



THE LIGHTNING FLASH

SOLDIER and CRAFTSMAN

January 2003

Issue 38

The RAEME Association (Victoria) Inc.

Incorporation Reg No. A 0022655Z

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60th Anniversary Celebrations of RAEME

Celebrations to commemorate the Corps Birthday also featured highly at Bandiana during the Corps and Corps Committee Conferences. The opening burst was an All Ranks BBQ in the Corps Memorial Park at Bandiana, which was well attended by many of the visitors, but largely local RAEME personnel. The Officer's Dinner on the Thursday night and the Senior Ranks Dinner on the Friday Night followed this. My memory is a little blurred, about the activities, but I do recall a genuinely happy and celebratory spirit at all functions and some 'stayers' still celebrating on the Saturday morning as I caught my ride home. We still have many in the Corps with endurance!

On a local level, we achieved a lot. I have already waxed long about the many events in Townsville in July and the truly large event hosted by 5 Avn Regt Wksp, with in excess of 400 current and former members of the Corps getting together. This was followed by the Open Day at Enoggera in early November where in excess of 200 guests were treated to several displays of equipment, good fellowship and a fine lunch.

Later in the month, it was the turn of the Darling Downs based units to celebrate. The award presentation ceremony at the ASGW was the highlight of the day with many young, and not so young, serving and past-serving members of the Corps getting their awards. The traditional Oakey 'Billy Cart' Race was a hard task given the humidity, but again, the enduring qualities of toughness and finishing hard, shone through. The dinner in the Oakey Sergeant's Mess was a fitting end to the day's 60th Anniversary celebration, and for that matter, the year's celebrations.

Well done, again, to all. You did us proud and despite the busy nature of your lives, set a standard the other Corps, also celebrating their key anniversaries must have envied.

(From "Spanner News" – RAEME Assoc. Queensland)

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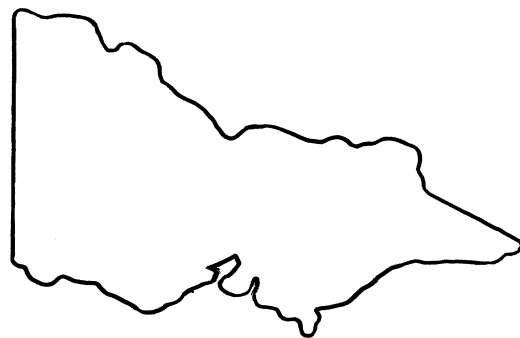
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ARTICLES FOR PUBLICATION

This magazine is produced by the members, for the members, and is not to be solely one-way communication.

How do you find out what is happening in and around the RAEME ASSOCIATION, or in fact RAEME? through 'The LIGHTNING FLASH' of course.

DISCLAIMER The views and articles expressed herein do not necessarily reflect the policy and views, official or otherwise, of this Association.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT (*Peter Cartledge*)

It is at this time of the year that the Army plays musical chairs with the staff we are associated with. Lieutenant Colonel Butler is being replaced with Lieutenant Colonel Quaife; Major Hudson (one of our Committee members and OC 3 Recovery Company at Dandenong) being replaced by Captain Butler.

On top of this our Head of Corps Brigadier Sharp has resigned from the Army and the new Head of Corps Brigadier George Yacoub appointed. We look forward to seeing Brig Yacoub at the helm and trust that our Association will build a relationship with the new personnel in the near future.

Lastly, our friend, member, trustee and Colonel Commandant Jack Wilson has completed his five-year tour and will possibly be replaced by Colonel Smith.

I do feel for anybody of ours affected by the terrible fires. Leonie and I trust you all had a happy and safe break and look forward to meeting you soon.

Peter Cartledge
President

SECRETARY'S REPORT (*Ron Clifford*)

It seems no time that we were looking forward to Christmas with friends and relatives and here we are a month into the New Year. Time appears to pass by a little faster as one gets older or is it that we find more to occupy our time.

Our membership is holding steady at 240 however it's hard to believe, as we could only get 22 people on a bus trip to Canberra and the War memorial in November (just as well it was then and not now.)

At our most notable activity, the **60th Anniversary Corps Dinner** we had attendance of 98 Corps members made up of present and past serving RAEME personnel plus members of our Association and their partners. Due to the capacity of the venue limited to 100, we could not accept a party of six late-bookings of six. The dinner turned out a huge success, thanks to your President and his hard working Social

Committee. The next activity is on the 16th March, the **Widows and Life Members Luncheon**. Last year's saw 5 out of 7 Life members and 2 out of 28 Widows attend a terrific luncheon, hopefully your committee's efforts and endeavors will meet with a little more success. Ladies this is **your day**, it would be great to see you; please don't make the excuse that you don't know anyone, that what the get-together is all about, meeting old friends and making new friends.

2002 saw quite a number of members on the sick list, lets hope that 2003 will be kind to our ageing minds and bodies to enable our participation in the future scheduled activities. One to keep in mind and mark on the calendar is Melbourne Cup weekend. This year it is our turn to host the Bi-Annual get together with the SA Branch of the REME Association. These get togethers have proved to be most memorable and we look forward to seeing more than the same dedicated few at SWAN HILL this year.

As I have said before, there is more to being a member than just being a number or only coming to the Annual reunion, lets see the face behind the name before it's too late. Show us some of the Esprit de Corps that made RAEME what it was.

Whilst browsing on the Internet I came across the hat badge shown, the history of it is quite fascinating. Is there anyone of our readers that has seen the wearers in action or know its origin before I give the details in the next issue. I can tell you that it involved a lot of work by the Electrical and Mechanical Engineers. No prizes will be given for the right answer. Call Ron Clifford on Mobile 0409 044 475

Ron Clifford Secretary



Social Report*Peter Cartledge*

We had a most successful trip to Canberra last November and you will find a very good report written by Bruce Doolan elsewhere in the Lightning Flash.

As you would have noticed we moved our Birthday Dinner to the Friday before the Corps birthday rather than the Saturday, which was a great success with 98 attending last year while only in the 60s the year before.

The other reason there was an increase in numbers was that we were out of the December "silly season" of parties, dinners, drinks and any other reasons for a get-together.

I was saddened to read that the birthday dinner for W.A. was called off due to lack of numbers. Unfortunately we know how this feels and we trust we don't have to do this again.

Eighteen attended the Tattoo at Ballarat on Friday 24th January, which was enjoyed by all; however coming home on Sat 25th at 44°C was another story!

We have the Luncheon to honour our Widows and Life Members rapidly heading our way on Sunday 16th March and would like as many as possible to make the function a success.

To our Widows and Life Members: no excuse will be accepted unless it is signed by one of your Grandparents, so come along and enjoy yourselves.
If transport is a problem please let us know and we will see if something can be arranged.

Anzac Eve Thursday 24th April, 1900 hours
Oakleigh Depot Sergeants' Mess: Annual Reunion.

Please support your Association's functions, so that our Association can support you.

*Peter Cartledge***Diary Dates for 2003****Luncheon to Honour our Widows and Life Members**

March 16th Sunday 1200hrs

Cost \$22.00

Annual Association Reunion

April 24th Thursday 1900hrs
Oakleigh Barracks

Cost \$12.00

Annual General Meeting and Election of Office Bearers

August 31st Sunday 1100hrs
followed by BBQ lunch

**Trip to Swan Hill
Meet again with REME
South Australia**

November 1st – 4th

**Please keep these dates free
and come along to enjoy
our functions together.**

WELFARE REPORT (Reg Cox)**November 2002**

November 11th: Stan Konrad admitted to Monash Medical Centre

November 13th: Stan sent home to be treated daily by visiting nurse

November 15th: Visitation to Julie Parisi, in Cabrini Hospital for minor corrective surgery to her left leg.

**December 2002**

December 5th: Ross Hope admitted to Sandringham Hospital to be checked out for Heart, Degenerative Aging, Huntington Disease, loss of feeling and neurologist's tests. Ross has had a speedy recovery.

January 2003

January 15th: A call to Jenny Burley who is in St. John of God Hospital for a hip replacement. Jenny is now in Geelong private hospital and is doing very well., having graduated from walking frame to a walking stick and will be home very soon. Good luck Jenny.



Laurie Burley is receiving his new artificial leg this week and he is walking a lot better. Take care, Laurie – hip replacement patients are really fast around the kitchen! Cheers to you both!

Reg Cox, Welfare Officer

If you would like to receive the Lightning Flash by email please let us know via our email address:

vraeme@nex.net.au

RAEME Awards for 2002

Congratulations to the recipients of the following awards, which were approved by the Corps Committee for outstanding performance by members of the Corps, noting that nominations were not received from many units and some regions:

The Peter Jennings Award:

LT B.P Eaton, 7 CSSB;

Artificer of the Year:

SGT Peter Ohlsen, 13 CSSB;

BRIG Harry Martens OBE**Encouragement Award**

CPL Phillip Fletcher, 5 Avn Regt;

ARA Craftsman of the Year:

National: CPL Benjamin Carthew, 1 Fd Regt;

Northern Region: LCPL C. Kibble, 1 CER;

Queensland: LCPL Daniel McBean, 7 CSSB;

GRES Craftsman of the Year:

National: CFN John Burke, 3 Recovery Coy;

Victorian: LCPL Tammy Steve, 4/19 PWLH;

Queensland: CFN Darren Parker, 7 CSSB

(From "Spanner News" – RAEME Assoc. Queensland)

Maj. Stewart Meiklejohn

I have been informed that the former OC 17 Const Sqn Wksp, Maj. Stewart Meiklejohn is in Hospital with a ruptured aorta. Having been admitted to Hospital the Operation was successful but he is still in a critical condition in intensive care. Messages can be passed on to Stewart through Alan Meiklejohn at

alan.meiklejohn@bigpond.com

Tour of Duty SVN 24 Mar 69 to 25 Mar 70

Alan Pratt

Immediate Past President/Webmaster

17 Construction Squadron Workshops

Vietnam Association.

www.17construction.org.au

Editor's Note: Stewart Meiklejohn was a Balcombe Army Apprentice 11th Intake Radio Mechanic, who went on to gain his Commission. I knew Stewart well at Balcombe – I was 12th Intake. I have been in touch with Stewart (Brisbane) – he is, in his words, on the slow road to recovery and thanks all for the many good wishes he has received.

**COL COMMANDANT (Southern Regions)
60th Anniversary -RAEME All Ranks
Corps Birthday Dinner
Plus The Craftsman of The Year Award**

This was an excellent night with Venue at East Malvern RSL almost full to capacity where 98 present and past members of the Corps with Members of our Association and their Partners sat down to an excellent 3 course meal. (unfortunately we had to deny a late party of 6, due to the capacity of the venue being 100)

The 2002 Dinner was special in more ways than one in that it marked several milestones.



The 1st the changing of the CO's at 4CSSB LT.COL. Mark Buttner, being presented with a Certificate of Apparition from the Members of our Association by our President Peter Cartledge, who also welcomed the in coming CO LT. COL Allen

Quaife and was looking forward to a good working relation ship with him and this Staff.

Next Col. Jack Wilson announced this was to be this last official Fountain at a gathering as Col. Commandant . Col. Wilson was officially thanked by those present and congratulated on his excellent support he had given to the Corps over the last 5 years.

Col. Wilson stated that 2002 was also special as it was the first time that Victoria had a National and a State Craftsman of the year. (The winner of the Award was kept secrete from the Unit personal, this helped boost the numbers attending as the 3 Units came to support their nominated member.)



Col. Wilson announced the National Winner, Cfn John Burke of 3 Rec. Coy . Col Wilson presented him with a certificate, a cheque and a personal plaque from him and the National Corps Committee.



(Mr. Moore explains the signi-ficance of the Vic. A Rec. Per-petual Trophy prior to Col. Wilson presenting it.)

Col. Wilson next announced the Victorian winner, L/Cpl. Tammy Steve of 4/19th PWLH, he told her that she should be very proud as she was the first Female Cfn. to win this award in Victoria, she was then presented with a cheque ,a certificate and Vic. State Perpetual Trophy .



Peter Cartledge wished L/Cpl. Tammy Steve well then presented her with a plaque

from the RAEME Association

Col. Wilson then presented the Victorian runner up CFN Glen Jackson with a Price.



Col. Wilson then invited the Oldest and Youngest Member present up to the stage to cut the Corps Birthday Cake. Mr. Les Bailey 91years and Cfn. Robert Barro cutting the Corps 60th Bithday Cake with the Regimental Sward.

Brig. Conrad Ermert invited Bob Hunter to the Stage then presented him with his National Service Medal. Bob was very proud and finished off with a fine speech.





VALE MAJOR JOHN LORD

Sad news, Major Johnny Lord (ret) left the Corps last year after 40 years ARA service commencing as a Balcombe Apprentice electrician, then a CPL ECT in Nui Dat with 1 ARMD SQN WKSPS (initial deployment of centurion tanks). He was Commissioned much later and served in KL Malaysia and around Bandiana for many years, at the school as OC Elec Wing and in Corp Directorate prior to his final posting in Bulimba. John's easygoing style and cooperative manner gave him a very popular reputation and he certainly dedicated his life to the Corps. John leaves his lovely wife Faye, a son overseas and a daughter who is a senior Naval Officer at Garden Island. The proud father often joked that his kid outranked him. You may recall his photo on the CRAFTSMAN a couple of issues back, before Doug Gammons "backwards" photo.

John had busied himself over the past year as the Secretary of the Armd Sqn Wksp 35 year reunion committee in Brisbane. He developed breathing difficulties, had tummy surgery but soldiered on through in rough health, and ran a great reunion for a week in two Coaches, for some 70 people during the final week of September 2002.

Major John Lord passed away at aged 56 in Brisbane on Monday evening 3rd November 2002. By special arrangement he was accorded a military funeral in Brisbane on remembrance day November 11th 2002.

Members who knew him may forward messages of condolence to Mrs. Faye Lord, 4 Burbank Road, Birkdale, Qld.

Also with sadness we advise the passing of:

MAJ Kevin John Harvey (Retd)

WO1 Cyril Westall (Retd)

Mr. Paul Supel

Seeking Mates

CONTACT WITH EX MEMBERS OF 24TH INTAKE ARMY APPRENTICES

Dear Editor,

My name is Wayne (Wally) Voss and our Apprentice Intake is planning a Reunion to celebrate 35 years since we were taken into the Army as Apprentices. The reunion will be held in January 2004. Contact with some of our members has been lost and we would like to at least offer them the opportunity to be a [art of the planned Reunion. I would be grateful if you would letter your members know of this event. My contact details are as follows:

Wayne (Wally) Voss, 29 Dandenong Crescent
Ruse NSW 2250. Telephone (02) 92170407
Web page is as follows.

http://au.geocities.com/balcombe_24th_appy/ir

Dear Editor,

I am trying to trace a RAEME gunny who was WIA in Vietnam in 1968 whilst serving with 3 Cav Regt. The mine incident occurred on 21 May 1968 in the vicinity of FSB Coral whilst a carrier was about to cross a stream. His name is ALLAN POWELL

An Infanteer Rick Lapore A Coy 3 RAR who was on the following carrier dragged Allan to safety, has a need to find Allan and if possible contact him. I am hoping that one of your members might know him, or know of someone who served with 3 Cav or in Vietnam in mid 68, will be able to assist me with this search.

Bob May
3 Cav 67/68 - 70/71

If anyone can assist in finding Allan Powell, please contact John Curtis, 2 Whittaker Street Bayswater WA Telephone (08) 92714520 or email curtis@bigpond.com

(From "Spanner News" – RAEME Assoc. Queensland)

INFORMATION WANTED 333 LAD

I am trying to find information on this Australian LAD. If any of your members has any information I would be grateful if they would pass it on. I believe they served in the Islands 1942 – 45

Eric Pattingale
ASM 1/19RNSWR
Eric.Pattingale@ditm.nsw.gov.au

BB#Rq|b#Dp huf#BB#

Digital Bugles Tested at US Vets Funerals

THE US Department of Defense is studying the use of a digital bugle to render taps at veterans' military funerals.

The digital unit won't replace trained buglers but is an alternative to the audiotapes and compact discs that have been used at many military funerals in recent years.

It consists of a standard bugle that has a special electronic device inserted into its bell.

The department has shipped 50 of these ceremonial bugles to military units and veterans' groups in Missouri for six months of testing, Senior Policy Adviser on Casualty and Mortuary Funeral Honors Mark Ward said.

He said the National Defense Authorisation Act authorised the playing of Taps at veterans' military funerals however, the entire US military has only about 500 buglers, while more than 1800 veterans pass away each day.

When the sound quality of cassettes was found to deteriorate quickly with repeated use, a higher quality compact disc recording was pressed into service in late 1999. The CDs were issued to military units, US embassies and consulates, veterans' groups and funeral directors.

"But a recorded version of Taps, no matter how good the quality, did not give our family members the visual image of a live bugler," he said.

This led, he said, to the development of the digital unit. The cone-shaped device looks like a trumpet mute, but it fits snugly deep in the bugle's bell and plays a high-quality rendition of Taps.

"The device has a volume control and is powered by two nine-volt batteries. It is water-resistant and useable in all types of weather"

American Forces Press Service

Canberra Excursion Nov. 2002

(Melb. Cup Weekend)

By Bruce Doolan

Our annual Cup-weekend excursion saw 17 members and 4 other guests gather at the Oakleigh Depot in fine sunshine (the gods were smiling), at 0745hrs on Saturday 2nd November.

(Wow! I was just amazed by my computer; as I typed in the date it automatically put the nd in small font at the top of the 2, isn't that clever of it?)

Barry, our regular and trusty coach driver, arrived in his shining chariot, resplendent and ready for battle. Travelling via the scenic route to Preston, we picked up our 18th member, Doug Brazier (complete with cameras), at his house where a quick nicotine hit was had by the desperate few. Morning tea was had at a Shell station where we had welcome refreshments and a glimpse of a gaggle of vintage cars, which were re-fuelling. Lunch at Albury and afternoon tea at Gundagai.

We arrived at the City Gate Motel in Canberra at about 1800hrs. and after a quick freshen-up, Barry took us to the Tramcar Restaurant nearby. Its main claim to fame was the dining alcoves, which were actual Trams from all around the country, cut down and fitted out for dining. The place was packed and very noisy, the food was quite acceptable and budget priced. After dinner we returned to the motel to relax and retire for the night. The motel was comfortable and clean; their breakfasts were well presented, comprehensive and satisfying.

The War Museum is truly worthy of its reputation as a world-class historic venue. We began with a comprehensive guided tour, which took over 2 hours covering the First and Second World Wars. The guide really knew his stuff and fielded many questions without the need for reference notes; those of our group with disabilities were shown every courtesy. When the tour finished, we lunched in the cafeteria and as small independent groups went to see the rest of the exhibits, which were as awe-inspiring as the morning lot.

There were many absorbing audio-visual presentations at the various stands and the Dioramas were spectacular works of art in their own right, displaying such realism that you felt you were part of the scenes depicted. Truly eerie.

One needs to visit several times to cover all the exhibits adequately and the guided tours are the best way to get started. This was my second visit and I still have not seen it all. A camera and lots of film are essential. I forgot mine, curses.



After leaving the War Museum, we drove along Anzac Parade, noting the various memorials to Nurses, Vietnam, Korea, etc. then on to Duntroon to view the Changi Chapel which had been transported from its original site in Changi Prison, to be reassembled at Duntroon RMC.



The Chapel was originally built by our soldiers incarcerated in Changi Prison, from materials that were both crude and hard to come by. This was an incredible achievement that demonstrated the P.O.W.s will to survive and keep the faith. I felt very humbled as I stood before this crude but powerful structure and as a person who cares little for religion and its trappings, this simple Chapel made a very strong impression on me.

We were all a little subdued after that, as we made our way to the top of Mt. Ainsley to view Canberra by day. Sunday night's meal saw us at various establishments, Ruby's Chinese Restaurant, where I tried to dye the table cloth, we had a very tasty 8 course banquet; some went back to the Tramcar and others went to Ali-Baba's Cave; all enjoyed themselves. Once more, with satisfied bellies, we boarded the coach and returned to Mt. Ainsley, to the spectacular view of Canberra by night.

Nine am Monday saw us assembled aboard the coach and ready for our last full day in the national capital. First stop was the National Capital Exhibition at the Visitors Centre. We were shown an interesting & well-made film about the development of Canberra, followed by viewing a tabletop model of Canberra, electronically enhanced and narrated; well worth seeing.

After welcome refreshment, we visited the Royal Australian Mint, where some of us paid \$2 to stamp a \$1 coin: capitalism with a capital \$.

Then on to the National Gallery, where there was an Albert Namatjira exhibition. Too much to describe here, you needed to be there. We lunched in the National Gallery Café.

A short walk brought us to the High Court, where a Queen's Council was entertaining and explaining the functions of the court to a group of Primary students, asking them questions and sometimes getting hilarious answers. He was very good at it and the kids were very well versed by their teachers, taking everything in their stride, as is normal for Aussie kids. Doug nearly had to front the "Beak" (Judge) when he dashed up to the bench and tried to film, but was stopped by our guide, who insisted on reviewing the last section of his tape to ensure no prohibited views were taken.

Next was the new National Museum, a building that couldn't look less like a museum if it tried. It looked like a half completed industrial site. The external shapes of the structure should have warned us of the confused labyrinth we were about to enter, and as for finding the way out, the exit signs all lead back to the same spot by a different route. Not happy Jan. (I was dying for a fag).

Back at the motel for a freshen up, a leisurely dinner at a different restaurant, then off to the Mt. Stromlo Observatory at 2230hrs. A little way up the mountain, drivers must turn off their headlights so as not to interfere with telescope reception. Tourist coaches without lights and steep, winding mountain roads are not a good mix.

There was a short film about space and a portable telescope was set up outside the building in a sweltering 2 degrees. We didn't get to see inside the main telescope domes or look through the big telescope. A fizzer.

(The Mt. Stromlo Observatory was destroyed in the recent bushfires – Ed)

Homeward bound, we stopped at Holbrook, looked at the sub, had a cuppa and headed for Albury for lunch and the pokies. Barry the tin-ass driver, won \$560 on a machine, he'll never be the same again; his eyes were glazed over and oh my, he did look queer. Well-done Bazza.

We arrived back at Oakleigh at about 1830hrs. concluding yet another very successful long weekend. Thanks to President Peter and his small band of helpers.

The Three Minute Jeep

*by Robin Radbourne,
(who prefaces his story):*

It's a pity there are no known photographs or film footage to be had, and the memories are getting dimmer by the day. Maybe someone can jog my memory and name the other three White Team members?

No doubt you have heard of a three minute egg, but have you heard of the three minute JEEP ?

A long time ago in the fourth year of the sixth decade of the twentieth century of second millennium A.D., in an Army camp in far off Broadmeadows, was a very responsible RAEME Unit called 3 Base WKSP. This most proficient RAEME Unit was nominated to answer a challenge of assembling a WW2 Jeep in less than 3 minutes 15 seconds as achieved by a REME team in the United Kingdom.

The organisation of the response was left to one Capt. Don McArthur who volunteered a crew of seven ex apprentices, (namely you, you, you and you in typical fashion). They turned out to be Cfn Noel Cooper, Cfn Jim Sheppard, Cfn Dick Winfield, Cpl Rob Radbourne and the other three names escape my memory at this time.

However, the response to the challenge was conducted at the Military Tattoo staged at the Royal Melbourne Show Grounds in 1953 (or was it 1954 ?).

A large amount of preparation was required to put the show on the arena, this included modifications to the Jeep (large amounts), manufacture of large towable crates, and many, many hours of training for the afore-mentioned team. And, the selection and training of a second team, but more on this later.

The Jeep

Preparing the Jeep took a lot of time and ideas. Some ideas didn't work and some others worked well, for instance: all wheel nuts had the first half of their threads removed, this eliminated cross-threading and also reduce tightening time considerably.

Hose clamps were changed to over-centre type and were taped in position. The engine gear box and transfer case were assembled into one unit with the clutch brake and accelerator pedals mounted on the flywheel housing. The body was assembled in one piece with part of the floor cut away to allow the pedals to come through. Drive shaft splines were shortened and tapered to avoid jamming. Spring shackles were retained with split-pins instead of threaded nuts. Four speed braces with sockets welded on were used to fit and run the wheel nuts on. These braces were tied to the chassis in a convenient position with string. Tools, split-pins and

bolts were tied in nearby spots with string, surprising none got lost !

Two wing bolts were used to hold the body in place. A small bolt used in the centre of the grille, screwed into the front cross member. A larger one was located in the back seat where it screwed into a nut welded to the rear gun mounting. This bolt was half inch in diameter with a six inch diameter quarter inch thick steel plate and two large wings. It required only a light spin for it to lock tight, than a hammer to undo it.

All lights switched on with one single switch. Brakes operated on the front wheels only. The oil filter was converted to a 2 pint fuel tank, this gave enough fuel for one lap of the arena and parking. All electrical connections were through a single plug.

The radiator was held in place by two U brackets on the bottom and over-centre clamps on top. Water fill was about half a gallon and some of that was splashed about to prove that there was some water in it. The water can was large enough for a couple of gallons. A bath plug was pulled out of a nozzle in the bottom of the can by a chain attached to a removable lid.

Training

Training was conducted on Wally Curtis' holy of holies 3 Base WKSP parade ground. Much effort was spent rehashing procedures to that things like, hitting the start button before Dick Winfield had connected the battery didn't occur ! Training was scheduled when ever Capt. Mc. had a spare hour or two. Incidentally: we did break the 3 minute barrier on at least one occasion during training, but no one could explain why ! Funny, we didn't get to see the second team perform until the first night of the Tattoo and then only of glimpse of their effort.

Crates

Four crates were built, two for our team and two for the second (or blue) team. These crates were solidly built, capable of being disassembled, used as a platform and reassembled. To keep the base plate as low as possible search light tracks were fitted. The second team used crates of the same size and outward appearance but, they were quiet different in their access and content.

On The Night

The two motor engine starts up, the team are in position, 4 on the left side, and 3 on the right. The Marshal waves us on to the arena. A thought crosses the mind, i.e., in eight minutes and thirty seconds we'll be going back the other way. This is what all the training and effort was all for. What if the engine won't start? Will I forget something, we are now on the arena approaching our marker, the tow motor stops, and I disconnect the tow bar, the tow motor moves away. We move off in single file to line up for a briefing from Capt. McArthur.

At this time we become aware of the second team who have joined us, in similar fashion, but from the opposite end of the arena. (I didn't think it would take so much training to be so disorganised). Of the seven members, six were 195 cm tall, and the seventh (Wally Barnes) was about 175 cm. The second team wore blue overalls while we wore white boiler suits.

After briefing, our team marched off to our positions along side the crates to await the starting gun.

The second team sauntered off (an undisciplined one or two lit cigarettes) their attitude was an indication of things to come.

The starting gun is fired and from my position in front of the first crate, I lower the front end board just as the lid is carried over my head and laid in front to form the work platform.

My next task was to move inside the crate and pick up the rear of the chassis by the pintle hook, slide it forward into the lid, and hold it up while stands are placed underneath.

The stands were so made, that on completion of assembly the Jeep could be pushed forward causing the stands to fall over. In all the training and shows, the stands never fell before the wheels had been fitted.

I would like to pause here, because what happened during the next two and a half minutes are a blank at this stage, after all it is 49 years ago !!! Suffice to say that parts and teams were going everywhere at once. Then the body goes on and the seats are installed. I jump into the drivers seat, fit the steering wheel, turn the ignition on and hit the starter button AFTER Dick had fully connected the positive terminal. He hadn't used the terminal fitting mallet, no worries, there was enough terminal left to make the connection. The engine fires up and the bonnet is lowered and secured, the team push the Jeep forward off the stands and away we (the Jeep and I) go to do a full lap around the arena perimeter track.

Second Or Blue Team

While we were busy with our tasks the Blue team were making one hell of a mess of trying to decorate their Jeep and assemble it. They had oversize hammers, axes, cross cut saws and other implements all made of ply wood.

Eventually two of the larger members grabbed Wally Barnes and threw him up on to the top of a crate, where he surprisingly found a large hole, dropped into it, and started throwing out all manner of things, such as wheels, tyres, radiator, seats, deck chairs, steering wheel etc.

This also included an inflated truck tyre which he proceeded to bounce like a basketball on top of the crate. Meanwhile the rest of the crew were busy

making no progress at all.

Once our team completed assembling our Jeep an explosion occurred over among the Blue Team, a crate suddenly opened and out races a Driverless Jeep which commences to cause more havoc among the Blue Team. It is surprising that no one was hurt with the drivers restricted view and movement. As I drove off onto the track I glanced back to see Wally chasing the driverless Jeep across the arena with a steering wheel in his hand. He did in fact eventually catch up with the Jeep and managed to get a ride off the arena.

The Driverless Jeep

The driverless Jeep in fact wasn't. The driver was hidden in the left rear corner behind the rear wheel. The rear axle housing passed under his knee, a six inch steering wheel in front of his face, and pedals in front of the axle. The rear seat was removed and the floor cutaway. Then half the back seat area was covered with painted hessian with a fine mesh viewing area. The Jeep did look rather good tearing around chasing the Blue Team and raising havoc!

Packing Up And Leaving The Arena

After the Jeep had left the assembly area, all the tools and equipment had to be loaded and the crates assembled before being towed from the arena. Surprisingly not one item was left behind, not even a split pin. The Blue Team had to grab all the bits and pieces that had been scattered around, just everywhere.

In 1961 while serving in 2 Recovery Coy Type B in Geelong, I suggested that the Quick Assembly Jeep be used in a segment in the Geelong Show, but unfortunately the Jeeps had been disposed of.

I do remember seeing them in 3 BOD South Kensington in 1958. I believe there was another modified Jeep constructed and the two were used in competitions, one red and one blue.

Wonder if the ever managed to come in sub 3 minutes ?

Robin L Radbourn Ex APPY and RAEME 1950-1959

New Members

| | |
|---------------------------|---------|
| Gordon Dennis | (99) |
| Noel Jordan | (100) |
| Geoff McCormich | (102) |
| Alex Andrews | (104) |
| Lawrence Jarman | (105) |
| John McLeod | (107) |
| (Associate Member) | |
| David Challons | (025/2) |

AFGHANISTAN OPERATION

The Minister for Defence, Senator Robert Hill, congratulated 7 Australian Special Forces Soldiers recently, who received awards for their service in Afghanistan as part of the International Coalition against Terrorism.

The Governor General presented three Soldiers with awards at a ceremony at Government house in Canberra, one year to the day that the first rotation of the Special Forces Task Group started operations in Afghanistan.

Signalman Martin Wallace was awarded the Medal for Gallantry, Major Daniel McDaniel was awarded the Distinguished Service Medal, and Warrant Officer Class Two Mark Keily was awarded a Medal of the Order of Australia in the Military Division. Lieutenant Colonel Peter 'Gus' Gilmore and another three soldiers who cannot be named for operational security reasons will receive their awards at a later date.

The seven citations are as follows:

Signalman Martin Wallace Medal for Gallantry (MG)

For gallantry in action in hazardous circumstances while undertaking communications responsibilities in Afghanistan during Operation SLIPPER. Signalman Wallace displayed gallantry and courage under fire when performing communications responsibilities during Operation Anaconda, as part of Operation SLIPPER in Afghanistan. He maintained composure under sustained heavy attack from enemy forces while performing his duties as a Signalman, attending to wounded and providing leadership to those around him. Signalman Wallace gallantry has brought great credit to himself, the Special Air Services Regiment and the Australian Defence Forces.

Major Daniel McDaniel Distinguished Service Medal (DSM)

For distinguished leadership in action while commanding the 1st Special Air Service Squadron in Afghanistan during Operation SLIPPER. Major McDaniel has displayed the highest level of commitment and dedication in leading his Squadron in Afghanistan. He has made tactically sound assessments and decisions and has displayed excellent leadership under arduous conditions. His distinguished command and leadership are in the finest traditions of the Special Air Service Regiment, and his performance has brought great credit to both the Australian Army and the Australian Defence Force.

Warrant Officer Class Two Mark Keily Medal (OAM) of the Order of Australia in the Military Division.

For meritorious service to the Australian Defence Force while employed as a Sergeant Major in the Special Air Service Regiment. Warrant Office Keily's dedicated approach, tireless work ethic, superior leadership and personal example have significantly improved the peacetime and wartime capability of the Special Air Services Regiment.

His contributions are of the highest order and in keeping with the finest traditions of the Special Air Services Regiment and the Australian Defence Force.

Lieutenant Colonel Peter Gilmore Distinguished Service Cross (DSC)

For distinguished command and leadership in action as the Commander of the Special Forces Task Group on Operation SLIPPER. Lieutenant Col. Gilmore has demonstrated an exceptionally high level of leadership and remarkably fine political acumen. His leadership has resulted in operational success and the general safety and protection of Australian ground forces and contributed directly to furthering Australian national interest in the war against terrorism. Lieutenant Colonel Gilmore's distinguished and inspirational leadership while on Operation SLIPPER has been in the finest traditions of the Australian Army.

Corporal (name withheld for operational security reasons) Commendation for Gallantry

For gallantry in action as a Patrol Second in Command while deployed on operations in Afghanistan during operation SLIPPER. The Corporal displayed the highest levels of gallantry and dedication in Afghanistan through his selfless actions on 16 February 2002 during operation SLIPPER and his leadership in the days following. His leadership, dedication to his fellow soldiers and disregard for his personal safety are in the finest traditions of the Special Air Service Regiment and the Australian Defence Force.

Sergeant (name withheld for operational security reasons) Distinguished Service Medal

For distinguished leadership in action as a Patrol Commander in Afghanistan during Operation SLIPPER. The Sergeant's leadership and performance of his duties as a Special Air Service Patrol Commander in Afghanistan under difficult operational conditions were exceptional. His steadfastness, dedication and adherence to the professional standards of the Special Air Services Regiment contributed greatly to mission success during Operation SLIPPER. He has brought great credit to the Special Air Service Regiment, the Australian Army and the Australian Defence Force.

Captain (name withheld for operational security reasons) Distinguished Service Medal (DSM)

For distinguished leadership in action as Troop Commander of B Troop, 1st Special Air Service Squadron in Afghanistan during operation SLIPPER. The Captain has displayed the highest level of commitment in leading his troop. He has made tactically sound assessments and decisions, and has displayed excellent command and leadership qualities in warlike operations in Afghanistan during operation SLIPPER. The success and high morale of his troop can be attributed directly to his performance of duty. His distinguished leadership is in the finest traditions of the Special Air Service Regiment, the Australian Army and the Australian Defence Forces.

Let's hear from you!

Deadline for April

(ANZAC) Issue

Friday 18 July 2003

Contributions to the President or Secretary or to
the Editor:

Pat Marley

16 Clematis Street

Glen Waverley 3150

Fax: 9886 5840

email: patmar@melbpc.org.au

RAEME Items Available

from your Association:

RAEME Logo Stickers 4 in. high, UV protected
(both internal & external) **\$2.00 each**

Stubbie Holders Royal Blue with a 10cm high
RAEME Logo on a white background, **\$6.50 each.**

Thermal Mugs Cam. green with disruptive pattern
and Corps Logo, **Price \$11.00. each**

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Tie Pins \$ 6.50 each

Bomber Jacket, (\$45.00) & Polo Shirts (\$31.50),
with a 11.5cm Embroidered RAEME Logo,

Baseball Caps Royal Blue with 5cm Embroidered
RAEME Logo, **\$15.00 each.**

Cuff Links full motive, Tie Tack /Lapel, Stick Pin
(Corps or Artificers)

Ladies RAEME Pendant & Chain (45cm or
50cm long chain) **\$17.00 each.**

Ladies Dress Brooch \$35.00 each (a silver plated
cap size badge with gemstones embedded in the crest
and the safety chain Clasp)

Ladies Dress Brooch No. 2, \$40.00 each

Same style as Dress Brooch with:

(A Silver on Gold plated cap size badge with
gemstones embedded in the crest, flash and the
safety chain Clasp, plus Corps coloured stones in the
crown).

Corps 60th Birthday Special

Corps Port and Miniature \$15.00

"Be quick only 4 left."

Members in Small Business

As per our last issue of the Lightning Flash we are
again featuring Members in Small Business, giving
our members an opportunity to assist Members in
Small Business, plus receiving value for money and
in most cases a special discount.

This small Business is run by a relation of one of our
retired Members of the Corps.



The Managing Director and Owner of Blackburn
Tyrepower

1760 Whitehorse Rd Blackburn 3130 is Michael
Cruickshank, Phone & Fax. 03 9879 4511 or E-
mail on tyrepower@hotmail.com

Being the owner he is able to carry a full range of
most brands of :- Tyres, Mags and Accessories

Michael has learnt the Business of from the bottom
up over many years, he and his band of hard working
trades personal are more than willing to assist you in
any aspect

of their products being, Tyres, Rims, Balancing,
Front-end & Steering Geometry, plus expert service
in Turning, Brakes & all Mechanical repairs.

As most of us have found out the Tyre Business is
nominally a closed shop as far as Discounts go.

Michael is prepared to offer Members of the
Association and their families genuine Discount.

Just show your Membership card and save.

We are negotiating with other Tyrepower Franchises
in other Areas for the same deal.

The Association would like to thank Michael & his
Team and wish them all the best in their Business.



THE RAEME ASSOCIATION (Victoria) INCORPORATED
Incorporation NoA0022655Z

Patron: Brigadier C. Ermert ARMIT MSc FIEAust CPEng

Invitation to All Members

The Luncheon to Honour our Widows and Life Members will be held at

OAKLEIGH BARRACKS

Sunday 16th March at 11:30 am for 12:00

Lunch Menu

Three Succulent Spit Roast Meats:

Beef, Pork & Seasoned Lamb.

Hot Baked Potatoes with sour cream,

Seven Garden Fresh Salads.

Pasta, Rice, Potato, Coleslaw, Garden Greens, Pineapple, Melon & Beetroot.

Four Delicious Sweets:

Pavlova, Cheesecake, Black Forrest Cake, Fresh Fruit Salad, all served with Fresh Cream.

Tea and Coffee.

Table wines.

Cost: \$22 per person (inc. GST)

Dress: Neat Casual

other drinks available at the bar.

.....

Please tear off and return to the RAEME Association (Vic) Social Committee,
C/o 8 Nerra Crt. Glen Waverley
or Phone Peter Cartledge on 9802 6406 Max Moore 9802 9128 by the 10th March 2003.

I _____ will/will not be attending the above luncheon and will be
accompanied by partner/guest @ \$22-00 per head.

Guest/partners names please _____

I agree that if I accept this invitation I will be responsible for any costs incurred.

Signature _____ Date _____

Enclosed please find my cheque/money order made payable to The RAEME Association (Vic) Inc.
(no cash) for the amount of \$ _____ for the TOTAL due.

Office use only.

Acceptance Yes / No. Payment received Yes / No. Cheque / Money Order

Receipt No. _____ Date issued...../...../ 2003