

THE LIGHTNING FLASH

Official Publication of The RAEME Association (Vic) Inc.
PATRON: Brig C. Ermert ARMIT Msc FIEAust FAIM CPEng

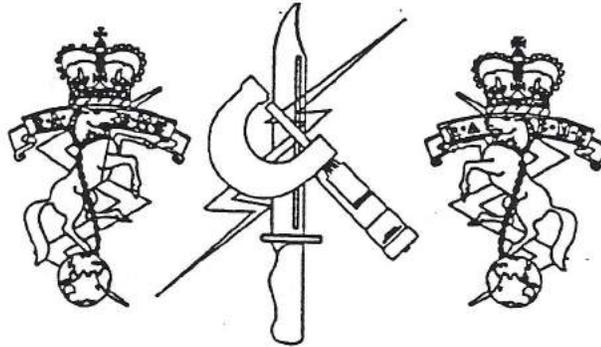
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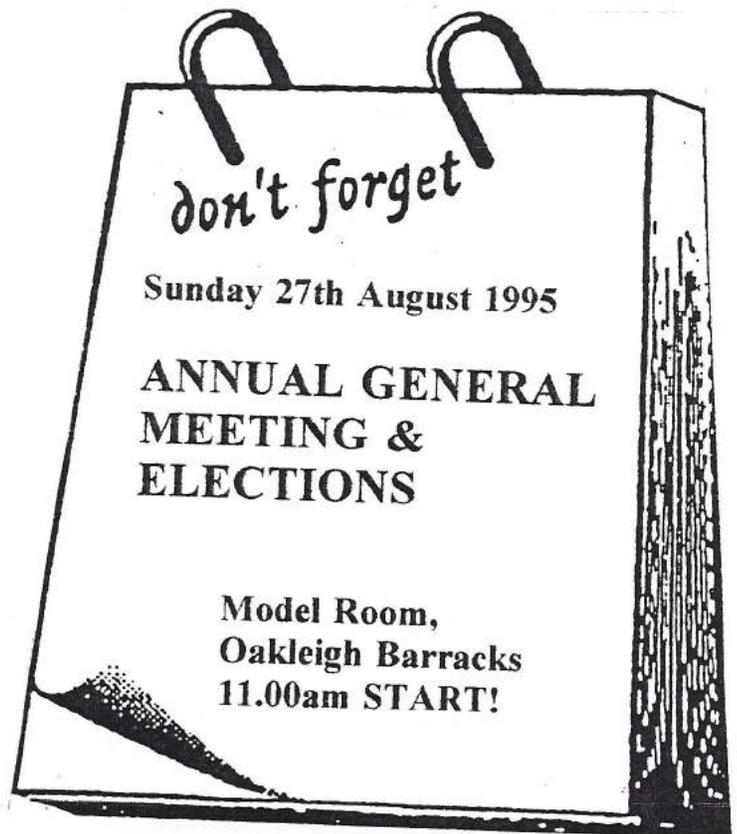


SOLDIER and CRAFTSMAN

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CATEGORY 'A'



For further items of interest turn to pages 8 - 17



**AEME/RAEME ASSOCIATION (VIC) INC.
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THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

**WELCOME TO THE AUGUST ISSUE OF
THE "LIGHTNING FLASH."**

In this note to you all there are several points I would like to offer an overview of. Firstly, it was great to once again, have so many members attend:

- A. ANZAC EVE.
- B. DAWN SERVICE AT THE BARRACKS.
- C. THE MARCH.
- D. BACK TO BARRACKS AFTER THE MARCH.

All in all, a good time was held by all.

ANZAC EVE, Once again the night had good support, the focal point this year was two fold. Firstly, Dennis Clarke presented the Association with an Australian Flag, (on loan from the RAEME Vietnam Association) one of six that the RAEME Vietnam Association were presented with from fund raising towards their memorial now in place in Canberra. Our Secretary, Jack Westernhagen was the proud recipient of the Australian Flag on behalf of the Association. Then at the March in Melbourne, it was proudly paraded by Mike King, (Vietnam Vet), the flag will be mounted at the Barracks.

Then, as part of the official activities at the Reunion, your Committee decided some time ago that the recovered "HQ CRAEME 3 Div RSM's Pace Stick", (initially presented to the late WO1 Allan Regan, the first recipient), by Brig J.C. Bendell CBE, then DEME; during HQ CRAEME 3 Div 1970 Annual camp at Site 6, Scrub Hill, Puckapunyal, should be suitably mounted and preserved towards the memory of this gallant soldier.

The RSM's Pace Stick was named in a gesture of respect towards the memory of the late Lt. (Prob) John Carruthers, a former CMF member of the 112th Inf Wksp, Chapel Street East St. Kilda, who later enlisted in the ARA and was a former graduate of the Officer Cadet School, Portsea, Victoria.

Six RAEME soldiers have Died on Active Service as a result of their service in Vietnam. Amongst those six was Lt. John Carruthers M.I.D. (Seconded to the 5th

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Royal Australian Regiment).

Brig Conrad Ermert, at the request of the Committee, agreed to unveil this Memorial, and in doing so, read from the Citation relating to the brave actions that Lt. John Carruthers had performed whilst in action. Some of that script follows:

"Lt. John Carruthers, whilst on patrol was wounded in a small village of DUC MY, Province of Phuoc Tuy, South Vietnam, although wounded he continued on with his action without considering the danger he was obviously in, this continued action emanating in his death"

His action earned Lt. John Carruthers, the honour of being Mentioned in Despatches (MID).

The Pace Stick and replica of his Service Medals are now on view on the South wall outside of the Sergeants' Mess, Oakleigh Barracks. (The Pace Stick was placed in the care of the Association at the closure of the Chapel Street RAEME Sergeants' Mess.) A point of interest that all RAEME Association and serving members of RAEME should be proud of.

The night then continued on as it has in past years, although we seem to hit the sack a little earlier now days - except for a few stayers who will not go to bed until the Port that seems to appear after the Bar closes is consumed in an orderly manner.

DAWN SERVICE - The Dawn Service held at Oakleigh Barracks and then the March was also well attended, with our bus not causing any problems this year. Well thank you for that. Just goes to prove what we organise ourselves works!!!

Again at the March this year we were approached by old AEME Diggers to find out how to join this Association, at the same time a number of Vietnam Vets also approached the Association. It is nice to know that our numbers, although the Association celebrates 50 years this year (December) continues to grow, we are currently working through a project to obtain the names of those Victorian's or RAEME members - serving and non-serving - who have been involved in other conflicts since Vietnam. This project has been put to us by our good friend and member, Murray Lewis (Vietnam Vet).

Numbers at the March was similar to past years, although we continue to have increases in the number of members wanting the services of the vehicles made available to transport those who no longer have the ability to march the distance to the Shrine.

After the March, and back at Oakleigh Barracks, many members returned for the afternoon and reminisce with many old mates from years gone by, it was also good to see many RAEME Vietnam Assn members also come for lunch and enjoy the hospitality of the Barracks.

You supported ANZAC EVE and DAY well, but indeed we need you to support us at other times as well.

COMING UP:- are 3 MAJOR FUNCTIONS, our Widows and Life Members' Day in August, our REMEMBRANCE DAY & DEDICATION DAY, 11th November '95 (Saturday), then our 50th Birthday in December '95. We have given you "HEAPS" of notice as all functions continue to be listed in all issued of the "Lightning Flash".

SO WHAT ABOUT IT??? Support your hard working Committee and attend these functions, don't let us have to continue cancelling functions through the lack of support as it does become very frustrating, not only to the Committee, but also the inconvenience caused to those members who do support functions.

Now this brings me, to extend my personal invitation to you, your family and friends to the Dedication of the Memorial Garden at Oakleigh Barracks on REMEMBRANCE DAY 11th November 1995 commencing at 11 O'Clock (this is a Saturday morning, and a Light Luncheon will follow after the Dedication and Observance Service.

In this Garden, we have presented a "LONE PINE & TWO AUSTRALIAN GUM TREES", the latter being donated by Geoff Maggs.

Please don't let us down, but come along as Brig. Conrad Ermert is to dedicate the Garden and a ceremony will be conducted by troops from both RAE and RAEME.

This dedication will be conducted as a Tri-Service function, RAE (ENGINEERS), RAAOC (ORDNANCE) and RAEME.

Did you know, that there is a AEME/RAEME Memorial Tree, planted in the gardens of the Shrine grounds???

It has now been located and identified for us by Ed Collins (Life Member), a sketch of its location will appear in this publication.

(Cont. from P. 3, Col 2.)

COMING UP - A.G.M. 27th AUGUST 1995

As this is the issue prior to the A.G.M., I should mention that we also need your attendance, not only as an Observer, but perhaps you can see your way clear to nominate for Committee. The Committee does need WORKERS, we do have a vacancy and no doubt prior to Elections, a number of other vacancies could occur, so NOMINATIONS ARE NEEDED TO FILL VACANT POSITIONS. Please come forward and support your Association by becoming an active member of a very hard working team of individuals, more about this in other sections of this issue.

In closing, let me say that this year has gone quickly and on looking back we have continued our growth in Membership and Fellowship.

Your Committee continues to work hard for the benefit of its members, some times wondering if the hard work is worth it, remembering we only have 2 retired members on Committee, Jack Westernhagen and Reg Cox, all the rest are either running their own business or employed in a civilian capacity. But indeed, it has been a privilege to work with all of those people this year and for those who might stand down this year. **THANK YOU!** for your enthusiastic input as it is your efforts that help make this Association what it really is, not only to the Committee of Management, but also it's members.

SPECIAL VOTE OF THANKS This note from me should not be concluded without thanking our Secretary, Jack Westernhagen and our Treasurer, Aranka Illia, for their unselfish dedication to the AEME/RAEME Association, during this year they have been a great asset to both myself and the Association. It is hoped that they will again continue in their respective roles in the coming 12 months.

WIDOWS' AND LIFE MEMBERS LUNCHEON - (Yes you are invited to attend to acknowledge their efforts over many years)

Come along and meet Sandra and myself at **** REMEMBER**, the Widows and Life Members Luncheon on Sunday 13th August '95. (Why not make a table of family and/or friends and enjoy our hospitality), then of course **DON'T FORGET WE NEED YOU!!! WHERE???** AT THE AGM... **WHEN???** 27th AUGUST '95.
(***** See Social Notes *****)

Bye for now.

BRUCE WILLIAMS, PRESIDENT



THE SECRETARY'S CORNER

1995 ANNUAL ANZAC EVE REUNION - This year's attendance at our Annual Reunion was up slightly on the previous year's attendance of 86. 1995 attendance was 97 with 12 Apologies. This function was conducted by combining the Oakleigh Barracks Officer's/Sergeant's Messes together for convenience of space which allowed those present to circulate amongst themselves and renew old acquaintances. The Finger Foods were very appetising and there was plenty of it. Those in attendance thought it was the best Reunion to date at Oakleigh Barracks.

9 O'CLOCK STAND TO - OBSERVANCE - At this year's Reunion, we paid Silent Tribute to three of our Departed Comrades, Les McCoubrie (LM), John Hand, Douglas Watts.

UNVEILING OF THE Lt. JOHN CARRUTHERS (M.I.D.) PERPETUAL MEMORIAL RSM'S PACE STICK - Following the 'STAND TO' Observance, the President, Bruce Williams, invited all members and guests to reassemble outside of the Sergeant's Mess where Brig Conrad Ermert, our RAEME Representative Colonel Commandant, Colonel Commandant of both 3MD and 6MD; and our own Association's Patron, who, at the request of the Committee was asked to unveil this Perpetual Memorial to a brave RAEME soldier who was killed in South Vietnam on 24th February 1967.

1995 ANZAC DAY MARCH - Good weather smiled upon us that day for the March and prospective members were able to locate us without much difficulty when seeking information about becoming members.

WE'RE GOING ON A DRIVE!!!!

Yes! A Recruiting Drive. We need members to take the Membership Applications that are included with this edition of "The Flash" and pass them on to their RAEME friends. We want every RAEME person in Victoria to join, whether they are still serving or not. We aim to keep everyone informed on our activities.

WE NEED YOU TO HELP RECRUIT NOW!!!

THEATRE AFTERNOON - As advertised, your Committee had introduced a new form of Social function for the first time - **A FILM AFTERNOON**. In between the screenings of two latest video releases,

(Cont. from P. 4, Col 2.)

Afternoon Tea, which was provided by each member bringing along a 'Social Plate' of food for sharing, which was served during Intermission Time. This was well attended by 23 Members, 9 Associate members, who also bought along 17 family members as our guests. Amongst those present were 6 new members, who the Vice President, Mal Drechsler, made welcome prior to the commencement of the first screening.

I gathered from the general feeling of those who attended, as they indicated to me, that this new Social Function was most enjoyable, and appreciated, that they would look forward for a repeat of similar in the near future. We will see what can be done about it. THANK YOU! to those who did attend and enjoyed the company of our members and their families.

COMMUNICATIONS - In closing, I must bring this matter to your attention. For some time now, this has been a very serious fault with some of our members. Your Committee works hard to ensure that all the relevant information that is received and could affect our membership in any way, is properly collated and distributed to you the member.

However, despite repeated appealing by myself for responses to material distributed that may require some further action to be taken by either the Committee and/or members, there is still a lacking in members NOT ACKNOWLEDGING receipt of this material posted to their registered home address.

If time permits, please drop the Secretary a few lines in the mail, if you find there is insufficient time in which to reply in writing - THERE IS SUCH A MEDIA CALLED THE TELEPHONE!!! There are quite a few members who do not consider it important enough to pick up the telephone and reply when requested to do so. This makes it hard when trying to estimate possible attendances at functions or meetings when such are called.

NAME TAGS - At our many official and Social functions, you may have noted that your Committee, and other members, are displaying the appropriate Name Tags identifying themselves as being members of our Association ... Do you have your name Tag for wearing at such occasion??? NO!, Well they are available on order through the Secretary at a minimal cost of \$10.00 ea. payable in advance. It would be nice to see our many members wearing theirs in the future.



(L to R:) Bill Holmes (LM), Tom Money (LM), Ken Kermonde (LM), Doug Brazier (Member), and Harold Chamberlain (LM) taken just before our Association moved off from its Starting point in Flinders Street.

The RAEME ASSOCIATION (VIC) INC.

WANTED

COMMITTEE MEMBERS
for 1995-1996

POTENTIAL COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Serving RAEME Corps members, retired, recently retired or approaching retirement and planning to reside in Victoria. Nominations close by THURSDAY'S POST 17th AUGUST 1995.

COMMITMENT

Highly motivated, dedicated, team spirit, interest and welfare of the Association and its members.

THE CHALLENGE

To join a dynamic and highly motivated team of ex-AEME/RAEME and serving Corps personnel who are meeting the demands of providing a variety of support to Association members.

BENEFITS

The satisfaction of knowing you have helped to keep the Camaraderie of the Corps alive and surviving.

CONTACT:

SECRETARY,
The RAEME ASSOCIATION (VIC) INC.
P.O. Box 794
MULGRAVE, VIC. 3170.

JACK WESTERNHAGEN
SECRETARY



SOCIAL/SPECIAL EVENTS



WIDOWS & LIFE MEMBERS' LUNCHEON

All members are cordially invited to participate in this function to be held in the Oakleigh Barracks combined Officers'/Sergeant's Mess. The Luncheon will be fully catered for. Those members and their family, other than the Widows and Life members and their partners attending, will be asked to pay a \$15.00 per head Cover Charge.

A. G. M. 27th August 1995

All members are reminded to bring along members of their family to join in and participate in a B.B.Q. Lunch provided by your Committee following the conclusion of the A.G.M. This has always proven to be a very successful social function for all those in attendance and it enables our members and their families to get together and meet one another.

REMEMBRANCE DAY AND DEDICATION TO MEMORIAL GARDEN, OAKLEIGH BARRACKS, SATURDAY 11th NOVEMBER 1995

Planning for this Special Event is still in the Preliminary Stage. However, following confirmation of proposed arrangements by the Commanding Officer, HQ (LSF) Engineers, Colonel H.R. Ellis RFD, full details will be published as soon as possible to all members.

1995 ANNUAL FAMILY FARM DAY

Once again, all members are reminded of our

forthcoming Annual Family Farm Day and B.B.Q. at Bill and Carol Slegers' farm in Jindivic North.

Enclosed, please find a flier with all the relevant information provided for your information. Come along and have a most enjoyable day in the South Gippsland countryside as depicted by the photographs taken at last year's function ... DON'T FORGET TO BRING ALONG THOSE CONTAINERS TO TAKE AWAY FREE DAIRY PRODUCTS.

ASSOCIATION'S 50th ANNIVERSARY AND RETURN TO CHAPEL STREET TRAINING DEPOT Have you marked your diaries for this special occasion to celebrate the AEME/RAEME Association's 50th Anniversary to be held on SATURDAY 2nd DECEMBER 1995. On completion of the final planning arrangements of this important function all members will be advised of the full details in due course.

JACK WESTERNHAGEN
SECRETARY

Phone: (03) 802 6406
Mobile: 018037740
(All Hours)



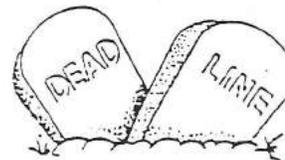
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Props. Leonie and Peter Cartledge

Heating - Small bore, pool and ducted
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(ex 105 Fd Wksp member) Discount offered
to any RAEME Assn members on producing
your current Membership Card.



CLOSURE FOR NEXT ISSUE ...
Members are advised that the Closing Date
for the NOVEMBER edition of "The
Lightning Flash" is:

15th OCTOBER 1995

The RAEME Association (Vic) inc.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING and ELECTION OF OFFICE BEARERS

SUNDAY 27th AUGUST 1995

Model Room, Oakleigh Barracks
1318 North Road, SOUTH OAKLEIGH

(Note: Please be seated by 11.00am)

TO ALL MEMBERS

In accordance with Rule 8 (3) of this Association, the above notice will serve to remind you of the Annual General Meeting date.

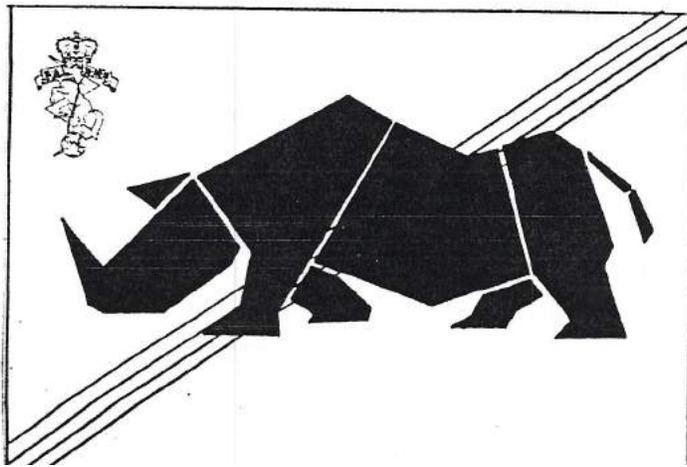
You should be aware that at this meeting reports are given from all Sub-Committees and it is your opportunity to express your opinions as to our future direction and to pass on an assessment of this year's activities.

REMEMBER YOU MUST BE FINANCIAL AT THIS MEETING or your vote on any resolution may be classed invalid.

Ordinary Member's Subscriptions of \$15.00 for the year 1st July 1995 to 30th June 1996 are now due and can be paid at the conclusion of this AGM. It should be pointed out that **ALL MEMBERS** (except those Life Members of the Incorporated Association) are liable for the above dues.

JACK WESTERNHAGEN
SECRETARY

105 FD WKSP



105 Field Workshop RAEME
Unit Plaques

\$21 . 00 ea.

Available from:

Sgt Craig Lawson,
Chief Clerk,
105 Fd Wksp Orderly Room
(Phone: (03) 9550 3914



1995 looks to being a very eventful time for all Australians. As part of the "Australia Remembers 1945-1995 Program", your Editorial Sub-Committee have decided to dedicate this issue of "The Flash" in recognition of this Program. Throughout this April edition, there will appear many interesting items of years gone by that would bring back a familiar era to many of our readers.

AUSTRALIA REMEMBERS 1945-1995

Australia Remembers 1945-1995 commemorates the 50th Anniversary of the end of World War II.

The Objectives of the Program are:-

- * To thank the veterans who fought in World War II.
- * To recognise the widows and children of those who died.
- * To remember all who kept the home front running.
- * To recreate the joy at the end of the war in 1945.
- * To educate the nation about World War II.



STORY BEHIND THE LOGO

The Australia Remembers logo is in great demand around Australia. The logo was carefully selected to reflect the Australia Remembers theme.

It represents the sacrifice of veterans who served in the War and the Australians who kept the home front running. Centre piece of the logo is a returning soldier being embraced by his wife, son and daughter joyful at his return.

The soldier represents all veterans. The wife reflects those who stayed at home, and the children are indicative of the young Australians who benefited from the sacrifices of the veterans and the efforts of Australians who remained at home and who were to become the Australians of the future.

THE FACES BEHIND THE LOGO:



The Prime Minister, Mr Keating, meets Jeannette and Barry Walsh at the launch of Australia Remembers 1945 - 1995
(Photo: News Limited)

Every family in Australia has been touched in some way by WW II as was the Walsh family who feature on the Australia Remembers 1945-1995 logo.

The story of Ray and Varlie Walsh and their children is evocative of many thousands of Australian families who had their lives interrupted by war in 1939.

Patrick Anthony Raphael Walsh (known as Ray) enlisted on 15 December 1939 and joined the 6th Division AIF. Following service in Egypt, he fought with the 2/1st Fd Coy RAE, 6th Division in Greece from March 1941 and was captured in Crete on 1 June 1941.

For five months, Varlie and their then five children, Arthur, Jim, Irene, Jeannette and Barry did not know if Ray was alive. Ray was liberated by the Allies on 1st May 1945. He was debriefed in the UK before arriving in Sydney on 28th July 1945, where his family rushed to welcome him at Victoria Barracks.

An official Army Photographer snapped Sapper Ray Walsh in the embrace of his wife Varlie and their two youngest children, Barry and Jeannett.

That photograph is now a symbol of the commemorative year.

JACK WESTERNHAGEN
EDITOR



This short story is in honour of the women who served AEME during WW 2.

We continue to talk about the endeavours of many male units in AEME/RAEME, but importantly as it has often been said to me, why don't we say something about the women who served in AEME during WW 2.

Well did you know, A.W.A.S. soldiers did serve with AEME units all around Australia???

The Australian Women's Army Service (A.W.A.S.) began in August 1941, and there was no shortage of recruits. Women were recruited in all Commands, with the following trades being available:-

Wireless, Telegraphist, Draughtswomen, Clerk, Cook, Stenographer, Seamstress, Drivers, Typist, Clerical Assistant, Telephonist, Waitress and Orderly.

As the war progressed, trades expanded for them, Armourers, Electricians, Ack Ack & Searchlight, Fitters Instrument, Machinists Metal and Painters.

By 1946 they were serving in Area Workshops, Vehicle Park Workshops, Watercraft Workshops, Advance Workshops, as well as Armoury Workshops, Wireless & Signals Sections, Recovery Sections, Tank and Radar Workshop Sections and many more.

It would appear that the majority of women were

(Cont. from P. 9, Col 2)

employed in Clerical roles although there were some Craftswomen. They wore colour patches of the unit or Corps to which they were attached.

A.W.A.S. members could not be sent outside of Australia initially, but in 1945, this rule was relaxed and from then on, some women were posted to New Guinea. The A.W.A.S. were disbanded in July 1947.

One wonders why our Association has not encouraged these ladies to join us as we did with the W.R.A.A.C. (Women's Royal Australian Army Corps), during the 60's and 70's.

We do have one known A.W.A.S. lady, Elizabeth

Coldicott who is a member. (Look for her profile in the November edition of "The Flash".) It would be nice, if you know any ladies who serve with A.E.M.E. during the war, to encourage them to become members of the Association as well, even though they may be members of their own A.W.A.S. Association.

These ladies are entitled to Full membership of this Association as well as their immediate family being able to join as Associate Members.

Below is a group photograph of the 2nd intake A.W.A.S. Radar Operators Course, who were members of A.E.M.E. A.I.F. Depot, Sydney Technical College, Ultimo N.S.W. (Courtesy of Elizabeth Coldicott.)



L to R, Back Row: L Cpl Donaldson (NF) Marie Dyer (VF) Ma Laes (VF) Pat Glover (QF) Fran Gordon (NF).
 Middle Row: Marj Reese (VF) Gladys Meher (NF) Mary Mattock (NF) Helen Bennet (NF) Marg Freeman (VF)
 Front Row: Val Browne (VF) Meg Ballantine (QF) Gilda Briggs (QF) Maisie Walker (QF)
 (Missing Elizabeth Coldicott (VH) taking the photograph.) The letter preceding the 'F' indicates their State of Enlistment.

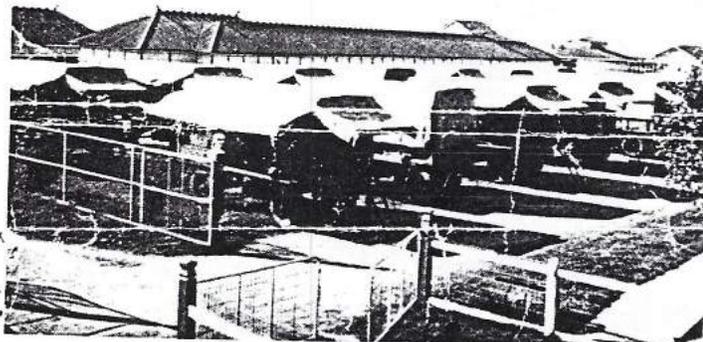
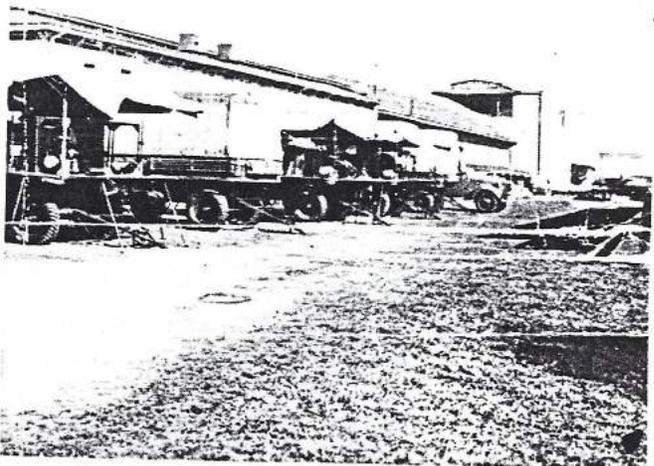
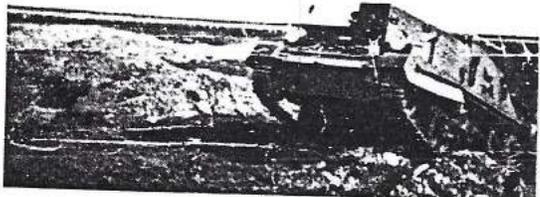
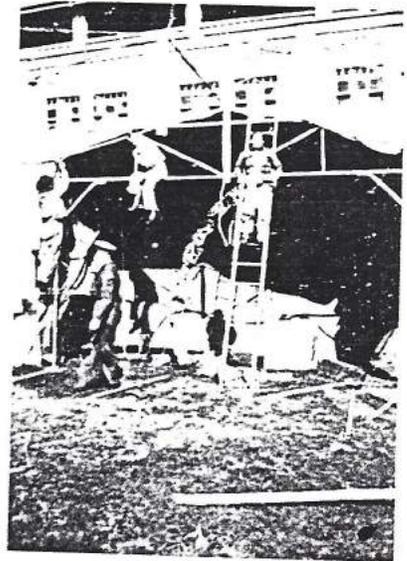
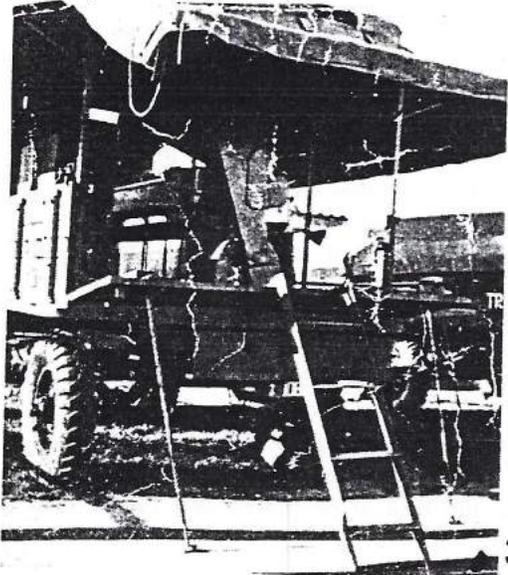
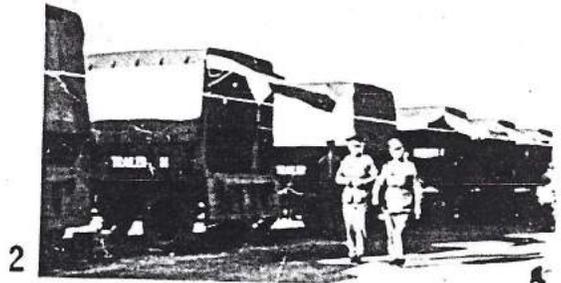
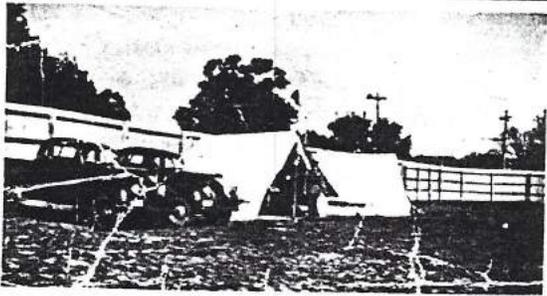
BRUCE WILLIAMS, PRESIDENT

BLUEY & CURLEY



Alex Gurney





1. THE EMBRYO AT CAULFIELD.
 2. WORKSHOP TRAILERS.
 3. A LONG BED LATHE.

4. KIT.
 5. ERECTION OF A SHELTER.
 6. A CARRIER.

7. ON PARADE.
 8. WORKSHOP TRAILERS.
 9. THE TRAILER PARK AT WILLIAMSTOWN.

"THE STORY OF RAEME

by Theo Barker

CRAFTSMEN OF THE ARMY

— The Story of
RAEME

(Published in 1992)



The following notes are an extract from the above publication. The book is currently available from the Corps Shop (or from the Secretary).

It was of interest for me to read the following extracts as they relate to Associations still active in our State, all of them still proudly parading their unit Banner at various times of the year.

QUOTE. In 1939, Australian planners assumed that the A.I.F. would carry its own 1st and 2nd Line work while RAAOC units took the 3rd and 4th Line Repairs. The first A.I.F. Ordnance Workshop formed under this system was the 2/1st Adv Fd Wksp (under Lt Col C.A. Geyton) was raised in November and December 1939. It included 1, 2, and 3 Recovery Sections and 6 LADs

which, together with the main Wksp, were staffed from all States. The unit sailed in two drafts, the first under Capt F.W. Stratham (1 Recovery Section), embarked January 11th 1940, arrived in the Middle East and established itself at Quastina in Palestine.

The second draft (the Main Body) was on a convoy that was diverted to England where it arrived on June 16th 1940. Soon after its arrival the Main Wksp was disbanded, most of its people were transferred to other units, and Lt Col Greyton was appointed COME (Chief Ordnance Mechanical Engineer) at HQ A.I.F. UK. The remainder of the workshop tradesmen, together with 2 and 3 Recovery Sections, were reconstituted as Australian Divisional Workshop UK, and administered by Capt S.E. Samuels. its main duty was the repair of vehicles for the British Army.

In the Middle East, 1 Recovery Section was renamed Det 2/1st Adv Fd Wksp after it was learned that its parent unit was in Britain. It was reinforced with tradesmen found in the 6th Division and given the task of providing 2nd Line or higher repairs for the Australian units in Palestine. UNQUOTE.

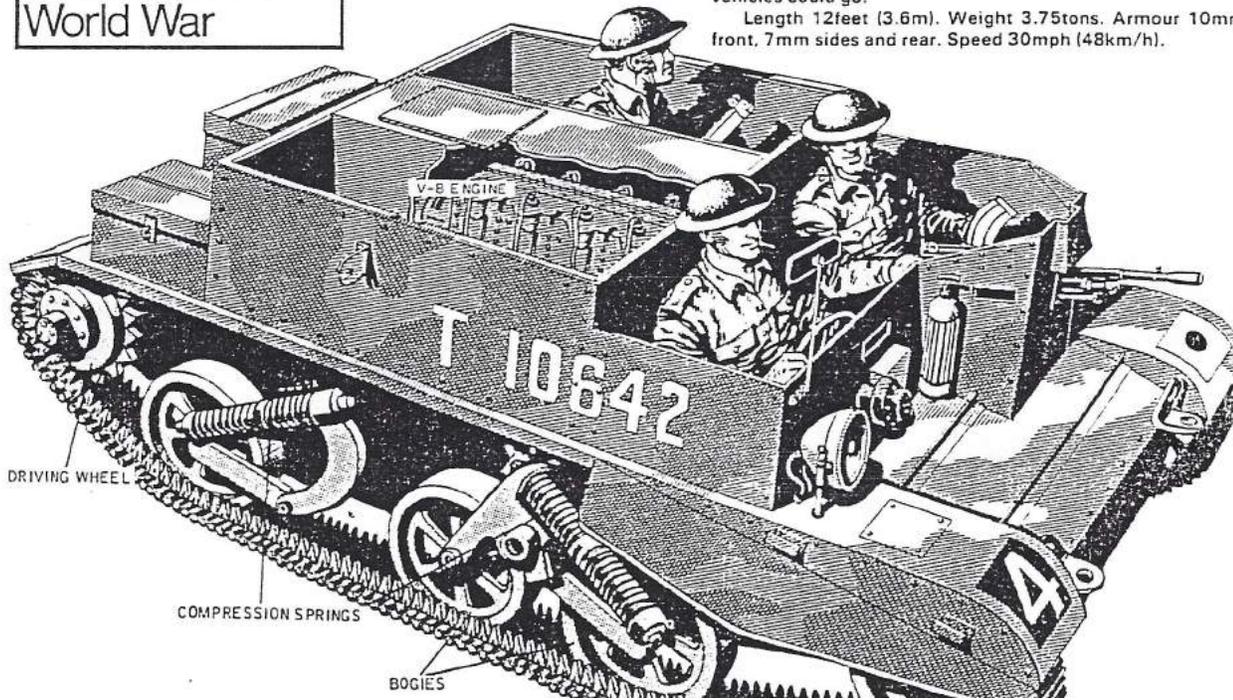
As space does not permit we will leave 2/1st Adv Fd Wksp at this point and offer extracts of two other well known Victorian identities 2/2nd and

UNIVERSAL CARRIER

Equipment of
the Second
World War

THE most famous type in this class of vehicle was the Bren Carrier, one of the handiest pieces of equipment ever built. Designed to carry a Bren gun and a crew of three, it was used for a wide variety of other jobs: as a scout car (better protection than a jeep!), a transport for supplies or troops, a mortar platform, even a flame-thrower. Unlike a tank it had a normal steering wheel, and it was very nippy and manoeuvrable over rough country where only tracked vehicles could go.

Length 12feet (3.6m). Weight 3.75tons. Armour 10mm front, 7mm sides and rear. Speed 30mph (48km/h).



Cont. from P. 12, Col 2.)
2/4th Adv Fd Wksp.

QUOTE: 2/2nd Adv Fd Wksp (under Lt Col W.D. Chapman) began at Caulfield Racecourse, Vic. starting April 4th 1940. It contained 4, 5, and 6 Recovery Sections (the last two from S.A.) and 7 LADs. Ordered to the Middle East, the unit arrived in October 1940, in time to participate in the first Libyan Campaign. UNQUOTE.

QUOTE: 2/4th Adv. Fd. Wksp (under Lt Col R.H.M. Lea) was raised in Melbourne on October 25th 1940, to serve the 8th Australian Division. Its Recovery sections, 10, 11 and 12, were recruited in Victoria, Western Australia and South Australia, respectively. The original plan for this unit was modified when AHQ decided to provide each Brigade of the 8th Division with a Workshop instead of just one for the whole Formation. As a result, 10 Recovery Section became 22nd Bde Wksp, 12 Recovery Section became 27th Bde Wksp, and both were ordered to Malaya, while 11 Recovery Section was reformed as 23rd Bde Wksp and sent to its formation in Darwin.

Because of these changes, HQ and the Main Wksp of 2/4th Adv Fd Wksp became redundant, its personnel were sent to the Middle East to provide reinforcements for units already there. UNQUOTE.

The book also tells that the units mentioned in this extract, were engaged in the following, WESTERN DESERT CAMPAIGNS 1940 -1941.

GREECE - Three weeks campaign by 6th Division in March and April, which included 5 Recovery Section of 2/2nd Adv Fd Wksp.

WESTERN DESERT - 9th Australian Division withdrew to Tobruk and the siege began on April 11th. The Wksp units in Tobruk were the 2/1st Adv Fd Wksp with 1, 2 and 3 Recovery Sections; 6 Recovery Section of 2/2nd Adv Fd Wksp.

2/2nd Adv Fd Wksp, was the first Australian Workshop unit into action in WW II, on December 27th 1940. UNQUOTE.

Comment: Although in reading this magnificent book, I became confused with what happened to 2/4th Adv Fd Wksp, as mentioned above, this unit was broken up and became redundant. If this is so, where was the unit reformed, as it would appear that 2/4th Adv Fd Wksp was very active in "THE WESTERN DESERT AND ALAMEIN IN 1942". If any ex-AEME soldier knows what happened after they appeared to be disbanded, please tell the Editor.

Likewise we fail to see much written about these other units, 11th Aust Adv Wksp, 126 & 127 Aust Bde Wksp. If you would like to drop the Editor a line he will be pleased to publish your unit history, we would like to know more about Victorian units that fought in the Islands or for that, any stories of interest, or of units that we may have overlooked.

As mentioned at the beginning, the notes in this communication are only a small taste of what is available in this very well presented history of AEME/RAEME, the book is available by placing your order with the Secretary, cost \$40.00.

Remember, it is the 50th year of the Cessation of WW II, and perhaps this story of RAEME is something that can be kept for many years to come. The stories included in this book about those units that we recognise are well worth reading and will bring back many memories as they are in greater depth than we can present here.

In addition to this being the celebration of 50 years since WW II, the AEME/RAEME Association also celebrates its 50th year this December. When were the other Associations formed??? perhaps we can have a joint celebrations. Let us know.

BRUCE WILLIAMS
PRESIDENT



Roy Walker ROBERTS - 25th May 1995

The President and Executive Committee, of the AEME/RAEME Association (Vic) Inc. respectively inform members of the sudden passing of our esteemed colleague.

We extend our sincerest sympathy to his Daughter Jan and family.

*We cannot bring back the old days
When we were all together
But wonderful memories of you
Will always be in our hearts*

I REMEMBER

I was born in 1933 in Sydney, and I can remember in the early 1940's, of visiting the many British Warships berthed in Sydney Harbour. Of watching the 6th Division, 2nd A.I.F. marching through the streets of Sydney prior to their embarkment to war. The 9th Division troops triumphant return from overseas to a memorable 'ticker tape' parade welcome (a lot different to the reception given to our Vietnam Veterans on their return home in later years).

In 1942, first thing every Monday morning at the local Primary School saw the whole school assembled for swearing allegiance to our country's flag, and singing "Advance Australia Fair" (something not now observed in most schools) all against a background of open zig-zag Air Raid Shelters (most of the time half filled with rain water from the night before.) Each resident had their own Air Raid Shelter, some just a hole in the ground, whilst others were very elaborate and furnished affairs. After the war, these Shelters were all filled in with rubbish and soon forgotten.

All windows of your houses had to be covered with a black 'muck' smeared over mosquito netting to eliminate any naked lights at night shining through. The local Air Raid Wardens carrying out 'Air Raid Drills', street by street on a Sunday afternoon, preceded by this loud wailing siren that could be heard for miles. Metal signs with "This street supports the War Effort" were nailed on street telegraph poles, and similar window stickers appeared on the front widows of every house.

Also in those days, if you were to cross the Sydney Harbour by ferry in either direction, you could observe the many gun installations at Middle Head, South Head and Watson's Bay (some of these still remain today, as a grim reminder of when our country was caught up in the fever of WW II.) The Sutherland Flying Boat Base at Rose Bay on the route out to Watson's Bay (which later became the base for the ANSETT Flying Boat to Hayman Island Holiday Resort).

I can still remember at the tender age of 9, on the 2nd June 1942, of being awoken from my sleep due to high explosives causing the ground to shake beneath our home. This was at the same time when two of three midget Japanese submarines had entered Sydney Harbour beneath the submarine boom-nets in an attempt to sink Allied shipping at berth there. After being sunk and salvaged they were put on public display. Parts of these two sunken submarines were later put together in an attempt to form one submarine now on display outside the Canberra War Memorial (the third submarine was believed to have escaped to rejoin

its larger 'Mother' or Depot ship, from which they had been originally launched.

Bankstown Aerodrome during the 1940's had been taken over by a U.S. Air Force fighter Squadron. At the time of this sneak Japanese submarine attack, one young keen and inexperienced Sergeant Pilot took off from this aerodrome before his engine had time to 'warmed up' and crash in close proximity to my home in a Soldier's settlement located 3½ miles outside of Liverpool. This was the cause of the violent ground tremors mentioned before. US Air Force crash vehicles dashed from the Aerodrome and tore through property wire fences without stopping to reach the downed plane just after it had crashed. They were too late to save the young pilot who unfortunately had been killed on impact.

Boy!! Did the School Inspectors have a field day that week - the majority of pupils were wagging school to gather souvenirs, live belts of Machine Guns bullets, heavy cannon rounds, even the perspex cockpit windows were taken off the plane and soon reappeared in mass production as rings for fingers (at a price) from enterprising fellow school mates. Air Force, Military and Civilian Police Forces were offering immunity to the locals if all souvenired ammunition was returned. I can remember one of my Aunty's who lived a few doors up from us in the same street, proudly displaying her 'collection' of various rounds of ammunition she had gathered and had spread out on the top of my cousin's bed (Who said adults aren't children at heart, Ha! Ha!)

Due to petrol restrictions, cars ran on Charcoal Burners attached to the rear of each vehicle, with your supply of charcoal carried inside of the vehicle in bags for topping up - no "Fill It Up Please, Attendant" at garages along the way in those days, you carried your own fuel yourselves.

Food and Clothing Rationing in the 1940's was something to be experienced. When I joined the Army Apprentices School, Balcombe in July 1949, we were using Tobacco Ration Cards, for those Apprentices on turning 16 years, who had obtained their parent's written consent to smoke, and of being issued with Tea, Butter, Meat and Sugar Ration Coupons when proceeding on our first six months Home Leave in December 1949.

Those days are now far behinds us, but the memories of that era will never fade from our minds, and is always a source of stories to tell to our children, and their children when asked "Do you remember WW II, Grandpa???"

JACK WESTERNHAGEN

1945 WORKSHOP APPRENTICES

joined the Army on 13th July 1945, aged between 16-17. Apprenticeship was served at Southern

Command Wksp R.A.E.M.E. Broadmeadows.

Schooling: 1st year a Essendon Tech, 2nd and 3rd years at Melbourne Tech.



L to R Back Row: Bill Calder, Jack Ballsillie, ? McPartlin, Frank Towers
Centre Row: Bob Shedden (Deceased), Ian Archer, Paul Seppings, Kevin Boase, "Mocka" Dunstan (Deceased)
Front Row: Sam Gibbs, David Watson, Keith Dyall



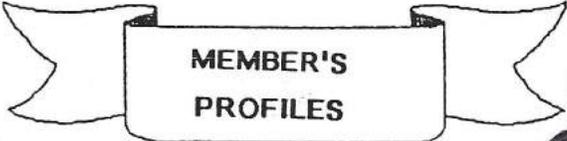
REUNION 13th JULY 1985

L to R, Back Row: Frank Towers, Jack Balsille, Ian Archer, ? McPartlan, Bill Calder, ? Davidson.
Front Row: Sam Gibbs, John Boase, David Watson, Bob Shedden, Athol Tonkin, Keith Dyall.
(Their latest Reunion was held 8th July 1995 at the Broadmeadows Officer's Mess)

BLUEY & CURLEY

Alex Gurney





MEMBER'S
PROFILES



Bill HOLMES

He was born in Essendon in 1924, educated at Ascot Vale State School and University High.

Enlisted in the 7th Australian Infantry Battalion A.I.F. as VX 67919 Pte. in December 1941 at the young age of 17 years. Whilst on Active Service at Bougainville Bill was awarded the M.I.D. On returning to Australia was discharged on 17th April 1946.

In 1948, Bill enlisted in 105 Inf Wksp CMF, and also served with 106 Inf wksp, 3 Div Sigs Regt LAD and finally with 33 Coy Wksp RAASC. At the time of his discharge from the CMF Bill had attained the rank of WO 2.

Bill is married to his lovely wife Erna. Both enjoy the love of their family, Grandchildren and Great-Grandchildren.



Reg COX

When WW 2 started, Reg was in his Final Year as an Apprentice Plumber. From 9 Apr 1942 - 1 Nov 1945. Reg underwent his Basic Training in Ordnance at Bendigo.

On completing his Basic Training, he was posted to Wallangarra, Queensland to what was later to become Northern Command Workshops. It was there he witnessed the formation of A.E.M.E.

Being a Craftsman, his next posting was to 16th Ammunition Coy. and soon embarked for Aitape, PNG on Active Service.

Being a tradesman in the unit, one of his jobs was to solder back the tin liners of the cordite boxes after the Ammunition Examiners had checked them for dryness and stability.



Harry (Dad) SWITZER

(15 March 1994)

Dad's widow, Peggy and his family sent the Editor a photograph of Harry's final resting place at Springvale Crematorium. This plaque was installed on his birth date and 1st Anniversary of his final internment. (The white spots on the Plaque were caused by the water sprinkler prior to this photograph being taken. EDITOR)

LEST WE FORGET

OUR DAILY PRAYER

*Our Prime Minister who art in Canberra,
Chifley by thy name,
They Taxation come,
Thy will be done in Perth, as in Brisbane,
Give us this day our Deferred Pay,
And forgive us our A.W.L.
As we forgive the Wharf Labourers, who stike
against us,
But deliver us from the Islands,
For thine is the Manpower and the Taxation,
With holidays and Elections,
For Evatt and Evatt AMEN*
(Courtesy of VX 79035 Cfn Reg Cox)

HIGHLIGHTS OF 1995 REMEMBERS

Saturday 12th August 1995

BACK TO CAULFIELD RACES - Free Entrance to all Veterans. (2/2nd Army Fd Wksp members should make a day of this, as this racecourse was once your home.

Tuesday 15th August 1995

"VICTORY IN THE PACIFIC MARCH"
12.NOON. Assemble in St. Kilda Rd, march North over Prince's Bridge, along Swanston Street Walk, pass the Melbourne Town Hall, to Lonsdale Street and then disperse back to Flinders Street. No vehicles will be provided in the march. Those unable to march are invited to view the parade from seats provided outside the Melbourne Town Hall. Veterans requiring seat reservations cards are to contact the Secretary.

SICK PARADE



KERRY BRINDELL - Progress Report. Members will be pleased to hear that Kerry has been finally discharged from Bethesda Hospital.

She will be facing several further operations to help knee reconstructions, also she requires facial reconstruction as well. Kerry is a very determined lady. Her goal is to get all these operations done, and to finally walk without the aid of crutches.

Kerry, you are always in the thoughts of your fellow Association members, who continually ask after your health. We all wish you well, and keep your spirits high and you will achieve your goal to walk unaided again.

BUTLING - Our Welfare Officer, Reg Cox reported that he has been in touch with Lyle, who is reported to have said that he is feeling quite well

and only needs to get his right arm back into action again, otherwise he is very pleased to be on the Recovery List. keep up the good work Lyle!

WO 2 STEVE GILLETTE, of RAEME Trg Centre - Upon receiving a request from the Corps RSM, WO 1 R.G. Davies, our Patron, Brig Ermert, advise our President Bruce Williams who in due course arranged for our Welfare Officer, Reg Cox to visit Steve in the Alfred Hospital where he was admitted for treatment for Leukaemia. We all wished Steve a quick response to his treatment and a speedy recovery, thus enabling him to return home as soon as possible to Bandiana.

(Although Steve is not a member of the Association, the Committee felt this charitable act of visiting a fellow RAEME Corps member who was sick in hospital is very much in line with our 'Statement of Purposes' i.e. "To strengthen the Corps through encouragement and moral support to Units and individuals currently serving." this is what our Association is all about. (JACK WESTERNHAGEN SECRETARY.)

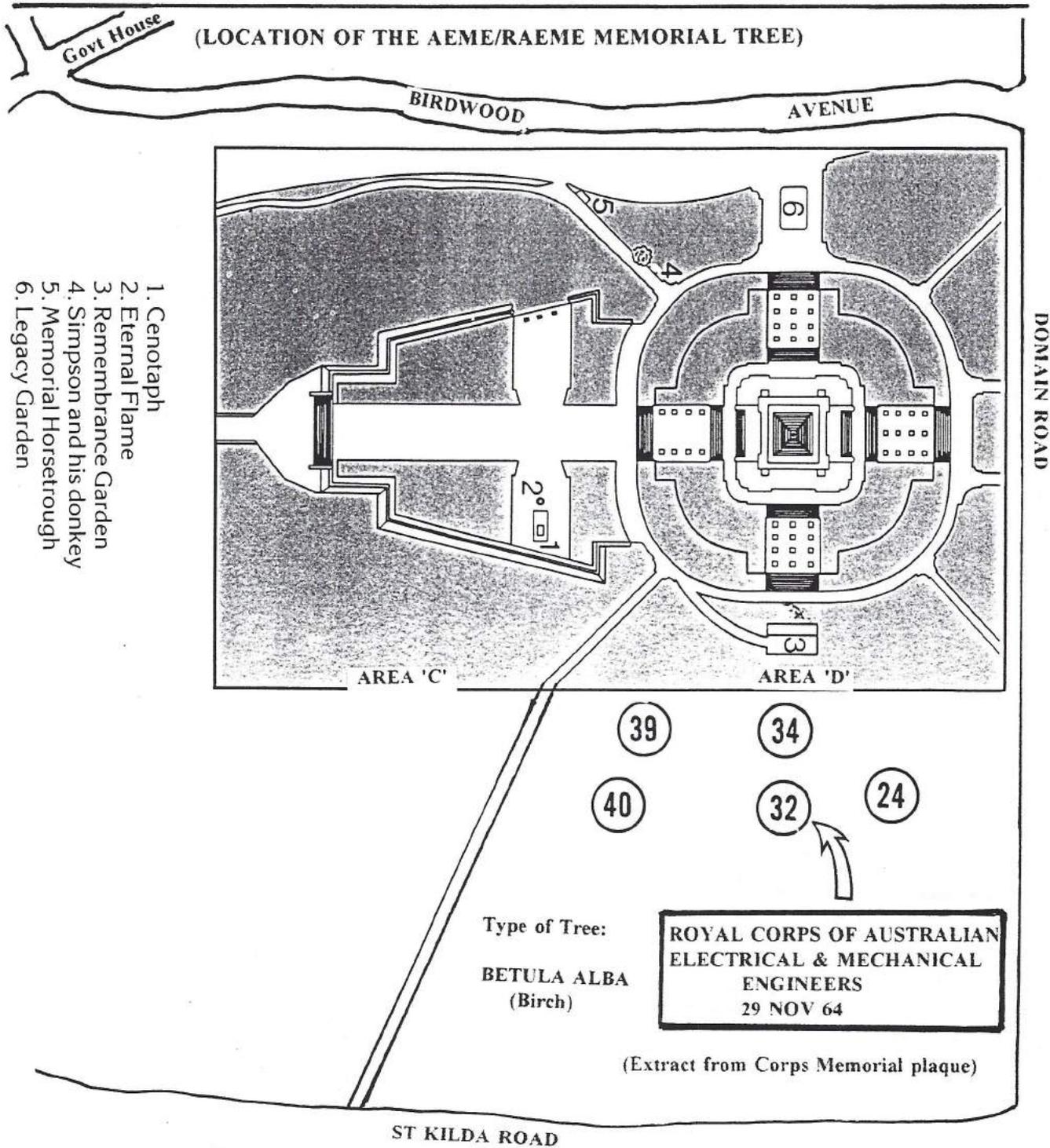
LEN STEPHENS - It has just come to our attention, that another of our members, Len Stephens is in the Royal Melbourne Hospital (5th Floor Bone Cancer Ward) following a 4½ year battle with Hodskin Lymph Cancer. I spoke to Len on the phone on Friday 23rd June, and he seemed to be in good spirits. However, on paying him a visit in hospital today (26th) he was not feeling the best and I was unable to speak with him personally.

Len, from your many friends and colleagues in both the RAEME Vietnam Assn and ours, we wish you well and I'm sure there will be a few mentioning you in their prayers as we all do. Chin up, Mate, you'll make it, God willing!



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LATE NEWS

The end of 1994 saw our Clerks and Storespeople leave the Corps and become part of Ordnance. In a recent letter to the Corps, DEME, Col R.L.G. Grant, thanked them for their service and asked them to appreciate the circumstances of change which brought on this occurrence. He also made the point that he was sure that they would serve just as proudly in their new Corps.

**RAEME CORPS DINING-IN NIGHT,
SOUTHERN REGION, VICTORIA BARRACKS
FRIDAY 11th AUGUST 1995**

All serving and retired Officers are hereby advised of this coming function. Time 7 - 730pm. Cost: \$35.00. Contact: Capt Merv McCormack, Secretary RAEME Corps Committee (03) 9282 6552.

APOLOGY - The RAEME Corps Shop is experiencing some problems with the Supplier of the Marcasite Brooches and have advised that there could be some further delays for delivery of orders already received. EDITOR.

IMPRESSIONS OF A VISIT TO PUCKAPUNYAL FOR 3/95 RECRUIT'S MARCHING OUT PARADE

On Sunday 4th June '95, I had the pleasure of visiting a Passing Our Parade of the 3/95 Recruit Course at Puckapunyal.

My Son Darren's girlfriend Jessica, had decided to join the ARes at Oakleigh Barracks, she has joined 4th Fd Supply (RAAOC). This was to be Jessica's Marching Out Parade the reason for our invite, of course it became a Family Day from both sides. Jessica's family had not witnessed a parade of this nature ever. On seeing Jessica march out onto the Parade Ground with her platoon (Long Tan Platoon), you could feel the pride bursting from her mother, father and a very elated Grandmother, who told me at Afternoon Tea that Jessica's Grandfather was with 4th Fd Supply during the war years. She is eagerly awaiting to develop her film, to obtain a photo as she is still in touch with his Association, and of course, a very proud Nana is sending a photo to them.

It was a great day, the weather was kind to us, and the parade was very well conducted by 3 RTU.

On my arrival, whilst waiting for the parade to begin, a wounded Maj Newbond, OC 105 Fd Wksp, arrived and during our discussion he advised me that 105 Fd Wksp also had a recruit on the parade (more about this wounded soldier later, Hmmm!).

It is amazing the changes that are currently ongoing at Puckapunyal. With the changes in the Army today, Pucka appears to be in a stage of total rebuild.

The parade was most impressive. The recruits had spent only two weeks in training, but on their 'March Out' you would think they had been at it for years. The professionalism of the Training Staff really shone in the manner that the troops presented themselves on parade. It was also interesting to see the new drill with weapons. The new arrival to the Army is the F88 Styer 5.56 cal. and the drill with this weapon is very different and impressive, the weapon is smaller and lighter (3.6k unloaded and 4.1k loaded), magazine capacity of 30 rounds; and easier to handle than the SLR 7.62 cal. weapon, now being phased out of service.

Whilst there, I also came across an old friend from my time as a Sergeant with 105 Fd Wksp. Who was that???, Non other than Warrant Officer Class 2 Liz Rouse, an old hand from 3 EME's days and a very active member of the Mess in times gone by.

Liz was attending the parade to support the two Privates from her unit who were about to March

Out. By the way, WO 2 Rouse is now the PMC of the Sergeant's Mess at Oakleigh Barracks, and most importantly, the CSM of 4th Fd Supply (RAAOC).

The soldiers Marching Out that day with both RAAOC and RAEME were:-

Rec/Pte Jessica AITKEN 4 Fd Supply RAAOC
" Michelle SLEEMAN " " "

Rec/Cfn Joseph SANT 105 Fd Wksp (RAEME)

A proud day for the above soldiers.

As a matter of fact, it was a proud day not only for my family, but for all those who attended to support those new soldiers on their Passing Out Parade. If you ever have the opportunity to attend a parade at Pucka, or any other establishment, you will certainly have a memorable time.

The afternoon completed with Afternoon Tea being supplied in the gardens adjacent to the Other Ranks' Canteen, The Allan Club, and by 4.00pm we found ourselves heading home after a great day.

BRUCE WILLIAMS

FACE TO FACE

On a recent week-end in June, our host unit, 105 Fd Wksp, had a week-end of Infantry Training.

I am told that their fearless leader (No names ... No Pack Drill), decided that he would play the role of the enemy.

At a given time he was to lead the enemy force into the attack position - so the leader headed in the direction of the troops - the night was dark and extremely cold, they began their advance.

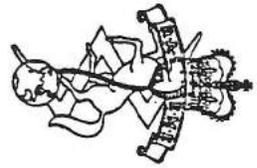
But guess what?? - the leader didn't make it. Being very confident he could lead the way, only to find himself falling into a deep ditch, and the story goes, he was the only one to sustain real wounds - receiving superficial wounds to his forehead.

When I saw him the next morning, the wounds were very prominent.

Oh well!.. just goes to prove battles should be left to Senior NCO's.

Can you guess who this fearless Troop was??

BRUCE WILLIAMS



RAEME CORPS FUND PRICE LIST
AS AT 24 NOVEMBER 1994

ITEM	SELLING PRICE
CAM SINGLET	\$10.00
CAM T-SHIRT	\$11.00
KENT BERT	\$13.00
KEPPIE CAP	\$7.00
SINGLET CORPS	\$14.00
T-SHIRT CORPS	\$5.00
TRACK SUITS (ATTACK SPORTS)	\$17.00
TRACK SUITS (HENDERSON)	\$70.00
TRACK SUITS (JAKAL)	\$40.00
DFCU FIELD JACKET	\$50.00
W/OUI SLEEVES	\$45.00
WANDCHEATER CAM L/S	\$20.00
COFFEE MUGS	\$4.50
GLASS WINE	\$6.50
GLASS SHERRY	\$5.50
GLASS BEER	\$5.00
GLASS FLUTE CHAMPAGNE	\$6.00
GLASS TANKARD	\$5.50
PORT CROCKS	\$22.00
COMMEMORATIVE COVER (NO STAMP)	\$1.00
CORPS PEN	\$5.00
ENVELOPES 12CM X 11.1CM	\$5.00
ENVELOPES 16CM X 11.1CM	\$4.50
STAMPED COMMEMORATIVE COVER	\$1.50
STATIONERY A4 FOLDED	\$1.00
STATIONERY NOTEPAD	\$3.00
STATIONERY A4 SHEETS	\$4.00
WRITING PAD	\$5.00
XMAS CARD WITH ENVELOPE	\$0.60
50TH ANNIVERSARY PLAQUE	\$30.00
BADGE METAL RAEME	\$12.00
BADGE CLOTH POCKET	\$10.00
BADGE FREE-STANDING	\$35.00
CLOTH BADGE ROUND	\$8.00
DESK SET PEN SINGLE	\$29.00
DESK SET PEN LARGE	\$35.00
EMHOURED BADGE	\$18.00
FRAMED BADGE	\$30.00
HAT BADGE RAEME	\$7.00
PENNANT RAEME	\$55.00
RAEME PLAQUE	\$17.00
TR-COLOUR PLAQUE	\$22.00
CORPS ATV PRINT	\$4.50
CORPS BANNER PRINT	\$4.50
CORPS ATV AND BANNER PRINTS MAY BE PURCHASED AS SET FOR	\$8.00
22 INF WKS# HISTORICAL TAPE	\$12.00
50TH STUBBLE COOLERS	\$5.00
A4 FOLDER	\$13.00
A5 FOLDER	\$10.00
ARTIFICERS BADGE STICK PIN	\$6.00
ARTIFICERS CUFF LINKS	\$12.00
BADGE STICK PIN	\$4.00
BANNER PARADE VIDEO	\$20.00
COASTERS	\$2.50
CORPS KEY RING	\$4.50
CORPS HISTORY	\$40.00
CUFF LINKS	\$8.00
MAP CASE CAM	\$15.00
MARCASITE BROOCH	\$35.00
MOTIF PULL	\$3.50
MOTIF LOOSE	\$3.00
PEWEE COASTER	\$10.00
RAEME CIGARETTE LIGHTER	\$1.00
STABLE BELT	\$1.00
THERMOS FLASK	\$25.00
THE TAC LABEL	\$40.00
THE BAR TRIMMED	\$4.00
THE BADGE AND STRIPE	\$4.50
THE BAR FULL	\$14.00
THE STRIPE ONLY	\$5.00
VIEWEE TWOLE (20 PAGE)	\$11.00
VIEWEE TWOLE (40 PAGE)	\$7.00
VIEWEE TWOLE CAM COVER	\$9.00
	\$8.50
	(SET \$14.00)