

# THE LIGHTNING FLASH

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

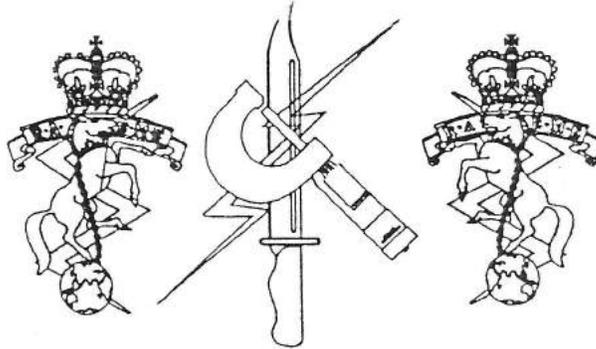
PRESIDENT: Bruce Williams (561 8354)

SECRETARY: Jack Westernhagen (509 5806)

EDITOR: Jack Westernhagen (509 5806)

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SOLDIER and CRAFTSMAN

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don't forget

Friday 11th Nov '94  
REMEMBRANCE DAY  
OAKLEIGH BARRACKS  
Demonstration and  
Canberra Trip Re-union  
7.30 pm START

Sunday 27th Nov '94  
ANNUAL XMAS FARM  
DAY & B.B.Q.  
JINDIVICK NORTH  
10.00 am Onwards

Sunday 26th Mar '95  
50th Anniversary  
End of WW2 Dance  
"Australia Remembers 1945"  
Oakleigh Barracks.



#### THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE . . . .

Well Hi!... It seems strange to be sitting here and speaking to you as the President of the Association, but nevertheless here I am. It doesn't seem that long ago since we decided to Incorporate our Association. We should all be thankful to those members who had the foresight to see we needed a change of direction and for that, our thanks should go to our Immediate Past President, and Don MacLeod who really worked hard at the time to see that our future as members of "The Corps of RAEME", was protected in many ways.

Changes come too quickly now days and when I look back over that time, it could never have happened without our members electing the right people to carry the Association on. You should be proud of yourselves, as the members elected at those First, Second and Third A.G.M. Meetings were all extremely caring and hard working for the Association - good choices by you the members.

Now, for the year ahead. It has always disappointed me that more members don't attend our A.G.M.'s. This meeting is your opportunity to see that the Committee of Management are carrying out their duties in an efficient manner, and it is a place to air your views. Therefore, it is in your interest to attend and protect your investment in the Association, especially now that this day becomes a Social Day for all members and their families. It was pleasing to see more members and family attending this years A.G.M., it should be nice to think that we can continue to build on those numbers as years go by.

You will receive a letter from me so I will not say much more about the A.G.M. - except to again request your support at all meetings or social functions to help keep our worthy Association alive, as your support is very important to the existence of our Association.

In that letter, I purposely left out talking about my companions and back-stops, let me introduce them to you.

Firstly, my wife Sandra, who has been most supportive in my role as Secretary, in fact,

unofficially she was the Assistant Secretary, as many of you would know when you made contact with us by phone. Sandra could always, in my absence, give the answers to your question and is always most helpful. She takes pride in being an Associate Member and works behind the scenes very hard for us. I am confident, that in my role as President, Sandra will support my every move.

Then, just as supportive there are Darren and Jason, my two sons.

Darren is our eldest son and is a Recovery Mechanic with 105 Fd Wksp and also a proud member of the Association. In civvy street, Darren is a Carpenter by trade, (he is just about to start his own maintenance business to be known as D & R Versatile Maintenance), at the same time, Darren is a very keen ballroom dancer and has won trophies in many competitions around Victoria and New South Wales. He is also a very keen basketball player.

Jason, the youngest son, is an Apprentice Screen Printer. He is also into basketball and a very keen and proficient ballroom dancer also. When friends walk into our lounge room, they cannot help but to admire the amount of trophies on display which have been won at competitions around Australia by both boys and their partners.

Well, that is my family. I am proud to say, all of them are very supportive of my involvement in The RAEME Association.

My first official role as President was one of a sad nature, as during October, our oldest serving Life Member, Les McCoubrie, passed away. His funeral being attended by Harold Chamberlain, Jack Westernhagen and myself.

Les and his wife Lotte, were very hard workers for the Association in it's early days. Lotte told me recently, that the social function of the year for them, were the dances that were held at the Chapel Street Depot on Cup Eve. Both Les and Lotte are well into their 80's, and have not been able to attend functions in recent years, they have greatly missed the comradeship of what the Association was all about. (See member's Profile page 7 )

Your condolences were passed onto Lotte and the family, and I am sure that if any of our members who enjoyed those days or served with Les in the 2/2nd Fd Wksp, Lotte would be pleased to hear from you. She can be contacted via either myself or the Secretary.

The Life Membership Medallion we have just struck, will be presented to Lotte in the near future.

Although later in this edition you will hear about coming social functions, therefore, I appeal to each member to give us your support as your attendance is relevant to all functions organised on your behalf.

Coming attractions are - In the morning on 11th November 1994 Remembrance Day Observance at 10.30 am Oakleigh Barracks; In the evening 11th November 1994 is a Demonstration, Combined Social and Re-Union of the 1993 Canberra trip; 27th November 1994 our Annual Christmas Family Farm Day and BBQ at Jindivick North; and 26th March 1995 the 50th Year Anniversary Dance of the Cessation of Hostilities (1945-1995) at Oakleigh Barracks. More in the Social News following.

Let me introduce you to your new Committee of Management for 1994/95:-

#### EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE -

Bruce Williams	(President)
Mal Drechsler	(Vice President)
Jack Westernhagen	(Secretary)
Aranka Illia	(Treasurer)

#### COMMITTEE MEMBERS -

Geoff Maggs, Max Moore, Alan Freeth, Bill Slegers, John Belfield, Reg Cox, and Peter Allen.

Full introductions will appear in the next issue of "The FLASH".

As this is our last edition for 1994, may I take this opportunity to wish you all a safe and prosperous Christmas and New Year from myself and family.

**BRUCE WILLIAMS, PRESIDENT**



#### THE SECRETARY'S CORNER

I would like to add my congratulations to those of the President's to the 'Incoming Committee' of Management for 1994/95.

Business as usual - all communications should still be addressed to the P.O. Box number below, otherwise we may not receive your correspondence:-

The Secretary,  
RAEME ASSOCIATION (VIC) Inc.  
P.O. Box 794,  
MULGRAVE 3170

Whenever new Office Bearers take up their appointments the question will always arise.... "what kind of job will that person do?" why don't we wait and see for ourselves, - meanwhile give them all the encouragement and support we need as a united Association.

#### 1994 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

42 members, plus their partners and families attended our '94 A.G.M. Appologies for the oversight of having it on Father's Day, but that will be rectified with the date now set as SUNDAY 27th AUGUST 1995.

There was a very important agenda on the day, in which proposed amendments to our Constitution were put forward by the Committee of Management for acceptance by those members in attendance.

#### PRESENTATION OF OUR PATRON'S MEDALION

A short address was giving by our Patron, Brig Conrad Ermert, he thanked the "outgoing President", John Lee, for his stalwart leadership and the progress the Association had achieved under his 3 years tenure as President.

John Lee thanked Brig Ermert for his words of appreciation, not only to him, but of the Association's sterling efforts in keeping the Corps of RAEME alive and the continued recruitment of members. John Lee then officially presented the Association's Patron's Medallion to Brig Ermert.

#### NEW LIFE MEMBER

Say hello to our new Life Member - who??? Ken Kermonde of course. See the September issue for Ken's Profile.

Well done Ken, you deserve the honour. Ken has served continuously on Committees since 1946.

#### ELECTION OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Directly after the 1994 A.G.M. was concluded, a short "Incoming Committee of Management" meeting was held wherein the Executive Committee was elected for the forthcoming year. A brief biography of those members so elected will appear in our next issue. **SO WATCH FOR IT.**

### PRESENTATION OF OFFICE BEARER'S BADGES

With the formalities of electing the Executive Committee completed, the Incoming Committee of Management joined the members and their families in the Sergeant's Mess where the "Outgoing President" John Lee officially presented the President's Badge to Bruce Williams. Following a short speech of appreciation on his election as the new President, Bruce in turn, performed the same honour to the "Incoming Secretary" yours truly.

### LIFE MEMBERSHIP MEDALIONS

Bruce's first official duty as the newly elected President for 1994/95 was to present the following Life Members with their Association Life Members Medallions to Tom Money, Geoff Maggs, Harold Chamberlain, Ed Collins, and the new life member, Ken Kermonde. Life Membership Medallions are still to be presented to Charlie Hill, Bill Challons and Les McCoubrie, who, at this time was in Sunshine Private Hospital.

### FAMILY B.B.Q.

As in the past, following the A.G.M. the Committee of Management once again provided a most enjoyable B.B.Q. for members and their families. With the help of the wives of Committee members and the B.B.Q Chefs, Max and Jenny, the tables were laden with salads, sweets, tea and coffee beneath the newly constructed Training Facility outside of the three Messes. A very enjoyable social afternoon took place.

What 'lucky' person again drew her own winning raffle ticket at the first draw - John Lee's young daughter Remeeka, once again lived up to her reputation of having a winning streak - perhaps we should write a set of rules concerning the person drawing their own winning raffle tickets HA! HA!

### RAEME WOs & SNCO's ASSOCIATION (VICTORIA)

As circulated in the September issue of "The Lightning Flash", the 20th Annual AGM and Dinner was held on 10th Sept '94 at Puckapunyal. There was an attendance of approximately 60 members at the Annual Dinner in the 1st Armd Regt Sergeants' Mess. Guests were Brig. John Dean OBE, former Corps Director and Patron of the RAEME WOs & SNCO's Association, Brig Conrad Ermert, also a former Corps Director and Patron of the RAEME Association (Vic) Inc. and Col. Ross Grant, our new Corps Director. A most enjoyable evening was had by all.

### JACK WESTERNHAGEN, SECRETARY



### CONTRIBUTIONS BY MEMBERS

The Editorial Staff have received a few articles by members, but there must be many more tales to be told of old unit activities in the past and some old and not so old photographs just laying in drawers that need airing in our publication. Please identify those members in the photograph when submitting them for publication . . . How about it??

It is sometimes necessary to edit the letters we publish unless it is expressly stated otherwise. Needless to say, the views of letters expressed herein do not necessarily express the views of the Editor or the Association. Finally, as a rule, shorter letters are preferred (less than 300 words.)

### READERS FEEDBACK

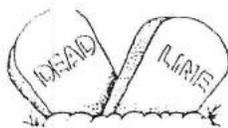
Are there any other articles of interest that would appeal to you, the members, which you would wish to see published? All comments and suggestions play an important part as a guide to your Editorial Committee in putting together a publication such as ours that is acceptable to the majority of members.

Don't remain voiceless. **THIS IS YOUR NEWSLETTER** and you have a right - if not an obligation - of informing your Editor of what you would like to appear in each edition.

**SICK PARADE ADVISE** Please inform your Committee of Management of any member who is on Sick Parade and may need assistance.

### LAST ISSUE FOR 1994

Members are advised that this is the final Issue for 1994. Read the Social column very carefully for details of coming social activities for the future.



February 1995 Issue 13

DEADLINE for submission of articles is the  
15th JANUARY 1995

JACK WESTERNHAGEN, EDITOR



### SOCIAL

This year we have brought all Social Sub-Committees under the one umbrella (Social-Special Events-Re-union and ANZAC Day) and will be known as the SOCIAL/SPECIAL EVENTS COMMITTEE. Comprising of Committee Members, Members and Associate Members.

Their role will be to plan and co-ordinate Social Events of our Association - to combine with other Associations and Depot activities for Special Events - to plan Re-union and Anzac Day.

### SOCIAL/SPECIAL EVENTS NEWS

Committee for 1994/95

Max Moore (Convenor), Bob Hunter, (Secretary/Treasurer) Reg Cox, Geoff Maggs, Alan Freeth, Ken Kermonde, Jenny Moore, Roma Cox, Sandra Williams, Alice Kermonde, Mary Westernhagen.

REMEMBERANCE DAY 11th NOV '94

Time: 7.30pm at the Oakleigh Barracks. Combined Social RAEME Association and Old Sappers Association. Demonstration - Re-Enactment of the Internment of the Unknown Soldier as conducted in Westminster Abbey in 1920. Also a Re-union of those who travelled to Canberra for the Entombment of the Unknown Soldier in Nov 1993.

ANNUAL CHRISTMAS FUNCTION 27th NOV 1994

Bill Slegers farm, Jindivick North. (location map included in this issue of the "FLASH") Time 10.00am onwards. B.Y.O. EVERYTHING.

Father Christmas will be in attendance so when you bring your children, grandchildren or other young ones, parents are requested to bring a present (maximum value of \$10.00) wrapped

and clearly named for SANTA to distribute.

Bring your Camera, sunscreen, hats, aerogard and gum boots for younger children. Free farm tour and hay ride will be conducted.

50th ANNIVERSARY DANCE

An old fashion dance to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the end of the WW 2 is in the advanced planning stage.

Date: SUNDAY 26th MARCH 1995

Timing: 2.00pm to 8.00pm, further details will be advised.

RE-UNION SUNDAY APRIL 23rd 1995

MAX MOORE. Convenor

### THE OFFICERS' AND SERGEANTS' TRUE XMAS SPIRIT

There were whispers in the tent lines,  
As we heard him moving around,  
REUBIB asking black or white,  
As he brought the tea around.

It was FRAZER at the outhouse,  
Who made the smoke rise high,  
The hardest work he's done for years,  
And thought that he might die.

T'was HARLOW twixt the bins and tins,  
At the early break of day,  
He said it was a rotten job,  
It should be worth more pay.

Viv LAMBERTON our 'Q' Store man,  
He certainly used his head,  
Right amongst that damn good scam,  
To get his fill they said.

It was GEORGE our noble WO from WOM,  
Amongst the dixies and pans,  
I'm glad this comes but once a year,  
I'm sure I'll spoil my hands.

Sgts BATESON, ROLES and CAMPBELL,  
Darting around the place,  
Running around the forms and tables,  
They thought it was a race.

SPIDEN, THOMAS and McCARTHY,  
Came over for their jobs,  
We better lend a hand they said,  
Or they'll think we're bloody snobs.

(EXTRACTED FROM A LETTER RECEIVED  
BY VX79035 CFN Reg COX OF 16th ADVANCED  
AMMUNITION UNIT IN 1945.)

**DEPOT NEWS**

This year Oakleigh Barracks will conduct an 11th November Memorial Service, under the guidance of the RSM and his Staff.

**TIMINGS -** Assembly 10.30am for Memorial Service  
**WREATH LAYING -** Immediately after Service. Morning Tea at conclusion.

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**THE CRAFTSMAN'S DIARY - 1994**

**REMEMBRANCE DAY**  
 Oakleigh Barracks  
 FRI 11th NOV '94 7.30pm  
 Demonstration  
 UNKNOWN SOLDIER 1920

**ANNUAL FAMILY FARM DAY**  
 Jindivick North  
 SUN 27th NOV '94

**50th ANNIVERSARY OF THE  
 END OF W.W. 2 DANCE**  
 "Australia Remembers 1945-  
 Oakleigh Barracks  
 26th MARCH 1995

**1995 ANNUAL RE-UNION**  
 Gymnasium, Oakleigh Barracks  
 North Road, SOUTH OAKLEIGH  
 SUN 23rd APRIL '95  
 2.00pm - 7.00pm

**1995 ANZAC DAWN SERVICE**  
 Oakleigh Barracks  
 TUES 25th APRIL '95 0600am

**1995 ANZAC DAY MARCH**  
 TUES 25TH APRIL '95  
 DETAILS T.B.A.

**1995 A.G.M. ANNUAL GENERAL  
 MEETING and ELECTION OF  
 OFFICE BEARERS**  
 Model Room, Oakleigh Barracks  
 SUN 27th AUG '95  
 (Note: Be seated by 1100am)

\* \* \* \*

**A SECRET THAT HAS BEEN KEPT  
 SO MANY YEARS**

When the gardeners at Draine Cemetery, Lossiemouth, turned up for work, they found a red poppy wreath resting on one of the graves. It must have been placed there the day before - Remembrance Day - and it told the gardeners that a secret pilgrimage was still being carried on after 30 years.

The story began in 1942 when a young Australian, serving with the R.A.F., and stationed at Lossiemouth Naval Air Base, was killed in action. He was Flying Officer J.W. Heck, of Ivanhoe, Victoria. He was laid to rest with full military honours in the wee cemetery at Lossiemouth. He was sorely missed by his comrades for he was one of the most popular officers at Lossiemouth.

But his death must have meant an even more grievous loss to someone else, for that same year, on a gray November day, an unseen figure slipped silently into the cemetery and laid a wreath of Flanders Poppies on his grave.

The following year, on Remembrance Day, the wreath appeared again on the airman's grave. It was placed there secretly at night or in the early morning, when no one was there. This has gone on year after year since 1942 - each year, yet another wreath is found resting beneath the stone over the Australian's grave. Not only that, when the first flowers of early summer bloom, a spray of Daffodils, Tulips and Narcissi are laid on the grave by the unknown visitor.

The remarkable thing is that not once in all these years has anyone ever witnessed - or tried to witness - the moving little ceremony. Often the staff at Drainie Cemetery have wondered who it is, who has been so faithful for so long, and why.

No one can say, and no one ever wants to say.

For the folk of Lossiemouth know that the stranger who every year makes the pilgrimage to the cemetery wants to remain unknown - and his or her wish will always be respected.

(EXTRACT FROM THE AUSTRALIAN ARMY APPRENTICES ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER "THE CRUX", Vol 1, Issue 10, Dated SEP/DEC 1972. THE EDITOR

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REMEMBERANCE DAY 11th NOVEMBER 1994

COMBINED SOCIAL  
RAEME ASSOCIATION AND OLD SAPPERS ASSOCIATION

RE - UNION OF 1993 CANBERRA ENTOMBMENT TRIP



**Demonstration  
Unknown Soldier 1920.**

This is to be a re-enactment of the Internment of the Unknown Soldier as conducted in Westminster Abbey in 1920. It is also a reunion for those who saw the entombment as performed in Canberra in 1993 and an opportunity for those who were unable to attend to see what they missed.

The re-enactment is carried out by a well practised team and ALL PROCEEDS will go towards a recognised Charitable Organisation.

**DETAILS:- Date : 11 November 1994**

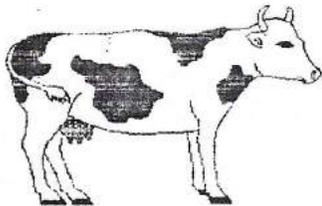
**Time : Assembly 7:30 pm ceremony starts at 8:00 pm sharp.**

**Place : Oakleigh Barracks, North Rd Sth Oakleigh (Model Room)**

**Cost : \$5:00 per head (includes a light supper)**

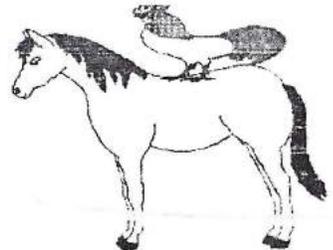
The response to the Combined Social events on the evening of the 11th November has been well supported, there is still time to secure a seat in the Theatre to this special event.

So ring Max now on 802 9128.



**Annual Christmas Farm Day**

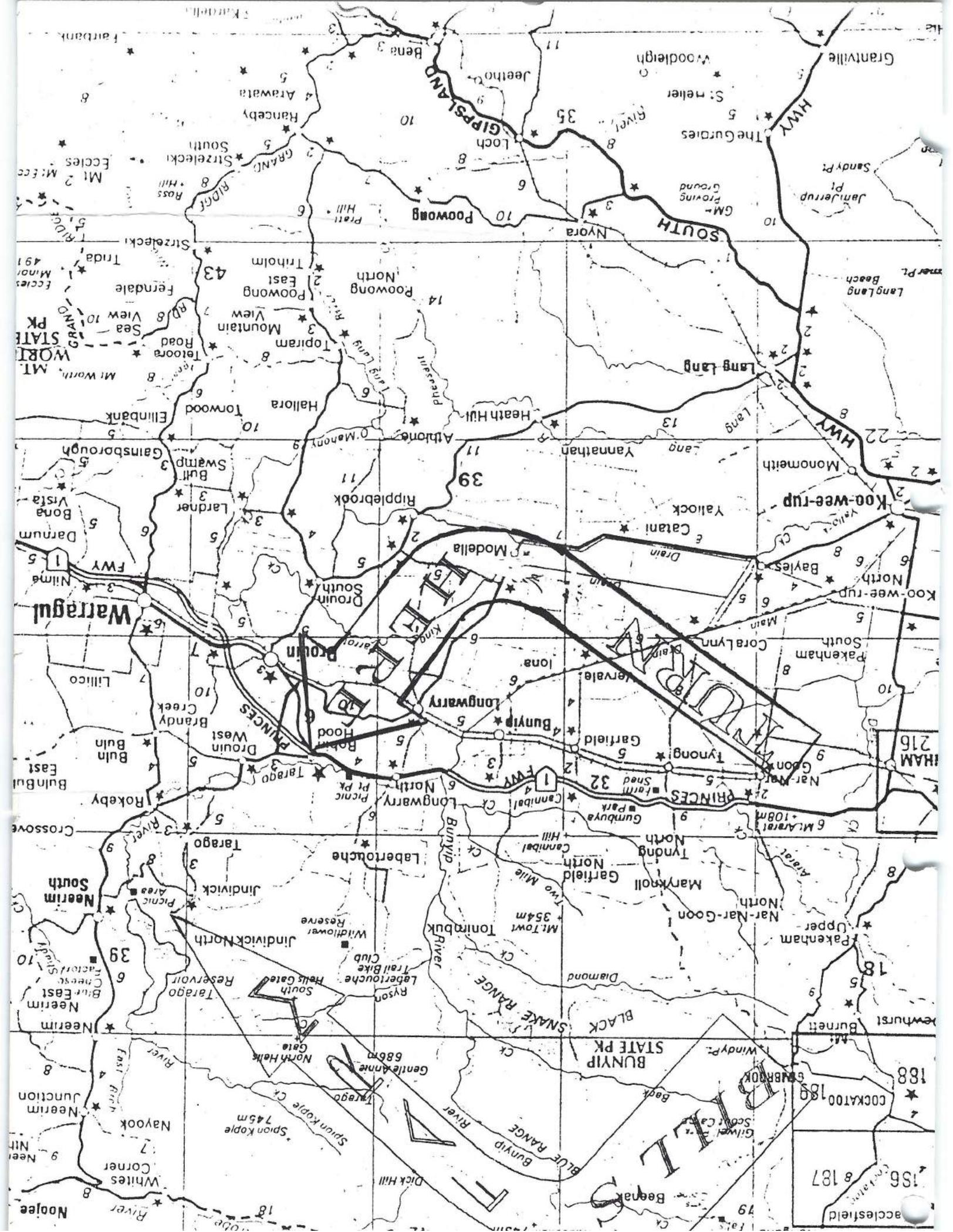
**1994**



**FARM DAY -** We have previously told you of the great day ahead on Sunday 27th November at the farm of our congenial Hosts Bill & Carol Slegers in Jindivick Nth. Bill arranges a great day. Free fresh farm milk is available, hay rides, tour of farm husbandry at work and plenty other activities. For our young guests, SANTA will be making a special trip from the North Pole. Parents are requested to provide a small gift for their children (maximum \$10.00), wrapped and clearly named for SANTA to distribute. BBQs will be provided, BYO food & Drink. Gum Boots are optional, but recommended for young children. A camera is a must, the views have to be seen to be believed. Be Sun Smart with Suntan Cream, Hats and Aerogard.

This day is sponsored by Murray Goulburn Corp. (this is the Company who picks up Bill's milk) and supplies different cheeses for our taste buds. There is also large & small Plum Puddings to buy (they are very tasty).

Where is Bill's place?? Palmer Road, JINDIVICK NORTH (056 28 5340). On reverse side you will find Map. Just follow TAC Signs. Bill has gone to a lot of trouble to make this a great event so take your family to a great outdoor event. BE THERE and be ready to enjoy yourselves. Bill & Carol will welcome your attendance from 10.am.



Map showing various locations and roads in the Bunyip region, including:

- Towns: Warragul, Broolin, Bunyip, Lang Lang, Koo-wee-rup, Pakenham, Neerim, and Grantville.
- Roads: Highway 22, Highway 35, Fwy 1, Fwy 2, Fwy 3, Fwy 4, Fwy 5, Fwy 6, Fwy 7, Fwy 8, Fwy 9, Fwy 10, Fwy 11, Fwy 12, Fwy 13, Fwy 14, Fwy 15, Fwy 16, Fwy 17, Fwy 18, Fwy 19, Fwy 20, Fwy 21, Fwy 22, Fwy 23, Fwy 24, Fwy 25, Fwy 26, Fwy 27, Fwy 28, Fwy 29, Fwy 30, Fwy 31, Fwy 32, Fwy 33, Fwy 34, Fwy 35, Fwy 36, Fwy 37, Fwy 38, Fwy 39, Fwy 40, Fwy 41, Fwy 42, Fwy 43, Fwy 44, Fwy 45, Fwy 46, Fwy 47, Fwy 48, Fwy 49, Fwy 50, Fwy 51, Fwy 52, Fwy 53, Fwy 54, Fwy 55, Fwy 56, Fwy 57, Fwy 58, Fwy 59, Fwy 60, Fwy 61, Fwy 62, Fwy 63, Fwy 64, Fwy 65, Fwy 66, Fwy 67, Fwy 68, Fwy 69, Fwy 70, Fwy 71, Fwy 72, Fwy 73, Fwy 74, Fwy 75, Fwy 76, Fwy 77, Fwy 78, Fwy 79, Fwy 80, Fwy 81, Fwy 82, Fwy 83, Fwy 84, Fwy 85, Fwy 86, Fwy 87, Fwy 88, Fwy 89, Fwy 90, Fwy 91, Fwy 92, Fwy 93, Fwy 94, Fwy 95, Fwy 96, Fwy 97, Fwy 98, Fwy 99, Fwy 100.
- Rivers: Bunyip River, Lang Lang River, Grand River, Tarago River, Bunyip Creek, Bunyip North Creek, Bunyip South Creek, Bunyip East Creek, Bunyip West Creek, Bunyip Middle Creek, Bunyip Lower Creek, Bunyip Upper Creek, Bunyip North East Creek, Bunyip North West Creek, Bunyip South East Creek, Bunyip South West Creek, Bunyip Middle East Creek, Bunyip Middle West Creek, Bunyip Lower East Creek, Bunyip Lower West Creek, Bunyip Upper East Creek, Bunyip Upper West Creek, Bunyip North East West Creek, Bunyip North West East Creek, Bunyip South East West Creek, Bunyip South West East Creek, Bunyip Middle East West Creek, Bunyip Middle West East Creek, Bunyip Lower East West Creek, Bunyip Lower West East Creek, Bunyip Upper East West Creek, Bunyip Upper West East Creek.
- Landmarks: Bunyip Dam, Bunyip Reservoir, Bunyip Golf Course, Bunyip State Park, Bunyip Snake Range, Bunyip Blue Range, Bunyip Black Range, Bunyip Windy Pt, Bunyip Sandy Pt, Bunyip Jamieson Pt, Bunyip Lang Lang Beach, Bunyip Monometh, Bunyip Yallock, Bunyip Catani, Bunyip Bayles, Bunyip Coralynn, Bunyip Pakenham, Bunyip South Pakenham, Bunyip North Pakenham, Bunyip Nar-Nar-Goon, Bunyip Upper Nar-Nar-Goon, Bunyip Burnhurst, Bunyip Cockatoo, Bunyip Beesley, Bunyip Windy Pt, Bunyip Sandy Pt, Bunyip Jamieson Pt, Bunyip Lang Lang Beach, Bunyip Monometh, Bunyip Yallock, Bunyip Catani, Bunyip Bayles, Bunyip Coralynn, Bunyip Pakenham, Bunyip South Pakenham, Bunyip North Pakenham, Bunyip Nar-Nar-Goon, Bunyip Upper Nar-Nar-Goon, Bunyip Burnhurst, Bunyip Cockatoo, Bunyip Beesley.

Member's  
Profile



Leslie (Les) McCOURBIE  
(Life Member)

John. Edward. Leslie (Les) McCoubrie was born on 4 August, 1906 at Dunedin New Zealand. The family came to Australia when Les was 5 years of age with his two older sisters Hazel and Ella (now deceased). The family home was established in Hobbs Street, Yarraville.

Les attended the Francis and Hyde Streets Primary Schools, then Footscray Junior Technical School. He served an apprenticeship as a Moulder with David McKenzie's Foundry, Yarraville and later became an Apprentice Carpenter with A. M. Hansons' the Builders. After he had completed his latest apprenticeship, Les went to work for Kauri Timber Coy. as a Carpenter and Joiner.

When WW2 began, VX30151 Pte Les McCoubrie enlisted in June 1940 (having previously served with 3 Ordnance Wksp a Milita unit) and set sail in September of the same year. His mother died the next day. Les served with 2/2nd Field Workshop in the Middle East, Syria, Crete and Greece. After the war, Les returned to work with Kauri Timber Coy, then with James Hardies in Brooklyn where he was appointed Foreman of the Maintenance and Carpentry shop. In 1956, he went to work with the Sunshine City Council as a Building Inspector where he remained until he retired in 1971.

He was a Life Member of the RSL and was also a long serving member of the Robbie Burns Freemason's Lodge, he also enjoyed his associations with the T.P.I. Club. Les is a quite bloke, but enjoyed being with people.

Les, was a Past President of the AEME Association in the early 1950's, and assisted by

Alec Cram as his Secretary/Treasurer. Over many years, he had given dedicated service as a Committee member to the AEME Association. In 1976, in recognition of this service, he was made a Life Member.

The story of his relationship with Lotte, his wife of 62 years is one of the great love stories of this century. They were childhood sweethearts and their love never diminished - in fact it grew as the years passed.

In 1932, Les and Lotte Howton, were married, after a few changes of residence, finally settled at No. 19 Regent Street, Yarraville in 1936. Blessed with 3 children, Lindsay, Eunice and then later Glenda. Their home was one of love and acceptance and laughter. Les was a source of strength to his family, always ready to listen and support them in their own life's journey.

Les was acquainted with struggle. He has fought heart disease for over 30 years. About 5 years ago he was diagnosed with prostrate cancer and although there were many very difficult times he never gave up. His positive approach to life and to his disease were an inspiration and a source of strength to those who loved him.

(Sadly, at the time of writing this Profile Les passed away on 4th October, 1994.) EDITOR



Leslie (Les) McCOURBIE 4 Oct '94  
Life Member

We regret to advise all members of the sudden passing of our special friend and esteemed colleague following his serious illness.

We extend our deepest sympathy to his wife Charlotte and family.

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

### RAEME RECOGNITION OF SERVICE CERTIFICATE

(Reprint of RAEME Corps Instructions No.13  
and as appeared in the February 1993 edition  
of The Lightning Flash)

#### AWARD CRITERIA

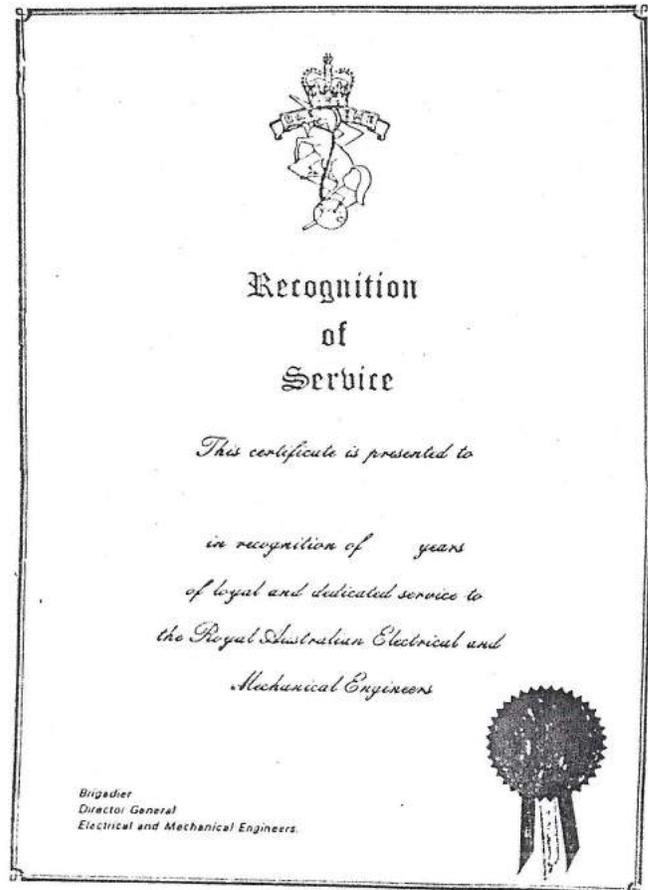
**ARA.** The recipient must be a RAEME Officer or soldier who has completed 20 years or more service and who has elected discharge.

**ARes.** The recipient must be an Officer or soldier who has completed 20 years or more service and who has elected discharge. Discontinuous service is not to exceed 12 months and recipients must be certified for each year of service. Previous ARA service in RAEME may be aggregated towards the award.

Eligible Service can also be aggregated in a number of other ways including: service with other countries EME Corps equivalent; former members of WRAAC allotted to RAEME in 1983; personnel transferred to RAEME as a consequence of the 1973 re-organisation; and personnel who served with other Australian Armed Services.

**Nomination Procedure.** To gain a certificate nominations should be in the following format:

- a. Regimental/personal particulars of member.
- b. details of qualifying service including dates and appointments held.
- c. date of discharge/retirement.
- d. postal/residential address of recipient,  
and
- e. forwarding instructions for completed certificates.



ARes - the Senior RAEME Rep with the member's ARes unit should verify eligibility with the ARes Records Cell, Career Management Agency 360 St. Kilda Road, Melbourne Vic 3004.

Military members who are eligible but have not received a certificate should request issue of same through the last RAEME unit in which they served or directly to DEME-A for attention.

Nominations are to be forwarded to:

DEME-A  
RAEME Trg Centre,  
MILPO  
BANDIANA VIC 3694



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

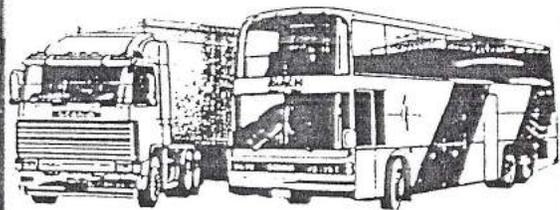
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### THE NUMBERS GAME

(From information supplied by WO 2 G. Vazheny, CARO Melbourne.)

Ever wondered how your Army number came up?

Before the Divisional re-organization of 1921, soldiers were issued with 'Regimental Numbers.' In 1921, it was decided that "Army Where To Be Used - Mobilization Order 488 of 1922" refers.

Between then and 1942, certain blocks of Army numbers were used. These numbers were used by the Permanent Military Forces (PMF), and retained until the end of the 2nd WW; and by the Citizen's Military Forces (CMF) who had not yet been called up for Full-Time Duty (FTD).

The numbers 1 to 2250 were not used, but it is believed that these numbers were allotted to Officers as "Personal Numbers" as distinct from Army numbers issued to Other Ranks. In addition to using the number allotted, each member of the CMF had a prefix as follows:-

Those called up to the CMF for Compulsory Training had the last two digits of the year of their birth as the prefix. A soldier whose number was 71222 and was born in 1889 became 89/71222. A voluntary enlisted member of the CMF showed his number as VE/71223 - the VE indicating that he had volunteered for service. This system did not apply to the PMF, who used only the Army number.

About 1940, the PMF prefixed their Army numbers with the State of Enlistment. W599 would indicate that that soldier had enlisted in Western Australia.

In July 1942, General Routine Order (GRO) 168 refers, that it was decided that soldiers of the PMF and CMF who volunteered for the Australian Imperial Forces (AIF) should retain their original numbers, but prefixed with an "X" as was normal with the direct AIF enlistment.

Examples were:

WXP599 - A soldier of the PMF enlisted in WA and volunteered for the AIF.

VXM199 - A soldier of the CMF in Victoria who had volunteered for the AIF.

This system was abolished in August 1952, (GRO 345 refers), when it was laid down that

all soldiers enlisting in the AIF would be given a new normal AIF number.

Also in 1952, (GRO 290 refers), all female numbers were prefixed with "F". VF220 - a Victorian female enlistee or VXF220 for the AIF.

The prefixes "PX" or "P" were also used in the early stages of the War for soldiers enlisted in Papua. The term New Guinea was later used to indicate both Papua and New Guinea, and the neighbouring Islands.

### LOST NUMBERS

In 1943, (GRO 52 refers), Officer's numbers were no longer referred to as "Personal Numbers", becoming Army numbers, the same as for the Other Ranks. Also soldier of the AIF who joined before 1 October 1945 and continued to serve on FTD became Interim Army. Recruiting for the Interim Army ceased on 14 August 1947.

The PMF was reinstated on 1 August 1947, and the original system of numbering followed, "P" numbers being issued.

The PMF became the Australian Regular Army (ARA) on 30 September 1947, and the new system being that which is used at present, except that the State prefix was followed by a stroke, which was later abolished.

Some AIF numbers were still being used as late as 1968, the soldiers being part of the Regular Army Supplement (RAS). These were few and were almost all officers.

Nearly all soldiers called up for National Service (NS) were allotted a NS number.

In the 1950s, a CMF soldier, whilst continuing to serve on FTD with the ARA (up to the time NS Compulsory Training was abolished), were prefixed with "A" in front of their Army number.

In 1967, it was decided that when a person enlisted; or was called up; and had previous service; regardless of the category; he would retain his previous Army number.

For example, a man called up for NS Training who had served in the CMF, retained his CMF number. A man who had served in the ARA and enlisted in the CMF, retained his ARA number.

(EXTRACT FROM THE AUSTRALIAN ARMY APPRENTICES ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER "THE CRUX", Vol 2, Issue 1, DATED JAN-MAR '73. EDITOR

**SICK PARADE . . . . .**

Kerry BRINDELL - Progress Report - Kerry is doing better as each week passes. She is still on crutches but moves much better and the Staff sometimes have trouble keeping track of her movements.

Sounds like she is almost back to her old self in spirit - if not in body.

\* IMPORTANT NOTICE \*



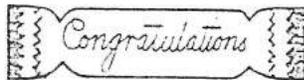
Which new Grandparents have just volunteered again to be baby sitters????

**It's a boy**

To Mary and Jack Westernhagen, a new Grandson, Brodie Philip on 25th Sept 1994.  
and

**It's a Girl**

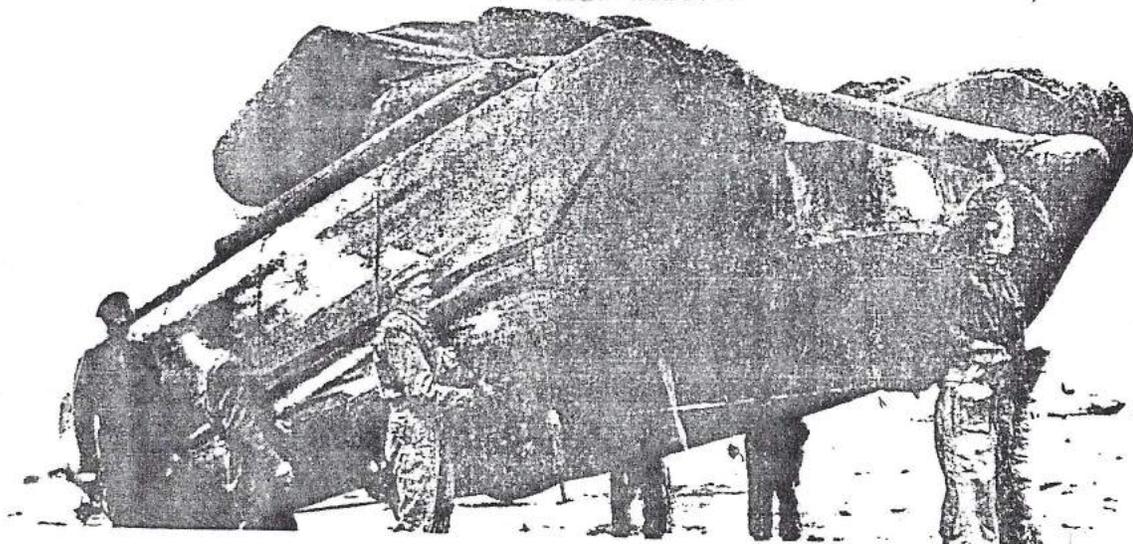
To Jenny and Max Moore, a new Granddaughter, Nicole Deborah on 14th Oct 1994.

**LATE NEWS..****REQUEST FOR ASSISTANCE/SPONSORSHIP**

Harry Burghardt (ex CSM 33 Tpt Coy) competed in Variety Club Car Rally last year and is doing so in 1995 (raising funds for charity). He has an old Black SS Holden, and need sponsors. 3rd Military District RAASC/RACF Association Editor suggest Gas & Fuel or Easy Cook Ovens) also needs 3 x folding stretchers and ex-Army Section Cooker. If there are any Vehicle Mechanics who could offer their services in this worthy cause it would be greatly appreciated. If anybody can help, contact 739 5127.

**WHO AM I?**

*I am the foundation of all business.  
I am the source of all prosperity.  
I am the salt that gives life its savour.  
I have laid the foundations of fortunes.  
I can do more to advance youth than . . .  
Their own parents, be they ever so wealthy.  
I must be loved before I can bestow my  
greatest blessings, or achieve my greatest ends.  
Loved, I make life sweet, purposeful and  
fruitful.  
All progress springs from me . . .  
I AM WORK!! (ANONYMOUS  
(extract from "A.E.M.E. NOTES" Vol 1. No.11,  
November 1945).*

**WOULD YOU BELIEVE IT!**

SIX men lifting a tank? Yes, that's right, but in this case it's a rubber inflatable tank. Lay them out on the ground and enemy observers from a distance, or a plane, are often duped into believing it's a real armoured column they can see.

Then the enemy might open fire, revealing their position to the waiting forces.

## WARFARE - THEN - AND NOW FLAME THROWERS

By Lt. O.A. Robinson, Dec.

As a weapon, the flame thrower is not a recent development. It was used by the Turks against invaders during the Crusades. During the 10th Century, the Russians attacked the city of Constantinople in thousands of open war boats, but beat a hasty retreat when their fleet was spattered by liquid flame projected from long tubes on the parapets of the city.

On another occasion in a sea battle, the Turks used fire-bearing ships and "Greek Fire" was projected from the high prows of the ships, thereby causing much confusion amongst the enemy.

The fuel used was usually a mixture of naphtha and oil projected from a high position to obtain the necessary range. In most cases, the terror and panic caused was the chief success, rather than actual damage by fire, a factor which still applies in modern warfare.

Little further was heard of flame throwers until 1915, when a successful trench attack was made by the Germans at Ypres. Subsequently, both sides developed the weapon, but its use was restricted, although preparations were made for its extended use by the British Army in the proposed 1919 Campaign.

The modern flame thrower is a formidable and deadly weapon, and was used successfully by all belligerents, in WW2. Whilst the individual design varied considerably, the weapon was either of a light, portable type suitable to be carried and operated by one man, or a heavier type mounted on an Armoured Fighting Vehicle.

It is interesting to note that in the role of an "Island Fortress", Great Britain was prepared, if necessary, to repeat the early history of flame as a weapon of defence. In 1940, arrangements were made for pouring oil on any invader from flame throwers on the foreshores, also creating a sea of flame by emitting oil from submerged pipes which terminated a short distance from the shore. In addition, there were vertical flame throwers for defence against low flying aircraft.

A portable type of flame thrower used at the end of WW2 weighed about 70 pounds and had a range of up to 50 yards. The fuel capacity was about 4-gallons, which was sufficient to give a continuous discharge of 10-12 seconds.

The flame thrower was however, usually operated in a series of short bursts of about one second duration, after which the equipment had to be withdrawn for recharging.

The weapon was carried on the back of the operator and consisted of a flame gun connected by flexible tubing to a fuel cylinder, which in turn was connected to cylinders containing compressed air at about 2,000lbs psi. An ignition cylinder, which contained a number of incendiary charges was fitted to the gun, and pressure on the trigger fired one of the charges which burned for 8-10 seconds. The fuel valve was opened and fuel was forced by the compressed air through the muzzle, where it was ignited by the burning charge. As the burning fuel travels towards the target, the outer surface is ablaze, but the core is consumed progressively, and is still in a semi-solid state when it strikes the target, where it burns furiously.

Flame throwers were fitted to AFVs, the maximum range being approximately 100 yards, whilst the duration of discharge was increased to about 60 seconds. This necessitated carrying about 400-gallons of fuel.

It can be seen that whilst the principle of operation is simple, the weapon has its limitations. Many components such as reducing valves and operating valves are manufactured to fine limits, and the equipment, together with its accessories, requires considerable maintenance. Its main value, apart from the psychological effect, is in an offensive role as an Infantry Close Support Weapon for use against machine-gun emplacements and bunkers.

(EXTRACT FROM THE AUSTRALIAN ARMY APPRENTICES ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER "THE CRUX", Vol 2, Issue 7, dated DEC 1971.)  
EDITOR

### LET'S LAUGH . . . . .

Two travellers returning home late at night lost their way. One said, "We're in a cemetery, here's a grave-stone." "Whose is it?" asked the other. Striking a match, the more sober one replied, "I don't know, but he died at a good age - 175." "See who it is," said the other. Another match was struck. "I don't know him, some fellow called MILES FROM LONDON."

\* \* \* \* \*

Two cab drivers met and one of them said: "How come your cab's painted red on one side and blue on the other?"

"It's a riot," came the answer. "When I get into an accident, you should hear how all the witnesses contradict each other."

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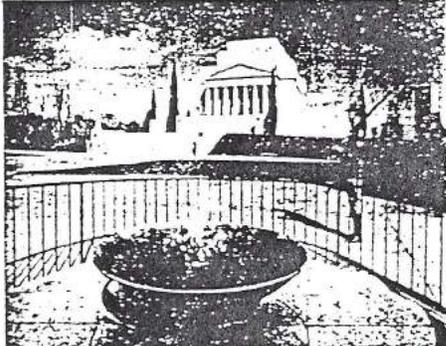
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MELBOURNE  
The Eternal Flame

In front of this Shrine, surrounded by a protective railing the flame of the eternal flame burns continually in a great bronze bowl. The flame was lit by the Queen, Queen Elizabeth II on 26th February, 1954 when in the presence of 100,000 people, she made her historic speech of dedication.

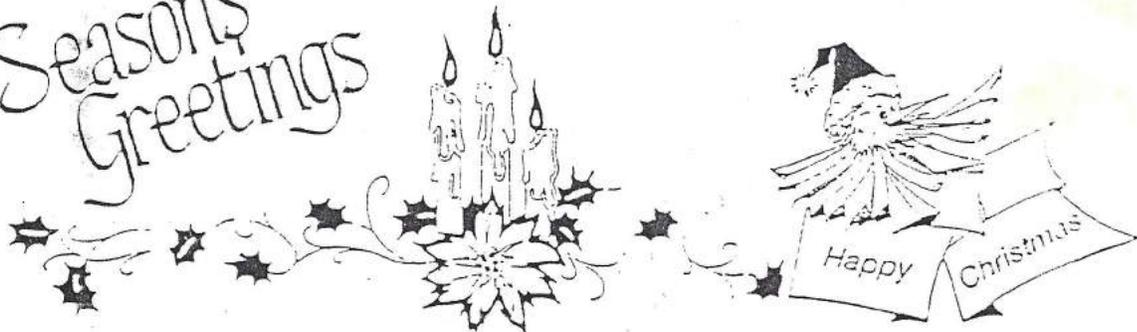
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Seasons  
Greetings



*From your President and Committee members, we wish you all a very Merry Christmas, safe holidays, and a prosperous New Year, full of happiness and good health.*