

SOLDIER and CRAFTSMAN

THE LIGHTNING FLASH



APRIL 2000

Issue 29

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President: Peter Cartledge
Vice President: Gus Allen
Treasurer: Aranka Illia
Secretary: Jack Westernhagen
Editor: Jack Westernhagen

Price: \$1.00 (Financial Members Free)

WELCOME TO THE NEW MILLENNIUM!



ANZAC DAY MARCH – MELBOURNE 1999

L to R. Jack Westernhagen (Assoc Sec), Brig Conrad Ermert (Patron), Peter Cartledge (Assoc Pres), Gus Allen (Assoc Vice President beneath Banner and behind the President's left shoulder and Banner Party from 302 Regional Cadet Unit Oakleigh Barracks.

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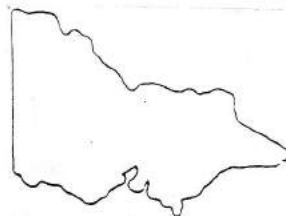
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This magazine is produced by the members, for the members, and is not to be solely one-way communication.

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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Message from Representative Colonel Commandant RAEME



Brigadier R.M. Miller

Once again we see Australian Forces deployed to a Theatre of Operations in response to a desperate humanitarian crisis and once again we see soldiers of our Corps responding with all the ingenuity and skill of their predecessors. It is heartening to know that despite the dislocations that invariably occur in warlike activities the RAEME soldier has the trade training and intellectual ability to produce effective improvised solutions when called upon. I am sure that those involved in Operation Warden recognise that they are writing another chapter of the Corps history and that they make every effort to capture their experience in writing and through the collection of memorabilia which can be preserved in the museum at Bandiana. All members of the Corps, past and present wish those serving in INTERFET a safe tour and a speedy return home.

I recently visited the Directorate of Technical Regulation in Melbourne and received a briefing on the development of policies and responsibilities for the technical integrity of land materiel. Anyone who has drawn a repair part from a store having identified a part number in an IPB only to find it can't be fitted because the equipment has been modified knows of the importance of configuration control. But technical regulation goes further; it ensures that equipment is designed, produced,

Operated and maintained to approved standards, by competent and approved people who act as members of an approved organisation and whose work is certified as correct. Technical regulation is a multi faceted activity that permeates through any organisation not just the Defence Force and the degree to which it is successfully employed has a large impact on the effectiveness of the organisation and the wellbeing of its people. The task of reinstating an effective technical regulation system is one which requires perseverance and effort and I ask that all members of the Corps recognise the significance of this task and contribute to the implementation when the policies and manuals are published.

The Corps Committee met at Bandiana in late October. The key agenda items the continuing development of the Corps Memorial; the annual Corps awards; review of Corps property, Museum displays, cataloguing of Corps Activities and RAEME Craftsman production; and contribution to the Commonwealth display in the REME Museum at Arborfield. In respect to this latter item the committee agreed to present to the REME Museum a display of Australian medals. Although nominations for RAEME awards this year were less than the previous years I was heartened by the continuing high calibre of the men and women of this Corps. For those that have received awards in 1999 I express the congratulations of all members of the Corps. Your trade and regimental skills are of the highest order and reflect on your Corps, your unit and the Army as a whole.

With the fifty seventh anniversary of the formation of the Corps almost upon us we should all reflect on its achievements and the small part we may have each played. I am sure you will all agree that working as part of a team has significantly magnified the outputs we could have each achieved individually. A team of professionals with the sole of 'keeping the punch in the Army's fist'.

Arte et Marte
(EXTRACT Issue 43 RAEME CRAFTSMAN)

A MESSAGE FROM OUR PATRON



Brigadier Conrad Ermert
RAEME Beyond 2000

Firstly my thanks to the RAEME Association for the honour of being asked to write an article for the first edition of 'The Lightning Flash' for the year 2000. Entering this new year is an opportune time to pause and reflect on what we have done in the 1990s and also to think a little about where we might be headed in the 2000s.

Although the Corps of RAEME was not formed until 1942, the role of the artisan and artificer in support of armies has existed since the Iron Age. From those early days the craftsman's skills in creating and maintaining the weapons of war were valued as a vital part of the success of any campaign. To refresh one's understanding of our history it is worth reading the opening chapters of 'The Craftsman of the Australian Army – the story of RAEME'.

A number of common themes emerge from these pages which remain true to the present day. One is the bond of skills. In any field of endeavour the people who make the effort to acquire skills recognise the same qualities in their colleagues. It creates a link of common interest and respect, a lasting bond that spans the generations. Artisans have formed associations over the centuries which continue today. RAEME is such an association. It bonds together people of many generations with the respect and pleasure derived from well earned skills applied to tasks in need of those skills.

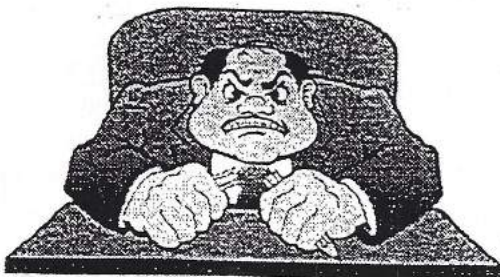
sought a better way of doing things, searching for better materials, and better ways of applying them to the tasks at hand. This is the essence of technological process. Again, since time immemorial, it is the application of ideas arising from knowledge that has led to progress for the benefit of the whole community.

Another theme from the histories is the value communities place on skills. The Army is no exception. Other Corps well understand the value of their RAEME support which they need in order to perform their own particular functions within the Army team, just as we in RAEME respect the achievements of the others. This mutual respect and teamwork comes out clearly from the histories and is very much a part of our Corps heritage. The role played by AEME/RAEME in support of the Army team was perhaps best expressed by the great Field Marshall Viscount Montgomery of Alamein who wrote that the function of the Corps of Electrical and Mechanical Engineers was to keep the punch in the fist of the Army. That is as true today as it was when the Corps was first formed.

And will any of these fundamentals change in the next century? We would hope that wars will become a thing of the past, that nations and peoples will learn tolerance and understanding towards each other. But the reality is that there will continue to be conflicts, and our forces will be deployed in still more places where reason has been overtaken by the emotions of envy, hate and fear. While ever we need to maintain an Army we will need the skills of the craftsmen to keep the punch in its fist.

And we will continue to share the bond of those skills, to wonder at the advance of technology and to play our part in the Forces team for the defence of our values. In the end, it all comes down to the value of people, and in our Corps and its associations we will continue to enjoy the fellowship of good people joined by a proud heritage.

Conrad Ermert



THE PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

I trust you all had an enjoyable Christmas break and keep your New Year resolutions, one of which I hope is to be more active in your Association and to take part in more of our functions.

As I pointed out in December, we still have a vacancy on the Committee and ask you to keep in mind that we will need new Office Bearers and Committee Members at our next A.G.M. in August.

We had 71 who attended our Luncheon to honor our Widows and Life Members last Sunday 12th March, with toasts and very interesting speeches from Ross Hope (Loyal Toast), Brig Conrad Ermert (The Corps), John Lee (Widows, Life Members and Guests), John Edelsten (responding to the Corps Toast), Ed Collins (LM) (responding to the Widows, Life Members and Guests Toast) and Max Moore (Departed Comrades and Absent Friends Toast). Many people stayed to enjoy the hospitality of the Sergeants' Mess afterwards.

I must thank those people who set up the room, it looked great and all the people who helped in the clearing up afterwards. Many hands make light work! Thank you also to the PMC Sergeants' Mess for his help and the use of his Mess.

You will have noticed that with this edition of 'The Lightning Flash' there is also included a laminated copy of things very dear to the heart of the Corps. We will be making available additional copies of this item at the same size for a cost of \$5.00 ea. (+ \$0.90 Postage). If you are interested, please let our Secretary Jack know of your requirements.

You would possibly know by now we lost Tom Money (LM) in February. He was the Corps eldest member. I was very proud of the fact that we had 24 members attend Tom's funeral at Preston and formed a Guard of Honor for him after the service.

I look forward to seeing you all on ANZAC Eve at our Annual Reunion (see Flier enclosed).

PROVINCIAL REPRESENTATIVE MEETING -

The next Committee and Provincial Representatives Meeting will be held at the South Bandiana Sergeant's Mess (the old RAAOC Centre) on Saturday 20th May 2000 commencing at 1 PM. This meeting is opened to ALL members who are cordially invited to attend and meet the Committee of Management. Come along and see how your Association affairs are conducted. This will be followed by a Social Evening (venue to be advised at this meeting).

We must thank Lt Colonel H. Hawson, CO HQ 4 B.A.S.B. Broadmeadows for his help, the help of his troops in rendering innocuous of our weapon collection and their remounting on the walls of Oakleigh Barracks.

PETER CARTLEDGE, PRESIDENT

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Leopet Plumbers

Props Leonie and Peter Cartledge

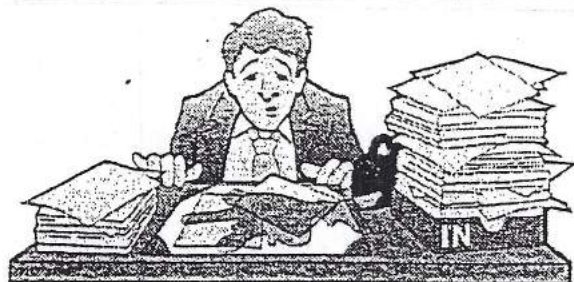
Residential & Domestic Fire Protection
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Thermostatic Mixing Valves
Waterwise Gasfitting

8 Neera Court, Glen Waverley 3150

The 'Lightning Flash' is your Newsletter.

AIR YOUR VIEWS

SHARE YOUR NEWS



THE SECRETARY'S CORNER

SEASON'S GREETINGS – In this our first issue of 'THE FLASH' for Year 2000, and upon entering into the new millennium, I would like to wish our many RAEME families and single members a happy New Year for the Year 2000 and that you all enjoyed a pleasant break from the rigours of 1999. Hopefully, you are now looking forward to a healthier New Year in the months to come.

MAILING ADDRESS – All Members are reminded that it is their responsibility to advise the Secretary of any change in Postal Address to ensure that they are receiving any relevant correspondence. Our Quarterly Newsletter is very well received throughout our membership also from Intra State Associations and hopefully read by all that receive a copy.

ASSOCIATION WIDOWS – It is always a sincere pleasure to hear from you and to let you know that the Association still cares about you no matter how far away you may reside. All Widows were sent our annual Christmas Cards which were very appreciatively received by all concerned.

NAME BADGES – These are always available for order at a minimum of \$10.00 ea. Please place your order through the Secretary. With our Year 2000 Annual ANZAC Eve Reunion in April soon approaching, those members who do not possess a Name Badge are reminded to obtain one prior to this forthcoming event.

ASSOCIATION JEWELLERY – Interested members are advised that stocks of Lapel Badges, Lady's Brooches and Pendants are still obtainable from the Secretary. There could be a few new items on sale at our Annual Reunion.

BOMBER JACKETS, POLO SHIRTS and CAPS – These are always available on order from Max Moore. Please remember to state your option of zipper or Press-Studs and your size. Base Ball Caps fit all size heads (Ha! Ha!).

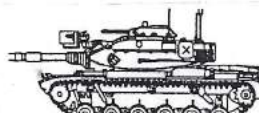
RE-ISSUE OF ASSOCIATION BOOK OF RULES – With the latest amendments to our Rules as at the 1999 AGM now having been approved by Corporate Affairs, this will mean a complete reprint of the Rules. Upon their publication, copies will be sent to all Financial Members at no cost.

OAKLEIGH BARRACKS DEPOT NEWS – Members are advised that 4 BASB 105 Fd Wksp RAEME has once again undergone another name change. It is now known as 4 BASB Wksp RAEME. With the change in title goes another era of Corps History.

4 BASB Wksp RAEME was originally raised as 105 Inf Wksp AEME in November 1948 at the Powlett Street, Trg Depot East Melbourne. Over the past 52 years, due to organisational changes in titles and locations, this latest change in title brings to an end another part of our Corps history. At the time of this recent title change, 4 BASB 105 Fd Wksp was, and still is, the longest continuous serving CMF AEME/RAEME unit in Victoria.

To the Officers and Other Ranks of 4 BASB Wksp RAEME - CONGRATULATIONS FOR YOUR FAITHFUL SERVICE TO YOUR COUNTRY AND THE CORPS, WELL DONE!

THE RAEME ASSOCIATION (Vic) Inc. 'LIGHTNING FLASH' PRIZE FOR A 'I WAS THERE' ARTICLE – Persons interested in winning the Prize Money of \$50.00 for the best of three articles submitted for publication, are hereby advised that this competition is still open to any willing subscribers. The closing date for articles to be submitted prior to the 2000 AGM is 14th July.



(Cont. from P.6 Col 2).

'THE HAPPINESS BOX' BOOKLETS -

These have been a good seller. The first 24 copies obtained were a complete sell out and another 24 copies have been placed on order. Don't let this deter you from sending in your Order Form. All requests for a copy will be actioned as they come to hand.

ANNUAL ANZAC EVE REUNION 2000 - (Refer Flier attached).

JACK WESTERNHAGEN, SECRETARY



MEMBERSHIP SUB-COMMITTEE

A cordial welcome is extended to our new Ordinary Member Gary Edwards M'Ship No. (068) from Murrumbena. We look forward to your company Gary at our future Social Events and our Year 2000 AGM in August.

ORDINARY MEMBERSHIP - Eric Adams, Eric Algra, Gus Allen, Peter Allen, John Ashburn, Jack Asker, Col Ron Bade, Douglas Barnes, Les Bailey, Jack Balsillie MBE, David Beattie, John Belfield, Frank Bell, Neville Bell, Jim Barnard, Gary Best, Ron Billing, Shawn Blanchford, Paul Bond, Don Bonsor, John Boothroyd, Rodney Bowen, Donald Brown, Kerrie Bullman, Lawrence Burley, Robert Burney, Eric Butler, Lyall Butling, Lt Col Brian Cahill, Peter Cartledge, Allen Charter, Neil Charter, Albert Chinnock, Noel Cilia, Dennis Clarke, Ivan Clarke, William Clarke, Ron Clifford, Bill Cole, Don Collins, Ray Collins, Lt Col Des Condron, Phillip Cook, Ray Cousins, Reg Cox, Frank Crocker, Robert Crocker, Lt Col Chris Cromack, Jim Crowe, Kevin Crowe, John Davidson, Ron Davies, Brig John Dean OBE, David Delaney, D. DeRosayro, Bruce Doolan, Bryan Dowel, Malcolm Drechsler, Brian Driscoll, James Duncan, Laurie Dunn, Keith Dyall, Lt Col John Edelsten, John Edwards, Garrv Edwards.

Brig. Conrad Ermert (Patron), Ron Fauvel, Albert Feathers, Cyril Ferne, Dave Field, Michael Fix, James Flood, Warwick Foletta, Rex Foord, Allen Freeth, Robert Fuller, Lt Col Wilfred Gill, Warwick Glendening, John Gooding, Alan Gostellow, Brig. Ross Grant AM, Fred Greenway, Bill Hall, George Hepburn, Bruce Hickson, Keith Holland, Bill Holmes, Ross Hope, Bob Hunter, George Hutchinson, Ron Hutton, Aranka Illia, Barry Irons, Victor Jaeger, David Jones, Edward Jones, Eric Jones, Roland Jones, Arthur Johnson, Rex Johnson, Ian Johnson, Bruce Johnstone, Alf Keevers, Ron Kelsey, Norm Keynon, Bob Kershaw, Michael King, Stan Konrad, Ken Lawrence, John Leckie, Col John Lee, Murray Lewis, Henry Lowther, Lindsay Lorimer, Lee Magnusson, Pat Marley, Robert Matejcic, Dennis Mayor, Jim McFarlane, Tony McKenzie, John McLean, Tony McNally, Vincent McNamara, James McRae, Jack Miller, Hubert Mills, Wes Missen, Andrew Moon, Kevin Moon, Tony Moon, Max Moore, William Morrison, Kiron Naug, Michael Newbond, Peter Nicholas, Lt Col Alan Nolan, Dennis Oakley, Lt Col Frank O'Brien, Ken Osborne, Berdg Papazian, Frank Parkin, Alfred Perrott, Swen Pettie, Charles Potter, Robin Radbourne, Barry Ridgway, Col Peter Robinson MBE, Hugh Rogers, Harry Ross, Ivan Royle, Bruce Scott, David Scott, Lt Col John Scully, Tony See, John Self, Steven Sherry, Bill Slegers, John Sloss, Diane Smith, Welton Smith, Noel Smithwick, Francis Smits, George Spiteri, John Stephens, Len Stephens, Westleigh Tabe, Walter Thompson, Brian Tingwell, Frank Towers, Col Peter Tremain, Jack Tuskin, George Vander, Garry Vapp, Graeme Vaux, Raymon Vaux, David Wain, John Walton, Ronald Waters, Garry Welsh, Jack Westernhagen, Crosbie Wheeler, Les Whitford, Stan Whitwell, Col Brian Williamson, Col Jack Wilson, Robert Wilson, Joseph Wisdom, Edward Woods, Jim Wylie. (Resignations received from Gordon Young (314) and John Ashworth (374). **(190 ORDINARY MEMBERS)**).

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS - Hazel Bailey, Thelma, Rodney, Carmen, Adam, Vivian, & Bradley Brazier, Leonie Cartledge, Rodney Challons, Norma Clifford, Wilma Cook, Roma Cox, Marilyn Field, Shirley Foord,

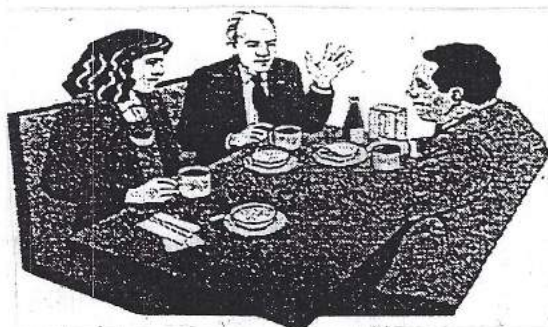
ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP (Cont).

Alice Kermonde, Lynn Lee, June Lewis, Margaret Long, Nancy Maggs, Jan Mills, Margaret Moon, Ray Moore, Julie Parisi, Rosemary Radbourne, Margaret Royle, Elaine Tingwell, Joan Wilson. Resignation received from Dorothy Avery (A301).
(27 ASSOCIATE MEMBERS).

LIFE MEMBERS – Doug Brazier, Bill Challons, Ed Collins, Norm Curtis, Ken Kermonde, Don MacLeod, Geoff Maggs.
Recent Bereavement Tom Money
(7 LIFE MEMBERS)

WIDOWS – Vera Binaisse, Margaret Buckley, Gwen Byron, Sylvia Colley, Ula Crawford, Isobel Dean, Heather Deery, Joan Dunwoodie, Philomena Hands, Norma Hill, Estelle Hollingsworth, Jean Mack, Lotte McCoubrie, Ivy Munro, Jessica Patching, Bernadett Pennant, Ray Pretty, Elsie Scott, Joyce Sneddon, Anne Snowball, Lillian Thompson, Barbara Treloggan, Heather Watts, Barbara White. (Recent Bereavement of Peggy Switzer. (24 WIDOWS).

JACK WESTERNHAGEN, CONVENOR

**WELFARE & BETTERMENT**

Peter Cartledge – On 18.12.1999, Our President was tested for all sorts of suspected complaints. The results of those tests were all clear. Great to see you are fit once more Peter.

Bert Chinnock – Is now in Caring full time. Good wishes to you Bert from your RAEME Association friends.

John Self – On 4.2.2000, I rang John at home who is waiting to be admitted to the Epworth Hospital in Richmond for a hip replacement

wished him well from the RAEME Association.

Tom Money – On 8.02.2000, my wife Roma and I visited Tom at the Heidelberg Repat Hospital. Members of the Money family were present as were friends of long standing, the Brazier family. Unfortunately at 3.15pm on 8.2.2000, Tom passed away.

Phil Cook – Was admitted to Warragul Hospital on Mon 21/2/00 with suspected heart problems. On Wed 23/2/00, he was transferred to the Cabrini Hospital Malvern, where a balloon type operation was carried out and he is feeling much better.

Mrs. Anne Snowball – One of our Widows broke her hip on 1st March and after a stay in the Mitcham Hospital is now convalescing at the Peter James Rehabilitation Hospital in Burwood Highway, Burwood East.



HOME HELP – Any member who is a Pensioner, or due to circumstances of ill health, or any Widow of this Association, that has a requirement for small handyman jobs around the house that they wish carried out; are requested to submit their requests to the Welfare Officer for consideration by the Committee of Management. A sample of the community service that could be carried out by this Association is shown in the above photograph.

REG COX, WELFARE OFFICER.



SOCIAL EVENTS SUB-COMMITTEE

There is not a lot to report since the December/New Year break and I do hope you all enjoyed yours.

Whilst my wife Leonie and I were away we called into Echuca to look at what it has to offer for our next trip away. We received a great deal of information from Mildura and intend to visit there also, staying over the week-end with our daughter and Son-In-Law. There has been some work done on the possibility also of going to Geelong, which looks very interesting.

Please let your Social Sub-Committee know of your interest and preference of which locations to visit as this will be a great help in putting these week-ends together. Your Social Sub-Committee is made up of Reg and Roma Cox, Ross Hope and Margaret Long, Max Moore, Leonie and myself.

We have had our Luncheon to honor our Widows and Life Members and made the mistake of having this luncheon during a long week-end. This will not happen next year, so I will set the date and please put it in your diaries now – it will be Sunday 18th MARCH 2001.

As you all must know by now, we lost Tom Money and Mrs. Peg Switzer over the past year. 7 of our Life Members attended the Luncheon. Unfortunately due to personal reasons and prior commitments only 2 Widows were present - come on ladies, we would like see more of you attend next year. In addition, 62 of our members, Associate Members and guests, (a total of 71 in all), did attend our Annual Luncheon. From all reports, those who did attend enjoyed the company on the day.

Our next Social function is of course our Annual ANZAC Eve Reunion held in the Officers' and Sergeants' combined Messes at Oakleigh Barracks. The Dawn Service the next morning will take place at 5.45am for 6.am. This will be followed by Breakfast in the gymnasium before boarding our hire coach for the journey into the City to attend the ANZAC Day Commemoration March. At the conclusion of the March, we will journey back to Oakleigh Barracks for a Light Lunch, I trust I will meet you all at that.

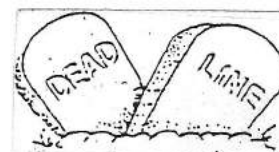
PETER CARTLEDGE, CONVENOR



EDITORIAL

Because of the significance of the Year 2000 being the new Millennium, your Editorial Sub-Committee have decided to make the APRIL 2000 edition of 'The Lightning Flash' a special edition.

'I WAS THERE' Competition - Because of the lengthy comments by Barry Irons on his two Tours – Gallipoli and the Western Front – I have decided to publish the first Tour in this edition and the second Tour will appear in a later edition. Thanks Barry for your submission we are always looking for likely stories to publish.



Material for the next issue of 'The Flash' Must reach the Editor not later than:

14th JULY 2000

JACK WESTERNHAGEN, EDITOR

HISTORY OF THE DAWN SERVICE

The Dawn Service on ANZAC Day has become a solemn Australian and New Zealand tradition. It is taken for granted as part of the ANZAC ethos and little wonder how it started. Its story, as it were, is butted in a small cemetery carved out of the bush some kilometres outside the northern Queensland town of Herberton.

Almost paradoxically, one grave stands out by its simplicity. A protective whitewashed concrete slab covers it with a plain cement cross at its top end. No epitaph recalls even the name of the deceased. The inscription on the cross is a mere two words – 'A Priest'.

No person would identify the grave as that of a dedicated clergyman who created the 'Dawn Service', without the simple marker placed next to the grave only in recent times. It reads:

'Adjacent to and on the right of this marker, lies the grave of the late Reverend Arthur Ernest White, a Church of England clergyman and padre, 4th Battalion, first Australian Imperial Force. On 25th April 1923, at Albany WA, Reverend White led a party of friends in what was the first ever observance of the Dawn Parade on ANZAC Day, thus establishing a tradition which has endured Australia ever since'.

Reverend White was serving as one of the padres of the earliest ANZACs to leave Australia with the 1st AIF in November 1914. The convoy was assembled in Princess Royal Harbour and King George Sound at Albany WA. Before embarkation, at four in the morning, he conducted a service for all the men of his battalion. When White returned to Australia in 1919, he was appointed relieving rector of St. Johns' Church in Albany. It was a strange coincidence that the starting point of the AIF convoys should now become his parish.

No doubt it must have been the memory of his first Dawn Service those many years earlier and his experiences overseas, combined with the awesome cost of lives and injuries, which inspired him to honor

Permanently the valiant men (both living and dead) who had joined the fight for the Allied cause. 'Albany', he is quoted to have said " was the last sight of land the ANZAC troops saw after leaving Australian shores and some of them never returned. We should hold Service (here) at the first light of dawn each ANZAC Day to commemorate them ".

The following are some statistics over which you may like to ponder.

First Australian Imperial Forces

Total Enlistments	416,809
Total Sailings	326,968
Total Deaths	56,767 (more than 14%)
Total Wounded in Action	166,789
Other Casualties	86,666

Military Decorations Awarded

63	Victoria Crosses
607	Distinguished Service Orders
2,373	Military Crosses
1,744	Distinguished Conduct medals
9,645	Military Crosses
1,174	Meritorious Service Medals
60	Distinguished Service Orders

The Australian population was only approximately 3.1million people. Nearly one in seven served the nation.

(EXTRACT from NSW Branch RDFWA)



FIRST WITH THE MRV

The U12450 (Medium Recovery Vehicle) has finally arrived and the initial conversion course has commenced.

Member's
Profile



**A TRIBUTE TO
JACK GILBERT WHITE, MBE Dec.**

Jack was born on 24.11.1917. At 18½ years of age, with some encouragement from his father, he presented himself for enlistment in the British Army.

He was determined to do well and quickly became indoctrinated under instruction by professional soldiers into the Armies' requirements for obedience, discipline and leadership. Jack's ultimate dedication to these principles resulted in his being promoted to the level of Regimental Sergeant Major Class 1.

Wing Commander G.E. Lillywhite AFC.AFM, commanding No. 344 (Glider) Wing RAF had this tribute to say about Jack.

'Quote' He filled a position, which is probably unique in service history, being the Regimental Sergeant Major of a RAF Glider Wing. This was a mixed formation, being composed some 400 odd pilots, both from the RAF and the Glider Pilot Regiment

and some 700 odd airmen, to carry out glider, aircraft servicing and general service duties. It will be appreciated that to control such a body, and to unite them into a fighting formation, called for qualities of firmness and fairness, of wisdom and tact of a very high order. That it was done, and that while it was being done, a very high 'Esprit de Corps' was created and maintained was largely due to the energy and ability of Sergeant Major White. As Station Warrant Officer he gave evidence of skilled supervision of works and general maintenance.

He is a good pilot of both gliders and light aircraft.

Before coming under my command, he was an instructor in the maintenance of heavy vehicles electrical, lamp circuits and searchlight equipment.

He had completed 3½ years pre-war (WW II) Territorial Service and has served with distinction all through the war, in the United Kingdom, Africa, Italy, Holland and India, being awarded the MBE for his services, his conduct being exemplary. (END OF QUOTE).

Jack (Chalky) White, after emigrating to Australia, joined the CMF. Such was his appetite for being involved with discipline and leadership. He was a member of our Association from 1991 until 25th May 1996 at the time of his death. He was always a strong supporter at our many social functions and is sadly missed.

Rest We Forget.

BLUEY & CURLY



Alex Gurney

'I WAS THERE' COMPETITION
A PILGRIMAGE TOUR OF GALLIPOLI
 (By Barry Irons M'Ship No. 325.)

Strange how some things work out, not quite the way you plan it or expect it to happen that way. Here I was standing on a strange sounding beach waiting for the dawn at Gallipoli for the ANZAC Day service, and touring the battlefields of the Gallipoli Peninsula. After all, this was supposed to be a cruise in the Pacific, some thing I had always wanted to do. Instead you find yourself at a place with a funny sounding name of Ari Burnu, this is the Turkish name for what you and I have come to know as ANZAC Cove.

We had left Tullamarine at 4.05pm in the afternoon, arriving at Singapore around 9.45pm. From Singapore we departed at 11.15pm, arriving at Istanbul the next morning (local Time) about 07.00am after a stop at Dubai some time in the early hours. (Travel time was 26 hours.)

If you want history, this is the place where it is at, more about that later. Istanbul is a city of some twelve million inhabitants, and is as diverse as anyone can imagine. The hotel where we were staying overlooked the historical straits of the Dardanelles after leaving Istanbul.

The Turks are loyal to their country and fiercely proud of their independence. Conscription is alive and well here, with no exceptions. To understand more about this you need to read and understand their history, starting with effect, from the Gallipoli Campaign. History of all kinds is rich in Turkey. You only have to visit the museum in the former palaces of the Sultans. The military displays are unparalleled, perhaps only in the Tower of London displays. Remember that this is a country of recorded history and conflict, well before the times of Christ.

Part of our tour was to visit the military museum of Istanbul, and to attend the stirring performance of a traditional Turkish band, which have a very distinctive style. If I remember correctly, they were at the

were pre-warned about an early start for the ANZAC Day service, but leaving the hotel at 11.30pm the night before? When we got there, we had a good position behind the official dais, although it was not evident at that time in the dark. As we approached the site, we could see fires burning on the foreshore. These turned out to be Back Packers and campers for the night on the actual beach where the landing took place.

Finally, the first hesitant streaks of grey light that heralds a new day started to edge across the sky. The MC, Maj. Ray Ashton, was waiting for the right time to start the introductory proceedings at about 5.30am. Mr. Ian Forsyth, Ambassador for Australia, did the welcome. The Governor-General of Australia, Sir William Deane, AC.KBE did the main address. Then came the prayer for peace and the Lord's Prayer. Various country representatives then laid official wreaths. Major-General Hatley AO, Australian Land Commander read the Ode, followed by the Last Post, two minutes Silence, and then Reveille. Then came the playing of the National Anthems, Istikla marsi (The Independence March), God Defend New Zealand, and Advance Australia Fair.

When the service concluded, you were then able to look around at this most famous and historical spot in the harsh light of day. The first thing that grips you is the cliffs facing you from the beach. Looking then to the right and to the left, still more cliffs that were given names that are forever etched into Australian military history, as part of the Gallipoli Campaign. What happened on this morning 84 years ago, needs no further telling from me. But let me say, seeing it at first hand, you wonder in complete awe how they could have possibly achieved what they did. And at what cost.

It is hard to realise now, that nearly 55,000 Australian soldiers served at Gallipoli, and tragically nearly 7,600 remained.

Next day we returned to the Peninsula knowing what to expect in the way of the terrain. But you were caught by surprise as you went from site to site where the

(Cont. from P. 12 Col 2)

fighting took place. Names that are forever engraved into the Australian military language. I speak of Krithia, Gaba Tepe, Achi Baba, the Nek, Quinn's Post, Johnston's Jolly, Lone Pine, Steels and Courtney's Post, where L Cpl Albert Jacka VC of the 14th Battalion was awarded Australia's first Victoria Cross of that war. Then from the 400 plateau, which looks to Mackay's Hill, Braund's Hill, Owen's Gully, Wire Gully, Bolton's Ridge, Walker's Ridge, Monash Valley and Popes Hill.

I walked down the track through Shrapnel Valley to the beach of ANZAC Cove, trying to resist the impulse to look over your shoulder down a path that some bloke called Simpson, did so many times in the past, and now lays buried at the beach cemetery. He was just 22 years old.

From the 400 Plateau, you look to the southeast, where lines Pine Ridge, Legge Valley, and finally Third Ridge. Third Ridge was the objective given to the Anzacs to take, but for seven long hard bitter months, it was seen but never taken. Only when you see the terrain and the conditions the diggers had to move over, you could understand why. Not the least, is the complete lack of cover.

Inevitably, the time came for us to leave this hallowed ground, before we do, let me read to you what is written on a large bronze display facing the roadway on the way to ANZAC Cove:

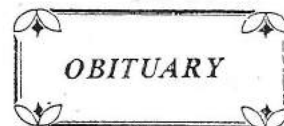
QUOTE: 'Those heroes that shed their blood and lost their lives. You are now lying in the soil of a friendly country. Therefore rest in peace. There is no difference between the Johnnies and the Mehmevs to us where they lie side by side. Here in this country of ours. You the mothers, who sent their sons from far away countries, wipe away your tears. Your sons are now lying in our bosom and are in peace. After having lost their lives on this land they have become our sons as well.' Ataturk 1934.
UNQUOTE.



Tom MONEY LM – 8.02.2000

President, Committee and members regret the passing of our special friend and colleague. Tom, at 99 years, was our oldest RAEME member. Deepest sympathy to his Daughter-In-Law Peggy and the Money families.

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



Peggy Switzer – 5.01.2000

Beloved wife of the late Harry 'DAD' Switzer Dec. President and members extend their deepest sympathy to Rae, Lea and their families.

*Gone, but not forgotten
As we think of you constantly.*

STOP PRESS

One of our members, Maj. Eric Butler Retd. is offering his Officer's Mess Dress (Winter) to any interested serving or retired Officer free of charge. Build medium size. Contact ☎ (03) 9585 0206.

(The following two articles are published at the request of members. EDITOR)

THE AEME COLOUR PATCH

In the British Army every Corps has a 'flash' of its own by which it can be distinguished. These 'flashes', worn one inch below the shoulder seam are 2½ ins. long and ¼ in. wide. These flashes were not mounted upon a battle-ship grey field background such as our AIF 'patches', since in Britain there is only one Army in war time, although in peace the Regulars are a separate force from the Territorials who are the counterpart of our Army Reservists.

A few of the more widely used British 'flash' colour schemes are mentioned below for your information:

Royal Artillery	- Red & Blue - red leading.
Royal Engineers	- Blue & Red - Blue leading.
Infantry and General Staff	- Red.
RAOC	- Red, Blue & Red.
RASC	- Red & Yellow.
Royal Signals	- Garter Blue & Yellow.

The Corps of Royal Electrical & Mechanical Engineers was formed from Officers and Other Ranks of the RE, RAOC & RASC all of which Corps had workshop components within their respective organizations and the AEME 'flash' incorporates the colours of those Corps in this order:

Blue from RE	Yellow from RASC	Red from RAOC
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AEME was predominately from AAOC (Mechanical Engineering Branch), but many of its personnel served in RAE and AASC, without whose help it would have been exceedingly difficult for the young AEME to have reached its present standard. The new colour patch therefore symbolizes the integration of RAE, AASC and AAOC components.

(EXTRACT AEME NOTES Vol 2 No. 2 APRIL 1946 - EDITOR).

THE RAEME BADGE

Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers have had two designs for their badge. From 1942 to 1947 it was the one below.



AEME used it as a model for its first badge with the initials changed and without the crown. It seems that it was never officially approved and it was not issued in three-dimensional form but it some times appeared on documents.

In March, 1945, AEME Notes reported that the DME was anxious to receive suggestions for an AEME Corps badge.

From May 1945 onwards suggestions began to come in and over the next twelve months drawings by soldiers of the Corps were published. Some of them are reproduced on this and the following pages, together with the names of their designers and the dates when they appeared in AEME Notes.



Anonymous, JUNE/JULY 1945



Cont. from P. 15 Col 2.



Cfn T.G. Black, September, 1945



Anonymous, October, 1945.
This design was to show what was correct
according to the laws of Heraldry.



Cpl S. Dury, November, 1945.



Anonymous, December, 1945.



Anonymous, December, 1945
(intended for a collar badge)



Colonel A. Milner & Lt. Colonel A.M. Short
January, 1946.



Sergeant R.S. Bird, APRIL 1946



Maj. H.L.C/. Martins JUNE 1946

It was accompanied by the information that investigations had been made to see whether a garter could be used instead of a circle at the base of the crown; this was found to be impossible because the Garter is a Royal Award granted only for outstanding service. Then came the

Cont. from P. 16 Col 2.

third birthday, but when normal conditions were attained 'The Corps hoped to receive whatever favours His Majesty the King might deem appropriate'. The statement was an anticipation of the "Royal" title two and a half years before it was bestowed.

In the event, none of the suggestions were accepted. REME changed its second badge in 1947 (shown below)



REME badge 1947 et seq.

In 1949 a design derived from it was officially adopted by RAEME. It was of two-piece construction, stood 1¾ ins. (44.6mm) tall, with the horse and globe in white silver-plated metal, and the remainder in gilt metal. Collar badges (pairs) were 1½ ins. (31.8mm) tall but otherwise identical. The difference between the British and Australian designs were that the globe in the former version showed all Europe including the United Kingdom.

In the latter, the 90th meridian was placed centrally so as to display the Australian portion of the Southern Hemisphere, and the RAEME initials were located around the horse's head to allow for three letters on the right.

It remained in this form until 1955 when it was redesigned with a different crown. This is the badge that is in use today.



The RAEME Badge

(Extract from Craftsman of the Australian Army: The Story of RAEME)

THE WW 1 TUNNELS IN YPRES, BELGIUM

By Reg Cox

While my wife Roma and I were on a world trip in August 1998, we were in Paris on R & R and decided to go to Belgium to see the Menin Gate.

At the Menin Gate each night at 8 pm., there is a Last Post Bugle ceremony sounded and the Belgian Police stop all traffic during the ceremony.



(The author is seen here standing on the right, with the Buglers and two British ex-Servicemen, Ypres, Belgium 19.8.1998)

The Menin Gate has inscribed on its walls the names of 56,000 Commonwealth soldiers who have no known grave from the battles.

In Belgium, we stayed at the Shell Hole Hotel run by an ex-British soldier and his Belgian wife. He has an amazing collection of WW 1 items from the Ypres battle fields, medals, etc.

Later in the evening while having a drink in the bar, the Publican asked us why we were visiting Ypres? Roma explained that her father saw service there in WW 1 with the Royal Engineers and had a certificate to that effect. The Publican said to a local friend of his at the bar, 'Will we show them the Tunnels?' (The locals only know about the Tunnels, they are not open for tourism).

At 12 O'Clock the next day, this friend took us to a field near the Menin Gate. In the middle of the field there was a large clump of stinging nettles and blackberries.

(Cont. from P. 17 Col 2)

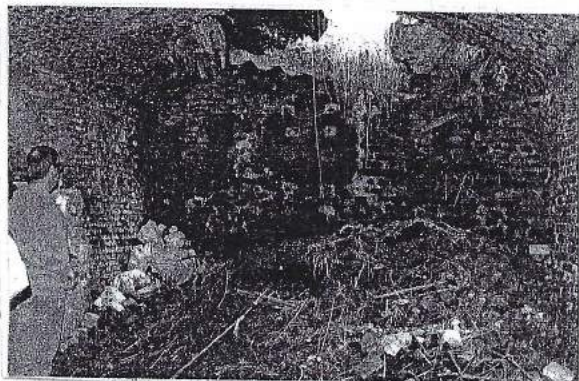
Rough steps led us down to a large rough door with 'VERBOTEN' written on it.



(Entrance to the Tunnels Ypres, Belgium)

Pulling that aside, we followed him into the tunnels, which he told us were built in the Middle Ages, to protect people and horses in various wars. The tunnels were built with small bricks domed and arched. We went through an archway where a baffle of a brick wall was built by the Royal Engineers for protection from shell blasts. With our torches shining on one wall he pointed out to us an inscription cut into the stone which read '55 Coy R.E. Ypres 1914-15-16'

In one section, the road had fallen in where the R.E. had repaired the shell hole, but after 80 years, the steel had rusted and fallen in.

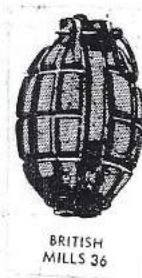


(One section of the Tunnels Ypres, Belgium 19.Aug 1998).

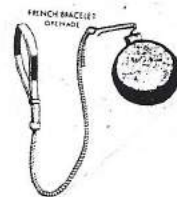
These Tunnels go for miles. An unexpected and amazing experience to our trip.

WEAPONS THAT MADE HISTORY

There were few dependable hand grenades available when the First World War started, and it was not until 1915 that the British Mills Grenade was developed.



Some of those in use before that were very dangerous, like the French Bracelet Grenade shown below. Before throwing, the leather loop was placed around the wrist. As the grenade left the hand, a hook pulled a wire out of the bomb and ignited the fuse. It was just as dangerous to the thrower as to the enemy.



(French Bracelet Grenade)



(German Rifle Grenade)

One German idea was the Rifle Grenade, which could be fired about five hundred yards from an ordinary rifle clamped to a special mounting. The idea was not a great success as many failed to explode.



A FURPHY

The truth about a furphy. If you have your doubts about someone's story, the chances are, even in this day and age, you'll say "it's a furphy". The reason? Well, it's one of those very Australian stories.

Furphys, a cast iron water cart, were created by John Furphy and were famous for the messages they carried, such as "Good. Better. Best. Never let it rest. Till your Good is better. And your Better - Best". Furphys made many products but the most distinctive product to carry the Furphy brand would have certainly been the water cart. The Furphy, was first produced in a foundry in Shepparton, Victoria, in 1884, and were eventually turned out in the thousands. The first carts found a ready market in Victoria and the Riverina and eventually found their way into all states. No similar article was, at that time, used in Australia or overseas.

The presence of the cart in military camps in Australia and overseas during the First World War led to the name of "Furphy" becoming an indelible part of our language and idiom. The cart was used extensively in Europe and the Middle East to carry water to the troops and the drivers of the carts were a notorious source of information and gossip for the news hungry men as they moved from camp to camp. As could be expected, not all their news was reliable, consequently, a rumour came to be known as a "furphy". Believe it? Well its fair-dinkum! The Furphy farm machinery business has been carried on now for generations.

The growing demand for agricultural implements prompted the installation of a furnace for casting components. This replaced the rather time consuming task of forging them. But the water cart was, in itself, the complete invention of John Furphy. The method of carting water in those days was confined to horse drawn arrangements of wooden casks or barrels placed on a skid or sled. John Furphy was an experienced wheelwright and he employed a similar method of construction for the water tank. It consisted of shrinking an iron band on the end casting to hold and tightly seal the cylinder or body of the tank,

body of the wagon wheel. The first end castings had the simple inscription "Furphy" in a small square at the top end of the plate. In 1890 this was changed to read "J. Furphy, maker, Shepparton". The value of advertising was recognised and raised lettering, listing the products of John Furphy was soon added.

In 1895 the "Good Better Best", rhyme was added. John Furphy not only used his invention to carry water but used the tanks as vehicles to preach against the demon drink, presumably aimed at secretaries who could read Pitman's Shorthand and who might be tempted by such evils. The Pitman Shorthand inscription which was added in 1910, translated tells the reader that "Water is the gift of God, but beer is a concoction of the devil, don't drink beer". But no doubt, knowing Australians, a few furphys were used to hold liquor over the years.

A modified version of a saying attributed to W.M. Hughes, the Prime Minister of Australia, together with an illustration of a stork holding a baby in traditional fashion was also added. The statement, also in shorthand, read "Produce and populate or perish". In 1925 a slight change was made in the middle right side of the mould. A keen eye can spot the pouring points and gauge the approximate era of manufacture. The Pitman Shorthand was also changed in this year to read "Water is a gift of God, but beer and Whisky are concoctions of the devil, come and have a drink of water".

A land grader was added to the list of products in 1930 and the date 1942 was added to the original inscription of "Born about 1880, still going strong, in that year". The date was dropped from the mould in 1960 and some products deleted from the list in 1965. The demand for new water tanks is still going strong today and during the dry seasons many old units are bought in for reconditioning.

The last of the original cast iron Furphy tanks were manufactured in 1983 to commemorate Shepparton's 150th Anniversary. Today's Furphy tanks are designed for more modern methods of transport, and are fully galvanised, but the basic construction remains the same as