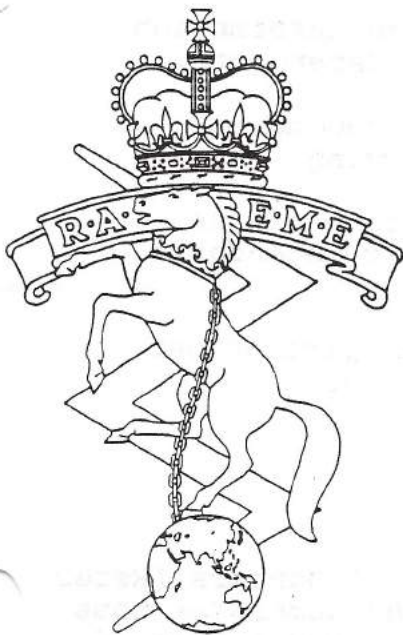


THE LIGHTNING FLASH

Pres J H LEE

SUMMER
1991

Editor R W Hunter



OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE RAEME ASSOCIATION (VIC)
126 Alexander Ave UPWEY Vic 3158 (03) 754 6314
PATRON Brig C Ermert ARMIT Msc FIEAust FAIM CPEng

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MISSION

The mission of our Association is encapsulated in this Statement of purposes:-

The Royal Australian Electrical and Mechanical Engineers Association (Victoria) Incorporated.

The purposes for which the Association is established are:-

- a. To preserve the memory of comrades who have died on service.
- b. To maintain fellowship between serving and former members of RAEME.
- c. To co-operate with kindred organisations.
- d. To take an active and intelligent interest in the defence of Australia.
- e. To establish and maintain social activities and information services for the benefit of members and their dependants.
- f. To strengthen the CORPS through encouragement and moral support to Units and individuals currently serving.
- g. To do all such things as will promote the welfare of the Incorporated Association, its members and their dependants.

Note: The above Statement of purposes was approved as part of our legally constituted Association on 13 February 1991. Ed.

SPECIAL MEMBERS

There is provision in our Constitution for Special Members (Refer your booklet "Constitution and Rules"). This gives the Committee some flexibility with regard to a reduced level of annual subscription if you fall within the definition and are finding things "tough". We do not need to be reminded that times are tough so PLEASE, if you are finding it difficult to meet your \$10 subscription and you wish to remain a member of the Association drop a line to the Secretary. You should briefly outline your situation and request that you be classified as a special member. The Committee will then see what they can do to help, after all, the Association is a Remembering and Helping organisation.

SICK PARADE

We hear that John McCoubrie, one of our life members, of Yarraville has been on sick parade. Some of John's associates may wish to make contact with John or Mrs McCoubrie. All the best John.

(Note from the Editor. Sick Parade will be a regular segment in The Lightning Flash. Please use it as a means of communicating any instances of illness and so providing an opportunity for Association members and friends to respond in the appropriate Way).

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

It is my pleasure to welcome the first issue of "The Lightning Flash".

It is now nine months since we were "re-conceived" as an Incorporated Association, and, as any President of any voluntary organisation would know, you go through moments of impatience and frustration when it seems that things are not moving as fast as you would like. However there are times when you can reflect back and conclude we are getting somewhere. I had this pleasant experience as I read through the draft of the inaugural issue of "The Lightning Flash".

This brief message is all about "The Lightning Flash".

Everything we do in the Association must be directed towards the achievement of Association Mission which is enshrined in our Statement of Purposes set out on the opposite page.

No Association can achieve such a mission unless it establishes a means of communication with and between members, in other words, a means by which we are all informed. So here is "The Lightning Flash".

Your committee unanimously and readily agreed to the need for a newsletter but when I asked them what will be their main difficulty they were equally unanimous that the lack of supply of appropriate information from members is the main problem (Most of them have been involved in this type of activity somewhere before).

The Lightning Flash is born, it costs voluntary time and effort and it costs Association, and therefore your, money. Most importantly it belongs to you and its success depends largely on you. I appeal to each and every one of you to support it.

Well, how will it be supported? First of all the Committee and Sub-committees will keep you informed of their activities. That is easy, they will only require a little prodding from me to meet deadlines etc. The Editor will require a flow of information from you. This will include good news and the inevitable bad news, information we should all know about and, if necessary, act upon. We need information of interest. For example "History Highlights" is a golden opportunity to uncover valuable information you have stored away. We also need constructive comments and suggestions for continual improvements.

The Lightning Flash will also serve as an information document for potential members to give them a better understanding of what we are all about. So when you have read your copy please loan it to a potential member. We have a responsibility to increase membership; the more numbers we have, the stronger the Association. The more people we serve the closer we come to achieving our mission. We see Victoria as a vast reservoir of serving and former soldiers who are eligible to join our Association. I hope you enjoy The Lightning Flash, I trust you will support it with information. I am sure that as an Association and as members we will all benefit.

My thanks to the Editor (Bob) and his committee of helpers. I am sure they will continue to play their part in making The Lightning Flash a success.

THE ASSOCIATION

The transition from the old Association to the new is now complete except for one or two loose ends (See "Membership in this publication")

The change of name and the official signatures, under the current Legislation, has been very time consuming but now things will go much more smoothly than in the past. Your new Committee is investigating ways to achieve our Statement of Purposes, a copy of which has already been given to you, a further copy will appear regularly in the Lightning Flash.

The Committee has also appointed sub-committees to organise and control activities and any questions on a specific matter should be referred to the relevant Chairman. The Committee is;

President	John Lee	580 4760
Vice President	Don McLeod	454 4489
Secretary	Bruce Williams	560 4501
Treasurer	Bob Hunter	754 6314

General	Ron Clifford	743 2418
	Aranka Illia	796 4003
	Ken James	879 2395
	Ken Kermonde	749 1680
	Jim McFarlane	579 3529
	Geoff Maggs	578 1397
	Max Moore	802 9128
	Bill Sledgers	056 285 340

Sub committee contacts.

Corp Rep	John Lee
Social	Max Moore
Membership	Ron Clifford
Editorial	Bob Hunter
Welfare & Betterment	Jim McFarlane
Geelong area rep	Ron Clifford.
Historical	Bruce Williams

Remember, the Committee cannot run a worthwhile organisation unless you, the members, communicate on a regular basis with them.

ED

PATRON

Recently our president John Lee wrote to Brig Ermert asking him to accept the position of Patron of the Association. Here is the text of his reply.

"Thank you very much for your letter inviting me to accept the position of Patron of your Association.

It is with the greatest of pleasure that I accept the position. I hope I will be able to do justice to the position and am honoured to do so.

It is tremendous to see the wave of enthusiasm being generated in and for the Association. I look forward to working with you for the furtherance of the Corps and the Association.

Yours sincerely

Conrad Ermert."

THIS IS OUR PATRON
(A condensed view)

Brigadier Conrad Ermert, ARMIT, Msc, FIE Aust, FAIM, CPEng
Colonel Commandant 3rd and 6th Military Districts

Conrad Ermerts involvement with matters military started at North Sydney High School Cadets then to Duntroon in 1959 from where he graduated in Dec 1962. Then to full time study at RMIT in Electronic Engineering and was admitted as an Associate.

To 3 Base Wksps then in 1966 to 101 Wksps and off to Vietnam. On return posted to ADE and then to RAEME Trg Cent as Major OC Elec Wing. Within a year went to Shrivenham in UK followed by a secondment to UK Defence on RAPIER project. Next posting OC Perth Wksps Coy then in 1967 to CDEME 1st Div. In 1988 to the Directing staff at Aust Staff College, the first and still the only RAEME DS at that College.

1981 a brief posting to EME Div HQ Log Comd and then as OC CARO. Then came another first as inaugural Col Log of 3MD along with a "Red Hat". Canberra finally snared him as Director Technical Services and then promoted to Brigadier as the DGEME.

The next four years to saw many significant changes before being posted as DGLOG. In March 1990 he availed himself of an early retirement opportunity. He is now Group Director of Facilities and Supply for the Alfred Group of Hospitals, virtually their Director of Logistics.

For nearly 27 years Conrad has enjoyed the support of his wife Muriel, well known to many of our Corps members. Two children, Martel who is with the Attorney Generals Dept in Canberra and a son Cameron, finishing his honours year in microbiology at Monash where he is also an Officer in the Cadets.

He took up the position as Colonel Commandant in January 1991 so his long association with the Corps continues.

CAN YOU HELP

Recently Ken Kermonde was away from home and enjoying himself but disaster struck. While he was away his house burnt down. The house was insured but unfortunately the contents were not. In order to give Ken a hand to make a fresh start have a look around your place and maybe you have unwanted or surplus items such as furniture, linen, cutlery crockery or whatever that may help. If you can help give Jim McFarlane a ring, all offers would be appreciated.

If you know of any other member who could use our help let Jim know and he will investigate (Ed).

Social events.

The Social sub-committee is examining events for our Social callender and you will be advised as those plan become more definite. There will, of course, be our annual re-union; location, timings etc will be advised in our next issue.

The Social sub-committee would welcome any suggestions as to the type of function you would like us to hold.

PROFILE

This profile of one of our members is of John (Jack) (Darkie) Edwards of Mordialloc.

Darkie is a "Thirty Niner", that is, he enlisted in the 2nd AIF before Dec 24 1939 and subsequently served overseas. Prior to WW2 he served in the 2 Field Regt, the 22/29 Bn and 4 Div ASC. In the AIF Darkie served in the 6 Div ASC and the 2/1 Bn. He sailed from Port Melb on 10 Jan 40 on the Empress of Japan, final destination being Palestine.

Jan 3 1941 and Darkie was in action as a member of 6 Div. First Bardi followed by Tobruk and Derna.

6 Div was then withdrawn to try and stem the German invasion of Greece. Darkie sailed to Greece in early April 1941. As history records, the battle for Greece was lost before it began. Darkie was fortunate enough to be among the remnants of 6 Div evacuated first to Crete and finally to Alexandria.

Darkie was with 6 Div when they reformed in Palestine and moved into Syria to support that campaign.

He was then on a ship heading, so he and his mates thought to Australia, but this did not happen immediately. After more than four months in Ceylon it was home to Australia in August 1942

Home leave was short lived. Darkie arrived in New Guinea on 16 Sept 1942 to take part in that campaign. In August 1943 it was over to Bougainville for a prolonged campaign. Then a return to Australia and a discharge in August 1945; a total of 6 years in the 2nd AIF.

In 1950 Darkie tried to enlist in the Australian force being sent to Korea. He was knocked back on medical grounds. Not to be outdone he joined the CMF in Mar 1951. He chose 105 Infantry Workshops because it was located next to Victoria Brewery.

In Darkies 10 years in the CMF he rose to the rank of WO2. His posting included CSM, OC LAD Detachments where his experiences in WW2 was of considerable benefit to those who served with him. Darkie reached retiring age in 1961. Counting pre-war, war and post war Darkie served 20 years in the Army.

In private life Darkie was in the printing trade, he has 6 children and 13 grandchildren. Darkies wife passed away in 1988. One of his children served in the ARA and two in the ARES.

Darkie has some fanatical interests. He is a Richmond supporter, hates Collingwood, backs dud horses and he is a Committee member of the Mordialloc RSL where he can be found about lunch time every day except Sunday. He can be found at about the same time at the Mordialloc Football Ground.

(Editors note; It is our intention to include a profile of a member in each issue of The Lightning Flash. Members will be selected at random which we hope will depict the broad cross-section of our membership, ranging from ex WW2 through to soldiers who have recently joined the Army.)

HISTORY

We have appointed an historic sub-committee the prime role of which is to minimize the destruction and loss of RAEME information that may be of value to succeeding generations.

The task is to collect, collate, store and issue on loan any historic information made available by units or Association members.

The first Chairman is our Secretary, Bruce Williams and he is looking for enthusiastic sub-committee members. Two committee members, Geoff Maggs and Ken Kermonde, have volunteered and Jack Westerhagen has expressed interest. Any other takers? Contact Bruce.

It is our intention to include a segment entitled "History Highlights" in each issue of Lightning Flash. Here we will include snippets of RAEME history provided by you. 105 Inf Wksp is included in this, our inaugural issue and if you supply the necessary information we will feature a WW11 unit in our next issue. We can only publish the information you, the members, send us.

CORPS HISTORY RELEASE

"Craftsmen of the Australian Army - The Story of RAEME" will be launched once it is available from the publisher. At this stage it is planned to hold the launch at the Australian War Memorial due to the support and sponsorship provided by that organisation. As the publishing is unlikely to be finalised before the Royal visit it is anticipated the CGS may be invited to launch the book.

50th ANNIVERSARY PARADE

This event will take place in late October/early November 1992 and will be held at the RAEME Training Centre. The parade will be the highlight of a two day "Back to Bandiana" which will include displays of equipment (old and new), tours of the training facilities of the Army College of TAFE and the RAEME Training Centre, museum tours and a number of social activities. Parade participants will be drawn from all regions of Australia. Limited accommodation will be available for visitors, however those who intend to make the event a family affair should consider early hotel/motel bookings in the Albury/Wodonga area.

WELFARE AND BETTERMENT

We have appointed a "Welfare and Betterment" sub committee. Jim McFarlane is the Chairman and Don McLeod is a member. (They are also the Benevolent Fund Trustees).

The role of this sub-committee is to respond to all cases of need brought to notice, to investigate and, on behalf of the Committee, organise and administer appropriate action.

Jim and Don are looking for ordinary members to join the sub-committee and assist in this increasingly vital area of our please contact the Chairman if you wish to volunteer your services.

HISTORICAL HIGHLIGHTS

105 Infantry Workshop RAEME was raised on 1 May 1948 at the RAEME Training Depot, cnr Victoria Pde and Powlett St East Melbourne.
Original members in order of enlistment date.

Pte Castles W C	Sgt cook then Lt caterer	" Horsley D D	to WO2 Cadre to WO1 Vietnam
" Cherry M W	WO2 CSM	" Hiah V	to SSgt
" Morey R L		" Driscoll B H	Cpl then WO2
" Mitchell G H	Cpl	" Gordon M C	
" Moore B W		" Tuit E W	
" Rawlings P J		" Morgan K J	
" Busch L H		" Blakeley R D	
" Riddell D Mc	Cpl then Lt	" Dove W B	
" Fitzsimmons K J		" Thompson P R	(K in A Korea)
" Lancaster W E	Cpl then Sgt	" Pullen F	to WO2
" Heasey A J		" Bartlett D J	to Sgt
" Hunt L J	Cpl	" Dickson K	
" Reeves J T		" Dickson R L	
" Reeves N P		" Harris G D	
" Azlin R F		" Thompson E W	
" Lapthorne A J	to Sgt	" McGuffie M G	
" Adams W E		" Barstow K F	
" Stonehouse C A		" Wadsworth W N	
" Bailey L	Cpl then Sgt cook	" Wilkinson C M	
" Tracey K J		" Billing A D	
" Murray A S		" Edbrooke M T	Cpl then Capt 2IC
" Lowther H J	then to WO2	" O'Grady J T	
" Potter C J	Cpl then Sgt	" Taylor D W	to Sgt
" Bennett R F		" Harrington C H	
" Whannell D J		" Lang K J	
" Salisbury N P		" Dorin G D	
" Lees J L		" Armstrong C H	
" Butling L T	Cpl then Sgt	" Bennett H J	
" O'Donnell K J	to Sgt	" Quick R A	
" Pardee D T	From 10 Ind Fd Sqn	" Anderson F H	
" Vaux J H (Bros)	both to WO2	" Keogh R J	
" Millar K G	to Cpl	" McGrath J	
" Eagles E F	to Sgt		
" Holmes W E	Cpl then WO2		

Where are they now?

Of the list above Lyall Butling, Bill Holmes, Ernie Thompson and Brian Driscoll are Association members. We also know that Max Edbrooke is travelling around Australia and is going to visit Norm Gow (of 105 fame) in Mandurah WA. We will nab him for membership when he returns. Don Horsley is somewhere in WA and we should be able to track him down through ex Viet channels.

We also know that some, unfortunately, have passed on. But where are the others?

Les Bailey and Charley Potter are regular visitors on ANZAC eve and we intend to officially enlist them at the earliest opportunity.

If you know where any of the others are, tell us, and we will invite them into the fold.

And what of the other Workshops (106 & 112)? We would like to hear from some of their early members.

105 Field Workshop is the descendant of 105 Infantry Workshop and is now located at the Oakliegh Barracks. We will maintain a close relationship with them there for our mutual benefit.

SUB-COMMITTEES

Elsewhere in this publication we have mentioned various sub-committees and for your information here is an outline of the duties of each and a reminder of who the respective contacts are.

Social sub-committee.

Role: To plan, organise and administer those social activities approved by the Committee as being conducive to the achievement of the Association Mission.

Chairman: Max Moore.

Editorial sub committee.

Role: To establish and maintain a regular means of communication of all relevant information between the Committee and the members. To encourage members to use this means as a vehicle of communicating with one another.

Chairman: Bob Hunter.

Members: Bruce Williams
John Lee

Welfare and Betterment sub-committee.

Role: To respond to and investigate on behalf of the Committee all cases of need brought to notice and to organise and administer such action approved by that Committee.

Chairman: Jim McFarlane

Member: Don McLeod

Provincial Areas sub-committee.

Role: 1 To increase and maintain membership in their area of influence and to direct all activities in that area towards the achievement of our mission.

2 To participate in Association activities in order to provide the Committee with ideas and suggestions to the benefit of the Association and its members, and

3 To participate in local memorial activities on behalf of the Association.

Chairman Geelong: Ron Clifford

Chairman Korumburra: Bill Sledgers.

Note: On the success of these two sub-committees the Committee will look at the formation of groups in Albury/Wodonga and Ballarat.

History sub-committee.

Role: To collect, collate, store and issue on loan any historic information made available by units or Association members in order to minimise the destruction and loss of RAEME information that may be of value and interest to succeeding generations. Regular reports on activities are to be made to the Committee.

Chairman: Bruce Williams

Member ; Ken Kermonde

MEMBERSHIP STATUS.

All members should have received an option form regarding their membership status. This means that, regardless of your standing in the former Association, you must inform the committee of how you wish to continue in the Incorporated Association. Former Life Subscribers should, by now have indicated how they wish their Life Subscribers fee to be used eg; two years subscription, donation, resignation or any combination of the above.

If you dont make an election the Committee will do it for you, and if they do, it will be final; simply because you did not give them your preference. FIX IT NOW.

OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTIONS

The Secretary will shortly be contacting all those who have not paid their subscriptions for the year 1 July 91 to 30 June 92. We expect that those contacted will respond promptly with their subs.

In future issues of the Lightning flash we will include a personal reminder to you in the following format;

Blue Cross Means
Current years sub
Not yet received

We hope for the benefit of all Association members the Blue Cross stamp will get little use.

FUTURE ISSUES

It is anticipated that the Lightning Flash will be published quarterly. Cut off dates for contributions and news items and publishing dates are;

Cut off dates, 31 Jan for issue on 1 March.
30 Apr " " " 1 June.
31 Jul " " " 1 Sept.
and 31 Oct " " " 1 Dec.

STOP PRESS

STOP PRESS

We have just learnt that one of our members, Ron Byron, is not going too well.

His wife would appreciate it, very much, if any of his old comrades could get in touch. Phone 803 8407.

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From the Editor.

In closing this edition of the Lightning Flash I request all members to pass on to the Committee your impressions of the publication. All comment, alternatives as to layout and if you have a genuine complaint tell ME. I will take into account all comment and if it will improve the publication, is within our resources and budget your ideas will be incorporated. I intend it to be a worthwhile means of communication.

Finally, on behalf of the President and Committee I wish you all a merry Christmas and a prosperous and above all safe festive season. Please do not become one of the ever growing road statistics.

R W HUNTER
EDITOR

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LIGHTNING FLASH

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