

SOLDIER AND CRAFTSMAN

THE LIGHTNING FLASH



Advance Australia

December 1999

Issue 28

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A Christmas Poem

I have a list of folks I know,
all written in a book,
And every year at Christmas time,
I go and take a look,
And that is when I realise
that these names are a part,
Not of the book they're written in,
but of my very heart.

For each name stands for someone
that I want to touch again,
And while it may seem trite of me
to make this solemn claim,
I really feel I am composed
of each remembered name.

So never think my Christmas cards
are just a mere routine,
Of names upon a Christmas List,
forgotten in between,
For when I send a Christmas card
that is addressed to you,
It's because you're on that list
of folks I am indebted to.

And every year when Christmas comes
I realise anew,
The **BIGGEST GIFT** that life can give
is **MEETING FOLKS LIKE YOU**,
So may the Christmas Spirit
that will live for evermore,
Bestow its richest blessings
in the hearts of you and yours.



From your Management Committee
Members, and our Sponsor, we wish
you all a very Happy, Prosperous
Christmas, safe holidays, and a bright
forthcoming New Year full of happiness
and good health to each of you for 2000.

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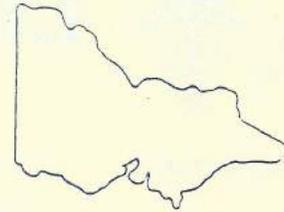
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This magazine is produced by the members, for the members, and is not to be solely one-way communication.

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.



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THE PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

Since I last reported to our members, we have held our 9th Annual General Meeting which was reasonably attended on Sunday 29th August 1999 at Oakleigh Barracks.

Whilst Peter Allen did not seek re-election due to both poor health and moving to Inverloch after his recent retirement from Public Service, I would like to take this opportunity to thank Peter for his efforts over the years and I am sure we all wish Peter and Janet our very best wishes and hope to see them both from time to time.

I am your President again this year with Gus Allen Vice President, Jack Westernhagen Secretary, Aranka Illia Treasurer, the following members were re-elected as committee members - Reg Cox (Welfare Officer), Ross Hope (Provincial Representatives Convenor), Max Moore (Internet Manager), Barry Ridgway and Jack Miller. I would like to welcome two new committee members to your Committee of Management this year, namely Ron Clifford and Bruce Doolan.

We are still one committee person short! (Associate Members would be most welcome to fill this vacancy!) Is there any volunteers to share the workload.

Whilst talking of your committee, there is an unwritten law about holding Office in our Association for more than three years at a time – well this will be the commencement of my 3rd year as your President. Jack and Aranka have both held their respective positions as your Secretary and Treasurer for 6 years now and are desponding of a rest

Does anybody remember who was the last Secretary and Treasurer before these two dedicated members? Let us see some new blood at committee level it is not hard if you all pull together!

At the 9th A.G.M. I presented, on behalf of the membership, certificates to our present 8 Life Members. We also welcomed to their ranks a new Life Member, namely Don MacLeod. Well done Don, it was only fitting to bestow a Life Membership to Don for his untiring efforts for your Association in years past.

In addition, I presented certificates to the N.O.K. of three of our departed Life Members, namely, Les McCoubrie, Harold Chamberlain and Clive Hill; and to our Patron Brigadier Conrad Ermert.

My wife Leonie and I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a Happy Holy Christmas and a Healthy and Prosperous New Year and look forward to seeing you all in the year 2000.

PETER CARTLEDGE, PRESIDENT



THE SECRETARY'S CORNER

As previously stated by our President Peter, we now have a newly elected Committee of Management for the period 1999/2000. Congratulations to all duly elected committee members.

REME/RAEME ANNUAL RE-UNION

What started back on 6-8th June 1998 in Canberra at our invitation, was the commencement of annual 'Get-Togethers' between the REME Association (S.A.) Branch and our Association.

(Cont. from P. 3 Col 2).

These 'Get-Togethers' have been instrumental in cementing a strong bond of comradeship between our two sister Corps Association.

The question that is always asked at the end of each of our gathering by those who attended is - where and when are we going to meet again? It has now become a regular event, this gathering between our two organisations. Why don't you, the members (and your families) come along and join in the happy harmony and friendship with a wonderful group that are always pleasure to be with.

GRANTING OF 'THE FREEDOM OF ENTRY TO THE CITY OF HUME TO 4 B.A.S.B.

On Saturday 6th November 1999, the prestigious honour granted to the unit was the "Granting of the Freedom of Entry to the City of Hume' to 4 B.A.S.B. An impressive ceremony that took place in the Town Park at the rear of the Council Chambers.

In the middle of the armed troops who took part were paraded the Banners of RACT (Princess Alice's Banner, RAAMC (Queen Mother's Banner), RAAOC (Sovereign's Banner) RAEME (Prince Phillip's Banner), followed by the RACT/RAASC, RAAMC, RAAOC and RAEME Associations and the Band of 2nd/10th Medium Regt RAA from Chapel Street Trg Depot East St. Kilda. This was followed by a few of the vehicles belonging to 4 B.A.S.B.

Following the ceremony, an enjoyable Light Luncheon and Refreshments were served in Town Hall. The Mayor of The Hume City, Councillor Jack Ogilvie presented to the C.O. of 4 B.A.S.B. Lt Colonel H.G. HAWSON, RFD, a scroll 'Granting and Exercising the Freedom of Entry to the City of Hume'. This was suitably framed and is now placed in the main foyer of 4 B.A.S.B. at Maygar Barracks, Broadmeadows. Lt Colonel Hawson, in turn, then presented the Mayor with a 4 B.A.S.B. unit wall plaque to commemorate the occasion.

A video of this historical event was recorded by the RAEME Association (Vic) Inc. and will be available early in the new year (2000) on ordering through 4 B.A.S.B RSM WO 1 W.J.P. Gilbert (Price yet to be advised).

DEDICATION OF RAEME CRAFTSMAN MEMORIAL PORT

Interested members are advised these are still two bottles remaining of this Commemoration Port available to interested buyers. This is your last chance to purchase a bottle as stocks are quickly diminishing and there will be no further stocks available. First in – First served.

ARE YOU AN ACTIVE MEMBER?

Are you an active member,
the kind that would be missed,
Or are you just contented your name
is on the list?
Do you attend each meeting and
mingle with the flock,
Or do you stay apart and criticise
and knock?
Do you take an active part to help
the work along,
Or are you satisfied to be the kind
that 'just belongs'?
Do you push the cause along and
make things really tick,
Or leave the work to just a few
and talk about a 'clique'?
Think this over, member –
you know right from wrong,
Or are you an active member,
Or do YOU just belong?

Between now and our 10th Annual General Meeting on August 27th 2000, the future of our Association will rest with you, the members. Are you prepared to offer your services and time to serve on the Committee of Management. Our Association will fold due to the lack of interest by members if you are not interested in accepting your share of the responsibility in the day to day running of *our Association. Help by shouldering* some of the work load in keeping our Association alive. It has been often

(Cont. from P. 4 Col 2.)

of the Corps, that we are setting an example to other AEME/RAEME Association Branches of what can be done with a strong committee and membership working as a team in keeping alive the Corps in both serving and retired past members.

JACK WESTERNHAGEN, SECRETARY

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MEMBERSHIP SUB-COMMITTEE

A cordial welcome is extended to our new Ordinary Member Ron Hutton (M'Ship No. 067) from Korumburra. Ron, we look forward to seeing you at our future social events.

If we are going to be able to continue look after our members, old and new, we are going to need the strength of numbers and the subscriptions brought by recruiting to succeed. Don't leave it to the 'old faithful ones' to recruit new members, we can't possibly know all the people who you know that are potential members. Approach that person, they may be delighted with the idea of joining, but having simply never thought of it.



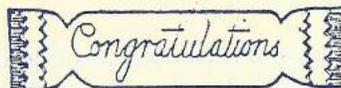
WELFARE & BETTERMENT SUB-COMMITTEE

Phil Cook – On 4th November 1999 had another check-up on his eyes – no better, no worse but he is happy with the results.

Doug Brazier – Is carefully monitoring his medication and diet, he is progressing quite well.

Thelma Brazier – Doug's wife is coping quite well with the assistance and devotion from Doug.

Tom Money – Has now moved into a Special Accommodation Hostel following another trip to hospital for a serious operation.



Tom, our oldest Life Member turned 99 years on 12th December 1999 – Best wish to you Tom from our Membership.

REG COX, WELFARE OFFICER

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SPECIAL EVENTS SUB-COMMITTEE

Those who attended would have enjoyed our B.B.Q. Get-Together after the 9th A.G.M. last August. This was a good time to gather together and "chew the fat" for all concerned.

BALLARAT ANNUAL REUNION - We journeyed to Ballarat to meet with the REME Association (S.A.) Branch Melbourne Cup weekend. What a great long weekend you missed if you were one of the many who **DID NOT** attend – most of whom did not have the courtesy to reply that you were not attending!!!

A visit to Sovereign Hill in the afternoon followed by an evening meal and viewing of the 'Light and Sound' show afterwards was well worth while.

On Sunday evening at the Quest Colony Apartments Conference Room, we held a 57th REME/RAEME Birthday Dinner to celebrate the occasion. A souvenir menu, a copy of 'Songs of WW II' songbook (put together by our Secretary Jack), and wonderful Corps colour table decorations and balloons, with music to lead us in community singing was provided by Bruce Doolan on his piano accordion; all helping to make this a memorable evening.

'GRANTING OF THE FREEDOM OF ENTRY TO THE CITY OF HUME TO 4 BASB

(Refer to the Secretary's Corner on P. 4) for full details of this historical event).

RE-ENACTMENT OF THE ORIGIN OF THE UNKNOWN SOLDIER

– On Sunday 7th November 1999 at Oakleigh Barracks, an impressive Lecture/Demonstration by the 'Corinthians 12 Group (1987-1999)' from a Masonic Lodge was re-enacted.

This Masonic team performs this Lecture/Demonstration to help raise funds in aid of three Masonic Lodge Charities, namely the Freemason's Hospital and the Masonic Charitable Foundation. Through our efforts on the day in running a raffle, a substantial sum was donated to this cause by our Association.

LACK OF NOTIFICATION OF YOUR ATTENDANCE AT FUNCTIONS - With all of the above mentioned functions being organised for you, the members and your families. I have been quite embarrassed with the lack of members at some – or any - of our events lately.

There were 23 of our members at Ballarat (REME S.A. Branch travelled by coach to attend with 46 of their members), 7 attended the 'Granting of the Freedom of the City of Hume', and 12 attended the Re-Enactment of the Unknown Soldier'.

This has resulted in additional administrative costs being incurred and time consuming efforts on behalf of the C.O.M. contacting individuals to see if they would be attending because of their lack of response by the cut-off date indicated.

Some functions in the past have been cancelled because of this, and in some instances, when some members were contacted it appears they are not reading or making note of forthcoming events. Please read your Newsletters carefully and mark your calendars accordingly. Please make the effort in attending coming events.

The next two main events to take place in the Year 2000, are the Widows' and Life Members' Luncheon on Sunday 13th March and our Annual ANZAC Eve Reunion, both to be held at Oakleigh Barracks.



U R G E N T

(Cont. from P. 6 Col 2).

Payment of our Annual Subscriptions helps towards keeping this association alive and providing you, its members, with a very viable and informative Newsletter.

To supplement our day to day running of the association without having to draw on these funds we always conduct raffles at our many functions. Donations of Raffle Prizes by members are always gratefully appreciated by the Special Events Sub-Committee as a means of contributing to our Fund Raising Campaign.

There comes a time when our stock of Raffle Prizes are soon exhausted – as is the case now. So members are asked once again to rally to the cause and are asked to donate suitable Raffle Prizes for future events.

Finally, my sincere thanks to you, our hard working and energetic Social Sub-Committee members, for your tremendous work in the past,. Don't rest – get your heads down for the new Millennium!

PETER CARTLEDGE, CONVENOR



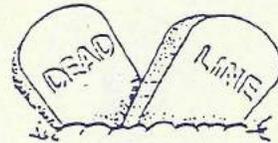
EDITORIAL

Members are always asked if they could supply items of interest for publication in 'The Flash'.

Well, two articles have been received just recently. Lt Colonel Brian Cahill in Singapore has forwarded an article that was written in Changi Prison (See P. 9 – 10), with the promise of a further article in the new year on the V.C. tunnel complex at Cuchi near Ho Chi Min City during the Vietnam conflict.

From Barry Irons. I have also received an

appear in the APRIL edition of 'The Flash'.
WATCH FOR THIS FORTHCOMING ARTICLE!!



Material for the next issue of
"The Flash" must reach the Editor
not later than:

13th MARCH 2000

The 'Lightning Flash' is your Newsletter.

AIR YOUR VIEWS

SHARE YOUR NEWS

JACK WESTERNHAGEN, EDITOR

CRICKET

(As explained to a foreign visitor)

You have two sides ... one out in the field ... and one in.

Each man that's in the side that's in goes out and when he's out he comes in and the next man goes in until he's out.

When they are all out the side that's out comes in and the side that's been in goes out and tries to get those coming in out.

Sometimes you get men still in and not out. When both sides have been in and out including the not outs –

That's the end of the game. H O W Z A T!



Members of the RAEME Assocn (Vic) Inc. at Puckapunyal with Other Ranks participants of the 4 BASB Military Skills Award, holding up the .303 Mk 4 SM Lee Enfield Rifle Trophy

SKILLS PUT TO THE TEST

No amount of training can prepare you for the breathtaking experience of a 50-metre swim in a Puckapunyal Dam in August.

That was the verdict of the 4th Brigade Administrative Support Battalion (4 BASB), based at the army barracks in North Road, Oakleigh, after teams competed at an inter-unit weekend event.

The contest was part of the selection process for the Annual Military Skills Competition held at Puckapunyal on 28/29th August 1999.

Warrant Officer Class 2 Mark Latter said the contest subjected participants to a gruelling course which replicated – with one obvious exception – the conditions faced by troops in action.

Teams had to navigate through unknown territory, evacuate their injured colleagues from a deadly minefield, making split-second decisions and solve problems, hunt out the enemy and set up ambushes, and cross a raging river.

The winning team was composed mainly of personnel from the Health Services Division.

The 4 B.A.S.B. Military Skills Award (shown above) is a .303 Mk 4 SM Lee Enfield Rifle

suitably mounted on a polished timber board, and all 4 B.A.S.B. Army Reserve personnel are eligible to participate annually. The successful participants of the Award have their names placed on the surround of the Trophy over future years.

This Trophy had been donated by the RAEME Assocn (Vic) Inc. from their weapon collection held at Oakleigh Barracks.

The President of our Association Peter Cartledge, 4 members of the Committee, (together with their wives), including Roma Cox and Geoff Maggs (LM) and his wife Nancy (seen in the Assocn's Blue Bomber Jackets and Caps), had been invited by the RSM 4 BASB WO 1 W.J.P. Gilbert to observe the Military Skills Competition on Saturday 28th August 1999.

The RAEME Assocn Committee members felt this invitation to observe the Competition first hand was very beneficial – most of the Other Ranks had never seen, let alone fire a .303 Mk 4 SM Lee Enfield Rifle, and showed considerable interest in this weapon. They were able to ask questions of members of the Assocn, Present. Some had served during WW II in Papua New Guinea and the South Pacific Areas of conflict during that period.

In addition, some of the Committee were ex-Army Reservists who had also handled

(Cont. from P. 8 Col 2)

this weapon and its successor, the 7.62mm Self Loading Rifle when serving in the CMF. Discussions in comparison were made between the .303 Mk 4 Lee Enfield, the 7.62mm Self Loading Rifle and the 5.56mm Austeyr Rifle of to-day's Army.

WO 2 MARK LATTER & Jack WESTERNHAGEN

SPECIAL ARTICLES

THE BOOK THEY BURIED IN CHANGI PRISON

By ex-NX69235 Sgt D. Griffin
8th Australian Div, 2nd AIF Malaya

(Dedicated to the children whose fathers went to Singapore and never came back)

On the evening of February 15th, 1942, General Arthur Percival, Commanding Officer, Malay Command, signed the document of unconditional surrender to Japan's victorious 'Tiger of Malaya' General Tomoyki Yamashita.

The surrendering of the British Singapore garrison represented the final confirmation that the Japanese 25th Army's 70—day long Malayan Campaign had not been in vain and had delivered Britain one of her greatest ever military defeats.

Immediately following the surrender, the beaten and demoralised British and Australian troops were ordered on a heart-breaking 25 kl march from Singapore central to their prison quarters in Changi on the island's north eastern tip. As they trudged past the gloomy walls of Changi Jail, the battle weary troops were thankful that this was not to be their destiny – not yet at least – and their initial POW camps were located at the nearby Selarang Birdwood and Roberts Barracks which were formerly occupied by the British garrison units.

The defeated troops were soon to learn that British and Australian women and children captured in Singapore and Malaya were being held inside the jail. Maintaining morale among the imprisoned Allied

civilian prisoners never lost hope added a further challenge to their problem.

As their first Christmas in captivity approached, an unnamed Australian in Selarang came up with a brilliant idea – why not make gifts for the children in Changi Jail.

To the surprise of Aussie POW's, their Japanese captors agreed and inmates began making toys to be delivered to Selarang's AIF Education Centre, a camp unit established to bolster morale through education.

As the troops completed their toys – model cars, dolls, trains and ships and many other creative gifts, they handed them to the Education Centre for the required inspection of the Japanese Commander, General Saito and his staff.

Twenty-seven year old Sgt David Griffin, NX 69235, one of those recruited to form the original nucleus of the Education Centre, could not make toys but he was able to write stories. Thus was born the idea of writing a book for the Changi Jail children. Griffin's friend and fellow inmate, Leslie Greener, was an accomplished artist and agreed to do the illustrations. They also sought the assistance of another POW, Bruce Blaikey, who operated the only typewriter in the camp to do the typing.

Christmas was approaching fast, and Griffin made due allowances for illustrations and handed his creation page by page on to Blaikey for typing. The typist in turn passed each page on to the artist. When completed, the pages were bound into a little book which 36 hours later, went on display along with the toys.

At the appointed time, General Saito arrived with his staff and was conducted round the exhibition. On leafing through 'The Happiness Box', one of the Japanese inspection party, with some command of the English language, suddenly became agitated. He noted that a key character in the book – Winston the 'Chi-Chak' lizard – bore the same name as the British leader

(cont. from P. 9 Col 2)

General Saito and his group became immediately suspicious. They believed the book was an ingenious collection of secret coded messages between the military prisoners housed outside the jail walls and the civilians imprisoned within.

The Japanese ordered the book to be confiscated and destroyed. In the confusion that followed, the Australian prisoners managed to spirit the volume away and hid it along with some Divisional documentations in an ammunition metal container which they buried within the grounds of their prison camp. There it stayed for the duration of the war.

Following the liberation of Singapore on September 5, 1945, 'The Happiness Book' was dug up and returned to its author. The original copy survives, lodged in the State Library of New South Wales.

(Copies of this book can be purchased from the Secretary Jack Westernhagen at a cost of \$A9.50 ea. (Incl. Postage anywhere within Australia) An Order Form is enclosed in this edition of 'The Flash'.

MAJOR-GENERAL NORMAN VICKERY CBE, MC, ED – A SEAGOING SOLDIER

By Hugh Jarrett

The Australian Army in two World Wars became famous as a fighting force and the Australian Infantryman was acknowledged as being among the finest, if not the best. But little is heard about the men in Supporting Arms – the Cavalry, Gunners, Sappers, Pioneers, Drivers and all those others whose job it was to keep the cutting edge sharp and ready. At the outset very few Australian soldiers were professionals, coming into the Army as they did from all walks of civilian life. Some of the older men may have had previous War Service and many trained in the Militia (or what is now termed the Army Reserve).

Such a one was Norman Vickery who died in Melbourne on 4th August aged 81 years.

He was educated at Sydney Church of England Grammar School and went on to

with a degree in Economics. His introduction to the Army was via the Sydney University Regiment in which he was commissioned in 1938. When the war was declared he wasted no time in volunteering for Active Service in the 2nd AIF. His official army number was NX 130, a very low figure which was indicative of his keenness to serve.

On 12th February, 1940, as a Subaltern (Lieut) in the 2/1st Fd Regt RAA, he arrived with the regiment at El Kantara in the Suez Canal, where they manned anti-Aircraft guns at Port Fuad, Sidi Bisir and Aboukir before moving on with the 6th Division into the Western Desert against the Italians.

In the Bardia battle, by now a Captain, he was FOO (Forward Observation Officer) for his regiment operating from a Bren Carrier, a small lightly armed tracked vehicle, which was 'On Loan' from the Queen's Regiment. Their task was to find and indicate targets and correct the fall of shot. As they approached the town of Gaza outside of Bardia, they suddenly found themselves behind an enemy field-gun battery and a garrison of 1,000 Infantry armed with Machine-Guns and Anti-Tank Rifles. Vickery's reaction was to call for regimental fire on the map-reference of the Bren-Carrier's position, and then charge the enemy's position firing their only weapon, a Boys Anti-Tank Rifle. The Italians surrendered!

Vickery returned with the whole garrison trudging along in front of the carrier. This action became known as 'Vickery's Bluff', and not surprisingly he was awarded the Military Cross. The first awarded to an AIF officer in WW II.

Vickery acquired a reputation as a highly efficient Gunner officer with the nickname of 'Hawkeye'. By 1943 he was a Major and 2 i/c of the Naval Bombardment Group, RAA. This small unit came into being in the South West Pacific Area due to the requirement for a specialised army group to liaise with naval vessels carrying out *bombardment prior to landings.*

After the war ended Norman Vickery

(Cont. from P. 11 Col 2)

Law and was admitted to the Bar in Victoria. In 1961, at the age of 44, he became the youngest Judicial appointment in Victoria as a Judge of the County Court. He retired from the Bench in 1983. In the meantime, he continued his army interest becoming Commanding Officer of the Melbourne University Regiment in 1951 and Commanding Officer of the 31st Medium Regt RAA in 1956. In 1963, he was promoted Major-General and Commander of the 3rd Division and Citizen Military Forces Member of the Military Board in 1966.

The Bombardment Liason Officers were a very small unit and it is a very strange fact that after the war several of them became Lawyers and Judges, which indicates the quality of these very efficient soldiers.

(Extract from R.U.S.I. Victoria News dated June 1999. EDITOR

BITS AND PIECES

To let the Colonel know what he thought about his pay, a young Australian soldier wrote above his signature in the Acquittance Roll 'Any resemblance between this and a living wage, is purely coincidental'.

* * *

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MELTING MOMENTS?

A young officer instructor carefully described the aiming, firing of a .303 Lee Enfield Rifle, position of legs . . . butt hard into the shoulders, etc., and finally came to the final sighting . . . hold breath . . . foresight in

'V' of backsight . . . up to 6 'oclock now, "Slowly! Hold your breath . . . hand well around the trigger guard and SLOWLY, SQU. . EEEEEZE YOUR FINGER'. "What happens then? asked one of the trainees. To which a wag at the rear replied . . . the bullet OOOO-ZES OUT!"

* * *

STOP PRESS
ARMY APPRENTICES' WEB SITE

Attention all Australian Army Apprentices - - Craig 'Crash' Cranston (ex- 39th Intake) has created a Web Site for all interested ex-Appies this will allow you to look up names and E-Mail addresses for Appies by Intakes, thus allowing you to stay in contact with each other.

This Web Site is also linked to our AEME/RAEME Web Site for those RAEME members who wish to get more information, and so on.

The Web Site address is:
<http://www.bit.net.au/~crashman/>
or
<http://www.nex.net.au/users/raeme>

Answers to Quiz on P. 12

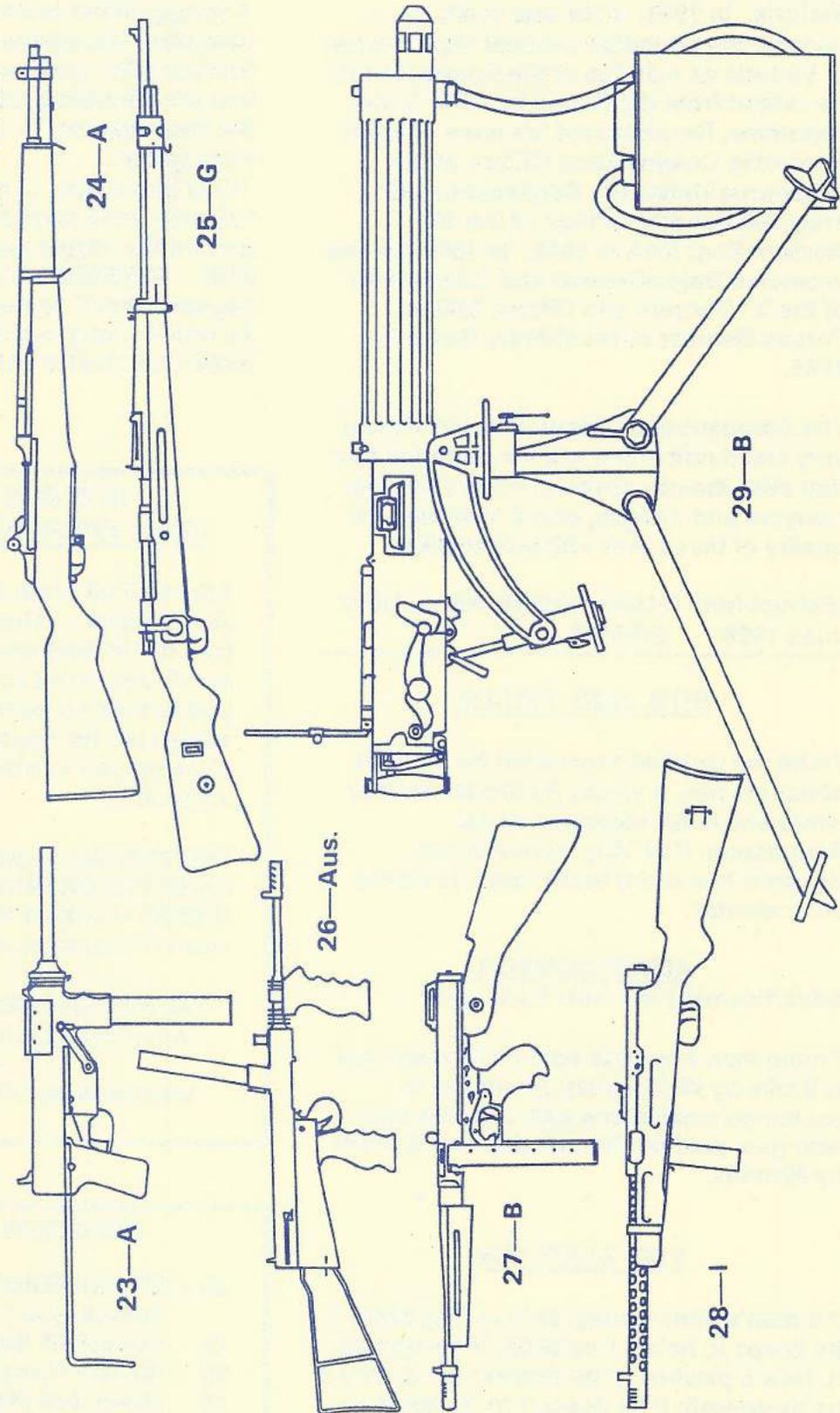
- 23 - M3 Sub-Machine Gun (called 'the Grease-Gun').
- 24 - Garard M1 Semi-Automatic Rifle.
- 25 - Mauser Gewehr 98.
- 26 - Owen Sub-Machine Gun.
- 27 - Thompson M1928A1 (Tommy Gun).
- 28 - Beretta M1938A Sub-Machine Gun.
- 29 - Vickers Mk 1. Machine Gun.

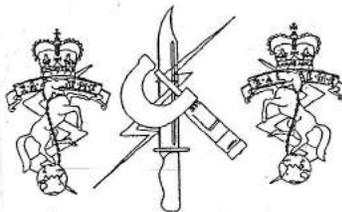
INFANTRY WEAPONS OF W.W. II

QUIZ No 4

You've often heard their names - Bren, Lee Enfield, Colt, Mauser and so on - but can you recognise the weapons when you see them? Have a go at these ones, then turn to Page 11 Col 2 for the correct answers.

- CODE:
 A = American
 Aus. = Australian
 B = British
 G = German
 I = Italian
 J = Japanese
 R = Russian





SOLDIER and CRAFTSMAN

**THE RAEME ASSOCIATION (Victoria) INCORPORATED
WIDOWS and LIFE MEMBERS LUNCHEON
SUNDAY 1st MARCH 2000**

Oakleigh Barracks 1318 North Road, OAKLEIGH SOUTH

BOOKING ADVICE

To:
Peter Cartledge
8 Neera Court,
GLEN WAVERLEY VIC 3150

I, ☎ ()

*** WILL/ *WILL NOT be attending the Year 2000 RAEME Association's Widows and Life Members' Luncheon on SUNDAY 1st MARCH 2000.**

DRESS: Neat Casual

TIMINGS: 11.30AM FOR 12.00 MIDDAY

I will be accompanied by Guests @ \$15.00 Per Head.

I agree, if I accept this invitation, I will be responsible for any costs incurred.

Signature: Date: ... / ... /

Enclosed please my *Cheque/ *Money Order made payable to 'The RAEME ASSOCIATION (Vic) Inc. (Cash will not be acceptable)

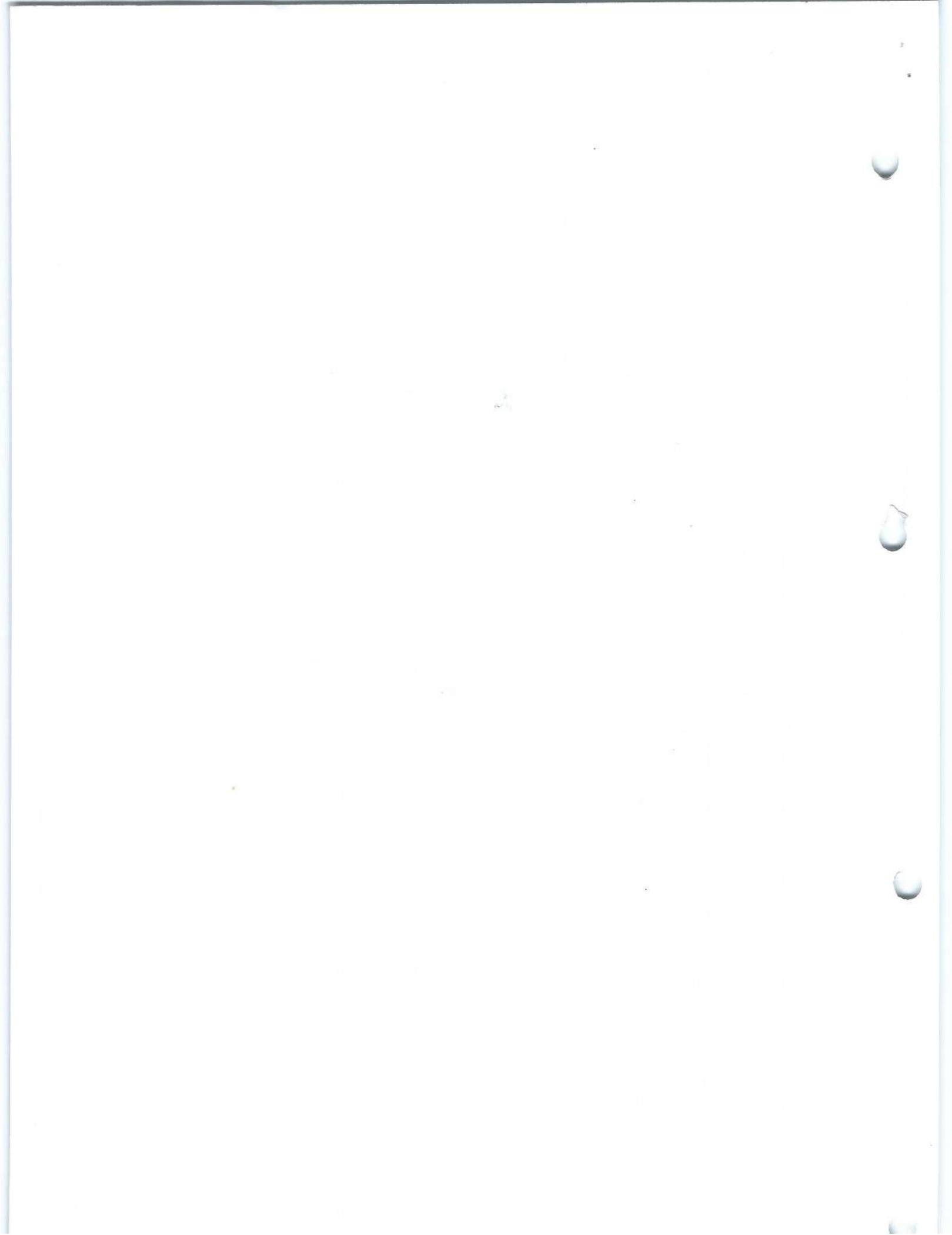
For the amount of \$: 00 being the total amount thank you.

* Please DELETE as Applicable. RSVP by 1st MARCH 2000

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

Acceptance YES NO Payment Received YES NO * CHEQUE/ *MONEY ORDER

Receipt No. Date Issued ... / ... /



THE RAEME ASSOCIATION (Victoria) INCORPORATED
PROGRAMME OF ACTIVITIES 22 FEBRUARY - 30 AUGUST 2000

TUES	22 FEB 2000	7.30 PM	COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT MEETING Oakleigh Barracks
SUN	19 MAR 2000	11.30 AM	LUNCHEON TO HONOUR ASSOCIATION OUR WIDOWS' and LIFE MEMBERS' – Oakleigh Barracks Lecture Rooms 1 & 2 (Open to all members and their families) Please make an effort to attend.
TUES	18 APR 2000	7.30 PM	COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT MEETING Oakleigh Barracks
MON	24 APR 2000	7.30 PM	RAEME ASSOCIATION ANNUAL ANZAC EVE REUNION - Officers'/Sergeants' Messes (Opened to members and their family & partners over 18 years)
TUE	25 APR 2000	5.50 AM	ANZAC DAWN SERVICE OAKLEIGH BARRACKS (followed by a Gunfire Breakfast)
TUE	25 APR 2000	11.00 AM	ANZAC DAY MARCH - Melbourne
		12.30 PM	Buffet Meal after the March at Oakleigh Barracks
SAT	MAY 2000 (T.B.A.)	1.00 PM	COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT and PROVINCIAL REPRESENTATIVES MEETING ALBURY (Members welcome to attend)
SAT 10– MON 12	JUNE 2000	AM PM	QUEEN'S BIRTHDAY WEEKEND – LOCATION T.B.A.
TUES	18 JUL 2000	7.30 PM	COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT MEETING Oakleigh Barracks
TUES	22 AUG 2000	7.30 PM	FINAL COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT MEETING Oakleigh Barracks 1999/2000
SUN	27 AUG 2000	11.00 AM	10th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING and ELECTION OF OFFICER BEARERS 2000 – 2001 Model Room Oakleigh Barracks
SUN	27 AUG 2000	12.30 PM	B.B.Q. Lunch (All members and family invited) Sergeant's Mess



THE HAPPINESS BOX

By ex-NX 69235 Sgt. D. Griffin
8th Australian Division, 2nd AIF, Malaya

A BOOK WITH A STORY AS GOOD AS THE STORY IN THE BOOK . . .

When Singapore fell to the Japanese in February 1942, many English boys and girls were among the civilian prisoners held within the forbidding walls of Changi Jail, on the island's Northeastern tip.

Facing severe morale problems themselves, a group of Australian soldiers, also captives of the Japanese at Changi, realised something had to be done for the morale of the youngsters condemned to such grim surroundings.

Thus 'The Happiness Box' was created for Christmas, 1942. It was written, illustrated and bound with such materials as could be found within the prison camp.

But the Japanese were highly suspicious of the little book, one of the key characters, Winston the lizard, bore the same name as the British wartime leader, Winston Churchill.

A ranking Japanese officer spotted 'The Happiness Box' and ordered its confiscation. In the confusion that followed, the Australian prisoners spirited the book away and it along with some Divisional documents in an ammunition container which they buried within the grounds of the prison camp.

There it stayed for the duration of the war. Following the liberation of Singapore in September, 1945, 'The Happiness Box' was dug up from its secret hiding place and returned to its author. The original copy survives, lodged in the State Library of New South Wales.

THE HAPPINESS BOX

ORDER FORM

Please forward to me copies of 'The Happiness Box' @ \$A 9.50 ea. (Incl. Postage anywhere in Australia).

I enclose a * CHEQUE NO CASH PLEASE
• MONEY ORDER

Made payable to:

The RAEME Association (Vic) Incorporated
C/- Oakleigh Barracks
1318 North Road,
OAKLEIGH SOUTH VIC 3167

*Mr./ *Mrs./ *Miss. (First Name) (SURNAME)

Full Postal Address:
..... Post Code:

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

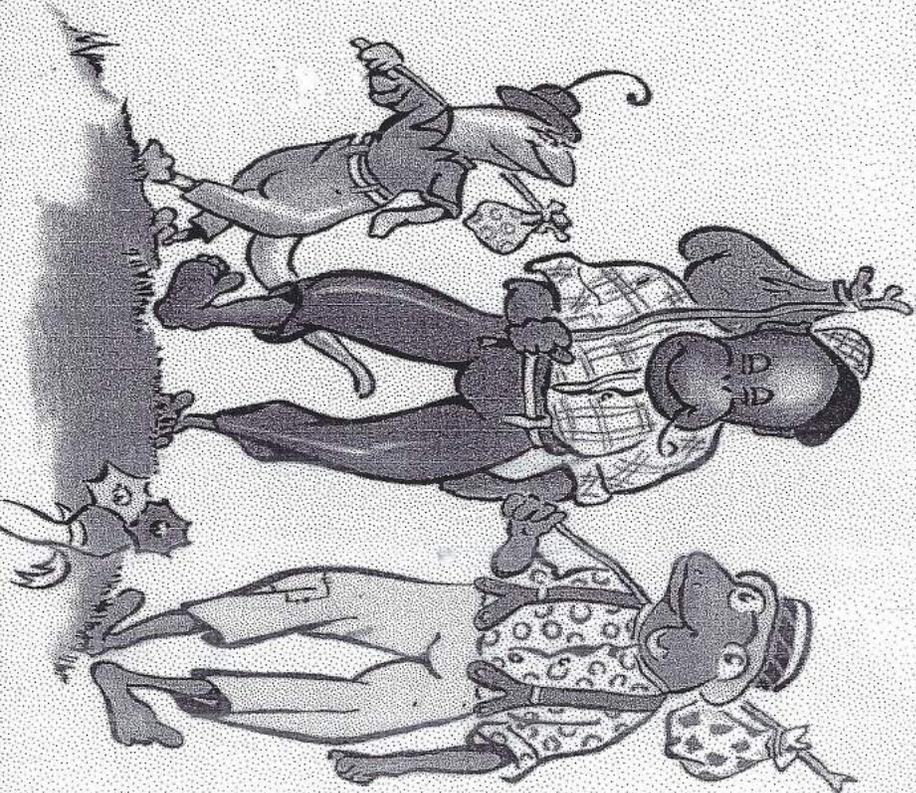
Date Received: / / *CHEQUE/ *MONEY ORDER

Receipt No: Qty Ordered:

Date Despatched: / /

The
HAPPINESS BOX

by
DAVID GRIFFIN
Drawings by LESLIE GREENER



THE BOOK THEY BURIED IN CHANGI PRISON



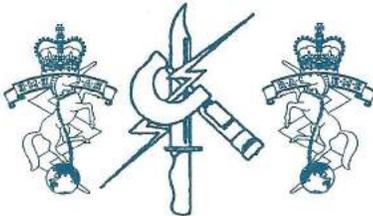
THE LIGHTNING FLASH

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

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SOLDIER AND CRAFTSMAN

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

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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 Road,
OAKLEIGH SOUTH VIC 3167.**

Name: (Block Letters)

Address:

..... Postcode: Ph: No.