



# THE LIGHTNING FLASH

SOLDIER and CRAFTSMAN

March 2004

Issue 41

The RAEME Association (Victoria) Inc.

Incorporation Reg No. A 0022655Z

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**Print Post Approved:** PP 339540061  
**Price:** \$1.10 (Financial Members Free)

## ANZAC DAY INFORMATION – see page 13

### THE RAEME MARCH: THE BOYS IN THE BACK ROOM

During WW2 there was no record of an official approved AEME march, but it seems that the REME march was used, at first it was Walt Disney's Whistle While You Work, (it appears that it brought memories of the 7 Scammel Recovery Vehicles that were used in the Western desert and named after the 7 Dwarfs). Later REME changed this to an arrangement of Lilliburlero and 'Aupres de ma Blonde', in 1953 RAEME was given approval to do likewise. In 1959 at DEME conference it was discussed that RAEME should have a march of its own, but still keep its link with REME, It was agreed to search for a replacement for 'Aupres de ma Blonde'.



Lt. Colonel A R Newman (Director of Music AHQ ) overheard at APS School Balcombe, that RAEME were the Army's back room boys, This reminded him of the song, 'See What the Boys in the Back Room Will Have', from this he made an arrangement. It was tried with the Southern Command Band to the 1961 DEME Conference and recommended to Army HQ. Approved 31/8/67.

### THE BOYS IN THE BACKROOM



**Verse:** See what the boys in the back-room will have,  
And tell 'em I'm having the same.  
See what the boys in the back-room will have  
And give them the poison they name.

**Chorus:** And when I die, don't spend my money,  
On flowers or my picture in a frame,  
Just see what the boys in the back-room will have,  
Tell 'em I cried .....  
And tell 'em I sighed .....  
And tell 'em I died of the same.

*Note:* 1. In the march version the chorus is repeated.

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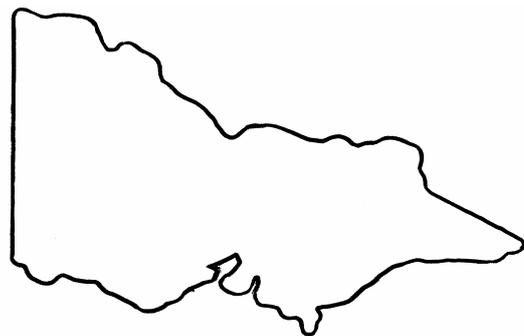
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**ARTICLES FOR PUBLICATION**

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)

We observed Remembrance Day on 11<sup>th</sup> November with a wreath laying together with Depot Staff, The Old Sappers Association and The Ordnance Association at Dunlop Barracks Oakleigh however all our numbers were down from the usual attendance.

Later in November we held our Annual Corps Dinner at East Malvern R.S.L., it was well attended but we could have accommodated some more to this celebration of the Corps. Our new Corps Commandant COL.Graham Smith who presented the Craftsman of the Year Awards and gave us a run down on the Corps activities with the assistance of some slides.

We were honoured to have BRIG. David McGahey our new Head of Corps join us for the evening and propose the Corps Toast.

The New Year and here it is March already which brings us to our Annual Luncheon to honour our Widows and Life Members. We had 4 Widows and 8 Life Members attend.

It was great to see Sandra and Bruce Williams (a past President of this Association who's committee mooted this Annual Luncheon some 10 years ago) attend and he was invited to propose the toast to Our Widows and Life Members, which he did well, and LT. COL. Alan Quaiwe (C.O. 4 CSSB) made the response.

Upon returning from our holiday at Mildura we called into Ballarat the weekend after The Ex – Prisoner's of War Memorial was opened in the Botanic Gardens and paid a visit to this magnificent shrine. What a site, so well laid out and with an explanation as to why it was built like it is. Well done to those devoted people who conceived the idea and saw it through. I strongly suggest anybody who is within cooe of Ballarat spend an hour to inspect this structure.

Margaret and Ross Hope were with us at Ballarat and Margaret wrote an article for the R.S.L. hostel newsletter and she has allowed it to be reprinted in our 'flash.

Tiny Hepburn sent me a copy of the videotaped opening ceremony which runs for 1hr40min which I will run in the Model room after the Bar-B-Que lunch after our A.G.M. in August if people are interested.

The rule changes voted upon at our last A.G.M. have come into effect hence we have added the membership class "Honorary Members" to which our widows will now join and Ordinary & Associate Members subs are due and payable by 30<sup>th</sup> June of that year.

Leonie and I look forward to seeing you ALL on ANZAC Eve at around 1900hrs.

**Peter Cartledge**  
President

## SECRETARY'S REPORT Ron Clifford

As noted in the Welfare Report (below), Secretary Ron Clifford has been sick and is convalescing. We wish him well for a swift recovery. Peter Cartledge has covered in his President's report some matters that Ron may otherwise have reported; Ron has, however, provided details of the Anzac Day parade.

## WELFARE REPORT Reg Cox

9 March: A call to Vincent McNamara; he had a right eye complaint, went to a clinic in Heidelberg, then to the Austin Hospital for an operation. Complications arose, so Vincent went to the Freemasons' Hospital. He is now on the up-and-up. We hope to see Vincent at the Widows and Life Members Luncheon.

A short call to Barry Ridgway; he is still having chemo treatment. Barry sends his kindest regards to all and hopes to see us at the Widows and Life Members Luncheon.

Secretary Ron Clifford is having treatment for a blockage in the bowel; he was in the Yarra Wonga hospital.

17 March: Max Moore was admitted into the Valley private Hospital; he had fluid in the lungs and a blockage in the bowel. Max is OK again and will soon be home.

## MEMBERSHIP REPORT Gus Allen

Over the previous six months and since the August 2003 edition of the "Lightning Flash" I am pleased to report six new members:

<p>Brian Johnson Steven Hardy Stephen Rochford COL Graham Smith Jeffrey Gouldson LT COL Terence Beaton</p>
--

**We welcome our new members.**

## SOCIAL REPORT MARCH 2004

Melbourne Cup Weekend we met up with REME (SA) at Swan Hill for a great 4 days as you know if you were there and if you were not then you missed a real good time. However you are invited to our next weekend away by our selves this year to Merimbula.

Our Annual Corps Dinner and presentation of both the National and State Craftsman of the Year Awards was held at East Malvern R.S.L. was a success however some more attendees would make it much better!

The Annual Luncheon to Honour our Widows and Life Members on Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> March at Dunlop Barracks Oakleigh and although we mailed out a flyer the response was down. Even if you are not able to attend a few moments taken to return the "tear off" or a quick 'phone call is all that is required. It makes the job much easier to notify the Caterers, to set out the correct number of places etc, so please return your "tear off" slip!

Up coming events for your diary please let us know if you will be able to attend:-

**April 24<sup>th</sup>** ANZAC Eve Annual Reunion Sergeants Mess Dunlop Barracks Oakleigh South 1900hrs onwards, there will be a limited number of berths for those who wish to sleep over for the Dawn Service ANZAC Day.

**April 25<sup>th</sup>** ANZAC Day Dawn service Dunlop Barracks 0530 for 0545 march on followed by breakfast then coach into the March and return to Oakleigh for a "scratch lunch" (there is a small charge for the coach and lunch)

**July 4<sup>th</sup>** Reserve Forces Day march along St Kilda Road to the Shrine for a short service.

**August 29<sup>th</sup>** Our Annual General Meeting 1045 for 1100 Modelroom Dunlop Barracks followed by Bar-B-Que lunch and video of the opening of the Ex-Prisoners of War Memorial at Ballarat if you are interested (it runs for about 1hr40mins)

**October 30<sup>th</sup> 31<sup>st</sup> November 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup>** 4 Day weekend at Merimbula we already have 20 interested members however the coach can carry 42!!

**November 26<sup>th</sup>** Annual Corps Dinner at East Malvern R.S.L.

I trust some or all of the above tickle your fancy and we

SEE YOU THERE.

Arte et Marte  
Peter Cartledge  
Social Convener

## Missing Friends .....

### Ted Spargo

----- Original Message -----

From: "John Curtis" <[curtisj@bigpond.com](mailto:curtisj@bigpond.com)>

Sent: Sunday, March 21, 2004 1:36 PM

Subject: RAEME Matters - Ted Spargo

Hi everybody,

I have just received this message. Can anybody help us find Ted Spargo.

Best Wishes,  
John

G'day John ... been many years between drinks. Mate I am looking for Ted Spargo who was a Recovery Mech with us ("C" Sqn 1 Armd Regt) in the Funny Farm in '69. Could you have a scratch around and see if he is still with us mate?

Kind regards,  
Jim de Turt

### Ross Pauline and Frank Busby

----- Original Message -----

From: John Power

Sent: Wednesday, March 17, 2004 1:35 PM

Subject: Ross Pauline and Frank Busby

Gentlemen,

I have been contacted by Peter Cowel, a former RAEME soldier, who would like to contact one or both of these people. Both were at Field Wing Bonegilla during the early 1970s and Peter believed they may be able to assist him with information about an incident that occurred while he was attending a training course. His phone number is (03) 52482044.

Your assistance will be appreciated.

Regards,  
John Power

## EX-PRISONERS OF WAR MEMORIAL BALLARAT

*Reprinted with Margaret Hope's permission who went to so much trouble to copy the words of explanation at the site*

This memorial is dedicated to all Australians who became Prisoners of War while fighting the enemy. The names of all known Australian Servicemen and Women who were captured by the enemy are listed. More than 8,600 Australians died in captivity, their deaths were mainly the result of brutality, starvation and disease.

The paving stones forming the pathway are shaped like railway sleepers in recognition of the iconic place of railway journeys in the history of Australian Prisoners of War.

A roll of names of all known Australian Prisoners of War is etched into a black granite wall running parallel to the pathway. The roll gives no rank, number or enlistment detail, in recognition that sacrifice, suffering and deprivation acknowledge no persons status. These men and women are equals.

In a break in the wall, a row of stone obelisks stands

sentinel in a shallow pool of water. Each bears the names of the countries where Australians were held Prisoners of War.

The obelisks are out of reach across the water, symbolising that all the prison camps were overseas, far from home and the comfort of family and friends. The size of the obelisks and their position in the water create a powerful image and offer a place of reverence and reflection.



Almost 4,000 Australians who died in captivity have no known grave. This memorial honours them.

The names of the countries on the columns are those where Australians were held captive at the time.

These Australians were made prisoners during the Boer War, World War 1, World War 2 & Korean War.

This memorial to Australian Prisoners of War takes the observer on a journey. More than 35,000 Australian Men and Women were held captive as prisoners by the enemy during the Boer War, World War 1, World War 2 and the Korean War. This memorial honours them.

The journey begins on a long pathway (some 130 metres) designed to create a strong visual perspective that emphasises the great distance Australians travelled to War.

The obelisks form a silent line of guardians watching over these Prisoners of War for ever. The fallen stone honours all those men and women who died as Prisoners of War.

The roll of names on the granite wall continues towards a large stone at the end of the pathway. The stone rests on a small granite wall and bears the timeless injunction "Lest We Forget". This is the end of the journey – an intimate space for contemplation.

Water springs from beneath the "Lest We Forget" stone then flows down the wall into the narrow course in front of the first group of names and into the reflective pool, then continues past the second group of names. Finally it disappears under the pathway to its source under the "Lest We Forget" stone to start the journey again.

Water symbolises the essential nature of wan, sacrifice, suffering, spirituality, healing, cleansing, birth and re-birth. In this memorial it forms a continuous cycle, binding all Australian Prisoners of War together for all time.

This memorial is created from natural materials and is designed to be in harmony with the Ballarat Botanical Gardens, and to create a sense of timelessness, dignity and respect.

*The Dedication Inscription reads:*

**This memorial was dedicated to the memory of All Australian Ex-Prisoners of War by General Peter Cosgrove AC MC Chief of the Defence Force 6<sup>th</sup> February 2004 Cr. David N Vandy Mayor, City of Ballarat.**

*Concept and Design  
Peter Blizzard  
(Sculptor)*



## 105 WKSP, 4 CSSB

The year so far.

The year has started off with a complete turn around of the ARA staff. Polly has gone up to 1 HSB in Sydney and at present is enjoying the beaches of the Solomon's. The new staff are SGT Randall Langdon- a greaser from 16 AD Regt, CPL Shane Franklin- another greaser from 162 Recce Sqn, CPL Toby Bailey- the resident fitter down from 2/14 LHR (QMI), and CFN Leon Chymko another fitter from 1 CSSB. We can't forget CFN Andrew Clifford the Recovery Mech that was posted in in Nov last year.

The year started off with the technological wonders of computing and the new march ins not being able to log onto the computers. Once this was sorted out, MAS decided to bring forward their visit

to the Unit, with a few minor points being brought up which the Unit is in the process of rectifying.

In the not too distant future, we have the team from 2 DIV coming down to inspect the Unit for compliance with the Technical Regulation of Army Material Manual (TRAMM).

Apart from these we have also supported two drivers courses (Land rover and Unimog as well as Mack), and held working week ends to repair the equipment from these courses, supported the RRF, deployed on an IMT weekend and attended the initial induction training weekend. As you can see, the year has started of in full flow and hopefully should settle down in the not too distant future so the Unit can get on with training and supporting the Brigade.

SGT R. Langdon



**News from the  
Head of Corps**  
*(from "Spanner News"  
RAEME Association of Qld)*

**Colonel-in-Chief's Milestone.**

An invitation has been received from the Colonel-in-Chief, Prince Phillip, who recently requested the attendance of all Corps Directors of all Electrical and Mechanical Engineering Corps in the Commonwealth at a dinner in Buckingham Palace to celebrate the 45th anniversary of his appointment.

BRIG McGahey CSC, the current Head of Corps, will be attending on behalf of RAEME and will take with him a medals case to be presented to the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers (REME) Museum Curator at Bourdon as a gift from its sister Corps RAEME.

**Re-instatement of the term  
'Army Apprentice'**

It appears that the use of the term 'Army Apprentice' is to be formally re-instated. It seems that the Defence Personnel Executive's Marketing Officer - Army has prepared a submission that points out the value of using the term in Defence advertising to attract recruits to Army in the technical trades – what a momentous realization! It won't surprise many readers that Army has struggled to meet its recruiting targets for technical trades for some time and the earlier loss of the term 'Army Apprentice' did nothing to alleviate the problem. Indeed it exacerbated the problem! So the wheel turns. There is also some indication that the term may be used to target a different demographic (16-18 year olds) and will apply to mature age students as well.

Watch this space!

The following was received from Member Robin Radbourn in February. Robin wrote:

*"Admittedly it is a little late for Christmas, but better late than never and the message will still get through".*

*(Next column)* →

**Remembrance of our Servicemen and women who are away during this Festive Season:**

**Lest we forget**

Twas the Night before Christinas, He lived all alone  
In a one bedroom house, made of plaster and stone  
I had come down the chimney, with presents to give  
And to see just who, in this home did live.

I looked all about, a strange sight I did see  
No tinsel, no presents, not even a tree.  
No stocking by the mantle, just boots filled with sand  
On the wall hung pictures, of far distant lands.

With medals and badges, awards of all kinds  
A sober thought, came to my mind.  
For this house was different, it was dark and dreary  
I found the home of a Soldier, once I could see clearly

The Soldier lay sleeping, silent, alone  
Curled up on the floor, in this one bedroom home.  
The face was so gentle, the room in such disorder  
Not How I pictured, a Canadian Soldier.

I realized the families, that I saw this night  
Owed their lives to these Soldiers, who were willing to fight.  
Soon round the world, the children would play  
And grownups would celebrate, a bright Christmas Day.

They all enjoyed Freedom, each month of the year  
Because of the Soldiers, like the one lying here  
I couldn't help wonder, how many lay alone  
On a cold Christmas Eve, in a land far from home.

The very thought brought a tear to my eye  
I dropped to my knees and started to cry.  
The Soldier awakened, and I heard a rough voice  
'Santa, don't cry, This Life is My Choice.

I fight for Freedom, I don't ask for more  
My life is My God, My Country, My Corps  
The Soldier rolled over, and drifted to sleep.  
I couldn't control it, I continued to weep

I kept watch for hours, so silent and still  
And we both shivered, from the cold night's chill.  
I didn't want to leave, on that cold, dark night  
This Guardian of Honor, so willing to fight.

Then the Soldier roller over, with a voice soft and pure  
Whispered, 'Carry on Santa, it's Christmas Day, All is secure.'

One look at my watch and I knew he was right  
'Merry Christmas my Friend, and to all a good night

*(This poem was written by a Peace Keeping Soldier stationed overseas).*

**COL COMMANDANT (Southern Regions)  
61<sup>st</sup> RAEME All Ranks Corps Birthday Dinner  
and  
The Craftsman of The Year Award**

This was an excellent night with Venue at East Malvern RSL where 69 past and present members of the Corps with Members of our Association and their Partners plus two members of the RSL sat down to an excellent 3 course meal. The 2003 Dinner was special in more ways than one in that it marked several milestones. This was the first time we had Col. Graham Smith (our new Col. Commandant) to an official Function he was also accompanied by his wife Maxine.



COL Smith eyes off his Head Table

We were also honoured to have BRIG Dave McGahey our new Head of Corps present. LT. COL Allen Quaife CO of 4 CSSB sent along his 2 IC MAJ Greg Ellison.

COL Jack Wilson, our last COL Commandant announced this was a nice change to sit back and relax as a member of the Association.

COL Smith welcomed all members and guests and congratulated the members of the Association for their hard work, especially the way the Venue was laid out.



COL Smith gave a short talk on what is new in RAEME, this was given with a back ground of continues slides showing new equipment in the Army.

COL Smith then invited senior Members of the 3 other Units present to give a short talk of what is new in their local Units.

SGT ANTHONY MOON gave a short speech on the role of 3 Rec. Coy and their new Depot.

WO1 ALAN HAWKINS gave a short speech on the role of 4/19 PWLH and spoke on the new Equipment in the Unit, and also what was coming in the future.

MAJ GREG ALLISON introduced himself and gave a run down of the very busy roll that 4CSSB has plus the roll of the Unit in 2004.

After the passing of the Port, Mr. Vice gave the Loyal Toast.

BRIG Dave McGahey gave the Toast to the Corps followed by a talk on RAEME now and into the future. Mr. Norman Dodgson (Vice President East Malvern RSL) Responded on behalf of the Guests. Norm explained that the President Mr. John Scott and his wife Lillian were both home sick. He gave a short rundown on the workings of the Sub branch.

Col. Smith then invited the Oldest and Youngest Member present up to the stage to cut the Corps Birthday Cake:



Les Bailey (who turns 92 in on the 1<sup>st</sup> Dec 2003) and CFN Barro.

The cutting of Corps 61st Birthday Cake with the Regimental Sword

COL Smith stated that 2003 was also special as it was the second Year in succession that Victoria had a National Craftsman of the year. The National winner of the Award for 2003 was CFN Glen Jackson of 4 CSSB; he also received the Vic. State Award and Prizes.

COL Smith presenting both Awards (below)



CFN Jackson was also Presented with Victorian Craftsman of the Year Perpetual Trophy (left)

Peter Cartledge President of the RAEME Association Victoria, wished Cfn. Jackson all the best and presented with the Association Plaque.



COL Smith passed the Prize for Victorian Runner Up to SGT Moon of 3 Recovery Coy, requesting him to present it to CFN Paul Turner who unfortunately had to Work .



After the drawing of the Christmas Raffle COL Smith thanked all for coming and making it a perfect night.

COL Smith wished all a **Merry Christmas and a Safe 2004.**



*Some of the Members and Guests enjoying the Atmosphere of the Night, some have booked their seats for next Years Corps Dinner*

Apparently, 1 in 5 people in the world are Chinese. And there are 5 people in my family, so it must be one of them. It's either my Mum or my Dad.  
Or my older brother Colin.  
Or my younger brother Ho-Cha- Chu.  
But I think it's Colin

*When old Fred went to join the local RSL they asked him if he had a war record. "Bloody oath I have," he said. "I got Vera Lyn singing the "White Cliffs of Dover".*

## The Tradition Rolls On

This is a story of a WWII Vehicle and a dedicated AEME soldier & his family.

The vehicle a 1942 Ford Jailbar AM218L472 Manufactured in Dearborn, Mississippi USA for the USA Department of Defence in May 1942. The vehicle was part of a consignment of war equipment sent to Australia in mid 1942 bound for the Middle East Theatre of War.

As the war equipment was shipped out from Darwin Harbour to the Middle East this Vehicle broke down (It decided it didn't want to go to war.) So it was left behind. It was later back loaded to Melbourne for repairs and was left on Melbourne wharf.

This is when a young enterprising SSGT (com) Geoffrey Maggs of the 1<sup>st</sup> Army Infantry Transport Workshop (1<sup>st</sup> AITW) inquired why was a single vehicle sitting on the Melbourne wharf?

After he was told the story of how it was left behind Geoff made inquiries and found out that the vehicle did not belong to any Unit as it was supposed to go overseas. This enterprising young SSGT (known as the workshop scrounger) with some quick talking and the appropriate paper work had the vehicle assigned to his unit the 1<sup>st</sup> ATIW in July 1942 (later became AEME workshops). After it was brought back into service it was issued to SSGT Maggs. This was the start of a long loving relationship as the vehicle stayed with Geoff for the rest of the war. He had the vehicle converted to a workshop maintenance vehicle (Geoff once told me that he travelled around Australia many times in that vehicle).

After the war in 1946 the vehicle was reassigned to AEME Workshops at Albert Park Melbourne, then later to the Chapel St. Depot Prahran in Melbourne, then in 1949 sent to Defence disposal.

Here Geoff purchased the vehicle for his father's business Gerald Maggs Ironmonger's in Dandenong, here it gave good service to the business for the next 20 years,

But Geoff refused to sell it so it sat in the back yard of the Dandenong business, during that period in the early Seventies Geoff offered it to 105 Field Workshops as a training aid for the lads to restore, unfortunately Army policy stopped this from happening, He again offered the vehicle to the Workshops in 1983 with the same result.

In the late Nineties Geoff closed down the Family Business in Dandenong, rather than scrap the two old Vehicles he had in the Yard (1 old Ford Truck and 1 Commer Truck) he sent them to the Army Museum in Narre Warren on loan, hoping they could be restored and be placed in the Museum.



Sadly, Geoff died in late 2001 never seeing his dream of the old Vehicles being restored. As Geoff had Willed these Vehicles to his sons Allen and Ross they visited the Museum with their Mother Nancy only to find they had ended up in the Museum's Equipment Grave Yard in a very poor and sad state.

The boys determined to fulfil their Father's dream retrieved the Ford and the Commer from the Museum with the goal of restoring them. The Commer went with to Allan Maggs of Ferntree Gully Melbourne, and the Ford went to Ross Maggs and was shipped to Perth West Australia.



The Ford after it was cleared of scrap & arrived in WA



Don Daw hard at work on the job at his WA Workshop

Thanks go to the boys at Bandiana - they were able to trace the whole History of the Vehicle from the AM No. found on the tray.

Ross received help from many areas & friends. Parts and Material were obtained from various sources.



Don Daw seen here with a slightly oversized Piston.

RAEME Association WA, after advertising in their Newsletter "The Horses Mouth" came up with a RAEME Wksp full size Flag for Ross.

After a lot of hard work and help from his many RAEME friend's in WA Ross has completely restored the Ford to its original 1942 Army condition (including the USA Army 1942 paint colour )

The Ford will be fitted out with Comfortable seats along the tray and it will be used to transport disabled War Veterans in the ANZAC Day parade in Perth.

Ross has now fulfilled Geoffrey's dream.



Here Nancy Maggs and Ross' wife admire the completed vehicle, being driven by Ross' son.

**This story in memory of Geoff Maggs Life Member of the RAEME Association (Vic) and President from 1975 to 1991.**

**DO YOU NEED HELP?**

Allan Maggs has an **original Workshop Manual** for a **1942 Ford Jeep**, if he can help you with advice give him a ring on (03) 9758 6071.

**Further to Army “Trash” able to be restored to “Treasure”, the Editor received the following letter from Member John Belfield:**

*First an introduction. I’m John Belfield and I spent a very pleasant 26 years as a RAEME Recovery Mechanic with 4/19 PWLH from 1962 to 1988 and have been a member of the Association for many years and I even got pulled into the Committee for a while by Johnnie Lee, an old soldier mate of mine.*

*Over the last 45 years I have spent most of my other spare time collecting (scrounging in Army lingo) old military vehicles and restoring them. 109 years ago I opened the Melbourne Tank Museum with Pat my wife and son Bill. We are now in our 70s and it’s time to move on.*

*The purpose of this letter is to try and find some responsible body to continue this collection of Australian military history, this National Heritage – this tangible part of the Anzac tradition. I’ve tried State Governments and RSLs over the past 2 years but to no avail. Perhaps someone in our own RAEME Association can help with some ideas for a permanent home.*

*Yours sincerely*

*John Belfield  
PS: Pat & I celebrate our 50<sup>th</sup> on the 28<sup>th</sup> (Feb)*

AC-3 Tank (one of only two in existence)



6-inch Howitzer



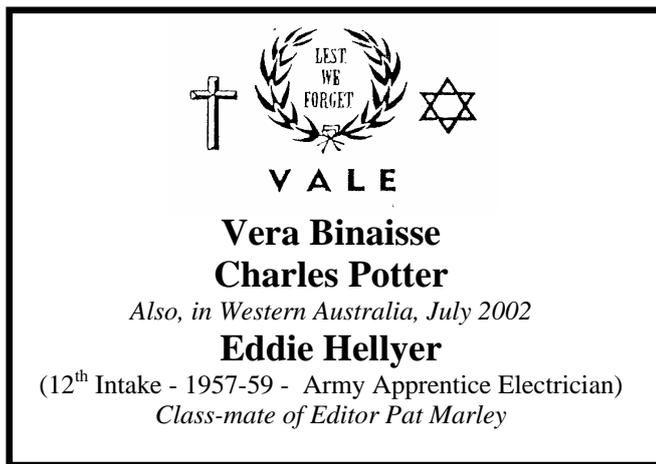
Some examples of the collection:



Valentine Tank

Japanese Light Tank, Captured by Australians at Milne Bay, PNG





## Jest or Joust?

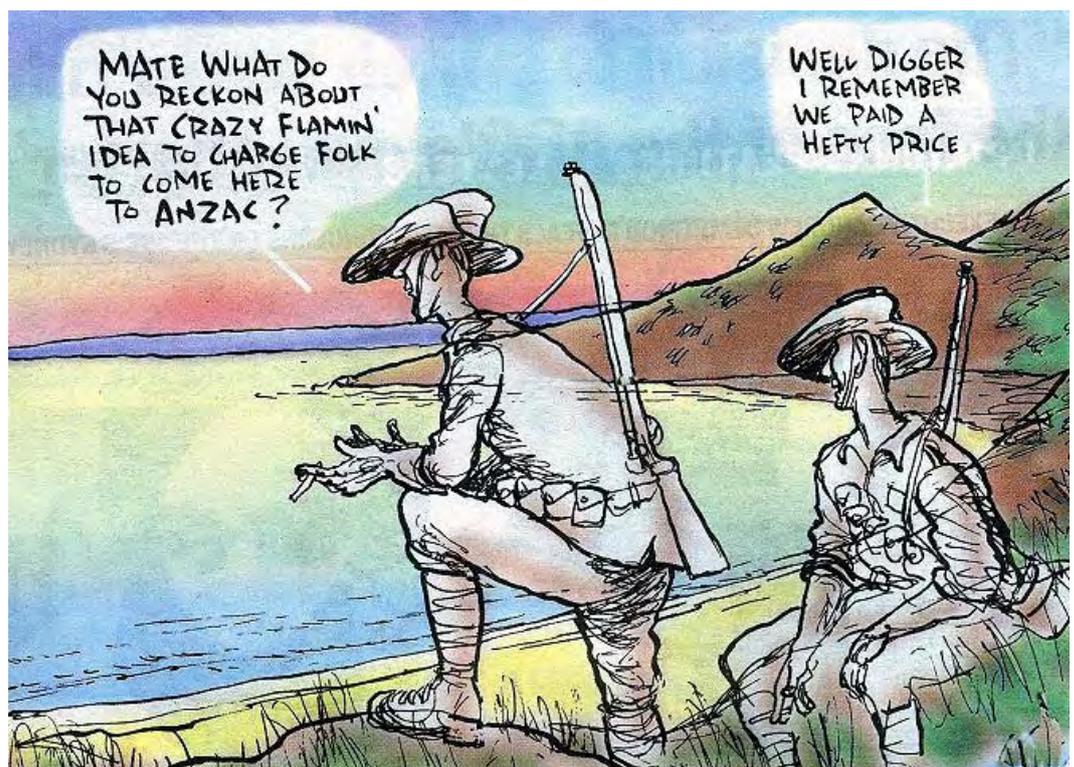
### WHY IS IT THAT WE HAVE TO SPEAK ENGLISH?

An officer in the U.S. Navy was attending a conference that included admirals from both the U.S. Navy and the French Navy. At a cocktail reception, he found himself in a small group that included personnel from both navies.

The French admiral started complaining that whereas Europeans learned many languages, Americans learned only English. He then asked: "Why is it that we have to speak English in these conferences rather than you speak French?"

Without hesitating, the American Admiral replied: "Maybe it's because the Americans, Brits, Canadians, Aussies, and Kiwis arranged it twice so you would not have to speak German."

The group became silent.



## PAST AND PRESENT TRUCKIE DINNER 5-6 JUN 2004

Attention all past and present RACT members and their partners! A dinner and associated social activities will take place at the Lake Hume Resort, Albury, NSW on 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> June 2004. Details for the activities are listed below. The theme of the Dinner is to celebrate the 31<sup>st</sup> Birthday of the RACT and renew many friendships.

**Who can attend:** All members past and present of the RACT and partners.

**Dates and Timings:**

Friday 04 Jun 04, 1730h

Circle the Wagons - Traditional Happy Hour!!

Saturday 05 Jun 04,  
1000 h 1600 h

A full list of activities, including visits to the Military Museum, Bandiana,

Meetings/Reunions and Corps update will be available upon arrival at the Resort.

1700h

Dinner

Sunday 06 Jun 04,  
1000 h

Tour of local wineries

Depart for home destinations:

**Costs:**

The cost of the Dinner is \$50.00 per head with full bar service available. Payment can be made by cheque or money order. The cheque or money order is to be made payable to the Lake Hume Resort. To secure your attendance, payment must be made. If there is a late cancellation a cancellation fee will be charged. Unfortunately the maximum amount of people that can attend is 250 due to the size of the facilities; therefore, early booking is essential to secure your attendance.

**Accommodation:**

Accommodation is available at Lake Hume Resort; the organising committee has secured a deal with the Resort by arranging great accommodation rates. As an example stay two nights and only pay for one. Please note that accommodation at the Resort is limited so first in so first in first served. Lake Hume Resort can accommodate up to approx 150 people depending on room sharing arrangements and allocation.

**Contact:**

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SOLDIER and CRAFTSMAN

**THE RAEME ASSOCIATION (Victoria)  
INCORPORATED**  
Incorporation Reg. No. A0022655Z

PATRON Brigadier C. Ermert ARMIT Msc FIEAust CPEng

**SATURDAY 24TH APRIL 2004**

The main social activity for members of this Association to which we always look forward to with eager anticipation, is our Annual Reunion on ANZAC Eve.

Members are asked to take this opportunity to have an ale or two with those mates you may have not seen for some time - better still, give them a ring and organise to bring them along, and other AEME/RAEME members with you, maybe a family member could pick you up.

**DATE: SATURDAY 24th APRIL 2004**

**TIME: 7.30 pm to 11.30 pm**

**LOCATION: OAKLEIGH BARRACKS** Officers'/Sergeants' Messes)  
1318 North Road, (200 yds South from the  
OAKLEIGH SOUTH Huntingdale Railway Station)  
(Melways Map 69 – K – 11)

**ENTRANCE COST: \$12. 00 per head** (This includes Finger Foods  
and a Complimentary Door  
Prize Ticket)

**DRINKS: At Mess Prices**

**OVERNIGHT ACCOMMODATION:** All members (both City and country) intending to sleep over and attend the Oakleigh Barracks Dawn Service and later attend the ANZAC Day March in the City, Sleeping Accommodation has been organised for MALE members. Army Sleeping Gear has been restricted to 12 Sets (unless you can supply your own gear, you would be quite welcome to do so). **DON'T FORGET TO BOOK A BED EARLY THROUGH THE SECRETARY, RON CLIFFORD ON MOBILE 0409044475 NOT LATER THAN TUESDAY 20th APRIL 2004. - FIRST IN BEST DRESSED!**

**OAKLEIGH BARRACKS DAWN SERVICE:** The RSM 22 Construction Regiment RAE has organised a moving Dawn Service followed by the usual 'GUNFIRE BREAKFAST'. Numbers for purposes of Catering are to be advised to the Secretary, RON CLIFFORD not later than TUESDAY 20th APRIL 2004.

**DISPLAY THIS ON YOUR NOTICE BOARD SO YOU WON'T FORGET**

**ANZAC DAY 2001 - DAWN SERVICE OAKLEIGH BARRACKS**

- 0430 hrs. Reveille.
- 0500 - Gunfire Breakfast (consisting of Tea/Coffee/Rum).  
0530 hrs
- 0545 hrs. Guard Mounts.
- 0550 hrs. Unit Associations to Assemble in mass under an ex-Servicemen's March Leader's control on the roadway adjacent to the Oakleigh Barracks main entrance flagpole in North Road, in readiness to march onto the Parade Ground.
- Association Spectators not marching are requested to form up on the side of the Parade Ground, where directed
- 0555 hrs. Associations March on Flag Orderly takes post.
- 0600 hrs. The Catafalque Party Mounts.
- 0605 hrs. The Service commences - this includes the Wreath Laying as per Order of Service.
- 0630 hrs. Guard and Catafalque Party is Dismounted - the Guard, Catafalque Party and Associations March off to the Dismissal Area.
- 0635 hrs. Service Concludes.
- 0640 - Normal Breakfast is served in the Gymnasium.  
0730 hrs.
- 0730 hrs. Those members Sleeping Over are to return Stores to the Association's Stores Officer.
- 0830 hrs. Association members and their families board the coach in North Road near the main gate of the Oakleigh Barracks for our Assembly Point in the City for the ANZAC Day March 2004.

**ASSOCIATION'S BUS MARSHALL: (TBA)**

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# ANZAC DAY - MELBOURNE 2004

## PRE-MARCH

- MET TRANSPORT:** For the Dawn Service at the Shrine, the MET will provide Free Travel, just show proof you are attending the Service (i.e. wear Medals, RSL Badge, etc).
- SHUTTLE SERVICE:** A Tram Shuttle Service from the City to the Shrine has been organised for the Dawn Service.
- REFRESHMENTS:** Tea, Coffee & Biscuits will be available at the South Gate of Victoria Barracks after the Dawn Service, and on the Shrine Lawn after the March.

## ANZAC MARCH 2004

- ASSOCIATION TRANSPORT TO THE CITY MARCH** As in 2003, the Old Sappers and RAEME Associations will be sharing a coach to transport members and their partners into the ANZAC Day March and return. The cost is \$6:00 per head payable to your Secretary.
- FORM UP POINT:** Look for the Association's Banner at the corner of Swanston and Collins Sts. TOWN HALL CORNER.
- FORM UP TIME:** 1030 HRS.                      **STEP OFF TIME:** 1050 hrs. (Approx).
- MOUNTED TRANSPORT:** THERE IS LIMITED SEATING AVAILABLE IN JEEP TRANSPORT FOR TPI or ELDERLY MEMBERS. SEATS HAVE BEEN BOOKED.
- ASSOCIATION'S MARCH MARSHALL:** TO BE ADVISED

## AFTER THE MARCH

### RAEME VIETNAM VETERANS:

Following the ANZAC March, if uncertain where to enjoy a drink or two with your fellow Veterans, a cordial invitation is extended to you all to journey back to Oakleigh Barracks at 1318 North Road, Oakleigh South (200m from the Huntingdale MET Railway Station on the Dandenong Line) Melways Map 69 – K – 11 and join in with the AEME/RAEME Association, or if you so wish, travel back on our coach (look for the Coach with the RAEME Association emblem on the front windscreen.) COST: \$3:00.

### RETURN TRANSPORT TO OAKLEIGH BARRACKS:1215 hrs. (Approx)

Members, their families and RAEME Vietnam Veterans please note - the Association's Coach will be leaving from opposite THE "SIMPSON AND HIS DONKEY STATUE" IN BIRDWOOD AND THE COACH WILL COLLECT YOU.

### AFTER THE MARCH:

The AEME/RAEME Association members, families/friends and any RAEME Vietnam Veterans (if they so wish), are requested to assemble in the Southern End of Oakleigh Barracks gymnasium (where we have 3 tables reserved) look for our RAEME Table Markers.

### LIGHT LUNCH:

This year, a Light Lunch will be provided in the gymnasium in the form of Sandwiches and Finger Foods at no cost to members their partners and welcomed guests by the RAEME Association. Drinks will be available from the 'Old Sappers Club' for a nominal cost.

### RETURN TO THE CITY TRANSPORT: 1500 Hrs.

A free Bus Service will depart from Oakleigh Barracks to Spencer Street Bus Terminal direct. This will be the only Set Down Point.

### 1730 hrs.

THE OAKLEIGH BARRACKS OFFICIALLY CLOSES.

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**Anzac Day - Assembly Plan - 2004**

