



**8th/7th Battalion
The Royal Victoria Regiment**

CELER ET AUDAX / CEDE NULLIS



The Ranger

The Annual Journal of 8th/7th Battalion
The Royal Victoria Regiment

2016 Edition

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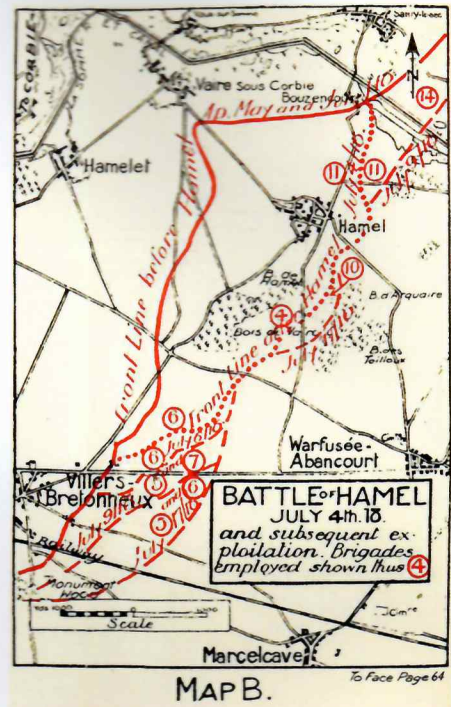
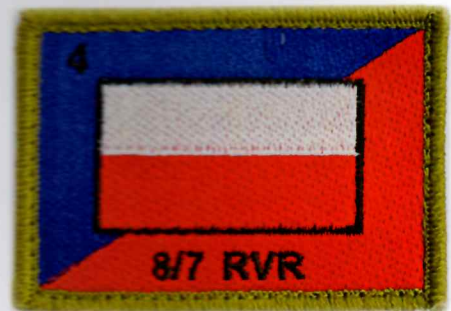
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Contributions are always welcome. Articles should be approximately 700 words, submitted in Microsoft Word format and be accompanied by high-resolution, digital photographs in JPEG format.

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Address by the Commanding Officer

It has been an honour to serve as your Commanding Officer in 2016. Thanks to the contributors to this edition of The Ranger Magazine, your efforts are appreciated.

8/7 RVR has had an outstanding year. Across our Corps and soldier skills, our Unit capability generation requirements and our community engagement efforts, I am left with a real feeling of satisfaction that 8/7 RVR finished what we started in 2014 and proved ourselves on Exercise Hamel 16 (Ex Hamel). Ex Hamel was the culmination of 3 solid and hard years of preparation and I value the commitment which you have given to Battle Group Jacka (BG Jacka). 8/7 RVR provided a rifle company and BG Jacka Headquarters on a number of major 1st Brigade exercises this year, not only Ex Hamel. In July, 8/7 RVR also committed the Unit Colours and supporting staff to the 100th Anniversary commemorations of battles on the Western Front especially the Battle of Fromelles. We have also served the nation by providing support to the community across Western Victoria including ANZAC and Remembrance Days, Legacy Week, RSL events and local events.

It has been great to promote soldiers this year to LCPL or CPL and it is also excellent to see an increasing number of people join the Army and the Unit.

Whilst 8/7 RVR does outstanding work on all our tasks, we do need to continue to grow our people either by enlistment, Recruit and Initial Employment Training or leadership and promotion courses.

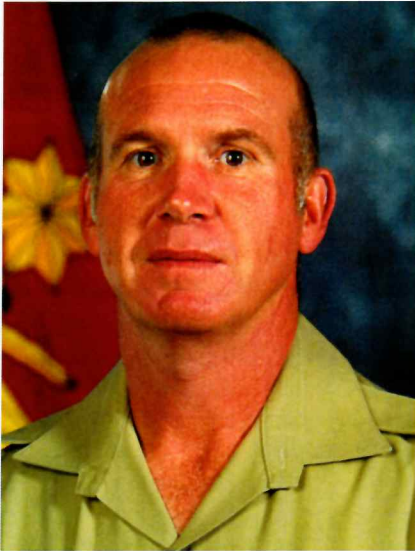
The focus of 8/7 RVR's individual and team training has been on providing force elements at the right training level for employment in BG Jacka. BG Jacka, an Infantry Battle Group, is drawn from Units across 4 and 9 Brigades. BG Jacka provides rear area security to 1st Brigade. 8/7 RVR provides the command structure, operations, personnel and signals principal staff and a rifle company to BG Jacka. Unit training is configured to provide soldiers at the right level of training to perform these roles. In 2016, most soldiers in 8/7 RVR were on Exercise Predators Gallop and Ex Hamel. Company and Battalion Headquarters were additionally exercised on Exercise Pozieres Prelude and Exercise Silicon Predator. BG Jacka received a high level of praise from the Forces Commander, Commanders 1 and 2 Divisions and Commanders 1, 4 and 9 Brigades following Ex Hamel.

Arising from the value of our contribution and preparation this year have been a number of operational and exercise deployments including Rifle Company Butterworth and Transit Security Elements. There promises to be more opportunities for individual and team deployments in 2017 as well.

Since this is my final year in 8/7 RVR, I would like to thank you for your service. You have all given me some lasting memories and I am very pleased that we worked together as a team and achieved something great. I am pleased to see the level of focus we have been able to generate and I also like seeing soldiers enjoying their soldiering.

I would like to wish you and your families the best for Christmas and the New Year and good luck in 2017. ■

Thomas Biedermann
Lieutenant Colonel
Commanding Officer
8th/7th Battalion, The Royal Victoria Regiment



RSM's Foreword

2016 was always going to be a busy year for the Battalion. Not only was the Battalion expected to continue with the Force Generation Cycle, it was also the lead for the Reinforcing Battle Group, "Battle Group Jacka". This placed an incredible burden on soldiers and their families. On top of the compulsory force preservation training and directed training for the Battalion to maintain capability to the Australian Army, there were a number of directed support tasks to RMC-D, MUR and Special Forces just to name a few. I can proudly say that all members that supported these tasks performed an outstanding job and brought credit to the Battalion and yourselves.

I would like to highlight a few members and cells in particular. CPL Michael Deutscher, for his exemplary performance as Section Commander and his unwavering professionalism, for which he was awarded the Soldiers Medallion for Exemplary Service. CPL Daniel Towers, for his skills, knowledge and attributes as the Battalions Signals Detachment Commander and his performance as a Junior Non-commissioned Officer. I would like to personally thank the Battalions S1-Orderly Room for their performance during the year. Their ability to be pro-

active to the units administrative and clerical requirements and individuals personal administration needs, has been beyond reproach. Special mention must go out to SGT Jacob Holl for his dedicated loyalty and service in the orderly room.

I am proud to say that the Officers and Soldiers of the Battalion have professionally stood shoulder to shoulder with your Regular Army brothers and sisters. This was highlighted during Exercise Predators Gallop and Exercise Hamel 2016. The praise and accolades from all Commanders that observed the professional conduct was humbling.

However, with this said, I suggest there is always room for improvement and we mustn't rest on our achievements. I ask that everyone is brilliant at the basics and everyone to display professional mastery. We must take every opportunity to improve ourselves and our teams. All members, regardless of Corps, must maintain their readiness and proficiencies. I remind you of the Army Mission Statement that is pertinent to us all; To provide a potent, versatile and modern Army to promote the security of Australia and to protect its people and interests.

Growing up in country Victoria, it is an absolute honour to be the Regimental Sergeant Major of 8th/7th Battalion, the Royal Victoria Regiment. "Country Victoria's Own". The Battalion has achieved noteworthy mentions this year, and you should all be proud for having contributed to this in some small or big way. I wish you and your families all the best for Christmas 2016 and I look forward to an even bigger and better 2017. ■

CELER ET AUDAX/CEDE NULLIS

Barry Fawcett
Regimental Sergeant Major
8th/7th Battalion, The Royal Victoria Regiment

Chaplain's Reflection



Returning to 8/7 RVR for 18 months; after supporting OP ANODE 22 Rear Details back in 2010; has been a real pleasure. The highlight of the year for me has been spending 2 weeks with 700 Reservists from around Australia forming Battle Group JACKA on EXERCISE HAMEL at Cultana in South Australia.

I had seen photos on Facebook of the Cultana Training Area under water so I was anxious about sleeping conditions; there was a direction from 1 BDE – no swags. So coming from 10 FSB; where I had a double pallet of tents, cam nets, stretchers and cooking equipment; to a Light Infantry Head Quarters where I could only take what I could carry on my back, was a challenge.

The first two nights were spent on an exposed escarpment behind Camp El Alamein; with heavy rain and 40 knot winds. Sleeping on a hutchie line we were sheeted up like the America's Cup with pegs blown out and hutchies flapping like sails. We woke up wet and cold, but were determined to say that "morale was high". The CO said to harden up, as we had only just arrived and 5 RAR had been on the exercise for 6 weeks and were still eagerly kicking goals.

The terrain and conditions took a few days to get used to. Fingers started splitting with the sandy desert soil. Digging a shell scrape was relatively easy though signs of large burrowing spiders in the gun pits meant I was reluctant to sleep below ground as some did. Being Light Infantry meant that all Battle Group Staff, Chaplain included, pitched in to set up the BG HQ's CP. Supporting soldiers digging pits was a good opportunity to affect morale. Sourcing shovels from the Q's made work easier. Getting around the perimeter of the Battle Group visiting soldiers on defensive positions provided ample opportunity to engage with members pastorally and I was delighted to be able to talk with a number at a significant level. Soldiers are very open to discussing their relationships and their values out field and that's something I really appreciate.

The HQ Staff were a pleasure to work with. The S1 Cell helped facilitate chaplaincy support to the Battle Group. I was pleased to be able to visit members who had been admitted overnight to Hospital following a vehicle tip over; and to return with them, following their check up, to their section at Joint Fires Command Centre remotely located in East Cultana.

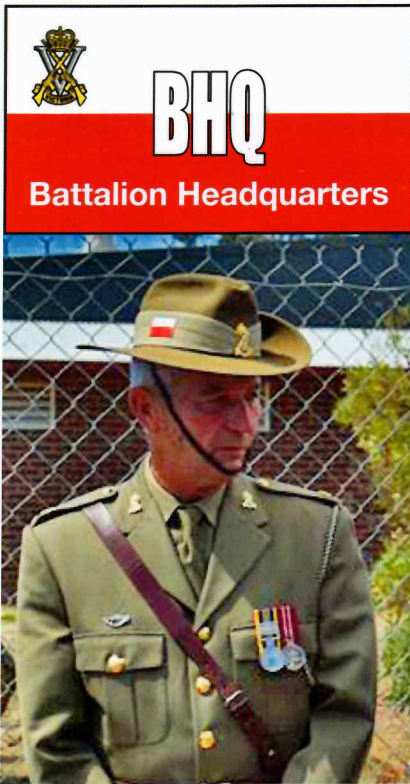
I enjoyed a number of opportunities to get around the AO and take part in a range of activities, such as role playing with a CIMIC IDP Camp at Roopena, supporting "refugees"; which lead to a number of significant pastoral conversations; a small Sunday service and prayer with a group of soldiers from Enoggera who were role playing Christian refugees. The main service for the BG was very well attended and I discovered later that one of the TRG WO's had been around the perimeter announcing that the service was on; thankyou Lucas.

The exercise was an excellent opportunity to provide Chaplaincy support to BG JACKA and its attached elements. I had some wonderful Holy Spirit moments which came when I least expected them. I managed to catch up with some Chaplains from Darwin whom I have known for years and I enjoyed a sense, many times, of being in the right place at the right time. Mind you I slept for two days when I got home.

As I post out to 8/9 RAR at the end of the year I particularly want to thank LTCOL Tom Biedermann for his encouragement and engagement. He has been very mindful of members welfare and facilitated Chaplaincy support to the Battalion in a way that demonstrated his own personal faith and an understanding of the unique role Chaplains have in Army.

As the year draws to a close I trust that you will all continue to serve in a way that reflects the values we seek to uphold. May you know God's blessing in your lives and may you enjoy a safe and happy Christmas / New Year with family and friends. ■

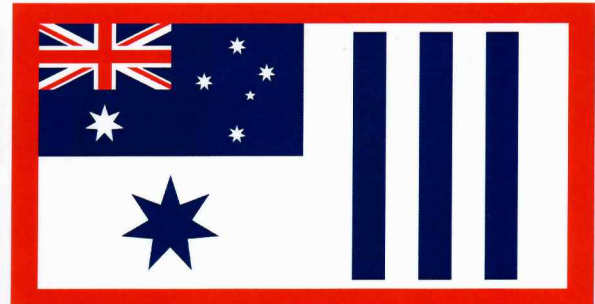
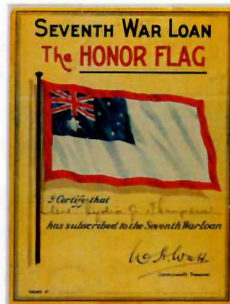
Geoffrey Traill
Chaplain
8th/7th Battalion, The Royal Victoria Regiment



Headquarters and Company Reports

The Australian Honour Flag is a special Australian flag that was created by the Commonwealth Government as a result of World War 1. It consists of a white flag, with the national flag in canton, a large 7-pointed star, and three blue vertical bars, with a red border overall.

Towns and districts in Australia which subscribed twice their quota of funds to the Commonwealth Government's Seventh War Loan were presented with the Honour Flag. Individual contributors were awarded a certificate known as a House Badge, which featured an illustration of the Honour Flag without the bars and star.



S1 XO

During this year I have been busy both at my CASG job and here at Ballarat. Each week I never fail to be amused by the financial constraints within as Reserve Unit compared to the wider ADF and for the amount of work I see and know that is being conducted by 8/7 RVR, the Battalion is certainly doing more with less and still delivers capability to meet our Commanders intent. How we do it I don't know but we seem to do it better than most other Units.

This year has been relatively quiet except for the governance aspects to keep the Battalion moving. I have managed to keep afloat but time is the main pressure in achieving all that I want to achieve. The Battalion as a whole still suffers from experience with Sentinel and those little aspects of WHS. I hope to improve the Battalion awareness in these areas during 2017.

I also managed to get to Darwin (yes the CO actually let me out!) to attend EX Silicon Predator which was a major part in the lead up training to EX Hamel 16 with other BHQ appointments. It was also pleasing to have some warmth and sunshine away from Ballarat. The exercise was low key for Battalion staff but was a continuation of integration with 1 Bde. The Exercise proved invaluable as to how the Battle Management System (BMS) operated and how DG Jacka integrated within an ARA Brigade setting. The Exercise also gave creditability to BG Jacka with their operating procedures and CP process, which was surprising compared to a high tempo well drilled Unit such as 1 Bde. Ex Silicon Predator was the prelude in planning prior to Ex Hamel 16 which many of you attended. I also enjoyed the early morning guided tours of Darwin and coffee's at Macca's with the RSM.

In July I saw my son Jake enter RMC as a Staff Cadet so look out there will be three of us on the DRN and two of them are me. After we do the photo thing next year in uniform I think it's time to be calling it quits. I certainly do not want to be a human exhibit in the Unit museum and I certainly want to experience what a civilian feels like.

In line with numerous 100th anniversaries and ceremonial activities being conducted in regard to World War 1, and to show one of the methods used to support Diggers during the war I have included some small detail in regard to the history of the Australian Honour Flag that was produced near the end of the War. I would hate to think which towns were not presented one of these rare flags.

Good luck and farewell to those getting posted and I wish everyone well for Christmas and I will see you all next year. ■

MAJ CLIFF GOWERS
XO | 8/7 RVR



WO2 James Stewart with SGT Daniel Purcell and OPSO MAJ John Spencer on BG JACKA at Cultana Training Area during EX PRED GALLOP 16

S3 OPS CELL

2016 Saw a change in OPSWO within the OPS Cell; out with the ugly WO2 Crosbie; in with the handsome and sophisticated WO2 Stewart (as stated by the OPSWO).

The year started at a run with the OPS Cell leading the charge on the Road to Hamel 16. Beginning with Force preservation training at RAAF Willams, Laverton. WO2 Creelman was a highlight providing a lesson on drugs and alcohol. He was detailed in his examples; colourful in his language and very entertaining.

The first big hit out for the OPS Cell was the HQ for BG Jacka on the 4/9 BDE CP EX at Puckapunyal. The activity was conducted by a 2 DIV Collective Training Team supported by 4 and 9 BDE staff. As always it was fun for all. It was a good chance to shake out before 1 BDE's EX Predators Gallop. The highlight of the CPX was LT Powell turning up for the activity Top Gun Style, on his motorbike wearing a bomber jacket and a pair of aviators with the song danger zone playing in the background. When stopped and questioned by the OPS Staff, he stated that he had trouble locating the car park. He was then provided with a nav refresher by the OPS Staff. The OPSO had had enough of the activity by Sunday and left to attend the 1 BDE RECON of Cultana (CUTA), SA for EX Predators Gallop. CUTA is Puckapunyal without the trees.

The next and last activity for the OPS Team as part of BG Jacka before EX HAMEL 16 was EX Predators Gallop, a 1 BDE lead EX at Sunny CUTA. This EX was the first time that BG Jacka deployed to the field as part of 1 BDE. The key to the EX was integration with 1 BDE. This occurred through CTA (5/6 RVR) working with 1 CSSB at the 1 BDE Maintenance Area (MBA) providing security, CT B (9 BDE) conducting mounted in PMV patrols and AO security and CT C (8/7 RVR) conducting dismounted patrols and AO security and provided a mounted PL to 5 RAR. Admin Coy supported the BG and 1 CSSB, Engineers worked with 1 CES conducting construct tasks and supporting clearance tasks. The Cav Scout were detached to 1 AR and CAV PMVs supported BG Jacka and 5 RAR. Elements of 1 BDE also integrated into BG Jacka including CAV, SIG and other FE to enhance to activity.

The EX went well with extensive opportunities for BG Jacka pers to work with 1 BDE and although it was a Dust Bowl the attendance by BG Jacka and the activities achieved were excellent and greatly enhance the credibility of BG Jacka within 1 BDE and 2 DIV.

The OPS Cell continued along the Road to Hamel through several training weekends and activities:

- APR TRG W/E HMAS Cerberus, LFX, very good facilities for navy.
- May HE Ranges - Massive storm, Good turnout and Rectify a few shortfalls.
- EX Silicon Predator HQ Darwin, 1 BDE CPX, Key BG Jacka HQ staff, bloody hot and wet.
- MAY TRG W/ E Ballarat Aerodrome, Great Cordon and Search activity supported by 22 ER. WO2 Bob Creelman established his militia.
- JUN TRG W/E Shakeout Activity, last chance before EX Hamel 16 to conduct CP and CT preparations.

EX HAMEL 16. The event we had all been working towards had arrived. The OPS Cell was in overdrive in the last few weeks leading up to the EX. Finally the day came and BG JACKA was on the move from three states and 19 units. The usual issues occurred getting over 700 pers kitted up and into the field however with the OPS Cell leading the push we managed to get on the ground in CUTA and of course it was raining and freezing cold even for the team from TAS.

The EX was a highlight for all participants with integration being the main effort. At one time during the EX the BG HQ only had one section providing security as all other call signs had been tasked across the AO as part of the over 8000 pers from several nations operation in the EX.

BG Jacka managed to more than hold its own being the largest unit in the AO and supporting a plethora of tasks. Although the OPS Cell were



During EX HAMEL 16 the OPSO MAJ John Spencer was targeted in an ambush and was laid out in a shell scrape until the battle ended.

flat out some decisions were made such as what to eat as we only had E Ration packs for the duration. A black market was established in Admin Coy after a few H ration packs were located on a palate however as Admin Coy found it easier to count them in one location they were not issued.

The EX was progressing well with the OPS Cell wheeling and dealing. The Observer Trainers (OT's) became frustrated at the ease the OPSO and his team were controlling the war so a targeted assassination was called in and the OPSO was set up by an OT (WO1 Brown, RSM Corp of Inf and an old mate from Bris) when two cars full of bad guys pulled out side of his cam net. The OPSO was shot point blank and a fire fight started. It was noted the XO took cover in a Porta-Loo, the QRF PI, who were approx 10m from the incident failed to fire and only the S5 Cell lead by MAJ Allen with a spray and pray approach emptying several mags in the general direction put up a fight.

EX Hamel 16 ended with BG Jacka receiving the well deserved acclaim from 1 BDE to FORCOMD. The last act was the CO, OPSO and RSM sitting in CUTA looking over the Spencer Gulf having a large cigar each.

2016 Concluded with a Bn LFX W/K at PMA and a 9 BDE lead Coy LFX at Murray Bridge which were notable for its low attendance, good weather, Padre resilience training, 5/6 RVR and 4/19 PWLH attendance. 2016 has been a big year with the culmination of BG Jacka and stepping into the Ready year.

As I now leave 8/7 RVR firstly on deployment and then posting to CATC I wish to say thankyou to members of this Battalion. It has been a long road to get to this

point and we could not have achieved the outstanding results that we have without the exceptional efforts of you all. It has been an honour to work with you all and be part of a Battalion with such a magnificent history and esprit de corps. I thank you all and in particular may OPS team of CAPT Nik Dragojlovic, WO2 James Stewart and SGT Dan Purcell for your support and hard work. I would also like to thank the Command Team lead by an exceptional man, LTCOL Biedermann, the RSM WO1 Fawcett, the XO MAJ Cliff Gowers a life long friend, the ADJT and the Orderly Room. I would also like to make a special mention of Mr Geoff "Tiny" Pellow and Deanne Saunderson. It has been my privilege working with these two since first being posted to the Battalion in 1999 as a TRG WO. I know I speak for all in the know when saying without these two the Battalion would be in trouble.

The OPS Team wish you all a safe and happy and well deserved leave over Christmas and with MAJ Andrew McQuilkin as the new OPSO and WO2 Scott and WO2 Stewart swapping places look forward to doing it all again next year.

Cheers. ■

MAJ JOHN SPENCER
OPSO | 8/7 RVR



Unfortunately the OPSO MAJ John Spencer was re-spawned after being shot on EX HAMEL 16. He was never the same again.



Battle Group JACKA Headquarters gather after meeting with Commander 2 DIV MAJGEN Stephen Porter and BRIG Michael Burgess on Exercise HAMEL 16

Photo courtesy of Chaplain Geoff Traill



BG JACKA ADJT Captain Lachlan Joseph from 4th/19th Prince of Wales Light Horse



Australian Infantry soldiers march through Paris at the end of WWI.

ANZAC COMMEMORATIONS 2016 - FRANCE

This year marks the centenary of the Western Front. To commemorate the 100th anniversary of the battles of Pozières and Fromelles, the 2nd Division was tasked to provide the unit colours of all the Battalions that fought. These colours were to be in location for the centenary commemorations of each battle at the respective battle sites. The task grew in size after the initial concept, to include a number of headstone dedications, burials, and position of honour in the Bastille Day March, also known as French National Day Parade, through Paris.

Because of the participation of the 8th AIF Battalion and 7th AIF Battalion in the Battle of Pozières, 8/7 RVR sent the Unit Colours, with LT Powell, and LT Laxton as ensigns, and WO2 Digby, SGT Arundell, and SGT Purcell as escorts.

Force Concentration consisted of a whole heap of junior Officers and senior NCOs, bunking together in spacious, state of the art accommodation in Randwick Barracks, Sydney. The first day focused on being issued the new Service Dress Uniform, which comes in 4 sizes: Small, Medium, Large, and Portly. Needless to say there was no small quantity of Portly uniforms issued on this occasion.

Following the issue of uniforms there was a day of 'Marching round the square' which saw the result of the next bombshell... that there was insufficient accommodation in Paris for the entire contingent, and 13 personnel would have to remain in Sydney for 10 days and meet the main body in France for the final 2 weeks. After a culling of names; which was done based on your marching performance, the size of the uniform you were being issued, and if the CO liked the cut of your jib. The self-proclaimed 'dirty 13' were chosen.

These 13 select individuals chose to remain in Sydney, see the sights, and enjoy a civilian flight over to France half way through the trip. The remainder of the contingent travelled by RAAF AIR with a brief layover in Al Minhad to refuel and soak in the exotic delights of the Middle East (Or what delights could be found at a military airbase in the desert in the middle of the night).

The arrival at Paris saw us pass through our very own cordoned off terminal, and straight onto busses, direct to our accommodation at Saint-Cyr-l'École. The trip was especially noteworthy as it was with a full police escort; lead by 2 motorcycle police clearing traffic by bashing on car windows and telling people to pull off to the side of the road. The general consensus of the local French nationals was that we must have been people of some significance and we were subsequently filmed on most commuters' mobile phones as we passed.

The Australian Defence Force contingent, followed by a small New Zealand contingent, were invited to lead the Bastille Day Commemoration parade along the Avenue des Champs-Élysées at the invitation of the French Government.

The first event was to be the Bastille Day Parade. The lead up to this consisted of early morning starts (0200) and long days of marching in an unseasonably hot French summer, combined with a last light of approximately 2300, and rooms without blinds, meant that there were some fatigued people for the march.

The Parade itself went off fairly smoothly, except for 2 members of the tri-service contingent going down prior to step off. Disappointingly they were both Army, and something that was pointed out on a number of occasions by the Navy and Air Force members.

The ADF contingent had the honour of leading the parade, which is the first time that Australia has been invited to participate in the parade since the end of World War 1. Very few countries have had this honour bestowed upon them, except for those few years in the 40's when Germany took it upon themselves, and the entire contingent could feel what this meant from the aura being radiated from the crowd lining the procession route. Unfortunately the celebration afterwards was dampened by events in Nice.

The day following the parade it was straight onto buses and up to the city of Lille where we married up with the dirty 13 and prepared for the remaining activities. The accommodation was not of the same historical significance as in Paris, but at least it had potable water and working showers.

Based out of Lille there were a number of ceremonial activities including a burial at Polygon Wood, the commemoration of the Battle of Fromelles, 6 headstone dedications, a burial of 3 soldiers at Pozières cemetery, and the commemoration of the Battle of Pozières. Each activity was deeply moving and very solemn, and set the tone for the trip.

Needless to say with the amount of ceremonial activities being conducted there was an unwholesome amount of Drill rehearsals being conducted, and quite a few Officers being reminded of how 'slow march' was supposed to look. Every member took the long hours of rehearsals in their stride, as everyone was invested in making each event as professional looking as befitted the occasion.

The Battle of Pozières commemoration was one of the largest Centenary events the contingent was involved in with 19 sets of Unit Colours with full complement of escorts parading. Between the rehearsals and ceremonial tasks there was time to conduct our own individual battlefield tours of Polygon Wood and Pozières, with our guides, WO2 Digby and SGT Arundell.

The day after the last event all members were awarded a day of leave, which most took the opportunity to conduct battlefield tours of the remaining sights of significance around the Somme valley.

It was a bit hit and miss with the return travel as we were flying domestic, and travel times and dates changed a few times, however everyone made it home in one piece and we felt very privileged to have participated in such an auspicious event. ■

SGT DANIEL PURCELL
OPS | SGT

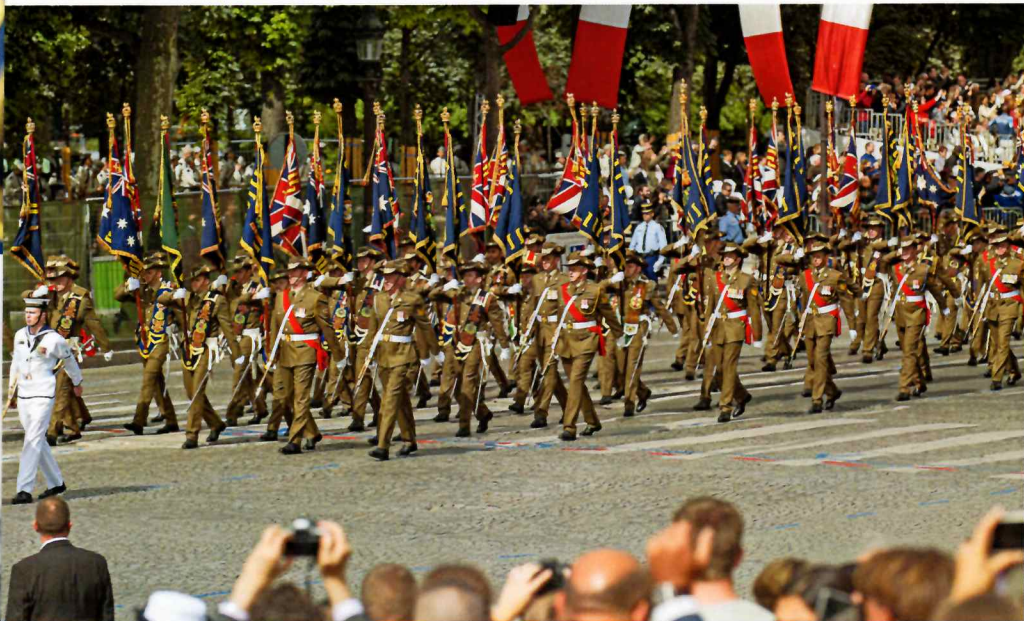


Bastille Day 2016

4 BDE 8/7 RVR soldiers marched with Australian Defence Force personnel at the head of a parade of French military down the famous Avenues des Champs-Élysées in Paris on the French National Day parade in Paris on 14 July 2016.

The day commemorated the storming of the Bastille on 14 July 1789 and the Fete de la Federation, which marks the unity of French people - 14 July 1790. ■

Pictured Left: 8/7 RVR Colours and Guard on the Champs-Élysées in Paris: L to R: SGT Kevin Williams (5/6 RVR); LT Matthew J. Laxton, LT Robert W. Powell, and SGT Daniel J. Purcell (8/7 RVR).



Three soldiers laid to rest

AT NOON on July 23, three unknown Australian soldiers were reburied at the Pozzières British Cemetery. The remains of two of these soldiers were discovered during irrigation work near Mouquet Farm in 2011, and the remains of the third soldier were discovered in a farm near the village of Pozzières in 2013.

A five-year investigation was unable to establish the identities of the soldiers. During the reburial service, Lt-Gen Campbell spoke of the efforts of the Anzacs during the Battle of Pozzières and said while there were remarkable gains, the cost was incredibly high.

He quoted from a soldier's letter home: "There remained nothing but a churn and mess of debris, a mix of brick and stone and bodies pounded into nothing. And there were no forests, there were no tree trunks, not a leaf or a twig, all were buried and churned up and buried again." "These conditions led to many of those who fell during the fighting around Pozzières to go missing," Lt-Gen Campbell said.

"Today, 100 years after they fell, we will lay them to rest among their mates. We take solace in the fact that their identity as Australian soldiers has been restored. They will lie here under our badge of honour – the Rising Sun. May they rest in peace". ■

Claudia Harrison

Pictured above: Sgt Daniel Purcell, of 8/7 RVR, was a member of a burial party. Seen leading the casket bearers by the right to the graveside.



Centenary of ANZAC 2016

I was extremely privileged to be selected to escort the Battalion Colours on the COA in July 2016.

After attending exercise Predators Gallop in March 2016, I received a phone call from the RSM telling me that the CO wanted me to escort the Battalion Colours to France. I was committed to Exercise Hamel as the CT CSM, but if the CO wanted me to go to France then it wasn't a hard decision to make, France it was. It was fortunate that SGT Condon was able to step up to the CSM role which relieved my conscious somewhat.

The 8/7 Colour Party consisted of Senior Ensign Lt Matt Laxton, Junior Ensign Lt Rob Powell, escorts SGT Nick Arundell and SGT Dan Purcell and myself as the Senior Escort. In addition CPL Brendan Daniels as the Q CPL.

We concentrated with the rest of the 120 strong contingent at Randwick Barracks on 1st July. LTs Powell and Laxton and Sgt Purcell departed for France on 4th July to march the Bn Colours for the French National Day. Myself, SGT Arundell, CPL Daniels remained at Randwick Barracks until the 14th July when we travelled to Lille in Northern France and RV'd with the rest of the contingent.

There were four main activities we were involved in during the COA, being;

- Battle of Fromelles Ceremony and six headstone dedications.
- Burial of unknown Australian soldier at Polygon Wood, Butt Cemetery Belgium.
- Burial of three unknown Australian soldiers at Pozieres Cemetery.
- Battle of Pozieres Ceremony.

Fromelles

On 19th July 2016, the ceremony was conducted at the new Fromelles War Cemetery in the town of Fromelles. It was an extremely hot day about 35 degrees, quite warm in the new woollen service dress we were wearing, not to mention the 31st Bn Colour Party standing out in the full sun for an hour. I bumped into a few Australians at the ceremony including our old CO Col Murray Duckworth and Major Neil Leckie.

The battle of Fromelles took place on the 19th of July 1916 and over 2,000 Australian soldiers were killed in that battle. Most of the dead lay in no mans land for the duration of the war. A Melbourne Schoolteacher and military historian Lambis Englezos began searching records for burial locations of missing soldiers. He discovered photographs taken in 1916 that show burial pits behind Pheasant Wood near Fromelles. In 2003 he convinced the military to test this site where Australian artefacts were located. A full archaeological dig was carried out and remains of 250 Australian and British soldiers were identified. The remains were reinterred in the newly built Fromelles War Cemetery. Since that time over 94 of the 250 soldiers have been identified through DNA.

The six headstone dedications were for soldiers who have since been identified through DNA. Three had decedents at the ceremony to unveil the new headstone which now bore the soldier's name and Battalion. The three soldiers with no decedents present were unveiled by local Fromelles school children with the assistance of members of our contingent including SGT Arundell.

The remains of soldiers from WW1 are still being located on a regular basis. The remains are stored whilst investigations are undertaken to identify the soldier. According to the Belgium citizen who located an Australian soldier near Polygon Wood, he said that the blue of the soldier's eyes was still visible, 90 years after his death.

Burial Polygon Wood

On 20th of July we buried an unknown Australian soldier at Buttes New British Cemetery, Polygon Wood in Belgium. In 2013, the remains of the Australian were found during agricultural work at a farm near Broodseinde, Belgium. After an investigation the body was unable to be identified.

Our contingent commemorated the unknown soldier's reburial with a 12-man firing party which fired three volleys as the coffin was lowered into the ground. Six soldiers performed the role of pall bearers and, with a number of other personnel, acted as ushers during the ceremony. This same format was used for the burial of three unknown Australian Soldiers at Pozieres Cemetery on 23rd of July; SGT Purcell was one of the pall bearers on that occasion.

Pozieres Ceremony

At the Pozieres Ceremony on 23rd of July our Bn Colours were marched on along with other 2 DIV Colours. It was a moving ceremony. All the ceremonies were officiated by Brigadier Padre Glynn Murphy, who was a padre at 8/7 many years ago.

After the ceremony there was no time allocated for the Colour Parties to have photographs taken in front of the 1st Division Memorial. We wanted a photograph of our Colours in front of the memorial and to achieve this we harnessed the power of Padre Murphy. We approached the Padre and he said he was receptive to the idea. He wanted a photograph with the colours in front of the memorial so with this request we approached the CO, the CO could not refuse such a request direct from such a high authority. The endstate was that we have a photograph of the Bn Colours in front of the 1st Division Memorial with the Colour Party and Padre Murphy.

In between COA commitments we did not waste a minute. We visited a number of WW1 battlefields, Fromelles, Bullecourt, Pozieres, Villers-Bretonneux, Mont St Quentin, Polygon Wood and Menin Gate. We travelled

to these sites by rail, road, taxi, bus and on foot. We used a trusty guide for the tours, being a library book I borrowed from Geelong Library called, 'Walking with ANZACS'. This book proved gold as it contained photographs taken at the time and also the present, marking where the trenches were and various points of interest such as the location of where Capt Percy Black died at Bullecourt and the location of where SGT Alby Lowerson won his VC at Mont St Quentin. I think this was a far better guide than some of the paid tour guides I observed which were being paid quite handsomely and I would question the accuracy of some of the facts they were giving their clients.

I found it amazing to walk the battlefields where 100 years earlier soldiers in the face of certain death went forth and attacked as ordered. The ground chosen by the German defenders due to its fields of fire maximised with obstacles of layers of barbed wire made it look a hopeless task. It is amazing the Australians achieved what they did. There was still lots of evidence of the battles visible with shrapnel still lying on the ground and farmers even now dig up the occasional UXO.

Food and Wine

Of an evening we dined around Lille at various cafes, sampling the food and when permitted beer, SGT Purcell was quite fond of the Horn beer but at 10% alcohol content consumption was limited. SGT Purcell, LT Laxton and LT Powell were trying to make a choice from a menu at one little café, when LT Powell asked about the pork meal the waiter rubbed his hand on his stomach and said pig,

believing the dish to be pork belly the three ordered it, LT Laxton and myself went for the fish. Well it did not take long to find that the interpretation was slightly different to what appeared on the plate- 'Pig intestine' well I give the three credit for trying to eat the dish, only SGT Arundell was successful.

Conclusion

For me personally I was honoured to escort the Battalion Colours to Canberra in July 2015 for the 100th Anniversary of 2 DIV, but it was an even greater honour to escort the Colours to France and display the Battalions Colours at Pozieres at the site of the 1st Division Memorial, the ground where so many soldiers from the 7th and 8th Battalions AIF paid the ultimate sacrifice 100 years earlier. ■

WO2 JOHN DIBGY
CSM | A COY



8/7 RVR Colour Guard: Sgt Nicholas Arundell, LT Matthew J. Laxton, WO2 John F. Digby, LT Robert W. Powell and SGT Daniel J. Purcell stand with Monsignor Glynn Murphy; a former 8/7 RVR Chaplain and current Director General of the Royal Australian Army Chaplains Department; in front of the 1st DIV War Memorial in Pozieres, France.

Fromelles Day at the Ballarat Ranger Military Museum

The 19 July 2016 marked the Centenary of the Battle of Fromelles. Fromelles for so long lay hidden in a military cloud due to the large casualty list suffered on the day. 5,533 Australians lay dead, were wounded or later died of wounds, or were taken prisoner during this badly planned and costly action. Victorian Brigadier General Harold 'Pompey' Elliott, commander of the 15th Brigade, fought tirelessly to stop what he forecasts as a mindless disaster, but to no avail. No action involving Australians have since cost more casualties in a 24 hour period than Fromelles. To commemorate this Battle, The Ballarat Ranger Military Museum held a Special Morning Tea and conducted a display in the Museum.

The Morning Tea was attended by several of Ballarat's dignities which included: Politicians Catherine King, Sharon Knight and Geoff Howard, Ex-service Organisations representatives from local RSLs, RAAF Association's Keith Layton, VAA's Sandy McCann, Rotarian Alan McKinnon, National Servicemen's Association Australia Ballarat & District President Stan Kellett, Red Shirts Australia Yvonne and John Thomas, Military Historian David Cranage and Military Memorabilia Expert and Museum Member David Wright, Ballarat DVA's Brendon Robertson and Special Guest Carole Wilkinson, author of 'Fromelles Australia's Bloodiest Day at War'. The museum's thanks are extended to the Commanding Officer 8/7RVR LTCOL Tom Biedermann for his approval to conduct the activity in the Regimental Mess. Catering was made possible through the excellent efforts of WO Caterer WO2 Mark Broemmer, who is also the Museum Curator.

When asked, 'Pompey' Elliott always said that he related to Ballarat, and as the '7' in 8/7 RVR comes from Pompey's first WW1 Command, the 7th Battalion, it was only fitting that the Museum hold a set of Pompey's medals. At the morning tea Carole Wilkinson was asked to unveil a framed set of replica medals and decorations awarded to MAJGEN Harold "Pompey" Elliott CB, CMG, DSO, DCM, VD. Elliott's original medals had been donated to the AWM on his death but from there it appears that they were stolen and have never been recovered. With assistance of a Federal Government Grant David Wright completed the replica medal set. The medals now sit proudly in the Museum. During the day the museum was open to the general public with a display on Fromelles the main feature. Morning Tea was also available at the for museum attendees for there for a donation. A number of people took advantage of the opening to visit the museum and contribute their thoughts of the battle.

The main aim of both activities was to promote an awareness of this battle in particular the effect it had on thousands of Australians including Elliott, the 15th Brigade Commander, who many now claim the results and loss of life was the reason for his untimely death.

In 2017 there will be a number of centenary events at the museum commemorating some of the battles where Ballarat's 8th and 39th Battalions were involved. ■

Carole Wilkinson

Right: Carole Wilkinson, who was asked to unveil a framed set of replica medals, stands with Museum Treasurer Bill Akell and replica decorations awarded to MAJGEN Harold "Pompey" Elliott CB, CMG, DSO, DCM, VD.

Page 15: DG CHAP Monsignour Glynn Murphy conducts the burial of three WWI Australian Soldiers at Pozieres British Cemetery. 2. WO2 John Digby stands with DG CHAP Murphy, SGT Arundell and LT Laxton at the entrance to the cemetery. 3. 8/7 RVR members stand in front of a German Bunker at Polygon Wood.



Past 8/7 RVR Officers' Dinner

On Saturday, 6th August the Annual Past Officers' Dinner was held at Ranger Barracks and thoroughly enjoyed by the 19 diners who attended. The evening was notable for some of the attendees and the distances that they had travelled. Among these was MAJ Greg Smith who had travelled from Perth and Monsignor Glynn Murphy who had recently returned from conducting the Centenary Services at Fromelles and Pozieres in France.

During the evening an update of the activities at 8/7 RVR was given by the XO, MAJ Cliff Gowers, followed up by an update on the role that 8/7 RVR will play in the new operational plan 'Beersheba' by former Commanding Officer LTCOL Doug Laidlaw. This was followed by a talk by Monsignor Murphy (now Director General Chaplaincy) about his role in the Army and in particular his activities on the Western Front during the Centenary Services. Lieutenant Robert Powell then followed with a dissertation on his time on the Western Front accompanying the 8/7 RVR Colours to the various services.

Finally former Battalion 2IC MAJ Bill Akell (Ret'd) had a short talk about his intended trip to Vietnam for the 50th Anniversary of the Battle of Long Tan, a trip that he was looking forward to (but we have not heard how it went given the restrictions on the day).

Retired Past CO's who attended included BRIG Doug Ball, LTCOL Jim Mack and LTCOL Rob Houghton, regular attendees of the dinner. The dinner did not have as many attendees as some years, absences including BRIG Rob Marsh who was on exercise in South Australia, former Commanding Officer LTCOL Murray Duckworth and former XO MAJ Neil Leckie (Ret'd) who were away on the Western Front, and another former Commanding Officer COL Paul Riley (Ret'd) was travelling up north in the warmer climes. Catered for as usual in fine style by the WOCAT WO2 Mark Broemmer, a thoroughly enjoyable night was had by all.

In 2017 it will all happen again, on a Saturday near the battalion birthday of 9th August. ■

CAPT Rupert Dally (Ret'd)





ADMIN

admin company



Adminstraiion Company 2016

It will be no surprise that 2016 was a big year for Battalion logistics. We probably say this at the end of every year, but this one was notably demanding being the lead battalion of a battle group for the first time. The regular staff should take most of the credit for the day-to-day tasks, of which there was an inordinate amount. Though I know that many of our reservists willingly availed themselves outside of the normal Parade Card requirements to assist.

In the field, logistic support of Battle Group JACKA was lead by 9 CSSB with the support of 4 CSSB under the odd title of Admin Coy. This meant that our deployed troops from 8/7 RVR Admin Coy came under the command of a CSSB BG JACKA Admin Coy structure, unless they were lucky enough to be within the BG HQ logistic support team. Despite the political machinations, the soldiers from Admin Coy 8/7 RVR worked hard and learned loads.

This is the first year Admin Coy has been without our spanner and medic friends from RAEME, RAAMC and

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

MAJ SHANE ARMSTRONG
OC | ADMIN COY

RAANC who moved to 4 CSSB. We regularly see SGT Werry who provides much needed weapon inspection support. Although the future of Admin Coy is unclear, our members will continue to support the battalion with the added help of attachments from 4CSSB.

I am impressed by the dedication of our Army Reservists. There is a strong core who rarely miss a date on the Parade Card. Averaging about 20 – 25 soldiers every Tuesday Night and Weekends across the depots.

In the kitchen we have WO2 Broemmer, the most senior reservist of the Coy, who rarely misses a Parade. He is ably supported by CPL Watson who was promoted during the year – a most worthy promotion.

Transport Platoon has been lead by CPL Walmsley who will be replaced at the end of the year. He has put in a big effort throughout the year ensuring people were where they needed to be. Moving the Battalion around from dispersed depot locations is no easy task, however a task successfully achieved year round. We thank him for his service to the Battalion. PTE Kent is also leaving after many years of dedicated service and hard work. We wish her all the best.

The regular faces in Transport Platoon are: LCPL Yorston: hard working, responsible and dedicated; PTE Grice: young, keen and studying to be an engineer; PTE Wilson: the stalwart of the Coy who never misses a Parade and is always prepared to do go the extra mile for the Battalion; PTE Williams: should finish her paramedics course this year with possible nursing officer aspirations; and PTE Leviston who has a busy business and is a top bloke to have on board.

This year Q Platoon will see the loss of WO2 (RQMS) Clancy; a powerhouse of effort and a steady hand on the tiller (except when he was dodging spears in Africa). We thank him for his enormous contribution, without which Battle Group JACKA would not have been a success. If you look through RO's the common name you will find next to extra appointments is WO2 Clancy. The new Q Staff have woven into the Battalion seamlessly without a hitch. SGT ASPLAND is the quiet achiever who bowls a cricket ball at 100 mph; CPL Daniels is the 'can do' man with a bunch of Special Forces experience; and we have a new Pops with CPL Edwards who is working hard at getting the battalion dressed and equipped with the items that Military Logistics cannot provide.

PTE Linane continues to be the stand out reservist in Q Platoon - always getting stuck in and willing to take on extra work. PTE Trewella transferred from 4 CSSB as the new boy in the team and is welcomed with open arms. PTE Trewella only recently marched in has worked tirelessly for the Battalion for quite some time. Although he was positioned with 4CSSB he continued to give Q Platoon every possible assistance to help the Battalion, his efforts were rewarded with a transfer. PTE McMaster transferred to the Battalion after a GAP Year in ARA. PTE McMaster is hard working at university though a valued member of the team.

Of course the crew in Coy HQ have been doing their bit too. As usual, CSM Creelman takes on too much, in order for the job to get done right. He keeps regular contact with our reservists; nurturing the committed and stirring up those that are not. LCPL Paizis has joined the Coy as the clerk and is doing great, except when he gets lassoed back to the Main Orderly Room for random jobs.

Overall a very productive year. Well done to all. ■

QM Platoon

2016 saw the platoon conduct a staff handover with three members posting in; SGT D Aspland replacing SGT A Kincaid as the TQMS/ PLSGT and Unit Hazardous Chemical Safety Advisor; CPL B Daniels replacing CPL J Jonson as the Ledger/ Tech CPL and CPL V Edwards replacing CPL G Connor as the DUF and Clothing CPL.

SGT Aspland posted into the unit on promotion after some time away from the uniform, trying his hand at concreting. Although this had its rewards, after many attempts at being posted to 8/7 RVR, he was successful. SGT Aspland has a history with 8/7 RVR as a past cadet. He also had many years spent around the unit with his grandfather who was the secretary of the 2 RVR Association. CPL Daniels who was previously posted to A Coy in Geelong, has made the transition to QM Platoon quite easily. He is the "can do" man in the store who uses his wealth of technical knowledge and experience to get the job done. CPL Edwards has slid into the roll of Pops with ease, not just the similarity in age but the tireless efforts ensuring the Battalion has the shiny stuff ready to go that the normal logistics systems doesn't allow.

PTE Linane continues to be the stand out reservist in the Platoon - always getting stuck in and willing to take on extra work. PTE Trewella transferred from 4 CSSB and is sort of the new boy in the team, who is welcomed with open arms. PTE Trewella although only recently marched into 8/7 RVR has worked tirelessly for the Battalion for quite some time. Although he was positioned with 4CSSB he continued to give the QM Platoon assistance to help the Battalion, his efforts were rewarded with a transfer. PTE McMaster transferred to the Battalion after a GAP Year in ARA with 1CSSB in Darwin. PTE McMaster is hard working at university which limits her availability though remains a valued member of the team.

2016 certainly had its challenges for the platoon with Battle Group Jacka planning and training activities occurring concurrently as part our normal day to day operations of governance, warehouse management and maintenance. The logistics planning and preparation of the Battle Group HQ and Combat Team for EX Predators Gallop and EX Hamel in Cultana resulted in the lion's share of the Battalions equipment being sent to SA. The members of CT-C were kitted out with every thing we had SCE body armour, Air frame helmets and Harris communications.

EX Predators Gallop was a testing time for CPL Edwards's patience as he explained on his return his disgust at how the lawn contractor could allow him to watch the grass grow in his position for the duration of the exercise only to mow it

on the second last day. CPL Edwards attended the September Live Fire EX and had no intentions of having the same focus on the grass as he had in his previous times in the field.

EX Hamel 16 (EX E Menu as it became known) was the main focus of the Q-Store during 2016. The culminating point of BG Jacka was from a Q-Store point of view a success. From a Combat Team and HQ Platoon logistical perspective the lead up planning and preparation for the exercise was efficient and well thought out. Whilst CPL Edwards was off gallivanting around America on leave and CPL Daniels was living it up in France conducting the Centenary of ANZACS festivities; the faces of the Q-Store at EX Hamel 16 were SGT Marsh, PTE Linane and PTE Jaudzemis with CT-C and SGT Aspland assisted by a very eager PTE Grice (Transport Platoon) with BG Jacka HQ.

The QM Platoons year could not be rounded out with out mentioning our LOGMGR MR Griggs (Marty) who apart from providing valuable insight and guidance to the team he has been working hard to improve the contracted support and maintenance of our unit's depots. Throughout the year he has been able to make some great improvements and kept the unit from falling apart.

This year the QM Platoon and 8/7 RVR will see the loss of WO2 Clancy. He has been a powerhouse of effort and a steady hand on the tiller (except when he was dodging spears in Africa). We thank him for his enormous contribution, without which Battle Group JACKA would not have been the success it has been. If you look through RO's the common name you will find next to an extra appointment is that of WO2 Clancy including the ever so testing appointment of Cadet Unit Liaison Officer. We wish him all the best for his future appointments and thank him for his tireless efforts. ■

SGT DYLAN ASPLAND
TQMS | HAZARDOUS CHEMICAL
SAFETY ADVISOR
QM PLATOON | ADMIN COY



From left: CPL Daniels, CPL Edwards, PTE Trewella, PTE McMaster, SGT Aspland, WO2 Clancy. Absent: Mr Griggs, PTE Linane

Catering Platoon



The year started off at a reasonably medium pace for the Battalion Catering team and we found that our ability to serve the battalion was somewhat hampered by recent transfers and what I would call “natural attrition” that has happened over the last couple of years. It happens in all units, there are peaks and troughs associated with recruiting, age, the search for the holy-grail in personal development and of course there are people that just need to take a whole new path in life.

Farewells:

In the period up to the time this article is written we have had to say goodbye to some of our most important members, some are still with the Battalion in a different capacity and others have chosen to hang-up their camouflage skin altogether.

CPL Bruce Wilson: Bruce has decided to go to the inactive Army Reserve, after coming to 8/7 RVR in 2004. The penultimate tradesman, Bruce was a driving factor in teaching, nurturing and providing support for many of the young soldiers of not only the catering platoon but also Admin coy and even wider parts of the Battalion. He is greatly missed and his ability to talk under water was a drawcard that he put into practice with most people he encountered. The only time this man will slow down is when they nail the lid shut on his coffin....

CPL Michael Currie: Michael had been with the Catering team for many years, throughout a few changes of address and family/life events. Michael decided after many torturous months of personal and family happenings to

transfer his skills to the Battalion Orderly Room as a Clerk-Admin and sadly had to relinquish his rank to do so. We wish Michael all the best in his new future, crunching the computer keys and generating even more ‘paper warfare’.

CPL Michael Malloys: Mick Malloys joined the Army Reserve in Bendigo and for most of his Army life served with 15TPT at Bendigo. Mick saw operational service in East Timor in the INTERFET days. Mick decided in a change of pace and came across to 8/7 RVR around 2007 and was responsible for maintaining and checking our field equipment. Mick has decided to leave the Army altogether and we wish him well in his civilian undertakings in the future.

PTE Luke Winter: Luke had been one of our star performers in the Catering Platoon after having been deemed the Student of merit on his Catering Course. He was also nominated for AACCC Soldier-of-the-year. Recently, Luke has been heavily involved with his employment as a Prison Officer and finds that he does not have enough time to dedicate to the Battalion and has decided to go Inactive. We wish Luke well in his career with the Prison System. Should this situation ever change and Luke finds he has more time to devote to the Army we would definitely welcome him back.

PTE Jodie McGregor: Jodie (nee Pitt) has had a prolonged absence from the Catering Platoon due to the most wonderful of all reasons- motherhood. After the birth of her second baby, Jodie has decided to take up a position in the Inactive Army Reserve to devote her time to nurturing her VIP’s and we wish her all of the love and happiness that is associated with it. Jodie will be welcomed back in the future when she decides that the time is right.

PTE Hannah Mc Fadden: Hannah had spent a fair few years with the catering team and due to her recent studies to become a Paramedic it was her decision that she would also like to transfer to the Battalion Orderly Room as a Clerk-Admin and continue her Reserve career in a different setting. We wish Hannah all of the very best wishes in pursuit of her chosen civvie career and the choice in transferring to the Orderly Room.

Promotions:

In recent few weeks we have had the happy task of promoting one of the Battalion’s favourite sons to the lofty rank of Corporal. CPL Matthew Watson started his Army career with 8/7 RVR and then transferred to the big league, going ARA in 2006, serving nine years, before deciding a change in pace was warranted and settled back in Ballarat with his wife and two children. After an operational posting to the Afghanistan AO he has been assisting me with the battalion’s catering needs here in Ballarat. Many of you will have had dealings with Matt on his most recent Deployment to RCB 108 in 2014/15.

Current Staff:

In 2016, we currently have only a few people on the Catering team ORBAT, the training for the Battalion has mainly focussed on achieving a high standard for our full-on Infantry brothers in the guise of Battle Group Jacka. Because of the fact that the majority of this training had been a Brigade responsibility we have found that we haven’t had as much opportunity to practice our craft as a Catering team per se.

Currently, we have a number of vacancies within the Catering team that we would dearly like to fill. If there are any members of the Battalion that are seeking to learn a different skill set/trade and may have also found that the rigours of infantry work has taken a toll on their bodies and they wish for a change of pace please email me and we can get the ball rolling for a corps transfer and get you away on your Mod 1 and Mod 2 Catering courses conducted at Bandiana (Vic).

WO2 Mark Broemmer: Currently approaching 36 years with this Battalion. In recent months has battled with a minor health ailment which precluded him from attending any field exercises or indeed in taking part in many other activities that the unit was associated with. His dedication in providing tasty and nutritious

meals and catering support to the Battalion has been the driving force behind his continuation of service with the Australian Army Catering Corps.

CPL Matthew Watson: As previously mentioned it has been a pretty good year for Matt with a promotion and successful deployment to Malaysia. Matt will continue to live up to the challenges of assisting me re-building the catering platoon and meeting our unit commitments and anything else that may arise.

PTE Lisa Edwards: Lisa has been the stalwart of our platoon within A company, based at Laverton Lisa is training to juggle work/life/Army balance (as we all do), and has always been happy to assist the battalion as best she can when called upon. Somewhere in all of that we would like Lisa to prepare herself for attendance at Subject 1 Cpl and Subject 4 Cpl AACC.

PTE Rachel Dodd: Rachel has made an entrance onto the 8/7 RVR catering radar in recent time and has provided great catering support to the unit and other activities outside of the unit such as a short deployment to Papua-New Guinea on Ex-Puk-Puk and even a couple of weeks playing EN at Ex-Predator's Gallop. Rachel comes to the battalion after 2 years of Gap Year training.

Notification has just come through that the catering team is to welcome another new soldier in the coming months, based at Laverton.

In general, the battalion Catering Platoon has assisted the battalion achieve its aims throughout the year even with a slightly reduced capability due to numbers. In short, we will always strive to provide the sort of meals and catering support that many of you have come to expect and enjoyed from the 2nd Division's premier Catering Team. Australian Army Catering Corps.

Our motto is "We Sustain" ■

**WO2 MARK BROEMMER
CATERER | ADMIN COY**



TPT PTE Alexander Grice digs two shell scrapes for the Q's on EX HAMEL; in S.A.

Transport Platoon

Transport Platoon has been lead by CPL Walmsley who will be replaced at the end of the year. CPL Walmsley put in a large effort throughout the year ensuring people were where they needed to be. Moving the Battalion around as a whole from dispersed depot locations is no easy task, however a task that CPL Walmsley successfully achieved year round. We thank him for his service to the Battalion.

Transport Platoon from all depot locations has maintained the effort through to the last, consistently committing their time to the efforts of BG Jacka this year.

LCPL Yorston continued hard work and dedication, in spite of her family upheaval has continued her support and service. PTE Grice is a young keen soldier who came to the unit after successful ARA service with Aviation (a corps we never hear the end about), he is studying to be an engineer.

PTE Brewer is the stalwart of the platoon who never misses a parade and is always prepared to go the extra mile for the Battalion. PTE Williams should finish her paramedic's course this year with possible nursing officer aspirations. PTE Leviston has been busy with his business this year, but as a contractor brings broad knowledge to Transport Platoon. PTE Kelly has joined us during the last half of the year, and hope to see more from him in the new year.

In Geelong LCPL Challis is dreaming big and consistently supporting the unit as much as she can. PTE Daborn has completed his army basic driver's courses and his civilian PSO's course.

Down in Warrnambool CPL Kent has been the long distance driver for the Commanding Officer, tirelessly supporting Battle Group Jacka. Not to be outdone in terms of distance PTE Elder in Mildura has also consistently supported BG Jacka during this year while he continues his paramedic studies in Adelaide.

At the end of 2016 we will farewell CPL Walmsley (posting to School of Trucks) and PTE Kent (discharged). We wish them both the very best on their future endeavors. ■



A

alpha company



Geelong with Laverton



Alpha Company 2016

2016 saw a lot of activity for A Coy. As the HQ group for CT Charlie within BG Jacka, the tempo was set as part of Ex Pred Prelude where time was spent developing SOPs for the newly raised Signals detachment, drawn from A Coy (Led by CPL Towers - Geelong). It was the first time that BMS had been introduced at the CT level and set the Coy up for Ex Predators Gallop.

A Coy also focused on raising the Manoeuvre Support Elements for the CT and provided the convoy escort elements to Ex Predators Gallop. As part of the PL that worked with 5 RAR, A Coy provided the PL SGT (Sgt Condon), 1x Rifle Section (Led by CPL Dinning - Geelong) and the Manoeuvre Support Section (Led by CPL Craske - Laverton)

For ANZAC Day commemorations, A Coy spread itself from Geelong and along the Surf Coast. Many of the soldiers contributed to Catafalque guards and seniors provided speeches.

The Coy took the lead in the Cordon and Search activity at Ballarat Airport.

The Exercise was well prepared by B Coy and saw soldiers integrating with Combat Engineers, clearing a bikie gang from buildings within the airfield.

The main effort for the Coy was taking part in Ex Hamel. A Coy had made a commitment two years ago to form the CT HQ element and NCOs to hold positions within the Platoons. A Coy contributed a Platoon Plus, Signals detachment and CT HQ elements. Soldiers partook in platoon and section level actions. Each of the soldiers were able to learn and consolidate skills, continuing to build the Coy's operability.

Throughout 2016 we had a number of movements; we welcomed four new NCOs and SNCOs to the Coy. Five soldiers were promoted to the ranks of Corporal and Lance Corporal respectively. Eight soldiers became fully qualified infantryman and received their Unit Color Patch and RVR hat badges. Four soldiers made the transition to the ARA from the ARes. We also farewelled four soldiers from the ARes to the Stand By Reserve. We wish all these soldiers the best in their future endeavours.

There was a special farewell to LCPL Amanda Simovska (RAAOC), a long-time member of A Coy who had deployed to East Timor with many of those currently serving. She has always been a regular face on weekends and Tuesday Nights. She has been missed since moving to the Standby Reserve to focus on her civilian career, we wish her all the best!

Finally the CSM WO2 John Digby and SGT Nick Arundell had the opportunity to represent the Battalion as part of centenary commemorations for the Western Front battles of Fromelles and Pozieres in France. They also had the honor of marching in France's National Day commemorations marching as part of the ADF contingent at the head of the parade.

A Coy continues to develop a strong set of soldiers, thank you to all who have been part of the Coy this year and to those moving on, best of luck. ■

CAPT FRANCIS DIGNAM
OC | A COY

ALPHA COY 2016

We led into 2016 with a platoon live fire activity conducted at Puckapunyal in Oct 2015. The activity was conducted by 5/6 RVR, we provided a platoon. Our three sections were led by CPLs Krupa, Lennie and Rokamper. A great opportunity for those members to lead a section in a platoon live fire utilizing F88, F89, GLA, Mag 58, 84mm and M72 weapons.

Well 2016 has been a very busy year with Ex Pred Gallup in March at Cultana and the culmination with Ex Hamel in July. It is worth noting the effort and commitment put in by the OC Maj Runciman and the 2IC Capt Dignan during this journey. I know that as a CHQ we developed over the course of the 2 years and by the end of Hamel were in a far better shape than when we started. Quite often the training is aimed at section and sometimes platoon level but rarely Coy level so this development was essential.

CPL Towers has taken the led role in the newly formed sig det, I hope and expect that this will grow to a platoon over the next couple of years. It is a great asset for the Bn.

It was pleasing to see a few departures such as CPL Brent Craske who enlisted in the ARA and is currently doing his CAV courses at Puckapunyal. CPL Craske was a driving force behind the unit success over a number of years. Not to mention his effort with a number of Milskills competitions.

In March this year CPL Craske again led the Milskills team, the competition was held at Enoggera in Brisbane. Although our team did not win they were competitive and showed plenty of courage and put in a mighty effort. Especially doing the obstacle course wearing MCBAS. Looking like turtles going over the 3 metre wall. I was extremely proud of the commitment and effort they put in. The team consisted of the following members:

CPL Craske, (Now ARA); LCPL Otten; PTE Mottram; PTE Ichim; PTE Jimenez, (Now ARA); PTE Lourey; PTE Norwood and PTE Whitfield.

I wish CPL Craske all the best for his future career and no doubt he will not forget where he came from and will pay a visit from time to time.

Welcome aboard SGT Tim Knight who transferred to us from 5/6 RVR (Not that we will hold that against him) already he has displayed plenty of commitment to the Coy and Bn.

Congratulations on a well deserved promotion to LCPL Garth Studham from the Geelong Depot.

We also saw a new CQMS (SGT Marsh) and Company Clerk (CPL Cattell) at the start of this year. Both are doing extremely well. The orderly room has never functioned as efficiently as it does under CPL Cattell.

Last of all I must acknowledge MAJ Runciman as our OC over the last two years. He took us along the rocky road to Hamel which we arrived at and completed successfully. ■

WO2 JOHN DIBGY
CSM | A COY





Vietnam Veterans 50th Year - Memorial Park North Geelong

11am Sunday 14th Aug 2016

WO2 Lucas Hourigan co-ordinated the A COY Catafalque Party as they formed up on the corner of the Princess Highway and Swinburne Street in North Geelong for the 50 year memorial of the battle of Long Tan.

LCPL Christopher Champion led the catafalque party - PTE Tyson Hore; PTE Cara Booth; PTE Martin Markovski and LCPL Jessica Challis stood fast at the memorial service. ■





Alpha Company Geelong Depot



Geelong Soldier of the Year
PTE Sherman Taylor



ALPHA COY NCO of the Year: CPL Piotr Krupa



ALPHA COY Section of the Year: CPL Dinning, LCPL Champion, PTE Kausler,
PTE Smith, PTE Levy, PTE Inchley, PTE Barby, PTE Thompson.



ALPHA COMPANY 2016



Legacy Week in Geelong and Ballarat

Since 1942, Legacy Week has been the annual national appeal to raise awareness and funds for the families of those incapacitated and deceased veterans. This year Legacy Week ran from August 28 until September 3. Badge Day, the major fund raising activity of Legacy Week, was on Friday September 2.

Badges and the popular soft bears were available from supermarkets, hardware outlets and corporate boxes across Victoria. "The bears were very popular." WO2 Creelman said.

Today Legacy's compassionate service assists around 90,000 widows and 1900 children and dependants with a disability. Legacy is a voluntary organisation supported by veterans, servicemen and women, and volunteers drawn from all walks of life.

Their support and services now extend to include the dependants of members of today's Australian Defence Force who lose their lives as a result of their military service.

2016 marked 90 years of Ballarat Legacy serving the local community. Several special functions were organised to help celebrate the milestone. ■

Above: PTE Dunn and PTE Suter were among members of A COY Geelong who supported Legacy at the Aldi supermarket in Belmont and Geelong football ground during the preliminary finals.

Middle: CPL Chappell with Chief Clerk / ADJT WO2 Troy Radbone from the Orderly Room; and SGT Dylan Aspland with CPL Brendan Danials from Admin COY manned the Legacy table in Ballarat.

Below: WO2 Bob Creelman and CPL Vaughn Edwards rattled the tin in Ballarat.





B

bravo company



Ballarat with Monegetta and Warrnabool



Bravo Company 2016

The Big B hit the ground running at the start of 2016 as the Road to Hamel commenced in earnest. We said farewell to WO2 Simon Staton as Training WO for a year and welcomed our new Training WO, WO2 Glenn Scott from Alpha Coy.

After completing force preservation training in January, members of the Company conducted activities throughout Australia, France and Malaysia in addition to the usual hot-spots of Puckapunyal, the Ballarat Airfield, Cultana and Murray Bridge. We have recognised our forebears and Battalion lineage in France, we have been exposed to the latest soldier combat ensemble during Exercise HAMEL, tested our ability to conduct a cordon and search at the Ballarat Airfield, and exercised as part of a section, platoon or combat team. This has included ongoing professional development and battle preparation from soldier to commander, regular trips to the range to maintain our combat skills proficiency, and an attachment of a Platoon to 5 RAR as part of Exercise Predator Gallop.

Platoon Updates (4 and 5 Platoon)

4 Platoon was the host for the Air Port exercise where the Battalion conducted a Company level low level search of the Ballarat Aerodrome, this exercise was as a Combat Team, conducted in partnership with 22 ER.

4 and 5 Platoon have had a busy year with exercises and training on the "Road to Hamel". Exercise Predator Gallop, B Coy contributed a section and PHQ to the J31 Platoon attached to BG Tiger 5 RAR. The platoon conducted numerous tasks including BG Battle Field Clearance Team and security tasks.

The Platoons have been growing with new recruits; transfers from ARA and transfers from other units. The increase of numbers has given us the opportunity to promote new junior NCO's into their first leadership position and further develop their individual skills. As the Platoons grow we are looking forward to the opportunities ahead.

Now Exercise Hamel is complete we have already started to send soldiers on tasks as part of our ready year. Three members of 4 Platoon along with one from CHQ and one from 6 Platoon have departed to Rifle Company Butterworth (RCB) with 7 RAR. WO2 Scott, CPL Ward, PTE Demasson, PTE Brown and PTE Walther (6 Platoon) nominated for a short notice trip to Malaysia on RCB and will be training their jungle war fighting skill in Malaysia and Thailand as well and urban training in Singapore.

J31 Platoon Updates

J31 was the Battle Group Jacka platoon tasked with supporting BG Tiger (5 RAR) for the duration of Exercise Predator Gallop (EX PG). The platoon conducted numerous tasks while attached to BG Tiger including Battle Field Clearance Team, Battlefield Replen and multiple security tasks (including an impromptu tank recovery by CPL Dinning's Section).

For the duration of EX PG the platoon consisted of 3 x infantry sections, 1 x Manoeuvre Support Section, 1 x PMV section (3rd/9th Light Horse), and 1 x medical detachment (4 CSSB). The platoon was well equipped and able to operate independently within the battlespace as required. This became ****relevant**** when the platoon was required to move independently across the battlespace to link up to the main Battle Group's position prior to the culminating attack.

The Platoon was tasked with following and supporting the Battle Group size attack on a Company enemy element. Stepping off at pre-dawn this attack was executed with the full complement of Mortar, DFSW, Engineers and Tanks in support. As the battle raged on J31 was called forward to assume the lead of the attack into the trench system of the enemy position. The attack saw soldiers moving through the fortified defence structure, getting up close and personal with the M1A1 Abrams, with the Tanks in close support (within 10m) of the lead section as they conducted clearance of the enemy dug in position. On completion of the successful attack the BG Tiger released J31 to be returned to BG Jacka for the final day of the exercise.

Post Hamel/BG Jacka:

After returning from France and Hamel, the Company conducted a training weekend at Puckapunyal in preparation for the Platoon deployment to Murray Bridge in October. The weekend provided a good opportunity for some live firing and practicing their marksmanship principals.

A special mention must be made to the following members of Bravo:

- CPL Michael E. Deutscher (Soldiers Medallion)
- CPL Adam Kelly 15 years – Defence Long Service Medal
- CPL Luke McGregor 15 years – Defence Long Service Medal
- LCPL Orazio Campanale (Promotion to Lance Corporal)
- LCPL Simon Rawson (Promotion to Lance Corporal)

Farewell to PTE Walther who has transferred to ARA and will be commencing his training at Singleton in January.

Welcome also to the new members of the Coy including:

- WO2 Simon Staton, returning as a reservist,
- LCPL Luke Porway, transferring from 5/6 RVR,
- PTE Damian Hughes transferring from 1 RAR,

We already have several new recruits who will be joining us in the New Year.

New Recruits to B Coy:

- PTE Dow
- PTE Ledger
- PTE Wright
- REC Bocock
- REC Consentino
- REC Matin
- REC Reddy
- REC Godson

We will be looking forward to growing numbers at B Coy over the next year during the ready and reset period. ■

MAJ STAN CARNES
OC | B COY

Tri-Nation photo





Patrolling in Cultana



LT Robert Powell delivering orders prior to a patrol



Return from a mounted fighting patrol with 5 RAR (Battle Group Tiger)



Bendigo with Mildura Swan Hill and Shepparton



Charlie Company 2016

Bendigo - EX Hamel from the Left LCPL N. Otten, PTE S.J. Everton, LCPL C.S. Tucci (in the back / beenie) PTE J.H. Schenk, PTE M.R. Kirby (in the back / beenie puff jacket) PTE T.J. Goodman, PTE J.C. Hoggins, PTE W.J. Paffath (in the hat) PTE B.J. D’Rosario.

Marching in to a new Unit, or even sub Unit, can be daunting – diverse people, new role, different environment, different Unit direction - the great unknown! As OC of Alpha and Bravo companies at various points over the past decade, marching in to Charlie Company for the first time was like returning home again. I was with soldiers I had served previously, their positive can-do attitudes unchanged, and most importantly, a unified focus.

Being part of Charlie’s push towards Hamel and beyond during 2016 has been challenging and rewarding. Soldiers face the perennial challenge of attaining a manageable work-life balance with Road to Hamel – their commitment never ceases to amaze me. From Butterworth in 2014/5, through to Exercise Pozieres late 2015 and all the preparatory training weekends interspersed around these block periods – the path was long, but the end was in sight.

2016 saw the Exercise Predator series plus Hamel as the primary focus – foundation warfighting to Company level within Battle Group Jacka.

Collectively we made it through Hamel and successfully passed the start line to enter the ‘ready’ phase, a place we have not been before.

Throughout the year, Company HQ staff have banded together to provide necessary support to drive the Company effort. SGT Fitton, our permanent Company Training Sergeant, has been a driving force in preparing the company for the many activities we have undertaken together throughout the year while managing Charlie’s largest depot in Bendigo. CAPT Guinea has admirably resumed his role as Company 2IC (he’ll say gladly) based in Mildura and has been ably supported by the pragmatic CPL Scotty Conner. SGT Derrick in Shepparton has done a sterling job of leading his depot to consistently high attendance rates at all Unit sponsored activities, while SGT Logan in Swan Hill has balanced a heavy workload of support activities and exercises with depot command and management responsibilities.

2016 has been about participation in the Road to Hamel. It has provided a real sense of satisfaction to see soldier’s ongoing achievements and dedication. By focussing on continuous development of their professional skills and deepening of their experience base, Charlie Company soldiers have played their part to see 8/7RVR achieve some remarkable collective outcomes including force generation on the big stage – a legacy shared by PTE Schenk through to LTCOL Biedermann and everyone in between.

Congratulations to all in C Coy for a successful 2016. ■

MAJ DANIEL F. STRACK
OC | C COY

C COY Bendigo

A busy year with many new faces through the door and some farewells, Bendigo Depot has seen many members up-skill their career, some deploy overseas on exercises, others undertake SF Selection and a few retire after esteemed military careers. Tuesday night training continues with drive and enthusiasm, with a core group of regular paraders integrating new procedures whilst reiterating the 'basics'.

Exercise Predators Gallop was attended by several members from Bendigo where rich interoperability training was developed working with 4/19th PWLH and their PMV's.

Exercise Hamel. A section strength turn out from Bendigo was tasked with the mission critical role of providing security to the Battle Group Jacka communications network. For the duration of the exercise, many members undertook roles above their worn rank and performed their job diligently and to a high standard.

ANZAC Day and Remembrance Day. Members from the Bendigo Depot, along with members from 15 CSS, continued their commitment with the Bendigo District RSL this year, to provide soldiers for cenotaph duties in WW1 attire. This traditional dress, including colour patches from Bendigo's own 38th Bn, as well as .303 rifle drill pays homage to former soldiers, their families and the proud history of 8/7 RVR.

Thales Visit. Originally the Australian Defence Industry (ADI), there has long been a connection of specialist engineering of defence materiel in Bendigo. Most notably known for the production of the Bushmaster PMV, Thales has recently been awarded a contract with Defence to produce a new lightweight protected vehicle, called the Hawkei. With 1000 to be designed and manufactured over the next 4 years, members were treated to a tour of facilities, explanation of capabilities and the vehicle's survivability. It was an excellent opportunity to gain an insight into the future of Army's thinking and priorities. A big thank you to Mark Brennan (Thales) and PTE Ben D'Rosario for organising.

PTE Dodd attended Exercise Puk Puk in PNG, where she provided catering support for 120 members of 3CER, who were there to provide training, and mentoring to build facilities for the PNGDF. The 8 week trip was a rewarding and an eye opening experience where Rachel was able to further her trade skills.

PTE Kirby deployed to Malaysia as part of a section strength group of 8/7 RVR members to train with 7RAR on RCB 115. ■

LCPL ROBERT TREWARTHA



C Coy Bendigo on the THALES tour with Mr Mark Brennan, Hawkei Director Technical & Engineering of the Hawkei and Bushmaster manufacturing facility in Bendigo.



PTE Dodd from Bendigo Admin Coy getting out of Hamel to attend EX PUK PUK in PNG

C COY - Mildura

This past year has been a bit different than previous years in the reserves that we all know and love. This one involved us, as a unit to be certified and qualified to be considered ready to join our brethren in the full time.

Throughout the year presented training to prepare us for EX Hamill situated in the training area of Cultana which gave us a rare opportunity to work with other units and countries around the world. Which for us in the far north was pretty exciting, especially when the training area was the closest to us for once (chuckles).

All those attended who Hamel didn't really know what to expect from a full two and a half week long exercise on such a scale. With seeing other units and armies all working in the one effort was very interesting and eye opening. We all received different perspectives and experience which we as reservists don't normally get, which for one was working with a unit of bushmasters and utilizing them in patrolling and everyday operations. This was also the same for working with the engineers and seeing all the equipment and vehicles they use in operations.

In the depot personally in Mildura we have seen new members join and other members move away which is sad to see but that's what happens in normal day to day life. We look forward to see what awaits us in the upcoming year in both opportunities and working with the new members of the unit. ■

PTE LEIGH B. FOSTER C COY | MILDURA

*Left to Right 8/7 RVR Members from Mildura/Swan Hill Depots on EX Hamel 16
Rear: PTE Jobling, PTE Hickey, PTE Cameron, PTE Hart, SGT Logan;
Front: PTE Howison, PTE Foster, PTE Batten*



C COY - Swan Hill

2015/2016 has been a busy year for the boys from 8/7 RVR in Swan Hill completing lead up training and Ex. Hamel in preparation to become the active reserve unit. Attending various exercises has meant a lot of travelling (as always for us) but it was a pleasant change to be one of the first units returning for a change.

For me personally, the last 2 years has been the most enjoyable of my career. Having a clear goal to work towards to be the active reserve unit, along with the opportunities for training and exposure to different corps and kit such as the CSE that this presented.

Along with Ex. Hamel, we had Ex. Pozieres (Puckapunyal) and Ex. Predators Gallop (Cultana). With opportunities to be involved in a live fire PI. attack and working as a mounted unit from PMV's respectively.

At Ex. Hamel we were able to have 3 of our 4 current fully-qualified members attend. Which was a good level of attendance, but disappointing to have dropped back to that number at Swan Hill.

Being a small outlying depot has its difficulties in obtaining and keeping members, with quite a few people who join moving away or becoming too busy with work commitments. This year we have said goodbye to Nigel Decker (Managing a family business), Trent Goodman (moved to Bendigo), Kevin Churchus (moved

Somme Barracks Shepparton

Somme Barracks has seen consistent numbers throughout the year with 10-14 enthusiastic members parading under the watchful eye of SGT Derrick each week. Recruiting has been strong with a number of members completing Basic Training and their mods in super quick time in preparation for EX Hamel 2016. Congratulations to all.

Three Members have also completed JLC this year, but the highlight was PTE Robinson being awarded for his efforts on his Mod 2 Infantry IET course with being named the Student of Merit. 2016 is also the year the not only C Coy but 8/7 RVR has our first female infantry recruit REC Jessica Russell who is attending her REC Training course at kapooka from the 4th of Nov to the 10 of Dec 2016. She is a welcome addition to Shepparton and to C Coy.

2016 has been by far one of the busiest in recent memories in regards to Unit activities with preparation for BG JACKA and EX Hamel 2016 being the theme for the first half of the year.

A section of senior Diggers from Somme Barracks were rewarded early on with the issue and training of the V4.4 TBAS unmounted Kit for EX Predators Gallop and EX Hamel 2016. This kept the depot members constantly entertained as the diggers worked out all the pieces were and what was the best set up for the job of being an infanteer in the 21st century. Ex Predators Gallop was well attended and the soldiers got a taste of living and operating out of PMV's in hot and dusty conditions. The section from Shepparton was lucky enough to be part of the NZDF exchange program with CPL Archer (Archic) an Infantry CPL from the NZDF Territorials being placed in command to the Shepparton section for this exercise. This gave the Shepparton section an opportunity to share and experiences the differences between our defence forces, learning new skills from an NZDF member.

April brought ANZAC Day and saw a small contingent of soldiers proudly participate in the dawn ceremony at Murchison with the remainder of the Depot members attending the main Ceremony at Shepparton in an unofficial capacity. And then there was EX Hamel. Shepparton Depot had again a strong presence at Ex Hamel 2016 with 12 members attending in the cold winter conditions. Thanks C Coy for the New Jackets. The Highlights in Cultana were PTE D Taylor putting his marksmanship principles into good use by destroying an enemy BTR-60(ASLAV) with his 66mm in a daring counter attack against an overwhelming enemy raid.

In 2016 we also said a sad farewell to SSGT Solomano who after many years of dedicated service with 8/7 RVR at both Shepparton and Cobram Barracks departed for greener pastures to HQ 1 BDE (Darwin) to advance his career and work his INTEL skills. All has not been lost as SSGT Solomano is often still seen at the Depot on a Tuesday night working as a visitor accessing the vast array of technology and resource at the Depot and sharing his wealth of knowledge to all the members within the Shepparton Depot. The Boys and Girls at the Somme Barracks look forward to the future of C Coy and 8/7 RVR in 2017. ■

LCPL BRADEN WRIGHT
C COY | SHEPPARTON

to Melbourne), Tarin Tants (Opened a new business) and Luke Dear (Family commitments). We have recently welcomed Tim Dunstan and Chris O'Flarherty who are both police officers. Chris has recently completed the CAM course and both are keen to get fully qualified ASAP.

It has also been a valuable time to support our local community with the centenary of ANZAC and the associated commemorations with the local ex-service groups and the public which we have especially enjoyed. With spots available we will be actively recruiting this year. The Swan Hill depot is an excellent facility which we share with a large group of air force cadets and some ring-ins from 4 CSSB. ■



Social Media and Newspaper Coverage

POW Memorial Ballarat

Prisoners of war from as far as Perth made the journey to Ballarat on Sunday to mark the 12th anniversary of the opening of the Australian ex-Prisoners of War Memorial.

POW's as old as 98 from World War Two were among the 750 people who attended the service, which was also attended by Army Chief Lieutenant General Angus Campbell and RSL National President Rear Admiral Ken Doolan.

Memorial trustee Bill Bahr said the large attendance from locals as well as interstate visitors highlighted the significance of the memorial for many people.

"The memorial has a place in the Australian community that offers a place for quiet reflection," Mr Bahr said. "As our guest speaker said, there's 36,000 stories here."

The service comes one year ahead of the 75th anniversary of the fall of Singapore in February 2017, which will see the national service held at the Ballarat memorial.

Mr Bahr said the event was likely to attract thousands to the Ballarat region, including the prime minister. ■



Unveiling Attended by Sons and Daughters of the 39th Battalion

The 39th Battalion: The 39th (Ballarat) Battalion was formed on 21st February 1916 at the Ballarat Showgrounds in Victoria and drew most of its original recruits from the state's Western District. It became part of the 10th Brigade of the 3rd Australian Division. Sailing from Melbourne on 27th May, the battalion arrived in England on 18th July and commenced four months of training. It crossed to France in late November and moved into the trenches of the Western Front for the first time on 9th December 1916, just in time for the onset of the terrible winter of 1916–17.

The 39th fought in its first major battle at Messines, in Belgium, between 7–9 June 1917. During its march to the start-line for this operation the battalion suffered heavily from a German gas bombardment and less than a third of the troops earmarked to attack actually did so. The battalion, however, captured all of its objectives. The 39th fought in another two major attacks in this sector – the carefully planned and executed battle of Broodseinde on 4th October, and the disastrous battle of Passchendaele on 12th October.

Belgium remained the focus of the 39th Battalion's activities for the next five months as it was rotated between service in the front line and the rear areas. When the German Army launched its last great offensive in March 1918, the battalion was rushed south to France and played a role in turning the German drive aimed at the vital railway junction of Amiens.

The Allies launched their own offensive on 8th August 1918, but the 10th Brigade was the 3rd Division's reserve on this day so the 39th did not play an active role. It was involved, however, in an ill-conceived attack that failed to capture the village of Proyart on 10th August. Not daunted by this experience, the battalion continued to play an active role throughout August and early September in the 3rd Division's advance along the Somme Valley.

The 39th participated in its last major action of the war between 29th September and 2nd October 1918 as part of the Australian-American operation that breached the formidable defences of the Hindenburg Line along the St Quentin Canal.

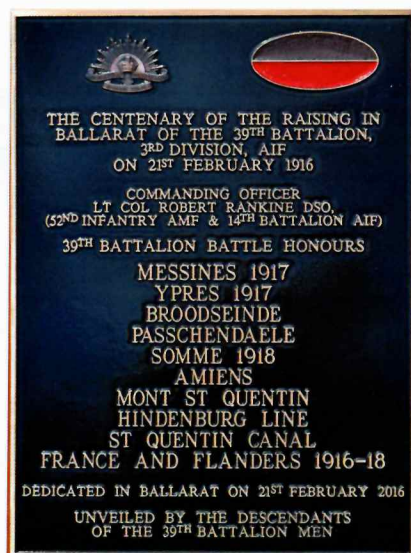
Along with much of the AIF, the 39th was resting out of the line when the war ended on 11th November. The 39th Battalion was disbanded in March 1919.

Plaque Unveiling: To commemorate the centenary of the raising of the battalion a plaque was unveiled at the Ballarat Ranger Military Museum on Sunday 21st February 2016. The unveiling service was attended by about 100 people including eight sons and daughters of 39th Battalion men. Manager of the Ranger Museum, Major Neil Leckie RFD (Ret'd) was the MC for the service.

Major Cliff Gowers, XO 8/7 RVR, welcomed the visitors. Celebrated author Cecilia Dart-Thornton, currently writing the history of her grandfather, 39th Battalion man William Palstra, was the Guest Speaker.

Former Adjutant 8/7 RVR and former CO of 39th Personnel Support Battalion (now 39th Operational Support Battalion) Lieutenant Colonel Daryl Clarke (Ret'd) responded on behalf of 39th Bn (1939-45) Association, the association having financially supported the day. Major Tim Frankcombe, OPSO 39th OSB recited The Ode.

Two presentations were made to the museum: a copy of the book containing the diaries of 39th Battalion Military Cross recipient Hector James, and a Certificate presented to the 39th Battalion's William Kisler. ■





**4th Brigade
Australian Army**
Page Liked · March 12

Exercise Predators Gallop Cultana Training Area - South Australia

Battle Group Jacka Headquarters during Exercise Predators Gallop at the Cultana Training Area, South Australia.

Elements of the 4th and 9th Brigades took part in Exercise Predators Gallop conducted in March 2016 at the Cultana Training Area, South Australia.

Battlegroup Jacka comprised more than 600 soldiers from the 4th and 9th Brigades, in support of the Australian

Army's 1st Brigade. The exercise provided soldiers with experience in a combined arms environment, where infantry, engineers, armour and artillery are integrated into a single fighting unit.

Exercise Predators Gallop was an important step in the 1st Brigade's journey to becoming the Army's 'ready' brigade in July this year where the 1st Brigade may be tasked at short notice to undertake a range of missions, depending on the requirements of the Government.

Around 2,800 personnel took part in the exercise including members of the Royal Australian Air Force who provided integral intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance support and combat air interoperability. ■

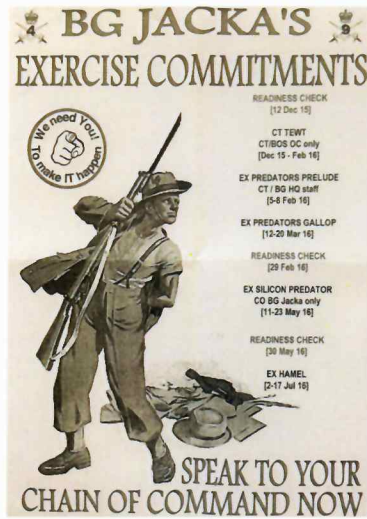


Comments



Candice Hickey Cameron OngPeter
Campion When your face is so covered in
cam cream you're unrecognizable! Big win
for me smile emoticon
Like · Reply · March 30 at 9:43am

Patches for Battle Group JACKA
were designed by 8/7 RVR OPSO
MAJ John Spencer. Each patch was
numbered to signify the position and
role of personnel on the EMD (Exercise
Manning Document). J-001 was worn
by the CO LTCOL Tom Biedmann.





4th Brigade
Australian Army
Page Lead - March '13

What do YOU get up to on your days off? Meet Private Jacob Elliott from C COY Shepparton. He's from Kyabram in Victoria. When he's not working as a retail trade technician, he can be found being paid a tax-free salary to operate high-tech military gear in the Army Reserve. As a soldier of the 8th/7th Royal Victoria Regiment, Private Jacob Elliott is a friendly guy - just don't give him stink eye when he looks like this... ■

Comments



Ant Fourby Thanks for all your hard work and dedication to our country and keeping our way of life alive!!

Like · Reply · 1 · April 16 at 11:26am

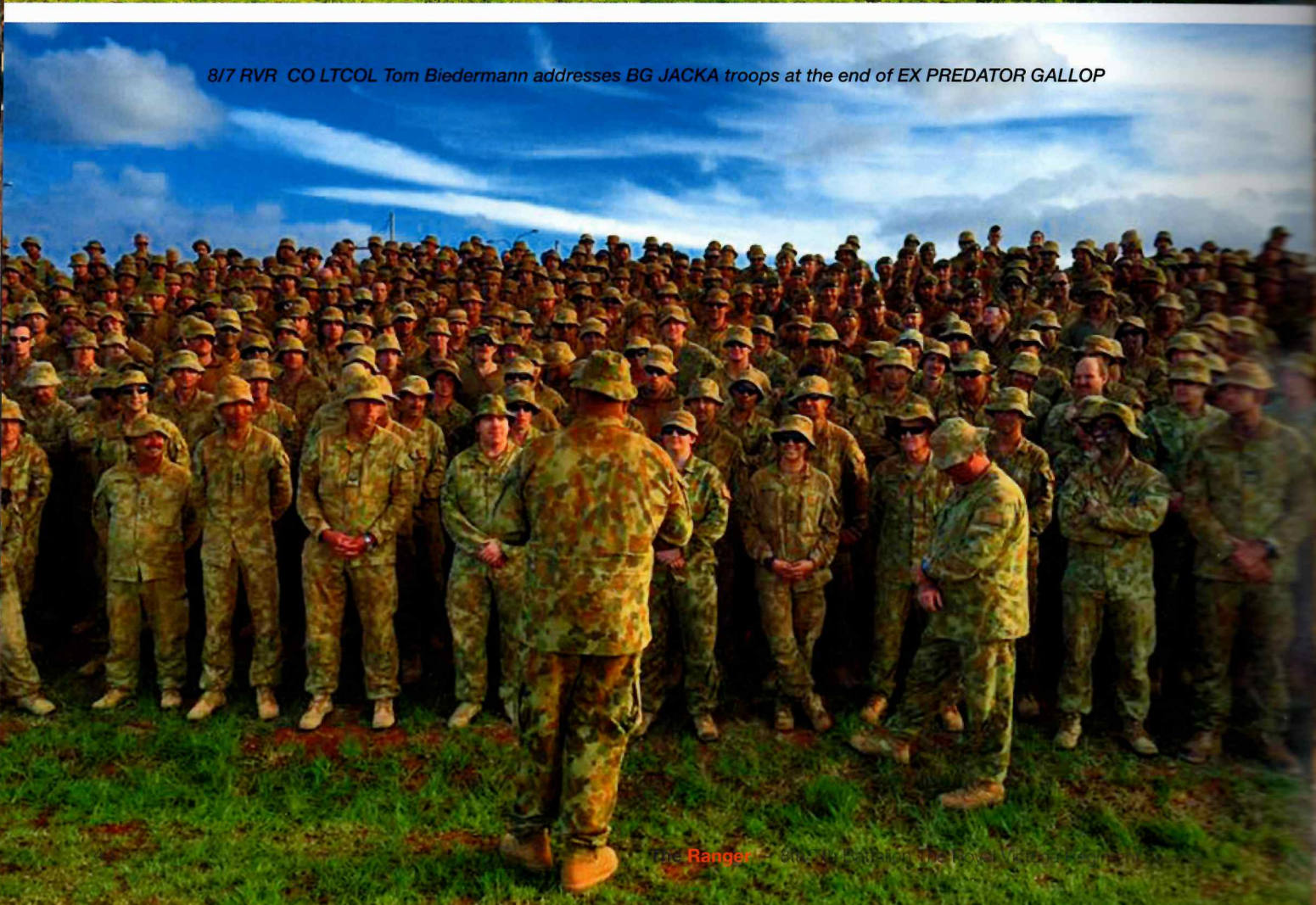
Photography by Corporal Nunu Campos.







8/7 RVR CO LTCOL Tom Biedermann addresses BG JACKA troops at Port Augusta before EX PREDATOR GALLOP



8/7 RVR CO LTCOL Tom Biedermann addresses BG JACKA troops at the end of EX PREDATOR GALLOP



**4th Brigade
Australian Army**
Page Liked · March 15

Members of the 8th/7th Royal Victorian Regiment are always up for a challenge.

In March, soldiers from the Regiment set off to the ochre-tinted desert sands of Cultana, to work with other units from Tasmania, South Australia and Darwin in order to defeat a fictitious enemy, battling them in a conventional warfare environment.

With minimal sleep and in sweltering heat, the 8th/7th Royal Victorian Regiment soldiers proved their worth, offering surge capacity to the regular army when it needed it, defending positions that had been seized in battle and escorting critical supplies forward to combat teams quickly.

"Soldiers from our platoon were an integral part of the Battlefield Clearance Team," said Lieutenant Robert Powell, who commanded the infantry platoon embedded into Battle Group Tiger for the duration of their time at Exercise Predators Gallop.

"Working under tight deadlines, for multiple sub units and with soldiers we had never met before was rewarding challenge," Lieutenant Powell said.

Members of the 8th/7th Royal Victorian Regiment were under the command of different sub units during the Exercise and Lieutenant Powell's platoon was split and reformed several times. If that wasn't difficult enough, tasks were usually short notice and very reactive. For Lieutenant Powell, though, this just added to the complexity and excitement of the role. "The reason I joined the Army Reserve was because it seemed like it would be an adventure and it has not disappointed," he said.

Lieutenant Powell is a Project Manager in his civilian career, and clearly his time and people management skills seep into his reserve work, as he is currently juggling multiple command roles within the Regiment, across Ballarat and Monegeetta in Victoria.

"The best part of reserve work is the fact that you get to do so many different things, in incredible parts of the world," he said. As a reservist, Lieutenant Powell has been involved in Humanitarian Assistance Missions, Peace-Keeping Operations, Boarder Protection Operations and participated in multilateral military training both in Australia and overseas. "With every new role I've taken on in the army, I've had an opportunity to challenge myself and develop a new skill," he said.

Now that Exercise Predators Gallop is over, though, things are not slowing down for members of the 8th/7th Royal Victorian Regiment. Over the next twelve weeks, they will be conducting Live Fire High Explosives exercises and will also use an operational civilian airport in Victoria to run a security management (Cordon and Search) exercise.

"This is all part of our ongoing professional development and battle preparation from soldier to commander," explained Lieutenant Powell. ■

Photographer: Lance Corporal Caddy



Members from B COY 8th/7th Royal Victorian Regiment (Infantry Platoon), J31 EXPG16 embedded with the 3rd/9th Light Horse, South Australian Mounted Rifles and Medics from the 6th Health Support Company in Victoria all worked together to support Battle Group Tiger for the duration of Exercise Predators Gallop.



4th Brigade
Australian Army
 Page Liked · March 15

#OurPeople
#4Brigade #Geelong

As a reservist in the 4th Brigade, LCPL Jessica Challis from Geelong has been deployed predominately on humanitarian operations.

In 2014, the ship she was posted to on Operation Resolute became heavily involved in a search for missing Malaysian airliner MH370. During the devastating Victorian bushfires in 2009, Lance Corporal Challis also provided much-needed logistical support to assist bushfire-affected communities across the State.

Jess joined the Army reserves when she was 18 years old, determined to drive big trucks and see as much of the world as possible. "Getting behind the wheel of these massive machines really appealed to me, and there's nowhere else but the Army where you get to drive these kind of vehicles",

And after eight years of reservist work, she has no intention of leaving anytime soon. Jess explained, "I love my job as a driver in the 4th Brigade. I get to travel to incredible places and see parts of the country through the windscreens of Rovers and Unimogs".

Truly passionate about her work, Jess also drives vehicles outside of the reserves. Getting her civilian job as a courier driver, she said, has only been possible because of the qualifications she obtained in the reserves, "Army has given me a medium rigid licence and that's the qualification I required to get my current job outside of the reserves".

LCPL Challis has just finished a number of days camping out in the South Australian outback as part of Exercise Predators Gallop. For her, the highlight of this military training exercise has been the opportunity to apply her skills in a tactical warfighting environment, "it's fantastic to be able to do my job in the way it was traditionally intended. And of course, being part of Battlegroup Jacka has brought together people from my Battalion, the 8th/7th Battalion, Royal Victorian Regiment, that I haven't had a chance to meet."

LCPL Challis is looking forward to getting out and seeing more of the world and driving more advanced and even bigger vehicles. But, after so many days camping in the dusty bush, there was just one last mission for Lance Corporal Challis: get back to Geelong to enjoy a hot meal with family and friends. ■

Comments



Connie La Travelle Yay go Jess! xx
 Like · Reply · 1 · March 22 10:10am



Ellen Mc Ilroy Well done Jessica.
 Like · Reply · March 22 11:04am



Dawn Darbie Jessica what the hell, you had MORE of this awesome sauce inside your already incredible self?!?! I am in awe.
 Like · Reply · 1 · March 22 11:12am



Debbie Jorgensen Awesome report Jess xx
 Like · Reply · March 22 3:36pm



Sally McNamara Onya Jessica!
 Like · Reply · March 22 9:08pm



Ilma Weir Congrats to Jessie. My sister's granddaughter and my nephew Neil's dtr
 Like · Reply · March 23 2:00pm

Photographer: Corporal Nunu Campos





**4th Brigade
Australian Army**
Page Liked · March 17

These best mates met through the Army reserves. Private Tony Lay, Private Jerome Jimenez and Private Chris Lourey all became friends a few years ago when they joined the 4th Brigade's 8th/7th Royal Victoria Regiment in Laverton.

They deployed together to Malaysia, and their friendship grew stronger as they undertook training at Rifle Company Butterworth. Working as infantrymen in manoeuvre support, the trio of Privates agreed that Exercise Predator's Gallop has been easier because of their friendship, as they relied on each other as a team to deploy heavy weaponry and explosives capabilities to the 1st Brigade's Battlegroup Tiger.

Private Jimenez explained that a number of soldiers from the 4th Brigade have been directly embedded into Battlegroup Tiger, "and we've

seen some amazing things and got to work with great military equipment like the Protected Mobility Vehicles (aka Bushmasters)".

For Private Lourey, the Exercise has provided a unique break from his day job as a systems engineer. Indeed, the application of military skills has left Private Jimenez wanting more. Private Jimenez is about to transfer to the regular army, explaining that, "my time in the 4th Brigade has really inspired me to take my military career further".

Before they head back out to the field for one last assault, Private Lourey gives out some sage advice to people thinking about joining the reserves: "if you're thinking about joining the reserves, do it now. Don't put it off".

Comments



Krystian Tantara Chris Lourey
Like · Reply · March 23 at 6:00pm



Acey Rodriguez Jerome Jimenez Chris Lourey Tony Lay
Like · Reply · 1 · March 23 at 6:01pm
View 1 more reply



4th Brigade - Australian Army Lol- must have been your regular presence.
Like · Reply · 2 · March 23 at 6:43pm



Jonny Walther jimmy my boiii !! pulling out the advice haha nah good stuff guys!
Like · Reply · 2 · March 23 at 6:43pm · Edited



IJ Muz Army friends
Like · Reply · 1 · March 24 at 7:21am



Hundreds turn out for a brief Anzac Day dawn service

by Melanie Whelan

There is something about the stillness in the air and the solemn hush spreading over crowds at the cenotaph in Sturt Street that moves Alex Tascas. Every time. The Ballarat RSL president said it never mattered where you attended an Anzac Day dawn service, it was special.

“Years ago I was posted in Singapore, the service started when it was really dark. Then you look up and, all of a sudden, you see row upon row of white crosses on lush green grass...that is a sight I’ll never forget,” Ms Tascas said. “It’s always moving. There is something special about going along early in Ballarat with the whole family, watching the catafalque party as it mounts near the cenotaph, the white crosses in Sturt Street as daylight starts to break.”

State league women’s soccer team Ballarat Eureka Strikers and TAC Cup under-18 football team North Ballarat Rebels were among the city’s sporting teams banding together to pay their respect before dawn.

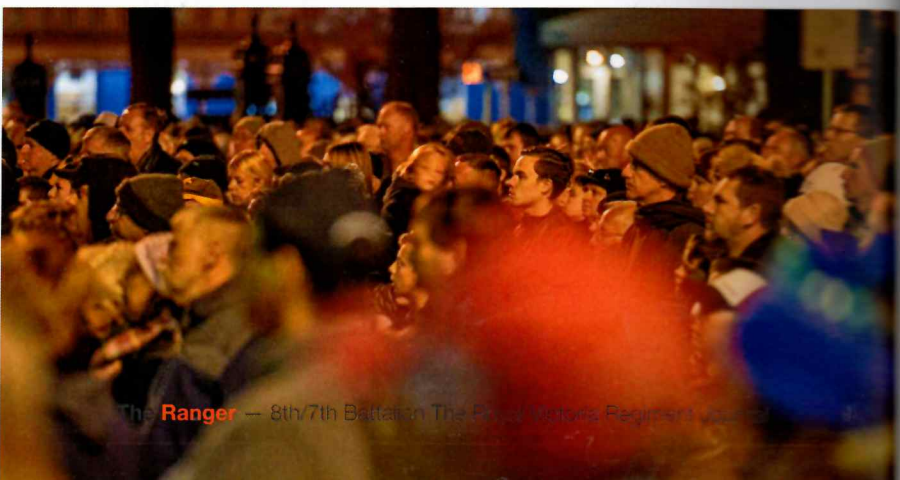
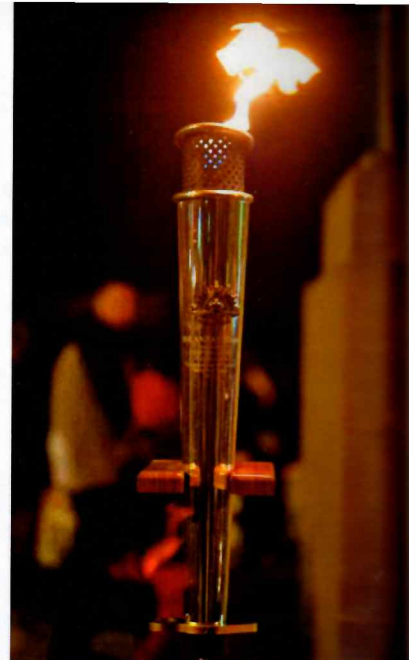
The service was short, this year without a guest speaker. Ms Tascas said the format was flexible, depending on what was relevant each year. Ballarat RSL opted for basic tradition amid Anzac centenary celebrations, one year on from a large occasion to commemorate the Gallipoli landing. Ms Tascas expected 2018 to also be a larger ceremony and crowd, marking 100 years since the end of World War I.

Ballarat RSL hosted a gunfire breakfast, free to the public, following the tradition of soldiers eating a large meal before battle each morning. Sausage, bacon and eggs were sizzling on the barbecue. Rum coffee was also a popular choice for those hoping a to warm up a little.

Federation University piper Major Neil MacDonald, said he gets chills each time bugler Tamara Barrett sounds the Last Post at the Ballarat dawn service. It’s then that I must step up to play the bagpipes.

“The dawn service is always very emotional for me,” Mr MacDonald said. “My father was a prisoner of war in Burma. Each time I play, it brings back memories of my father.” ■

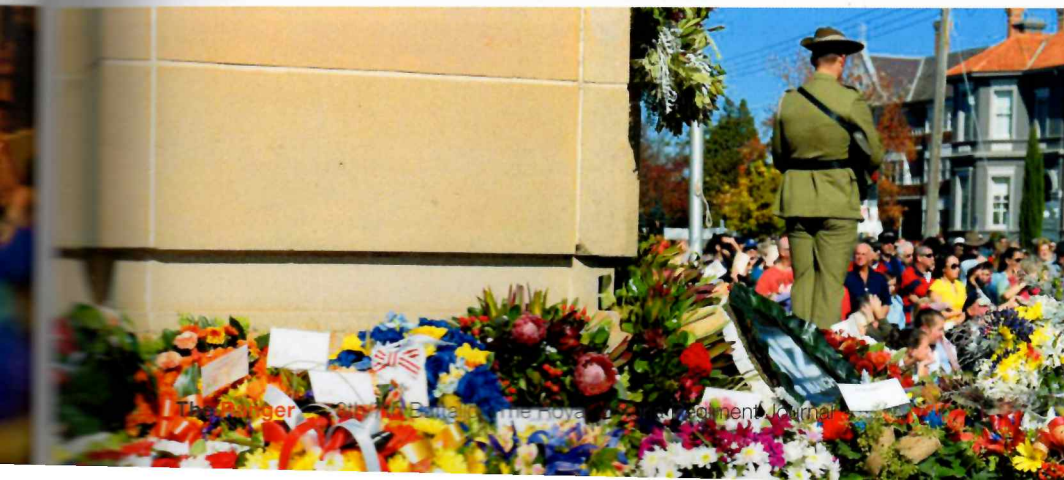
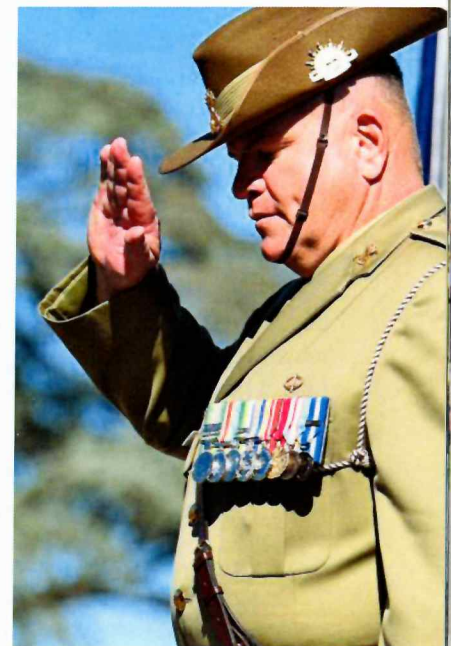
Article courtesy of the Ballarat Courier Newspaper is subject to copyright



**BALLARAT
ANZAC DAY
Memorial Service**

**8/7 RVR BHQ
Admin COY**

**Bravo COY
Ballarat**



Moving service proves popular in Warrnambool

by Rachael Houlihan
 April 25, 2016, 7:04 a.m.

A MOVING service at Warrnambool's war memorial has drawn thousands on Monday morning. People rugged up in their warmest clothes for the 6am dawn service to honour and remember service men and women.

Warrnambool woman Emma Burchell pictured below, has been attending the dawn service for nearly 30 years. She began coming with her grandfather, Frank Craig, when she was a little girl. On Monday she proudly wore her grandfather's medals from World War II. She was surprised with the large turnout.

"When I was a little girl there would be 50 to 100 people tops," she said. "It's remarkable how many people come now, it has grown astronomically."

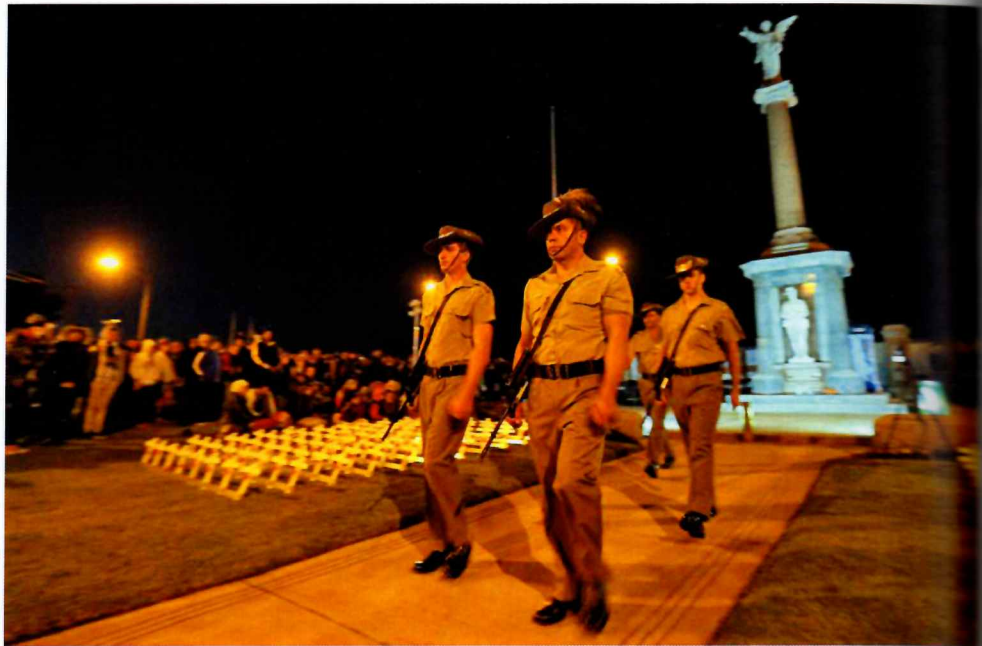
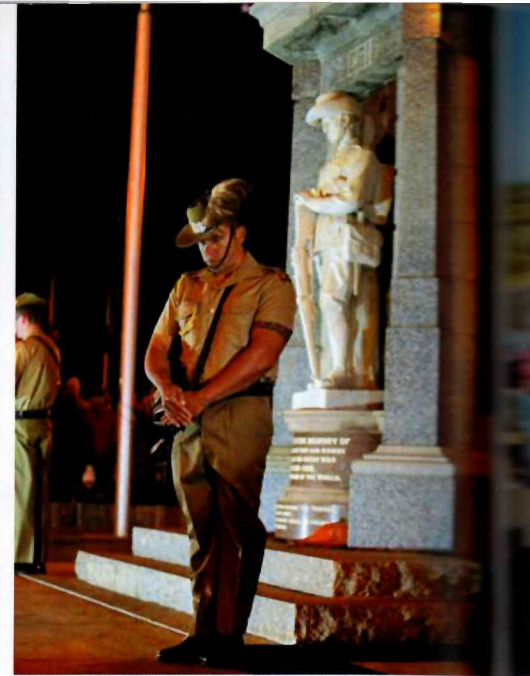
After the service the queue to the Warrnambool RSL was out the door, with hundreds lining up for breakfast.

A cemetery walk also began at 7.30am. A second march and commemorative service began at 10.30am.

From Port Fairy to Derrinallum and Cobden to Dunkeld, dawn and mid-morning services were well attended. ■

Article courtesy of the Warrnambool Standard newspaper is subject to copyright

Pictures: Courtesy of Mt Rob Gunstone





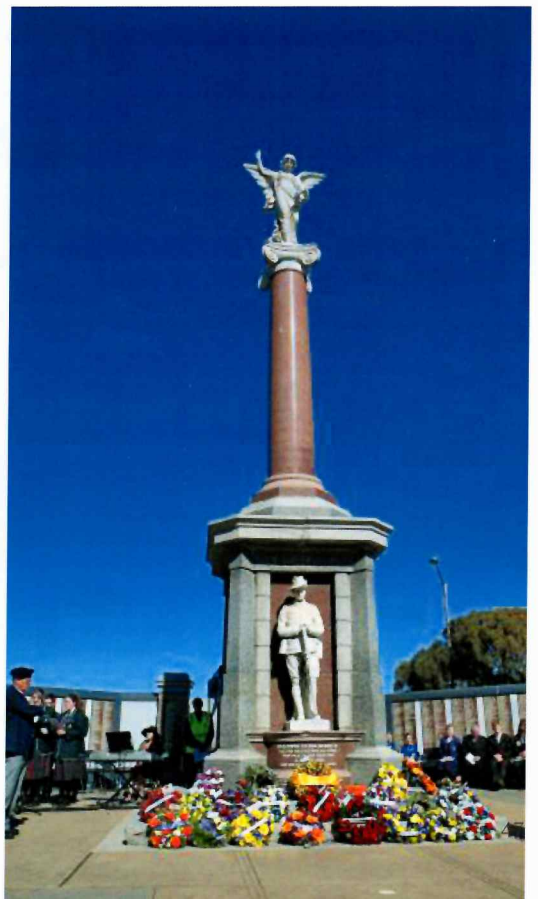
Bravo COY Warrnambool

THE south-west remembered the service men and woman who played their part in Australia's military history.

Warrnambool RSL president Mr John Miles estimated there was about 4000 people at the dawn and a "few thousand" at the 10.30am march and commemoration in Warrnambool. ■

Left: SGT Warren Gaunt laid a wreath on behalf of the CO 8/7 RVR. SGT Gaunt retires this year after 34 years service in the Army and we wish him well.

Pictured Below L-R: Past and present service women, Gladys Richards, WAAF, PTE Melanie Kent, 8/7 RVR who gave the Anzac Day Address; Avis Quarrell, AWAS, Sub Lieutenant Nicole Sorlie, RAN, and Margaret Morton, WRANS.



Ready for Service

Noel Murphy

Geelong catafalque parties - Soldiers who stand sentinel at our military shrines and cenotaphs - boast a service heritage that dates back to the Gold Rush days.

What is now Geelong's Australian Army Reserve unit, the 8th/7th Battalion, Royal Victoria Regiment, which is based in the large timber drill hall on Myers Street, originated as the Geelong Rifle Corps at a time when colonial authorities feared Russian forces might target Geelong.

Port Phillip was the richest port in the world at the time and deemed a target, especially with the Crimean War in full swing. With news from overseas taking two months to arrive, local fears were perhaps understandably a little frayed.

The corps became a fixture of Geelong, with many incarnations down the years. These days, it serves as an Army Reserve infantry company with a cross-section of Geelong volunteers providing a ready, community-based force.

Warrant Officer 2 Lucas Hourigan, who is Alpha company's training officer, says the unit's personnel bring varied skills and take army-learnt skills back to civilian life. "We have university students, apprentices, lawyers, nurses, teachers, admin assistants they're all infantrymen," he says. "On Anzac Day, we're doing catafalque guard duties, standing sentinel around the shrines and memorials. We start with the 4.15am pre-dawn service at the Johnstone Park Peace Memorial and we will have guys at Torquay's Point Danger service.

"We support Norlane RSL, the Belmont RSL, and we support the dawn service at the Boer War memorial at Kardinia Park. In addition, we do other duties as flag orderlies at University Hospital Geelong and the McKellar Centre [aged care]." All up, the reserve unit will provide up to 40 members for Anzac duty, virtually its full complement. It's a solemn duty and one earned out with the knowledge Geelong's guardians have been doing as much for more than 160 years.

The reserve is supporting this year's Army's Exercise Hamel. The Battle of Hamel, on July 4, 1918, was an attack launched by the Australian Imperial Force and several American units against German positions around the town of Hamel in northern France. The successful battle was commanded by Lieutenant General John Monash, who employed the new tactics of combined forces to successfully complete the battle in 93 minutes - previous battles using conventional tactics lasted for weeks or months with high casualty rates. The Battle of Hamel paved the way for Allied victory in World War I. ■

If you're interested in learning more about the Army Reserve phone 5227 7655.

Picture Courtesy of Reg Ryan

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APRIL 21-27, 2016

HOW MAJESTY OF MAJESTY
FOCUS HOUSE OF SHALIMAR THE BLACK PEARL

+ BRIDGING THE PAST
+ READY FOR SERVICE
+ THE COURAGEOUS ENEMY
+ A SWEET LEGEND
+ CAMP GALLIPOLI
+ FULL LIST OF SERVICES

ANZAC DAY
LUCAS HOURIGAN
BY NOEL MURPHY

GREATER GEELONG

+128 PROPERTIES FOR SALE 

Alpha COY
Geelong
Laverton

Corporal Drew Dinning — an Army Reserves member for 17 years — was one of those joining the march through Geelong streets, having served across Australia and overseas including stints in East Timor, Malaysia and Singapore.

Though he has no immediate family history in conflicts, a feeling of overwhelming admiration continues to resonate strongly throughout the father of four's duties within the guard or catafalque party every year.

"I feel privileged to be able to honour those that have served before me," he said.

"It's just that one day of the year that you reflect on everyone that's served before us ... it's just a good chance to reflect." ■



8/7 RVR Alpha COY PTE Shane Stretton and wife Rebecca share Anzac Biscuits with their boys at Kardinia Park after the Dawn Service



Perfect Dawn for Reflection at Torquay

Bodey Dittloff
Thursday April 28 2016

“Large crowds attend Anzac Day ceremonies to pay their respects”

THE Torquay beach provided a fitting backdrop to invoke the spirit of the Anzacs at a moving Dawn Service held under clear skies this morning..

Torquay RSL member Peter Thomas estimated the crowd of between 10,000 and 12,000 lined the cliffs of Point Danger, with an all female catafalque party said to be a first for the significant dawn service.

Alpha Company 8th/7th Royal Victoria Regiment Geelong provided the first ever all female catafalque party for this Dawn Service.

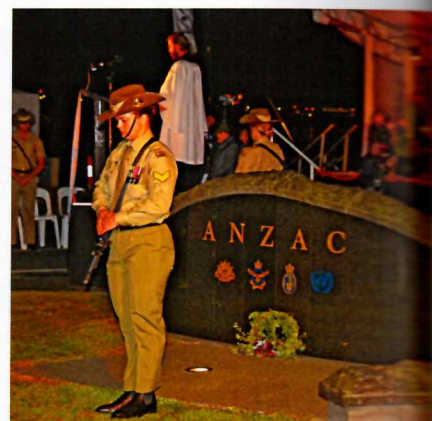
The party was led by SGT Katrina Almond: (pictured L-R) PTE Melissa Mortimer, PTE Cara Booth, SGT Katrina Almond, LCPL Jessica Challis and CPL Tegan Bubb. CPL Teska Cattell (pictured seated right) laid a wreath on behalf of the Commanding Officer.

The Torquay Anzac Day Dawn Service is reported to be the largest regional service outside of Melbourne and the 5th largest in Australia. And rightly so as the sun rose over Point Danger and the ceremony was spectacular. One of the major highlights of the morning being the re-enactment society dressed in older day army uniforms doing the firing party salute over the ocean.

This was also PTE Mortimer and PTE Booth's first catafalque party with both being ecstatic to be chosen to be apart of the Torquay service. "That's the first of many more to come I hope' PTE Mortimer stated as she left the ceremony. The catafalque party had been training for weeks before hand to make sure their drill was up to standard for the day. SGT Almond was extremely happy with the outcome of her instruction. ■

Article by PTE Melissa Mortimer and CPL Tegan Bubb. Photographs provided courtesy of Peter Marshall.

Article courtesy of the Geelong Echo News is subject to copyright



Photograph: LCPL Jessica Challis provided courtesy of Rebecca Hosking



Diggers remembered across the Geelong region

HUNDREDS gathered at Geelong's Kilgour St Boer War memorial near the entrance to Kardinia Park for dawn dedications, prayers and wreath laying, led by 8/7 RVR Chaplain Geoffrey Trail from Alpha Company.

Bugler Gemma Hale (pictured right) set a reverent tone for the ceremony with a gentle background rendition of Abide With Me before misting eyes with the Last Post and Reveille in the morning stillness before leading a chorus of Advance Australia Fair.

Speaker Major Adam Runciman of Alpha Company emphasised the importance of maintaining freedom and stressed that governments and effectively all Australians, not defence authorities, decided where armed forces should serve.

Vietnam Veterans Association Geelong sub-branch president Rieny Nieuwenhof was among people to lay wreaths, paying respects and marking the 50th anniversary of the Battle of Long Tan. ■



Article courtesy of the Geelong Advertiser

Pictured L-R: 8/7 RVR Chaplain Geoffrey Trail, A COY: LT Alejandro Perez, CSM WO2 John Digby, OC MAJ Adam Runciman, LT Marko Djurovic, SGT Rodney Spong in front of the Boer War Memorial on the cnr of Kilgour Road Kardinia Park.

Photographs courtesy of Mr Graham Hobbs



Anzac Day Dawn Service Bendigo 2016

April 25, 2016, 6:30 a.m.

It has been 100 years since Bendigo held its first Anzac Day service, but the importance of the occasion to the community has anything but dimmed.

As light slowly began to filter into the dark sky, thousands of people, young and old, gathered at the cenotaph at Charing Cross to honour all the men and women who have served for Australia.

Despite their huge number the crowd remained silent throughout the dawn service, a mark of the respect felt for those who have given their time and too often their lives in service of their country and its citizens.

The march from the Soldiers Memorial Institute to the cenotaph for the service was led by men and women in the uniforms of World War I servicemen and nurses, to mark the centenary years of the war. "Imagine this morning, what Bendigo was like 100 years ago today," master of ceremonies Jonathan Ridnell said.

"Some mourning the death of a son or husband in Gallipoli, others coming to terms with a returned soldier crippled by wounds received on the Dardenelles.

And others, relieved someone they loved had survived one campaign, but wondering what was in store for their men and women abroad, as the Anzacs prepared for action on the Western Front and the deserts of Sinai."

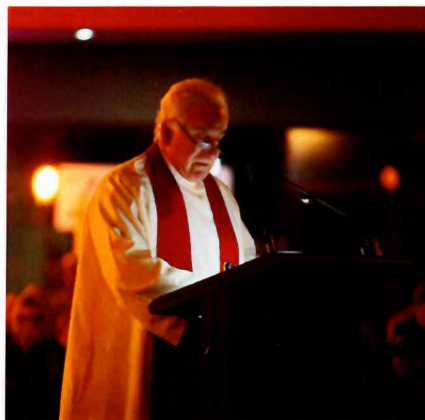
Mr Ridnell said 60,000 Australians were killed during World War I, 150,000 were wounded and many more were left scarred mentally and emotionally.

"This morning our own reflection brings us to this moment at the Bendigo cenotaph to make sure we never forget," he said.

The strains of the Last Post and Reveille rang through the quiet streets, before the service ended with the Bendigo Youth Choir singing the New Zealand and Australian national anthems.

Lance Corporal Chris Tucci, a veteran of East Timor and Iraq, said Anzac Day was an an important occasion for him. ■

Article and photographs courtesy of the Bendigo Advertiser are subject to copyright



Vietnam Vets
remembered across
Bendigo region

Charlie COY
Bendigo
Mildura
Swanhill
Shepparton



ANZAC Day Dawn and Memorial services at Henderson Park Mildura

Photos by Louise Donges April 25, 2016.

Mildura Independent

A crowd of more than 3500 attended the 6am morning Anzac Day service at Mildura where a new honor roll was dedicated for the first time by local Anglican Archdeacon Michael Hopkins..

The honor roll displays the names of 137 men from Mildura who have completed active service and deployment overseas from the years 1976 to 2015. The roll also honors another 16 local Boer War veterans not previously acknowledged.

The guest speaker this year was Major General Andrew Mathewson, who was born at Mildura Base Hospital and grew up on a horticultural property at Merbein West before joining the Australian Defence Force as a 15 year old in 1980, graduating from Duntroon in 1987.

He said Anzac Day gives us all an opportunity to reflect on the sacrifices made by those men and women who have served and particularly those who made the ultimate sacrifice.

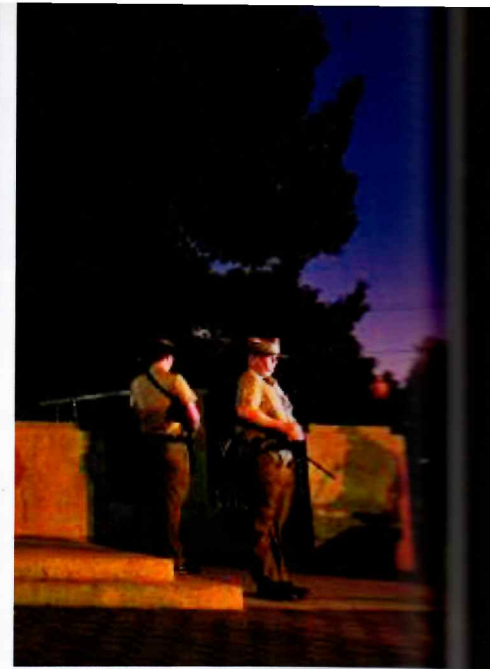
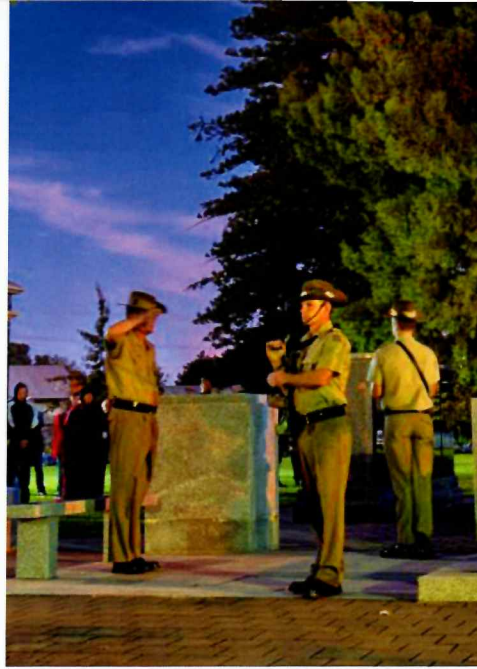
“My grandfather, John Mathewson, left his block in Mildura to join the army in the late 1930’s. He served with the 2nd/2nd Pioneer Battalion and ultimately perished, like so many others, as a prisoner of war under the Japanese, building the Burma Railway.”

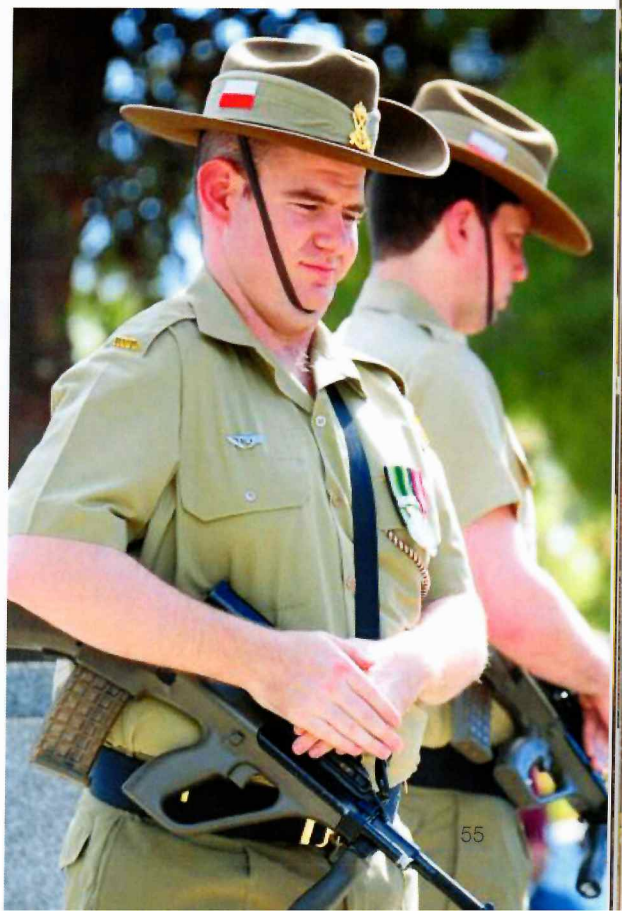
He said the truth about our ANZAC heritage is that in honoring it, we continue to hold dear in our hearts the memory of all those who have served and sacrificed.

“We must never forget that over the last century of conflict we have lost more than 100,000 Australian lives, and with them all, the love of their country and the hope and energy they had to contribute.”

Major General Mathewson was appointed a member of the order of Australia in the year 2015. ■

Photographs courtesy of the Sunraysia Daily are subject to copyright





Australian Army's training mission success at Ballarat Airport

The Courier - Melanie Whelan
May 17, 2016, 3 p.m.

FUELERS Car Club transformed into an outlaw bikie gang headquarters, peppered with potential bombs, booby traps, intelligence and people of interest to test Australian soldiers.

For three days, Ballarat Airport became the focus for a cordon and search training mission to prepare the Australian Army's next "ready" brigade.

The Army's 4th Brigade, featuring Ballarat infantry reserves, will be the certified go-to brigade to deploy on operations at home and abroad from July 1. Reservists must enter a state of high readiness, adaptability and preparedness for broad-spectrum warfare and emergency relief.

Tackling imaginary outlaws was a key step to ensure they are ready. Fuelers – usually a Ballarat hot rod, custom and muscle car enthusiasts' base – was decorated and detailed to fit the mission.

Ballarat-based warrant officer Glenn Scott, part of the company to set-up the scene, was pleased with how smoothly the exercise rolled out with co-operation of Ballarat police, Fuelers and civilians.

"Ballarat Airport is a great facility, We try to make use of it when we can," Scott said. "There was a lot of interest from civilians in the area, a lot out walking their dogs, and they were all really good. There's always going to be people and kids around we must shield from any threat."

About 80 infantry soldiers from the 8th/7th Battalion, Royal Victoria Regiment and 15 combat engineers from the 22nd Engineer Regiment teamed up for the active scenario. Their mission was to secure an area to search for people of interest, conduct vehicle check points, conduct low and high level searches for threats (like bombs, intelligence, booby traps), detain and be prepared to interrogate high level targets (enemy forces), establish observation posts and conduct battle procedures.

Soldiers organised in creating the scenario played roles of bikies and enemy militia. Other infantrymen had to safely locate them, detain them for questioning and also manage any hazards, like being shot at or improvised explosive devices.

Engineers searched for bombs and safety threats and sought intelligence bikie gang members may have left about, like USB memory sticks.

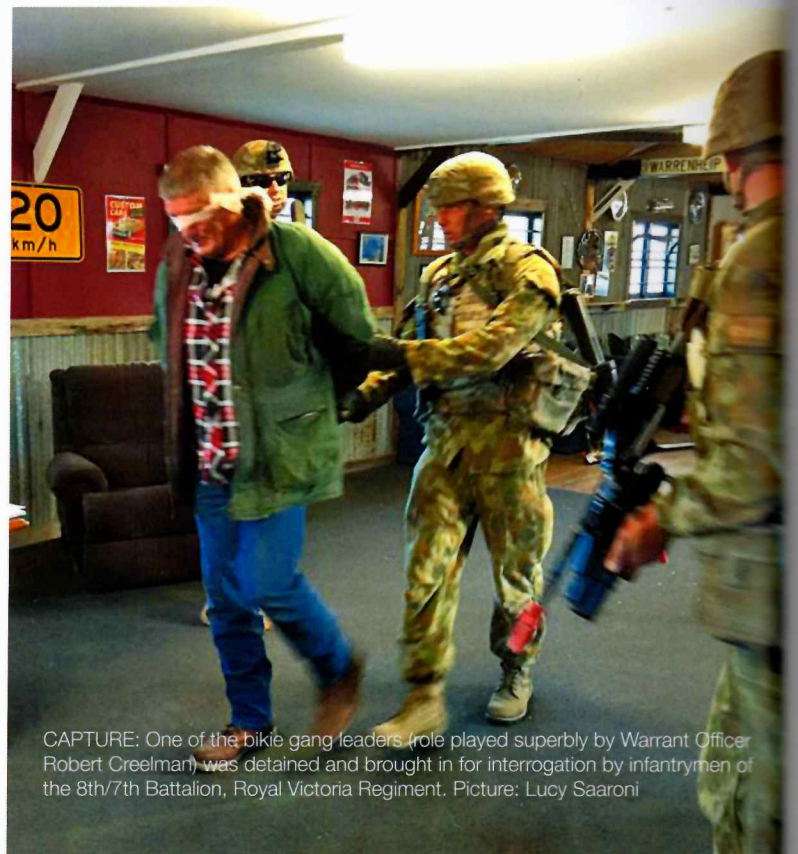
CPL Howley was commanding a section of engineers during the cordon and search mission. "The work of



Corporal Simon Howley from the 22nd Engineer Regiment.



CHECK: Soldiers of the 8th/7th Battalion, Royal Victoria Regiment, cordoning off and searching parts of the Ballarat airport. Picture: Lucy Saaroni



CAPTURE: One of the bikie gang leaders (role played superbly by Warrant Officer Robert Creelman) was detained and brought in for interrogation by infantrymen of the 8th/7th Battalion, Royal Victoria Regiment. Picture: Lucy Saaroni

the engineers in this scenario is quite complex, so I was really impressed to see everyone and everything coming together well today," he said.

The 4th Brigade is a reservist brigade drawing soldiers from across Victoria who, while learning critical military skills, offer a wealth of experience and knowledge from the civilian careers.

Exercise Hamel in South Australia is the 4th Brigade's next major challenge. The exercise is a joint defence force activity, featuring navy, air force and army assets. Those involved must confirm their foundation war fighting skills alongside 10,000 other soldiers. ■

Comments



Boiled Corn Beers on you at the Mud Club, Simon!

Like · Reply · 1 · May 15 at 10:04am



4th Brigade - Australian Army Try extracting beer payments and you'll be on honeypot duty at all future exercises wink emoticon ARA recognise the value of good PR, it's time for ARes to do the same!

Like · Reply · 1 · May 15 at 10:15am



Boiled Corn hehe.... ACK!

Like · Reply · May 15 at 4:01pm



Dale Wilde Daniel Horgasm if that's you mate...slab

Like · Reply · 1 · May 15 at 9:31pm



4th Brigade - Australian Army Dale Wilde Digger, please. Your CO will explain what PR is. In the meantime, we're a little busy promoting soldiers doing good work so forgive us if we don't give your snide remarks their full due.

Like · Reply · May 15 at 11:25pm

Photograph by CPL Nunu Campos.



4th Brigade
Australian Army
Page Liked · May 28

The Modern Victorian Soldier

How have soldiers changed since the 1970s? Are today's soldiers physically or mentally any different from those who went off to fight in Vietnam so many years ago?

Warrant Officer Class Two Bob Creelman can provide some insight into this enquiry. He is the Training Warrant Officer of the 8th/7th Royal Victorian Regiment and has been in the army for 45 YEARS!!

Based in Ballarat, Victoria, WO Creelman's steely posture belies his soft and kind blue eyes. Many of the young reserve soldiers look up to him with respect and he in turn mentors them through their military training, transitioning them from daytime civilians to night-time military fighters, with the wisdom of a sensei and the dry humour that only a veteran soldier can have.

WO Creelman holds the new generation of soldiers in high regards. "Today's soldier is more educated," WO Creelman explains, "most of the kids have completed higher education and come to the Regiment armed with a deeper understanding of the world. But for all the technological and weaponry advancements, basic soldiering remains the same. You know, there's still only one way to really dig a hole."

"I'm very proud of my soldiers," WO Creelman said, "especially during the recent combined arms exercises, as they haven't conducted conventional warfare training for a while." "They've been tied up in East Timor and The Soloman Islands, which was much more focused on street and urban operations".

The soldiers WO Creelman is referring to are predominately reservists. Girls and guys like you, living normal lives in country towns of Victoria. And while it is hard to imagine these camouflaged, weaponised men and women as civilians, their youthful enthusiasm has palpable as the team have been using new technology like armoured vehicles. "Right now, our morale is high and the Regiment is looking forward to Exercise Hamel – a massive Army exercise which will confirm and evaluate our foundation war fighting skills", WO Creelman says.

When Exercise Hamel takes place in July this year, the soldiers of the 8th/7th Royal Victorian Regiment will be assessed and certified to enter the ready phase of the Army's Force Generation Cycle. This means that they, along with the rest of Victoria's 4th Brigade, will be effectively trained and equipped to deploy on any future contingency operations.

The prospect of deploying on operation is one that interests many of the Brigade's members, who became reservists to serve their communities, protect their countries and be a part of something bigger than themselves. In this way at least, it's clear that soldiers haven't changed a bit. ■





**4th Brigade
Australian Army**
Page Liked · May 24 ·

New Kit for 8/7 RVR ##Gucci ###DiggerStyles

Three soldiers from the 8th/7th Battalion, Royal Victoria Regiment, took a moment to admire their new kit before heading out on a combined arms training activity.

Privates Zach Petrie (left), Shaun Brown and Darroch Snook can't help but look a little smug. Their Battalion is the first in the Brigade to be equipped with the new Soldier Combat Ensemble.

"Our combat body armour is greatly improved, and with better night weapons sight, it makes life a lot easier in the field," said PTE Brown.

"Accessing our equipment is a lot easier with this ensemble," said PTE Petrie.

"And of course, the active hearing protection allows us to safely and clearly hear orders while we're in the middle of action and there are gunshots or mortars being fired all around us," explained PTE Snook. These trio of privates parade with Bravo Company at the Ranger Barracks in Ballarat. ■

Comments



Andrew Browne Glad to read they can safely hear orders with this new kit. I've always worried about the dangers of hearing orders.

Like · Reply · 5 · May 24 at 8:17am



Juz Ludes Dale Wilde thoughts?

Like · Reply · May 24 at 1:27pm



Juz Ludes haha I don't think he says anything smart enough to use

Like · Reply · 1 · May 24 at 1:35pm





**4th Brigade
Australian Army**
Page Liked · May 28·

**#Fitspo ##
#DigDeep###**

"I like getting outdoors. What we do here is certainly more productive than sitting on the couch watching TV," said Private Matthew Robinson of the 8th/7th Battalion, Royal Victoria Regiment (on the left in the photo).

Matt's story is pretty inspiring.

A few years ago, he decided he wanted a better lifestyle. He went to Defence Jobs Australia and took the initial tests to see whether he could qualify for the Army Reserve.

The recruiters were impressed with Matt's intellect. But physically, the recruiters knew he wouldn't be able to keep up. "They told me I needed to work on my fitness and get my BMI down. They said I needed to demonstrate that I could not only lose weight, but keep it off for at least 6 months"

Proving his determination through hard work, Matt lost 18 kilograms and kept it off. The whole process from testing to enlistment took nearly 2 years.



Private Robinson parades with the Bravo Company in Warrnambool, and since joining the Army Reserve, he's lost another 8 kilograms!

"I'd never really been into team sports, so the Reserve has been a catalyst for new and really rewarding physical activities." But it's not just the physical rewards that Private Robinson is gaining at 8/7 RVR. Being a reservist within the unit has helped him on his path to becoming a full time member of Victoria Police.

"The skillsets we gain in my battalion and the Army more broadly are highly transferrable. Today, I was a member of the 'enemy party' in a cordon and search exercise. I've been able to observe how to locate and neutralise threats in civilian locations and how teams are led into danger zones," said Private Robinson.

In this photo, Private Robinson is on the left, playing the role of a fictitious enemy party during an exercise. He stands next to Privates Dang and Hendrickson.

We wish Matt all the best with his career progression with VicPol - certainly beats sitting on the couch and watching TV ;p ■

Comments

Craig Hamilton When did the Kiwi's become the enemy
Like · Reply · May 28 at 9:40am



4th Brigade - Australian Army hehe, NZ probably uses old AusCam gear to clothe their fake enemy parties in exercises.
Like · Reply · May 28 at 9:53am



Brayden Bewy Warrick Petering good teacher i would say
Like · Reply · May 28 at 4:51pm



Defence Jobs Australia Thanks for sharing this #fitspo story! Hard work and determination WILL get you there and it's important to know there's support (Y)
Like · Reply · May 31 at 12:35pm · Edited

Battle Group JACKA Patrol Cultana Training Area on EX HAMEL 16

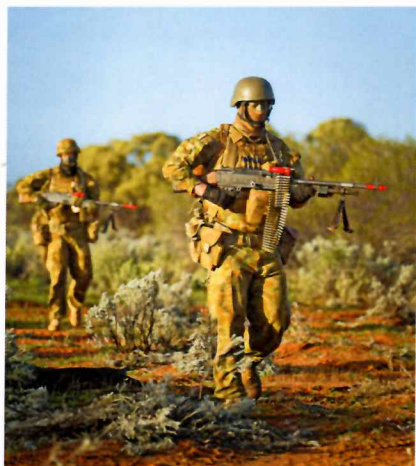
Army Reservists from 8/7 RVR have put their skills and equipment to the test in support of their full-time counterparts on Exercise Hamel 2016, being conducted from 26 June to 14 July in the Cultana training area, South Australia.

Battle Group Jacka comprised more than 700 soldiers from the 4th and 9th Brigades, in support of Darwin's 1st Brigade.

The exercise provided the reservists the opportunity to practice their military field skills within a combat team environment including infantry, engineers, armour and artillery supported by logisticians and signal elements.

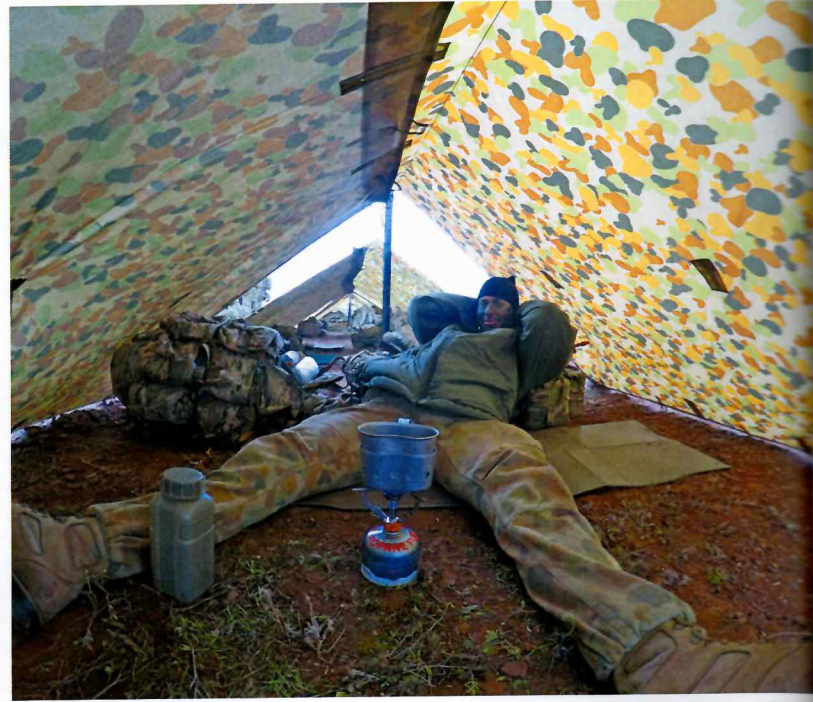
Army uses a series of exercises ('The road to Hamel') to build up the capacity of its next ready brigade and Exercise Hamel is the final test. In 2016, Darwin's 1st Brigade is being put through its paces to ensure it is ready to support every possible operational contingency, ranging from humanitarian assistance through to major combat operations.

Exercise Hamel 2016 involves 8000 military personnel from the Australian Army, Royal Australian Navy, Royal Australian Air Force, United States Marine Corps, United States Army and the New Zealand Army. ■





Vehicle Check Point
Combat Team Charlie







The Australian Army Training and Doctrine Podcast

Episode 4 - Exercise Hamel - Lieutenant Colonel Tom Biedermann is interviewed by Captain Sharon Mascall-Dare

This is Exercise HAMEL 2016 and I'm here with LTCOL Tom Biedermann who is the Commanding Officer of Battle Group JACKA, here at EX HAMEL. So tell us first of all, where is our location right now?

So right now we are in; for exercise purposes, the contested resource zone; in reality we are in the western sector of the Cultana Training Area conducting EX HAMEL.

Battle Group JACKA. Tell us more about the composition of the Battle Group that you are commanding?

Battle Group JACKA is a 707 soldier strong infantry Battle Group. It's comprised of three Infantry Companies, two of which are supported by protected mobility vehicle lift capability, provided by Armoured Corp. We have a light Artillery Battery, an Engineer Squadron, a Combat Service Support Squadron providing our administrative logistics. We have detached to 1 Armoured Regiment a Light CAV Scout Platoon; who work with 1 Armoured Regiment in 1 BDE as part of the unit narration piece for BG JACKA. We also have 40 logistic soldiers who work with the 1st Combat Service Support Battalion providing logistics for 1 BDE. Again this is the integration and reinforcement for BG JACKA that brings capability to 1 BDE.

And the key of course is that they are all Reservists.

Ah that's correct. There's a couple of ARA in key positions that Army Reserve cannot fill. But essentially this is a group of Army Reservists from Victoria, Tasmania and South Australia who have trained over the past 2 1/2 years to be ready. Not only for the Army's capstone exercise, being Exercise HAMEL; but also for the ready cycle and potential operational deployment with the 1st BDE.

And what in particular do you feel they are bringing in terms of capability?

So the Army Reserve brings us part time soldiers who can do full time jobs. Essentially Army Reservists get trained and through the collective training sequence that we have put the Battle Group through over the last 2 1/2 years, those skills get refined and enhanced so that we have part time soldiers who are capable of full time work. But not only that, from their civilian occupations these men and women bring us quite a range of skills, be it Chefs to Lawyers to Senior Management in firms, so there are a number of outside capabilities. This is particularly important in Battle Group Jacka's role with 1 BDE. We dominate the rear area for 1 BDE and provide security in the rear area where there are a number of civilian populations who are being simulated on this exercise. With the outside of the Army skills that our soldiers bring with us, we have a leg in to where we can deal with civilian populations and that is what I think is extremely important to understand about the part time soldier come full time civilian; to the full time soldier with some civilian skill sets.

Given that they are Reservists and they have busy lives, how do you go about structuring their training to get them ready for an exercise like this?

We start with everyone being individually qualified for their rank and to their trade. So are you qualified to drive a protected mobility vehicle? Can you be a rifleman and are you trained in the full skill set. So that is the individual training continuum. We seek to that in what we call the reset year where concentrating on individual competence are focused to work in Battle Group JACKA. Then we go into the readying phase, which is a culmination. In the readying phase we start working at small team level and get the collective skills that these guys need to work together. From then we just start matching those up in commanding and controlling those elements. So we match infantrymen into platoons, combat service support into their administrative functions, the light battery gets to work together as artillerymen providing fire support and engineers group together to form platoon size elements, capable of undertaking bigger tasks. More than four infantry soldiers together to form a bigger infantry brick. This is all part of carefully crafted exercises, and the exercises have training outcomes which lead us to Exercise HAMEL through the three, I guess, gate exercises that you have to pass through to get to HAMEL. And at HAMEL the expectation is where you are fully collectively trained to do our job. So on HAMEL right now three infantry companies are doing infantry company level tasks. These Companies have 131 soldiers in each, two of which are supported by protected mobility vehicle lift. This gives them mobility across the battle field. At times they will be supported by artillery fire support and Engineer support which gives them the ability to move through obstacles, for example or to different firing positions. Over the top of that Battalion Head Quarters who have trained together now for some 6 exercises in commanding and controlling this 700 soldier battle group. So this can range from knowing where everyone is to directing Infantry Companies to do particular tasks. So it has been a long journey, I guess, even longer for the 1st BDE because they have completed considerably more training time. However we have made the best we can of the training time that we get allocated. On training there is not a spare moment that you can let pass by without a man or a woman learning something. And I think that's also what they bring from their civilian career is that Army Reserve soldiers want to learn something and want to benefit from the experiences that they gain on exercises. As small as a platoon size exercise in training for Battle Group JACKA to a large scale exercise such as HAMEL. ■

To listen to the full interview go to Episode 4 - Exercise Hamel - LTCOL Tom Biedermann on [https:// soundcloud.com/army-training-doctrine/episode-4-exercise-hamel-lieutenant-colonel-tom-biedermann](https://soundcloud.com/army-training-doctrine/episode-4-exercise-hamel-lieutenant-colonel-tom-biedermann)

8/7 RVR on EX HAMEL 16
Cultana Training Area S.A.



Battle Group Jacka

was the largest reinforcing battlegroup to be raised for Exercise Hamel from reserve units so far, with more than 700 members drawn from 4th Brigade - Australian Army and 9th Brigade, Australian Army in Victoria, Tasmania and South Australia.





The infantry battlegroup comprised three companies supported by Bushmasters, one light artillery battery, an engineer squadron and a combat service support squadron providing administration and logistics support.





Warrnambool's Flagstaff Hill Maritime Village welcomes the presentation of two artefacts

12 Aug 2016, 2:51 p.m. by Rebecca Riddle



*Private Wilson-Rea and Corporal Petering from 8/7 RVR B COY handover artefacts to Mayor Gaston and Tourism Manager Peter Abbott.
Picture: Amy Paton*

Warrnambool's history cabinet gained another two significant artefacts this week when an 1861 silver bugle and the Sir W. Clarkes trophy were displayed at Flagstaff Hill Maritime Village for the first time. The Australian Army presented the Warrnambool Garrison artefacts from the 8th/7th Battalion to the maritime village during a handover ceremony on Thursday.

Tourism manager Peter Abbott said the ceremony was a long time in the making. "I have been trying for five or six years to obtain these items for public display. This is a significant day for Warrnambool and for Flagstaff Hill Maritime Village," he said. The silver bugle was originally presented to the Rifle Volunteers in 1861 by the ladies of Warrnambool. The second item is a large trophy awarded to various garrisons throughout the then Victorian colony as part of an annual target practice event. Warrnambool Garrison won the trophy on numerous occasions. Both items have been in a display case at the Warrnambool Army Reserve Depot for close to 60 years. ■

8/7 RVR Fishing Club

This year has seen an increase in the population of the 8/7 RVR Fishing Club, President of the club, WO2 Troy Radbone, has indicated that the club has big plans for the future, however; he is looking forward to handing over his role when he is posted at the end of the year. The 8/7 RVR Fishing Clubs, Fish Population Supervisor, WO2 Troy Radbone stated that the fish have shown a great deal of growth and development over the two years they have been stocked in the clubs private fishing lake, located on Ranger Barracks. The 2014 Brown Trout are being caught regularly over 40cm and the 2015 Rainbow Trout are starting to get over the 30cm mark. The 8/7 RVR Fishing Clubs, Grounds and Facilities Manager, WO2 Troy Radbone declared that the fishing jetty is safe and open for business. Although the required permits to build the structure are still awaiting approval and are "in the mail". The facility has been warmly received by the club members. The 8/7 RVR Fishing Clubs, Technique and Casting Coach, WO2 Troy Radbone stated that the clubs overall ability and technique has picked up this season, with less flies being caught in trees (and ears) ■

WO2 TROY RADBONE
CHIEF CLERK | ADJT



8/7 RVR Women Win ADF Nordic Biathlon for the second time

The 2016 ADF Biathlon and Nordic Ski Competition was held in August 2016 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.

This year the female Army team had representatives from throughout Australia, with SGT Katrina Almond and LCPL Jessica Challis representing 8/7 RVR in this competition. Our representatives performed to an excellent standard and helped the Army become the overall winners for the second year in a row.

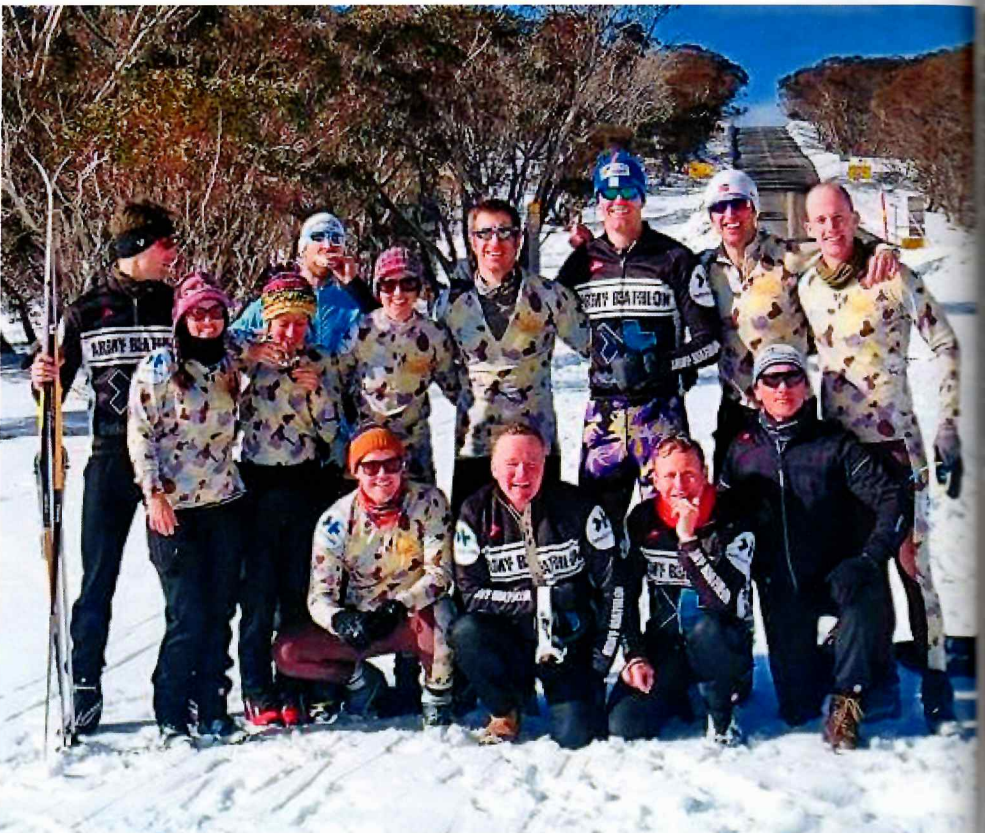
In the relay event which consisted purely of skiing in a team over a 1km course, twice through. The Army team were triumphant, winning the event over the Airforce and Navy.

In the Biathlon shooting competition our representatives really excelled and you can see CPL Challis in the picture on the top middle in the prone position with the Biathlon weapon lining up her sites to score her best shoot and in the picture on the top far right SGT Almond is in the standing position section of the event shooting at the targets.

Due to the professionalism of the team and their attitude to strive to achieve their best, they came home as the overall winners and should be congratulated. 8/7 RVR is already in the planning stages for the 2017 competition, if you wish participate please put your name forward. ■

Awards L to R:

1. SGT Katrina Almond presented the Women's Novice Ski Award.
2. CPL Carla Lekas from North West Mobile Force; SGT Katrina Almond; CAPT Olga Poberezovska presented the Women's Biathlon Shooting Award 3. and the Womens National Inter-Service Cross-Country Skiing Championship Award.







LFX PUCKAPUNYAL

09 -11 September 2016



CPL Edwards was noticeably upset about the lack of grass to mow at the Sep LFX. He kept a close watch on the Q-Store with PTE Linane during the LFX at Puckapunyal.



Above: 8/7 RVR Chaplain Geoff Traill conducts four resilience training workshops in a weapons shed behind the live fire range on Saturday evening of the Puckapunyal LFX.



Top Right: PTE Garth Studham is promoted to Lance Coporal by MAJ Daniel Strack.



Right: CPL Adam Kelly is presented with his 15 years long service medal by MAJ Strack.



CPL Michael E. Deutscher awarded the Soldier's Medallion

T. Biedermann
Lieutenant Colonel
Commanding Officer
8th/7th Battalion RVR
09 September 2016

Corporal M.E.Deutscher, Royal Australian Infantry Corps, is awarded the Soldier's Medallion for Exemplary Service as a Corporal whilst posted to 8th/7th Battalion, the Royal Victoria Regiment.

Your exemplary service through your command and leadership of 5 Platoon, Bravo Company, 8th/7th Battalion, the Royal Victoria Regiment, have demonstrated a very high level of leadership by example and you have continually displayed initiative. Your continuous devotion to duty has enhanced the Battalions ability to generate capability by ensuring that the soldiers under your command were trained and led to the highest standard.

You have shown outstanding maturity and knowledge in commanding and administering the soldiers within the Monegeetta depot, upholding the highest qualities of the Australian Army by always displaying professional conduct and devotion to duty. You have demonstrated a level of judgement in the execution of these duties which is higher than that normally expected of a junior Non-Commissioned Officer of your rank and experience.

Your leadership, commitment and devotion to duty have been instrumental in the successful development of soldiers of 5 Platoon. Your performance has been outstanding and in keeping with the finest traditions of the Royal Australian Infantry Corps. 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.



8/7 RVR UE STATS

POSITION ALLOWANCE

ARA Positions	27
ARES Positions	348
APS Positions	2
TOTAL	377

CURRENT STRENGTH

ARA	27
ARES (trained)	214
APS	2
COPAS	6
ARes in POOL pos	43
Recruits	25
Trainees	20
Random	2
TOTAL	292

EFFECTIVE SERVICE FY 2015/16

Non / Effect	FY14/15	FY15/16
Ballarat 11 / 47	76.60%	85.45%
Bendigo 4 / 29	90.48%	86.21%
Geelong 4 / 45	80.00%	95.11%
Mildura 1 / 12	83.33%	91.67%
Monege 5 / 22	78.57%	77.27%
Shep 4 / 18	78.57%	77.78%
Swan Hill 1 / 4	71.43%	75.00%
Warrna 1 / 15	66.67%	93.30%
Williams 5 / 58	88.46%	91.38%

8/7 RVR STATISTICS FY 2015/16

UE Strength	77.47%	292
Trained Strength	64.46%	243
TRF/MEC/NRS	58.36%	23
Non-effective TY	52.25%	40
Effective ARes TY	76.37%	223



NOMINAL ROLL

BATTALION HEAD QUARTERS

Ballarat	
LTCOL Thomas Biedermann	CO
WO1 Barry F. Fawcett	RSM
MAJ Clifton N. Gowers	XO
MAJ John L. Spencer	OPSO
CAPT Anton Glushko (Deployed)	RAINF
CAPT Leon M. Holt	RA SIGS
WO2 Troy D. Radbone	ADJT
WO2 James A. Stewart	BN OPS
APS Geoffrey J. Pellow	CIV
SGT Jacob W. Holl	RAAOC
SGT Daniel J. Purcell	RAINF
CPL Andrew J. Chappell	RAAMC
CPL Jacqueline D. Grant	RAAOC
CPL Paul J. Medwell	RAEME
CPL Swapnil Sawant	RAAOC
PTE George C. Brown	RAAPC
PTE Michael J. Currie	RAAOC
PTE Hannah McFadden	AACC
APS Deanne L. Saunderson	CIV

ADMIN COMPANY

Ballarat	
MAJ Shane A. Armstrong	OC
WO2 Mark K.W. Broemmer	AACC
WO2 Stuart N. Clancy	RAAOC
WO2 Robert J. Creelman	RAINF
WO2 David J. Nelson	RAINF
SGT Dylan J. Aspland	RAAOC
CPL Darren N. Brown	RAAOC
CPL Brendan J. Daniels	RAAOC
CPL Vaughn C. Edwards	RAAOC
CPL Darren G. Walmsley	RACT
CPL Matthew S. Watson	AACC
LCPL Graeme J. Paizis	RAAOC
LCPL Marie K. Yorston	RACT
PTE Peter R. Brewer	RACT
PTE Rachel M. Dodd	AACC
PTE David H. Dwyer	RACT
PTE Alexander D. Grice	RACT
PTE Neil I. Leviston	RACT
PTE Glenn D. Linane	RAAOC
PTE Madeline M. McMaster	RAAOC
PTE Daniel T. Trewella	RACT
PTE Siobhan T. Williams	RACT
APS Martin G. Griggs	CIV

Geelong	
LCPL Jessica L. Challis	RACT
PTE Anthony D. Daborn	RACT

Laverton	
PTE Lisa Edwards	AACC
PTE Stuart G. Ferguson	RAAOC
PTE Benjamin J. Schmidt	RAAOC

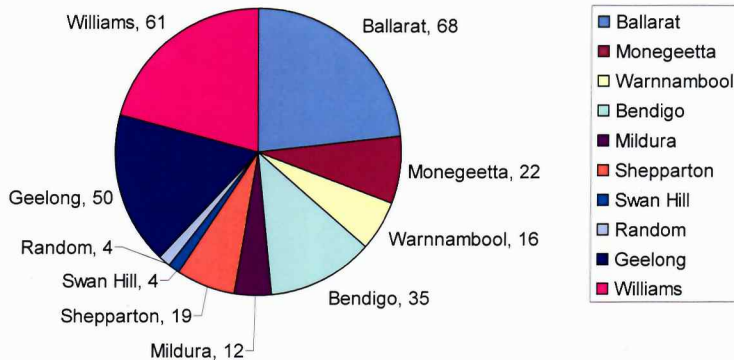
Mildura	
PTE Micah Elder	RACT

Shepparton	
PTE Sharon G. Jaudzemis	RAAOC

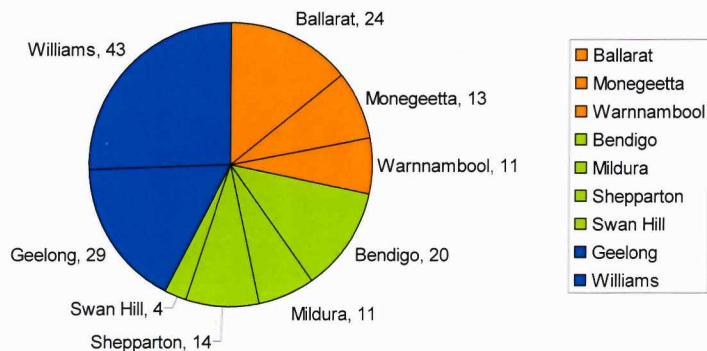
Swan Hill	
Vacant	

Warrnambool	
PTE Melanie J. Kent	RACT

292 PERS by DEPOT



169 Trained ARes RA Inf by DEPOT



ARES RANK VACANCIES 2016/17

CAPT	5
LT	3
WO 2	2
SGT	13
CPL	21
LCPL	12
PTE	78
Total	134

VACANCIES BY TRADE FY 2016/17

COOKS	5
ADMIN	2
Q	6
TPT	6
RA Inf	115



Army