaide) again (*in a lengthy phone call with Richard*) & thanks to Les for his contributions to the newsletter. Also, recent contact from Les' predecessor, **Owen Cook** (Canberra), supporting the idea of conducting another Reunion later next year.

It was also pleasing to hear recently from **Basil McClymont** (Tiaro, Qld) & receive his contribution to this edition of "Sig News".

Thanks also to **Brian "Capt Kilowatt" Watson** (Launceston) for his article on the Radji Beach (Sumatra) atrocity during WW2 and advice about the availability of the CD of "White Coolies" which covers that event. It's intended to publish Brian's article and more details next February.

Finally, **for those who have not yet lodged a Resume** with the Editor, a simple form is enclosed which he would much appreciate your completing, as soon as possible and returning, as advised on the form, please.

GOLF CHEATS

John and Bob were two of the bitterest rivals at the club. Neither man trusted the other's arithmetic. One day they were playing a heated match and watching each other like hawks. After holing out on the fourth green and marking his six on the scorecard, John asked Bob, "What'd you have? Bob went through the motions of mentally counting up. "Six!" he said and then hastily corrected himself – "No, no.... a five." Calmly John marked the scorecard, saying out loud "Eight!" "Eight?" Bob said, "I *couldn't* have had eight." John said, "Nope, you claimed six, then changed it to five, but actually you had seven." "Then why did you mark down eight?" asked Bob. John told him, "One stroke penalty, for improving your lie."

(Paul Nunn, Swansea Golf Club)

15.

**VALE: 448066, VX42613, V13063, NX77368 & VX89033
THOMAS MAXWELL BRETT 10/8/1920- 6/9/2021**



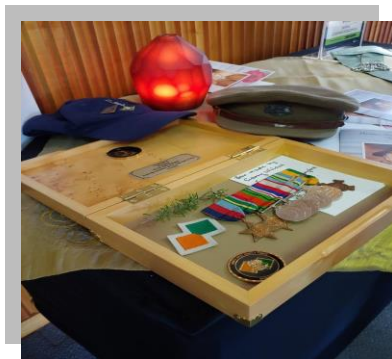
Max was born at Newbridge, Victoria & lived to the grand age of 101.1. He led a very active & interesting life (*to the full*) & was highly respected in a number of circles, viz, as a Patrol Leader in the armed services in the dangerous outback environment of far North-West Australia during WW2, as a University Lecturer, as a very active participant in the sport of golf, as a professional in electrical engineering, with Hydro Tasmania, a man dedicated to his family, his Masonic Lodge & as a valued member of RASA Tas for over 60 years.

Max was our first centurion.

He attended school at Melbourne High School & graduated with an adult Matriculation in 1939. After WW2 he completed a Civil Engineering degree at Melbourne University. Pre-war, Max worked, as a Junior Mechanic in Training. Also as a Telegraph Messenger & Telephonist with the Post Office, then as a Trade & Customs Clerk & as a Wharf Examining Officer, in Melbourne.

He joined the 4th Division Signals Cadets in 1936 as a Senior Cadet. In 1938 he decided to enlist in the CMF & advanced quickly through the ranks & was then commissioned as a Lt (Probationary) in late 1939. He resigned his CMF commission to enlist in the AIF after '*putting his age up*' 2 years & began attending a series of specialist signals courses. He was quickly promoted through the ranks back to Lt, however, in April 1941, his widowed mother requested his discharge for putting his age up to enlist, without her consent. He then re-enlisted for 'home service' & was re-appointed as a Lt. In June 1942 Max was posted to the 2nd/1st North Australia Observer Unit, for active service in outback Northern Australia for 18 months. He also went on to serve in the Dutch East Indies & Morotai until wars end & was discharged at Watsonia in February, 1946.

Max married Enid in 1948. They had 2 sons & a daughter between 1950-1956. They were a very close family engaging in a wide range of recreational activities. Both parents enjoyed playing golf until late in life during which Enid became the first female President of Tasmania Golf Club. Max was a Masonic Lodge member for over 50 years & a Past Master. He was also a Trustee of the Chadstone Methodist Church in Victoria designing their new church building in 1953 - he also supervised the construction. He was preparing to attend our Association's monthly social function when he fell from his mechanised chair & did not recover from his injuries.



There was a a good group of our members attending Max's funeral & his family were appreciative of our support.

When Max turned 100 years of age in 2020, we presented him with this beautifully hand-crafted Tasmanian speciality timbers "medals box" to mark the occasion.

R.I.P. Max

VALE F630463 LYNETTE MAREE CHAPLIN - 9 AUG 1954-2 OCT 2021

Lyn Chaplin served in the Hobart Sig Sqn as a AARES Radio Operator Cpl, in the Lt Radio Troop, for over a decade & was highly regarded by her both her peers, supervising Senior NCO's & Officers. Many messages were received from her former AARES colleagues expressing condolences on Lyn's passing. Nearly all contained comments about her willingness to '*have a genuine go*' during her service.

Lyn was a nurse at the Launceston General Hospital for many years before retiring due to ill health. She very regularly made the trip to Hobart to participate in our Association functions, even when her health was failing & was well regarded for her fortitude in doing so. She was looking forward to moving back to Hobart after selling her home. She had lost her parents and both siblings and seemed to regard our members as her surrogate 'family'.

Lyn passed away in the L.G.H. shortly after suffering some major strokes. Her funeral was private. Our condolences have been passed to her aunt on behalf of all members.

R.I.P. Lyn

16.

VALE 627330 MICHAEL “MICK” PRIEST 25/2/1948-26/10/2021

Mick Priest passed away in the Hobart ‘Whittle Ward’ and will be sadly missed by his wife Anita, his children and the extended family.

He served his country as a member of the ARA in RA Sigs postings undertaking active service in various localities in South-East Asia (Vietnam, Singapore & Malaysia) during the period 1970-1973.

Mick also saw CMF/ARES service with 47 Tpt Coy (RACT) and 12 Fd Sqn (RAE) over a period of 9 years discharging in 1976.

His civil career extended over approximately 30 years with the former PMG’s Department and then Australia Post in the delivery services area. From 1977 to 1987 he relieved in the Australia Post Divisional Office as the Supervisor of all street mail delivery services staff in Southern Tasmania, working with your President during this period.

Mick was also President of the Lenah Valley RSL Sub Branch for a period however, he had stood down from that role well before his passing.

A character who gave valued service to the nation in a range of roles.

We have passed on to Mick’s family our condolences on behalf of our membership.

R.I.P. Mick

**Mick Priest in discussion with the late John Paul
at the 2007 Squadron Disbandment Reunion dinner
conducted at the Clarence Senior Citizens Centre**

