

December 2016

SIGNAL NEWS



CERTA CITO

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

Official Journal of the Royal
Australian Signals Association (Tas)





SIGNAL NEWS

December 2016

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March, June,
September & December.

First Friday Functions 2017:-

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

Annual Dinner/Lunch:- Wed 8th Mar 2017
Venue/timing TBA – *Note: will change to a
lunch in lieu of dinner for this year.*

Annual Luncheon:- Wed 7th Jun 2017
Venue/timing TBA

Annual General Meeting (71st):-

Friday 6th October 2017.
5^{pm} at RAAF Memorial Centre

Commemoration Day:-

Sunday 15th Oct 2017

Service: 11.45^{am}.

at Anglesea Barracks Signals Memorial.

Medals to be worn

Lunch: RAAF Memorial Centre from
12.30^{pm}.

Remembrance Day:-

Association Luncheon

Friday 10th November 2017. Venue &
Timing TBA. **Medals to be worn**

Committee Meetings 2017:-

Mar 3rd, Jun 2nd, Sep 1st & Nov 3rd
at the RAAF Memorial Centre, at 3.15^{pm}

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 2016. The years seem to pass too quickly for me. This has been our busiest quarter for the year.

We started the quarter with our short AGM in October. Thank you for your confidence in allowing me to continue as President (only nomination!). We would like a couple of volunteers to join the Committee. A not very demanding task, so please step forward.

This followed with our Commemoration Day activities on the 16th of October. Our short Remembrance Service was held at The Signals Memorial at Anglesea Barracks despite the access limitations currently operating, with our Padre Rev. Cyril Dann accompanied by his wife. Due to the weather we held the service on the adjacent veranda. We then adjourned for a very nice lunch at the RAAF Memorial Centre. Our numbers were up this year and a good day was had by all. Thanks to Padre Cyril and particularly to the ladies for their efforts in the catering and cleaning up.

On the 11th of November we had our Remembrance Day Luncheon at the Horseshoe Inn at Cambridge. Thanks to David Harcourt for organising.

There have been a surge of new members this quarter. We welcome Bob Jager from Bruny Island and Tony Luttrell from TAFE. In addition, Ron Wilds returns to the fold from the late 50's, Jamie Collidge, ARA RA Sigs brother of Matt, nephew of Ron and son of Kerrie. Four from the one family; not a bad effort.

I would also remind you of 2017 being the Thirtieth Anniversary of the Disbandment of 146 Signal Squadron. It is planned to have the "Beaumaris Dinner" on Saturday 14th of October followed on the Sunday by our normal Corps Commemoration Day service and lunch. Make a note in your Diary.

I am also advised that one of our Victorian Members is not well. Best wishes to Geoff Webb for a recovery.

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 2017 and

I will see you on the FIRST FRIDAY in FEBRUARY.

Yours in Signals

Owen

4.

THE 15TH OC – 614830 MAJOR DAVID FRANCIS SPRATT RFD, BA

David (or just “Spratty”, to most of his colleagues) Spratt was born on 16 Aug 1937 in Hobart. He had only one sibling (Peter, an awarded locally based Civil Engineer). He was educated at St Virgils College in Hobart and was a member of the school’s Cadet Unit. He joined T Comd Sig Sqn as an ACMF soldier in the mid 1950’s after completing National Service and due to his leadership qualities was quickly promoted to Cpl in the Line/Despatch Rider Troop. Remaining in the Sig Sqn after completing National Service, Dave then went on to complete a BA degree at UTAS.

In 1961 Dave and some of his friends decided to tour Australia and while in Perth WA he met Chris who was to eventually become his wife. They were to have three children, (Shannon, Arianne and Alexine).

By 1963, Dave had been promoted to Ssgt rank at 406 Sig Sqn. While later working in Canberra, Dave continued his Army service and attained WO2 rank. After returning to Hobart, he re-joined the Sigs Unit and was appointed as 2Lt. Then, following promotions as Lt and Capt and postings at RTR as the Regimental Signals Officer and the Sqn, Dave was promoted as Maj and appointed as OC 146 Sig Sqn in 1980. He was to complete a 5 year term in that role, equalling the longest previous such appointment. During part of his term as OC Dave had Capt (now retired Maj Gen) Maurie McNarn as his Trg Offr. (Maurie was to later command the Australian Ops Forces in the Iraq theatre).

Dave had varied civil careers with BP Australia and the State Public Service. He was also a very keen cricketer, playing with the Clarence District Club for many seasons. After retirement from government service, he continued his sporting interests playing regularly as a member at Royal Hobart Golf Club & also in the midweek competitions with mates at Richmond G.C. “Spratty” loved nothing better on the sporting field than a competition! He was also a keen member of Riverside Arts club, performing as a vocalist and actor in many concerts over the years.



Dave joined the Corps of Guides at the Anglesea Barracks Military Museum after his retirement where he entertained his associates with a never ending stream of his tales.

(1963 – Ssgt Dave Spratt ready for a Bivouac – on the parade ground, “Beaumaris”).

*(Frank Moore,
Dave & John Paul
at “JPs”
Farewell in the
Beaumaris ‘boozer’)*



5.

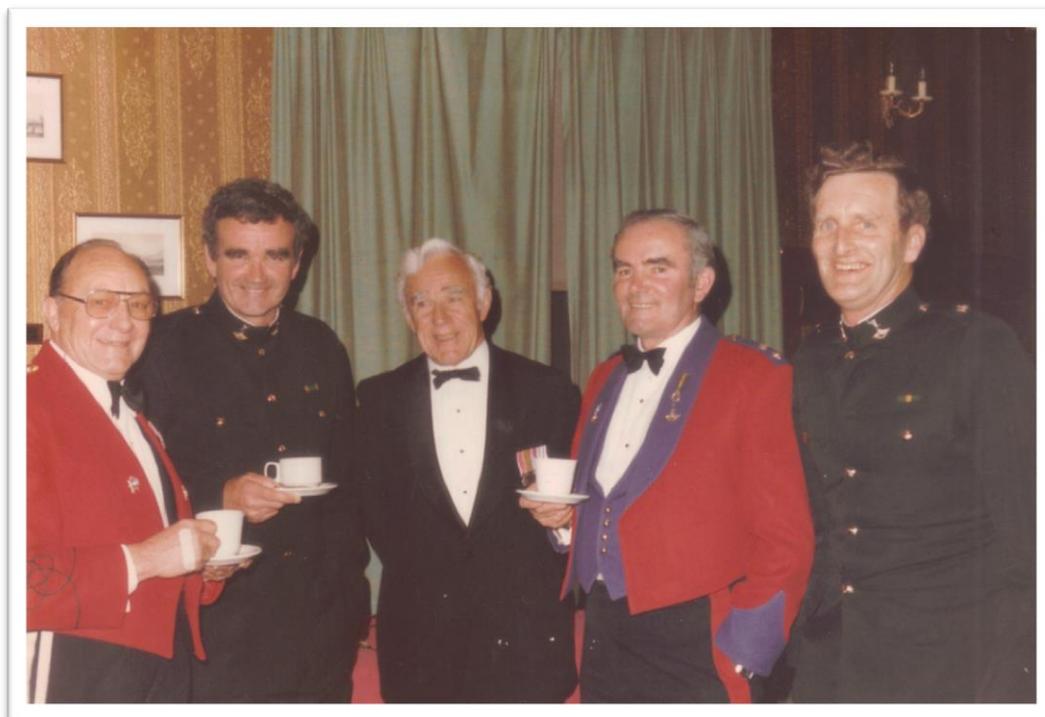
The 13th OC (Cont.,)

During his military career and beyond, Dave was a great supporter of our Association serving as a Committee Member and also as the Auditor, for a 6 year term.



(L-R: Basil Apter, Dave & Frank Moore, at Fort Direction, 1966)

Sadly, Dave was to pass away in Hobart on 20 March 2005 after a long, brave battle with cancer. His RA Sigs Funeral Oration and Eulogy were delivered by Association President, Lt Col Owen Winter to a packed congregation which included many of his former other colleagues from the Association and the former Hobart Signal Squadrons.



(At a Sigs Officers dinner at Anglesea Barracks in 1978 - from Left; Bernie Coughlan, Dave, Geoff Gard, Owen Winter & Orion Mariot)

HARRY CHAUVEL

General Sir Henry George Chauvel, GCMG, KCB (16 April 1865 - 4 March 1945), more usually known as Sir Harry Chauvel, was a senior officer of the Australian Imperial Force who fought at Gallipoli and during the Sinai and Palestine Campaign in the Middle Eastern theatre of the First World War. He was the first Australian to attain the rank of Lieutenant General and later General and the first to lead a corps. As commander of the Desert Mounted Corps, he was responsible for one of the most decisive victories and fastest pursuits in military history.

The son of a grazier, Chauvel was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in the Upper Clarence Light Horse, a unit organized by his father, in 1886. After the family moved to Queensland he was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in the Queensland Mounted Infantry in 1890, and saw service during the 1891 Australian shearers' strike. He became a regular officer in 1896, and went to the United Kingdom as part of the Queensland contingent for the 1897 Diamond Jubilee of Queen Victoria. In 1899 he commanded one of two companies of Queensland Mounted Infantry that were Queensland's initial contribution to the Boer War. After the war, he was closely involved with the training of the Australian Light Horse.

Promoted to Colonel in 1913, Chauvel became the Australian representative on the Imperial General Staff but the First World War broke out while he was still *en route* to the United Kingdom. Chauvel arranged for the Australian Imperial Force to be diverted to Egypt, where he joined his new command, the 1st Light Horse Brigade, in December. In May 1915, it was sent dismounted to Gallipoli, where Chauvel assumed responsibility for some of the most dangerous parts of the line. He took charge of the 1st Division that November. In March 1916, Chauvel became commander of the Anzac Mounted Division, gaining victories in the Battle of Romani in August and the Battle of Magdhaba in December, and nearly winning the First Battle of Gaza in March 1917. The following month, he took over the Desert Column, later known as the Desert Mounted Corps, thereby becoming the first Australian to command a corps, and the first to reach the rank of Lieutenant General. At Beersheba in October 1917, his Light Horse captured the town and its vital water supply in one of history's last great cavalry charges.

By September 1918, Chauvel was able to effect a secret redeployment of three of his mounted divisions and launch a surprise attack on the enemy that won the Battle of Megiddo. He followed up this victory with one of the fastest pursuits in military history. In 1919, Chauvel was appointed Inspector General, the Army's most senior post. He was forced to maintain an increasingly hollow structure by politician's intent on cutting expenditure. He was concurrently Chief of the General Staff from 1923 until his retirement in 1930. In November 1929, he became the first Australian to be promoted to the rank of General. During the Second World War, he was recalled to duty as Inspector in Chief of the Volunteer Defence Corps.

Early life

Henry George Chauvel was born in Tabulam, New South Wales, on 16 April 1865, the second child of a grazier, Charles Henry Edward Chauvel, and his wife Fanny Ada Mary, nee James. By 1884, Charles Henry Chauvel's station at Tabulam consisted of 96,000 acres (39,000 ha), on which he raised 12,000 head of cattle and 320 horses. From an early age Henry George Chauvel was known as "Harry". He was educated at Mr Belcher's School near Goulburn, before going to Sydney Grammar School from 1874 to 1880, and Toowoomba Grammar School from 1881 to 1882. While at Sydney Grammar, Harry served in the school cadet unit, rising to the rank of Lance Corporal. In 1886, Charles Henry was given permission to raise two troops of cavalry. On 14 March 1886, he was commissioned as a Captain in the Upper Clarence Light Horse, with his sons Arthur and Harry becoming Second Lieutenants, while his two younger sons became Troopers. The unit escorted Lord Carrington, Governor of New South Wales, when he formally opened the railway at Tenterfield in 1886.

Harry Chauvel Cont..

Following a series of severe droughts in Northern New South Wales, Charles Henry Chauvel sold his property at Tabulam in 1888 for £50,000. After paying his debts, he bought a much smaller 12,000 acre (4,900 ha) property at Canning Downs on the Darling Downs in Queensland. In 1889, Harry Chauvel embarked on a solo tour of Europe, visiting Venice, Rome, Florence, Paris and London. While in the United Kingdom, he watched military manoeuvres near Aldershot in the presence of Emperor Wilhelm II of Germany. Harry resigned his commission in the New South Wales Military Forces when he moved to Queensland, but on 9 January 1890 he was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in the Queensland Mounted Infantry. After completing his examinations for the rank, he was confirmed as Lieutenant in June 1890 Chauvel's unit was called up in March 1891 during the shearers' strike that had begun earlier that year. Leading his troops and a small detachment of Queensland Police, Chauvel was given the task of escorting a party of strikebreakers to a station north of Charleville. Near Oakwood, Chauvel's troops were confronted by a crowd of around two hundred mounted sheep shearers. When the Inspector in charge of the police detachment arrested four of the shearers who were wanted by the police, the crowd became agitated, but Chauvel managed to disperse the crowd peacefully, and bring his charges safely to their destination. During the 1894 Australian shearers' strike, the Queensland government enrolled special constables rather than calling up the militia. Chauvel was appointed a temporary Sub-Inspector in Clermont and later the district around Longreach.

On 9 September 1896, Chauvel transferred to the Queensland Permanent Military Forces with the rank of Captain in the Moreton Regiment. He was sent to the United Kingdom with the Queensland contingent for the Diamond Jubilee of Queen Victoria. Sporting the emu feathers worn by Queensland units, he marched with the colonial troops through London behind Lord Roberts on 21 June 1897. Chauvel qualified at the School of Musketry at Hythe, Kent, and served on exchange with the 3rd Battalion, King's Royal Rifle Corps and 2nd Battalion, Royal Berkshire Regiment at Aldershot. On returning to Australia, he became a staff officer at Headquarters, Queensland Defence Force.

Boer War

In July 1899, the Premier of Queensland, James Dickson, offered a contingent of troops for service in South Africa in the event of war between the British Empire, and the Boer Transvaal Republic and Orange Free State. For a time Chauvel served as an enrolment officer, signing up volunteers from the Darling Downs. The Boer War broke out in October 1899, and Chauvel was given command of one of two companies of Queensland Mounted Infantry that departed Brisbane on 1 November 1899. They disembarked at Cape Town on 14 December and joined the Imperial Force under Lord Methuen at the Orange River. The Queensland Mounted Infantry's first fighting was in an action at Sunnyside on 1 January 1900 alongside the infantry of the Royal Canadian Regiment. In February, the Queensland Mounted Infantry became part of Major General John French's Cavalry Division. After a strenuous march, the Cavalry Division relieved the Siege of Kimberley on 15 February.

In the reorganization that followed, the Queensland Mounted Infantry became part of Major General Edward Hutton's 1st Mounted Infantry Brigade, along with the Canadian and New Zealand mounted units. Chauvel distinguished himself fighting alongside a group of New Zealanders and capturing a Maxim gun. The Queensland Mounted Infantry participated in the capture of Pretoria and the Battle of Diamond Hill.

Chauvel was given a mixed force of British, Australian, Canadian and New Zealand mounted troops that became known as "Chauvel's Mounted Infantry", with Victor Sellheim as his chief of staff. Initially, Chauvel was given the mission of escorting 10,000 head of cattle to Belfast, Mpumalanga to supply the troops in the Eastern Transvaal. However, his force was diverted by local commanders, who assigned it to burning homesteads sheltering Boer commandos and attacking Boer units. The Queensland Mounted Infantry embarked for Australia on 13 December 1900.

Harry Chauvel Cont..

They reached Brisbane on 17 January 1901 and the regiment was disbanded there on 23 January. For his part in the fighting, Chauvel was mentioned in despatches and appointed a Companion of the Order of St Michael and St George (CMG) On 1 January 1901, the colonies of Australia federated to form the Commonwealth of Australia. When Chauvel returned to Australia on 17 January, he found that during his absence he had become an officer in the newly formed Australian Army. A force of 14,000 troops was assembled for the opening of the first Federal Parliament on 9 May 1901 in Melbourne; Chauvel was selected as Brigade Major of the mounted contingent, his first Federal posting. He became Staff Officer, Northern Military District, based at Townsville, Queensland, in July. In 1902, Chauvel was appointed to command of the 7th Commonwealth Light Horse, a unit newly raised for service in South Africa, with the local rank of Lieutenant Colonel. Departing from Brisbane on 17 May 1902, the 7th Commonwealth Light Horse arrived at Durban on 22 June, three weeks after the war ended. It therefore re-embarked for Brisbane, where it was disbanded. Chauvel remained in South Africa for a few weeks in order to tour the battlefields. On returning to Australia he became Staff Officer, Northern Military District once more. He was promoted to the brevet rank of Lieutenant Colonel in December 1902.

In 1903, Hutton, now General Officer Commanding Australian Military Forces, sent Chauvel to South Australia to organize the Light Horse regiments there. On returning to Queensland in 1904, he became acting Chief Staff Officer Queensland, based in Brisbane. He was promoted to the substantive rank of Lieutenant Colonel in December 1909, but his ambition to become the Australian representative on the Imperial General Staff in London was blocked by Hutton's successor Major General Charles Hoad. Based on his experiences in South Africa, Chauvel propounded ideas on the nature of mounted infantry. He recommended that Australian troops improve their discipline in the field, called for stronger leadership from officers, and emphasized the need for better organization for supply and for timely and efficient medical evacuation.

Chauvel knew Keith Jopp of Newmarket, Queensland even before the Boer War, and while stationed in Brisbane, Chauvel and Major Brudenell White played tennis at the Jopps' place with their daughters Dora and Sibyl. Chauvel became engaged to Sibyl in January 1906, and they were married on 16 June 1906 at All Saints Anglican Church, Brisbane. Their union ultimately produced two sons and two daughters. That year Chauvel also sold the property at Canning Downs South. In the shuffle of senior positions that followed Hoad's death in 1911, Chauvel was appointed to the Military Board in Melbourne as Adjutant General. As such, Chauvel was involved in the implementation of the universal training scheme. Chauvel was particularly involved with the training of the Light Horse. "When the next war comes," White predicted, "it will only need an Ashby or a J.E.B. Stuart to make their name immortal."

First World War - War Office

Chauvel was promoted to Colonel in 1913. On 3 July 1914, he sailed for England with his wife and three children to replace Colonel James Gordon Legge as the Australian representative on the Imperial General Staff. While he was still travelling, the First World War broke out. On reporting for duty at the War Office in mid-August 1914, Chauvel was given a cable directing him to assume command of the 1st Light Horse Brigade of the Australian Imperial Force (AIF) when it arrived in the United Kingdom. Chauvel became concerned with slow progress on construction of the AIF's proposed quarters on the Salisbury Plain. He made frequent visits to the site and had a Royal Australian Engineers officer, Major Cecil Henry Foott, appointed to the local staff to safeguard Australian interests. Convinced that the huts would not be ready on time, and that Australian troops would therefore have to spend a winter on Salisbury Plain under canvas, Chauvel persuaded the High Commissioner for Australia in London, former Prime Minister Sir George Reid, to approach Lord Kitchener with an alternate plan of diverting the AIF to Egypt, which was done. Accompanied by Major Thomas Blamey, Chauvel sailed for Egypt on the ocean liner SS *Mooltan* on 28 November 1914, arriving at Port Said on 10 December 1914.

*Harry Chauvel Cont.,**Gallipoli*

Chauvel began training his Brigade upon arrival in Egypt. He was noted for insisting on high standards of dress and bearing from his troops. The 1st Light Horse Brigade became part of Major General Alexander Godley's New Zealand and Australian Division, along with the 4th Infantry Brigade, the New Zealand Infantry Brigade and New Zealand Mounted Rifles Brigade. When the rest of the Australian and New Zealand Army Corps departed for Anzac Cove on 25 April 1915, the mounted brigades remained in Egypt - the Gallipoli Peninsula being unsuited to mounted operations.

Following heavy casualties in the early days of the Gallipoli Campaign, however, the Light Horse were called upon to provide 1,000 reinforcements. The British commander in Egypt, Lieutenant General Sir John Maxwell, elected instead to ship the mounted brigades to Anzac Cove intact.

Chauvel arrived on 12 May 1915 and took over the critical sector, which included Pope's Hill and Quinn's, Courtney's and Steele's Posts, from Colonel John Monash. Open to Turkish observation on two sides, these four advanced posts at the top of Monash Valley were the linchpin of the defense. Chauvel reorganized the defense, appointing permanent commanders for the posts. He also formed special sniper groups who eventually managed to suppress the Turkish snipers, making it safe even for mule trains to move up Monash Valley. Chauvel's brigade soon found itself under heavy pressure from the Turks. On 29 May 1915, the Turks fired a mine under Quinn's Post and broke into it.

The permanent commander of the post, Lieutenant Colonel J. H. Cannan was absent on leave and the acting commander, Lieutenant Colonel G. J. Burnage was wounded in the fighting. Chauvel responded by bringing up reserves and appointing a temporary post commander, Lieutenant Colonel H. Pope, with orders to drive the Turks out at all costs. Major S. C. E. Herring was miraculously able to charge across the open ground practically unscathed, his attack having coincided with a Turkish one on another part of the post so that the Turkish machine gunners could not shoot without hitting their own men. There were in fact only about seventeen Turks in the post, who eventually surrendered. Chauvel's decision may have been the wrong one, but it was decisive; he was also lucky. For this action he was mentioned in despatches.

On 9 July 1915, Chauvel was promoted to Brigadier General, back-dated to when he assumed command of the 1st Light Horse Brigade on 10 December 1914. He spent six weeks in Egypt, in June and July, in hospital with pleurisy but returned in time for the August offensive, for which he was mentioned in despatches. Chauvel was acting commander of the New Zealand and Australian Division for short periods in September and October in Godley's absence. Then on 6 November 1915, he became commander of the 1st Division, and was promoted to Major General. He commanded this division through the final phase of the Gallipoli Campaign, the evacuation, and the reorganization in Egypt in February and March 1916. For his part in the evacuation, he was mentioned in despatches. His role in the campaign as a whole was recognized by his appointment as a Companion of the Order of the Bath.

Sinai - Anzac Mounted Division

Chauvel assumed command of the newly formed Anzac Mounted Division on 16 March 1916, the day after it relieved the 1st Division on the Suez Canal defenses. Chauvel was again mentioned in despatches for his part in the defense of the Canal. His division was committed to No. 3 Section of the Suez Canal defenses, the Northern part of the Canal, under Major General H. A. Lawrence. Arrangements were far from ideal. The mounted troops were parceled out so that only two brigades of the Anzac Mounted Division remained under Chauvel's command. The 3rd Light Horse Brigade had been placed under No. 2 Section by General Sir Archibald Murray GHQ Egyptian Expeditionary Force (EEF). Lawrence was too far away to control the battle, especially once the telephone lines were cut. Murray, in Ismailia, was even further back.

Chauvel was no hard-riding gambler against odds. Like Alva, he could on occasion ignore the ardent enthusiasm of his officers and bide his time. Always cool, and looking far enough ahead to see the importance of any particular fight in its proper relation to the war as a whole, he was brave enough to break off an engagement if it promised victory only at what he considered an excessive cost to his men and horses.

10.

Harry Chauvel Cont. .

He fought to win, but not at any price. He sought victory on his own terms. "He always retained, even in heated moments of battle, when leaders are often careless of life, a very rare concern for the lives of his men and his horses."
– (Henry Gullett - official Australian historian).

For the Battle of Romani, Chauvel chose his ground carefully, reconnoitering it from the ground and the air, and selecting both forward and fall back positions. His luck held; the German commander, Friedrich Kreis von Kressenstein, selected the same position as the forming up area for his attack in August 1916. Under great pressure, Chauvel maintained his position until Brigadier-General Edward Chaytor's New Zealand Mounted Rifles Brigade arrived after being released by Lawrence. The counter-attack that Chauvel had been calling for all day did not materialize until dusk. At Katia and again at Bir el Abd, Chauvel attempted to sweep around the Turkish flank but wound up making frontal attacks on the Turkish rearguard and was beaten off by determined counter-attacks and artillery fire against the 3rd Light Horse Brigade. Despite killing 1,250 Turks and taking over 4,000 prisoners, Chauvel was criticized for his failure to rout and destroy the Turks. However, for the Australian and New Zealand horsemen who suffered over 900 of the 1,130 British casualties, it was a clear-cut victory, their first decisive win and the turning point of the campaign. Later, Chauvel realized that Romani was the first decisive British victory of the war outside the West Africa Campaign.

In his report to the War Office on the battle, Murray passed lightly over the part played by the Anzac Mounted Division. The majority of awards for the Battle of Romani went to British troops, including a generous number to officers of Murray's staff. Lawrence was made a Knight Commander of the Order of the Bath, but Chauvel, having already been made a Companion of the Order of St Michael and St George for South Africa and Companion of the Order of the Bath for Gallipoli, was recommended for a lesser award, which he refused. In view of this, Murray decided that Chauvel should receive no award at all and he was merely mentioned in despatches.

(In the next edition we will continue the story of Sir Harry Chauvel and his exploits with the Desert Column, in the Palestine campaigns, leading the Desert Mounted Corps through to the end of WW1 and then cover his important work between the World Wars, his appointment in WW2 and finally his death and legacy. We are indebted to the Tas Federation of TPI for access to this article. Ed) .

Lt Gen Sir Harry Chauvel, 1919 - portrait by

James Peter Quinn



(A "GEEVES" PAGE)

BLONDE MORTICIAN

A man who had just died is delivered to a local mortuary wearing an expensive, expertly tailored black suit.

The female blonde mortician asks the deceased wife how she would like the body dressed, pointing out that he does look good in the black suit.

The widow, however, says that she always thought her husband looked his best in blue, and she wants him in a blue suit. She gives the blonde mortician a blank cheque and say, "I don't care what it costs, but please have my husband dressed in a blue suit for the viewing".

The woman returns the next day for the wake. To her delight, she finds her husband dressed in a gorgeous blue suit with a subtle chalk stripe; the suit fits him perfectly. She says to the mortician,

"Whatever this cost, I'm very satisfied. You did an excellent job and I'm, very grateful. How much did you spend?" To her astonishment, the blonde mortician presents her with the blank cheque. "There's no charge," she says.

"No, really, I must compensate you for the cost of that exquisite blue suit!" she says. "Honestly madam" the blonde says, "it cost nothing. You see, a deceased gentleman of about your husband's size was brought in shortly after you left yesterday and he was wearing an attractive blue suit. I asked his wife if she minded him going to his grave wearing a black suit instead and she said it made no difference as long as he looked nice. So I just switched their heads."

MURPHY DOES IT AGAIN!

A painter by the name of Murphy, while not a brilliant scholar, was a gifted portrait artist. Over a short number of years, his fame grew and soon people from all over Ireland were coming to the town of Doolin in County Clare to get him to paint their likenesses.

One day, a beautiful young English woman arrived at his house in a stretch limo and asked if he would paint her in the nude.

This being the first time anyone had made such a request he was a bit perturbed, particularly when the woman told him that money was no object in fact, and she was willing to pay up to \$10,000.

Not wanting to get into any marital strife, he asked her to wait while he went into the house to confer with Mary, his wife. In a few minutes he returned. "T'would be me pleasure to paint yer portrait, missus," he said "The wife says it's okay.

I'll paint ya in da nude alright, but I have to at least leave me socks on, so I have a place to wipe me brushes."

STAY!!

I pulled into the car park of my local shopping centre and rolled down the window a bit to make sure my new Labrador pup had sufficient air.

She was stretched out on the back seat and I wanted to impress upon her that must remain there.

I walked to the kerb backwards, pointing my finger at the car and saying emphatically, "now you stay. Do you hear me?" "Stay! Stay!"

A pretty blonde driver in a nearby car gave me a strange look and said, "why don't you just put it in Park?"

12.

Ralph & Edna

Ralph and Edna were both patients in a mental hospital. One day while they were walking past the hospital swimming pool, Ralph suddenly jumped into the deep end.

He sank to the bottom of the pool and stayed there. Edna promptly jumped in to save him. She swam to the bottom and pulled him out. When the Head Nurse Director became aware of Edna's heroic act, she immediately ordered her to be discharged from the hospital, as she now considered her to be mentally stable.

When she went to tell Edna the news she said, "Edna, I have good news and bad news. The good news is you're being discharged, since you were able to rationally respond to a crisis by jumping in and saving the life of the person you love. I have concluded that your act displays sound mindedness."

She continued, "The bad news is, Ralph hung himself in the bathroom with his bathrobe belt right after you rescued him from the Pool". "Nah" said Edna, "that's where I hung him up to dry, now can I go home!!"

(From: Paul Hodgman - Just because someone doesn't love you the way you want them to doesn't mean they don't love you with all they have)

Sunburn Treatment

A man passed out on the beach in Naples, Florida for four hours, and got a horrible sunburn, specifically to the front of his legs above his knees. He went to the hospital, and was promptly admitted after being diagnosed with second-degree burns.

With his skin already starting to blister, and the severe pain he was in, the doctor prescribed continuous intravenous feeding with saline, electrolytes, a sedative, and a Viagra pill every four hours.

The nurse, who was rather astounded, asked, "What good will Viagra do for him, Doctor?"

The Doctor replied, "It won't do anything for his condition, but it'll keep the sheets off his legs." *(Seever)*

Senior vs Lawyer.... *(From the Bruny Connection)*

A lawyer and a senior citizen are sitting next to each other on a long flight. The lawyer is thinking that seniors are so dumb that he could get one over on them easily. So, the lawyer asks if the senior would like to play a fun game.

The senior is tired and just wants to take a nap, so he politely declines and tries to catch a few winks. The lawyer persists, saying that the game is a lot of fun.... "I ask you a question, and if you don't know the answer, you pay me only \$5.00. Then you ask me one, and if I don't know the answer, I will pay you \$500.00," he says.

This catches the senior's attention and, to keep the lawyer quiet, he agrees to play the game. The lawyer asks the first question. "What's the distance from the Earth to the Moon?" The senior doesn't say a word, but reaches into his pocket, pulls out a five-dollar bill, and hands it to the lawyer.

Now, it's the senior's turn. He asks the lawyer, "What goes up a hill with three legs, and comes down with four?" The lawyer uses his laptop to search all references he can find on the Net. He sends E-mails to all the smart friends he knows; all to no avail. After an hour of searching, he finally gives up. He wakes the senior and hands him \$500.00. The senior pockets the \$500.00 and goes right back to sleep.

The lawyer is going nuts not knowing the answer. He wakes the senior up and asks, "Well, so what goes up a hill with three legs and comes down with four?"

The senior reaches into his pocket, hands the lawyer \$5.00, and goes back to sleep. ***Don't mess with seniors!***

13.

Should I Really Join Facebook? (A good laugh for people in the over-60 age group!!!)

When I bought my Blackberry, I thought about the 30-year business I ran with 1800 employees, all without a cell phone that plays music, takes videos, pictures and communicates with Facebook and Twitter. I signed up under duress for Twitter and Facebook, so my seven kids, their spouses, my 13 grand kids and 2 great grand kids could communicate with me in the modern way. I figured I could handle something as simple as Twitter with only 140 characters of space.

My phone was beeping every three minutes with the details of everything except the bowel movements of the entire next generation. I am not ready to live like this. I keep my cell phone in the garage in my golf bag.

The kids bought me a GPS for my last birthday because they say I get lost every now and then going over to the grocery store or library. I keep that in a box under my tool bench with the Blue tooth [it's red] phone I am supposed to use when I drive. I wore it once and was standing in line at Harris Scarfe and talking to my wife and everyone in the nearest 50 metres was glaring at me. I had to take my hearing aid out to use it, and I got a little loud.

I mean the GPS looked pretty smart on my dash board, but the lady inside that gadget was the most annoying, rudest person I had run into in a long time. Every 10 minutes, she would sarcastically say, "Re-calc-u-lating." You would think that she could be nicer. It was like she could barely tolerate me. She would let go with a deep sigh and then tell me to make a U-turn at the next light. Then if I made a left turn instead. Well, it was not a good relationship...

When I get really lost now, I call my wife and tell her the name of the cross streets and while she is starting to develop the same tone as Gypsy, the GPS lady, at least she loves me.

To be perfectly frank, I am still trying to learn how to use the cordless phones in our house. We have had them for 4 years, but I still haven't figured out how I lose three phones all at once and have to run around digging under chair cushions, checking bathrooms, and the dirty laundry baskets when the phone rings.

The world is just getting too complex for me. They even mess me up every time I go to the grocery store. You would think they could settle on something themselves but this sudden "Paper or Plastic?" every time I check out just knocks me for a loop. I bought some of those cloth reusable bags to avoid looking confused, but I never remember to take them with me.

Now I toss it back to them. When they ask me, "Paper or plastic?" I just say, "Doesn't matter to me. I am bi-sacksual." Then it's their turn to stare at me with a blank look.

I was recently asked if I tweet. I answered, "No, but I do fart a lot."

We senior citizens don't need any more gadgets. The TV remote and the garage door remote are about all we can handle. (Thanks Kaddy)

I'M VERY WELL THANK YOU

I'm as healthy as I can be. I have arthritis in both my knees. And when I talk, I talk with a wheeze.

My pulse is weak, and my blood is thin. But - I'm awfully well for the shape I'm in.

Arch supports I have for my feet. Or I wouldn't be able to be out on the street,

Sleep is denied me night after night. But every morning I find I'm alright.

My memory is failing, my head's in a spin. But - I'm awfully well for the shape I'm in.

The moral is this - as my tale I unfold. That for you and me who are getting old,

It's better to say 'I'm fine' with a grin. Than to let folks know that shape we are in.

How do I know that my youth is all spent? Well, my 'get up and go' has got up and went.

But I really don't mind when I think with a grin. Of all the grand places my 'got up' has bin.

Old age is golden I've heard it said. But sometimes I wonder as I get into bed,

With my ears in a drawer, my teeth in a cup. My specs on a table until I get up.

'Ere sleep overtakes me I say to myself. Is there anything else I could lay on the shelf?

When I was young my slippers were red, I could kick my heels right over my head,

When I was younger my slippers were blue. But I still could dance the whole night through.

Now I am old my slippers are black, I walk to the shop and puff my way back,

I get up each morning and dust off my wits. And pick up the paper to read the 'obits',

If my name is still missing I know I'm not dead. And so I have breakfast and - go back to bed. (Author Unknown)

YOUR SECRETARY SAYS

Great to hear from one of our few remaining men in a green skin” in **Sgt Dean Hodge**, who is still serving with the 144 Sig Sqn Tas Det (with **Dave Marsh**). Dean has sent our Treasurer funds for membership in advance and another lovely donation. Much appreciated Dean! **Mal McWilliams** also continues to serve as a Maj, 2IC at 12/40 Bn and ADC to Governor Warner.

Also very pleasing to report that our Ex Sqn members continue to ‘sign-on’ and this quarter we have ‘recruited’ **Bob Jager** (former Telstra Tech AND Tech Elec at our Sqn, now retired, who is SES Unit Volunteer Chief & resident of Alonah on ‘beautiful Bruny’) and **Tony Luttrell** (TAFE senior Exec and former Cpl, Lt Rad Det Comd). Welcome guys! Bob’s membership completes our “*all around Tas set*” – ie., we now have member’s living around all regions of the State again!

Another two new members signed on very recently. **Kerry Collidge’s** brother **Ron Wild** (Sqn member 1959-62) and her son **Jamie** (currently serving with RA Sigs in ARA) – brother of our Canberra member **Mark**, of course – it must be a record to have four from the same family in our Association at one time?

Also messages/subs from one time Sqn Admin Offr **Graeme Denne** at Howrah and a former Secretary’s son **Terry Ward** at Kingston. Great to have you retain membership fellers. Then further subs, from **Tony “Rocky” Johnstone** at Swansea and a nice donation from **Cliff Auton** (Kingston Beach) and subs from **Sue McDougall**, formerly Sqn Comcen Tp Cpl (Howrah) and our man on the West Coast in **Phil Jones** (Queenstown).

We received a very welcome donation from **Ian Rose** (The Patch, Vic), a former Tp Comd 146 Sqn and a subs payment from **Chris Parker** (also a former Sqn member and more recently President of Lindisfarne RSL Sub Branch). Thanks again gents.

Then subs from **Bobby Service & Phil Baker** (a couple of our Clarence RSL lads), **Denis Brain** in Yarraville Vic, **Ron Fenton** (found him at last in Howrah!!), **Sean Kelly** former Unit Admin Offr - also Howrah), **George Norton Smith** at Ridgley, **Richard Heiermann** at Sandfly, **Ivo Bartonek** at Risdon Vale, our former Trg Offr in the late 60’s in **Alan Turner** (now retired with his dear spouse Val in Ormeau Qld), our veteran of the airways, **Lyndsay McCarthy** at Rokeby and former SQMS **Al King**, resting in the Petrie Qld sun with Marg after another overseas trip. Thank you all – it’s great to see the Treasurer getting writer’s cramp again!!

Had a recent call from another Vic member (former Sqn Tech Elec Sgt) in **Bob Muir**. He was looking for contacts for some former Telecom Australia & Unit colleagues (new members). Told me he is planning a trip down to Tas in a couple of months. It will be great to catch up with Bob again.

Great to see **Julie Paul** at our AGM, fresh back and sun-tanned from another of her winter jaunts – keeping up the tradition!

It’s remarkable to see that many of our members/former members are helping out various economies around the globe as they travel to “all parts”. Over recent times I have received notifications of **Al Nunn, Frank Moore, Kim Murray, Caroline Button, Murray Woodhouse, Terry Binyon, Ros Pyrke, Rick & Phil Marshall, Mark Collidge, Al King, Dave Potter & Dave and Cyndy Traynor** travelling overseas – there are probably more!

REUNION 2017

Yep, the rumour is right!! There is to be another **Disbandment of 146 Sig Sqn Reunion (the 30th !!) in October 2017.**

It will be a bit more “low key” than the last couple (20th & 25th) but we still intend to hold a “**Beaumaris Dinner**” on **Saturday 14th Oct 2017**, followed by the Sigs Commemoration Day Service at the Barracks on the Sunday and a Luncheon afterwards (which will also serve as a farewell for the weekend reunion).

More to follow, over! (Plenty of time to get your ‘Leave Pass’ sorted).

AND.... A Merry Christmas to you all!! (Dick G)

THE K MART COMPLAINT

After I retired, my wife insisted that I accompany her on her trips to Kmart. Unfortunately, like most men, I found shopping boring and preferred to get in and get out. Equally unfortunately, my wife Polly is like most women - she loves to browse and leaves me with endless time to fill.

Yesterday my dear wife received the following letter from the local Kmart:

Dear Polly:

Over the past six months, your husband has caused quite a commotion in our store. We cannot tolerate this behavior and have been forced to ban both of you from the store. Our complaints against your husband are listed below and are documented by our video surveillance cameras:

June 15: He took 24 boxes of condoms and randomly put them in other people's carts when they weren't looking.

July 2: Set all the alarm clocks in Housewares to go off at 5-minute intervals.

July 7: He made a trail of gravy pre-mix on the floor leading to the women's toilet.

July 19: Walked up to an employee and told her in an official voice, "Code 3 in Housewares. Get on it right away." This caused the employee to leave her assigned station and receive a reprimand from her supervisor that in turn resulted with a union grievance, causing management to lose time and costing the company money. We don't have a "Code 3."

August 4: Went to the Service Desk and tried to put a bag of M&Ms on lay-by.

14 August: Moved a "CAUTION - WET FLOOR" sign to a carpeted area.

15 August: Set up a tent in the Camping Department and told the children shoppers he'd invite them in if they would bring pillows and blankets from the Bedding Department, to which twenty children obliged.

23 August: When a clerk asked if they could help him, he began crying and screamed, "Why can't you people just leave me alone?" Emergency were called.

4 September: Looked right into the security camera and used it as a mirror while he picked his nose.

10 September: While handling guns in the Hunting Department, he asked the clerk where the antidepressants were.

3 October: Darted around the store suspiciously while loudly humming the Mission Impossible theme song.

6 October: In the Auto Department, he practiced his "Madonna Look" using different sizes of funnels.

18 October: Hid in a clothing rack and when people browsed through yelled "PICK ME! PICK ME!"

22 October: When an announcement came over the loud speaker, he assumed a foetal position and screamed "OH NO! ITS THOSE VOICES AGAIN!" then took a box of condoms to the checkout clerk and asked, "Where is the fitting room?"

And last, but not least:

23 October: Went into a fitting room, shut the door, waited a while, and then yelled very loudly, "Hey! There's no toilet paper in here." One of the clerks passed out!! *(Thanks Bob!!)*

TRUE STORY

A Kansas farm wife called the local phone company to report her telephone failed to ring when her friends called ~ and that on the few occasions, when it did ring, her dog always moaned right before the phone rang. The telephone repairman proceeded to the scene, curious to see this psychic dog or senile lady. He climbed a telephone pole, hooked in his test set, and dialed the subscriber's house. The phone didn't ring right away, but then the dog moaned and the telephone began to ring. Climbing down from the pole, the telephone repairman found:-

1. The dog was tied to the telephone system's ground wire with a steel chain and collar.
2. The wire connection to the ground rod was loose.
3. The dog was receiving 90 volts of signaling current when the number was called.
4. After a couple of jolts, the dog would start moaning and then urinate.
5. The wet ground would complete the circuit, thus causing the phone to ring.

Which demonstrates that some problems CAN be fixed by pissing and moaning! (Seeves - Trust you heh??)

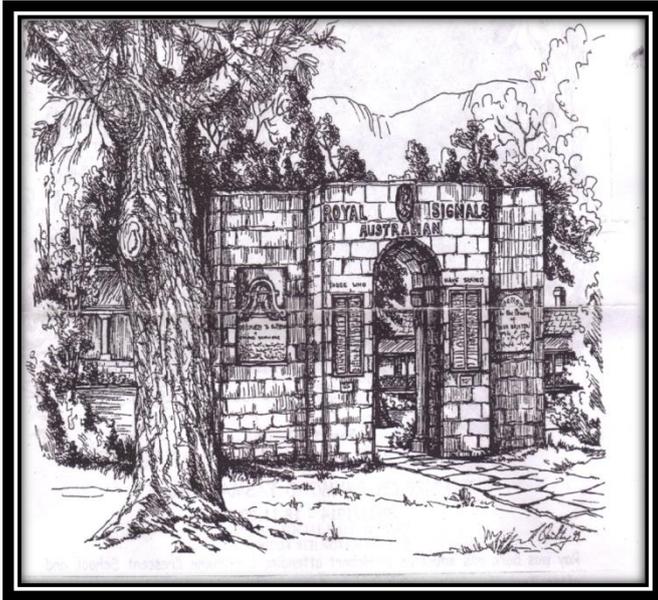
(Bet that one's not in the Telstra Tech's manual!! ☺)

16.

**TX10559 GLEN ROBERT HALLEY 29 JAN 1922 –
3 MAR 2016**

Another of our dwindling number of WW2 veterans in Glen Halley has passed away. We have recently been advised by his wife. Glen passed away after complications with surgery.

Glen was born at Latrobe and attended Our Lady of Lourdes School in Devonport. He joined the CMF (12/50th Bn) in 1938 (16 years old), served in that force until 1941 and then enlisted with the AIF in Fortress Signals in 1941, serving until 1942 when he finally transferred to 17 L of C Sigs (1943-46).



Most of Glen's active service in WW2 was in the Darwin area.

Glen was married to Eileen for 67 years and they had 5 sons and a daughter. The family were involved in very successful businesses as Electrical Contractors in Devonport and nearby rural areas. Glen and his brother Kenneth William (Bill) – Ex Navy, established the business in 1952. They later established an electrical retail business, including white goods and later still moved into servicing the lighting industry.

Glen was involved in the businesses between 1952 & 1982. The retail business, which has moved three times is now located in Oldaker Street and is still operated by family.

After retirement Glen and Eileen continued to live in Devonport. Glen also had a lengthy involvement with Legacy. Our Condolences have been passed to Eileen and the family.

R.I.P Glen

SUBS PAYMENTS

Facility REMINDER - Make deposits direct to our CBA Account:-

“ROYAL AUSTRALIAN SIGNALS ASSOCIATION “

BSB No. 067-000

Account No. 28033880

Please ADD – Your Name AND “Subs”

Many thanks to all those who made special efforts to make Subs payments over the past 2 months – a terrific response. The Treasurer is smiling!!!