



THE LIGHTNING FLASH

SOLDIER and CRAFTSMAN

March 2005

Issue 44

The RAEME Association (Victoria) Inc.

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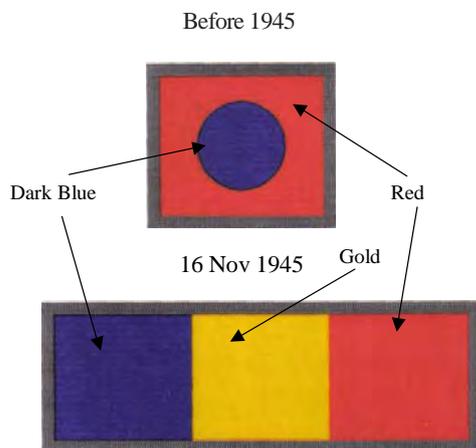
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RAEME COLOUR PATCHES AND BADGE

THE COLOUR PATCH



THE BADGE

1949 With the King's Crown

1955 With the Queen's Crown



THE BADGE Above a lightning flash a horse forgoing a coronet of four fleurs-de-lis, a chain reflexed over its back and standing on a globe. Above a crown upon a scroll bearing the inscription R.A.E.M.E.

The horse and chain are symbolic of power under control and the lightning flash of electrical engineering. The horse forgoing also form part of the crest of the institution of Mechanical Engineers and together with the lightning flash, is intended to mark the close relationship which exists between the electrical and mechanical engineers in the army and civil life. The globe is indicative of the impact of engineering on the world generally.

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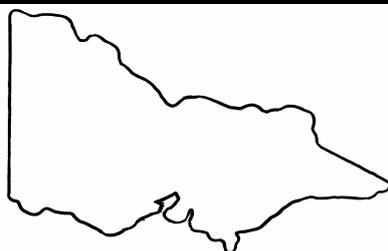
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ARTICLES FOR PUBLICATION

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)

Leonie and I trust you all had an enjoyable festive season. We had a successful celebration of RAEME's 62nd Birthday hosted by COL Terry Beaton (our Corps Commandant elect) and attended by our HOC BRIG David Mc Gahey and COL Graham Smith (representative Colonel Commandant elect) who made presentations to CFN. Paul Turner of 3 RECOV COY who won both the National and Vic/Tas Craftsman of the Year Awards (GRES) our congratulations go to Paul.

Saturday 29th January several of our members travelled to Woodend to watch a cricket team from REME (UK) play a team from Woodend Cricket Club at a match to support World Vision. This was a very well organised match, with a lot of work put in by Woodend Club, spoiled by bad weather on the day causing a washout but not too much to dampen the enthusiasm of either side!

REME again played on Sunday at Trinity Grammar oval at Bulleen where they were beaten by a combined Melbourne Cricket Club eleven. They went on to play Horsham, Hamilton, Sunbury, Bairnsdale and Sale.

I am very sorry this tour was not known to us quite a time earlier, so as we could have let you, our members know that this tour was on and where you would have been able to meet "some of the Poms." They were a great bunch of men.

We only found out by accident from ABC radio and a paragraph in the Herald/Sun although the Woodend and Horsham Committees (and others) had been organising their days for over 9 months!

It looks to me that our lines of communication need to be opened!

Their game at Sunbury was at "Rupertswood" the home of the "ashes" and was followed by a sumptuous dinner at a table with 62 people seated!

Our Corps and Association were ably represented by 6 of our members, a pity more of our members and the Corps in general were NOT there!

Peter Cartledge*President***SECRETARY'S REPORT**

(Gus Allen)

The running of the affairs of our Association is in the hands of your Committee of Management.

Within the C of M are sub committees devoted to specific matters.

Without naming all of them, these sub committees attend to such areas as Welfare & Betterment of members, Editorial concerns on the internet and in the "Lightning Flash". Additionally, our Social committee handles details relating to our social events. Promotional Items for sale also help to generate a cash flow for the Association.

Few members realize the dedication and toil of our unsung workers.

I take this opportunity to heartedly thank these good people who apply them selves to their allotted tasks.

My concerns, apart from the secretarial duties, relates to MEMBERSHIP.

We need new members. So I ask, should you know of any eligible soul who is serving or has served in RAEME, bring to their attention the existence of our Association and join them up.

Gus Allen*Secretary***New Members**

The President and Members would like to welcome our newest Members to the Association and look forward to seeing them at our AGM and other Social Functions.

John Reimers**Wally Rotow****Joseph Murphy**

SOCIAL REPORT

(Peter Cartledge)

Our Annual Corps Birthday Dinner held at East Malvern RSL was another great success that I have already reported on in my Presidents Report.

We are gearing up for the Luncheon to Honour our Widows and Life Members to be held on Sunday 20th March at Oakleigh Barracks 1318 North Road Oakleigh South 3167 at 1130hrs for 1200hrs.

The Sergeants Mess will be open to all for those who would like a quiet drink and to "chew the fat" after the luncheon. I will be sending personal invitations to all our entitled members.

The Association Annual reunion will again be held on ANZAC Eve (Sunday 24th April 2005) at Oakleigh Barracks. If you wish to sleep over at the Barracks please let me know ASAP as there will be a limited number of places available.

For those of you that may not be aware, there is always a Dawn Service on ANZAC Morning at Oakleigh Barracks, preceded by a Gunfire Breakfast and followed by a cooked Breakfast in the Gym. The Dawn Service commences at 0600hrs sharp on the parade ground, be there no later than 0545hrs

WELFARE REPORT

(Reg Cox)

A call to Ross Hope who is now able to have his arm out of the strap for two days and then back with the strap on for two days which is a great improvement. Ross will be back into hospital later on to attend the eye specialist to have a cataract removed from his left eye.

A phone call to Alice and Ken Kermond; Alice has been into two hospitals with a broken hand and now is taking less tablets for her prescriptions, from 17 tablets to now 4 – 5 daily. Alice is now on the mend Ken is now deaf in the left ear, however he hopes to attend the Luncheon for Life Members and Widows.

Jack Westernhagen has had a stay in hospital on 11th January to have two stents placed in two arteries at the back of the heart. It was quite successful and Jack is 100% now.

Reg Cox*Welfare Officer***Have you heard of Macular Degeneration ??**

The following was received as a letter to the Editor from Member Dennis Mayor in Bendigo:

Three years ago I lost the sight of one eye through Macular Degeneration. I had never heard of it until it happened and it was a surprise to learn it is the main cause of blindness in older people. For those of us who served in WWII, it may be too late to do much about avoiding it but our younger members may be able to.

Two causes of Macular Degeneration are smoking and exposure of the eyes to ultra-violet light, so avoiding smoking and wearing sunglasses out-of-doors are sensible precautions. In the hope of protecting my good eye I continue to not smoke and always wear sunglasses outside.

If you get MD and had smoked during war service there is a good chance of being granted a percentage disability pension but if you didn't smoke, no pension. I wasn't worried about this because at 82 I haven't had lung cancer or emphysema. And if I had started at 18 and smoked 30 a day, at today's costs I would have spent about \$205,000 turning cash into ash.

Vision Australia supplied and DVA paid for a white stick 95cm long that folds to 300cm It gives me space in crowded situations and allows me to judge step depths, detect uneven ground and lets drivers know my sight isn't so good if I don't see oncoming traffic.

As an expression of not letting a minor disability affect me, I collect blind jokes. The grandfather of a friend lost a leg and had the same outlook. He collected legless jokes. One that I liked was that he got twice as much wear from his socks before they wore out. So good luck to all you two-eyed and one-eyed blokes.

Yours sincerely,

Cfn Dennis Mayor NX143991

**The Vision Statement
Given by LTCOL Terry Beaton
Colonel Commandant – Elect
at the Corps Dinner on 26 Nov 04**

At this point the Col Comdt usually stands to make a sweeping statement reporting past activities and to present an encouraging outlook for the Corps' future. Not tonight – tonight I want to talk about the Corps' two most important assets; namely Esprit de Corps and its men and women. Our Corps has gone to the depths and survived despite politically driven pressure and now is re-emerging due to realization that the past hierarchy got it wrong. The turn out for tonight's dinner is proof.

Currently, we are extremely fortunate to have a HOC who is passionate about the Corps. This is an important factor as at this year's Corps Conference – Brig Ross Grant as the Rep Col Comdt tasked all Col Comdt's to challenge the current complacency and to re-establish pride in our heritage and 'Esprit de Corps'. His vision for the future is for anybody who has worn or is still wearing the RAEME hat badge to be proud of where they had come from and what has been achieved. On the issue of heritage – your attendance tonight will hopefully raise money with all profits from the evening to be given to the Corps Fund for the specific purpose of upgrading the Corps exhibition at the Army Museum Bandiana. The curator of the Museum stated that he was only the custodian of the Corps display. Its content and the manner of display is a Corps problem and one that needs urgent attention to lift the current inadequate standard of the exhibition. So in Victoria we are already trying to address the issue of pride in heritage.

What is Esprit de Corps – the Collins dictionary defines it as – **“Loyalty and attachment to the body or Corps of which one is a member”**. There is no statute of limitation on “Esprit de Corps” – It does not stop just because you may no longer wear the badge - the only limitation on Esprit de Corps is in here – in your heart. At the Corps Seminar it was reported that a recent investigation had found that the “One Army Concept” is untenable. It allegedly found that the ARA and Reserve can both do the job, but to quite different standards, as their requirements and capabilities are substantially different. But as

far as I am concerned, regardless of whether people have spent their whole service in the Reserve or as a Regular, whether you wore a blue, black light blue or polka dot beret, whether you are still serving or whether you left 20 or 30 years ago OR even a long suffering spouse – you all belong to the one unique body of soldiers – the Corps of RAEME - people who had the privilege and honour to wear our distinctive badge of burden.

Over recent years, it appears evident that the majority have lost the essence of Esprit de Corps, possibly as a direct result of politically induced downsizing, relocation, amalgamations and enforced CSP, all of which have substantially affected the Corps' identity and capability. Yet my experiences whilst curator of the Government's Memorial Museum in Thailand on the Burma Railway, taught me that regardless of ongoing decisions made by Government and the military hierarchy – if people retain their pride in being part of a “Band of Brothers” and don't treat it just as a job – then the spirit of the Corps will survive long after politicians and Generals have long gone.

The ex-POWS also taught me that Army **MATESHIP** was one of the most important aspects of their life, and gives the majority longevity of life due to concern, compassion and willingness to help their mate. Currently, mateship is an aspect which sadly seems to have little value or obvious existence in our busy and self-centred society. Without mateship far more POWs and Veterans would have died during and after war. A crucial lesson that the Vietnam Vets took 20 years to learn following the way they were treated by Australian society upon their return.

ANZAC Day crowds prove that Esprit de Corps and pride in your mates did not stop when they were demobbed. In fact, due to the dedication of a few, it still continues today - long after most have been buried. Another valuable lesson that the Vietnam Vets have learnt. It is not too late for us to learn these two crucial lessons. So I call on everybody here tonight to take an Application for the RAEME Association or any active RAEME group in your area and pass them to a member of the Corps who you know has strayed and convince him to give it another go.

My aims for the next 12 months and beyond include visiting as many regional areas and units as possible. Promote the Corps and to encourage people to join either the RAEME Association or any of the existing groups. Lift the profile of the Col Comdt, his role in today's Army, give greater assist to the HOC, and to re-ignite Pride in being part of the Best Corps in the Australian Army – remember without us they can't fight for long.

To manage these aims - I intend to establish a **ColComdt's Advisory Committee**, comprising representatives from all the RAEME organisations which exists in the Victorian and Tasmanian Region. Its function will be to:

- **Ensure the widest dissemination of information to RAEME personnel throughout Victoria and Tas – in particular promoting group functions.**
- **To establish a database of all RAEME personnel currently living in and posted to Vic & Tas. The Corps Committee has a desire to establish a National database.**
- **To establish pride in where we came from and to help those who made it happen - by establishing a Welfare System to assist RAEME personnel to process disability claims through DVA and to put into place some form of care and support structure for RAEME Veterans and their widows. (As a Pensions Advocate to the Veteran Review Board – I will be willing to help any members of the Corps who asks for assistance)**

Finally,

- **To establish pride in our identity – the callign “Bluebell” to some causes embarrassment. I am proud to be a “Bluebell” and not an “Ironside” or a “Holdfast” and I hope you are too!!**

So I call on everybody here to help me to re-ignite the flame of Esprit de Corps by spreading the word that a new sense of pride and passion in being a member of RAEME has begun tonight. I also encourage everybody to support RAEME Association functions and not to leave it up to the regular 20-30 participants who currently actively demonstrate their greater loyalty to the Corps and its representative Association.

Thank you

*LTCOL Terry Beaton
Colonel Commandant – Elect*

105 WKSP, 4 CSSB

The New Year is here again, and with it brings some new faces. WO1 Allan Hawkins has marched into the ASM position, coming from 4/19 PWLH. WO2 Gavin Richards-Bell is the new Training WO. He is a “greaser”, transferred from the British Army and is quickly learning the way we do things.

CFN Mick Innes is now complementing the workshop with a full time EIR section. LT Brendan Sweeney now fills the shoes as Platoon Commander due to LT Terry Fulton being posted to 3 Recovery Company.

With any new faces it also means the loss of some old ones. EME Ops clerk, CPL Scott Loxley is transferring to the Military Police. CFN Leon Chymko our fitter/armourer is going to INTEL. We wish them both the best of luck in their new careers.

Congratulations are in order for the Workshop as a result of the recent promotion board with the OC being promoted to Major. CPL Toby Bailey and CFN Mark Mozejko were fortunate enough to go to Malaysia supporting Rifle Company Butterworth for a three-month period and are due to return in February.

The training focus this year will be centred upon both individual and unit currencies and competencies. Our first workshop-training weekend will be at Beersheba Barracks, Wangaratta, consisting of Recovery training as well as some fun team exercises and morale building activities.

We are looking forward to what promises to be a very busy and exciting year ahead.

CFN Andrew Clifford

**Eligibility For
the “Veterans’ Entitlement Act”
by LTCOL Terry Beaton (Retd)
Pensions Advocate (VRB)**

Most readers may have little knowledge or understanding of the Veterans’ Entitlement Act of 1986, because the majority will still believe that it has little bearing on them; especially as they will still be under the impression that the VEA, administer by the Department of Veterans Affairs (DVA), only applies to those who went to war or on dangerous peace-making missions.

The majority would therefore be extremely surprised to know that currently the largest group of people who have an entitlement to claim disability benefits from DVA under the VEA are not veterans who served in WW2, the Korean War or even Vietnam, but ADF personnel who never even went to war. This unique situation resulted directly from political motives following the withdrawal of Australia Forces from Vietnam in 1972. At that time the Labour Government deemed that all ADF personnel serving after 7 Dec 72 would be eligible to the compensation provided by the Repatriation Commission under the Repatriation Act of 1920. This decision was not repealed by Government until 6 Apr 1994, when the new Military Compensation Act (MCA) provided legislation for the Military Compensation and Rehabilitation Scheme (MCRS) to cover all claims for medical disabilities for ADF personnel not on active service. Between these critical dates, the Government deemed that the old Repatriation Act was no longer appropriate and in 1986 the new Veterans Entitlement Act was passed by Parliament to regulate all procedures associated with the medical benefits and welfare of veterans. This significant change resulted primarily from the pressures exerted by Vietnam Veterans seeking “just” compensation for war-related disabilities and a more rational and objective system of assessment of entitlement, rather than the subjective assessment and minefields faced under the Repatriation Act.

Simply put, all ADF personnel who served from **7 Dec 92 until 6 Apr 94** have an entitlement to claim under the VEA any medical disabilities they suffer, but which have solely been caused by

their Defence service. In fact, this unique group of peacetime ADF personnel have a **dual** entitlement to claim their disabilities either under the VEA or the MCA, just like the Vietnam Veterans. With claiming under the VEA, the significant difference between the two groups is solely related to “*standard of proof*” not their entitlement to claim. So before anybody goes to their orderly room or local RSL, it is essential to know the difference between the two forms of compensation. Like any workers compensation scheme, any person who served in the ADF has an entitlement to claim compensation for an injury or disability, which has resulted from an authorised military activity, including sport with a civilian club - provided it has been appropriately covered by Routine Orders. The major difference in outcomes between the two schemes are that the MCRS provides only a “one time” lump sum payout to compensate reduced health or physical and mental capability, unless the person is medically discharged due their disability – whereby they will receive a medically discharged rate of pension. The VEA on the other hand provides a fortnightly disability pension based on the medically assessed level of incapacity. Although a much small amount, this disability pension is paid fortnightly, index linked, paid for life and eligible for periodic increases in value subject to the proven worsening of the disability.

The critical difference between the two schemes is that the VEA also provides treatment for all accepted disabilities for the rest of the Veteran’s life. The MCRS provides no ongoing treatment, as the assessed lump sum is supposed to cover ongoing medical costs. Depending on life expectancy, the sum of fortnightly payments and treatment costs could therefore exceed the “one time” lump sum payout by MCRS. The treatment cover under VEA is administered by the provision of treatment cards. The “Gold Card” is issued to all veterans whose medical disabilities have been assessed to have reached a significantly high incapacity rating. Gold Card-holders have all medical disabilities covered by DVA, including those not related to service. Veterans whose disabilities have not been assessed to this extent of incapacity are issued with a “White Card” specifically for the treatment of their medical disabilities which DVA has accepted are service related. As a Pensions

Advocate I would give any eligible person the following assessment – the VEA is a simpler and more objective system whereby if a casual link can be established between service and a person's disability, then they have a high probability of having that disability recognised and receive treatment and disability benefits for the rest of their life. Thereby catering for the likely worsening of the disability due to the rigours of life. The MCA is a far more complicated procedure, which if won, provides only a "one time" fix and no on going treatment or provision for the condition to worsen in the future. Consequently, unless somebody urgently needs a lump sum of money and does not have an entitlement to claim the disability under the VEA, they would be foolish to claim it under the MCRS.

If you are suffering from a service related disability, eg loss of hearing, tinnitus, anxiety, emphysema, osteoarthritis from sporting or work related injury, and the cause of the injury occurred during service between 7 Dec 72 and 6 Dec 94, then you should contact a Pensions Officer at a local Veterans' Centre, RSL or visit your orderly room to submit an claim under the VEA to DVA. Action now whilst you are still have contact with witnesses and access to supporting medical evidence, can only strengthen your case. Those in the South Eastern Melbourne can get information and assistance from the South Eastern Regional Veterans' Centre at Oakleigh by phoning (03) 9568 1200 or sending an email to bestav13@tpg.com.au

To ensure that we all look after the welfare of all those who served in the Corps, please be aware that all ex-ADF personnel, regardless of when they served, are entitled to treatment under DVA if they are suffering from cancer or a psychological disorder. DVA provide an excellent advisory service on this issue and other matters. It can be accessed by phoning 133 254 in the metropolitan area or 1800 555 254 in regional Victoria. Remember you do not have to be a Vietnam Veteran to be helped by any Veterans Centre. They help any person who has served and assist them to submit claims against both the VEA and the MCRS. The ball is in your court!

LTCOL Terry Beaton

SUMMARY OF CORPS COMMITTEE OUTCOMES

*The following was provided by BRIG Ross Grant AM (Rtd) in the UK:
(Extracted from
The RAEME Association, Queensland
"Spanner News" of Jan 2005)*

Review of the RAEME Corps Strategic Plan

BRIG has given BRIG McGahey an undertaking to review this document in the next few months once he is settled in the UK.

Appointment of COL's COMDTs

The changeover of Col's Comdt was agreed and will be announced in the forthcoming Craftsman if the Chief of Army approves the proposed appointments.

Museum Funding

There has been little progress with the development of the RAEME display. However, with the recent presentation of a cheque for \$3000 by the RAEME Vietnam Veterans' Association of Vic, which is disbanding, the momentum can be regained. The appointment of MAJ Graham Anderson, the Corps new SO2 Heritage, together with his allocation of 100 ARES man-days, should be able to revitalise the museum development. In the Chairman's opinion, the development of the Museum should become a key responsibility and focus of the Corps Committee, the Corps in general and the bona fide RAEME Associations, if the Corps wants its heritage preserved. This is an area that also needs an injection of manpower (either volunteer or reservists man-days) to keep the momentum for development going.

RAEME Memorial Usage

A Corps Instruction was to be produced last year but is yet to be completed. MAJ Graham Anderson will look into this, when he is appointed.

RAEME Associations and a desire for National Affiliation

This was a new item of business, which came out of discussions about the requirement for the associations to develop for members of the Corps, or for retired members to have some allegiance to their old Corps. The Committee agreed it was beyond the power and resources of the appointed HOC, and his staff, to manage the Associations or even weld them ever so loosely into a national body. Rather, this should be a role for the COL's COMDT under the stewardship of the REP COL COMDT. To that end, it was agreed that a meeting be chaired by you in 2005, which brought the Association Reps together for an exploratory meeting with their local COL's COMDTs. An agenda has been provided to MAJ Graham Anderson and it was up to Col Smith the REP COL COMDT (Elect) to decide the time place, level of

attendance and final agenda. The general aim was to encourage closer ties between the Associations and the Corps, standardise their membership criteria (open to all who have been associated with the Corps) and agree on a strategy to promote the Corps, to celebrate the Corps achievements through appropriate activities, and to preserve the Corps heritage in whatever manner thought appropriate, but principally through the written word and our Museum displays.

Corps Port

Being produced by the Aviation Support Group Workshops to celebrate the 40 years of service RAEME has given to Army Aviation.

Fundraising

Sale of Banner Miniatures – the last sale of the limited edition banners was very successful and SO 2 Corps Heritage's advice was to 'hasten slowly' towards the next release – probably 2005-06.

Another Corps History – it was agreed that the proposal from the proposed author, Mr James Mason, be agreed in principal. BRIG Grant was tasked to put together an outline plan for an as yet to be established project team.

The Chairman explained that the role of the Corps Committee was to overview the process and support the volunteer project officer, MAJ Arthur Tsamis, and SO2 Corps, who will have a major role to get the ball rolling and manage the project. BRIG Grant will write separately on this subject to Mr Mason, and the first step is to get an agreed project plan in place and advise Mr Mason of the process.

His proposed writing plan is simple but Corps Committee needs to amend it slightly to cater for a range of photos from individuals currently serving, or previously associated with the Corps and not just rely on the AWM.

Corps Awards – the process has worked better this year, but the decision making about the final recipients was incomplete. The number of nominations improved marginally over other years. BRIG Grant asked that the process continue to be improved and asked the HOC organisation to resolve the matter, in particular the RSM, SO2 Corps and SO2 Corps Heritage.

Medals Board

All work is completed and the board was presented to the REME Museum during a visit to the UK by BRIG McGahey. A reciprocal presentation was made to the Army Logistic Museum, by the visiting REME representative, who attended the Conference.

It comprised art works painted by a REME POW from the Second World War of life in the Japanese Prison in Changi.

Renewal of the RAEME presence at the Army School of Electrical and Mechanical Engineering and the Avenue of Honour for the Army Apprentices

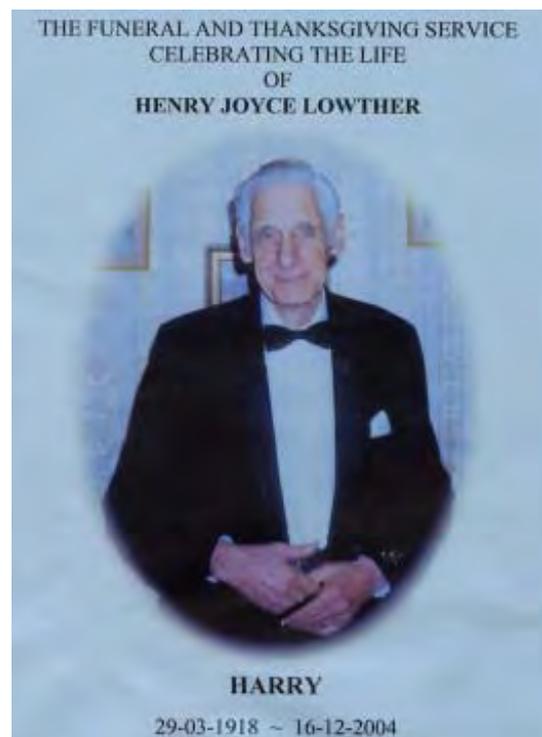
BRIG Grant and the HOC, BRIG McGahey, acknowledged the work undertaken by COL David Creagh and his staff to revitalise the Corps' presence at the Corps School, has been first class and asked that the minutes will reflect the results. He also congratulated COL Creagh, in absentia on his recent promotion and appointment to AHQ. The new CO, of the Army School of Electrical and Mechanical Engineering is to be LTCOL Andy Adams.

BRIG asked that his congratulations be passed on to LTCOL Adams.

RAEME Database

This issue should be incorporated into the discussion of the role and function of the Corps associations. However, it will require linkages between the SO2 Corps, who has a database for the mailing of the Craftsman, Associations who maintain current databases of some serving but mainly retired people and other lists around the traps. This development will take time and a lot of effort and will be discussed further at the proposed associations' conference mentioned above.

Lest We Forget



A letter from Don Horsley in the West:

**The RAEME Association [VICTORIA] Inc.
The President: Peter CARTLEDGE**

Dear Peter,

MEMORIES

On opening Issue 43 (November 2004) of "The Lightning Flash " I glanced down the names on page 2. When I saw the name Gus Allen it brought back memories that this was the one who owned a service station around the corner from Chapel St depot and looked after my car for my wife while I was in Viet Nam.

Continuing down the list, Max Moore pops up, he was the "blind man" who supplied the blinds for our Melbourne house.

The next was John Lee, who was the CO of 105 Wksp when I was posted to Chapel St Depot in 1959.

And not to be left out was Brian Tingwell, "Tinga", one of the outstanding recovery mech. What more could be said about Tinga without getting into trouble.

Moving on to page 4 there was Barry Ridgeway and my very good mate Jim McFarlane, who, not only was he at Chapel St depot during my time there, but also served with me at Melbourne Area Wksp after his stint in Viet Nam. I could tell you many stories about what Jim and I got up to over the years but I am afraid they are not for publication.

Then I got to page 5 and read 105 Field Wksp Company report. I am sure that when I joined the CMF in June 1948 at the Powlett St Depot, the unit was 105 Inf Wksp and the corps was the AEME. The Depot WO was Terry Croft.

I was in fact the first recruit minor to be taken into the Corps after the change in the age law. Enlisting in the ARA in Feb 1949 it was not until 1958 that I was posted to Chapel St Depot and asked to set up a technical training team to supply tech training to members of the CMF.

Also on the team were, Don Hodgart [Depot Sgt Major], Jeff Hawker [Gun Artificer] and it was not long before we were christened "The three horrible Hs".

For 2 years we were fully occupied with all types of training including bivouacs, exercises, annual camps and depot training.

John Lee was the OC of 105 Wksp and at the end of each annual camp, after the Sgts mess dinning-in dinner, led the officers against the SNCOs in the climbing of the marquee, which from memory the Sgts always won.

To sum up I must add that one of the proudest moments of my life was leading the RAEME Association [Victoria] Inc on Anzac Day during my term as President.

I must also congratulate you and your committee on the outstanding work you have done to make the Association such an outstanding success that it is today.

The best to all for the New Year from us in the WEST.

Don HORSLEY

15 November 2004



LT COL Don Macleod

LT COL Lawrie Sargeant

Harry Lowther

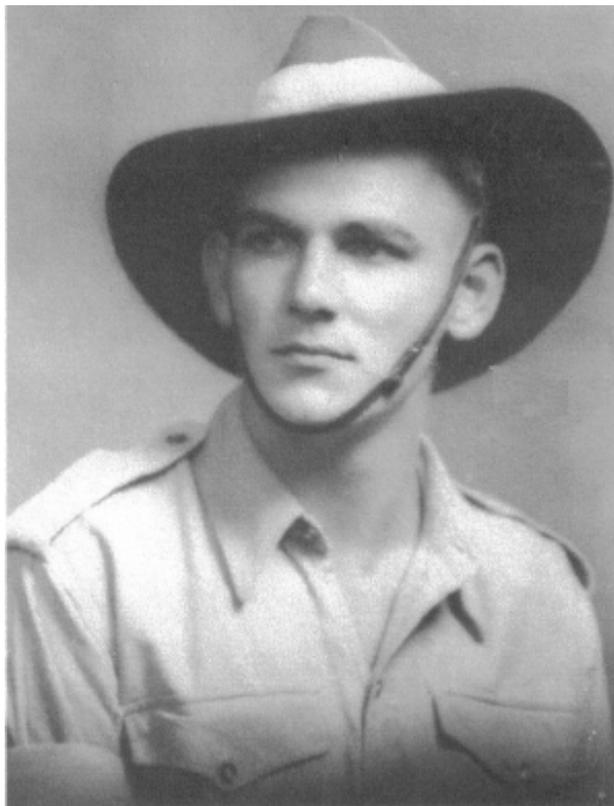
A Gentle Reminder

For our Association to offer support to sick or injured members or families of departed comrades, it would be helpful if the Association Welfare Officer (Reg Cox) or Secretary (Gus Allen) could be advised of the sickness, injury or hospitalisation of the member.

In particular, the passing of a Member can be acknowledged by a newspaper Notice to enable those who wish to attend the funeral and pay their last respects

VALE

Lt. Col. D. I. Macleod RFD. ED. 1922 –2004



The RAEME Association has lost a Life Member and a stalwart of many years.

Don joined the AIF in July 1942 and was discharged in January 1946. He served with 2/7 Infantry Bn, was transferred as a Tradesman to AEME on its formation and was discharged from 2/3 Australian Infantry Troops Workshop having served in New Guinea and Borneo.

On the formation of the CMF in 1948 Don became an original member of AEME at Powlett Street, East Melbourne, here he met other well known identities and current members of the Association such as: Les Bailey, Lyall Butling, Brian Driscoll, Bill Holmes, Ray Vaux and Max Edbrooke.

With War-time experience behind him and a keen interest in soldiering, Don soon advanced through the NCO Ranks and was commissioned as an Officer in 1950. Then came further experience in LAD's at the same time attending to study requirements for future promotion.

In 1957 Don was appointed OC of 106 Infantry Workshop, then followed further Staff appointments and courses in preparation for bigger things.

He was appointed Lt. Col. In 1966 reaching the peak of his Military career with his appointment as CRAEME 3 Div in 1972, a position he held until his retirement in 1975

Don had many military related interests both during and after his CMF career. In the RAEME Association, he was a long-term Committee member, Trustee, Vice President and Life Member of the RAEME Association.

In the RSL at Anzac House he was a volunteer for many years almost daily attending to his many duties. As Deputy Chief Marshall he was responsible for the assembly and co-ordinating dispatch of the entire Anzac Day March from the CBD - a job requiring considerable planning and people skills. In 1996 for his service to the RSL Don was awarded Life Membership with Gold Badge.

Don was a member of the 2/7 Infantry Bn Association, and served as President, Committee Member and later Life Member. He was for many years an active Councillor of the Royal United Services Institute of Victoria and a Member of the Victorian Branch of the Australian National Flag Association. Don Macleod was a very active man.

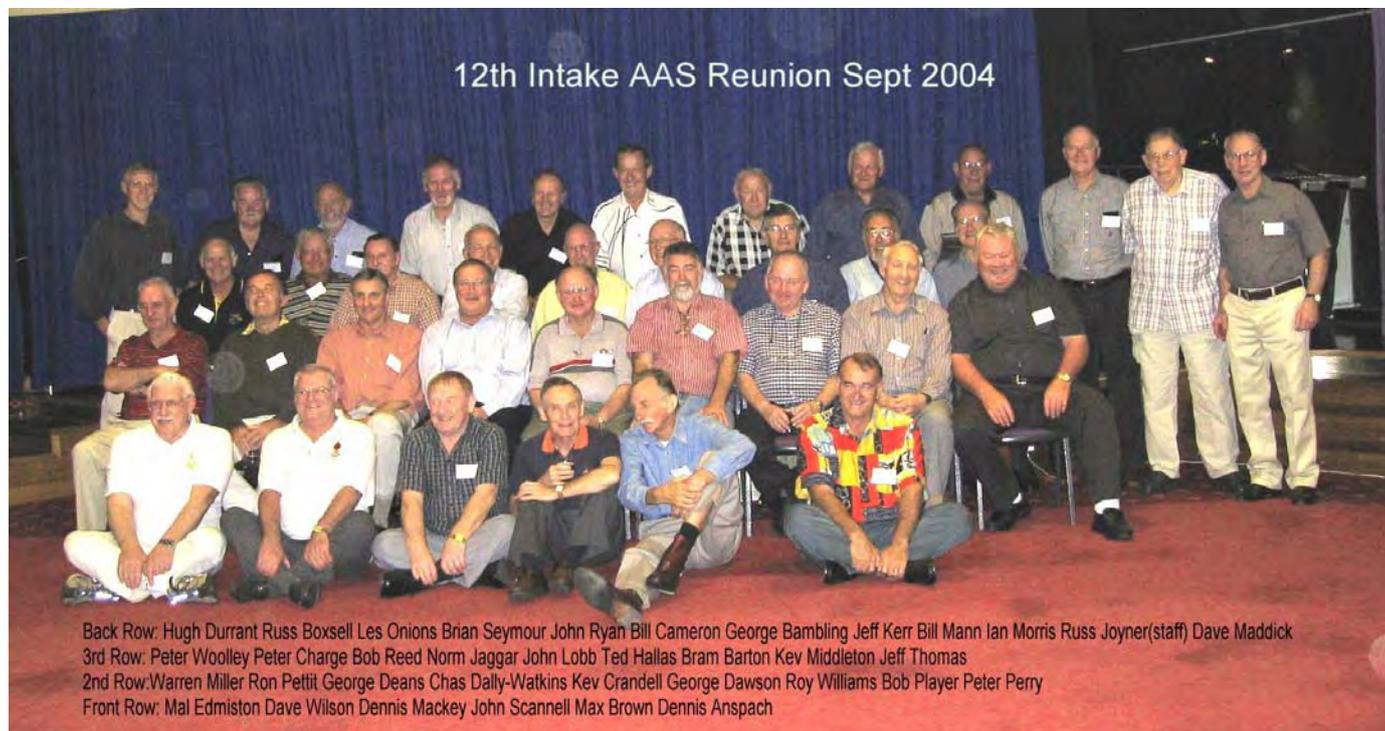
We of the RAEME Association can be proud that we were associated with Don Macleod, he was a volunteer in the true meaning of the word. In time of war and peace he took the risks and readily gave of his time in the interest of family, his country and his mates. His contribution in the many areas in which he was involved will long be remembered by those who served with and worked with him.

Our fondest regards and best wishes to Don's wife Bonnie and their family

Lest We Forget

12th Intake Army Apprentice Reunion Sept 2004

A reunion of the "12th Men" took place at Tweed Heads in September 2004, ably organised by Dennis Anspach.



**The "12th Men" Graduated from AAS Balcombe on 12 Dec 1959:
The 12th day of the 12th month of the 12th year of operation of the Army Apprentices' School,
Balcombe, Victoria)**

Above is a photo with names – but I wonder what happened to all the 18-year-olds I knew?

(12th Intake – but unable to attend – Editor Pat Marley)

Drought Relief Bike Ride

We recently completed a 19 day bike ride (19th November, 2004 - 7th December, 2004) for Drought Relief families throughout North West Victoria, passing through: Kilmore, Seymour, Shepparton, Yarrowonga, Nathalie, Echuca, Kerang, Swan Hill, Robinvale, Mildura, Ouyen, Sea Lake, Charlton, Bendigo and Woodend.

The riders and support crew successfully completed the 19 days with some extreme early unexpected hot weather conditions for North West Victoria, Kerang to Swan Hill leg (39°C), Swan Hill to Robinvale leg (40°C), Robinvale to Mildura leg (41°C).

Funds raised from the bike ride are to assist drought

affected families in regional and rural Victoria and to assist in getting school children back to school for 2005 (books, uniforms, shoes etc.)

On behalf of the four riders: Peter Doody, Gerry O'Donvan, Laurie Woods, Mick Lynch and all the support crews who assisted throughout those 19 days, we would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your generous hospitality and friendship we experienced whether it was accommodation, meals (and/or both) or generous donations.

Once again thank you

Murray Lewis

On behalf of our riders and support crews

**COL COMMANDANT (Southern Regions)
62nd Anniversary -RAEME All Ranks
Corps Birthday Dinner
Plus The Craftsman of The Year Award**

This was an excellent night at the East Malvern RSL which was well attended , where 82 present and past members of the RAEME plus Members of our Association and Partners sat down to an excellent 3 course meal.

LT COL Terry Beaton (COL COMMANDANT Southern Regions Elect) was our Dining President. COL. Beaton stated that the 2004 Craftsman of the Year Award was kept secret from the Unit personnel. This helped boost the numbers attending, as the Units came to support their nominated member. Plus we were honoured to have VIPs in attendance: our HOC BRIG David McGahey CSC, our Patron BRIG Conrad Ermert, COL. Commandant. (Elect) COL Graham Smith, plus our Senior RAEME Rep. LT.COL Joe Murphy

LT COL Terry Beaton announced this was to be his first official function at a gathering as COL. Commandant Elect. He officially thanked those present and introduced the VIPs, and congratulated all on the excellent support they had given to the Corps over the years.

LT COL Beaton called on COL Smith to announce and present the Victorian Craftsman of the Year with his Awards plus the Victorian Perpetual Trophy, COL Smith called on CFN Paul Turner, of 3 Recovery Coy to the stage



Col Smith handed over to BRIG McGahey (HOC) to announce the 2004 National Craftsman of the Year BRIG McGahey said this was also special as it was the third year in a row that Victoria had achieved a National Craftsman of the year.



BRIG McGahey announced that the National Winner was Cfn Paul Turner of 3 Recovery Coy; he then presented him with a framed certificate, a cheque and a personal plaque from him and the National Corps Committee. He then called on Peter Cartledge the President of the RAEME Association Vic. to say a few words.



Peter Cartledge wished CFN Paul Turner well, then presented him with a plaque from the RAEME Association Vic.



The Oldest Member, Mr. Les Bailey and Youngest Member present, CFN Mat Gaunaro came to cut the Corps 62nd Birthday Cake with the Regimental Sword.



LT COL Beaton thanked the RAEME Association committee for the hard work in organising and executing a perfect night, also all attending and the President of the RSL Mr. Scott and his staff our thanks for a job well done .

**Department of Veterans' Affairs
Defence Links Branch
Health Studies**

Feasibility study into a Health Study of Sons and Daughters of Vietnam Veterans

Consultative Forum

Public Record of Meeting

10am, Thursday 27 January 2005

13th floor meeting room

DVA Victoria State Office

300 La Trobe Street Melbourne

Background

On 31 August 2004 Government announced that it would examine the feasibility of conducting a study of the health of the children of Vietnam veterans. The Minister for Veterans' Affairs, the Hon De-Anne Kelly MP, has confirmed the Government's commitment to conduct the feasibility study. The feasibility study will be managed by the Defence Links Branch of the Department of Veterans' Affairs, on behalf of the Repatriation Commission, in close consultation with stakeholders in the Vietnam veteran community and with eminent researchers with relevant expertise.

Consultative Forum

On behalf of the Minister, the Secretary of the Department of Veterans' Affairs wrote to the TPI Federation, Partners of Veterans Association, the RSL, the VVAA, the VVFA and the Children of Vietnam Veterans Health Study group inviting them to nominate representatives to participate in the Consultative Forum. The Secretary also invited a daughter and a son of a Vietnam veteran to participate.

The Repatriation Commissioner, Rear Admiral Simon Harrington (Rtd), chairs the Forum. Advisers and observers from the Departments of Defence and Veterans' Affairs also attend Forum meetings. At its first meeting Forum members received a brief overview of the general processes the Department uses to manage its health studies and noted that a similar process is being used for the conduct of the present feasibility study. The Forum also received a brief overview of the research conducted to date on the health of sons and daughters of Vietnam veterans, both in Australia and internationally.

The Forum finalised its Terms of Reference such that it will:

- provide an opinion to the Repatriation Commission on the feasibility of conducting any proposed health study of sons and daughters of Vietnam veterans;

- act as a mechanism for consultation between the Department and the veteran community over the study;
- allow communication between the veteran community and the Department on issues relating to the study;
- assist in the formation and guidance of an independent Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) to provide scientific oversight to the study; and
- provide a veteran community perspective to the SAC, incorporating in particular the perspective of sons and daughters of Vietnam veterans.

The Forum noted its memberships and its ability to draw upon individuals and organisations that will assist it in addressing its Terms of Reference. Further the Forum noted that its Minutes will be confidential so that its members may speak frankly and openly about any matters they wish to raise. The Forum noted this was the usual practice with studies of this kind and noted that a "Public Record of Meeting" will accompany the Minutes for circulation by Forum members to their organisations or other interested parties.

The Forum reviewed a draft Project Plan for the feasibility study and noted the complexity of the study and tight timeframe of the feasibility study as the report is due by mid 2005.

The Forum agreed with the invitation of Professor Alexander ("Sandy") MacFarlane, Head of Psychiatry at the University of Adelaide, to Chair the Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC). The Forum supported the invitation of Professors Margot Prior and Hedley Peach to join the SAC and also recommended the inclusion of a geneticist and biostatistician/expert in research methodology.

The Forum nominated Ms Anne Matheson, daughter of a Vietnam veteran, as its representative on the SAC.

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Forum is a joint meeting with the SAC currently scheduled for Thursday 3 March 2005.

Contact

The Department's Project Manager for the feasibility study, Stephen Lawton, can be contacted on:
(02) 6289 4760
email Stephen.Lawton@dva.gov.au

3rd RECOVERY COMPANY

Organisation

3rd Recovery Company is a General Army Reserve (GRES) unit based in Dandenong Victoria, and comprises approximately 40 members of which six are full time (ARA) members. A sub-unit of the 9th Force Support Battalion based in Sydney, the company is commanded by MAJ Stephen Fisher.

Role

The role of the 3rd Recovery Company is to provide Force level (third line) recovery support to deployed forces. Its primary task is to train and qualify its current and future soldiers as Recovery Mechanics on in-service equipment.

2004 Achievements

The company has been involved in many and varied tasks throughout 2004, including support to local units in addition to Army Public Relation (PR) activities at local shows and venues throughout Southern Victoria (for example Dandenong Show 2004). Cpl Turner from 3 Recovery Company was awarded the National Craftsman of the Year for 2004 (GRES) for his contribution and demonstration of skills to the unit.

In the past and also expected in future ARA and GRES members will deploy overseas in support of Defence Force tasks as approved by Government. The company is looking forward to a busy year in 2005 supporting 9th Force Support Battalion and other ADF units.

Location

The unit is housed in the Multi-User Depot (MUD) located in Dandenong South (Doveton) Victoria which houses two other units: 22 Fd Bty from 2/10 Mdm Regt, and 310 RCU Army Cadets.

Parade Timings

The Company is open during normal business hours five days a week, every Wednesday night between the hours of 1930 – 2230 for GRES parade nights and on designated GRES training weekends once a month.

Visits and enquiries are most welcome, however it is requested visitors contact the company prior to ensure the appropriate personnel are available and a convenient meeting time can be agreed.

Enquiries should be directed to either SGT Tony Clarke on (03) 8710 2408 or WO2 Sean Lee on (03) 8710 2416.

*The Company address is: 3 Recovery Company
65 Princes Hwy, Dandenong South, VIC 3175*

