THE RANGER 2014 - 2015

The Annual Journal of the 8/7th Battalion of The Royal Victorian Regiment

THIS ISSUE

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Contributions are always welcome. Articles should be approximately 700 words, submitted in Microsoft Word format and be accompanied by high-resolution, digital photographs in JPEG format.

Please direct all submissions and enquiries to:
The Editor, The RANGER
8/7th Battalion the Royal Victorian Regiment
Newland Barracks
198 - 200 Myers Street
GEELONG VIC. 3220

Phone: 03 5227 7602
Mobile: 0476 817 509
E-mail: *geoffrey.traill@defence.gov.au*

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Production:
Mario Cicivelli - Defence Publishing Service
Phone: 03 9256 4080
E-mail: *mario.cicivelli@defence.gov.au*

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CO's Address

It was an honour to have been selected by Chief of Army to be Commanding Officer, 8/7 RVR and I want to thank you for your efforts the past 2 years. The last 2 years as your CO have gone by very quickly, a blur really. I remain impressed by your desire to serve in the Australian Army and contribute towards 8/7 RVR achieving our mission and tasks. We have come a long way from when I took over in Dec 13 and I will elaborate further in my Address. You will also be impressed by the articles in this edition of the Ranger Magazine which describe all the work and play in 8/7 RVR over the past 2 years. Thanks are expressed to the organisers of the publication; it is a great read.

In 2014, the main focus of the year was on the deployment of RCB 108. 8/7 RVR provided half of the RCB which I think is an indication of the willingness of the Unit to provide capability to the Army. From all accounts, the RCB went extremely well and further in this edition of the Ranger Magazine, you will see photographs and articles from the RCB. Of course RCB 108 would not have deployed if not for the efforts of the Unit Operations, Personnel and Logistics staff who did an excellent job in managing soldiers drawn from 3 states into the one contingent. RCB 108 is an excellent example of the strengths which can be gained from when all Units across 4 and 9 Bdes come together and work together. These strengths are necessary for our preparation for Battle Group Jacka.

In training, 2015 has been the year of BG Jacka, as 2016 will be. 8/7 RVR has done some excellent training to get ready for the culminating exercises in 2016. Of most note in 2015 were Ex Courtney's Post in May 15 and Ex Pozieres in Oct 15. Not only have our numbers been good but our performance has been very good as well. BG Jacka still has a way to go in 2016 with Ex Predator's Gallop in Mar 16 and EX Hamel in Jul 16 being the most important. 8/7 RVR is leading the way in preparing for these exercises and I look forward to our continued development as a team in 2016. There is a place for all members of 8/7 RVR to contribute towards the success of BG Jacka and I am asking all members to dig deep so that we can finish what we have started and ensure BG Jacka is a successful capability.

2015 was also the year for the 100th Anniversary of the landing at ANZAC Cove and the Gallipoli campaign. Across 8/7 RVR's area of responsibility, soldiers participated in a large number of ceremonial and public engagement activities. Fittingly, photographs from acroos 8/7 RVR are in this edition of the Ranger Magazine to enable all of us to remember this special event; a once in a lifetime event for us as soldiers in the Australian Army. I am proud of our conduct and of how we commemorated our brothers and sisters from all of Australia's conflicts.

8/7 RVR is contributing alot within our communities as well. This is done not only through ANZAC Day and Remembrance Day activities, but also support to the RSL and Legacy. Both of these organisations have expressed their thanks to the Unit over the past 2 years for what we do to support them and also for the fine example we set within the community. We also remain ready to support our communities should we be required for emergency events such as fires or floods. This is a great part of being in 8/7 RVR, that we can assist our communities in good times and bad.

I would like to thank all members of the Unit and our associates for a great 2 years. I would like to thank those who have left the Army for greener pastures for their service to our country. I wish good luck to those who have left the Unit on posting. In particular my RSM of the past 2 years, WO1 Mick Groves; thanks for your comradeship and I trust I will see you soon.

I would also ask that you thank your families and loved ones for their support in 2015. Modern life is complex and taxing on our time. Just as you have contributed to such a high level to your military family, I would ask that you spend time with your families and loved ones so that you are ready to perform in 2016. There is a long road ahead and I need all of you for the journey.

Cede Nullis. ■

Tom Biedermann
LTCOL

ANZAC CENTENARY REMEMBERED BY 8/7 RVR

RSM's Forward

Its been another busy year for the Battalion. RCB 108 deployed in late 2014 and spent the Christmas and New Year period in Malaysia and returned in February 2015. I am sure all members had a great time in country and got to experience working with other nations whilst also enjoying the cultural aspects of Malaysia.

The Battalion has spent the majority of the year preparing for Battle Group Jacka to participate in Exercise Hamel in 2016. This year the Battalion completed two significant exercises, which were a nine day exercise (Ex Courtney's Post) in May and then another nine day exercise in Adelaide Ex Pozieres. Ex Courtney's Post provided an excellent environment to allow the sub-units to conduct Section and Platoon level training, whilst Ex Pozieres was the first time that the BG HQ came together. Both exercises were a success with members at all rank levels learning something new.

This year marked the 100th Anniversary of ANZAC and once again it was an extremely busy period for the Battalion. This year the Battalion supported 43 different events. The Commanding Officer carried the ANZAC flame through Ballarat and all sub-units participated in their local area marches, whilst also completing catafalque Party duties. I have received letters of thanks and many phone calls congratulating the Battalion on a job well done.

We also had a Battalion sporting day and concert to allow us to celebrate ANZAC Day 2015. The event was an outstanding success. The OFF and SNCO's vs the OR's soccer match was played in great spirit, with the OR's running out the eventual winners (even thou they cheated). The live band and food that night at the function in the barracks was outstanding.

It has been an absolute privilege and honour to be the Regimental Sergeant Major of this fine Battalion for the past three years. For those member who have been promoted this year, well done it is well deserved. For all those members being posted enjoy your new posting. Have a safe and enjoyable festive season and spend some time with family and friends.

Fair winds and soft landings. ■

WO1 M. J. GROVES
RSM

ANZAC Day Centenary Catafalque Party at the Ballarat memorial service in Sturt Street Ballarat 25 April 2015.

PADRE's Reflection

"Every citizen should be a soldier. This was the case with the Greeks and Romans, and must be that of every free state." ***Thomas Jefferson***

When I was posted to 8/7 I did not know what to expect. Some said that the ARES was a different animal to the ARA and that low expectations were the order of the day.

My experience this year as the Battalion Padre could not have been more different.

While the geographical nature of 8/7 and my own church commitments have made it a challenge to even meet you all, let alone know and support you, it has been a privilege to get to know at least some of you around the depots and to get smashed with you in the occasional Battle PT session.

It was also a privilege to be able to spend time with soldiers from all the depots in the lead up to the RCB and to be part of the team supporting their demount activities in February at Simpson Barracks. ANZAC day and its activities as always were excellent. The dawn service and the march through Geelong and the function afterwards at the Barracks were well organised and well run. But the highlight for me was definitely Exercise Courtney's post at Cultana. It was great to get out to the sub units as they dug in, help to support some families back home and to have the time and opportunity to get to know many more from the unit (and get some kind help from all and sundry with my woeful field skills!)

For some this year has been a tough one. For others this year has provided the opportunity to spend some time considering some of the big questions of life. It has been a pleasure to walk through these tough times with some members of the unit and to explore these big foundational questions of life, death and eternity with others.

I came to the ARES with low expectations, but have found that the soldiers I have met and got to know are committed and dedicated individuals who display a high degree of resilience. Thomas Jefferson may have been right, but being a citizen and a soldier at he same time is not always an easy task, yet it is one that 8/7 seems to do it in style.

My thanks to the CO, RSM, OPSO and other staff for their support (and patience) and to the unit for the chance to serve with you this year. ■

Chap Andrew Grills
8/7 RVR Chaplain

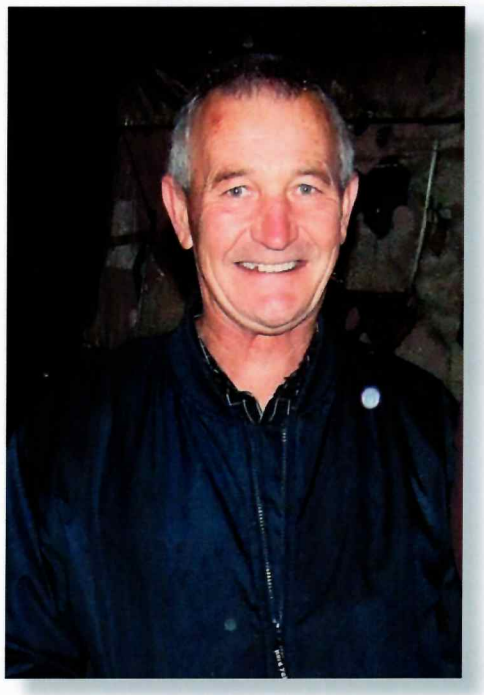
ABC
Australian Broadcasting Corporation

LTCOL Tom Biedermann speaks on air ABC Ballarat on 107.9 FM

ABC Twitter
23 April 2015

LTCOL Tom Biedermann spoke to listeners on local ABC Radio about the upcoming ANZAC Day Dawn Service to be held at the Victory Arch in Alfredton on 25th April and the ANZAC Day Parade to commemorate the Centenary of the landing of Australian and New Zealand troops at Gallipoli. Pictured below at the local ABC Studio with members of 8/7 RVR who provided enthusiastic support.

BHQ S1 XO



MAJ Clifton Gowers has served with 8/7 RVR as Executive Officer [XO] for a number of years; supporting the Commanding Officer (CO) in areas of Aministration, Governance, Work Place Health and Safety and the Technical Regulatory Framework (TRF). He has an excellent reputation within the Battalion for the work that he does and often downplays his contribution. He is looking forward to celebrating 40years since his enlistment in March 1976.

Well I have survived another year at Ballarat and I am six months closer to completing 40 years in the ADF, I'm not really as old as people think it's just that I can't remember everything I have done or where I put it but I do remember everything I thought I forgot.

This year has been relatively rewarding with all Governance tasks being completed and that also means a big thanks to those members who supported these tasks especially where there are many hard kilometres to drive between Depots (which raises another set of WHS issues) to achieve the outcome. No doubt we will cycle through the same issues next year and get a similar result, but the best part about it is, we're are getting good at it.

Looking at the 2016 program I notice there is a reasonable amount of movement within the Battalion between training locations and Exercises so be safe, be WHS conscience and report your incidents.

I would also like to wish a 'good luck' to those Battalion members who left in 2015 for their future endeavours. I will remain at CASG in my civilian life delivering capability to you guys wherever you are.

Well that's it from me I hope you all have enjoyed a prosperous Xmas and New Year and I hope to see the majority of you hard at it in 2016. ■

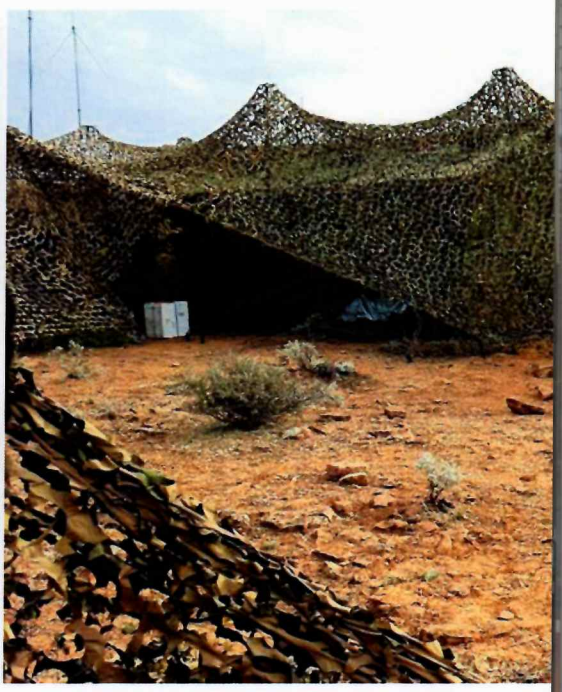
MAJ Clifton N. Gowers
8/7 RVR XO

SNOW AT RANGER BARRACKS

Ballarat 20 AUG 2014 "Winter is Coming"

BHQ S3 OPS CELL

OPS Cell SGT Dan Purcell with OPSO MAJ John Spencer and WO2 Nickolas Crosbie



2015 saw a changing of the guard in the 8/7 RVR OPS cell. WO2 Nickolas (Bill) Crosbie and SGT Dan Purcell came in to replace SGT Paul (Spick) Micallef (posted to ARTC to allegedly re-do Kapooka) and WO2 Dave Nelson who went back to URLO, as the bloke who did it last year was not up to speed. We actually gained a functioning and capable S33 Capt. Nikola (Nick) Dragojlovic which was a breath of fresh air in 8/7 and what's more he was poached from the City Slickers down the hill (5/6 RVR). Nick has stated that it's great to be working with a real Battalion.

The OPS Cell has continued the main task during this year to raise BG Jacka. This continues to be a challenge as the BG is being raised from two BDEs (4 and 9 BDE) that reside across 3 States.

As you would expect the OPS Cell started on the run with RCB 108 drawing down in January and the continuation of BG Jacka training. The cell formed the nucleus of the BG Jacka HQ CP and conducted two major activities during the year as part of BG Jacka HQ.

EX Courtney's Post ***(right)*** was the first opportunity the BG HQ CP had to actually plan, co-ordinate and execute a BG level activity at Cultana in SA. This proved that whilst there were, and probably still are, numerous areas that need improvement, the CP had the processes and equipment in place to establish a BG HQ in the field. The Exercise was a success with the better part of three Combat Teams (CT), Admin Coy Engineers, Cavalry and Light Battery mortars deploying from VIC, SA and TAS to the waste land that is Cultana. D Sqn from 1 BDE also provided a troop of APC's to assist with movement and convoy escort tasks. The Exercise gave all participants the first opportunity to work as BG Jacka. A great experience of operating in the field in a BG environment.

The second opportunity came in the form of Exercise Pozieres. This was conducted in two parts being the BG C2 staff participating in a 2 DIV run CPX at RAAF Edinburgh over two weeks and a PL level LFX for the BG PL members conducted at Puckapunyal during the second week. The CPX was another chance to practice BG CP procedures; however as with all activities a lot of new faces and first time participants made for a steep learning curve for some members. The BG CP was "in the box" for 5 days after conducting a week of SMAP training. Overall the CP went well and continued on the Road to Hamel 16.

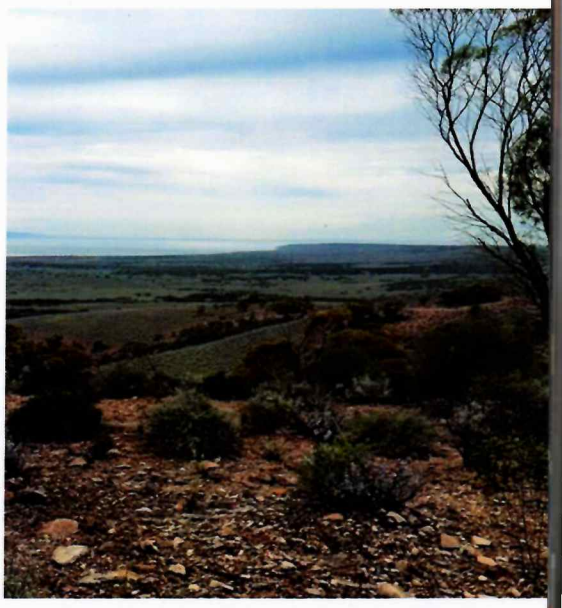
The BG Jacka soldiers from VIC, SA and TAS participated in a Live Fire week at Puckapunyal. This involved Individual through to Section and finally Platoon level attacks. It was a great opportunity for soldiers to fire all section weapon systems and work together in platoons. Again the LF was a great success.

The OPS cell is again undergoing some changes at the end of the year. The OPSO MAJ John Spencer will still be in the seat (Call sign porpoise) as well as Dan. WO2 James Stewart will be coming in to replace Bill as the OPSWO. Bill will be conducting an AO transit to 7RAR BG Boar but cheer up as he will still be going on Hamel 16 and I am sure we will still be able to hear him from the BMA in CUTA.

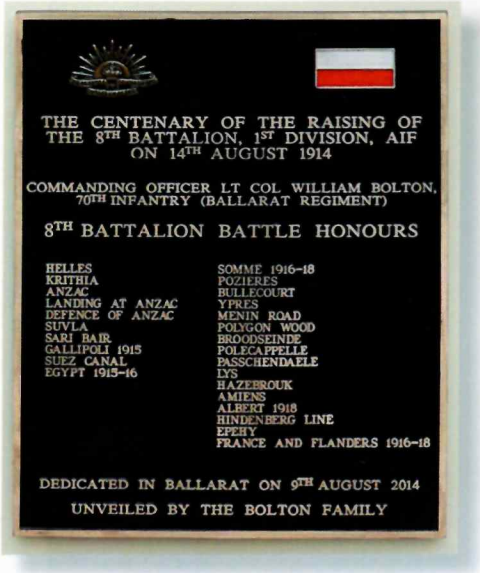
Overall, this year has been satisfying with some robust leadership within the organisation getting us through some of the more emotional times. There is still a lot of work ahead for the cell as we continue our journey to Hamel 16. Here is a list of critical events that we are working towards in the first half of 2016:

Force Preservation Training in Laverton	28-31 JAN 16
BG Level CPX in Laverton	05-08 FEB 16
Exercise Predators Gallop	11-20 MAR 16
Range weekend at HMAS Cerberus	16-17 APR 16
CT level activity at Ballarat airfield	14-15 MAY 16

MAJ John Spencer
8/7 RVR OPSO



Photographs from EX Courtney's Post at the Cultana Training Area in South Australia



Plaque Unveiling on The Centenary of the Raising of the 8th Battalion 1st Division AIF on 14th August 1914

Held in Ballarat on the 9th August 2014, the ceremonial unveiling of a plaque commemorating the Centenary of the Raising of the 8th Battalion, 2nd Brigade, 1st Division AIF. The ceremony was held at the Ballarat Ranger Military Museum.

The 8th Battalion was among the first infantry units raised for the AIF during the First World War. Like the 5th, 6th and 7th Battalions, it was recruited from Victoria and, together with these battalions, formed the 2nd Brigade.

The battalion was raised from rural Victoria by Lieutenant Colonel William Bolton within a fortnight of the declaration of war in August 1914 and embarked just two months later. After a brief stop in Albany, Western Australia, the battalion proceeded to Egypt, arriving on 2 December. It later took part in the ANZAC landing on 25 April 1915, as part of the second wave.

Ten days after the landing, the 2nd Brigade was transferred from ANZAC to Cape Helles to help in the attack on the village of Krithia. The attack captured little ground but cost the brigade almost a third of its strength. The Victorian battalions returned to ANZAC to help defend the beachhead, and in August the 2nd Brigade fought at the battle of Lone Pine. The battalion served at ANZAC until the evacuation in December.

After the withdrawal from Gallipoli, the battalion returned to Egypt. In March 1916, it sailed for France and the Western Front. From then until 1918 the battalion was heavily involved in operations against the German Army.

The battalion's first major action in France was at Pozieres in the Somme valley in July 1916. Private Thomas Cooke, one of 81 members of the battalion killed at Pozieres, earned a posthumous Victoria Cross during the action. After Pozieres, the battalion fought at Ypres, in Flanders, returning to the Somme for winter. In 1917, the battalion participated in the operations that followed-up the German withdrawal to the Hindenburg Line, and then returned to Belgium to join the great offensive launched to the east of Ypres.

In March and April 1918 helped to stop the German spring offensive. The battalion subsequently participated in the allies' own offensive, launched near Amiens on 8 August 1918. The advance by British and empire troops was the greatest success in a single day on the Western Front, one that German General Erich Ludendorff described as, "the black day of the German Army in this war". For his actions on this day, Lieutenant William Joynt was awarded a Victoria Cross. The next day, Private Robert Beatham also earned a Victoria Cross by rushing four separate machine guns. He was killed in action two days later.

The battalion continued operations to late September 1918. At 11 am on 11 November 1918, the guns fell silent. The November armistice was followed by the peace treaty of Versailles signed on 28 June 1919.

In November 1918 members of the AIF began to return to Australia for demobilisation and discharge. In April, the battalion was so reduced that it and the 5th Battalion were amalgamated to form a composite battalion. In turn, this battalion was amalgamated with another, formed from the 6th and 7th Battalions, to form the 2nd Brigade Battalion.

During the Second World War the 8th Battalion was used primarily as a garrison unit before taking part in the Bougainville campaign late in the war. It was disbanded again in 1946 during the demobilisation process, although it was reformed again in 1948 when it was amalgamated with the 7th Battalion. Today, its honours and traditions are perpetuated by the 8th/7th Battalion, Royal Victoria Regiment.

The 8th was known as the "Blood and Bandages" brigade due to their Unit Colour Patch being white on red. ■

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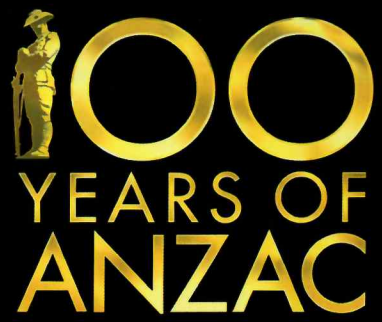
Master of Ceremonies: Major Neil Leckie RFD Ret'd. Featured Commanding Officer 8/7 RVR Lt Col Tom Beidermann; Executive Officer 8/7 RVR, Major Cliff Gower - and 8th Battalion family member and guest speaker, Mr Joshua Bolton.

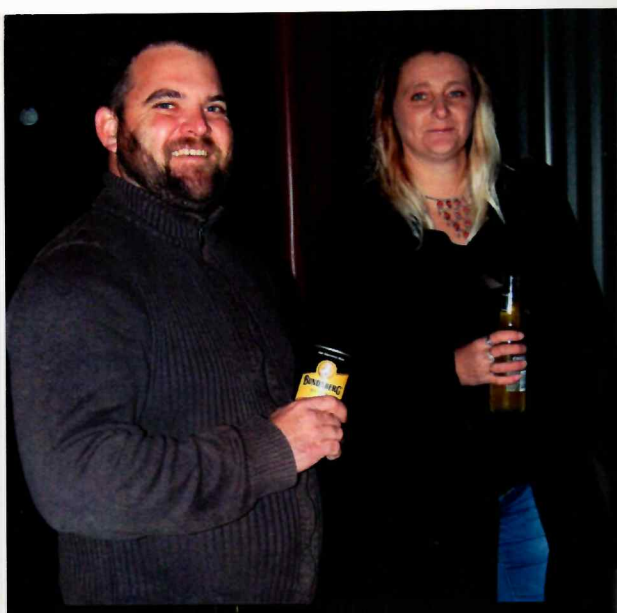
ANZAC CENTENARY 2015

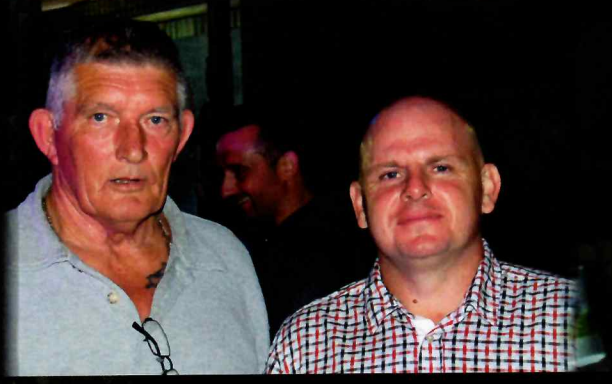


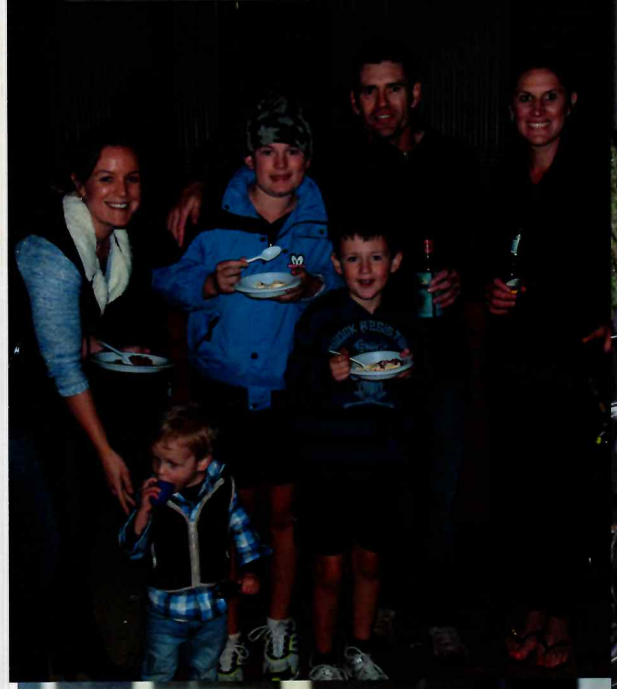
THE SPIRIT LIVES 2014 - 2018

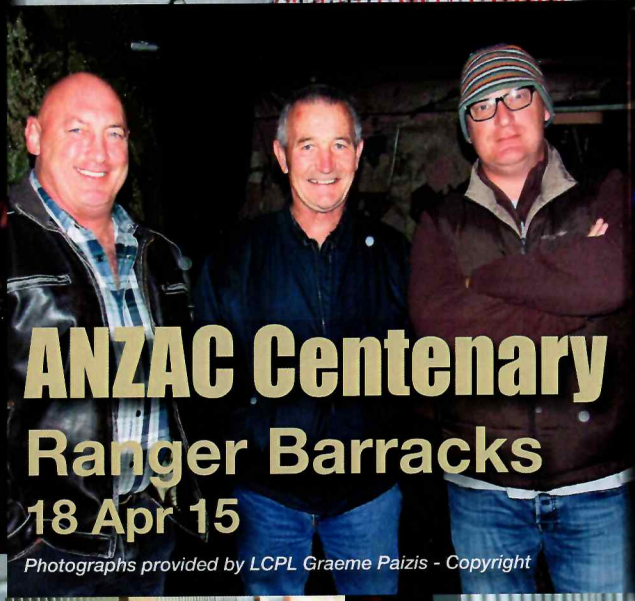
ANZAC Dawn Services, Marches and Memorial Services were supported by 8/7 RVR around Victoria on the Centenary of the Landing of Gallipoli 1915. This year the Battalion supported 43 different events. The Commanding Officer carried the ANZAC flame through Ballarat and all sub-units participated in their local area marches, whilst also completing catafalque Party duties.

Members of 8/7 RVR supported the Spirit of ANZAC Exhibition in Ballarat in November 2015.









ANZAC Centenary

Ranger Barracks

18 Apr 15

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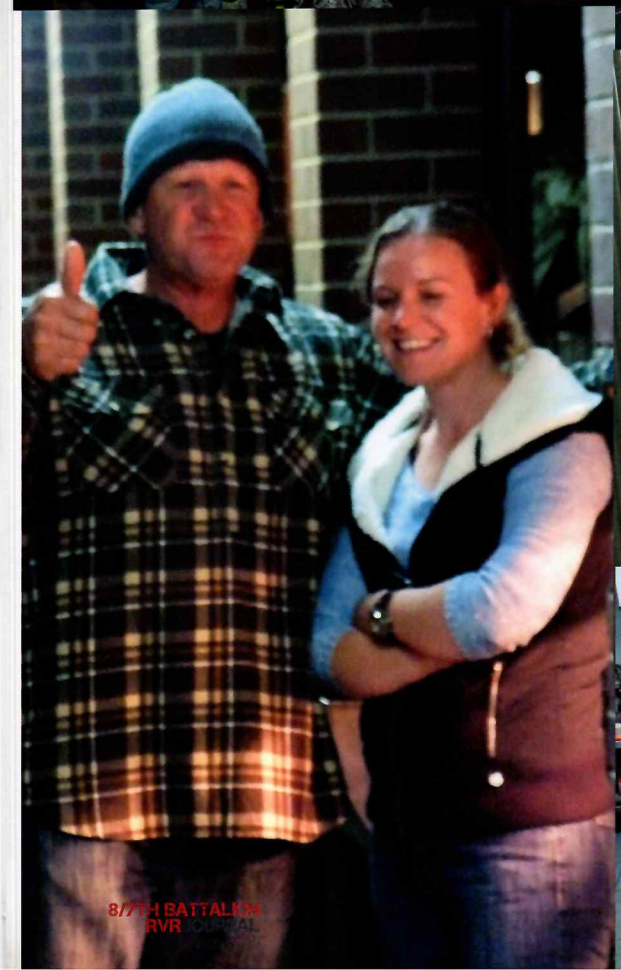

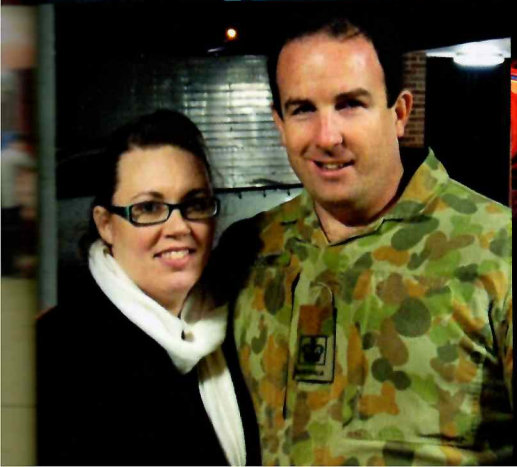

The Courier

Anzac Day dawn service in Ballarat 2015

BY NICOLE CAIRNS from the Ballarat Courier

THE Arch of Victory has never looked so glorious as Saturday morning. The Anzac Day dawn service met at the Arch for the first time, with thousands gathering in the rain to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the Anzacs landing at Gallipoli.

In the dark, spectators made their way up a closed Sturt Street. With large crowds, it was difficult to park at 5.30, with many arriving early to secure a good spot for the historic event. The service began at 6am.

MC Bruce Roberts opened the service saying we were here to commemorate not celebrate. "We're here at the gateway to the Avenue of Honour - a 22 kilometre to tribute to the 3801 Ballarat people who served in The Great War. "Faith was an important word to the diggers - they had faith in their mates, faith in the cause and faith in their country. "They responded to a call of duty, and fell for the cause of liberty and justice."

Arch of Victory/Avenue of Honour committee president Bruce Price said the first 505 trees of the Avenue up to Dyson Drive remembered those who served at Gallipoli. "Fifteen from Ballarat lost their lives that first day - the day they landed at Gallipoli." He read the names, vocations and ages of those 15 representing all who have served in conflict. "Many got through just because of the Anzac spirit - endurance, courage, mateship and sacrifice." The men ranged in age, some practicing as a painter, another a law student, others boot makers and a silver smith. "743 lost their lives in the tragic battle of World War One from Ballarat - one fifth of that went over. "Of the 730 served at Gallipoli, with 160 lost their lives. "The average of all the 3801 servicemen, was just 24."

RSL president Alex Tascas and Lieutenant Colonel Tom Biedermann lit the Anzac torch. Father Justin Driscoll read a poem and said a prayer to mark the occasion.

Lieutenant Colonel Tom Biedermann, of the 8th/7th Battalion, said the place of the World War One servicemen was assured in history. "100 years ago today, 16,000 Australian and New Zealand Army Corps landed at the Gallipoli Peninsula. By the end of the day, 2000 Australians were killed and by the end of the campaign 6000 Australians were dead," Lieutenant Colonel Biedermann said. "Since the first Anzac Day, many soldiers have added to the legacy of these first Anzacs."

He spoke about the other services around the world, where Australian troops will stop in Iraq and Afghanistan to commemorate the historic occasion. "The ideals of the men then and those now are common - there is a just cause worth fighting for."

Arthur Koole served in the 8th/7th Battalion up until 1999, and travelled to Ballarat for the Anzac Centenary service from his now home in Queensland. "It's very fitting to have it here at the Arch of Victory."

For school teacher Tony Schaefer, he said the arch was the proper place to honour the soldiers - as it is a memorial for them. "We would've been there if we were born then. So the sacrifice is so significant," Mr Schaefer said. "It's very symbolic at the march. It signifies that we've come from somewhere, and we're going somewhere. Who knows - there might be another arch erected at the end to commemorate something else in another 100 years."

Neville Monson said he usually attended the march, but not the dawn service, making the special effort this year ■

Photos from the Anzac Day dawn service in Ballarat, 2015. BY ADAM TRAFFORD AND LACHLAN BENCE

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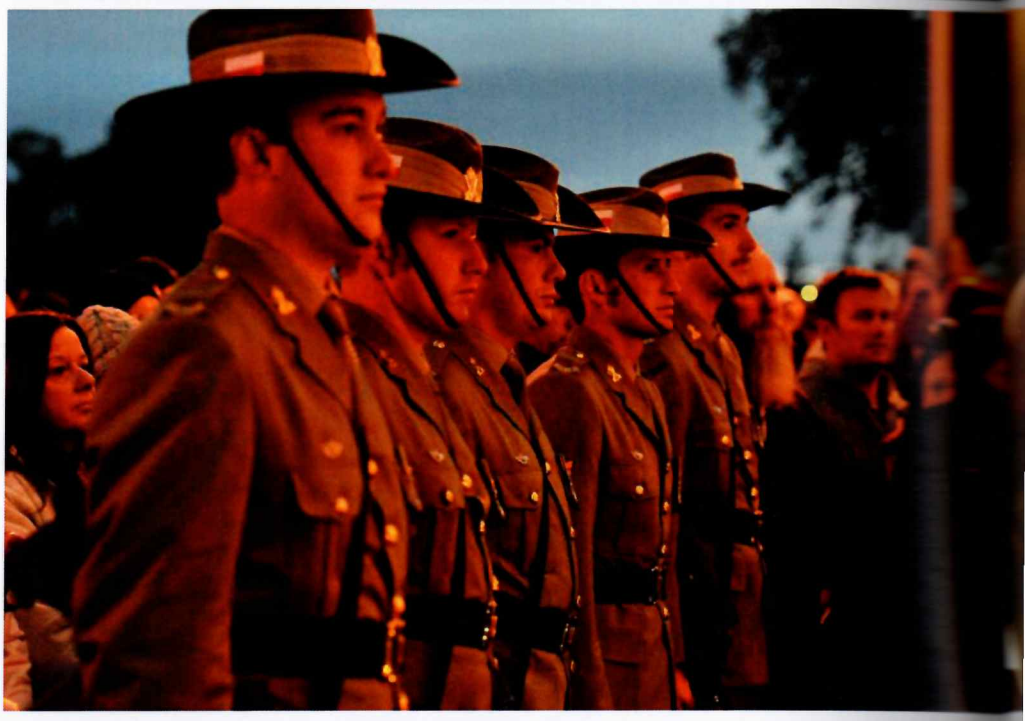
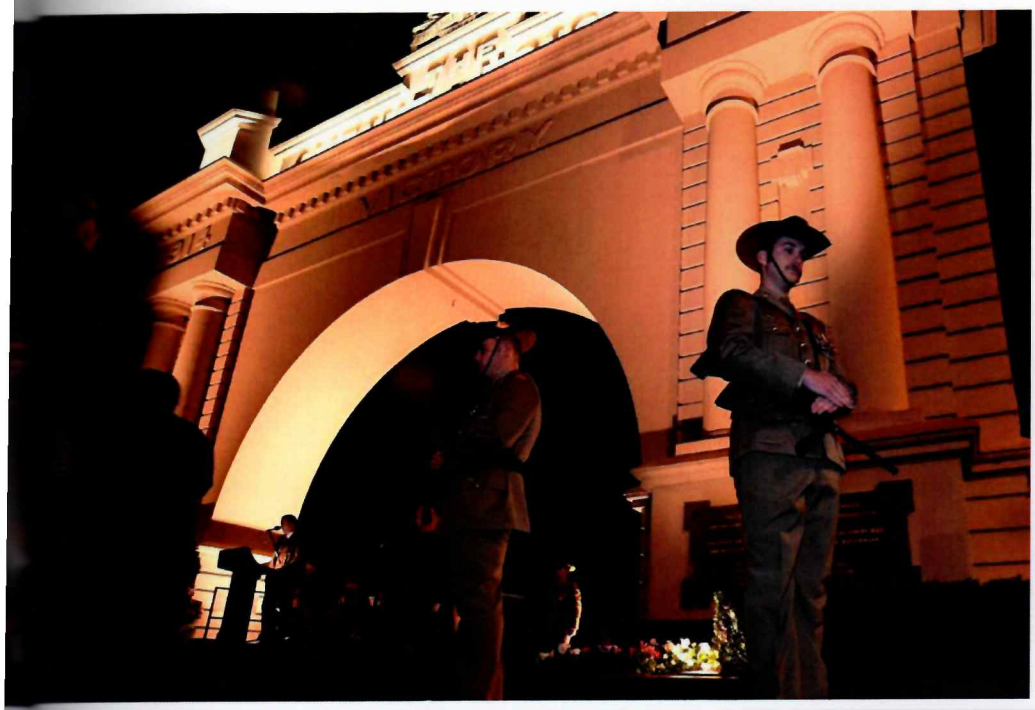
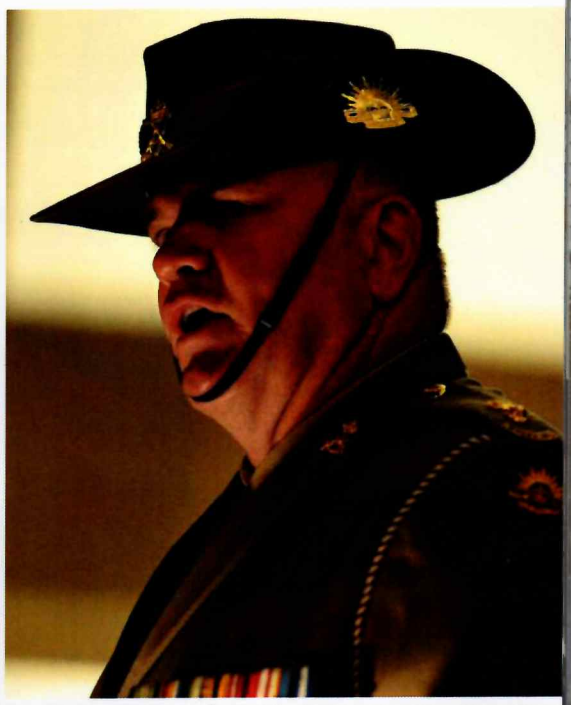
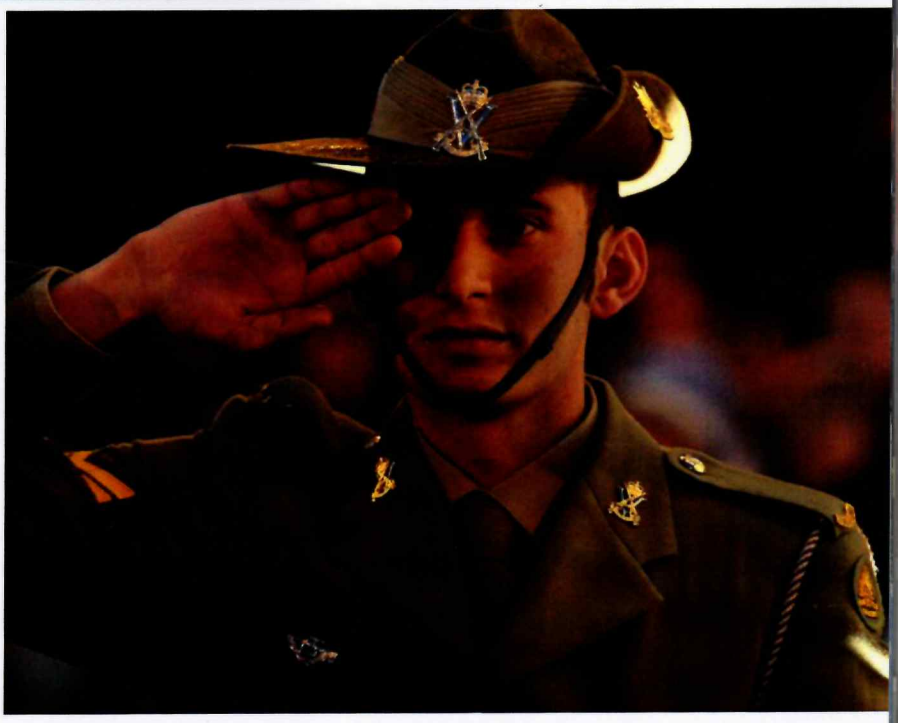
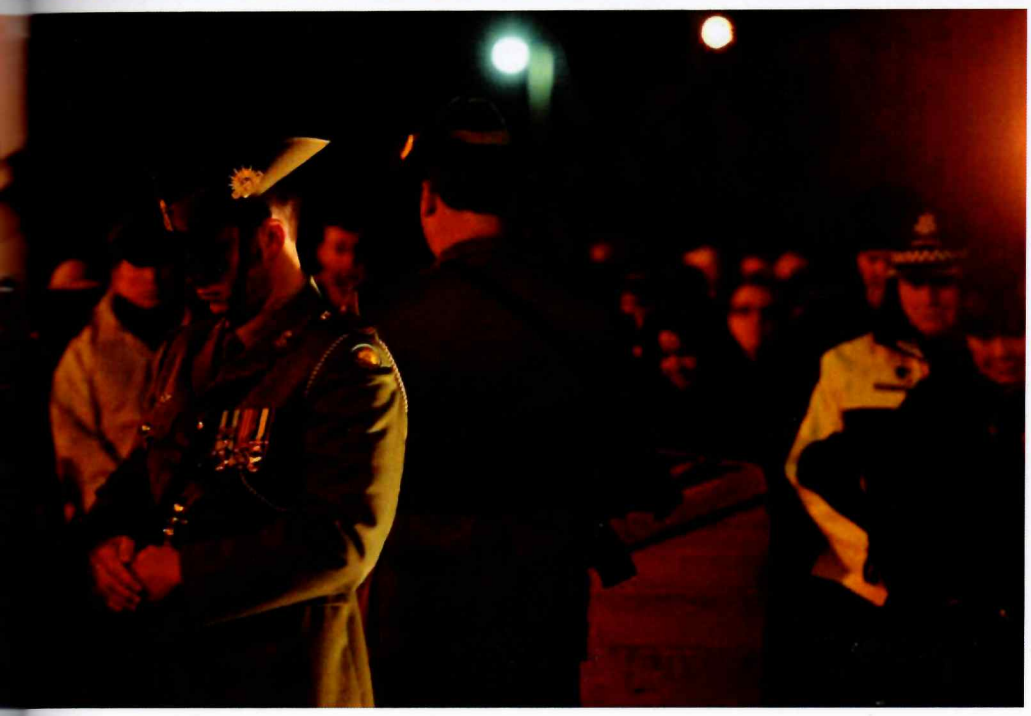
http://www.thecourier.com.au/story/3035947/anzac-day-dawn-service-in-ballarat-2015/?cs=61#slide=2











The Courier

Anzac Day 2015
Ballarat street parade

By Nicole Cairns
April 25, 2015, 11:50 a.m.

BALLARAT'S city centre stopped Saturday morning as commemorations continued for Anzac Day. Following the gunfire breakfast at the RSL, the Anzac Day march at 10.30 saw hundreds make their way to the Sturt Street Cenotaph for the official ceremony with wreath laying at 11am.

Arch of Victory/Avenue of Honour committee member Paul Jenkins OAM watched the march from the balcony of the Golden City Hotel, commentating for Voice FM.

He said it was such a spectacular sight. "To see the old servicemen, followed by so many young people and everyone in between was quite special," he said. "I've never known so many to come to the Anzac Day service."

Servicemen Lieutenant Commander Andy Barnes and Chief Petty Officer Alex Kensington both travelled home to Ballarat for Anzac Day services. "I wanted it to be intimate and special for the 100th anniversary, so I came home from Sydney," Lieutenant Commander Barnes said.

Officer Kensington said if he was going to do anything for Anzac Day, it was home in Ballarat.

Scouts and guides raised the flags at each of the flags at each of the region's services, with almost all of the regions 500 scouts involved in the day.

Ballarat servicemen Donald McNeight marked the day with four generations of descendants. About 15 of his family made their way to Ballarat to show respect for the day with Mr McNeight, who served in New Guinea in World War II. The only trouble was deciding who would ride in the buggy with him in the march.

City of Ballarat mayor John Philips said as it was 100 years since the landing at Gallipoli, he couldn't help but imagine what it would've been like for the Australians. "A long distance to travel back then would've been Learmonth to Buninyong," Cr Philips said. "A common statement was that it would be over by Christmas when they enlisted - how wrong they were. "Our lives as Australians are better because of the Anzacs. With humility and respect, we gather today to remember them." ■

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Pictured:
Ranger Barracks marched in the Centenary ANZAC Day Parade in Ballarat. LTCOL Tom Biedermann leads the 8/7 RVR troops up Sturt Street as the torch bearer of the flame of the Spirit of Anzac.

Bendigo Advertiser

Bendigo a fitting 100 year memorial

By Rod Case
April 25, 2015, 8:14 a.m.

EARLY in the morning they gathered in incredible numbers. Thousands of people standing shoulder to shoulder in Bendigo's Charing Cross. It was hard to truly gauge the number – thousands will do – as for this the 100th anniversary of the Gallipoli landing, the dawn service crowd spilled beyond Charing Cross – up View Street, Mitchell Street and back along Pall Mall.

There were people of all ages – babies attending their first service right through to veterans of many.
Families. Couples. Singles. Some proudly wore medals in recognition of family members lost while others honoured the occasion with uniforms.

Even Mother Nature had the sense of occasion – the rain that fell through the night and into the early hours of the morning stopped on cue.

The signs of the sheer size of the crowd were evident early for those heading to the dawn service. The car parks began to fill from the rail line at the top of Williamson Street and there was not a space in the CBD itself. Even the Target and Coles car parks were full and spots were at a premium up at the Marketplace as well.

People streamed from all directions toward Charing Cross - it was humbling to see at such an hour in the morning. The final number will never be truly calculated but let's call it a record – this occasion deserved such worthy recognition.

And so the official ceremony began as RSL Bendigo sub branch president Cliff Richards used his dawn service address to say out loud what everyone there was thinking. How the excitement of those many Bendigo men heading off to defend their country turned to hell for them and so many other young Australians. The sacrifice – more than 8000 Australians – at Gallipoli.

Tradition is the fabric of Anzac ceremonies – it's been that way for a hundred years now. There are two moments that perhaps signify Anzac Day more than any other – the reading of The Ode and playing of The Last Post. Cliff Richards had the honour of delivering that time-honoured Ode on this special morning. "They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old; "Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn. "At the going down of the sun and in the morning "We will remember them." Yes, we will.

As the strains of the bugle filled Charing Cross, the thousands stood silent. Listening. Remembering. For this brief moment the chilly and wet Bendigo morning had to take second place when it come to generating the shivers through the bodies of those gathered. The most powerful moment of an Anzac service doesn't come in words or music but silence. That minute between The Last Post and Reveille when silence becomes deafening.

The Bendigo Youth Choir honoured the Anzac contribution with great renditions of the New Zealand and Australian national anthems – their performance drawing a wave of applause from the crowd. Then it was over. The first rays of morning sun had illuminated Charing Cross and the time had come to head home.

The minds of so many consumed by the Anzac contribution turned back to modern times – coffee and breakfast. The cafes in the CBD and nearby filled and people talked about what they'd just experienced and the significance of it all.

Yes, the Diggers they had gathered to remember and honour would have been mighty chuffed with the turn out. So fitting. Well done Bendigo. ■

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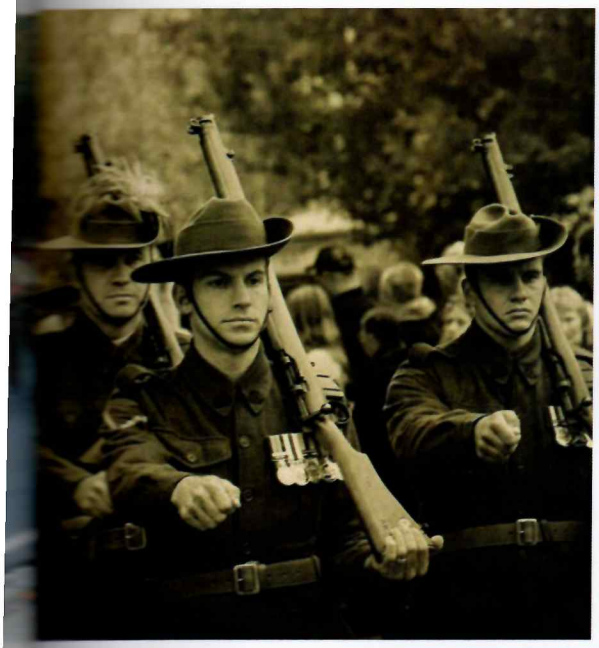
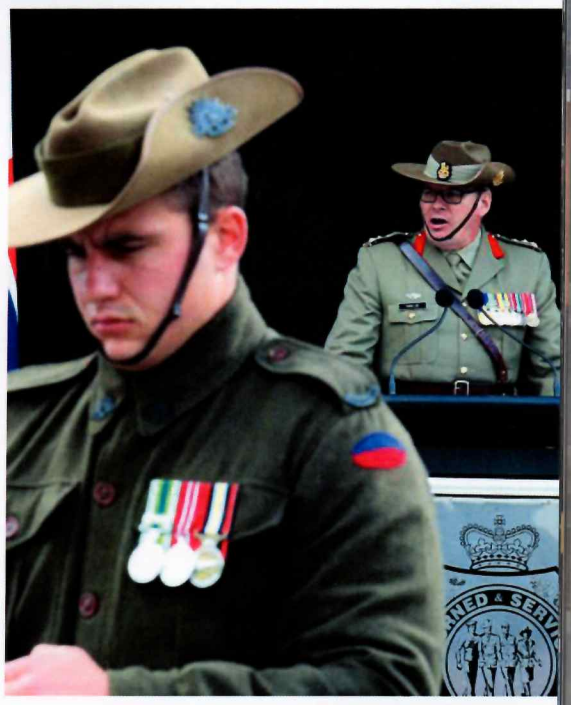
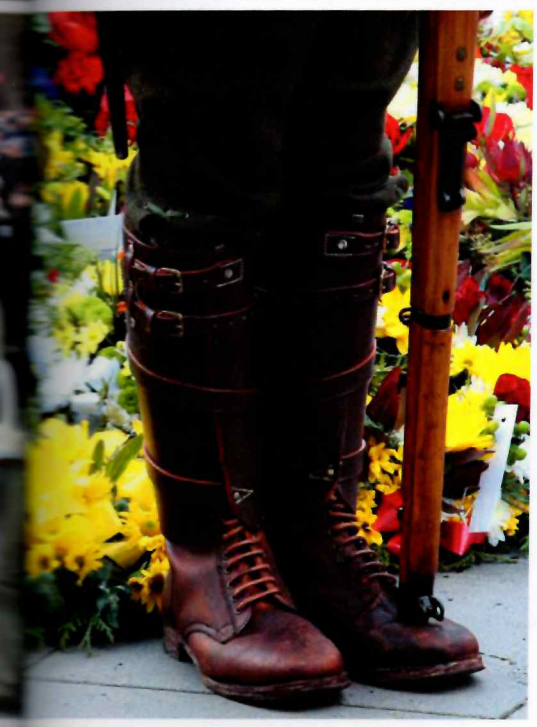


15 TPT and 8/7 RVR personnel re-enact for ANZAC 100 Catafalque Party with Nurses;
L-R: 8/7 RVR Members PTE Nick Otten (first left), LCPL Chris Tucci (third Left), PTE Max Bailey (fifth left)





Geelong Centenary

Photographs Courtesy of The Geelong Advertiser are subject to Copyright and have been used with permission

THOUSANDS of people paid their respects to Australia's Diggers on Saturday as the region marked the centenary of the Gallipoli landings.

8/7 RVR Catafalque Party and Memorial Service participants from A COY are acknowledged below:

GEELONG FLAME
17 April 5.30pm
CPL Antonius Vidot; PTE Scott Kitchell; PTE Martin Markovski; PTE Bryce Gouldson; PTE Jack Willie.

BACCHUS MARSH
19 April 2.00pm
A COY Laverton: CPL Bret Dvoracek; PTE Steven Hadley; PTE Peter De Vos; PTE David Wyille; PTE Henry Ore-Fernandez; PTE Paulo Belardo.

GEELONG
4.15am: Pre-dawn service, Johnstone Park.
CPL Daniel Towers; PTE Jack Wille; PTE James Langedyk; PTE Anthony Daborn; PTE James Harmer; OC MAJ Adam Runciman; CSM WO2 John Digby.

6.30am: The Alpha Company 8/7 RVR Service and wreath laying ceremony at the Boer War Memorial, corner of Kilgour Street and Latrobe Terrace.
CPL Drew Dunning; PTE Jarryd Smith; PTE Brandon Levy; PTE Geoffrey Young; PTE Bryce Gouldson; OC MAJ Adam Runciman; CSM WO2 John Digby; CHAP Andrew Grills; TRG WO2 Lucas Hourigan; SGT Katrina Almond; CPL Matthew Lynch; PTE Melissa Mortimer; PTE Jack Willie; All Geelong A COY Pers in attendance. Pictured Fig. 1.

11am: March from Malop and Yarra streets.
11.30am: Service in Johnstone Park.
LT Marko Djurovic; SGT Rodney Spong; OC MAJ Adam Runciman; CSM WO2 John Digby; TRG WO2 Lucas Hourigan; All A COY Pers in attendance; Reviewing Officer: BRIG Anstee.

BELMONT
9.30am: Wreath laying at Geelong RSL, Belmont.
CPL Matthew Lynch; LCPL Christopher Champion; LCPL Jessica Challis; PTE Zane Hauser; PTE Sam McKenzie; OC MAJ Adam Runciman; CSM WO2 John Digby; CHAP Andrew Grills; LT Zachary Pretty; SGT Rodney Spong: Wreath Layer.

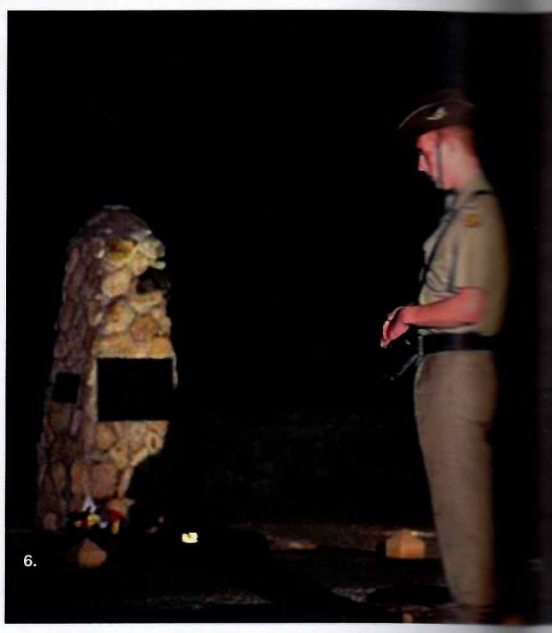
NORLANE
9:30am — March from the corner of Melbourne Road and Sparks Road. A wreath laying service follows at the Norlane RSL Branch on Rose Avenue.
CPL John Corbett; PTE Christopher Caddy; PTE Stewart Middleton; PTE Justin Ludeman; PTE Marion Celestino; PTE Rohan Wills.

OCEAN GROVE
9.45am: March from The Terrace to Ocean Grove Park where a wreath laying ceremony will take place.
CPL Antonius Vidot; PTE Scott Kitchell; PTE Garth Studham; PTE Alexander Maloney; PTE Jarryd Smith.

TORQUAY
5.45am: March from corner The Esplanade and Price St to Point Danger.
6am: Dawn service, Point Danger.
LCPL Alexander McDonald; PTE Coates - Holiday; PTE Zachary Inchley; PTE Martin Markouski; PTE Trent Duffield; LT Marko Djurovic and LT Francis Dignam: Wreath Layers

L-R: PTE Finlayson, PTE Lourey, PTE Carlisle, LCPL McDonald, SGT Spong.

L-R: PTE Finlayson, PTE Lourey, PTE Carlisle, LCPL McDonald



Lest We Forget: Torquay 13,000 at dawn service

DANNY LANNEN
Geelong Advertiser
April 25, 2015 11:31AM
Picture: Alison Wynd

About 13,000 people were at Torquay for dawn service.

WORLD War II veteran Cec Browning looked to the middle distance as he reflected on the sensory attributes of Torquay's Anzac Day dawn service at Point Danger. He pointed to the morning quiet, broken by the ceaseless crash of the waves below and the atmospheric biplane flyover. "You could just picture those poor devils at Gallipoli," he said. At a centenary commemoration of Australia's landing at Anzac Cove, his quiet words carried powerful resonance.

Mr Browning, 90, served four years with the Royal Australian Navy from age 17 around New Guinea, the Philippines and Borneo. He said he had always been more a student of World War II than World War I, but had lately been learning more about the earlier conflict and Australia's Gallipoli story. "Gee whiz it was terrible ... the loss of life there was unimaginable," he said. His honour at Saturday's service was to accompany fellow veteran Noel Harbison, 92, at the head of the march around The Esplanade into the company of an estimated 13,000 people gathered in respectful hush.

The crowd stretched from the Point back to The Esplanade and across to Cosy Corner, with some ranks lining the beach head fence line. People turned out at 4am to secure frontline positions and absorb a stately service beside the spotlit stone memorials and a stark panel of poppies crocheted and knitted by women from Spring Creek Community Centre and Torquay Rotary, Lions and Probus clubs.

They heard Torquay Rotary Club president Ian Gilbank say that he had 102,000 reasons why Anzac Day was so important, reflecting on the losses of Australian lives in conflict. He emphasised the day was for commemoration, not celebration. Guest speaker Air Commodore James Hood, of Torquay, echoed the call.
"We don't gather to celebrate victory, nor in some way glorify war or defeat," he said. "Rather we gather to remember the heroism, tenacity and resilience of these young men."

With care he drew reflection to the local community, remembering some of the region's servicemen including Gallipoli hero Albert Jacka, Harold Rosser, Lindsay Turner and Harold Bell. "Most of you would have travelled down Bell St to get here this morning and many of you have probably enjoyed a surf or two at Bells Beach. We shall remember Harold as an Anzac," he said. ■

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Fig 1: PTE Duffield takes up position as a member of the Catafalque Party at Torwquay.

Fig 2. PTE Sam McKenzie in the background holds position as a member of the Catafalque Party.

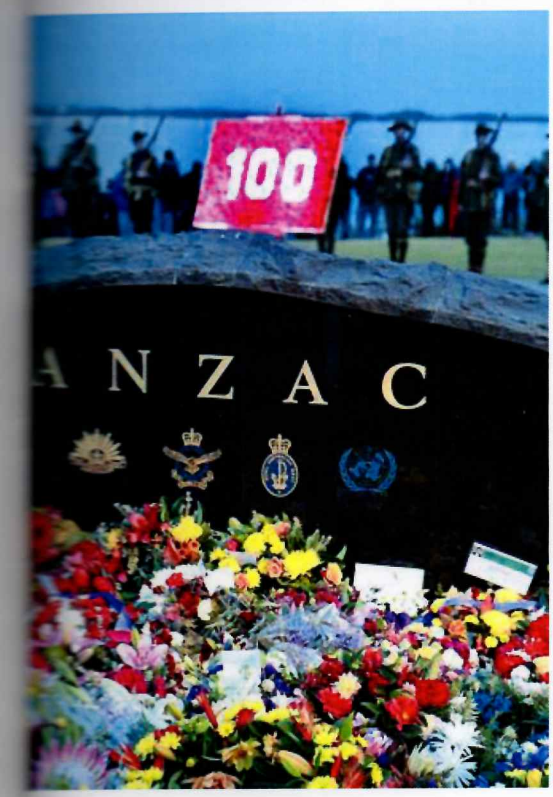
Fig 3: CPL Matthew Lynch takes the salute.

Fig 4: Historical Re-enactment Group fired a Salute.

Fig 5: Catafalque Party L-R: PTE Trent Duffield; PTE Sam McKenzie; CPL Matthew Lynch; PTE Martin Markovski; PTE James Langedyk.

Fig 6: PTE James Langedyk

Fig 7: LT Marko Djurovic and LT Francis Dignam support the service as wreath bearers.


100
ANZAC

THE STANDARD

Warrnambool Anzac Day Centenary dawn service 2015

By PETER COLLINS
The Warrnambool Standard
April 25, 2015, 11:27 a.m

IT was an Anzac Day like never before in Warrnambool on Saturday when about 8000 people turned out for the dawn service and about 3000 braved continuous rain for the mid-morning commemoration.

Record numbers also turned out to other south-west ceremonies which marked the 100th anniversary of the first Gallipoli landing by Australian and New Zealand troops which forged the Anzac tradition.

Warrnambool RSL sub-branch president John Miles summarised the poignant meaning with his opening address to the dawn service - "it's time to stop and remember all those gallant young men and women who have paid the supreme sacrifice not only in the first world war, but all wars following and to remember all those who have suffered physically and mentally. "As we stand here in the half light of the dawn we carry on the tradition," he said.

Less than 30 minutes earlier hundreds assembled around the Flagstaff Hill Maritime Village fort where two Napoleonic era cannon were fired, sending spectacular flames into the darkness. Organisers and veterans said they had never seen such a large crowd for a Warrnambool dawn service.

"It was sensational, said scout leader Norm Sheppard who has attended Anzac services for the past 61 years since he was an 11-year-old. Spectators including infants began arriving before 5am as a large electronic screen on Cannon Hill began beaming documentaries of local involvement in the war and crosses to ABC-TV coverage of other Anzac Day events. Car parking spaces were filled for several blocks away.

Shortly before the 6am dawn service a section of the shoulder-to-shoulder crowd was split to make way for veterans marching out of the darkness to a drumbeat towards the brightly-lit cenotaph.

Then Lighthorse re-enactment group member and RSL historian Dave McGinness fired two rounds from a .303 rifle as Mr Miles stepped onto the dias to start the ceremony.

His audience stood in silence soaking up the significance of the occasion, reminded that the Great War took the lives of 61,000 Australians at a time when the nation's population was less than five million and just 13 years old as a nation in its own right.

Catholic priest Father Lawrie O'Toole invoked a prayer for peace and gave thanks for the nation's liberty brought by those who gave their lives in war. Like an open-air church service he lead the crowd in reciting the Lord's Prayer.

Among the crowd was former Australian peackeeper in East Timor, John Stapleton who served 13 years in the army. "The turnout today was unbelieveable," he said.

Rick Reynolds, 76, of Hobart wore 12 family medals from wars stretching from the eras of Queen Victorian to Queen Elizabeth II starting with the Sudan uprising in 1885.
His father fought in World War I and also enlisted in World War II while Rick served in the navy in the Malayan Emergency and other assignments.

"I saw on the what Warrnambool was planning and decided to visit," he said. "It was pretty impressive and your memorial is fabulous." ■

Thousands pay respects at Anzac Day centenary dawn service at Warrnambool

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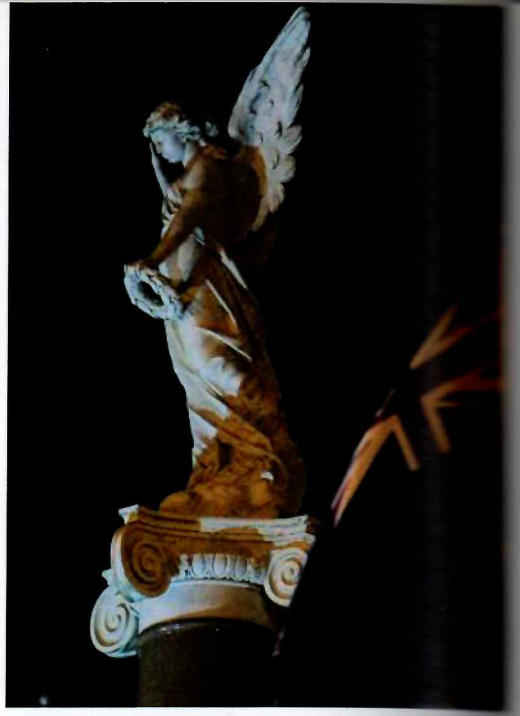
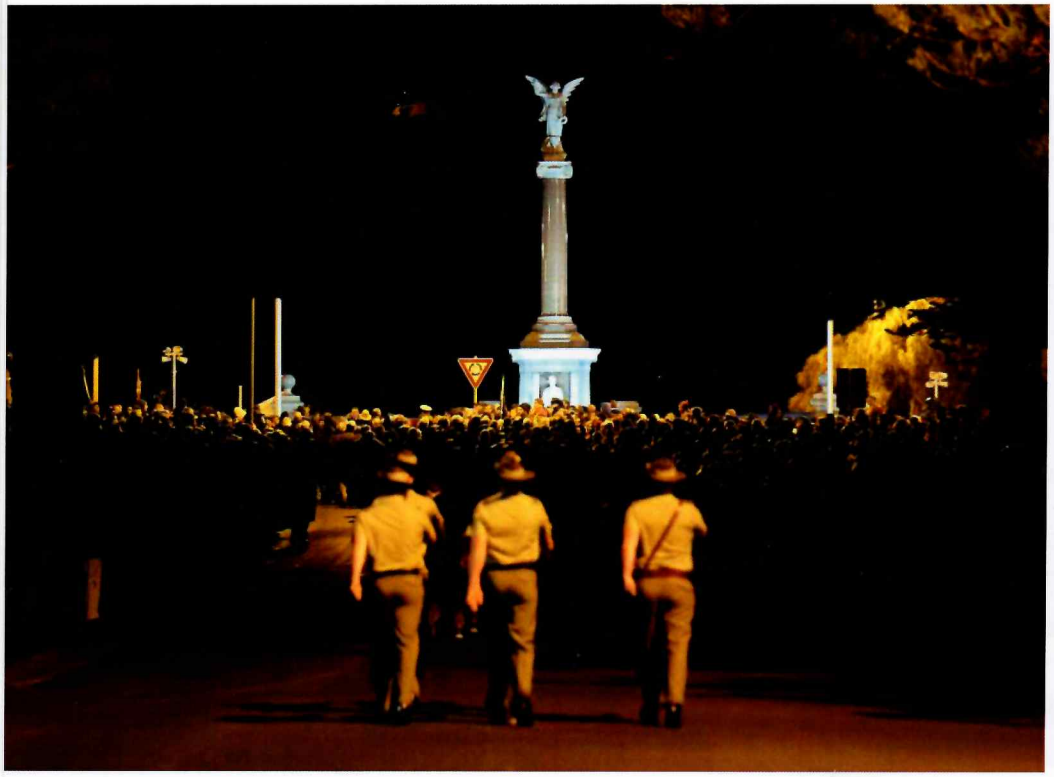
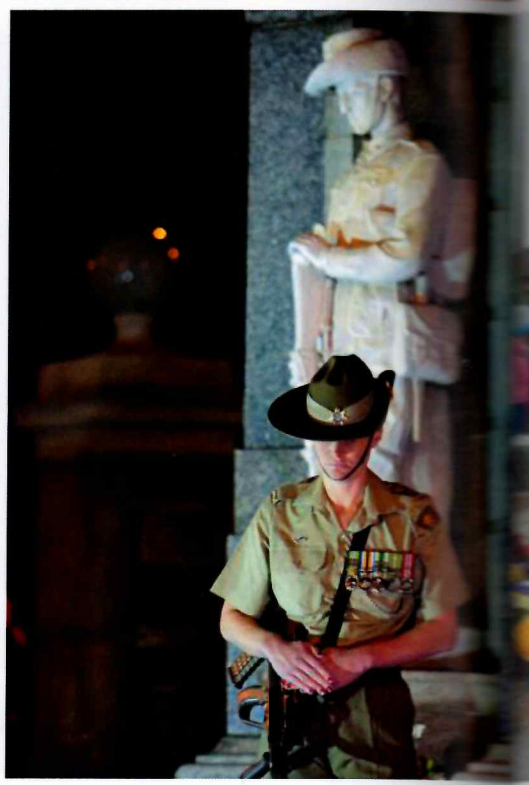


Catafalque Party at the Dawn Service: Front: Pte Moore, LCPL Kent, Middle: Pte Poduska, Rear: CPL W. Petering.

Honour Guard at the Dawn Service L-R: Pte Orwin, Pte Woods, Pte Walther, Pte Cook, CPL J. Petering





Warrnambool braves rain for Anzac Day march and ceremony

By PETER COLLINS
April 25, 2015, 1:56 p.m

ABOUT 3000 people braved continuous rain for Warrnambool's mid-morning Anzac Day commemoration.

Participants and spectators showed their commitment by enduring the wet weather for about an hour before the clouds broke as the last of more than 100 wreaths were laid.

Marchers stretched for more than a block and were lead by 50 descendants of World War I veterans wearing their medals.

"Our discomfort was nothing compared with what some of the Diggers would have went through," one drenched spectator remarked.

A feature of this year's program was the inclusion of the famous message from Turkish leader Ataturk to the families of fallen soldiers. It was read in the mother tongue by Turkish-born Warrnambool resident Engin Torun and in English by Annabel Ziegeler.

As the crowd dispersed local musician Eric Read closed with Eric Bogle classic "And the band Played Waltzing Matilta". ■

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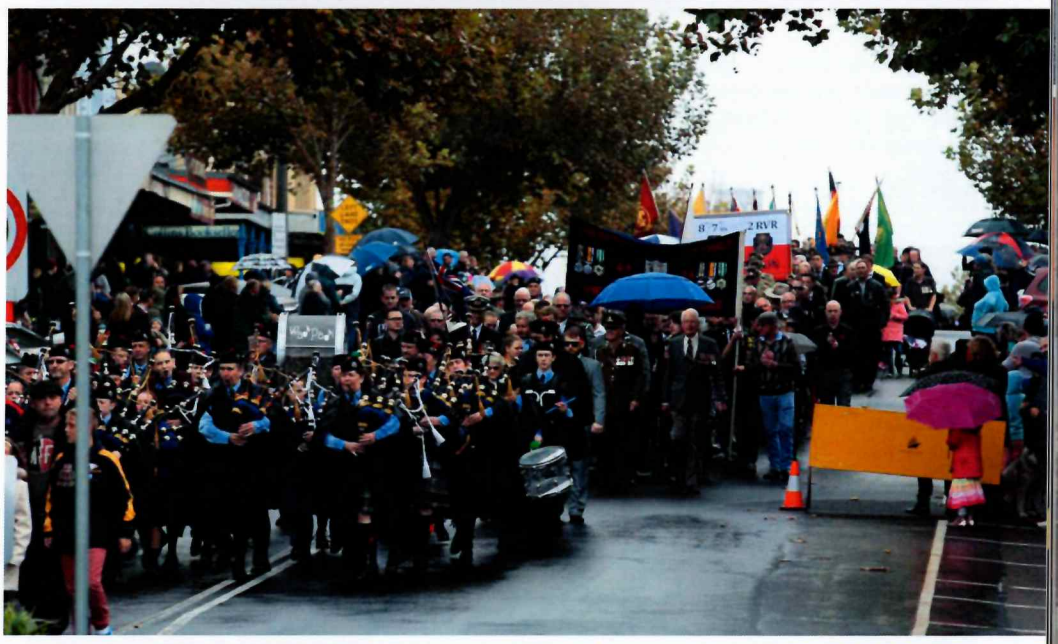
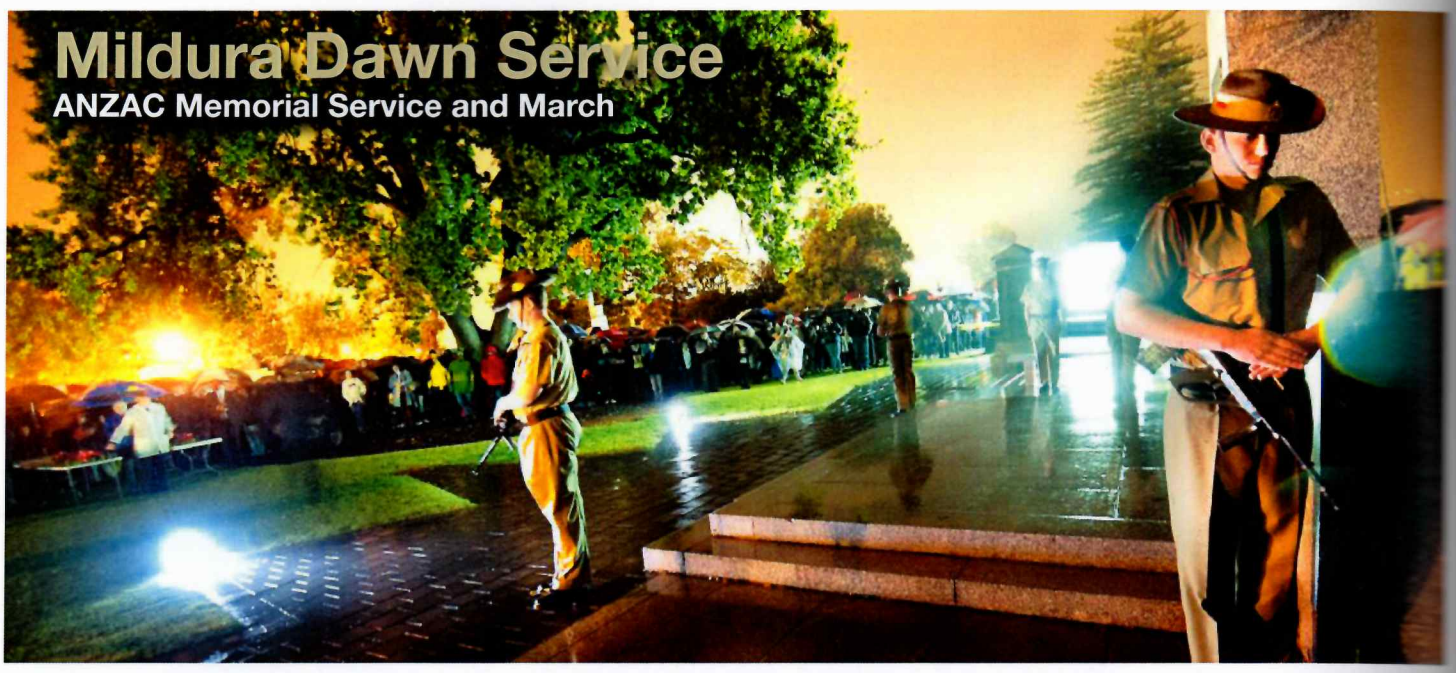


Warrnamboll ANZAC Day March [Front L - R:] LCPL Kent, PTE Pododuska, LT Laxton, PTE Moore, CPL W. Petering in the background

Below: Trg SGT Warren Gaunt lays a wreath at the morning Memorial Service in Warrnambool.

Mildura Dawn Service

ANZAC Memorial Service and March



THE spirit of the day meant heavy rainfall was never going to deter the masses from attending Mildura's Anzac Day dawn service at Henderson Park.

A large crowd gathered at the memorial service as the rain fell in the darkness, their minds not on the present but on the adversity and sacrifice of the men who stormed the beach at Gallipoli 100 years earlier.

They were deathly silent as the service began – with a ¬notable contingent of children alongside parents and grandparents to honour the legend of those who served the country long before their time.

The service began with a prayer, before students from Nichols Point Primary School read out the names and ages of the 58 Mildura men who lost their lives at Gallipoli.

The men, whose faces were shown on a screen, were among 1457 locals to serve in World War I, 309 of whom did not return.

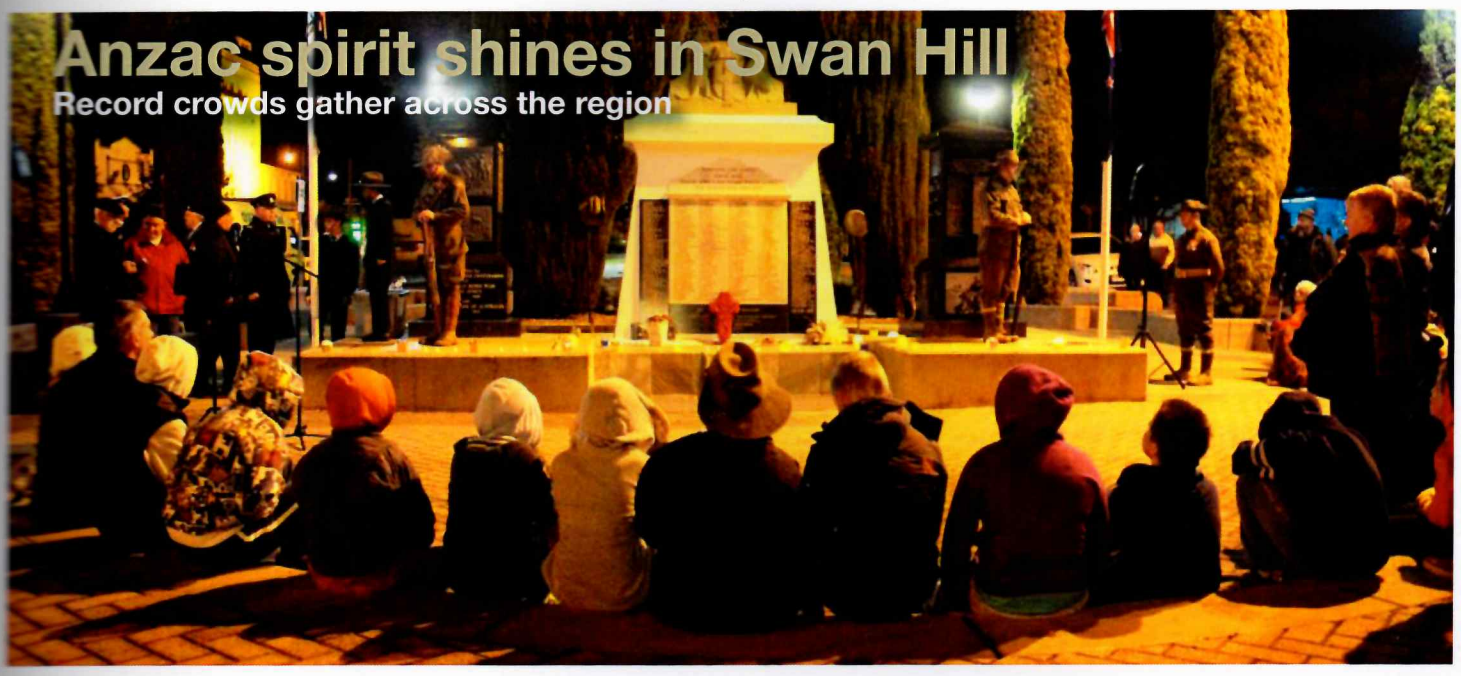
Local bugler Donald Mayne sounded the Last Post before the solemn service was brought to a close with the national anthems of Australia, New Zealand and the United Kingdom. Some escaped the wintry conditions to the RSL for a hearty breakfast, while others paused and reflected on the occasion.

Mildura RSL sub-branch president Alex Ouchirenko said he was surprised at the size of the crowd but acknowledged the rain was nothing in comparison to the horrors Australian troops faced when they entered World War I on foreign shores. ■

By Louise Donges
April 25, 2015

Anzac spirit shines in Swan Hill

Record crowds gather across the region



FAMILY HONOUR: Margaret Treseder and grandsons Charlie and Nicholas Treseder marched in honour of their father and grandfather Steve John Parish, the first Australian to land at Gallipoli and the last to leave.

ORGANISERS believe Swan Hill's centenary Anzac Day services on Saturday were the best attended in memory. It was estimated about 2100 people attended the main service following the Anzac Day parade at 10.30am, while 1200 people braved the brisk, wintry morning conditions for the dawn service at 6am.

Swan Hill RSL Sub Branch also received 227 people for the post-dawn service breakfast and 180 for lunch.

RSL Sub Branch president Barry Townley said the record turnout was a testament to the memory of the Anzacs, along with the organising committee's diligent 10 months of planning and preparation, and support from the council. "Records were absolutely smashed," Mr Townley said. "I had a call from a fella yesterday who has been going for the past 30 years and he said it was the biggest crowd he'd ever seen by far."

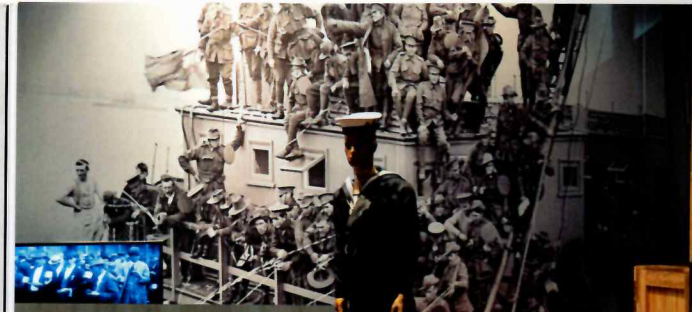
Among the commemorators were 19 locals marching in honour of descendants who fought in World War I, and others marching for relatives in World War II and other wars.

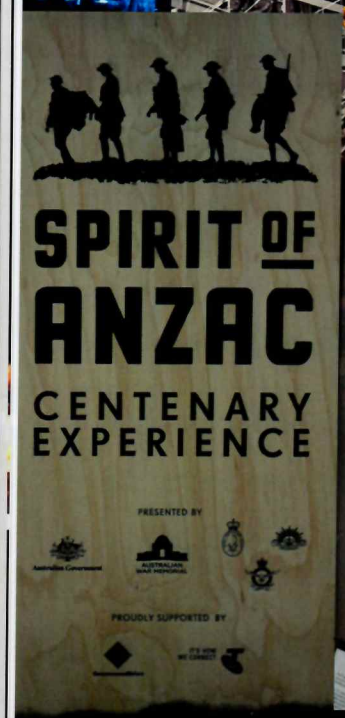
One of the descendants was 21-year-old April Wilson-Munro, whose great-grandfather, Thomas Wilson, was killed in action in Ypres. "It's a pretty awesome experience," she said. "In the march I was actually surprised by how many people turned up."

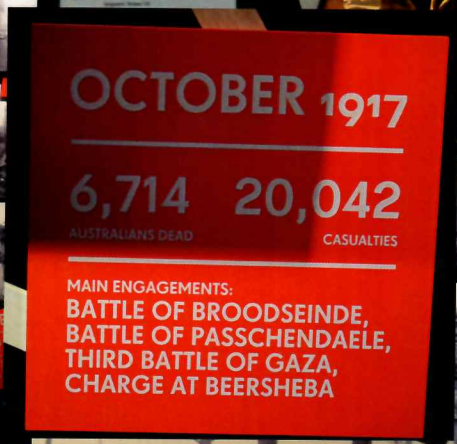
Ms Wilson-Munro was one of a number of young locals showing their support for the Anzac tradition, with a clear presence of youth at both services. ■

By Matteo Gagliardi
April 27, 2015

SPIRIT OF ANZAC BALLARAT NOV 2015







SPIRIT OF ANZAC
CENTENARY EXPERIENCE
1915
166,512
100,884
19,441
70
8,970
8,709
49
26,054
9,787
1,358
86,700
AUSTRALIAN STATISTICS
1917
THE WESTERN FRONT AND SINAI/PALESTINE
ENLISTED
45,351
STRENGTH
219,204
WOUNDED
55,662
PRISONERS OF WAR
2,337
DEATHS
21,947
SPIRIT OF ANZAC
CENTENARY EXPERIENCE
The Old Force passed down
the road to history
The dust of its marches settled
The sound of its arms died
Upon a hundred battlefields
the broken trees stretched
their lean arms over
sixty thousand of its graves
87TH BATTALION

ADMIN

admin company

Administrative Company are the quiet achievers of the Battalion, working behind the scenes to provide stores, medical, repair, transport and catering support. Spread across eight of the Battalion's nine depots, managing the different trade groups is a challenge. However, the disparate nature of the Company provides for logistics forward to our remote locations, albeit not by design. The depots benefit greatly from qualified drivers, cooks, storeman, medics and tradesmen being co-located with them, to support the infantry training and operations.

Ballarat, Geelong, Laverton, Mildura, Swan Hill and Warrnabool

The company staffing levels have fluctuated throughout the year with as many as 45 down to 34 of a total of 62 positions. Transport Platoon is the largest with 12 of 18 positions filled. The Q-Store is the next largest with 9 of 15 positions filled. Catering Platoon remains solid with 6 out of 11 positions. Medical Platoon has had a recent upsurge and now has 4 of 10 positions, including a new nurse. Our RAEME has remained steady at 2 out of 3 positions.

Unfortunately, due to restructuring 8/7 RVR will lose the Medical and RAEME components meaning a drop of 13 positions to 49, and a loss of 6 personnel to 4 Combat Services Support Battalion.

As we all know, 'logistics just happens' and this year has been no exception. The daily running of the Battalion's logistics is largely done by the Main Q Store, which is ably supported by Transport Platoon. Much of their work is not glamorous, but is essential to keep the punch in the Unit's fist. Their work entails regular runs to Puckapunyal to collect loan stores, deliver equipment to be repaired and the rotation of stock. Movement of radios and weapons requires significantly more effort and time involving outside agencies. Weekends require a minimum of a week to prepare for, whilst the two nine day exercises took weeks of preparation - not to mention the technical inspection, return stores and clean up process afterwards – the least enjoyable part. However, the introduction of caged pre-packaging has streamlined the process. The skeleton staff was pushed harder this year with the loss of WO2 (RQMS) Clancy who deployed to Africa for most of the year. Sgt Kincaid covered his position readying himself for posting on promotion to 1/19 RNSWR in Orange. Pte Linane was fantastic providing extra cover during the year.

We also lose Cpl 'Pops' Connor who will retire after 33 years and 10 months. He was rightfully dined out at the Regimental Dinner, but he prefers to be the quiet worker in the background. His efforts have ensured that the Battalion's main equipments were above 90% for most of the year, finishing with 99%. Pops lets his work do the talking for him. He will be sadly missed, especially at indoor soccer where he is a fearless goalkeeper.

Cpl 'JJ' Johnson is also on the move to Melbourne to be closer to his partner and cats. JJ's thoroughness, hard work and innovation were rewarded with a well-deserved commendation.

Behind all of the logistic effort were Cpl Walmsley and his band of drivers who carried out almost weekly trips to Puckapunyal and Melbourne, but also Enfield and two large troop moves to South Australia. He ran a coach driver's course qualifying 4 drivers, including Cpl Kent and Pte Williams. LCpl Marie Yorston was promoted and commended for her excellent work in Cultana with a Soldier's Medallion. Pte Brewer and Leviston both provide great service to the Unit with the flexibility to respond to short notice driving tasks. It is a shame that after many years service we will lose Cpl Farrell from the unit. Thanks to Transport Platoon and others, the Battalion's Fleet is at almost 100% readiness, which is a result of much hard work.

2015 has been a year of change for the 8/7 RVR medical platoon, which began with Sgt Karen Creelman's decision to move on from the Army Reserve in late 2014. Sgt Creelman's commitment and contribution over many years, both to the RAP and the unit as a whole, was immense, and she is greatly missed.

This left Capt Van Twest, the RMO, in charge of - well, nobody! However despite this the 8/7 RVR RAP was able to contribute to the conduct of Ex Courtney's Post at Cultana in May, and again to Ex Poziers at Puckapunyal in October.

At Cultana she formed part of the Close Health Platoon, under command of the exercise CSST, and which included elements of 3 Health Coy from 9CSSB in South Australia as well as the Victorians.

In October CAPT Van Twest went to Puckapunyal to co-ordinate and lead the RAP support to the large live firing exercise with over 500 troops based in the National Service Lines (NSLs). This was made slightly more challenging by the outbreak of gastro on day 3.

As the year closes, the RAP is about to be disbanded for the move across to 4CSSB. Sadly, this means that after many, many years, there will no longer be intrinsic medical support or a Regimental Medical Officer at 8/7 RVR.

2015 was a big year of service for Catering Platoon. The highlight of which was the Centenary of ANZAC, which included an ANZAC 100 Regimental Dinner and Battalion function, as well as the end of year dinner. This required much preparation and hard work from WO2 Broemmer, Pte Watson, Cpl Mallows, Pte Dodd and Pte Edwards who did a sterling job. In addition, Pte Watson went to Butterworth as part of the RCB team. Rachel Dodd is welcomed as an ex-ARA cook, but sadly Cpl Mallows has retired after many years of loyal and hard work in the kitchen and in the field.
The RAEME worked hard again this year behind the scenes completing technical inspections and assisting with technical regulatory framework requirements. Sgt Merry also assisted the CSM in running parade nights.

Unfortunately we have recently lost our RAEME to 4 CSSB, but I suspect we'll still see them here parading and working for the battalion.

A highlight for the Company was the involvement of our girls in the Army ski team, which was a fantastic opportunity that we expect will become an annual event and encourage others to join in.

The Company has been blessed by having two strong ex-ARA individuals in the Headquarters. Capt Green has been a great asset bringing his range of experience and can do attitude. He will be sorely missed when he separates from the Army; again, on the day he joined, 26 January. WO2 Creelman was extended to soldier on in the capacity as CSM, and what a job he has done, albeit in unfamiliar territory in Admin Coy. Maj Armstrong RAEME joined the Company as Officer Commanding late last year after 13 years in the ARA and 9 years in the British Army.

Overall a very productive and successful year that has been completed in good order ready to support Battle Group JACKA , cadets and the Battalion. ■

MAJ Shane Armstrong
OC Admin COY

Cooking up a storm in the Ballarat Multiuser Depot kitchen, CPL Mark Broemmer has provided catering for the Battalllion for many years

Farewell to CPL Glen (Pop's) Connor

Corporal Glen (Pop's) Connor was born and educated in Brisbane and enlisted into the Australian Regular Army on 14 April 1982. He has held a variety of regimental appointments with in both Regular and Reserve units.

After recruit and corps training, he was posted to the 8th/9th Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment on the 17 Dec 1982 as a 343 Rifleman and remained until 1991. During this time he was promoted to the rank of Corporal and successfully qualified as a Regimental Signaller, Storeman and T109 Driver.

In 1992 he was posted to Admin Company and Depot Company at the School of Infantry as a Infantry Storeman where he remained until mid 1993 where he was moved to become the storeman at the Infantry Museum School of Infantry. It was then he applied for a trade transfer to Infantry Quartermaster Stream and was able to secure a posting to the Army History Unit at the Infantry Museum. He was the storeman for the Infantry Museum from mid 1993 to till the end of 2011.

In 2010 as part of the Infantry trade restructure he transferred to The Royal Australian Army Ordinance Corps in order to continue in his trade. In 2012 he was posted to the 8th/7th Battalion, The Royal Victorian Regiment as a member of the Main Q team. During this time he has worked tirelessly to improve the Main Q and support the Battalion the best he could.

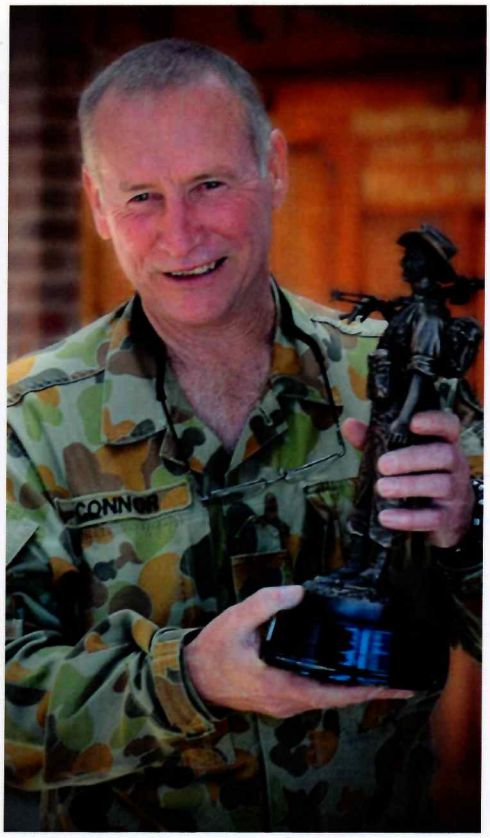
Now in 2015 after serving Thirty Three years Corporal Connor has made his application to discharge from the Australian Regular Army.

Corporal Connor has served twice overseas as a member of Rifle Company Butterworth first in Dec to Mar 1986-1987 and again in 1988. His honors' and awards include: The Australian Service Medal with clasp South East Asia, The Defence Force Service Medal with Third Clasp, The Australian Defence Medal, and a Deputy Chief of Army Commendation.

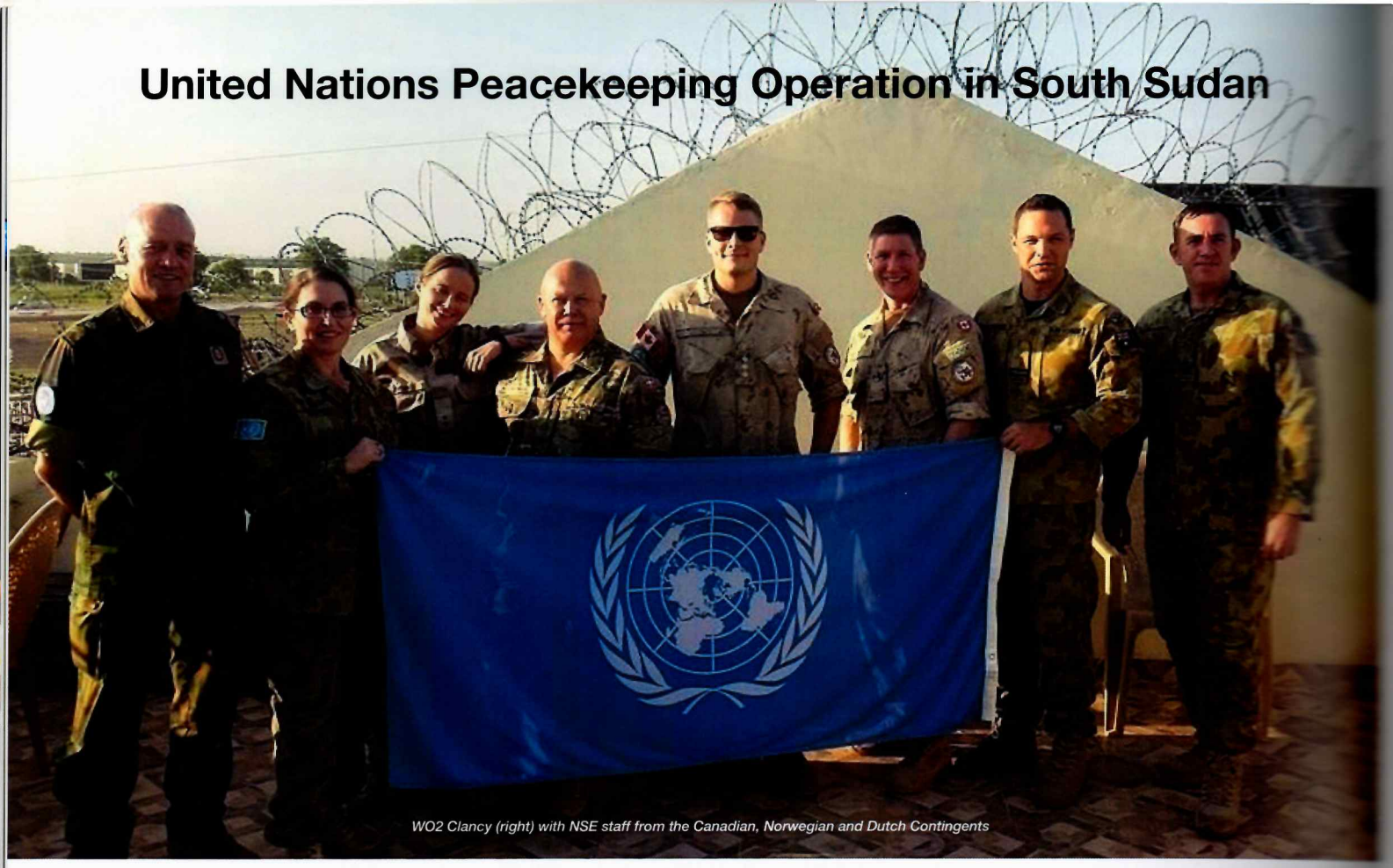
Corporal Connor is now looking forward to a well deserved break back in Brisbane where he intends to buy a house out in the bush. ■

WO2 Stuart Clancy
Trg WO Admin Coy

Pictured Below: CPL Glen Connor is presented with a farewell gift and flag from the CO LTCOL Tom Biedermann at the final ARA BBQ for 2015.



United Nations Peacekeeping Operation in South Sudan



WO2 Clancy (right) with NSE staff from the Canadian, Norwegian and Dutch Contingents

OP ASLAN is the deployment of ADF personnel to the United Nations peacekeeping operation in South Sudan known as the United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS). UNMISS was established by the UN on 09 Jul 11 through the passing of United Nations Security Council Resolution (UNSCR 1996), which replaced the previous UN mission in Sudan (UNMIS).

The UNMISS mandate authorises the deployment of civilian and military personnel under Chapter VII of the UN Charter. Following the political and security crisis, which broke out in South Sudan's capital Juba on 15 Dec 13, the Security Council, by its resolution 2132 (2013) approved a troop increase for UNMISS.

In May 2014, the UNMISS mandate was renewed again until 30 Nov 14 and reprioritised towards the protection of civilians, human rights monitoring and support for the delivery of humanitarian assistance.

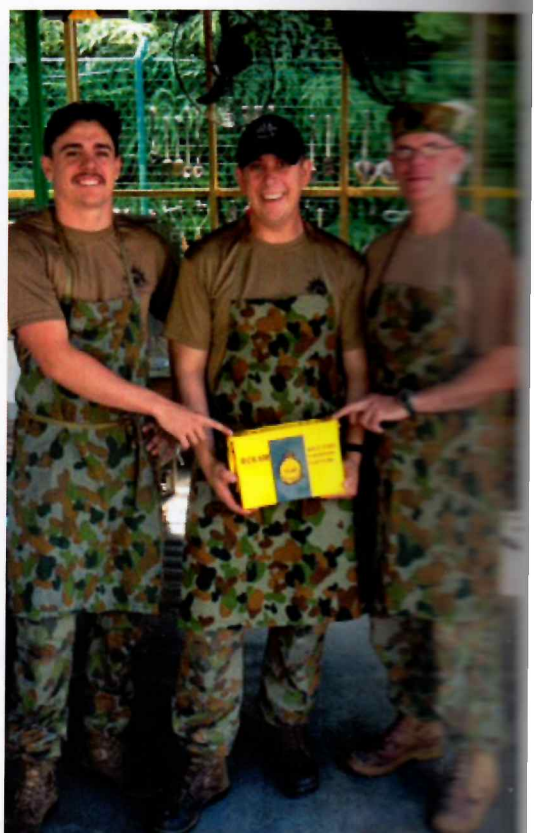
In early 2015 WO2 S. Clancy was nominated and selected to fill the position as the OP ASLAN Force Protection Warrant Officer (FPWO) this position holds the primary role of monitoring the force protection requirements and providing the associated training to the contingent. The FPWO is a member of a small administrative support team of three staff known as the National Support Element (NSE).

This small team supports 24 personnel selected from across the Tri service who form the main body of the UNMISS Australian contingent. These members are filling broad range of roles from aviation operations and safety through to logistics and mission operations.

One highlight of his deployment was successfully planning and controlling the security requirements for a five day visit by the Commander of Joint Operations Command in which WO2 Clancy held command of a platoon size security attachment of Gurkhas from the Nepalese Army. ■

WO2 Clancy

RIFLE COMPANY BUTTERWORTH 108 - MALAYSIA 2014/15



A
alpha company

Geelong with Laverton

Posting into Alpha Company at the beginning of 2015 there was little time to waste with the Battalion being required to raise a Combat Team to support Battle Group Jacka in 18 short months. Having the privilege of commanding the biggest company in the Battalion, there was no uncertainty in our requirement to produce the lion's share of the Combat Team manning if this capability was to be successfully obtained.

The Company provided good numbers to the two non-continuous training activities throughout 2015. The first exercises was a traditional Infantry Minor Tactics field training activity which allowed us to 'brush off the cob webs' as we have not worked in a Battle Group setting in quite some time. The second activity allowed the soldiers to participate in live field firing activities at the Platoon Level. Both activities struck at the heart of Infantry training and provided the soldiers with a taste of what future activities would entail.

The100th celebration of ANZAC Day was a significant event in 2015 and as a regional depot the company has more commitments than most Victorian Reserve Units. The company's dawn service is both special and unique, as the citizens of Geelong have adopted the Company's dawn service as its own. The soldier's relationship with the community has been built over a decade and this was demonstrated with over 1000 civilian attending the ceremony. Members also participated in commemorating the occasion across a number of other regional locations and came together to march through Geelong. I thank the Senior Non-Commissioned Officers within the unit who made these celebrations seamless. ■

MAJ Adam Runciman
OC Alpha Company

Above: 8/7 RVR A COY 1 PL PTE Garth Studham all bombed up awaits "action" in the weapons shed.

Top Right: A COY LCPL Stewart Lennie from 8/7 RVR, takes part in a live-fire section attack training activity on EX POZIERES.

Right: A COY Clerks SGT Katrina Almond and CPL Bonnie Robson provide clerical support to EX COURTNEY'S POST.

Alpha Company ANZAC Day 2015 at Newland Barracks Geelong

A COY GEELONG TRG DEPOT 2014

2014 started with the usual mandatory training then a 5 day LFX at Puckapunyal in April. A COY ran the SGR and DFSW ranges. The experienced SGT Spong as OIC ran a slick practice on the DFSW firing 84mm, GLA, M72 and Claymore, with a number of members gaining weapon qualifications. We were the first to use the new DFSW range which had viewing windows in the waiting bays much to the delight of the soldiers as they watched the hits and misses from their peers.

It was with much haste after the LFX that our focus turned to ANZAC day. Again A COY conducted the dawn service at the Boer War Memorial and a large number of catafalque parties at Bacchus Marsh, Geelong, Torquay, Norlane, Barwon Heads and Belmont. SGT Spong did much of the planning for ANZAC day and all went well.

Training during the year was mainly section level with many weekends conducted at Ballarat Enfield State Forest.

October again saw the battalion at Puckapunyal for a 9 day ex. With training spilt into members attending RCB and those not. The Milskills team lead by CPL Craske concentrated on preparation for the BDE Milskills conducted in conjunction with 9 BDE at Murray Bridge Training area. I went across as team manager for the 8/7 team along with a sections from 5/6 RVR and 4CSSB. The competition was conducted over the weekend with about 35 km covered in 30 hours. CPL Craske's section was the only one to complete the full course and finish where they started. It was a great effort by the team and reflected on the leadership of CPL Craske. His team came first out of the 4 BDE teams beating the 5/6 team with all their recon and SF aspiring applicants, a great result.

The rest of the year finished with the RCB contingent deploying under the command of Maj Strack.

At the end of the year the OC MAJ Strack and TRG WO2 Brad Percy departed. Maj Strack to Staff College on return from RCB and WO2 Brad Percy to 6 RAR. Brad who was a young keen ARA WO2 provided much guidance to the JNCOs and soldiers of the company during his posting to A COY. It was very pleasing to see him posted as a CSM to 6RAR and move on with his career. It was great to see SGT Statton promoted to WO2 and move to BHQ. He was a great asset for A Coy Laverton depot with his professional approach to training. Good luck to Statto in the future civilian career and hope to see him back as a reservist in 2016. I must also make mention of PTE Blue Armstrong who left the Army as a driver after 40 years of service. A great effort and commitment. We will miss blue reading his book in the mess after knock off but not so much his driving.

Company Awards for 2014:
Digger of the Year ***(Thomas R O'Brian Trophy)***
PTE Ludeman
NCO of the Year CPL Vidot
Section of the Year (Also winning 4BDE Mil Skills)
CPL Craske, LCPL Krupa, PTE's Coates-Holiday, Mottram, Ludeman, Nguyen, Ichim, and Norwood
(actually from C COY but part of A COY in Milskills team in Oct)

In relation to the award of digger of the year I feel it needs some explanation as to the origin of this award. The original CSM of A COY when it was Deakin University Company was WO2 Ray O'Brien. Ray wanted a trophy for the digger of the year so asked his father Tom to make one. His father Thomas Raymond O'Brien was a WW2 digger. He enlisted in the 2/2nd Pioneer Battalion, he was captured by the Japanese in Java and was at Changi. He survived the war and when Ray asked him to make a trophy in 1982 he used his WW2 helmet to make the trophy. Tom was a tough young digger and A COY members awarded this trophy should be greatly honoured.

WO2 John Digby
A COY CSM

ALPHA COMPANY
NEWLAND BARRACKS GEELONG 2014

Section of the year. Awarded on 21 OCT 2014

A COY GEELONG TRG DEPOT 2015

2015 has been a busy and challenging year working towards Hamel 2016. With key staff changes with a new OC Maj Runciman, TRG WO WO2 Luke Hourigan, CQ CPL Daniels and Clerk CPL Robson.

Again SGT Spong planned and conducted the ANZAC day activities, as well as our usual dawn service and catafalque parties, both Geelong and Laverton members marched in the Geelong March down Malop Street, it was fantastic to have our soldiers march which had not been done for many years.

In May there was the long bus trip for a 9 day exercise Bullecourt conducted at Cultana. A COY provided the CHQ and a Platoon as part of CT JACKA. It was a good shake out at Company Level as most of the previous training was focused towards section and platoon level.

In October the OC and a few sigs went to SA whilst the rest of us went to Puckapunyal for a live fire activity POZIERES conducted by 5/6 RVR. I was impressed with the A COY section commanders who stepped up to the plate - LCPL's Krupa, Lennie and Rohkamper leading their sections in a live fire platoon attack involving lots of manoeuvre with supporting fire from 84 MM, M72, GLA and MAG 58. We managed to gain a few HE quals and did some stuff that we all enjoy such as sneaker ranges with MAG 58 operators using their gun and AGR throwing F1's supplemented with blank firing of Steyr. Even I enjoyed getting in on that action, some things you never get tired of even after 32 years.

Again a well done to CPL Craske in leading the 8/7 Milskils team at Puckapunyal in Nov. A great result in finishing first in particular - well in front of the 5/6 RVR team. This tops off his effort in the BDE Milskils in Murray Bridge in Oct 2015. Next will be the 2DIV Milskills in March 2016, good luck.

Congratulations to SGT Almond for organising the Company Dinner at the Geelong RSL on 31 Oct. It was a good turn out with 45 members and an enjoyable night was had by all; and slightly more by SGT Almond and PTE Langedyk who enjoyed the quality of the wine.

Company Awards for 2015 (pictured below):
Digger of the Year PTE Jiminez from Laverton.
NCO of the Year CPL Craske.
Section of the Year LCPL Lennie, PTE Duffield, PTE Balshaw, PTE Jiminez, PTE Langedyk, PTE Studham, PTE Barby and PTE Willie.

To Finish off I must say that I am impressed with the dedication, commitment and skills shown by the A COY members who have attended the major activities over the last two years and feel as a company we are better prepared to face the challenges and opportunities that lay ahead. ■

ALPHA COMPANY
NEWLAND BARRACKS GEELONG 2015

Section of the year. Awarded OCT 2015

Vietnam Veterans
commemorate 50th anniversary of Australia joining the Vietnam War

By NICHOLAS PAYNE
Geelong Advertiser
August 16, 2015 2:24PM

LOCAL veterans and community members marked the 50th anniversary of Australia joining the Vietnam War by standing shoulder-to-shoulder at the Avenue of Honour on Sunday.

Lara RSL president Ken Simons joined the annual Vietnam Veteran's Memorial Day parade from Osborne House, marching up Swinburne St to the Veteran's memorial on a typically blustery Geelong morning.

Mr Simons grew up in Geelong West, and served as a Corporal in the 1st Royal Australian Regiment — the first Anzac troops to fight in the south-east Asian conflict in June 1965.
"I just like being here, among those who served, who did the same things you did," Mr Simons said. "The comradeship is still there — we've all got this one thing in common."

Like many returning veterans, Mr Simons was shunned and humiliated on his homecoming from Vietnam. It was 1987 before their contributions were officially acknowledged. "It's a big disappointment to come home and find that people don't want to know you," Mr Simons said. "It took a lot of years before the Vietnam veterans were recognised."

Now, ahead of next year's 50th anniversary of the Battle of Long Tan, Vietnam veterans remain some of the fiercest advocates for returning servicemen and women and their families.

Following the ceremony, attendees retired to the Vietnam Veterans' Centre to share their stories, celebrate, and raise a drink to the friends they lost along the way. ■

Anzac Day march honour to salute Vietnam War legacy

DANNY LANNEN
Geelong Advertiser
September 03, 2015 12:00AM

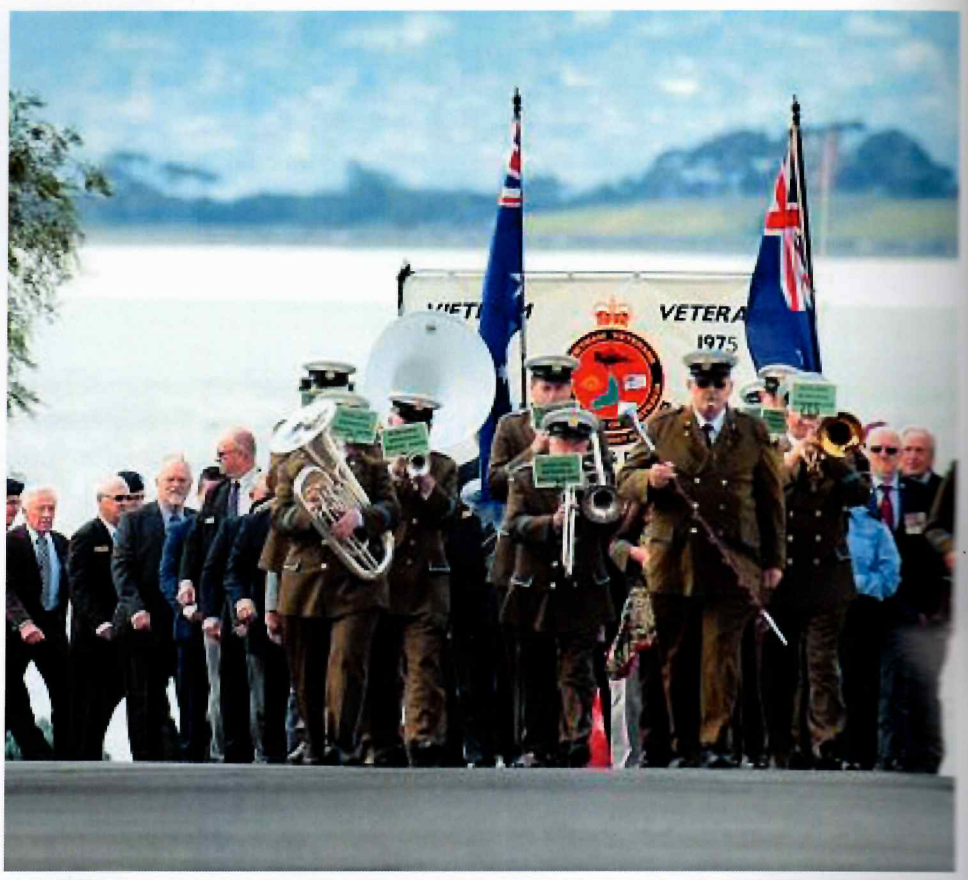
Next year will mark the 50th anniversary of the Australian forces' sentinel battle of the Vietnam War, Long Tan, and a year of acknowledgments will include one of special significance. Vietnam veterans will lead Geelong's Anzac Day march for the first time.

As vice-president of the Victorian branch of the Vietnam Veterans' Association, as well vice-president of Geelong branch, Mr Baker, 69, has been central in organising anniversary events hoped to range from special commemorations and receptions to dedicated football matches.

Acknowledgments will include statewide simultaneous graveside dedications for soldiers who died in Vietnam and were returned to Australia for burial. None lie in Geelong but Geelong branch will oversee services in Camperdown and Cobden.

Geelong branch president Rieny Nieuwenhof said the 50th anniversary year would be significant and powerful, and leading the march would mean much. "For Vietnam veterans it would be a pretty powerful recognition of the struggles that we've been through since the 1960s and '70s in terms oif recognition of our contribution to the freedom that we enjoy today," Mr Nieuwenhof said.

Geelong Returned and Services League sub-branch president Andrew Hanns said the gesture was only fitting and he hoped a Long Tan veteran would be guest speaker at the Anzac Day service. "We'll rally behind them and do what we can to support them," Mr Hanns said. ■



Geelong's Vietnam Veterans march proud from Osborne House to the Vietnam Veterans memorial at Nth Geelong.

PTE Jarryd Smith, a member of the 8/7 Royal Victorian Rifles stands guard at the memorial. Pictures: Glenn Ferguson

L-R: PTE Kitchell, Mr Brian Dunn (deceased) Mr Eddy Rodgers (Ex SGT) Mr Andrew Hanns (President of the RSL) WO2 Lucas Hourigna (Trg WO A Coy 8/7 RVR)

Remembrance Day

Geelong Peace Memorial 11 Nov 2015

At an observnace of the 97th Remembrance Day held in Geelong at Johnstone Park Peace Memorial, members of A COY 8/7 RVR provided Catafalque Party and wreath laying support to the service.

An address from the Mayor of the Greater City of Geelong Mr Darryn Lyons expressed the significance of the day.

Reverend Russell Tricky from the Anglican Parish of Christ Church Geelong led those gathered for the service in prayers for peace and the Lord's prayer.

WAJ Anthony P. Krupa (Ret'd) was the guest speaker.

Christina Bowden from the Geelong Memorial Brass Band played the last post and rouse.

Mr Andrew Hanns, president of the Geelong RSL introduced those who came forward to lay wreaths.

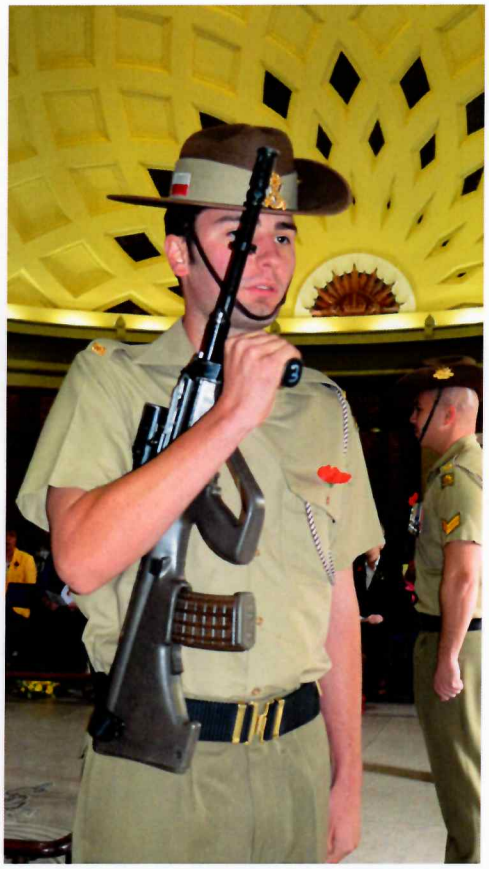
Catafalque Party: 8/7 RVR (A COY) CPL Vidot, with PTE Gouldson, PTE Kitchell, PTE Markovski and PTE Wille.

Photographs supplied by 8/7 RVR A COY Chaplain Geoffrey Thrall are subject to Australian Defence Force copyright.

Pictured - Centre group photo: Back Row L-R: PTE Jade Hayes, SGT Glenn Scott, WO2 Lucas Hourigan, Front Row L-R: PTE Bryce Gouldson, PTE Scott Kitchell, The Lord Mayor of the Greater City of Geelong Mr Darryn Lyons, CPL Antonius Vidot, PTE Martin Markovski, and PTE Jack Wille.

Wreath Laid by Trg WO 2 Lucas Hourigan (A COY)

Bottom Right: CPL Brendan Daniels and SGT Glenn Scott attend the Remembrance Day service.



B
bravo company

LT Robert Powell Acting OC Bravo COY

Ballarat with Monegeetta and Warrnabool

In the absence of a Major I have been acting OC for a year now and it has been an enjoyable time and a learning experience.

We have seen consistent numbers across all three depots, especially from members of Monegeetta who have been particularly dedicated over the last 12 months. Throughout 2015 Bravo Company has been involved in activities across Victoria, South Australia, Darwin and overseas; having taken opportunities to work directly with 9 BDE and also represent 8/7 RVR at a Gallipoli memorial overseas. From an OC's perspective it has been good to see an improvement in soldering skills from those who have participated in two major exercises and parade nights. During the live fire and field exercises I have seen the development of senior soldiers who have excelled when given the opportunity to fill junior leadership roles within their platoons.

Some of the key activities for Bravo Company over the year have been the LFX where we saw soldiers participate in live fire activities up to platoon attack. This was a good opportunity to practice infantry skills. A major exercise for the year was EX Courtney's Post which included working in the same area as 7 RAR as part of the lead up on the "Road to Hamel" next year. Some of the smaller and perhaps more important training conducted over the year included building capability within the Company through Harris Radio training. The majority of Bravo Company are now qualified on this new piece of equipment.

I would also like to take this opportunity to congratulate all involved in the 8/7 RVR Military Skills team who took out the top spot; with several of the soldiers being drawn from Bravo Coy ranks; including LCPL Sullivan, Pte's Brown and Terrill; an excellent result from these three members highlighting Bravo Company's passion, commitment and pride.

LCPL Hogan's representative duty to Gallipoli in August was a great experience for the member who has written up an article describing his experiences. It just shows if you turn up and do the hard yards, you will be rewarded. With 100 years since The Great War I am sure there will be more opportunities for those soldiers who strive for excellence in their soldering.

The activities we have been participating in and the exercises in the New Year are signs of the Army Reserve coming into a new era; becoming a better integrated, trained and equipped Reserve within the wider Army. Plan Beersheba is an excellent opportunity for all Reservists to prove themselves and provide additional capability to our fulltime partners.

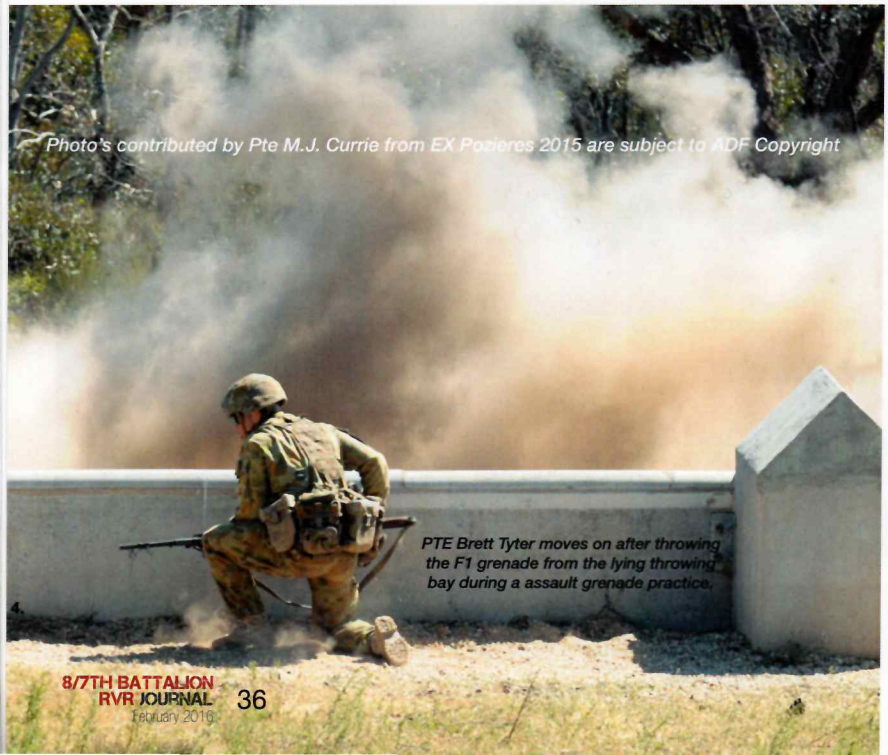
Looking forward to 2016; I will be stepping back into my Platoon Commander position, as we welcome the arrival of our new OC MAJ Carnes. I'd like to thank the key staff in each of the depots for their support across Bravo Company during my time as the acting OC. With Ballarat, Warrnambool and Monegeetta the depots are separated by a few hours drive, yet the soldiers of these depots were able to work together towards the smooth running of Bravo Company and capably supported the Battalion's goals.

In 2016 we will be seeing many changes in the Company; saying farewell to the current CSM, WO2 Simon Staton, who has been an invaluable member of Bravo Company.

Bravo 8/7 RVR CPL M. Deutcher, LCPL G. Coltman, PTE M. Gregory, PTE D. Demason walk to DFSW range for morning 84mm practice

8/7RVR make they way to the DFSW range at Puckapunyal

A soldier from 8/7 RVR throwing F3 from the lying throwing bay during an assault grenade practice.



Photo's contributed by Pte M.J. Currie from EX Pozieres 2015 are subject to ADF Copyright

PTE Brett Tyter moves on after throwing the F1 grenade from the lying throwing bay during a assault grenade practice.

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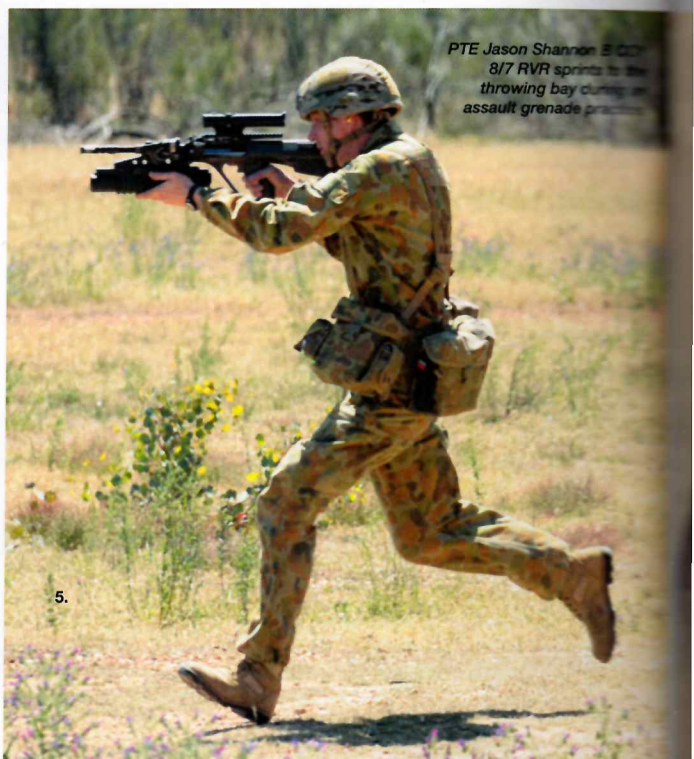


PTE Jason Shannon B COY 8/7 RVR sprints to the throwing bay during an assault grenade practice

5.

Although he's leaving I'm sure we will be seeing him again shortly. Our new CSM, WO2 Glenn Scott, will be joining the team. The New Year will also see a build up to EX Hamel where Bravo Company plans to supply a Platoon and several key staff members to BHQ.

I would like to thank all soldiers within Bravo Company for their attendance and dedication over the last twelve months. I'm looking forward to next year with new recruits for Bravo Company, building our future and capability within 8/7 RVR. ■

LT Robert Powell
Acting OC Bravo COY

The year in review

This year saw Bravo company as part of 8/7 RVR ramp up their operations in the lead up to Exercise Hamel. This saw members of the company involved in a number of different activities and exercises throughout the course of 2015. The year started as most do with the exhilarating mandatory training weekend. This gave the company its first chance to come together and see all the new and old faces and settle (mostly) into the sections that we would be working in for the coming year.

As the weeks started to pass the focuses started to shift to one of the main efforts of the Army Reserves, ANZAC day. However due to the significance of the 100th anniversary celebrations there where some changes to the normal proceedings. For the first time since I have been with the unit the dawn service was held at the Arch of Victory in Ballarat. This held special significance to me as I have a strong family connection with both the First World War and the Arch itself. Two Grand Uncles didn't return home from the Great War and my Great Grandfather Hanford Stevens was involved in seeing this iconic Ballarat landmark maintained.

Ballarat put on a typical dawn for us with it being just a little cold and rainy. However with the CO and RSM pushing for us to look our best, we were finally given the opportunity to wear service dress, this meant that the normal numbness of the body that accompanies most Ballarat Dawn services was kindly absent from the service. After the Combat Team paused for ANZAC day the mood lifted as we were loaded onto busses and shipped out to the beautiful wildlife reserve that is Cultana.

This trip to Cultana was the first time for many soldiers including myself. Few had any idea of what to expect when we got there. Once we arrived at the rear admin area we were hurried of to our induction briefs and where promptly told not to cut down trees. From there back onto the buses and off to the main staging area before our insertion into the AO full of live enemy and 8 days of hard training.

As it turned out we were given plenty of time to hone in our skills within a defensive position as some small kinks where worked out as the Battle Group formed for the first time. Most of the Combat Team Bravo soldiers were excited to have the chance to dig down to stage three pits as this is a dying art form that is missing from the current IET packages being offered. As the days ticked over and it became clear that we had reached the limit of the tools at hand, the decision was made to call in the cavalry. In this case, Holdfast. With their mighty backhoe fuelled and ready to go, they made short work of the unyielding rock that had tormented us for several days. They dug the deepest and widest pits I had ever seen. Then with the sudden realisation that most of the walls had caved in and that the OHP timber never made it, they were filled in and thus marked the end our war in Cultana. Not a single shot fired. With weapons cleaned we were back on the busses and heading home with the next big Ex on our minds. The Soldiers day.

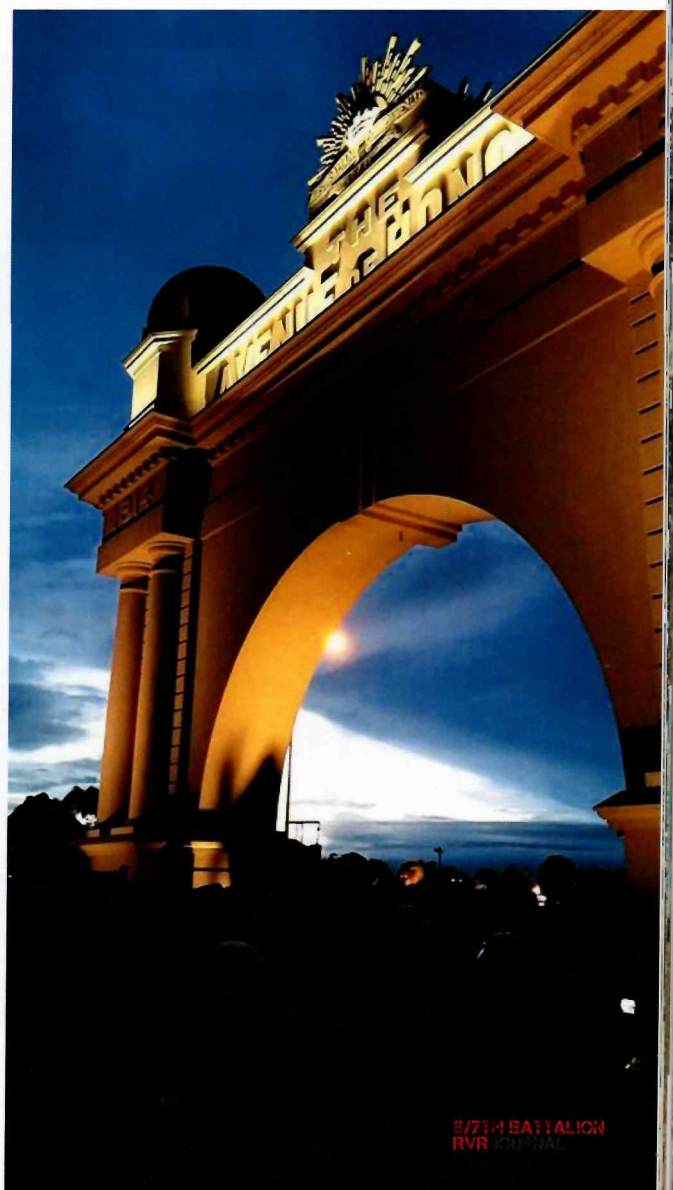
The Soldiers Day saw the battalion as whole gather at Ranger Barracks for a day for entertainment, food and drink. After we finished crushing the seniors in a friendly game of soccer it was back to the bar where the stories of past glories were passed from one generation of soldiers to the next. With numerous training weekends and supporting task the company got ready for the final activity for the year; a Live Fire Exercise.

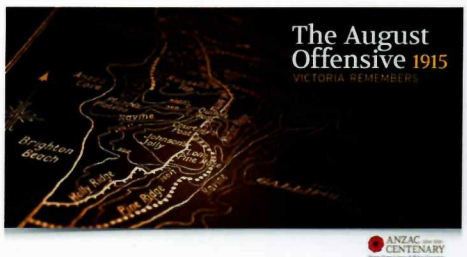
The Live fire exercise was held in the beautiful Puckapunyal training area. Unlike Courtney's Post earlier in the year there was plenty to shoot, with a number of different ranges being conducted. This allowed for many of the soldiers to pick up any weapon short falls they had and just do what we do best. A chance to shoot HE and other ammunition types. All this built up to the unicorn of army activities. There were many sceptics, even up until we crossed the LD. The platoon live fire attack with a dedicated SBF position. This was in my humble opinion the highlight to the year. Although I still feel that myself and PTE Shannon found the rockets part in the whole PMA to conduct our part of the attack. With all the boxes we needed ticked we packed up and headed home for the stretch into Christmas. With our eyes set to Exercise Hamel next year it looks like there will be plenty of opportunities to continue to prove that Bravo Company is in it for the long run. ■

LCPL George Coltman

A note from the editor: James Hanford Stevens (pictured on his wedding day with wife Kathleen) was appointed to the Commonwealth Public Service in 1948 and served as Senoir Representative of the Department of Supply and the Department of Defence Production; a member of the RAAF's re-equipment mission building the Canberra Bomber in Australia. He was also the managing director of Simmonds Aero-Accessories in Ballarat after a successful career in the Bristol Aeroplane Co supporting the local manufacture of Beaufort bombers in Australia. He was renowned for having ridden A.J.S. motorcycles in the Isle of Man Tourist-Trophy races, winning the Belgian Grand Prix in 1925. He was said to be the first person to have exceeded 100 miles (161 km) per hour on a motorcycle on sand (pictured below). He was active in the Victorian Chamber of Manufacturers and in Community Work supporting refurbishment of the Victory Arch in Ballarat. He has a Library at Sebastapol Secondary College named after him.

A note from the editor: MAJ Charles Stanley Coltman (pictured below) was a Machine Gun Officer of the 1st Infantry Brigade and was awarded a Military Cross for action at Gallipoli during the battle of Lone Pine. Wounded in May 1915 he had returned to Gallipoli to fight in the August offensive but died five months later from pneumonia on 6th January 1916 in Egypt. Originally enlisting in Ballarat for the Boer War in May 1897 he had served with the 4th V.I.R in South Africa as a Lieutenant. His younger brother SGT Percy Edgar Coltman (Pictured with his twin daughters Dorothy (left) and Margery (right) and son Selborne (standing)) also served at Gallipoli and was tragically killed in action the following year during the 22nd Battalion's attack on Poziers Ridge near Mouquet Farm on 5th Aug 1916. Sadly his body lies in an unknown grave.





Lone Pine Memorial

6-9 Aug 2015

2015 marks a momentous year in history being the centenary of the ANZAC. 100 years since our landing at Gallipoli which forged some of the values our Army still holds to this day.

During August this year myself along with around 20 other hand-picked soldiers from around the country headed over to Turkey to represent our units and partake in a series of ceremonies commemorating the Battles of August and the extraordinary deeds done by soldiers during that time. 8/7 RVR has a strong connection to the battles of august in particular the Battle of Lone Pine in which 4 VC's were awarded to members of the 7Th battalion.

Our trip consisted of a few days administration in Randwick barracks Sydney to ensure we had all our gear sorted and uniforms intact to head to Gallipoli. With much of my suitcase filled with service dress leaving a little room for civvies and souvenirs we departed for the airport for an 8h flight to Singapore followed by a 10.5h flight to Istanbul. Once arriving in Istanbul we had little time to take in the sites as we were quickly loaded onto a bus and sent another 6h to our hotel destination in Canakkale. Once there we were assigned our room keys and all members of the trip proceeded to head out for a feed and get some much needed shuteye. The following day we had some free time to explore the Cannakale waterfront and see what the local markets and food stalls had to offer. With an authentic Turkish Kebab being high on my to do list it didn't take me long to find one to sink my teeth into. Eating out became a regular occurance; just about every meal and with so many great restaurants on offer we only managed to re visit maybe 1 or 2 standout ones.

The next day a few of the members of the trip and myself went to the lone pine memorial site to rehearse for the ceremony the next day as we had been asked to be wreath orderlies. With a scorching 34 degree day, bulk water and powerade were on offer. Wearing in a new set of cams became a bit of a mistake. With the timed rehearsals done we headed back to our hotel to eat, sleep and repeat the following day in full service dress.

First off the whole contingent got into short sleeve polys for the indigenous ceremony held at Anzac cove. This was to commemorate indigenous soldiers who fought and died during the Gallipoli campaign and finished with a smoking ceremony that works to help bring the souls of indigenous people back to Australia through soil taken from the beach site. Following that we had the Lone Pine ceremony. With a lot of dignitaries including the Governor General; Chief of Defence; Chief of Army and 3 of the current VC winners and a live broadcast back home to Australia there was a lot of pressure on the key players not to stuff up. The ceremony went off without a hitch and once clear and back in the busses we were happy to get out of our service dress and head back to the hotel as the heatwave was taking its toll.

With the service duties done it was time to become tourists. Starting off with a battlefield tour covering places such as Anzac cove; the first landing site; the Nek, the French war memorial, British war memorial, Shrapnel valley, and Eceabat culminating with the Turkish war memorial. With so many historical sites its clear how the Turkish people commemorate and respect history. The next day we donned the short sleeve polys for one last time to watch the New Zealand Chanuk Bair ceremony. The dedication the NZ guys had was tested as they had gale force winds making life hard for chin straps and the colour parade.

After that back to the tourist life with a trip to Troy and Assos with a swim in the stony waters resembling the Greek islands. Wearing board shorts getting 2 thumbs up for preparation. Then time to check out the maritime museum and the Çimenlik fortress before packing up and boarding the bus nice and early to head back to Istanbul to have a look at the blue mosque, around the bazaars and to get some last minute souvenirs with a kebab before flying out the next morning. All in all, a great trip with a good crew of guys to go with ensuring many laughs, fun times and minimal drama. With more opportunities possibly arising in the next few years for trips like this I hope the next lucky digger gets as much out of it as I have. ■

LCPL Daniel Horgan
8/7 RVR B Coy Ballarat

Above:
1. LCPL Horgan at Lone Pine Memorial tree.
2. LCPL Horgan in front of the cenotaph after the wreath laying at the memorial service.
3. L-R: Cpl James Steinhouser, Cpl Daniel Keighran, Cpl Doug Cocking, LCPL Daniel Horgan, Cpl Mark Donaldson and Cpl Nathan Barton.

THE BATTLE FOR LONE PINE

RC09124

RC09114

RC00758

RC09123

After the initial successes on 25th April, the campaign at ANZAC Cove had turned into a trench-warfare stalemate, just like on the Western Front. The August Offensive was designed to take the heights of Hill 971, Hill Q and Chunuk Bair. To ensure that Turkish reserves could not be used to reinforce the defenders on these positions a series of feints were held. These feints were at German Officers' Trench, Turkish Quinn's, The Chessboard, The Nek and Lone Pine. During this time more British Divisions were to be landed to the north at Suvla Bay.

At 5.30pm on 6th August the 1st Brigade assaulted the Lone Pine Trench System. The 2nd Brigade, which included the 7th Battalion, provided supporting troops and suppressing fire on Johnston's Jolly. Half the 1st Brigade went 'over the top' while the others went via prep-dug tunnels. On reaching the Turkish trenches the Australians found that they were roofed with pine logs and dirt. Recovering from the artillery bombardment the Turks began firing from firing holes under the logs while the Australians began pulling the logs up to gain entry to the trenches. Other Australians bypassed the front line trenches and gained access via the rear or communication trenches. Hand to hand fighting began in the trenches and continued until the Turkish forces stopped counter-attacking the position on 9th August.

Earlier on 7th August, with the 1st Brigade weakened by the brutal fighting, the 7th Battalion took over the southern trenches at Lone Pine. The battalion defended the trenches against repeated Turkish counterattacks.

4 VCs FOR THE 7TH BATTALION

Early on 9th August the 7th Battalion's Lt Tubb and Cpls Burton and Dunstan held a trench that was under heavy attack. While Burton and Dunstan rebuilt a damaged sandbag barrier, Tubb held off the attackers. During one attack Burton was killed when one of several bombs exploded while he was rebuilding the trench parapet and Dunstan was hit with shrapnel and temporarily blinded. The defenders had been so successful in holding back the attackers that the Turks stopped their attacks. The three men were awarded the Victoria Cross for this action.

At the same time the 7th Battalion's William Symons found himself under attack a little further south down the trench system. After six officers were killed Symons took charge of the trench and rebuilt a destroyed barricade, killing two Turks with his revolver. Symons withdrew his party to a trench with overhead cover, allowing a barricade to be built. He then lead his men forward and drove the Turks out of the previously abandoned trench. Symons was awarded a Victoria Cross for his efforts there.

The 7th Battalion had been awarded four Victoria Crosses during the Battle for Lone Pine:

Captain Frederick Harold Tubb was born 28th November 1881at Longwood, Victoria. He died on 21st September 1917 at Passchendaele in Belgium. His VC is held at the Australian War Memorial. Tubb is recognised with Tubb's Hill on the Hume Freeway near Euroa.

Corporal Alexander Stewart Burton was born 20th January 1893 at Kyneton, Victoria. He died on 9th August 1915 at Lone Pine, Gallipoli Peninsular, Turkey. His VC is held at the Australian War Memorial

Corporal William Dunstan was born 8th March 1895 at Ballarat East. He died on 2nd March 1967. His VC is held at the Australian War Memorial.

Lieutenant William John Symons was born 10th July 1889 at Eaglehawk, He died on 24th June 1948. His VC held at the Australian War Memorial

HISTORY OF THE LONE PINE TREE

At the beginning of the Gallipoli campaign, one lone pine tree stood on Pine Ridge, the location of the Battle for Lone Pine. The tree was known as Lonesome Pine. That tree was destroyed during the campaign. After the capture of the Lone Pine ridge on 6 August 1915, an Australian Soldier who had taken part in the attack, in which his brother was killed, found a cone on one of the branches used by the Turks as overhead cover for their trenches, and sent it to his mother. From seed shed by it she raised a tree, which she presented to be planted in the War Memorial grounds in honour of her own and others' sons who fell at Lone Pine.

On 24 October 1934, HRH Prince Henry, Duke of Gloucester, planted a small Aleppo Pine (Pinus halepensis) in the grounds of the Australian War Memorial. He decorated it with a wreath of red poppies he had brought with him. At that time, only the Memorial's foundations had been built. The tree was surrounded by an almost empty paddock and came to be known as the Lone Pine.

The Yarralumla Nursery in Canberra began collecting and propagating seeds from the tree in the late 1940s. Since then, many seedlings have been distributed to R&SL branches, schools and other organisations for commemorative purposes. This Lone Pine, pictured right: is one from the Yarralumla Nursery and we thank former battalion member Bob Prewett for his efforts in obtaining the tree which was planted at the Ranger Barracks on 9th August 2015 by the CO of 8/7 RVR LTCOL Tom Biedermann. ■

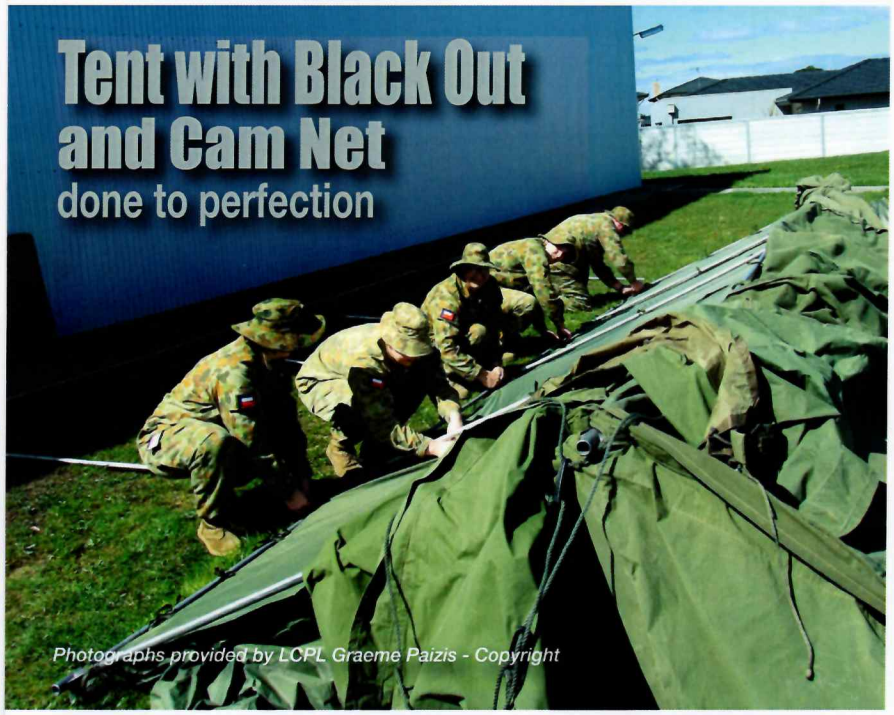
Neil Leckie
Manager
Ballarat Ranger Military Museum

Other members of the 7th Battalion to receive awards were:
Cpl John Wadeson: DCM and MID,
Cpl George Ball: DCM,
Cpl Harry Webb (Died of Wounds): DCM,
Cpl Fred Wright (Killed in Action): MID, and
Stretcher Bearer Cpl Robert Bates: MM.

The only 8th Battalion sub-unit involved in the Lone Pine battle was Lt Traill's Machine Gunners. Lt John C.M. Traill was awarded the Military Cross and was Mentioned in Despatches. He would later be awarded the DSO and again Mentioned in Despatches for action at Broondseide. He ended the war as LTCOL in Command of the 5th Battalion, prior to amalgamation with the 8th Battalion.

Tent with Black Out and Cam Net

done to perfection



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Warrnambool Depot

This year was an eventful year for the Warrnambool depot, lots of new faces, lots of opportunities which are leading Warrnambool into a bright and successful future. The transition from 2014 – 2015 has seen us lose our former depot manager WO2 Creelman with his move back to BHQ. With this change, Warrnambool was fortunate enough to receive full time member SGT Warren Gaunt from Tasmania. SGT Gaunt has immediately fitted straight into the depot, with the collective respect of everyone here, due to his vast knowledge and dedication to the depot. We have had lots of good training this year ranging from; weekends, 9 days exercises and corporate knowledge from members returning from RCB.

Deploying in early November 2014, three of our senior Privates had the opportunity to receive extensive training in Malaysia and Singapore. During their time there, PTE Woods (Woodsy), Walther (Pistol) and Taylor (Sherm) received well delivered training in areas ranging from: Jungle, Urban and Weapons. Warrnambool as a depot was very lucky. These members received valuable training they were able to pass on to our junior members who were able to get a different ideas and skills not often touched upon. Although Sherm has moved on too Geelong, Woodsy and Pistol have been able to give lessons and training based on what they learnt. These members arrived back from RCB, mid – Feb and have transitioned well into a more senior digger role.

Anzac day this year was huge in the Warrnambool and its respective districts. The turn out this year to mark the centenary was the largest many our members had ever seen. As well as performing catafalque duties at Warrnambool, members also were asked to have a presence at Lake Bolac which many old diggers from there were extremely grateful for. Following the service, many former members and veterans came down to the depot, sharing vast stories and experiences from their time in ARA and as Reservists. This was enjoyable, as the stories were shared whilst enjoying a few beers together.

Exercise Pozieres this year gave our soldiers some excellent training. The training in our eyes was beneficial in the fact that, half of our members hadn't shot many weapons live besides the basics. It also allowed them to do so in a live attack scenario later on. This year Warrnambool has been lucky to have had a good increase in recruit numbers, totalling four. Including last year's new members we have received a total of seven new members over the last 24 months. This training for these members couldn't have been more valuable, as they put their training into a realistic situation.

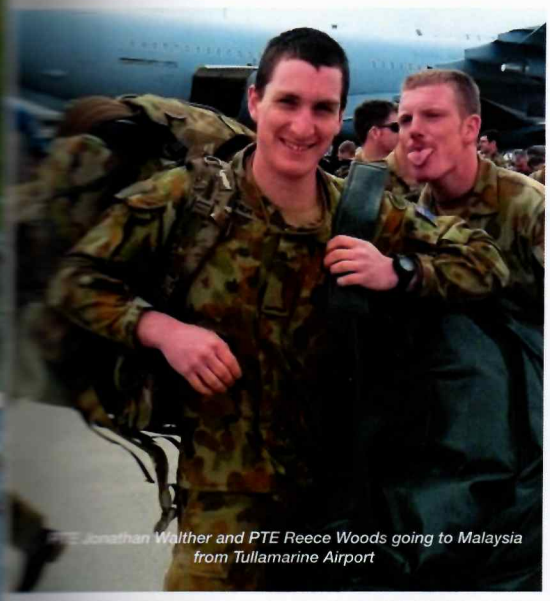
This year we are sadly losing Corporal Josh Petering. Josh has been a member of 8/7RVR since 2001 and has been on many activities and deployments, a highlight being the Solomon islands. Behind the scenes Josh has always been working hard and striving for our depot, members and boozer to be successful. Josh is moving on after 14 years due to work commitments and will be travelling to and from China to support his local business. With all the effort he has shown at 8/7RVR we are more than confident he will enjoy success in the future with his career.

To finish off a great year, we have decided to participate in the tough mudder style activity called the tower hill challenge. The tower hill challenge is a 10Km obstacle course, that will challenge even the fittest of our members. As a depot we have all registered as a group of friends called 'boozer'. After this activity we will enjoy a BBQ lunch and a good night on the beers at the boozer.

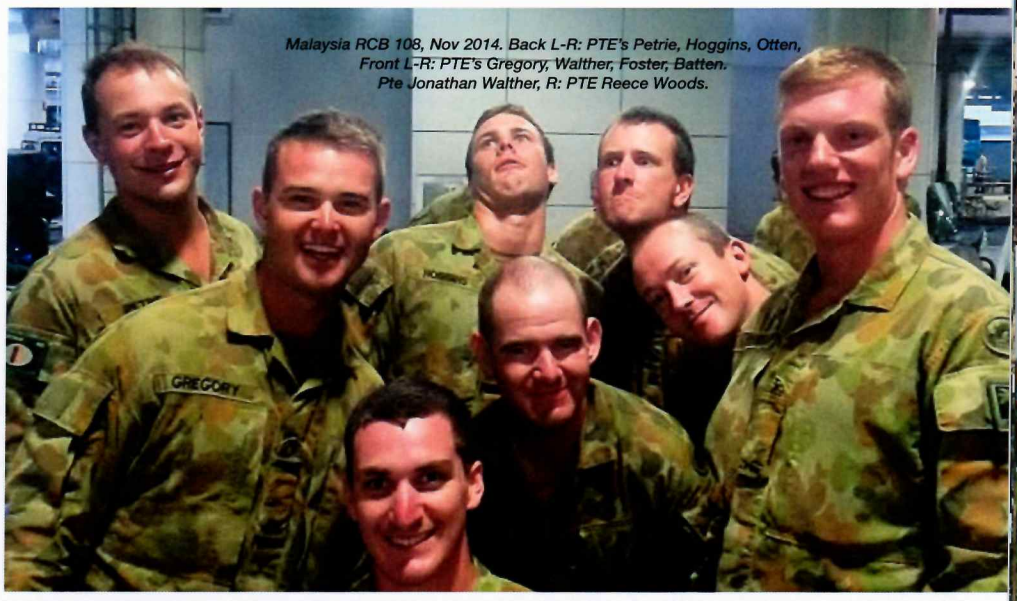
Looking to next year many of our members are keen for EX Hamel and the chance to work alongside ARA soldiers. Next year many of our new members have already nominated for Mod courses in which they will become fully qualified, which is great. All in all the next year will be very exciting with opportunities at all experience levels. So we are all looking forward to it. ■

PTE Jonathan Walther

PTE Jonathan Walther, Tuladu in Malaysia



PTE Jonathan Walther and PTE Reece Woods going to Malaysia from Tullamarine Airport



Malaysia RCB 108, Nov 2014. Back L-R: PTE's Petrie, Hoggins, Otten, Front L-R: PTE's Gregory, Walther, Foster, Batten. Pte Jonathan Walther, R: PTE Reece Woods.

CPL J. Petering at Laverton

PTE Bowman at Mc Donalds

Life like EX POZIERS at Puckapunyal OCT 2015

C
charlie company

Bendigo with Mildura Swan Hill and Shepparton

OC CAPT Edward Guinea at the Mildura ANZAC Day Centenary March on 25 April 2015

Members from C COY in Mildura line up for the ANZAC Day March. Left to right PTE J Smith, CPL K Farrell, PTE L Foster, CAPT T Guinea, PTE A Cameron, PTE C Hart, CFN J Iverson

Bendigo

Bendigo Depot members certainly had a busy year with many opportunities to jump on board to be an active reservist in 2015.

A number of our soldiers started the year in Malaysia with RCB 108 and others were able to participate on EX Courtney's Post and EX Poziers. On the latter, more than one smiling digger was seen walking off HE range and the PI live fire attack lane also featured as a favourite for many.

Throughout the year of 2015, Bendigo Depot members also continually ensured that they were involved with the local RSL and indeed the wider community. This was evidently seen at the Spirit of Anzac Centenary Experience road show and commemorative ceremonies such as Anzac Day and Remembrance Day.

With great assistance from the local RSL, LCPLs Tucci, Trewartha, Otten and PTE Bailey were taught .303 drill and fitted out in WW1 military attire that was custom made in England which certainly helped raise the profile of Anzac 100 during these two services.

With 2015 now in its final pages, Bendigo Depot can now look forward to what will be one of the busiest and most beneficial training years to come in 2016 with EX Hamel.

A quick thank you from all the diggers to our ARA members WO2 Blanchard, SSGT Wakeling, LCPL Jovanovic and PTE Benaim for their valued mentoring and support behind the scenes.

And finally to our reservists:
"The world is run by people who show up."
Good Soldiering, ■

LT Coates

Mildura / Swan Hill

Another year has passed and once again we give our greetings from the far northern (often cooked to well done) tip of Victoria. This Year has been a big year for the company as we've had a few members on RCB 108 in Malaysia; three members from the depot were lucky enough to be chosen to participate. They were CPL Farrell, Pte Foster and Pte Clarke.

With the first part of the year already over by the time our members returned, we had heard that this year was going to be part of the big built up to being a battlegroup for 2016. The live fire range exercise we had near the end of the year was a great opportunity for both soldiers that had been in a while and those who had just qualified to have some "fun" and get some live fire quals on the 84mm, 66mm and the GIA. Pte Smith was overjoyed when he was allowed to live fire the 84mm on the range and then again in the live fire section attack.

Our depot was delighted to fully qualify two of our members as infantrymen this year. Pte Hickey and Pte Smith are now able to join us on weekends and exercises and will make an excellent addition to our tight group.

The members of the Mildura depot were honored to part of Anzac Day 2015 100 year anniversary. One of our visiting members from Adelaide Warrant Officer Couch made an effort to wear an WW1 Officer's uniform to get in the spirit of the day and to show everyone the type of outfits our soldiers used to wear, as well as having one of the most "english" looking mustache to really fit the part.

Our training highlight in the depot for the year was being able to get our hands on a battle simulator from Adelaide. We were able to practice up to corporal level by commanding a whole section in a war like situation. This was very beneficial and could be a great help down the line with other soldiering skills.

In conclusion it has been a big year from us up in Mildura and our surrounding brethren, we all look forward to seeing everyone in the new year and hope you all have a good breathe of fresh air throughout the break.

PTE Foster

Shepparton

The year at Somme Barracks in Shepparton started with the march-in of a new depot manager SGT Roger Derrick, with SGT Dan Purcell moving on to OPS SGT at BHQ. SGT Purcell was away with many other 8/7 RVR members on RCB 108 in Malaysia.

A number of the depots more experienced PTE's returned in mid-February, following RCB 108's return. It was fantastic to get a wealth of knowledge back into our activities; which galvanised morale for our transition towards BG Jacka next year.

New march-ins added an exciting dimension to the manning with preparations for RRTC beginning for those members in earnest. This continued throughout the year enabling Shepparton to have a fire team-sized group of super-keen Privates, who will embark together, on their Infantry-specific training early in 2016. A number of those soldiers gained experience on a recent exercise in South Australia giving support as a 'cohort' of like-minded new members of the battalion.

Junior leadership training progressed in 2015, with two senoir PTE's successfully completing back-to-back modules of JLC. One of our Section Commanders also completed his range qualifications enabling the Company to conduct Live Fire Range activities up to ARA standard.

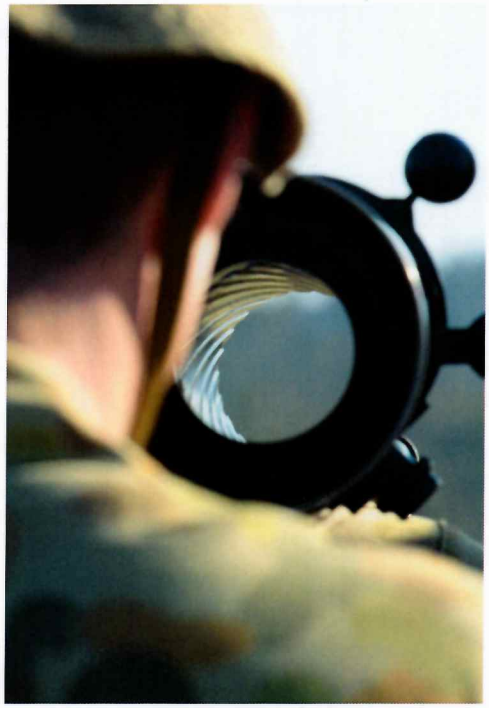
Nearly every member has been able to commit to at least one of the BG Jacka lead-up exercises, despite the work pressures that comes with being employed in the Riverina. As things stand, expected attendance on EX Hamel is looking very good and there is much discussion about it at the end of each parade night in the soldier's social club.

That depot 'booza' is a hive of activity every week, with a simple BBQ and drinks occurring week-in and week-out. This presents not only as a great opportunity for a good feed, but also as a sure sign that Somme Barracks is a happy & vibrant depot, full of motivated soldiers who are keen to serve the battalion and the ADF.

SGT Derrick
Depot Commander

Back L-R: SGT Purcell, PTE Batton, PTE Hoggins, CPL Taylor, PTE Schenk, PTE Demasson, LCPL Horgan, PTE Clark. Front L-R: PTE Tantaro, PTE (now LCPL) Otten.

Soldiers from 8/7 RVR fire an HEDP 84mm round on the DFSW Range at Puckapunyal. Photos by PTE M Cr



Rifle Company Butterworth 108

At the start of November 2014 as part of RCB 108 ***(pictured above)*** I departed with the rest of the company from Laverton Victoria to Melbourne airport after completing pre-deployment training at Puckapunyal. The flight took 8 hours and arriving in country the thing that hit us the most was the humidity and the heat. After jumping on buses we drove for another hour to our home for the next three months. On the way we were treated to a Malaysian downpour which we would become accustomed to over the next three months as well as the bustling streets and motorcycles which flanked either side of our vehicles.

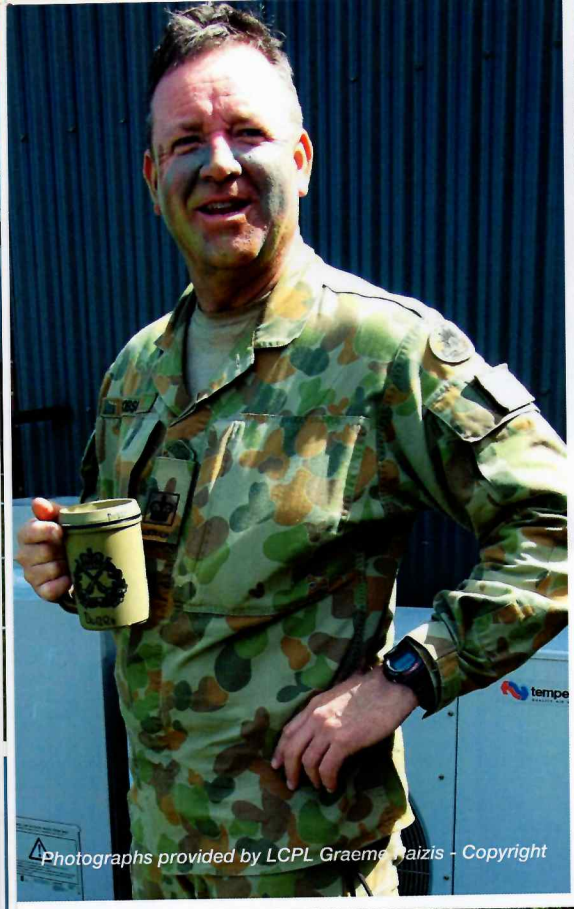
We were introduced to the Malaysian culture and given expectations for our behaviour and conduct over the three months in the initial acclimatisation week. There were many great opportunities given to junior soldiers such as myself including live fire heavy weapons at Guran and Pulada ranges, urban training at the Singapore urban complex and live fire section attacks through the Malaysian jungle. We also had two weeks exposure to Jungle environments at section and platoon level, and participated in a combat survival training run by the jungle training wing of the Malaysian army.

After each day we had to remain on the base with most of the company participating in their own PT by either attending the gym or playing sport with the Malays on the base. Commonly during the day we would be able to observe Malaysian jets and helicopters taking off from the airstrip which was part of the base.

Although spending Christmas away from the family wasn't ideal the guys were able to make the best of it by breaking up the daily barracks routine and going on a holiday during the leave period.

Looking back on RCB 108 it was ultimately a good experience despite some of the periods of down time and ranks as the highlight of my military service. I hope other members from the Bn will also get this opportunity and I encourage them to jump at it when it comes around.

PTE Hoggins



RCB July & Sept 14

Pre-deployment for Rifle Company Butterworth - Malaysia

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20-22 MARCH 15
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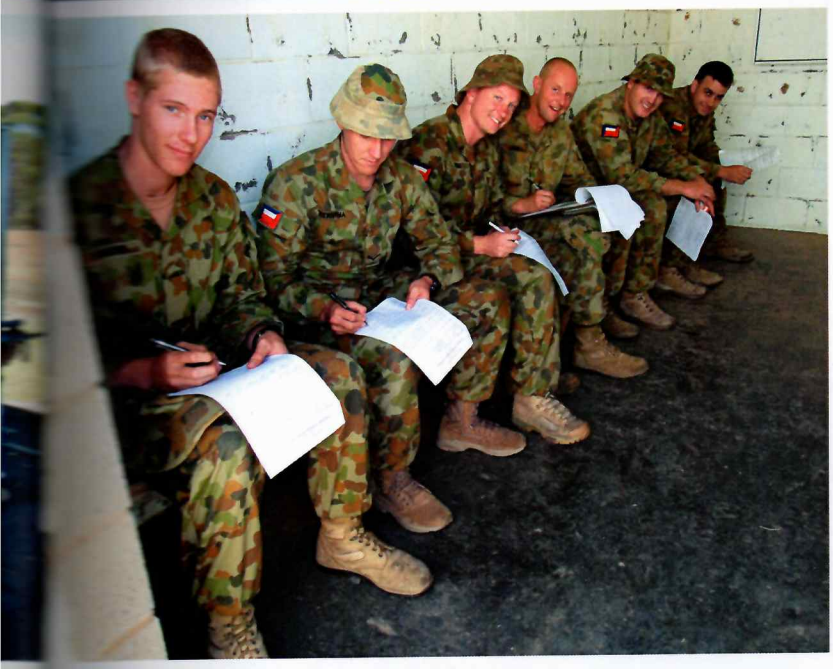

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2 Div Mil Skills Competition – March 2015

L-R: LCPL Daniel Horgan (B Coy); PTE Brett Tyter (B Coy); PTE Denham; PTE Bob Jimenez (A Coy), PTE Decker (C Coy), PTE Trent Goodman (C COY), PTE Zachary Inchley (A Coy) PTE Nicholas Otten (C Coy).

On the 6th of March, an offering of 8 soldiers from across victoria embarked on a journey to Murry Bridge for the 2 Div mil skills competition. Armed with varied experience, pams and 1 days lead up training PTE's Jimenez, Tyter, Decker, Goodman, Otten, Inchley, Denham and myself were getting mentally prepared to give 100% and make our unit proud.

Drawing on the men from Alpha, Bravo and Charlie Coy's valuable experiences from trips to Solomon Islands, East Timor, Afghanistan and Malaysia made the competition stages a lot easier to tackle with basically non-existent lead up training.

The course was roughly a 25km circuit to be completed during daylight hours over the Saturday and Sunday with 13 stands designed to test IMT, time appreciation, stamina and thinking outside the box. With the aim for sections to make it as far as you can around the course carrying full marching order and section weapons and finding the time to complete a written test of military knowledge along the way. The stands included weapons TOET's, moving a rover trailer up a hill that is missing a wheel, section attack, webbing run straight into a scored shoot, setting up a tent blindfolded, JDs and target indications, a wiring task, enemy village with hidden IEDs, medical stand and QDE involving 44 gallon drums, planks of wood and ground unable to be touched.

Once night time hit the soft sands of Murry Bridge was a comfortable change to the rocks of Pucka we are used to and enabled us to rest our bodies which had been cramping up from the fast paced pack marching all day.

Although we didn't achieve the final result of victory we had aimed for, we left the competition with our heads held high knowing we had banded together at very short notice and given our best.

i couldn't have asked for a better bunch of guys to work with as everyone seemed to click together quickly and give their all as soon as it was required without hesitation or question.

The help I received from each member made my job as section commander much easier and it was always good to see the team spirit as they helped each other selflessly. I would happily have all of them in my section again and with a bit of lead up training I believe we could significantly change our results for the better.

I would encourage anyone who wants to test their skills to put their names forward for a spot on the team. Great experiences with your mates are to be had and big rewards go to those teams who do well.

Thanks go to our support from our team manager WO2 Digby and our drivers LCPL Challis and PTE Brewer who without them we would not have made it to our destination and home again. ■

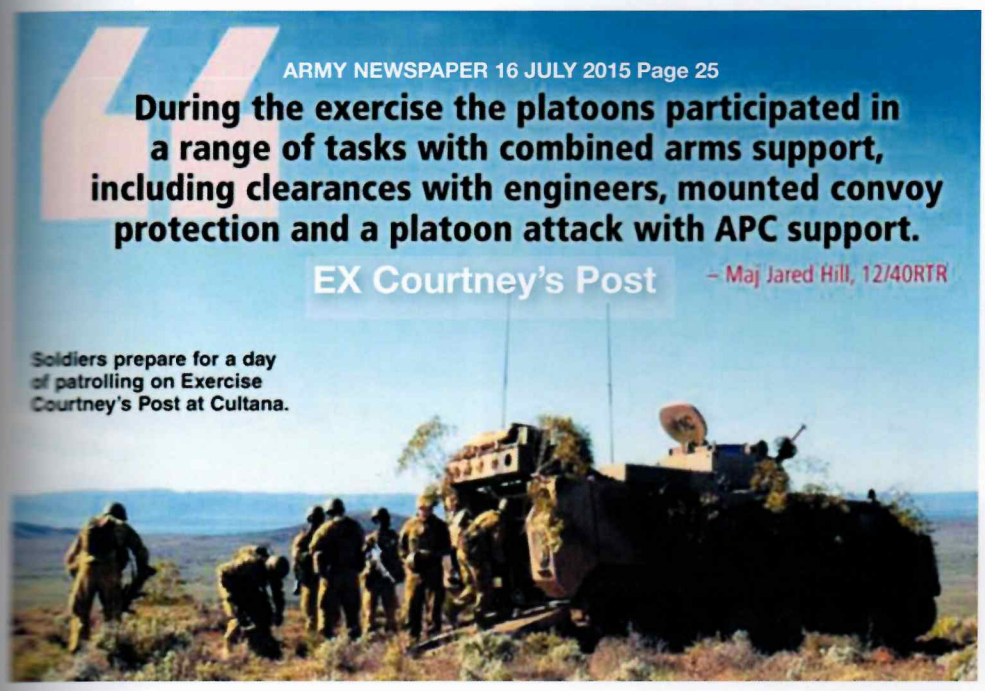
LCPL Daniel Horgan

EX Courtney's Post - Cultana Training Area South Australia

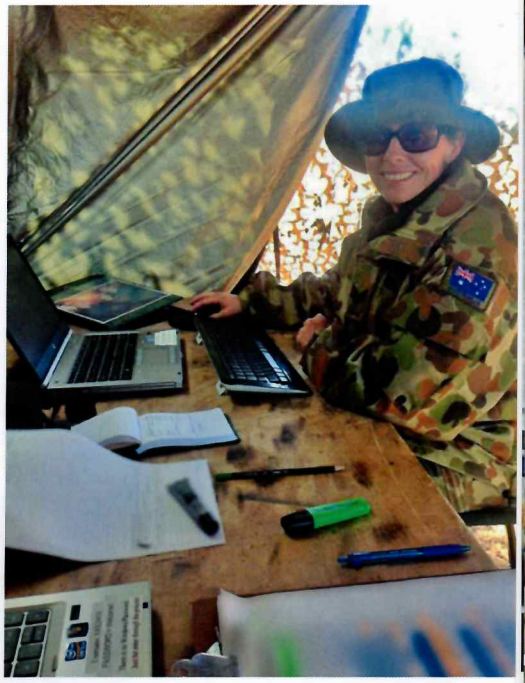
ARMY NEWSPAPER 16 JULY 2015 Page 25

During the exercise the platoons participated in a range of tasks with combined arms support, including clearances with engineers, mounted convoy protection and a platoon attack with APC support.

EX Courtney's Post – Maj Jared Hill, 12/40RTR



Soldiers prepare for a day of patrolling on Exercise Courtney's Post at Cultana.



BG Jacka on the Road to Hamel

Soldiers from South Australia, Tasmania and Victoria exercised together for the first time in years, putting Battlegroup Jacka on a path to success.

RESERVE soldiers from 4 and 9 Bdes conducted Exercise Courtney's Post in late May at the Cultana Training Area, simulating the deployment of Battlegroup Jacka into a regional conflict.

Assistant Commander Training Col Doug Laidlaw, of 4 Bde, said the deployment harnessed an expeditionary mindset and focused on building austerity and physical endurance within soldiers. "While the training was aimed at the platoon level, the additional training opportunity was taken to establish and maintain an effective command post at the combat team and battlegroup levels," he said.

Battlegroup Jacka was organised with a light artillery battery, engineer squadron, combat service support team and an APC section from D Sqn, 1 Armd Regt. The enemy party was provided by 7RAR. Foundation skills at the infantry platoon level was conducted by observer trainers drawn from both brigades.
The battlegroup reported to an exercise control (EXCON) established at Camp Baxter, 60km north of the exercise area. Support was provided by 108 and 144 Sigs Sqns. Also located at Camp Baxter was an additional enabling element, drawn predominantly from 9CSSB and provided reception, staging, onward movement and integration, fresh rations, a medical ward and an additional evacuation team, as well as RAEME capabilities.

The battlegroup was on a very steep learning curve to bring a new team together from so many disparate parts. One of those elements was the combined light battery drawn from 2/10 Lt Bty in Victoria and 6/13 Lt Bty from Tasmania and South Australia.

Battery commander 2/10 Lt Bty Maj Garry Rolfe said Cultana was an excellent training area enabling the team to achieve technical and tactical objectives. "The integration both at the joint fires team and on the mortar line was strong," he said. "The two sub-units complement each other on manning and skills very well." The light battery achieved a number of technical competencies using the 81mm mortar. This included firing high explosive missions, adjustment of missions using night fighting equipment (NFE), infra-red illumination and coordination, illumination missions adjusting with the aid of NFE and the execution of a final protective fire mission.

EXCON coordinated a number of casualty evacuation rehearsals with progressive reductions in the ready reaction time of the primary health care team, such that on day five the response was "golden". "One of our biggest challenges involved negotiating over competing use of available range space," he said. "Although deconfliction occurred on a daily basis at the range conference, that did not stop a well-sited ambush by C Coy being triggered against an unsuspecting 'enemy'." Battlegroup Jacka demonstrated significant advancement during the exercise, setting it up well for further training on the road to Exercise Hamel 2016.

Commander 9 Bde Brig Michael Burgess said as the exercise progressed the interoperability improved... Commander 4 Bde Brig David Westphalen agreed. "Having recently assumed command of the brigade, I was pleased to see the enthusiasm among the soldiers and the high degree of cooperation between the two brigades," he said. "We have an excellent baseline from which to start our readying cycle. I am certain that with the hard training we have planned, Battlegroup Jacka will be set to go to Exercise Hamel next year and ready as the reinforcing manoeuvre battlegroup assigned to 1 Bde." ■

Maj Terry Kanellos
Army Newspaper

Top Right: SGT Katrina Almond on EX Courtney's Post
Below: Soldiers from 8/7 RVR demob from Cultana Training Area at the end of EX in South Australia.

2 Div 100 yrs

Army

Hundreds of soldiers, colours, gideons and banners line the Australian War Memorial in Canberra to mark the 100th anniversary of 2 Div.

MORE than 300 soldiers travelled to Canberra from across the nation to mark the centenary of 2 Div on July 24. It was a landmark national parade at an iconic location – an extraordinary array of 77 colours, guidons and banners were paraded at the Australian War Memorial, marking 100 years since 2 Div formed during WWI.

Despite a cold start to the day, with early morning rehearsals held in freezing fog, hundreds of well-wishers braved icy rain and wind to see 2 Div brigades and direct command units marched on as the guard held ground and the band played.

The parade was reviewed by Governor-General Gen Sir Peter Cosgrove (retd), who praised the troops on parade.

"In so many ways 2 Div represents all that is good and proud about the Australian Army and the men and women who serve in it," he said.

CA Lt-Gen Angus Campbell highlighted the important role played by 2 Div in operations past and present. "Today is a proud day for the Australian Army as we mark 100 years of service of 2 Div," Lt Gen Campbell said.

"For a century, the men and women of 2 Div have played an integral role in our Army's domestic and operational efforts. They play a similarly important role today, through the reinforcing battle groups which are an integral part of the Army's combat brigades. "It is only fitting that we acknowledge the servicemen and women of 2 Div, both past and present with this parade."

Commander 2 Div Maj-Gen Stephen Porter said the parade offered an opportunity to link the division's current capability with its history. "Today's 2 Div units trace their lineage to the volunteer soldiers of WWI who fought with our forces at Gallipoli," he said.

"As highly trained and professional reserve members, they continue to uphold and build upon the values and legacy of those who have come before them. "I am immensely proud of all our members on parade today and the vital work they continue to do for our Army."

The second division of the Australian Imperial Force was raised in Egypt on July 26, 1915, and deployed to Gallipoli later that year. It went on to become the first Australian Army Division to join the battles on the Western Front in 1916. ■

Capt Sharon Mascall-Dare
Army Newspaper
13 AUG 2015.

Soldiers from 8/7 RVR Colour Party gather at the Australian War Memorial in Canberra to commemorate the centenary of 2 DIV. L-R: Back Row: SGT Fitton SGT Logan Front Row: LT Powell, WO2 Digby, LT Coates

BALLARAT RANGER MUSEUM

With the Centenary in 2014 of the commencement of 'The Great War', later to be known as World War One, the Ballarat Ranger Military Museum has been very busy.

Many individuals and groups have visited the museum to learn more about the war in general and their family members' involvement in it.

The battalion birthday, 9th Aug 2014, saw the unveiling of a plaque commemorating the Centenary of the Raising of the 8th Battalion, 2nd Brigade, Australian Division for overseas service. Western Victoria contributed six companies to the 8th Battalion, with Melbourne and Gippsland each contributing one company. The Commanding Officer of the 8th Battalion was Lt Col William Bolton, the Commanding Officer of Ballarat East's 70th Infantry. Descendants of Lt Col Bolton unveiled a plaque for the Commemoration of the Centenary.

For the six weeks covering the period from ANZAC Day until the end of May this year, the museum was open extra hours as a part of the National Trust sponsored 'Heritage Festival Conflict & Compassion'. The advertising generated a few extra visitors to the museum. During that period the museum was also open for the Heritage Weekend in Ballarat in May.

On the battalion's birthday in 2015, two ceremonies were held. As the 9th August 1915 was the last day of the Battle for Lone Pine on Gallipoli, and it was also the day that four 7th Battalion men were awarded the Victoria Cross for their actions in that battle, the centenary of that day was a fitting time to plant an 'Aleppo' Pine from Gallipoli.

Following the planting a plaque was unveiled for the Centenary of the Raising of the 18th Company, Australian Army Service Corps. 18 AASC had its roots in the 18th Coy, Army Service Corps in Ballarat. Over one third of the Company's original members came from the Ballarat District. Representatives from six of the families of the original men participated in the unveiling service.

The Spirit of ANZAC Centenary Experience was open in Ballarat from 8th – 14th November 2015. The Ranger Museum provided a small display in the 'Community Zone' in the exit area of the exhibition. It also provided some of the memorabilia in the Ballarat City Council display in that area.

Commemorations for 2016

On 21st February 2016, the museum, in conjunction with the 39th Battalion Association, will unveil the third of its plaques with the Centenary of the Raising of the 39th Battalion here in Ballarat.

The 39th was raised and trained in Ballarat before heading to England in May 1916 for further training with the 3rd Division under Maj Gen John Monash. Battalion members are invited to attend the ceremony.

On 19th July 2016 the museum will hold a ceremony for the Centenary of the Battle of Fromelles. Country Victoria's connection to Fromelles lies with Brigadier 'Pompey' Elliott, the Commander of the 15th Brigade (and original Commanding Officer of the 7th Battalion), and the 59th and 60th Battalions. These two battalions found their origins in the 7th and 8th Battalions.

The museum is technically the 'Unit Historical Collection' of 8/7 RVR and it has a Charter to hold the memorabilia for 8/7 RVR and the military history of the Ballarat District.

The museum is always looking for volunteers to act as guides; memorabilia that fits the 'Charter'; and, of course, cash donations. For some years the museum committee has been looking at ways of expanding the museum by having a second hut built. Cash is the biggest hurdle. If you know of how the museum can obtain cash to assist in this quest, the museum committee would love to hear about it. ■

Maj Neil Leckie RFD (Ret'd)
Museum Manager

ANZACS 1916
Battles for Rememberance

Fromelles July 1916
The 5th Division suffers a disastrous defeat in the first major Australian operation on the Western Front.

Pozières July–August 1916
1st Anzac Corps captures Pozières village and the heights beyond.

Mouquet Farm August–September 1916
Australian defeat – After Pozières,
1st Anzac Corps fails to capture Mouquet Farm.

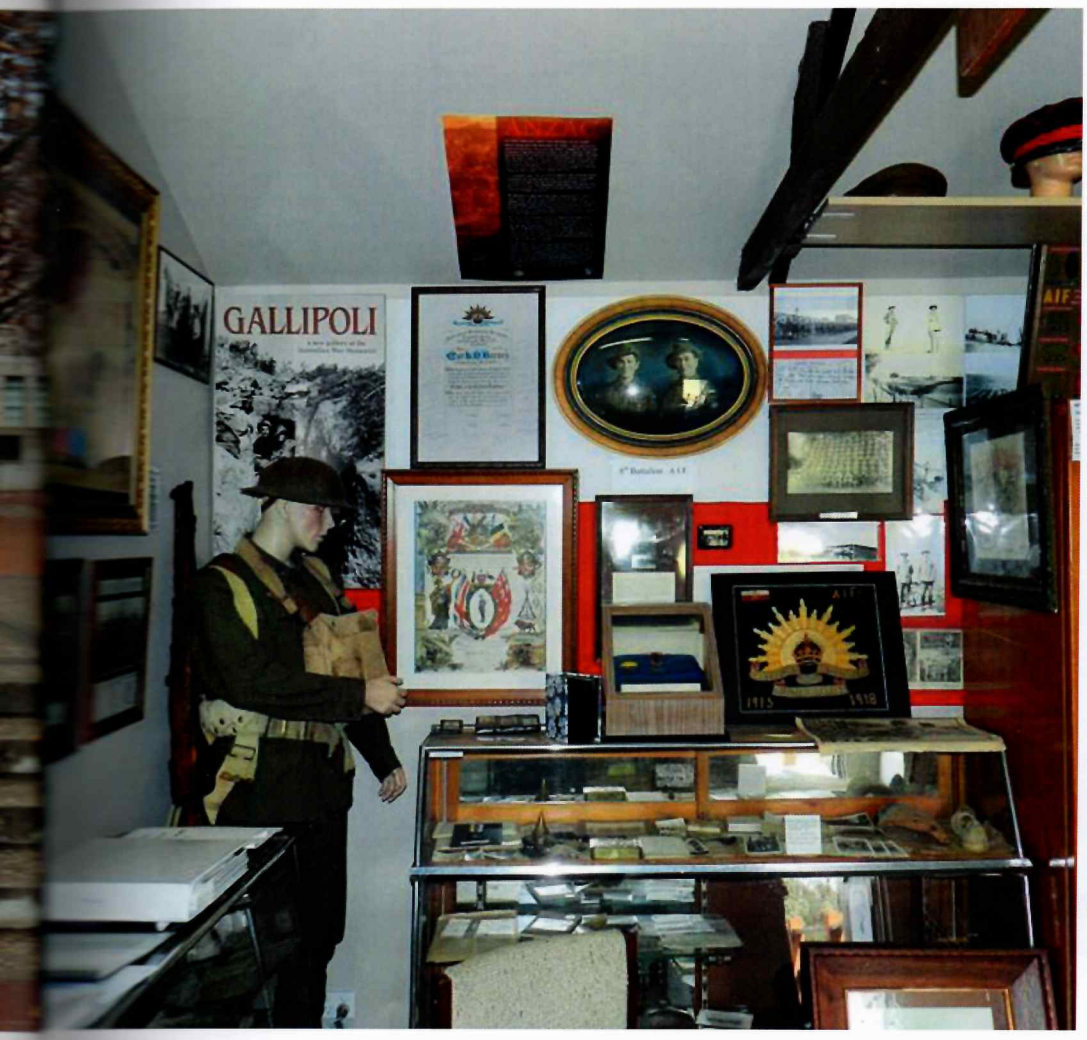
Gueudecourt November 1916
Rested after Pozières, 1st Anzac Corps returns to the Somme, making limited gains.

Reference:
http://www.ww1westernfront.gov.au/australian-remembrance-trail/where-australians-fought.php

ANZAC DAY AT GALLIPOLI
25 APRIL 2015

The former Executive Officer of 8/7 RVR, Maj Neil Leckie RFD (Ret'd), was fortunate to be able to attend the ANZAC Centenary at Gallipoli. He was the Military Historian with a group of travellers for Belmore Travel, Melbourne. After the Dawn Service on North Beach, the Australians walked up Artillery Road to Lone Pine for the Australian Service. The Kiwis walked further up the hill to Chunuk Bair for their service. After the Australian service, the two former members of 8/7 RVR got together for a chat. Monsignor Glynn Murphy, now the senior Catholic Priest in the Australian Army, commenced his Army career as a Reserve Chaplain in the early 1980s with the then 2 RVR in Ballarat. He joined the Regular Army a few years later and has been there ever since. The two are seen in the photograph below at Lone Pine. ■

Below: Monsignor Glynn Murphy and MAJ Neil Lecke RFD Ret'd, after the Lone Pine Ceremony on ANZAC Day at Gallipoli 25 April 2015



PTE Marie Yorston promoted and awarded Soldier's Medallion

T. Biedermann
Lieutenant Colonel
Commanding Officer
8th/7th Battalion RVR
01 September 2015

Private M. K. Yorston, Royal Australian Corps Transport, is awarded the Soldier's Medallion for Exemplary Service as a Private whilst posted to the 8th/7th Battalion, the Royal Victorian Regiment.

You are an efficient and conscientious soldier whose enthusiasm is reflected in the execution of your duties. Your diligent and tireless efforts as a member of the 8th/7th Battalion, the Royal Victorian Regiment have significantly contributed to the Unit's operational capability.

Your contributions and professionalism have been well above that normally expected of a Private soldier. You have selflessly made yourself available for many additional tasks, which you have executed to the highest standards. Your initiative, maturity and dedication have set a fine example for the soldiers of the 8th/7th Battalion, the Royal Victorian Regiment.

Your performance has been outstanding and in keeping with the finest traditions of the Royal Australian Corps Transport. Your dedicated application and determination has earned you high regard from your superiors and the respect of your peers. Your efforts have brought great credit upon yourself, your family, your Corps and the Australian Army.

18th COY Australian Army Service Corp AIF

Raised from Ballarat 30th August 1915

100 years ago in August 1915, Ballarat's Captain John Brazenor, Officer Commanding the 18th Company, Army Service Corps in Ballarat was asked to raise a Service Corps Company for the Australian Imperial Force.

The company would be named the 18th Company, Australian Army Service Corps (AIF). When the men boarded their ships in November 1915 to join the AIF in the Middle East, 51 of the 147 men listed came from the Ballarat District.

A special group within the 18th Company were known as 'The Ascot Boys'. The eight enlisted at the same time, with seven serving with the 18th Company for the duration of the war. They all returned to Australia, six being on the same ship. The eight were Ray Blight, Joe Fawcett, Harry Holmes, Jack Nase, Harold Reid, Les Sim, Gordon Spittle, and Les Walter.

The War Diary of the 18th Company, Australian Army Service Corps commences with an entry on 30th August 1915. John Brazenor was appointed as Captain and Officer Commanding 18th Coy AASC (AIF). Prior to the war Brazenor had served in the militia in Ballarat with the Victorian Mounted Rifles and 9th and 19th Light Horse, but on 1st July 1914 had transferred to the newly formed Ballarat unit 18th Coy AASC (CMF).

On 6th September 1915 Brazenor visited the Seymour Camp selecting men for the company. Brazenor moved to the Broadmeadows Camp on 22nd September, the day a draft of 23 men joined 18 AASC from the Seymour Camp. The company commenced setting up its Broadmeadows camp and on 3rd October undertook its first supply task when it opened a supply depot at the Williamstown Rifle Range.

The company began its embarkation for overseas on 5th November 1915 when part of the company boarded HMAT A41 Bakara with the remainder boarding the HMAT A11 Ascanius on 10th November.

The company reached Egypt in mid-December a week before the Gallipoli Campaign ended, and trained and operated in Egypt until embarking for France in late June 1916.

Several weeks later the Australian Imperial Force commenced a massive expansion. The Battalions of First Division's three brigades and Colonel John Monash's 4th Brigade, all having fought in the Gallipoli Campaign, would be split and along with the 8th Brigade would form the basis of two new Divisions, the 4th and 5th. The 3rd Division was being raised in Australia and would be sent directly to England for their training.

New divisions meant extra supporting units would be required. In May 1916 Brazenor would be promoted to Major and take some of the men of the 18th Company to form the 10th Company, AASC.

Six months after arriving in Egypt, the 18th Company embarked for the front, arriving in Marseilles in France in late June 1916. For the next two and a half years the company would travel around France and Belgium bringing the men in the front line food, water and ammunition and playing their part in the winning of the war. Many of the men would not return home until 1919.

As a large number of the 18th Company men came from Ballarat & District and as the number of the company was the Ballarat Militia company's number, Ballarat is proud to call the 18th Company Australian Army Service Corps its own. ■

Maj Neil Leckie RFD (Ret'd)
Museum Manager

Pictured Left Middle: Captain John Brazenor
Group photograph: Captain John Brazenor and some of the Ballarat & District members of 18 COY AASC.

8/7 RVR Ballarat determined to support Legacy

Ballarat Courier Sept. 4, 2015

Legacy Ballarat is urged residents to throw their support behind families of Defence personnel in the closing stages of Legacy Week.

Ballarat branch members continued to raise funds around the city on Saturday, September 5, which was also the last day of Legacy Week.

Legacy Week raises funds to support families of those who served Australia, with the annual appeal launch held at the Ballarat Town Hall trench room. "Those ideals of voluntary service, caring and mateship still continue in Legacy today," 2015 Legacy Week ambassador Lieutenant Colonel Tom Biedermann, member of Royal Victoria Regiment said. "War and service in the armed forces of a country is an intensely human endeavor with raw emotions and strong feelings of mateship, honour and sacrifice". ■

Reserve members from the 8/7th Royal Victoria Regiment, PTE Brett Tyter, Siobhan Williams and Dylan Shalles supporting the Legacy Week cause in Ballarat.

8/7 RVR Geelong raises Legacy up

Geelong Advertiser, 3 Sep 2015

Photos: MIKE DUGDALE

ABOUT 50 people gathered this week for a Legacy Week launch at Osborne House.

President Margaret Bethune said the Geelong branch helped support 16 adult dependants with disabilities, eight school-aged children and almost 1400 widows, with the total still growing due to commitment to recent military operations.

Support includes provision of financial help, accommodation, education support for children, respite for parents and carers, and companionship. ■

Glenys Smith, Warrant Officer Class 2 Lucas Hourigan, Private Jade Hayes and John Burton.

8/7 RVR Females Win ADF Nordic Biathlon

8/7 Women Win The Biathlon Sprint, Military Patrol & Classic Ski Awards

The ADF Biathlon and Nordic Competition was held in August 2015 at Mt Hotham, Victoria. It combined the independent disciplines of Nordic skiing and small bore sports rifle shooting into the challenging sport called Nordic Biathlon. Teams for each service conducted a training week followed by the championship.

For the first 4 days into the biathlon training, the 8/7 RVR females where introduced to the classical skiing technique and shooting the biathlon rifle. For most of us this was our first or second time skiing on snow, however under the watchful eye of our Army team coaches Mark Prudden and Terry Ramsey, we all picked up the skill of skiing (LCPL Challis began to develop her gliding technique very well) and shooting (PTE Williams excelling at standing position) rather quickly.

For the inter-service competition against Royal Australian Air Force and Royal Australian Navy we were spilt into two divisions; senior women - CPL Bubb and PTE Williams, and Novice women - LCPL Challis and PTE Kent, and competed in 5 events.

Our first event was the biathlon sprint which was a 5km course for seniors and 3km course for novices both with two shoots of prone and standing. The senior's course was technical and icy however PTE Williams came in at 6th place and CPL Bubb was not able to complete due to a technical malfunction of her rifle. In the novice category on a smoother course LCPL Challis came 3rd, CPL Bubb was given a second chance at handling the rifle and came 4th and PTE Kent came 5th.

The second biathlon event was a slightly longer course and consisted of four shoots. With the experience gained from the previous day we all managed to push our ranks up the leader board. Senior women's, CPL Bubb 2nd and PTE Williams 5th. Novice women's, LCPL Challis 1st and PTE Kent 4th.

The relay race consisted purely of skiing in a team of 3 over a 1km course, twice through. Both the senior and novice team skiing skills were smooth and prime as both teams took out first place.

The military patrol was a team building event which incorporated four shoots and four activity stations; navigation, shelter building/first aid, 'grenade' throwing and a communication/team task. Leading the senior women's team into first place was PTE Williams who displayed excellent shooting skills and CPL Bubb who has an excellent vortex "grenade' throwing arm. And leading the novice women's team to the top was LCPL Challis and PTE Kent who built a five star emergency shelter fit to withstand any snow storm.

To finish off the competition there was a 5km classical ski race. By this stage we were all at a very good standard of skiing with CPL Bubb coming in 1st and PTE Williams in 3rd for the senior women's. PTE Kent coming an amazing 1st and LCPL Challis coming in 3rd for the novices.

The women's team ended up winning all of the awards for the female side of the competition which included; biathlon sprint, military patrol (trophy is at BHQ) and classical ski (trophy is at BHQ). CPL Bubb competed in the senior category was still classified as a novice and won the best Army novice trophy which is also at BHQ.

These results could not have been achieved if we had not been fuelled by the best. PTE Dodd did a wonderful job at cooking for the 30 Army team members making sure our meals were not only nutritious and delicious, but also full of chocolate.

All the females conducted themselves very professionally throughout the trip. They put in a lot of effort to making sure they knew how to ski properly and if they didn't then secret sessions where done after hours to keep up to the same standard of other members who had been skiing longer than them. All three where tasked at some point with driving which they were happy to do.

LCPL Challis picked up skiing extremely quickly and in due course will have her skiing technique in tip top condition which will see her flying around the course next year.

PTE Williams was pushed up into the senior category which she was happy to do and displayed great shooting skills, beating seniors that have been in this category for a number of years.

PTE Kent displayed great skills in both skiing and shooting. She did a lot of extra skiing to improve her technique.

MAJ Cliff Gowers, 8/7 RVR XO congratulated the team on their return home. "I have heard nothing but excellent reports from MAJ Meehan and LTCOL Earl in regard to the teams conduct, professionalism and determination to win. The team has certainly put 8/7 RVR on the map" he said.

Plans have already been spoken about for next years competition. ■

CPL Tegan Bubb
C COY Clerk

ADF Nordic Ski and Biathlon competitors had their resilience tested as Mother Nature turned on extremes of wind driven snow during Exercise Cool Shot 2015. The annual competition held at Mount Hotham, Victoria, combines the independent disciplines of Nordic skiing and small bore sports rifle shooting into the challenging sport called Nordic Biathlon. Teams from each service conducted a training week followed by the championships.

1. CPL Tegan Bubb holding the best Army novice trophy which she won.
2. PTE Kent in the foreground perpares to fire at the ADF Nordic Ski and Biathlon competition.
3. The support team.
4. The women from 8/7 RVR Left: PTE Siobhan Willam; LCPL Jessica Challis; CPL Tegan Bubb; Darwin; PTE Mel Kent.
5. LC{PL Challis makes a dash on cross country skis.
6 and 7. Competitors make their way through the course during the ADF Nordic Ski and Biathlon competition. CPL Bubb is wearing the blue head scarf.
8, LCPL Challis at the firing range.
Competitors perpare to fire at the ADF Nordic Ski and Biathlon competition.

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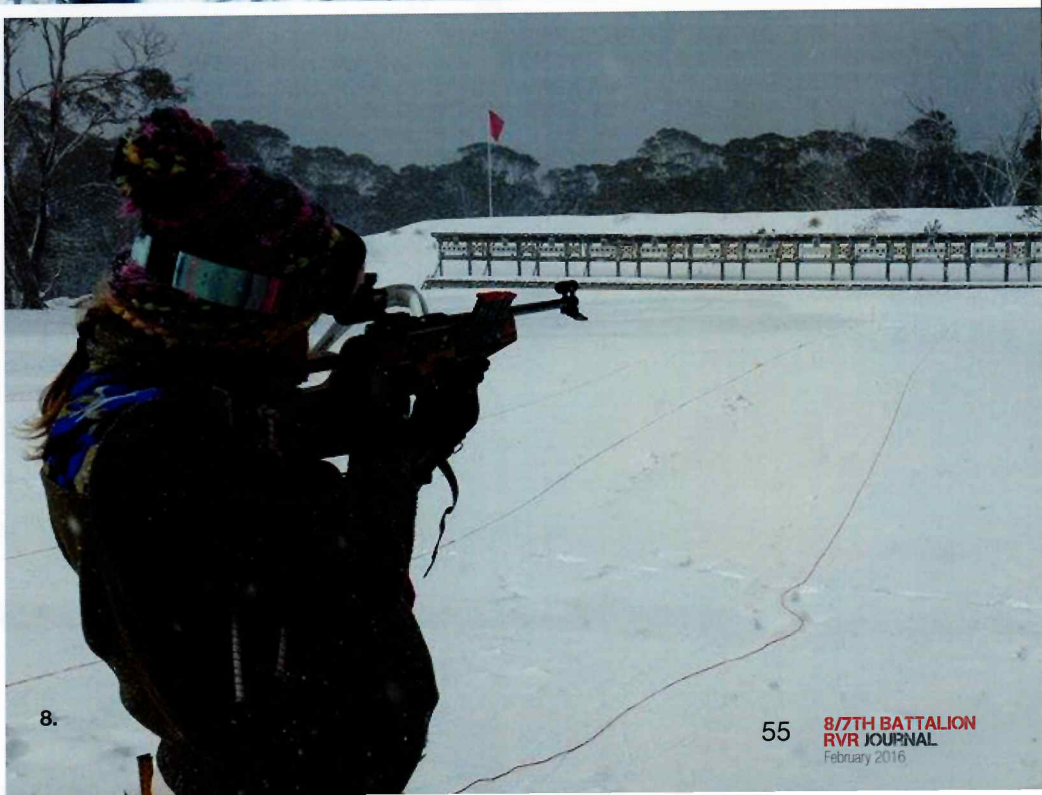

8.

Exercise Pozieres

BG fires up for Hamel

Australian Army soldiers from 4th and 9th Brigades combined in Victoria and South Australia for Exercise Pozieres 2015, a final training activity to confirm the operational readiness of the soldiers of Battle Group Jacka next year.

Exercise Pozieres 2015 was conducted from 17–25 October 2015 at Puckapunyal training area in northern Victoria and at RAAF Base Edinburgh, South Australia.

Soldiers from 4th and 9th Brigades took part in a series of range activities to ensure their readiness, including various tactical assault drills and live-fire range shoots of personal and section weapon systems, high-explosives munitions and grenades.

Battle Group Jacka was also supported by elements of 5th/6th Battalion, Royal Victoria Regiment, and mortar elements from 4th and 9th Brigades.

This was the second in a series of exercises aimed at preparing Battle Group Jacka for Exercise Hamel 16 and the road to ready. Soldiers from the 8/7th Royal Victorian Regiment took part in a series of range activities including the live firing of all section and personal weapon systems, the live firing of high explosive munitions in support of live fire attacks and the use of grenades through static and assault serials through the use of various range complexes throughout the Puckapunyal Training Area.

Members of a light battery of mortars from 4th and 9th Brigades also supported Exercise Chong Ju with 81mm mortar fire whilst completing their Mount Schanck assessment. ■

Photographs supplied by CPL Steve Duncan and SGT Hamish Paterson are subject to Australian Defence Force Copyright.

Fig 1. Front L-R: LT Zachary Pretty (A COY); LT Mathew Laxton with PTE Daniel Finlay (B COY) and LCPL Piotr Krupa from 8/7 RVR, pause to be briefed after a live-fire platoon attack.

Fig 2. LCPL Stewart Lennie from 8/7 RVR, takes part in a live-fire section attack training activity.

Fig 3, 4, 5 and 6. Private Trent Duffield from 8/7th RVR, takes part in a fire and movement.

Fig 9. Private Trent Duffield (right) from 8/7th Royal Victoria Regiment, takes part in a fire and movement practice.

Fig 7 - 8. Soldiers from 8/7th RVR.

Fig 9 - 10. Private Paul Barby from 8/7th Royal Victoria Regiment, takes part in a fire and movement practice as part of Exercise Pozieres 2015 at Puckapunyal training area in Victoria on 20 October 2015.

http://images.defence.gov.au/S20152976

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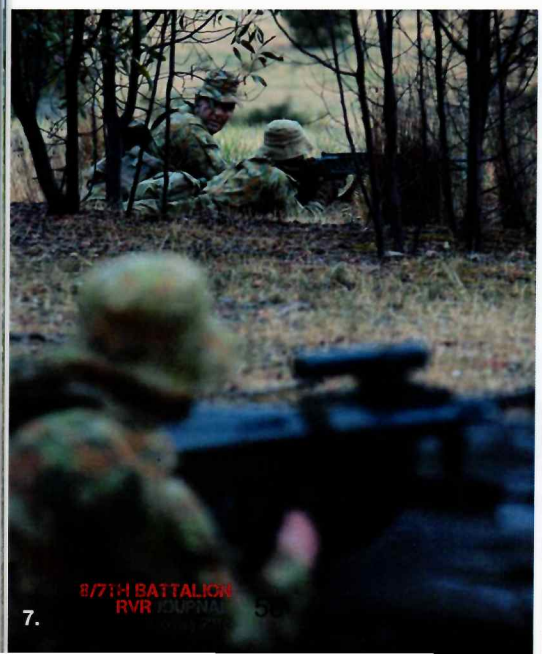

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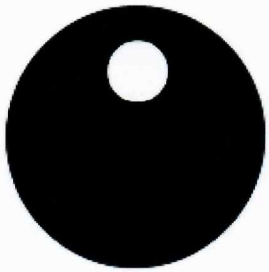
8/7 RVR LF6 & GRENADE

RANGE QUALIFICATION

EX POZIERES

PUCKUPUNYAL 2015



1. First range clearance of Exercise Pozieres 2015

2. Pte Simon Rawson shoots from the sitting position during LF6 for the F89.

3. Pte Robert Geddes shoots from the kneeling position during LF6.

4. LF6 100 meter target.

5. Pte Darcy Demason shoots from the kneeling position during LF6.

6. Pte Simon Rawson runs between throwing bays during an assault grenade practice.

7. Soldier from Bravo COY throws F1 from the kneeling bay during an assault grenade practice.

8. Pte Jack Tyter sprints to the throwing bay during an assault grenade practice.

9. Pte Jack Tyter throws the F3 practice grenade from the kneeling throwing bay during a assault grenade practice.

10. Cpl Michael Deutcher prepares to throw a F3 practice grenade during an assault grenade range practise.

11. Soldiers from Bravo COY move to the assault grenade range at Puckapunyal as part of Exercise Pozieres 2015

Photographs taken by 8/7RVR Bravo COY Pte M.J. Currie are subject to Australian Defence Force Copyright.

Swedish Longball Competition Results 2015

MONTH	Dargans	Juniors/Officers	Most Valued Player
Jan	45	43	CHIEF
Feb	34	30	STATON
March	56	32	CROSBIE
April	23	10	RSM
May	44	23	CREELMAN
June	55	34	CHIEF
July	23	19	STATON
Aug	44	23	PURCELL
Sept	38	33	POPS
Oct	48	41	KINCAID
Nov	40	10	STATON
Dec	55	12	DES

The Dargans may have won for the year but the Officers had the right of reply on their PAR's!

8.

11.

8/7 RVR Wins BDE Milskills

Back to Back Victory for CPL Craske and his team

It was back to back Brigade Milskills victories for CPL Craske and his team as 8/7 RVR competed in the Brigade Milskills activity held at Puckapunyal 06-08 NOV15 coordinated by 22ER.

This year it was a combination of both 4th Brigade teams and 9th Brigade teams with a total of nine teams. CPL Craske lead the team again and was backed up by some of the Battalions most experienced soldiers from all three Companies.

A COY
CPL Craske, PTE Mottram and PTE Jimenez;

B COY
LCPL Sullivan, PTE Brown, and PTE Tyrrell;

C COY
PTE Otten and PTE Norwood.

All had a specific role in the Section and were picked for that reason. The team formed during Ex Pozieres, spending some time shaking out and working on some section SOPs.

The team officially consolidated on 4th November and spent two days training at A Coy Laverton utilising the resources from 8/7 and the facilities on RAAF Base Williams.

They rehearsed scenarios that they thought would present themselves during the Milskills including water obstacle crossings and mine incident CASEVAC scenarios. Having the two days prior to the activity available greatly aided to the success of the preparation and up them in a good position to be competitive.

The Milskills scenarios were once again challenging and gave the section commanders alot to appreciate. Teamwork played an integral part of the activity and the 8/7 team demonstrated how soldiers from three different Companies can come together and adapt to most challenges.The initiative shown by all soldiers was a credit to their professionalism and in particular how they supported their section commander and gave him their unwavering commitment.

The scenarios included All Arms Call For Fire, mine incident CASEVAC, water obs crossing mil floatation, section attack, GMK, Kit Check, Comms stand, Night harbour, fighting withdrawal, and a live fire LF4.

CPL Craske's team had performed well on the Saturday by smashing all but two of the scenarios. Coming into day two they were poised to take out the competition and all they needed to do was shoot well in the Live Fire serials.

For Cpl Brent Craske, his message was clear: "Our goal was to win.... Everyone had a role to play in the exercise and they all performed to a high standard," he said. "It's clear that motivated soldiers can achieve high standards and the win is a credit to the determination of my section."

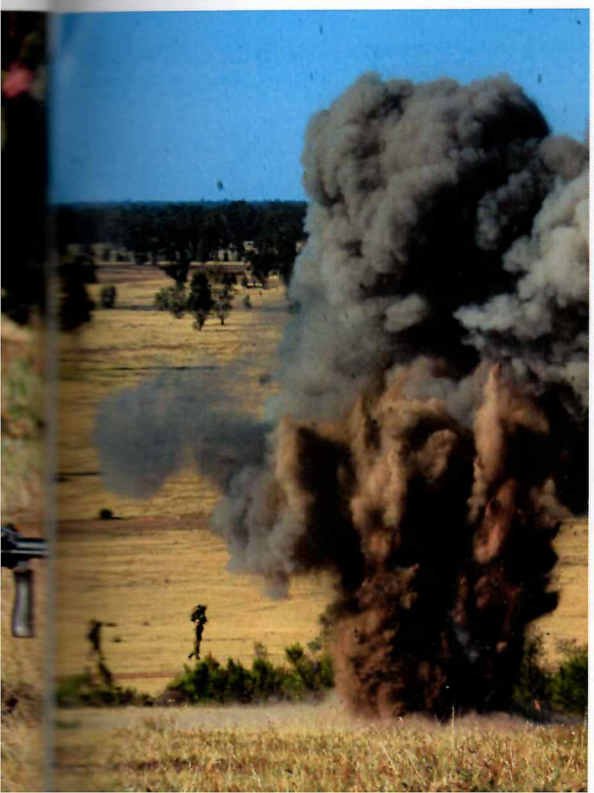
CO 8/7RVR Lt-Col Tom Biedermann said the win reflected the hard work of the section; it was a great achievement. "8/7RVR is drawn from across rural Victoria and with limited opportunities for them to work together as a section, their performance represents the desire necessary to win," he said.

5/6 RVR and 4 CSSB were close behind and it came down to the wire! The team shot slightly above average so they knew it was going to be close.

CPL Craske's team had done enough to get them over the line and they won the event! 4 CSSB came second and 5/6 finished third.

Thanks goes to the support staff:
TRG WO2 Hourigan, SGT Fitton, LCPL Horgan, LCPL Champion, PTE Demasson and PTE Gouldson. ■

CPL Brent Craske
Photos and quotes by OCdt Tim Sydenham



The 8th/7th Battalion, Royal Victoria Regiment (8/7 RVR) is an infantry battalion of the Australian Army. It is one of two battalions that make up the Royal Victoria Regiment (RVR), with its sister unit being 5th/6th Battalion, Royal Victoria Regiment.

History

It can trace its history back to 1854 and the battalion has existed since maintaining an unbroken record of service, albeit in varying forms and under various names. The present day unit traces its lineage from a number of previous units, including 8th Battalion (City of Ballarat Regiment), 59th Battalion (The Hume Regiment), 7th Battalion (The North and West Murray Regiment), and the 38th Battalion (The Northern Victoria Regiment).

Today the battalion is part of the 4th Brigade and is responsible for most of the rural areas of Victoria and protecting vital assets in the north of Australia. The battalion maintains an affiliation with the 5th/6th Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment, with whom many members of 8/7 RVR have undertaken periods of full-time service in recent times.

The Ballarat phase of the battalion's history was formed as the Ballarat Volunteer Rifle Regiment on 9 August 1858 as a result of the Crimean War, coupled with the withdrawal of the British Army in 1857. In the years between its formation and the outbreak of War in 1914, the battalion went through a series of name changes as follows:

- 1854 – Melbourne Volunteer Rifle Regt.
- 1858 – Ballarat Volunteer Rifle Regiment
- 1884 – 3rd Balarat Ballarat Infantry
- 1892 – 1st Battalion, 3rd Victorian Regiment
- 1898 – 3rd Battalion, Victoria Infantry Brigade
- 1901 – 3rd Battalion Infantry Brigade
- 1908 – 1st Battalion 7th Aust Infantry Regiment
- 1912 – 70th Battalion (Ballarat and Geelong)
- 1912 – 71st Battalion (City of Ballarat Regiment)

Further to the north the following evolution was taking place (encompassing the Bendigo, Castlemaine and Murray river areas):

- 1858 – Bendigo Rifle Regiment
- 1860 – Bendigo Volunteer Rifle Corps
- 1870 – Castlemaine Corps of Rifles
- 1872 – Mount Alexander Bn of Victorian Rifles
- 1883 – 4th Battalion of Infantry
- 1887 – 4th Mount Alexander Bn - Victorian Rifles
- 1893 – 2nd Battalion, 3rd Victorian Regiment
- 1898 – 4th Battalion, Victorian Infantry Brigade
- 1903 – 8th Australian Infantry Regiment
- 1908 – 1st Battalion, 8th Aust Infantry Regiment
- 1912 – 66th (Mount Alexander) Infantry

When war broke out in 1914, the 8th Battalion was recruited from the Ballarat and Ararat areas and the 7th Battalion from the North Western and Murray areas. Both battalions became well known and respected for their actions in the Gallipoli campaign and later in France, earning numerous Campaign and Battle honours, some of which are emblazoned on the Royal Victorian Regiments Colours, with the remainder being held in trust by the Regimental council.

After World War I, further restructuring took place in the Ballarat and North-Western Regions. At the outbreak of World War II in 1939, both the 8th and 7th Battalions were again raised, and the two battalions served alongside by side during the most significant campaigns and battles of that war.

Following World War II, the 8th and 7th Battalions were amalgamated to form the 8th/7th Battalion, the North Western Victorian Regiment. The battalion retained its name until 1960, when Pentropic Divisions were formed and the battalion became 2RVR, absorbing the 8th/7th, 38th and 59th Battalions.

The Regiment was formed in 1960 as a result of the amalgamation of all the Citizen Military Forces infantry battalions in Victoria. The regiment was formed in 1960 as the Victoria Regiment as part of the reorganisation of the Australian Army by the amalgamation of the six existing infantry regiments in Victoria:

- Victorian Scottish Regiment
- Royal Melbourne Regiment
- Melbourne Rifles
- North Western Victorian Regiment
- The Northern Victorian Regiment
- Hume Regiment

On 14 November 1987, the battalion was officially retitled the 8th/7th Battalion, The Royal Victoria Regiment. It has adopted the white (8th Battalion) and brown (7th Battalion) lanyard and wears the 8th Battalion colour patch (rectangle white over red). The Battalion Flag consists of the regimental badge on a diagonally split background of brown above white.

Current status

Activities and Equipment

The battalion usually parades from early February until mid December, taking part on parade nights (Tuesday 7:00 p.m. until 10:00 p.m.), with one weekend a month and a two-week continuous training exercise taking place throughout the year. There are several training periods per year, including several sub-unit (company) based exercises, normally run quarterly, and a range week, of which the battalion undertakes several days of weapon training. This compliments the 4th Brigade run Exercise Hamel at the Cultana training area in South Australia in September, allowing training in combined/support arms tactics, with access to the full resources of the entire Brigade.

The Battalion is light infantry based, and as such uses all the weapon platforms commonly found within an Australian infantry battalion, including the standard issue F88 Austeyr rifle (5.56 mm), F89 Minimi machine gun (5.56 mm), M72 Short Range Anti Armour Weapon (66 mm), M18A1 Claymore anti-personnel device, F1 & F3 Hand Grenades, MAG 58 machine gun (7.62 mm), 84 mm Carl Gustav rocket launcher, using the standard infantry battalion composition of four companies comprising three platoons, each containing a section of nine soldiers, with a support section held at company level.

Locations

8/7 RVR is located in the state of Victoria, with the following depots:

- BHQ, Ranger Barracks, Sturt Street, Ballarat
- CSSC, Ranger Barracks, Sturt Street, Ballarat
- A Coy HQ, Newland Barracks, Myers Street, Geelong
- B Coy, Ranger Barracks, Sturt Street, Ballarat
- C Coy, Passchendaele Barracks, Atlas Road, Bendigo

The battalion also has regional depots located at:

- Somme Barracks, Sobroan Street, Shepparton
- RAAF Williams, Kidbrook Road, Laverton
- Kiarivu Barracks, San Mateo Avenue, Mildura
- Messine Barracks, Gray Street, Swan Hill
- Tel el Eisa Barracks, Pertobe Road, Warrnambool
- Testing & proving ground, Melbourne-Lancefield Road, Monegeetta

Battle honours

The Royal Victoria Regiment has the enviable honour of having inherited the most battle honours of any other Infantry Regiment of the Australian Defence Force. 8/7 RVR currently holds the following battle honours:

- Boer War: South Africa 1899–1902.
- World War I: Landing at Anzac Cove, Somme 1916–1918, Bullecourt, Ypres 1917, Polygon Wood, Ameins, Albert 1918, Mont St Quentin, Hindenburg Line.
- World War II: Bardia 1941, Capture of Tobruk, El Alamein, Greece 1941, South West Pacific 1942–1945, Bobdubi, Finisterres, Hari River, Borneo.

Alliances

8th/7th Battalion, The Royal Victoria Regiment

- United Kingdom - The Mercian Regiment
- Canada - The Royal Regiment of Canada

NOMINAL ROLL

BATTALION HEAD QUARTERS

Ballarat

LTCOL Thomas Biedermann	CO
WO1 Michael J. Groves	RSM
MAJ Clifton N. Gowers	XO
MAJ John L. Spencer	OPSO
CHAP1 Andrew B. Grills	CHAP
CAPT Anton Glushko	ADJT
CAPT Nikola Dragojlovic	RAINF
CAPT Leon M. Holt	RA SIGS
CAPT David S. Pratt	RAAC
WO2 Nicholas G. J. Crosbie	RAINF
WO2 Troy D. Radbone	CH CLK
WO2 Brett Radcliffe	BN OPS
APS Geoffrey J. Pellow	CIVI
SGT Phillip J. McMillan	RAAOC
SGT Daniel J. Purcell	RAINF
CPL Andrew J. Chappell	RAAMC
CPL David P. Coulson	RAAOC
CPL Jacqueline D. Grant	RAAOC
CPL Paul J. Medwell	RAEME
PTE George C. Brown	RAAPC
PTE Michael J. Currie	RAAOC
PTE Hannah McFadden	AACC
APS Deanne L. Saunderson	CIVI

ADMIN COMPANY

Ballarat

MAJ Shane A. Armstrong	OC
CAPT Gregory A. Green	RAAOC
CAPT Melanie S. Van Twest	RAAMC
WO2 Mark K.W. Broemmer	AACC
WO2 Stuart N. Clancy	RAAOC
WO2 Robert J. Creelman	RAINF
WO2 David J. Nelson	RAINF
SGT Allan Kincaid	RAINF
CPL Darren N. Brown	RAAOC
CPL Glen M. Connor	RAAOC
CPL Nicholas D. Green	RAAMC
CPL Jeremy P. Johnson	RAAOC
CPL Michael J.A. Mallows	AACC
CPL Darren G. Walmsley	RACT
LCPL Jae G. Jeong	AACC
LCPL Adam C. Kent	RACT
LCPL Graeme J. Paizis	RAAOC
LCPL Marie K. Yorston	RACT
PTE Peter R. Brewer	RACT
PTE Jemma K. Deverell	RAAOC
PTE David H. Dwyer	RACT
PTE Laura L. Eales	RAAMC
PTE Neil I. Leviston	RACT
PTE Glenn D. Linane	RAAOC
PTE Jodie L. McGregor	AACC
PTE Matthew S. Watson	AACC
PTE Siobhan T. Williams	RACT
PTE Timothy R. Wilson	RACT
APS Martin G. Griggs	CIVI

Geelong

LCPL Jessica L. Challis	RACT
PTE Anthony D. Daborn	RACT
PTE Minh Q. Nguyen	RAAOC
PTE David M. Ollis	RACT

Laverton

PTE Lisa Edwards	AACC
PTE Stuart G. Ferguson	RAAOC
PTE Sally-Anne McNamara	RACT
PTE Benjamin J. Schmidt	RAAOC

Mildura

PTE Micah Elder	RACT
CFN Jaden Hopfner	RAEME

Shepparton

PTE Sharon G. Jaudzemis	RAAOC

Swan Hill

PTE Timothy R. Dunstan	RAAMC

Warrnambool

PTE Melanie J. Kent	RACT

ALPHA COMPANY

Geelong

MAJ	Adam L. Runciman	RAINF
MAJ	Geoffrey C. Traill	RAAChD
LT	Marko Djurovic	RAINF
LT	Alejandro Zambrano Perez	RAINF
WO2	John F. Digby	RAINF
WO2	Lucas J. Hourigan	RAINF
SGT	Katrina Almond	RAAOC
SGT	Dale E. Eeles	RAAOC
SGT	Rodney J. Spong	RAINF
CPL	Teska Cattell	RAAOC
CPL	Brent C. Craske	RAINF
CPL	Brendan J. Daniels	RAAOC
CPL	Drew A. Dinning	RAINF
CPL	Matthew J. Lynch	RAINF
CPL	Bonnie L. Robson	RAAOC
CPL	Daniel R. Towers	RAINF
CPL	Antonius L. Vidot	RAINF
LCPL	Christopher S. Champion	RAINF
LCPL	Alexander E. McDonald	RAINF
LCPL	Janiel D. Wojcieszak	RAINF
PTE	Paul A. Barby	RAINF
PTE	Blair W. Brookes	RAINF
PTE	Leigh W. Ciseau	RAINF
PTE	Nathan P. Crowe	RAINF
PTE	Trent A. Duffield	RAINF
PTE	Andrew P. Finlayson	RAINF
PTE	Byron T. Gallagher	RAINF
PTE	Jacob M. Gleeson	RAINF
PTE	Bryce E. Gouldson	RAINF
PTE	James M. Harmer	RAINF
PTE	Zane N. Hauser	RAINF
PTE	Jade A. Hayes	RAAOC
PTE	Tyson A. Hore	RAINF
PTE	Zachary A.C. Inchley	RAINF
PTE	Scott Kitchell	RAINF
PTE	James P. Langedyk	RAINF
PTE	Joshua C. Lawson	RAINF
PTE	Brandon N. Levy	RAINF
PTE	James R. Lowman	RAINF
PTE	Alexander J. Maloney	RAINF
PTE	Martin Markovski	RAINF
PTE	Sam J. McKenzie	RAINF
PTE	Hamish D. McMaster	RAINF
PTE	Stewart I. Middleton	RAINF
PTE	Melissa Mortimer	RAAOC
PTE	Matthew J. Mullins	RAINF
PTE	Jarryd G. Smith	RAINF
PTE	Judd D. Smith	RAINF
PTE	Shane L. Stretton	RAINF
PTE	Garth R. Studham	RAINF
PTE	Sherman S. Taylor	RAINF
PTE	Ben M. Thompson	RAINF
PTE	Jamie L. Watts	RAINF
PTE	Craig E. White	RAINF
PTE	Jack A.D. Wille	RAINF
PTE	Rohan T. Wills	RAINF
PTE	Geoffrey Young	RAINF

Laverton

LT	Francis T. Dignam	RAINF
LT	Zachary J. Pretty	RAINF
SGT	Nicholas G. Arundell	RAINF
SGT	Glenn M. Scott	RAINF
CPL	Wayne M. Beales	RAINF
CPL	Thomas R.J. Butterworth	RAINF
CPL	Colin J.S. Corbett	RAINF
CPL	Bret K. Dvoracek	RAINF
CPL	Jareth T. Merriman	RAINF
LCPL	Piotr Krupa	RAINF
LCPL	Stewart C. Lennie	RAINF
LCPL	Dale Rohkamper	RAINF
LCPL	Amanda Simovska	RAAOC
PTE	Ali A. Baker	RAINF
PTE	Scott P. Balshaw	RAINF
PTE	Justin P. Barber	RAINF
PTE	Luke C. Barber	RAINF
PTE	Paulo A. Belardo	RAINF
PTE	Mark R. Bruce	RAINF
PTE	Christopher J. Caddy	RAINF
PTE	Matthew Carlisle	RAINF
PTE	Marion K. Celestino	RAINF
PTE	Samuel G. Convey	RAINF
PTE	Liam F. Cook	RAINF
PTE	Paul Dang	RAINF
PTE	Peter J. De Vos	RAINF
PTE	Timothy A. Douglas	RAINF
PTE	Brandy F. Ebeyer	RAINF
PTE	Patrick Gashi	RAINF
PTE	Daniel P. Gorell	RAINF
PTE	Michael J. Greenwood	RAINF
PTE	Steven D. Hadley	RAINF
PTE	Jordan I.D. Hendrickson	RAINF
PTE	Samuel Ichim	RAINF
PTE	Bob J. Jimenez	RAINF
PTE	William O. Kavanagh-Ryan	RAINF
PTE	Tony Lay	RAINF
PTE	Christopher S. Lourey	RAINF
PTE	Justin K. Ludeman	RAINF
PTE	Ryan F. Marsden-Smith	RAINF
PTE	Isacc J. Mauro	RAINF
PTE	Jamie J. McAlindon	RAINF
PTE	Brayden L. McGuiness	RAINF
PTE	Brent Mottram	RAINF
PTE	Harvey T. Nguyen	RAINF
PTE	Phillip M.K. Nguyen	RAINF
PTE	Henry M. Ore Fernandez	RAINF
PTE	Andrew Pham	RAINF
PTE	Krisneil W. Pillay	RAINF
PTE	Julien L.D. Reid	RAINF
PTE	Angelo C. Rodriguez	RAINF
PTE	Shane L. Ross	RAINF
PTE	John F. Webb	RAINF
PTE	Dale A. Wilde	RAINF
PTE	Stephen J. Wills	RAINF
PTE	David S.W. Wyllie	RAINF

BRAVO COMPANY

Ballarat

LT	Nicholas G. Boak	RAINF
LT	Robert W. Powell	RAINF
WO2	Simon M. Staton	RAINF
SGT	Trevor C. Beales	RAAOC
SGT	Sean Fitton	RAINF
CPL	Sarah F. Hiller	RAAOC
CPL	Adam T. Kelly	RAINF
CPL	Luke S. McGregor	RAINF
CPL	Ricky J. Ward	RAINF
LCPL	George C. Coltman	RAINF
LCPL	Daniel N. Horgan	RAINF
LCPL	Liam J. Sullivan	RAINF
PTE	Shaun C. Brown	RAINF
PTE	Benjamin C. Dawson	RAINF
PTE	Darcy G. Demasson	RAINF
PTE	Robert J.W. Geddes	RAINF
PTE	Evan B. Ipsen	RAINF
PTE	Peter L. Jory	RAINF
PTE	Joel A. King	RAINF
PTE	Damien M. Knight	RAINF
PTE	Scott M. McMillan	RAINF
PTE	Zachary R. Petrie	RAINF
PTE	Robert W. Pratt	RAINF
PTE	Simon A. Rawson	RAINF
PTE	Naythan J. Screaton	RAINF
PTE	Dylan C. Shalless	RAINF
PTE	Darroch W. Snook	RAINF
PTE	Jack A. Terrill	RAINF
PTE	Brett O.J. Tyter	RAINF
PTE	James D. Whitfield	RAINF

Monegeetta

SGT	Lance W. Condon	RAINF
CPL	Michael E. Deutscher	RAINF
PTE	Patrick C.H. Aulich	RAINF
PTE	Scott Boyd	RAINF
PTE	Gary F. Callaghan	RAINF
PTE	Orazio V. Campanale	RAINF
PTE	Jacob R. De Marchi	RAINF
PTE	Broderic B. Doneski	RAINF
PTE	Matthew P. Gregory	RAINF
PTE	Martin L. Jennings	RAINF
PTE	Cameron A. Johnson	RAINF
PTE	Tristan S. Russell	RAINF
PTE	Jason M. Shannon	RAINF
PTE	Nicholas J. Sheppard	RAINF
PTE	James F. Simpson	RAINF
PTE	Jack Slipper	RAINF
PTE	Juan P.J. Zuleta-Arias	RAINF

Warrnambool

LT	Matthew J. Laxton	RAINF
SGT	Warren L. Gaunt	RAINF
CPL	Joshua R. Petering	RAINF
CPL	Warrick J. Petering	RAINF
PTE	Benjamin J. Bowman	RAINF
PTE	Brayden A. Buchanan	RAINF
PTE	Samuel B. Crimmin	RAINF
PTE	Daniel E. Finlay	RAINF
PTE	Alexander P. Moore	RAINF
PTE	Eric P. Mibus	RAINF
PTE	Robert L.S. Orwin	RAINF
PTE	Anthony R. Pimblett	RAINF
PTE	Matthew W.J. Robinson	RAINF
PTE	Mischelle M. Star	RAAOC
PTE	Jonathan W. Walther	RAINF
PTE	Dale P. Wilson-Rea	RAINF
PTE	Reece Woods	RAINF

CHARLIE COMPANY

Bendigo

LT	Damian F. Coates	RAINF
WO2	John P. Blanchard	RAINF
SSGT	Michael T. Wakeling	RAAOC
CPL	Tegan L. Bubb	RAAOC
CPL	Matthew N. Hammond	RAAOC
LCPL	Nedeljko Jovanovic	RAAOC
LCPL	Peter B. MacUmber	RAINF
LCPL	Samuel J. Malone	RAINF
LCPL	Robert E. Trewartha	RAINF
LCPL	Christopher S. Tucci	RAINF
PTE	Maxwell J. Bailey	RAINF
PTE	Vincent W. Benaim	RAINF
PTE	Benjamin J. D'Rosario	RAINF
PTE	Stephen J. Everton	RAINF
PTE	Michael P. Francis	RAINF
PTE	Trent J. Goodman	RAINF
PTE	Jay C. Hoggins	RAINF
PTE	Matthew R. Kirby	RAE
PTE	Caleb N. Maxwell	RAINF
PTE	Matthew J. McClure	RAINF
PTE	Armando A.R. Oliver	RAINF
PTE	Nicholas Otten	RAINF
PTE	William J. Paffrath	RAINF
PTE	Joseph B. Piccolo	RAINF
PTE	Ridge F. Poyser	RAAOC
PTE	Darcy J.W. Ross	RAINF
PTE	Jack H. Schenk	RAINF
PTE	Alex J. Scott	RAINF
PTE	Bradley S. Tyrrell	RAINF
PTE	Jonathan D. Williams	RAINF

Mildura

CAPT	Edward P. Guinea	RAINF
CPL	Scott W. Connor	RAINF
PTE	Allan Blanch	RAINF
PTE	Alistair J. Cameron	RAINF
PTE	John C. Clark	RAINF
PTE	Leigh B. Foster	RAINF
PTE	Christopher P.J. Hart	RAINF
PTE	Michael P. Hickey	RAINF
PTE	Shane G. Howison	RAINF
PTE	Grant G. McCabe	RAINF
PTE	Jaide B. Paynting	RAINF
PTE	James M. Smith	RAINF

Shepparton

SSGT	Ivan J. Solomano	AUST INT
SGT	Roger S. Derrick	RAINF
CPL	Daniel S. Baker	RAINF
CPL	Timothy J. Moore	RAINF
CPL	David G. Simmons	RAINF
LCPL	Braden N. Wright	RAINF
PTE	Matthew W. Adams	RAINF
PTE	Bradley P. Armstrong	RAINF
PTE	Johnathon R. Barrow	RAINF
PTE	Jacob B. Elliot	RAINF
PTE	Matthew G. Kearney	RAINF
PTE	Dale A. Norwood	RAINF
PTE	Nicholas P. Robinson	RAINF
PTE	Jacob A. Sinclair	RAINF
PTE	Tyler P. Stagg	RAINF
PTE	Daniel P. Taylor	RAINF
PTE	Andrew J. Walsh	RAINF
PTE	Shaun A. Young	RAINF
PTE	Michael J. McDowell	RAINF
PTE	Joel B. Peterson	RAINF

Swan Hill

SGT	David J. Logan	RAINF
PTE	Matthew J. Batten	RAINF
PTE	Kevin P. Churchus	RAINF
PTE	Luke C. Dear	RAINF
PTE	Dahle M. Jobling	RAINF
PTE	Jamie J. Lewis	RAINF
PTE	Christopher J. O'Flaherty	RAINF

VICTORIA