

THE LIGHTNING FLASH

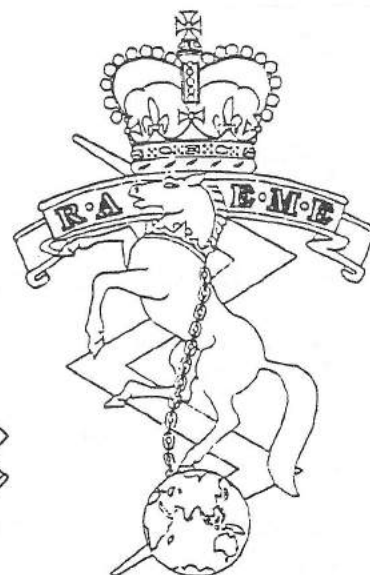
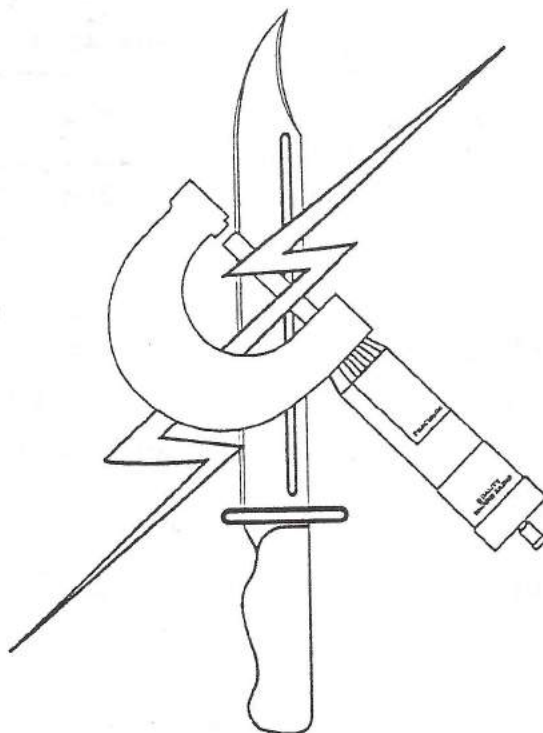
OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE RAEME ASSOCIATION (VIC)
PATRON Brig C Ermert ARMIT Mac FIEAust FAIM CPEng

Pres Col John Lee RFD ED (Ret'd)

ISSUE 6

Secretary Bruce Williams
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Mulgrave 3170

APRIL 1993



SOLDIER
and
CRAFTSMAN

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Official Publication of the RAEME Association (Victoria) Incorporation

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SEND IT TO US

THE 'LIGHTNING FLASH'
NEEDS ARTICLES
AND PICTURES



FROM YOUR STATE PRESIDENT ...

Due to an extensive overseas business trip, followed immediately by holidays, I missed out on having this segment in the last Lightning Flash. I hope that Xmas was enjoyable and that 1993 is being kind to you.

NOW A CALL TO ACTION.

Anzac Day is close at hand and with it the Anzac Parade through the streets of Melbourne to the shrine. A prime opportunity for us to satisfy the main purpose for which the Association was formed " To preserve the memory of those Comrades who have died on service".

It will always be up to the individual to determine how he or she will observe this historic and revered occasion, however I am making a special appeal to members to participate in the Melbourne march.

For the first time permission has been granted to parade the RAEME CORPS BANNER in the Melbourne Anzac March. A decision not taken lightly as it requires a guard of at least 100 armed soldiers who have to be rehearsed, quartered and transported for the occasion. The Corps Banner is not likely to be on parade for many years to come.

The Colonel Commandant ,Brig Ermert, will be leading the RAEME parade. Brig Ermert is also contacting all RAEME Associations in the state (there are seven in all) asking them to support the parade by marching behind the RAEME Banner on this occasion rather than their normal place in the parade.

We have, of course, accepted the the invitation and also the responsibility to marshal the various elements behind the Banner on the morning of the march.

The role of RAEME requires that it be fragmented during war and training for war. In peace we should try our best to be united as one in all things. Here is a golden opportunity, not only for all Associations to get together, but for serving and former serving individuals, Associations members or not, to come along and take part in the march.

I say again, I am appealing to all RAEME Association members and recipients of this issue of the Lightning Flash to make a special effort to march in Melbourne on Anzac Day and to encourage others to do the same.

Details of the march and Reunion are included in this issue. Hope to see you there.

Membership

If this Association is to continue to satisfy the purposes for which it exists (It's mission) then increased membership must be an on-going objective. The membership Sub-committee is John Lee(chairman) Bruce Williams, Bob Hunter and Max Moore. We have placed another notice in "Mufti" and hope that the result will be as good as the first. However while the sub-committee will continue its efforts it can only go so far. On-going success depends upon the individual members to make personal contact and enlist. A RAEME flyer, statement of purposes and application form are attached to this issue for your use. Those members who are still serving or working in Defense Departments you have a golden opportunity to get our flyer onto notice boards into messes etc. Please go to it and show us what you can do.

Your President, John.

The ANZACs of 1915

by A. Chapman

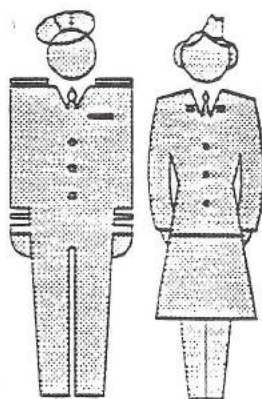
Since that fateful day in April 1915, many tributes have been paid to those who fought and died on Gallipoli shores during the early part of World War I.

The following are some of the more memorable of these tributes and observations, and which are considered worthy of again being presented at about this time of the year. They portray "Anzac" in a somewhat different light.

Turkey

Unlikely as it may seem, one of the most moving tributes came from the wartime Commander of the Turkish Forces, Kemal Attaturk, who in 1934, had a memorial erected on the shores of Gallipoli Peninsula, on which is embossed the following epilogue, dedicated to the fallen Anzacs.

*"To 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 Helms to us
where they lay 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."*



Attaturk, 1934.

Reciprocal monuments were also set up in 1985 in Canberra, A.C.T., Albany, W.A. and Wellington, in New Zealand.

Tributes

A British Wartime author, Ashmead-Bartlett, in his book "Dispatches from the Dardenelles", wrote as follows,

No finer feat of arms has been performed during the war, than this sudden landing in the dark, this storming of the heights, and above all, the holding on to a position thus won, whilst reinforcements were being poured from the transports. These raw Colonial troops, in those desperate hours, proved themselves worthy to fight side by side with the heroes of Mons, the Aisne, Ypres and Neuve Chappelle."

Truly a wonderful tribute, but at what a cost; for on the first day of the Gallipoli Campaign, of those 15 000 men put ashore, the casualties were over 5 000 wounded and 2 300 killed.

In another part of his book, Ashmead-Bartlett wrote,

told me that he could not praise the courage, endurance and soldierly qualities of his Colonials enough, and said the manner in which they hung on to the position the first day and night was a magnificent feat which has seldom, if ever, been surpassed."

Heroes

The Official Australian War Historian for many years, Dr. C.E.W. Bean, wrote, "Never in history was a campaign richer in pure heroism, and conscious self-sacrifice."

Another historian, describing the campaign, wrote as follows, "Had not the Anzacs been ordered away from the Peninsula, all the Forces of Darkness would never have availed to push them back into the sea."

A German military commentator, referring to the evacuation of the Australians and New Zealanders, when 40 000 men were evacuated over a period of several nights, suffering only 2 minor casualties, commented as follows;

"As long as wars last, the evacuation of Suvla and Anzac, will stand before the eyes of all strategists as a hitherto unattained masterpiece."

Shocking Lists

No Anzac address should be given, or no account written, without inclusion of the shocking casualty lists. It is here worthy of note, that in addition to the Australians and New Zealanders, other countries suffered extremely heavy casualties in the Campaign, notably England, France, and India.

About half a million Allied troops landed on Gallipoli between the first assault and the evacuation. half a million troops opposed them. In those 259 days, half of the one million men who fought on the Peninsula became casualties, about a quarter of a million men on either side.

Allied Casualties

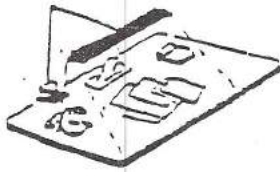
Australia	26 094	(including 7 594 killed)
New Zealand	7 571	(including 2 341 killed)
England	119 696	
France	27 000	

In addition heavy casualties were suffered by the Sikhs, Punjabis, and Gurkhas.

A British War Correspondents tribute is a fitting final quote. "All was done that men could do, but all was done in vain."

He added, "That is Anzac's Epitaph."

STATE SECRETARY'S CORNER



The year is again under way, with my thought now turning to our Reunion on 24th April '93 and of course ANZAC Day.

Preparations are now well in hand and in other areas of this Edition of the Newsletter more detailed highlights will appear.

But first things first, in the last edition of 'Lightning flash' we made mention that "No serving RAEME personnel were in attendance" this related to the Plaque Laying Ceremony held at the Oakleigh Barracks on Remembrance Day '92.

The facts are, there were several troops on parade including an attached Ordnance NCO. The preparations on our behalf was managed and handled by Capt Brian Miller and his Staff in a professional and enthusiastic manner and we thank you for that.

The comment should have been, "It is disappointing due to changes in the RAEME organisation that we don't seem to have any senior serving or non serving officers of high ranking who would be able to attend a function of this nature in Victoria now a days as it would appear, I am told, RAEME no longer, in this state anyway; have any high ranking serving officers available in Victoria as it is now commanded from NSW(2 Div). As I said, the comment was not meant to offend either the ARA or ARes staff at Oakleigh Barracks.

My Visit to Tasmania.... Whilst on business in Tasmania recently I took time to contact the Secretary of the Tasmania RAEME Association. No doubt he was surprised to hear from me, and as the explanation of my call continued, I started to feel total excitement and enthusiasm coming from the other end of the phone. I later found out, from the Secretary(?) that it appeared that this area of the Association seemed to have been overlooked.

We say Hi!, to all your committee and fellow members, and advise reciprocal rights are offered to your members - in fact to all members of other RAEME Associations around Australia. Tasmania had their AGM on Friday 12th Feb '93, hope it went well. Hopefully Tasmania is going to participate in

We are looking forward to receiving the first news items. RAEME Vietnam Association, 'Bluebell' December 1992.

An interesting letter appeared in the above Issue relating to our Association in Victoria I have included in this Issue the extract in full, but make no comment apart from saying we are in fact here for all Wars and Conflicts where RAEME have served, and that many of the Vietnam members are now members of our Association also: I think it is also fair to advise you that we have always had a good working relationship with the RAEME Vets. Association.

This is an extract verbatim from 'The Bluebell' and where comments appear in brackets they are from the Editor of 'the Bluebell' and NOT 'The Lightning Flash' or the Committee of your Association.)

The following letter is published but, it is to be pointed out that it is not, nor will it be (at this stage) the opinion of the current Executive.

Members,

The purpose of my submission is to bring to your individual attention, some of my thoughts gleaned from my past association with the Association and the knowledge I acquire due to my employment as a member of the Dept of Defence.

FIRSTLY THE PAST:-

It's not secret that the Vietnam Veterans community has had a rocky acceptance since 1972, but it's true to say that those days are behind us. Because of the atmosphere at that time, a few of us decided on ANZAC Day 1984, with a bit of amber help, to do something about it and so, for the first time, the RAEME Vietnam Veteran community marched as a separate group within the Vietnam contingent.

Later, at Chapel Street, after the March and a few pithy comments and suggestions, the Association was born.

The Inaugural Committee Meeting was held on 23 Sep '84 and consisted of Dennis Clarke (Pres), Noel Catheray (Sec), Bill Slegers (Treas) then John Forster, Bob Fuller and Graham McNeese. 'The Bluebell' hit the streets in Nov 1984. You all know what followed, the Welcome Home parade in Sydney, followed by the Melbourne March, Vietnam Veterans Day and, now, in Oct 1992, the Memorial in Canberra. between 1984 and now, a lot of people have done a lot of work. We were, and are, a success.

THE FUTURE:-

First let's get one thing straight, the next comments are not intended to denigrate the work that has gone

view to developing the future.

The following facts are relevant:-

- a. As an Association we are restricted to one conflict, Vietnam.
- b. Kuwait has already been added to the Memorial Wall at the Shrine in Melbourne and we have some RAEME Veterans but they are not eligible to enter our Association.
- c. The home of the Corps is still RTC, but the primary focus in Victoria is in the new depot at Oakleigh. (I query that very much. ED)
- d. The RAEME Association includes many members from other conflicts.
- e. Brig Ermert, previous DGEME, is patron of the RAEME Association in Victoria as well as Colonel Commandant of the Corps.
- f. There are no separate RAEME Vietnam Association (as distinct from the RAEME Association) in NSW. (We cover the whole of Australia. ED)
- g. The RAAOC Association is able to march under separate Banners but all congregate at Oakleigh after the March.
- h. The RAEME Colours, accompanied by a guard, will be present at the next ANZAC Day March (in Melbourne) - arranged, I believe, by Brig Ermert.
- i. While there are two separate Associations, there is a potential for disagreement and our must eventually die by virtue of our restriction to a certain conflict.

I, therefore, suggest that our future lies in amalgamation with the RAEME Association where we can bring our collective knowledge and experience to bear to help build a long lasting Association.

Then we would have an Association where all RAEME personnel, including those still serving, can be a full member.

Yours Sincerely, Bob FULLER

Members can feel free to send their comments to me, but please keep them reasonably short so that as many as possible can be published.

I should point out that Brig Ermert works for this

Editor Bluebell.

THE AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL FLAG ASSOCIATION

Late last year I was requested to publish the history and meaning of the Australian flag. Time and space hadn't permitted this but, indeed with ANZAC Day fast approaching, I have requested that it appear following my notes for this Issue. If you wish to be a member of the Australian National Flag Association, an application is included in the extract.

CORRESPONDENCE FROM QUEENSLAND

I recently received correspondence from Qld. The Association there I understand is not currently active, although attempts have been made to revive it. I am sure that I could say on behalf of our Association, and without committing them, the NSW Association, we would be happy to forward any information or help that you may need up there or in fact if the Association is not active, their members would be welcome to write to either of us here in Victoria or NSW with a view of joining our Association as a Full Member. We of course already have Qld members on our books.

As a note of interest, the Secretary of Qld advised me they proudly had a Surf Lifesaving Club named after the AEME Association in Qld, the address follows, any RAEME person attending Qld would be made welcome.

HAPPY 21st BIRTHDAY!

One of our youngest serving ARes members Cfn Darren Williams celebrated his 21st Birthday recently on 18 Feb '92 with 80 guests and family at the Mulgrave Citizen's Centre, where the young danced and celebrated into the early hours of the morning.

Darren's unit is 105 Fd Wksp.

BRUCE WILLIAMS, SECRETARY



The Lightning Flash
c/o The Secretary
Mr B Williams
6 Chestnut Crt
MULGAVEVIC.3170

Greetings Bruce

A copy of the Lightning Flash issue 3 found its way to me via Sam Gibbs (1945 Apprentice) and was of great interest.

Of the thirteen Victorian 1945 apprentices four were enlightened and settled in Qld ie. Bob Shedden, Iann Archer, Mocka Dunstan (died 1991) and myself.

Sad to say the Qld RAEME Assn has not flourished up here and from a brave effort about 1975 - 1985 it has gone into hibernation and I am left as Secretary acting President etc etc. But the Corps activities are being kept alive by a WO & SNCO Assn and the Anzac parade gathering. This years Anzac parade was most impressive with Cadets carrying the banner, 120 marchers and a regular soldier escort of 240. A build up from four years ago of up to 30 marchers only.

Enclosed is an article from Vol 1 No 1 The Craftsman 1978 listing the first 101 Apprentices. Yes where are they now, Note that the 1939 - 41 were AAOC, the 1945 were AEME and those after were Army Apprentices.

I look forward to coming to the 50th reunion of the 1945 Victorians. Another item of the little known Corps activity which may interest your readers.

On the Bold Coast Qld is the well established Mermaid Beachj AEME Surf Life Saving Club. Yes the official name includes AEME on the building etc.

Brief history is that around 1944 - 47 the "healthy" ones fled to the sand dunes for the weekend then slowly got "organised" to a point where some "spare" building material was "relocated" from Brisbane area and out of it all came a Surf Club.

Drop in if you are near as they have full bar facilities and meals, better than going to just another tourist hotel or club.

So once again greetings from the Northern Command (or whatever it now is) and we would appreciate it if you could send up future copies of your Lightning Flash.

Regards

Kevin Boase. 236 Chapel Hill Road
CHAPEL HILL Q 4069
Tel 07 3781083 27 Oct 92

*Birthday Greetings from our
Sister Corps - REEME*

TO: Representative COLONEL COMMANDANT, MAJGEN A.D.
POWELL, BRIG J. KINGSTON and all ranks RAEME.

FROM: Representative COLONEL COMMANDANT, MAJGEN D.
SHAW, MAJGEN M.S. HEATH and all ranks REEME.



Birthdays 

**HAPPY
BIRTHDAY!**



Many thanks for your kind felicitations on our 50th Anniversary celebrations.

Our own warm congratulations on your Golden Jubilee Year.

As comrades in arms we are sure our alliance will continue to flourish for the next 50 years and beyond.

Very best wishes to you all and Happy 50th Birthday.

Birthdays





NEXT MEETING

RAEME Association
(Vic) INCORPORATED

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

OAKLEIGH BARRACKS
1318 North Road,
OAKLEIGH SOUTH

Sun 29th August, 1993

(Note: Please be seated by 1100hrs.)

TO ALL MEMBERS

The above notice will serve to remind you of the Annual General Meeting on 29th August 1993.

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 years activities.

REMEMBER YOU MUST BE FINANCIAL AT THIS MEETING or your vote on any resolution may be classed as invalid. Subscriptions for the year 1 July 1993 to 30 June 1994 (\$10:00) can be paid on entry to the meeting.

It would help our financial management if those dues could be paid in advance of that meeting.

It should be pointed out that ALL members (except those honorary members of the Incorporated Association) are liable for the above dues.

To those members who used the previous Life Subscribers Fund for the purpose of paying dues we point out that that fund has been totally committed to the new Association. You are all therefore now required to pay your dues annually.

Editor.

On behalf of the Committee.

RAEME ASSOCIATION RE-UNION 1993

The 1993 re-union will be held in the Oakliegh Barracks on 24th April at 1930 hrs.

Admission cost will be \$5:00 which will cover all food and any administrative costs. The Sergeants Mess bar will operate and members can purchase drinks of their own choice at bar prices.

NOTE: The bar WILL CLOSE at 0100hrs 25th April.

On arrival, those wishing to stay the night MUST inform the member on duty at the door so that bedding can be organised. Bedding is limited and will be allocated on a "first in, best served" basis. Failure to advise that you intend to stay, on arrival, will mean that bedding will not be available for your use.

On entry, dues for 1993-1994 (\$10:00) can also be paid.

"Gun Fire" breakfast will be provided at no cost to those sleeping in the depot

Members please note that the armed escort for the banner will be practicing in the depot and care is to be taken to stay clear so as not to cause any difficulties.

The Workshop area is also strictly out of bounds.

A dawn service will be conducted at the Oakliegh Barracks followed by breakfast. This breakfast is available to all at a cost to be paid by each member partaking thereof.

Transport to and from the March has been arranged and the Transport co-ordinator is Max Moore. Those wishing to use this transport must communicate with Max as early as possible.

Remember the March starts EARLY, namely 0900hrs, so be on time for whatever part of the ANZAC functions you wish to join.

Transport for the infirm can also be arranged PROVIDED Max is contacted as soon as this document is received.

The assembly point be in Collins St between Swanston and Elizabeth Sts as per map on the reverse. Pick up point for return will be Cnr Birdwood Ave and Dallas Brooks Drive.

Remember to obtain your special ribbon either from the assembly point or in advance by mail. Contacts are:-

Max Moore	8 Padua Cert Glen Waverley 3150	Ph 802 9128
Bruce Williams	6 Chestnut Crt Mulgrave 3170.	Ph 561 8354
Jim McFarlane	364 Chesterville Rd East Bentleigh. 3165	Ph 579 3529
Jack Westernhagen	13 Erica Ave Glen Iris 3146.	Ph 509 5806

Please pass this information on to any RAEME/AEME ex-service man or woman you may know.

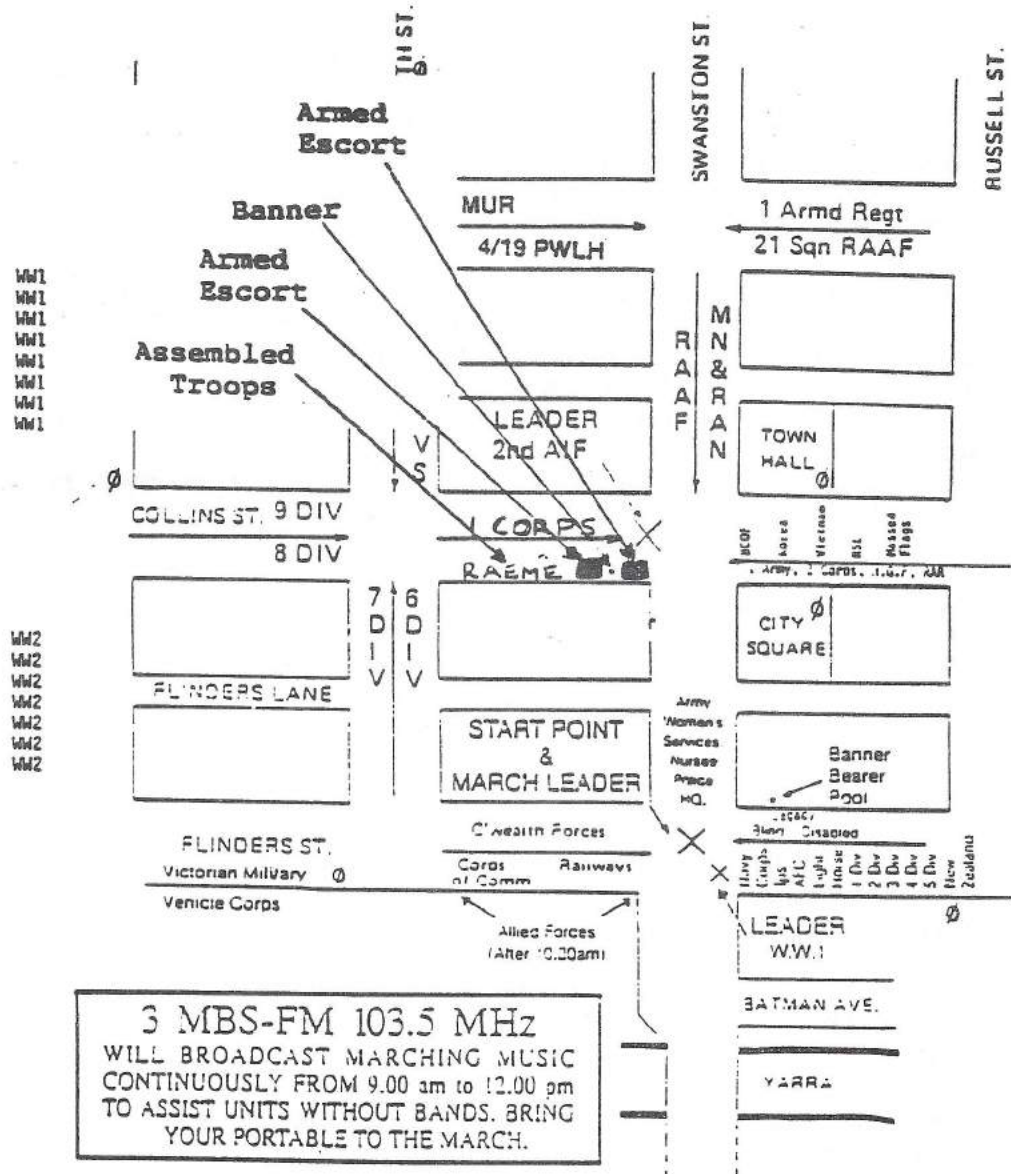
For the RAEME Association
John Lee, President

ANZAC DAY — ASSEMBLY PLAN — 1993

ANZAC DAY 1993

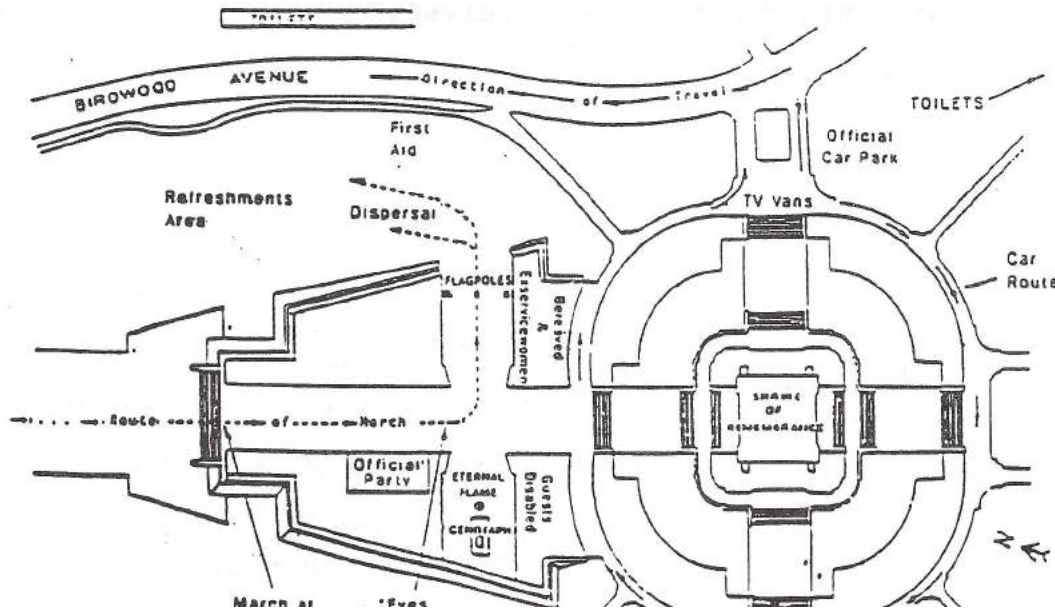
ORDER OF MARCH

Headquarters
 Police Ex-Servicemen
 Blinded Ex-Servicemen
 Disabled in Vehicles
 Australian White Ensign & Escort
 Royal Aust Navy
 Corps Troops (Incl AFC)
 Aust Light Horse
 1 Division
 2 Division
 3 Division
 4 Division
 5 Division
 New Zealand Section
 Legacy
 Army Women's Services
 Railways Ex-Servicemen
 Corps of Commissioners
 1 Armoured Regiment and Standard
 4/19 PWLM and Guidons
 MUR and Colour
 1 Corps HQ & 1 Corps Troops
 6 Division
 7 Division
 8 Division
 9 Division
 3 Division
 5 & 11 Divisions
 1 Army, 2 Corps, H.G.F.
 21 Squadron RAAF and Standard
 RAAF & WAAAF
 RAN, MH and WRANS
 British Comm Occupation Force
 Korea & South East Asia
 WRAAF
 Army Vietnam
 RAAF Vietnam
 RAN Vietnam
 Returned & Services League
 Massed Australian Flags
 Commonwealth Forces
 Allied Forces
 March Staff
 Victorian Military Vehicle Corps



SHRINE AREA, ANZAC DAY, 1993.

Public Toilets



MEMBERS PROFILE

As has been our custom in all issues of the Lightning Flash to date we are including potted histories of well known members of the Corps. In this issue we intended to give you details of the oldest member of the Association, Tom Money. Due to editorial difficulties I will not be able to do this but pledge that it will be published in our next issue.

The following are tributes to younger members who, I am sure are well known to all of us.

THE RADAR MAN

3166577 Warrant Officer Class 2, James Harold Breeze, OAM, RFM, EM enlisted with 14 National Service Training Battalion on 6th January 1954 having spent previous years in the senior school cadets. After 90 days initial training he was posted to 40 Heavy Anti Aircraft Regiment (40HAA) RAA at Coburg in Melbourne's northern suburbs.

Initially GNR Breeze served as a Technical Assistant, Royal Artillery (TARA) (CP operator for anti aircraft) where he learned to mirror write on aircraft plotting boards.

He was promoted to temporary Bombardier on 20/10/57 and three months later to temporary Sergeant.

With the disbanding of 40HAA in 1957, SGT Breeze transferred to 132 Div Loc Bty located at Batman Avenue, Melbourne. SGT Breeze was made substantive Sergeant on 7th June 1959 and on 24th January 1963 he was promoted to Warrant Officer Class 2.

During a camp in 1967 CAPT Snowball from 15 Fd Regt helped start a unit workshop for 132 Div Loc Bty. WO2 Breeze, a qualified radar mechanic and electronics technician made constant use of the workshop facilities for equipment repair. In that same year WO2 Breeze was awarded an efficiency medal.

In 1971 WO2 Breeze completed a corp transfer to RAEME to become ASM of 132 Div Loc Bty, then located at Landcox St, Brighton. In 1986 WO2 Breeze was awarded 2 clasps of the RFM. He held the posting of ASM until 132 Div Loc Bty was disbanded in 1987, a period of 16 years. He is the longest serving member of 132 Div Loc Bty and holds the twenty-sixth number ever issued by the Bty.

WO2 Breeze then transferred to 2/15 Fd Regt in September 1987.

Now after 37 years service to the Army Reserve, 17 served with RAA and 20 with RAEME, WO2 Breeze has retired.

Of great significance during this lifetime of service to the Defence Force of Australia was the awarding of an Order of Australia Medal on 26th January 1979. This medal was awarded in recognition of his application of exceptional civilian skills to enable 132 Div Loc Bty to train and exercise over many years at a level that would not have otherwise been achieved.

The award goes on to state:-

"In the early days of locating, no mortar locating radar was available in the Australian Army and WO2 Breeze was instrumental in conversion of a number of aircraft tracking radar (3MK7) to this task from designs developed by Unit Officers. This design was accepted by the Regular Army and incorporated in all subsequent modifications."

Jim's reserve army career has been supported by his wife Barbara and their children. Amongst Jim's personal interests is his membership of the Templestowe RSL.

From his many friends in both RAA and RAEME Corps we wish Jim well in his retirement.

THE MAN IN THE WRECKER

WO1 Brian (Tinga) Tingwell, a staff member at RAEME training centre, retired on 11th July 1992 after 36 years of service.

Brian began his Army career with the 20th National Service Battalion on 3rd January 1956 as part of a compulsory National Service program. After joining the Army he was posted 19 times throughout Australia in Land, Logistic as well as Training Command postings. Brian also saw service in both Vietnam and Papua New Guinea.

A formal Farewell Dinner was held in the RAEME Corps Sergeants Mess on 26 June 1992. This dinner celebrated his service to the Army and commiserated with him on reaching the end of his career. As testimony to his achievements, in excess of ninety guests attended from around Australia to officially say farewell.

During Brian's outstanding career he was awarded the Vietnam Medal, Defence Force Service Medal, GOC Field Force Command Commendation and a Commanding Officers Commendation from the RAEME Training Centre.

Prior to his retirement, WO1 Tingwell has been working as the OIC Recovery Section. During Brian's time at RAEME Training Centre it was noticed that Brian considered himself a budding capitalist as he endeavoured to establish a trout fishing farm in the Vehicle Wing wading pool. This enterprise was undertaken with the SI of Vehicle Wing at the time, MAJ Mark Martin, in order to establish a trout fishing day for the hard working Vehicle Wing staff.

Vehicle Wing, on behalf of the Corps and the Recovery trade, would like to say 'thank you' to Brian Tingwell, not only because of the work that he has done during his time with the Army, but also his invaluable advice and expertise which he has freely offered to all members of the Defence Force.

We take this opportunity to wish Brian, his wife Elaine and family, good luck and best wishes for the future.

Brian now lives in the Albury/Wodonga area.

//

SICK CALL

Harry (DAD) Switzer

All old Comrades from
Chapel Street Trg depot
days will be sorry to

hear that 'DAD' is not
in the best of health
and has been admitted
to:

CURANDA

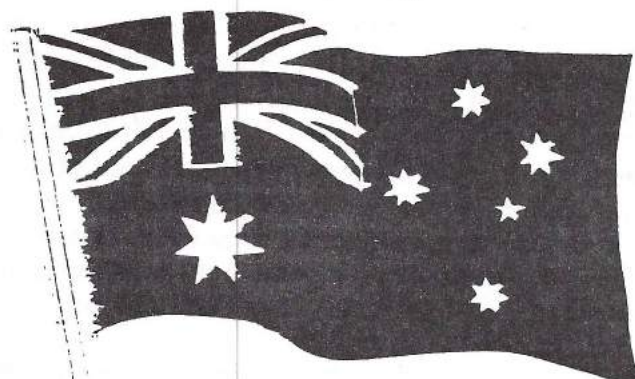
Private Nursing Home
466 Burwood Highway,
WANTIRNA SOUTH 3152

Harry is 76 yrs, but he
would still like to hear
or see any old friends of
bye gone days.

Harry's wife, Peg, may
be contacted on
729 1328.

We all extend our sympathies to Harry and his family and hope things work out OK for them. While on the subject of ill health and, indeed, any other causes of hardship or distress, don't forget about our Welfare and Betterment capacity. If any of these unfortunate events happen to you, or any other member of our Association, contact Jim McFarlane who is the Welfare and Betterment representative on the Committee. If the cause of your distress comes within the criteria of that fund Jim has undertaken to follow those avenues for your wellbeing. But he is NOT a mind reader, you must tell him of the problem, then he can take the necessary steps.

Keep Our Flag
Flying



The Australian
National Flag Association
Victorian Division

THE AUSTRALIAN
NATIONAL FLAG

Foremost symbol of
our nationhood

"... whose standard flies.

Where the clean surge takes the Leeuwin

Or the coral barriers rise ..."

(Rudyard Kipling)

History and Meaning

The Flag of Australia, the winning design in a contest which drew some 32,000 entries, was created in 1901 at the same time as the Commonwealth of Australia itself was inaugurated under the slogan

"One People: One Destiny: One Flag".

It was a Flag that had been a whole 400 years in the making, beginning with the Union Flag of England and Scotland and ending with the emblazoning of an ingenious and striking device of stars.

The Flag was accepted immediately by the people and, although originally intended mainly for use by the Government and Armed Forces, by 1947 it had become so immensely popular that the Prime Minister, Mr. J. B. Chifley, declared it was to be flown "freely" and "with appropriate respect". In 1953, the Prime Minister, Mr. R. G. Menzies, and Opposition Leader, Mr. A. A. Calwell, both strongly supported The Flag Act, signed personally by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, which designated the blue ensign to be The Australian National flag was proclaimed by Act of Parliament and acclaimed through the length and breadth of the land as the symbol of a fully independent and autonomous, mature and united Australia.

Some people today talk rather vaguely about "having our own flag" because we are now "grown-up" and independent.

If they were more familiar with Australian history they would know that we gained our Australian National Flag in the first place for the very reason that we were then already grown-up and independent, it simply isn't true that our parents were not just as mature and patriotic Australians as we are.

History shows in many ways that they were, some would say, more so. Certainly, our generation would not be acting as responsible, grown-up people by tearing up our birth certificates and disowning our parents, family and friends. "A sign of true maturity is a proper perspective about values, goals, achievements and relationships" (Dean Emeritus T. W. Thomas).

A nation's flag, if it is a good one, is not only distinctive and pleasing in design but, more significantly, tells the important things about that nation. The flags of many nations look much the same and their meaning is quite obscure but - just look at our Australian National Flag and think about it for a minute, and you will realise very quickly that it is recognisably Australia's flag and no other country's.

The Union Jack, Southern Cross and Commonwealth Star tell us the important things about Australia; together they reveal our national character and clearly distinguish us - our history and geography, our founding and federation, our true entity and identity.

THE UNION JACK The Union Jack which incorporates the three Crosses of St. Andrew, St. George and St. Patrick, symbolising the spiritual attributes of loyalty, chivalry and devotion, is the most illustrious of all flags but, more directly relevant to us, the Union Jack is the flag under which each of the six Colonies on the Australian continent had been founded. It affirms our Christian and British origins, culture and institutions - the Crown, Parliament, common law, religion, language and literature - which are the enduring foundations of the liberty we enjoy. It reminds us, too, that it was the people of the British Isles who ventured as far as this remote, unknown continent, not just to look for trade and riches and return home but to settle, explore, pioneer and civilise this harsh primitive land and to found, inspire, defend and prosper a virile new nation.

Above all, they gave us the highest form of democracy devised by mankind: Sovereign with Parliament.

The exploits and fortitude of these British men and the courage and devotion of their womenfolk is a source of inspiration to all generations of Australians.

Their proud descendants later were to open their gates and hearts to millions from less-happy lands coming here to share in our freedom and good fortune.

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

- 4 Application to be forwarded to: The Secretary,
The Australian National Flag Association — Victorian Division
Anzac House — 4 Collins Street,
Melbourne, Vic. 3000 Telephone: 650 5050

NAME PLEASE USE BLOCK LETTERS

ADDRESS

POSTCODE TELEPHONE

MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES

Joining Fee ☐ \$10.00 Ordinary
No Annual Subscription ☐ \$15.00 Family — includes parents
and dependant children
residing at same address

☐ \$5.00 Pensioners/Students

☐ \$100.00 Corporate

I enclose my cheque for \$

payable to "Australian National Flag
Association" — Victorian Division)

SIGNATURE DATE

BE A PROUD AUSTRALIAN — FLY THE AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL FLAG

I received this letter just after Christmas:-
Dear Bob,

It is always a nice feeling to receive the LIGHTNING FLASH and read about the happenings in the RAEME Association. Many times I wish I was still serving in my beloved Corps; I miss the comradeship and Esprit de Corps and deeply appreciate the continuation of the Association and the functions, social and regimental. These functions show that the spirit of RAEME will remain forever.

Although I am still attending my theological studies I assure you I will support the Association in any way I can. I do have to, at times, toss a coin to check my priorities but I am sure you will understand.

I take this opportunity to wish you, and all the hard working members, especially John Lee and Max Moore, a successful future and I promise I will attend whenever I can to renew the



Application for Membership of RAEME Association of Vic Incorp.

I,
(Full Name of Applicant)

of Ph: Home Bus
(Address)

..... desire to become a Member
(Occupation) of the RAEME Association.

Last Serving Unit Service No

Medals and Decorations

In the event of my admission as a member, I agree to be bound by the
Rules of the Association for the time being in force.

..... /..... /.....
(Signature of Applicant) (Date)

I, a Member of the Association,
(Name) Nominate the Applicant, who is personally known to me, for membership
of the Association.

..... / /
(Signature of Proposer) (Date)

I, a Member of the Association
(Name) Seconded the nomination of the Applicant, who is personally known to me,
for membership of the Association.

..... / /
(Signature of Secunder) (Date)

Joining Fee \$

Annual Fee \$

Total paid \$

Date Paid



THE LIGHTNING FLASH

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