



SOLDIER and CRAFTSMAN

THE LIGHTNING FLASH

November 2009

Issue 58

The RAEME Association (Victoria) Inc. Incorporation Reg No. A 0022655Z ABN: 96 873 522 994
Patron: BRIG Conrad Ermert. MSc FIEAust CPEng (Retd)
Colonel-Commandant: COL Brian Jones, CSC

President: MAJ John Boothroyd RFD.ED (Retd)

Treasurer: Aranka Illia

Editor/Webmaster: Pat Marley

16 Clematis Street, Glen Waverley 3150

Phone (03)9802 0637

email: patmar@melbpc.org.au

or pat@patmar.id.au

Vice President: Bruce Williams

Secretary: Alan Rogers

Web: www.raeme.org.au/vic

Print Post Approved: PP 339540061

Price: \$1.10 (Financial Members Free)



VALE

VX79035

Reginald Weston Cox

29 June 1921 – 14 October 2009

Arte et Marte



Both Reg and Roma Cox have been long-time Committee members and stalwarts of the Association



Reg and Roma Cox celebrated their Diamond Wedding Anniversary this year
Married 5th February 1949

**THE RAEME ASSOCIATION
(Vic) Inc.**
PO Box 2118 Fountain Gate Vic 3805
**COMMITTEE OF
MANAGEMENT**

President:

MAJ John Boothroyd RFD.ED (Retd)
Telephone: H (03) 9704 6625

Vice President:

Bruce Williams
☎ (03) 9561 8354
Mobile: 0418 104 895
bruce.w1@bigpond.com

Secretary:

Alan Rogers
☎ (03) 9704 6700
Mobile: 0422 8 88 851
raeme.assn.vic@bigpond.com

Membership & Public Officer:

Gus Allen
☎ (03) 9802 5460
gus_allen@bigpond.com

Treasurer/Merchandising/Promotion:

Aranka Illia
☎ (BH) (03) 9566 9468
☎ (AH) (03) 9796 4794
aranka.illia@police.vic.gov.au (W)
or sm2aranka@optusnet.com.au (H)

Welfare & Betterment/Almoner:

Dennis Clarke
☎ (03) 9848 6757
Mobile 0409 518744
eastern.auto@optusnet.com.au

Rules & By-Laws:

John Lee
☎ (03) 9580 4760

Membership

Kindred Associations and

ANZAC House:

Gus Allen
☎ (03) 9802 5460
gus_allen@bigpond.com

Editor /Web Master:

Pat Marley
☎ (03) 9802 0637
Mobile: 0407 056 298
patmar@melbpc.org.au
or pat@patmar.id.au

Social Convener:

Peter Cartledge
☎ (03) 9802 6406 Ph/Fax
Mobile: 0414 771 144
pcart8@optusnet.com.au

**Unit Representative
& Military Adviser:**

WO1 Alan Hawkins
☎ (BH) (03) 9282 6926
Mobile: 0409 662 916
allan.hawkins@defence.gov.au

CHAPTERS

BANDIANA CHAPTER

President Andrew Turner
H. 02 6056 1946
Secretary: George Reid
PO Box 231
WODONGA Vic 3689
☎ (02) 60593153
reidysnr@aapt.net.au

SEYMOUR CHAPTER

President David Maddick
☎ (03) 5793 8396
muffettsplum@bigpond.com

RAEME VIETNAM SOUTHERN

President Dennis Clarke
☎ H (03) 9848 6757
Mob 0409 518744
eastern.auto@optusnet.com.au

Secretary Dennis Meek

☎ H (03) 9798 3452
dennis.meek@bigpond.com



Coordinator – Bruce Williams

(see Vice-President)

ECHUCA

Dom Pontelandolfo
☎ (03) 5482 1035
dpontelandolfo@msn.com

SHEPPARTON

Mark Ryan
☎ (03) 5823 1022
stay@sheppark.com.au

BALLARAT/DAYLESFORD

George Hepburn
24 Junction St. BALLARAT 3350
☎ (03) 5331 3153

**BENDIGO/CASTLEMAINE/
HEATHCOTE**

Jack Balsillie
147 The Outlook Bendigo Village
Mandurang Rd.
Spring Gully 3550
☎ (03) 5443 4803

HOPPERS CROSSING/GEELONG

Rex Foord
598 Thompson Rd,
NORLANE 3214
☎ (03) 5275 1728

WARRNAMBOOL & DISTRICT

Brian Driscoll
☎ (03) 5595 4273

**BERWICK/PAKENHAM
WARRAGUL/ MORWELL/
TRARALGON & SALE**

Bill Slegers
25 Main Neerim Rd,
DROUIN 3818
☎ (03) 5625 2232
Mobile: 041 913 6149
willcor.slegers@live.com

**CRANBOURNE/KORUMBURRA
& WELSHPOOL**

Kevin Moon
1 Hawkins St,
KORUMBURRA 3950
☎ (03) 5655 1545

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.

Let's hear from you!

Deadline for March 2010 Flash
Monday 8th February 2010

Items to Pat Marley,
Peter Cartledge
Aranka Illia

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

It's been a long time since 3 Jan 1956 when I was enlisted as a Craftsman Recruit in the RAEME Company of 20 National Service Battalion at Puckapunyal and then going to RTC to be instructed in gun repair by Cpl Jeff Hawker.

Now I am the newly elected President of the Association and slowly coming to grips with The modern army and its language and the problems of the dollar driven environment in Which we operate.

My Wife Robina and I joined the Cup weekend trip to Lakes Entrance and environs and Had a great time. Thanks to Peter and Leonie for their efforts in making this trip a success, 29 attended after a last minute cancellation due to illness. The social committee Are working on next years trip and we are looking to increase our numbers to at least 40, So keep your ear to the ground.

Several of the Committee attended the Remembrance Day Service at the Clayton RSL As no activity was conducted at the Oakleigh Barracks.

Have you replied to the notice regarding the Birthday Dinner at East Malvern RSL on 27 November, if not, why not, it's a great night Please ensure that you read the planned activities for 2010 in the Social Calendar and note them in your diary. As this is the last Flash prior to Christmas Robina and I wish you and yours all the best for the Festive Season.

Arte et Marte

John Boothroyd
President

A NOTE FROM PETER CARTLEDGE
Outgoing President of 13 Years

I wish to thank you all for the privilege of being your President for the past 13 years and being able to represent you on behalf of our Association.

I was so chuffed and humbled to be granted the honour of Life Membership of The RAEME Association (Vic) Inc. and to join the ranks of those past and present who have attained this honour.

I must mention here the words that were spoken and read at our AGM regarding my presentation. I, at times, wondered who they were talking about!

Thank you one and all I shall wear my "Life Member" badge with much pride.

Arte et Marte

Peter Cartledge
Past-President)



SECRETARY'S REPORT

Well a new committee has been formed for 2009-2010 with several of the old guard continuing to provide their service and advice to the new committee members. Gus Allen has been there to assist me as I settle into the role of secretary.

Sadly I report the passing of our long time member REG COX on 14 October. Several members of the Association attended the funeral.

Condolences were passed onto Roma for her loss on behalf of all Association members.

PLEASE NOTE: New mailing address:
PO Box 2118 Fountain Gate 3805
e-mail raeme.assn.vic@bigpond.com

Committee for 2009-2010**Executive:**

President: MAJ John Boothroyd RFD ED (Retd)

Vice-President: Bruce Williams

Secretary: Alan Rogers

Treasurer: Aranka Illia

Committee Members:

Peter Cartledge Gus Allen

Allan Hawkins Pat Marley

Jeff Gould (later retired due to ill health)

Chapter Presidents:

Dennis Clarke (Vietnam Veterans Southern)

David Maddick (Seymour)

MAJ Andrew Turner (Retd) (Bandiana)



(Not present: David Maddick, Andrew Turner)



Reg Cox 14 October 2009
(Long-time Committee Member)

Bruce Johnson (Qld) 28 October 2009
(Editor Pat Marley attended a series of RAEME
Training Centre electrical, electronics, computing
courses with Bruce in the early to mid 1960s)

Barry Freeman (Qld) 5 November 2009
(31st Intake Army Apprentice VM)

WELFARE REPORT

On 14th October we lost our long-time Welfare Officer and Almoner, Reg Cox.

Since the AGM, the Welfare Officer has been Dennis Clarke, to be assisted by Reg as Almoner; however this was not to be.

Vale – Farewell Reg

John Boothroyd had a brief visit to hospital with carpal-tunnel problem.

BANDIANA CHAPTER UPDATE

Our Annual Dinner at the Soldiers Sailors and Airman's Club on Fri 2 Oct was attended by 56 people who enjoyed a relaxed and pleasant dinner. Our guest speaker, MAJ Alistair Rankin, kept us fascinated by his interesting career in various parts of the world and his time as a POW/hostage/human shield in Iraq.

Our raffle winners were 1st Rob Thompson \$300, 2nd Phil Stephenson \$200, 3rd Con Van De Velde \$100

We will be improving our dinner further for next year which will be on 5th November 2010 at the SS&A. That is a month later than this year. We will talk about it more at our Chapter AGM.

The RAEME Corps Seminar activities in October were attended by a number of our Chapter members who reported that they went well and were enjoyed.

Coming up:

Thursday 4 Feb 2010 - RAEME Remembrance service at the Craftsman Memorial at Bandiana South at 6.00 pm.

We are assembling a list of RAEME widows on the Border so help us with contacts if you can please.

Soon we will be offering some of our retained stock of polo shirts at cost. Watch for that update if you are after either a blue or white (or one of each) at a discounted price.

Andy Turner

President

Bandiana Chapter

SOCIAL REPORT

We had 29 members and friends travel to Lakes Entrance for a most enjoyable and "tiring" 4 days away. I think most were pleased to get home for a rest!!

There were many comments passed as to the trouble our member and Coach Captain Barry Mills goes to ensuring everyone is happy and comfortable. From a boat trip on Lake Tyers to a tour of the Royal Cave at Buchan I think we did it all.

Next year for Melbourne Cup weekend we may extend to 5 days and visit Wagga Wagga with trips from there each day.

Coming events include our Annual Corps birthday dinner at East Malvern RSL which I am sure you all know about to be held on Friday 27th November 2009. If you have not replied as yet please do so on (03) 9802 6406.

On Sunday 30th January 2010 at 1000Hrs there will be a tour of The Shrine, with a service and wreath laying in the Sanctuary at 1100Hrs. This is to be followed by a service at the RAEME tree then some finger food and drinks in The Shrine Crypt.

We are awaiting confirmation from 3 Recovery Coy for our Annual Reunion and barbeque lunch to be held on Sunday 18th April 2010.

You will all have received a copy of our coming events in the mail so please refer to it and see if you can see your way clear to join us in some or all of these events.

I once again ask all members with e-mail to please confirm (by e-mail) that I have your correct e-mail address by sending me a note to pcart8@optusnet.com.au. I made this request to over 240 members in our last correspondence and received only 7 replies

Peter Cartledge
Social Coordinator

Program of Events for 2009/2010

11th November 2009 (Wednesday)

A Remembrance Service on 11th November 2009 will be conducted at the Clayton RSL Cenotaph in Clayton Rd Clayton. Assembly will be from 10.30 am with the service being conducted from around 10.50am. All members of the "RAEME Association" are cordially invited and welcome at the club rooms upon completion of the Service, they are located approx 300m South East of Clayton Rd in Carinish Rd which is parallel to the railway line. Parking is available at the RSL club.

27th November 2009 (Friday)

Corps Birthday Dinner to be held at East Malvern RSL Stanley Grose Dve EAST MALVERN details elsewhere in this flyer.

31st January 2010 (Sunday)

Our Annual pilgrimage to The Shrine will be again a guided tour of The Shrine @1000 Hrs followed by a short Service and Wreath Laying in the Sanctuary at 1100Hrs Sharp then a Blessing and Wreath Laying at The RAEME Tree. Following this we will retire to The Visitors Centre where finger food and tea or coffee will be available.

24th April 2010 (Saturday)

ANZAC Reunion to be advised but looking very much like being a Barbeque lunch held at 3 Recovery Coy Monash Barracks 65 Princes Hwy DOVETON

25th April 2010

ANZAC Day Dawn Service at Oakleigh Barracks then into the March and after the March a "dust settler" and something to eat at Victoria Barracks.

More details later but please be aware that anybody attending Victoria Barracks we MUST have your name 14 days prior to the day for security at the main gate.

23rd May 2010 (Sunday)

The Presidents Luncheon to which EVERYONE is invited particularly our Widows will be held at South Eastern Masonic Centre 270 Hutton Rd KEYSBOROUGH corner Perry Rd Melway 94 D2

(I know this venue seems *out of the way* but if you are having any trouble getting there just ask a committee member for assistance).

It will take the form of a sit down table service luncheon which I am sure you will all enjoy, more in our later 'Flashes!

As we are experiencing a number of emails being "bumped back" please take a moment to send me your e-mail address by e-mail to pcart8@optusnet.com.au so we can correct our records,

Peter Cartledge
Assistant to Membership and Flash Editor

*Some fascinating things
on old tombstones!*

Harry Edsel Smith of Albany,
New York:
Born 1903-Died 1942.

Looked up the elevator shaft to
see if the elevator was
on the way down.

It was.

TRIBUTE TO PETER CARTLEDGE

CMF/ARES

Peter enlisted 12th April 1960 at Chapel St East St Kilda (As a CMF person not NSM). He was 1 of only 2 **Craftsman**/Recruits in first camp (Neil Charter being the other!!) It was held at Site 2, Puckapunyal.

Peter on completion was transferred to 105 Inf Wksp 30th June 1960 (Later 105 Fld Wksp). He was upgraded to Craftsman 1st March 1961.

He qualified as a Recovery Mechanic Class 3 on 27 August 1961.

Peter became an Assistant Instructor in numerous Recovery Courses under Joe France and Reg Wildermouth.

He was Promoted Corporal 16th October 1961, then to Sergeant on 13th March 1963.

Peter qualified for WO2 but never promoted due to no posting being available at the time.

He was discharged on February 1972 at own request as his civilian occupation had to take precedence and was beginning to build on his trade.

Peter is a Plumber and is running his own business nowadays.

Family Life

Peter was married on the 2nd January 1965 at St Georges Anglican Church Malvern to his lovely wife Leonie. The first of their children to arrive two or three years later was Jennifer, then Roslyn and finally after the 3rd try along came a boy Luke.

They have five Grandchildren Peter 17, Jonathon 14, David 10 and Luke 7, Trent 4.

Peter's siblings are now all living Interstate.

Peter built their first home in Ashburton, moving to a larger home in Glen Waverley some years later where Peter and Leonie still live.

Peter not only has had a life in RAEME but he also spread his interests to his Church, He loves army movies, coupled with his annual Bus trip with the Association. For some time Peter also played cricket with Glen Iris.

RAEME ASSOCIATION INVOLVMENT

Peter joined the AEME Association sometime during his CMF service at Chapel Depot, possibly in the late 60s to early 70s (it later became AEME/RAEME Association).

Peter and Leonie attended the Mess functions and the dances held at Chapel Street on Cup Eve; he also attended the ANZAC Re-Union AGM and ANZAC Day back at the Mess but not forgetting the days of the "hole in the wall" prior to heading back to the Mess.

Peter did not take an active role in Association (although remaining a member after his discharge) until later when the AEME/RAEME Association looked like changing and a move was imminent to have it incorporated. He was present at the meeting in 1989/90 when it was finally moved to become incorporated and bring the Association into the future to protect committee members and Association members from litigation as many organizations did in those days.

Peter became more active with Association after the move to Oakleigh in 1991.

MOVE TO OAKLEIGH

Peter was welcomed onto the committee Tuesday 21st March 1995 and was placed into the **ANZAC EVE/Day & Remembrance Day Sub-Committee**. Of course he became involved in the Social Committee and later became the conveyor as well as also being actively involved in membership and the production of the Lightning Flash and its distribution now for a number of years as well.

In 1996 Peter was approached to take on the Association as President, he accepted that role which he has diligently held since that time, as well as being involved with the Social activities and the successful bus trips over those years. (Probably always directed by Leonie who has always been his backbone wherever support was needed in his most active role as our President) Peter not only has had to attend to Association matters at a cost to him and Leonie, as they also had their own Plumbing Business to run as well (both names make up the business name "Leopet"). Peter gave up many days of work to act in the capacity as President on our behalf.

Unfortunately many of minutes during his time as President have been mislaid and the history of Pete's time in the early days is hidden for the moment (due unfortunately to unforeseen changes in our Secretaries) but that doesn't stop us from recognizing the total commitment Peter has put into this Association.

Pete is standing down after 13 years of extreme dedication to the Association.

However, what we do know Peter was the instigator of bringing not only the RAEME VIETNAM Association as a Chapter into the fold where others had failed over many years, also the inclusion of our other Chapters, Bandiana and Seymour as well as the annual Pilgrimage to the Shrine and the dedication at the RAEME tree. Also during his time our membership has grown and developed from around 120 in 1991 (when we were incorporated) to approximately 450 members today, a great achievement.

Peter was also instrumental in putting together the Annual RAEME Birthday Dinner held at East Malvern RSL, and for the first time last year he achieved his ambition of having the **Prince Phillip Banner** paraded at the East Malvern RSL in his final year of his Presidency - a very proud moment for Pete.

Under his leadership the RAEME Association of Victoria Inc has become one of the most active Corps Associations nationally and he is well recognized in all areas where our Association is involved. He has continued the tradition of numerous past Presidents from the days of the AEME Association then to the RAEME Association as it is today, and has kept this Association ongoing, helping to make it the only RAEME Association to soldier on since 1945 without a break.

Pete has a lot to be proud of in his time as President and before, and we all owe him a great deal of gratitude for the time and effort he has put into the task of being our President.

It was a proud moment at the 2009 AGM to honour Peter with his Life Member Badge - more than well deserved by Peter who has given 13 years of his valuable time.

Bruce Williams
Vice-President



An elderly couple had dinner at another couple's house, and after eating, the wives left the table and went into the kitchen.

The two gentlemen were talking, and one said, 'Last night we went out to a new restaurant and it was really great.. I would recommend it very highly.'

The other man said, 'What is the name of the restaurant?'

The first man thought and thought and finally said, 'What is the name of that flower you give to someone you love?'

You know.... The one that's red and has thorns.'

'Do you mean a rose?'

'Yes, that's the one,' replied the man. He then turned towards the kitchen and yelled,

'Hey, Rose, what's the name of that restaurant we went to last night?'

Seeking Active Servicemen and Servicewomen: Essendon / Moonee Ponds / Keilor East

Penleigh and Essendon Grammar School (PEGS) wishes to mark the service and sacrifice of all former students who served Australia in conflicts and peacekeeping operations.

Active Servicemen and Servicewomen who attended the following schools:

**Penleigh and Essendon Grammar School,
Essendon Grammar School,
Northern Grammar School,
Penleigh Presbyterian Girls' School,
Penleigh Presbyterian Ladies' College
St Thomas' Grammar School**

are encouraged to contact the PEGS School Archivist: Brigid Cooper - School Archivist

Penleigh and Essendon Grammar School

Phone: 9016 2182 (Mon, Wed, Thu)

email: brigid.cooper@pegs.vic.edu.au

Forty Year Anniversary of the Battle of Hat Dich

On the 16th February 1969, 4 RAR/NZ, supported by tanks from 1 Troop B Squadron, their RAEME ARV, and Artillery from 102 and 104 Field Batteries.

From intelligence gathered from a local "Hoi Chan" Whisky Company, along with tank support had been tasked with locating a weapons and rice caches, located just outside AO Tiki in an area known as a mouse trap. The search proved unsuccessful. B Company had formed in a clearing, about 800 mts. wide. Just after midday 1 Troop arrived at the location of B Company.



After a meal break Company Headquarters entered the jungle, but were immediately engaged from the flank by directional mines and automatic weapons, suffering one killed, four wounded. The enemy were hidden in bunkers sited amongst thick clumps of bamboo. The closest tanks, call signs TwoZero Echo and 21Alpha, immediately moved toward the contact, assisted by infantry Guides.

Troop Leader, Brian Sullivan (Callsign 21) was hindered by infantry on the ground and had to follow the other tank tracks. Crew Commander of 21 Alpha Sergeant Len Swarbrick was directed to a position to the left and slightly forward of the infantry casualties, most of whom had fallen within 5-10 metres of the enemy horseshoe-shaped bunkers, where they engaged them with canister rounds to clear the jungle blanket. 21 Alpha returned fire with the tank's 0.30 cal and 0.50 cal machine guns, as the preferred HE could not be used due to the close proximity of the Infantry.

Two Zero Echo, a HQ Troop replacement tank for 21Bravo and 21 Charlie commanded by Corporal Nobby Clark was 30m to the left of 21Alpha, which was out of view. After verbally warning any Infantry in their fire path, Two Zero fired splintex to remove undergrowth and then driver Trooper Robert Splatt moved within 15m of 21Alpha, with Crew Commander Clark using suppressive machine gun fire, to suppress the enemy bombardment.

Unfortunately 21Alpha's RMG and co-axial 0.30 cal jammed at the same time. While operator Trooper Graeme Jackson tried to clear the stoppages, Swarbrick continued to engage the bunkers using the Commander's machine gun. The enemy, however, had already seized the moment. The lull in heavy

firing allowed them to fire RPGs. The first destroyed the operator's periscope. The second penetrated the right front turret wall and dissipating in the traverse gearbox, wounding gunner Trooper Howard. Shrapnel splash went down through the open driver's hatch wounding Trooper Mick Ingram and rendering him unconscious. It also set the canvas mantel cover alight.

Unaware of Ingram's condition, Swarbrick attempted to silence the bunkers to his front. An RPGs from the right side bunker penetrated the lower turret wall, wounding Jackson in the thigh. Another RPG penetrated the turret near the crew commander's station, seriously wounding Swarbrick in the lower body and legs. Smoke filled the 21 Alpha causing the Crew Commander to order a "Bail Out".

With wounded infantry on the ground Callsign 21 moved up close behind 21Alpha and silenced the bunkers of RPG fire, with TwoZero Echo in support. Swarbrick rose out of the turret using his arms, followed by Jackson and Howard finding cover under the rear petrol tank, with small arms fired at them. Brian Sullivan left his gunner Trooper Rod Burgess to cover while he left 21 to extinguish the fire on Alpha 21.

The already wounded B Company CSM WO Jock Richardson called for casualty assistance.

Enter the RAEME ARV under Sergeant Sandy Tocock's control, with recovery mechanic Craftsman Brian Willis manning a machine gun and radio, while he, his driver Corporal David Ovens, electrician Neville Spencer and the 1Fld Sqn mini team Sappers Rob Woolley and Geoff Andrews did what they could to help on the ground.

The Sappers improvised a "hootchie" for a stretcher. Andrews then assisted Sullivan to carefully remove Ingram from the Alpha 21 driver's hatch. Two hours later with the enemy fire suppressed, Sullivan climbed into Alpha 21 and reversed it back from the bunkers. Seeing this, Sgt Tocock and Cpl Ovens quickly came forward and completed the recovery. Without pausing, Sullivan immediately returned to 21, took over from Burgess and directed his driver Trooper Rod Bellott, back into the contact.

Two Zero Echo almost suffered a similar fate to Alpha 21, with a main armament misfire and a machine gun out of ammunition, but for some smart work by Clark with his 9mm pistol, causing the VC with the RPG to miss the tank. While reloading his machine gun Clark was dismayed to see the RPG being aimed again. Two more rounds from his pistol, then a stoppage! Despair turned to relief, when the main armament fired, causing the RPG threat to disappear in a hail of canister pellets. The canister exposed another bunker, which was dispersed with an APCBC (Armour Piercing Capped Ballistic Capped) round.

Sullivan's 21 Centurion finished the remainder of the bunkers APCBC and hand grenades. Two helicopter gunships arrived to give additional support. A fire from a coloured smoke grenade to guide gunships now started. While still assisting B Company medic Corporal Brown with the casualties, Sgt Tocock's team also dealt with the bushfire, which got close to the unmanned 21 Alpha. Artillery, including the American A Battery. 155 mm guns were then brought on the area. Whisky and Bravo Companies were then able to recover the body of one of their soldiers.

The wounded were dusted off to hospital along with the body of the dead soldier. On a sad note Private R A McGuire one of the wounded passed away during the dust-off flight.

Callsign 21 driver Trooper Rod Bellot was now removed from the driver's seat, as he had been wounded in the head, but continued on. His place was taken by RAEME Corporal Ovens with Craftsman Willis taking over as driver of the ARV.

Two more black hats(Armd Regt), Sergeant Reg Steer and Trooper Brian Wright were choppered in to drive Callsign 21 back with the return convoy. This would create the effect that the tank had not been affected by the heavy RPG 7 fire.

The subsequent repair was carried out by 106. Repair procedures had to be developed, so that the tank armour was not weakened by welding or the plugs used in the holes would not become secondary projectiles in later combat. 106 Fld Wksp OC Major John Sinclair later stated that repairs needed to be done in such a way that tank crews did not have constant markers in front of their eyes of their vulnerability, or anything that leads them to lose confidence in their to perform.

Sergeant Swarbrick, Troopers Bellot and Ingram were casualty-evacuated back to Australia from 1 Field Hospital in Vung Tau on the 26th February 1969; Troopers Haward and Jackson followed two weeks later.

Sergeant Ken (Sandy) Tocock was subsequently Mentioned in Dispatches, but to this day believes it was an equal achievement by his ARV Team – Brian Willis, David Ovens, Neville Spencer, Rob Woolley and Geoff Andrews. His citation referred to the fact that:

At all times during times during the action, Sergeant Tocock displayed coolness and foresight. He showed admirable leadership which was evidenced by the manner in which his crew and others reacted to his directions. His conduct under fire was of a high order and reinforced the bond between the combat arms and supporting services.

OC B Company Major Bill Reynolds was awarded the Military Cross, Second Lieutenant Brian Sullivan a Mention In Dispatches, while Corporal Sam Brown was awarded the Military Medal.

Thank you, BlackHats John Howard, Rod Burgess and Bluebell Sgt Sandy Tocock for your assistance.

Dennis Clarke

President – Viet Nam Southern Chapter

UNKNOWN – YET SO WELL KNOWN The British Unknown Soldier

In ancient times, kings, chiefs and the famous were often buried in magnificent tombs, which stand as their memorials. After a great battle, the victors would set up a trophy of arms, helmets and armour and even a cenotaph or empty tomb, but the idea of an unknown man being buried with honour is a comparatively recent one. It sprang from the imagination of a British Army Chaplain, the Reverend David Railton, MC (1884-1955).

During World War I, near Armentieres, he saw a grave bearing a pencilled inscription 'An Unknown Soldier of the Black Watch'. It gave him an idea that later became a national memorial.

It was not until 1920, the year that the Cenotaph in London was unveiled, that he was able to put forward his plan. He approached the Dean of Westminster, the Right Reverend Herbert Ryle, and suggested that an unknown soldier be brought from the battlefields of France and buried among the nation's illustrious dead in Westminster Abbey. The Dean was able to persuade the Government of the day to accept this innovative idea.

A committee, headed by Lord Curzon, recommended that the foreign minister should arrange for an unknown soldier to be disinterred in France and brought to the Abbey. It further recommended that the burial should be on Armistice Day and that King George V should be asked if, after he had unveiled the new Cenotaph in Whitehall, he would follow the gun-carriage bearing the body to Westminster Abbey.

Brigadier-General L J Wyatt, DSO as general officer in charge of troops in France and Flanders, and director of the Imperial War Graves Commission, was given instructions that the body of a British soldier, whom it would be impossible to identify, should be brought in from each of the four battle areas - the Aisne, the Somme, Arras and Ypres - on the night of 7 November and placed in the chapel at St. Pol.

The bodies, each covered with a Union Jack, were placed in a row on stretchers. At midnight on 7 November the Brigadier, accompanied by Colonel Gell, entered the chapel. He selected a body, and with the Colonel's help placed it in the shell and screwed down the lid.

As Brigadier-General Wyatt said, "I had no idea even of the area from which the body I selected had come, and no one else can know it." The other bodies were re-buried in the military cemetery at St. Pol.

The following morning, chaplains of the Church of England, the Roman Catholic Church and Nonconformist churches held a service in the chapel. At noon the body was sent, under escort, to Boulogne.

At 3.30pm, after passing through troops lining the outskirts of the city, the ambulance drew up at an old castle, the local headquarters of the French Army.

Eight soldiers including a sergeant-major of the Royal Army Service Corps, a sergeant of the Royal Engineers, a gunner of the Royal Field Artillery, an Australian Light Horseman, a private each from the Canadian infantry, and Machine Gun Corps, and a rifleman from the 21st London Regiment (First Surrey Rifles) stepped forward as bearers.

At noon the next day, the rough wooden shell was placed in a plain oak coffin sent from Britain the previous night. This had wrought-iron bands through one of which was passed a 16th century Crusader's sword from the Tower of London's collection.

It was taken into Boulogne, where the destroyer HMS Verdun was waiting, sent by the Admiralty as a special tribute to the French nation and the gallant defence of that city. The cortege was a mile long.

The French Government sent a division of all arms to pay their last tribute. Marshal Ferdinand Foch, representing the French nation spoke, and Lieutenant General Sir George Macdonagh replied on behalf of King George. General Weygand, together with many other distinguished high-ranking French and British officers were present.

As HMS Verdun moved off, a guard of Bluejackets and guns on shore fired a salute. An escort of six destroyers joined the ship and, later, as she steamed into Dover Harbour, a 19-gun salute was fired from the castle. Six warrant officers from the Royal Navy, Royal Marines, the army and the Royal Air Force acted as bearers and six officers from all services brought the body ashore.

It was followed to the marine station by Sir George Macdonagh, the officers of the garrison and the Mayor and Corporation of Dover, where it received a salute from a guard of honour of the 2nd Connaught Rangers and the **Duke of York's Military School*** (*see note below*). The carriage in which the coffin was placed was that which had carried home Nurse Edith Cavell and Captain Fryatt.

The coffin, covered by a Union Jack, with a steel helmet, side arms and a webbing belt placed on it, was put on to a gun carriage drawn by six horses and slowly made its way to the Cenotaph, led by the firing party and the bands of the Coldstream, Scots, Irish and Welsh Guards. Troops from all services followed.

At the door of the Abbey, the coffin was met by 100 holders of the Victoria Cross, some in uniform, some in plain clothes, under the command of Colonel Bernard Freyberg VC.

After the burial, the two lines of VC holders filed past. The honours paid were those due to a Field Marshal.

From Royal New Zealand Returned & Services Association
http://www.rsa.org.nz/review/art2002august/article_%203a.html

- *Note: Editor Pat Marley and brother attended the Duke of York's Royal Military School, Dover in the early 1950s, before the family migrated to Australia*

RAEME Association (Victoria) Incorporated

**RAEME MIXED ALL RANKS CORPS DINNER
THE CORPS ALL RANKS DINNER IS TO BE HELD AT
EAST MALVERN RSL STANLEY GROSE DRIVE EAST MALVERN 3145
FRIDAY 27th November 2009**

WHO IS INVITED?

All serving and retired members of the Corps and their Partner or Guest

TIMING

1900 hrs for 1930 hrs

DRESS

**Ladies: After Five Wear; Gentlemen: Coat and Tie
Miniatures are to be worn.**

COST

**\$48.00 per head (inc. GST)
Payable to RAEME (Vic) Inc.
PO Box 2118 Fountain Gate Vic 3805**

RSVP No later than 21st November 2009

SEATING CAPACITY

**As the maximum seating for this venue is only 90 seats
Get your returns & cheques in early, as "first-in best-dressed"**

CONTACTS

Peter Cartledge (Social Coordinator) 9802 6406 email: pcart8@optusnet.com.au
Alan Rogers (Secretary) 9704 6700 email: raeme.assn.vic@bigpond.com

COME and SUPPORT your CORPS

Arte et Marte

Cut off here

Name: I _____ and my Partner / Guest _____
will be attending the 2009 RAEME CORPS 67th Birthday All Ranks Mixed Dinner
at EAST MALVERN RSL on 27th November 2009.

Signed _____

Please find enclosed my Cheque / Money order (made out RAEME (Vic) Inc. for:

\$ _____

Please forward this return to the address as above



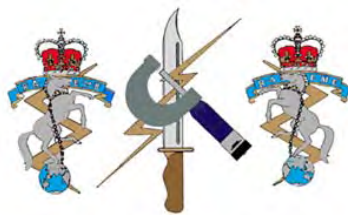
THE LIGHTNING FLASH

If undeliverable return to
The RAEME Association (Vic.) Inc.
C/- Oakleigh Barracks
1318 North Rd
OAKLEIGH SOUTH VIC 3167

**SURFACE
MAIL**

**POSTAGE
PAID
AUSTRALIA**

Print Post Approved
PP 339549/40061

PLEASE SAVE WRAPPER (PTO)

SOLDIER and CRAFTSMAN

Change of Address

Is your address shown above correct?

If not please fill in the spaces below and return

This whole sheet in an envelope to:

The Editor , THE LIGHTNING FLASH

C/- Oakleigh Barracks 1318 North Rd

OAKLEIGH SOUTH VIC 3167.

Name(Block Letters)

Address

.....Postcode: Ph. No.
