



SAMRA

Representing the Royal Australian Armoured Corps
Corporation Limited in South Australia



Incorporating the 2nd/9th Australian Armoured Regimental Group Veterans

June 2017, Number 38

Leadership is not about being in charge. Leadership is taking care of those in your charge.

2017 COMMITTEE CONTACT DETAILS

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Anzac Day ALH Memorial Service

The Light Horse service was once again the highlight for our Association on ANZAC day, with about 500 people ignoring the possibility of a hostile vehicle incident and assembling on the roadway to the West of the memorial to participate in the service. Brigadier Oscar Wayland AM RFD ED (ret'd) delivered a thought provoking address (outlined later in this newsletter) whilst the A Squadron 3rd/9th Light Horse (SAMR) catafalque party and the Barossa Light Horse contingent added the necessary colour to the activity. Please join me in thanking Committee Member Seamus Neeson and Secretary David Mercer for their efforts in planning and conducting this very successful service. There were fewer members marching in the parade this year but the number at about 40 was still respectable. It was great to see Peter Cameron's grandson, Warrant Officer Class 2 Cameron Horsell (AAC) carrying our Banner, yet again.



Launch of the Light Horse Exhibition - 24 May 2017

Over 80 people attended the launch ceremony at the Army Museum of SA with 200 attending the luncheon that followed in Building 34A at Keswick Barracks. Mark Bouchier, President of the Adelaide Legacy Club, grandson of Lieutenant Colonel Murray Bouchier who led the charge at Beersheba, opened the exhibition - with Colonel Chris Burns CSC and Major Chris Manning, Honorary Colonel and Officer Commanding A Squadron 3rd/9th Light Horse (SAMR) respectively, joining Mark at the Q&A session with Peter Goers at the luncheon. Chris Burns presented an insight into the Reynell family whilst Chris Manning spoke about Major Phillip Priestly and his sword. Both activities were successful despite the absence of the 3rd Light Horse re-enactment troop that had to withdraw at the last minute, due to illness.

Royal Australian Armoured Corps Corporation

Most members will be aware that SAMRA along with other associations of the armoured units on the Australian Army Order of Battle, are members of the Corporation. Our Corporation, mainly through the leadership of President Noel McLaughlin OAM, has been very active this year achieving the following significant milestones:

- Submission and subsequent approval for the battle honour, **Coral-Balmoral** to be awarded to the 1st Armoured Regiment and hence to be emblazoned on its standard.
- Advocacy in the proposal and subsequent renaming of Support Squadron at the Armoured Centre to **B Sqn 3/4 Cav Regt** thereby keeping the name and guidon of this unit "alive".
- Representing and leading a group of Ex Service Organisations (ESO's) in working with DVA on sensitive matters, including suicide of veterans and WH&S related incidents
- Preparing and leading submissions to the Senate Standing Committee on the suicide of veterans and mental health issues of service men and service women.

There are a lot of matters being represented to the authorities by the Corporation but one that affects reservists is the proposal to have the Government accept the term **veteran** to mean all ex-servicemen and ex-servicewomen regardless of the nature of their service (regular, reserve, operational or non- operational). If successful, this will have a significant impact on the management of health issues post military service for both permanent and reserve forces personnel.

The 29th AGM – Saturday 29th July at 12.30pm: Naval Military and Airforce Club of SA

Members please note that your Committee has decided to conduct a **lunch time meeting** for this AGM. It is our 30th Anniversary of formation and we expect that a number will to stay for lunch and party on – bar meals will be available but please confirm both your attendance and requirement for a meal following the AGM.

100th Anniversary of the Charge at Beersheba

Your Committee is currently considering the following activities to celebrate this significant event:

- Friday evening 27 October – Mixed formal dinner, in conjunction with A Sqn 3rd/9th Light Horse (SAMR)
- Sunday morning 29 October – Support A Squadron 3rd/9th Light Horse (SAMR) in exercising the Freedom of the City of Gawler (TBC)
- Sunday afternoon (3pm) 29 October – ALH memorial service

There are a few matters to resolve before we firm up on these activities but we expect to be able to update the website with details within the next few weeks. Nec Aspera Terrent—Reg Williams AM RFD

3rd/9th and their role in the SS by Rob Richards

Late last year my younger brother Noel was sorting through photos and films in an old box left behind by our Dad when he passed away. Amongst all the standard family stuff Noel came across a metal can of 8mm movie film. The only projector available was a Super 8 which wouldn't run the film properly, but it ran it well enough for min to see black berets and tank suits. He took the film to a commercial processor who was able to copy it to a DVD. It runs for about 15 minutes and the last few minutes were destroyed. On viewing the DVD it became obvious that it showed members of 3/9th from around 1960. I easily recognised my elder brother Ron Richards plus his great mates John Brabury and Malcolm Boyd. It was a very emotional moment for me as Ron had passed away 7 years ago, and too see him as a slender young soldier was very special.

I noticed that they were all wearing a large yellow shoulder patches depicting an eagle. I don't remember seeing this insignia during my time with the regiment so I sent out a flurry of emails to all his old mates to find out more about it. Wayne VanTenac replied that they were members of a special troop that was formed to help SAPOL with search and rescue, apparently they were known as the Special Service Troop (hence the SS!). Both Malcolm and John were able to fill in a little of the history including supplying some photos from that time.



The Special Service Troop with vehicles. Photo by Malcolm Boyd

John Bradbury supplied me with considerable detail of the Troop and its reason for existence. I will let John take up the story.....

Notes re 3/9 Special Service Troop 1961--1964

Nicki Bannon got lost in Wilpena Pound and the police and rescue people were somewhat embarrassed.(His skeleton was eventually found some years later).

The then Colonel of 3/9, Rex Lipman, who apparently knew everyone of importance everywhere, decided to form a troop of people to assist in locating the lost ,the injured or both. It was his aim that such a troop would be immensely competent with maps and radio apart from being very, very fit.

Lipman approached the Commissioner of police and put his scheme to him. 3/9 would supply men with portable radios (AN PRC 10) who could also read maps quickly. Such men would be attached to each group of searchers to assist general direction finding and would also provide radio comms with police controllers. The police jumped at the idea. So we were formed in 1961

The O C of the troop was Lt Jessop, a 1957 National Serviceman who stayed in the unit and became an officer in 1960. Volunteers were sought from the Squadrons. I can recall a number. Mal Boyd, Nev Cameron, Ron Richards, Nev Willis, W O. David Oliver, W O. Colin Vass, Ron Hooper, John Bradbury and Doug Schotelius. There were others but my memory is bailed.

The first step was to get immensely fit. So we paraded on Tuesday evenings in tank suits and went through gruelling exercises set up by Rob Paddick, a lieutenant in the Corps of Cadets. Paddick was a teacher and his favourite subject was Phys Ed! So we copped it. (I can recall going home many a night absolutely whacked.) We were all expected to employ the 5BX system daily (A Canadian Army exercise system) to assist in the progress of becoming super fit.

About 7-8 weeks into training Mr Jessop announced that we were off the next weekend to try out our skills. Down to the south of Adelaide where the Noarlunga river debouches into the sea are a number of cliffs which although not high were a challenge for scrawnies like us. Jessop arranged for the Colonel to attend one afternoon to see just how good we were doing.



Tpr Ron Richards, later to become Lt.

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3rd/9th and their role in the SS

Continued from Page 2—So we arrived in 5 land rovers and set up camp. Off to do a bit of up and down the cliffs and then Jessop announced that someone was lost, probably injured and we had to find him. We were split into four groups of four people and given an area to search. Later in the afternoon the Richards group found the injured man (another 3/9 sergeant) on the beach in a slight dent in a cliff face. He had fallen off the cliff he told us and supposedly had a broken leg. We reported the find by radio and advised that we were going to transport him to safety. So he was trussed up and carted along a path and up to the top. Jessop was there with the Colonel and the 2IC of the SA Police. Everyone was pleased with our actions. The policeman was very impressed.

A couple of weeks later we went off again north of Adelaide near the Murray to test out our fitness. We spent the weekend stepping out in the bush and doing fixed distance marches carrying the radios and our gear. These marches were set to test how far our fitness had come along. And they were very long. On the way back Jessop called each vehicle and gave it a point on the map by grid reference to respond when we passed that spot. It was his method of finally testing our ability to read a map accurately. Each called in when their vehicle passed their allocated location.

Eventually, the time arrived when we had to train alongside police in a series of so called incidents. A long weekend was chosen, I think it was October, to proceed out with the police rescue and search squads. First stop was the cliffs at Waitpinga where we scaled the cliffs and the police did their rescue operation of one of our blokes, Doug Schotelius in fact. He was supposed to have fallen down a cliff and busted a leg. It was interesting as the rescuing copper actually strapped Doug to his back and his mates at the top hauled them up.

At this point Malcolm Boyd adds the following comment: "Seems to be fairly close to what I recall with the only some slight differences.. The rescue from the rocks was pre-planned by the police Commander to add unexpected realism to the training of the taskforce leaders. Shiterilis (Schotelius) really did injure his hand at the bottom of the cliffs and was retrieved by the police rescue group".

Meanwhile back to John's story...Next we travelled to the Murray mouth barges and some of us boarded a number of fast sea rescue boats to traverse the river at a fair rate of knots. This was to exploit a fast and secure method of getting to somewhere not easily managed by land. (The film shows the boats approaching the landing.)

That night we were roused out of sleep, probably at about 12 AM, and placed one 3/9 radioman with 3 police. Then we boarded a truck which dropped us off at various locations where we were told to find our way back. So our training in map use and radio really came into play. Surprisingly, every group, six all told, made it back to base just as the sun was rising. It was Jessop's most pleasing result.



The rest of the week end was spent on or about the Coorong doing walking and searching exercises. Some of us managed to get a bad dose of sunburn.

I think we were judged ready by the senior coppers who were there and all we did for the next few months was keep training and wait for something to happen.

Lt Jessop left the unit when he transferred his employ to Victoria. For some weeks we had no leader then Mr Martin was appointed. He led us as well as could be expected over the next few months. Some members joined the South Australia Sport Parachute Club in order to qualify for drop zone skills. Boyd, Cameron, Hooper, Richards, Schotelius and Bradbury all qualified in the end.

The unit never went on any real life episodes mainly because nothing ever happened. We did spend a number of weekends out in the donga training in search and rescue operations. Eventually we folded because the new C O, Dennie Heinrich, had no time for us and in fact I think he did his best to get rid of the section. Dennie did not have the coverage of contacts that Lipman had. He was supported in this by the replacement RSM Mr Gilchrist.

I might add that the 3/9th blacked its' belts at the direction of Lipman who told us he would speak to Army H.Q. about the blacking issue. He did and we kept the black belts.



Hurry up and wait



Malcolm Boyd



No problem back then of bringing along your own hardware!



ANZAC Day speech 2017 at the Adelaide Light Horse Memorial Service

By Brigadier Ellis Wayland AM RFD ED (R'td)



My Lord Mayor – Federal and State Ministers, Army mates, Ladies and Gentlemen - boys and girls

On previous Anzac Days, when I have had the privilege of giving this commemorative address, I have reminded my audience that they should not focus on the battles engraved on these pillars and slabs of granite - as important as they are in the annals of our nation's history. Rather should we focus on the spirit of the men who fought those battles whether they were mounted on horses, in tanks, or other armoured fighting vehicles, or even as one of our Light Horse regiments did in World War 1, on bicycles.

We in the cavalry always remind new recruits to our regiments that it is not what you are mounted on or in, it is what you see in your eyes and what you feel in your hearts and minds, and in your resolve to do what it takes to strive for success whilst never failing in your loyalty to your regiment and your mates.

Mateship! Now there's a word currently in the midst of an intense and bitter debate as a covey of sinecured bureaucrats - in of all places the Department of Environment – have determined that the word mateship on an Australian war memorial must be replaced with the word 'friendship' in homage to politically correct ideology.

Only some elitist who could not possibly even imagine what it was like to ride stirrup to stirrup into action in a four man Light Horse section or sweat inside a tank in a four man crew could have the temerity to prosecute this piece of politically correct humbug. Let me assert without any qualification that the word 'mate' in the military context is a quintessentially unique idiom. And, it is one which has no equal in the modern day Australian vernacular.

It is a word forged in conditions of adversity - not only in war but also in peace where soldiers team together to forge a brotherhood of arms - in cohorts redolent with centuries of feats of mateship which are obviously beyond the ken of public servants in the corridors of power in Canberra.

This year is the 100th anniversary of one of the greatest feats of mateship in one of the most celebrated cavalry charges in history at a town redolent in military history called Beersheba. Is it not ironic, therefore, that as a product of mateship in arms, Australia has etched its name in history at a town whose history dates back seven thousand years and has been conquered by the Persians, Romans, and Ottomans. And - then in 1917 was conquered by the Australian Light Horse.

Let us, therefore, stand this morning in front of these memorials and resolve to have the courage to stand resolute, and pledge to proudly protect the mystique of that ethereal military ethos - mateship.

I conclude my address with the last verse of a war memorial poem:

***Remember us, Remember us
Although we're truly gone
Remembers us as the mates we were***

**29th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
AT THE
NAVAL, MILITARY & AIR FORCE CLUB.
SAT, 29 JUL 2017
1200H FOR 1230H
DRESS: COLLARED SHIRT, DRESS TROUSERS
RSVP BY 22 JUL 17 FOR
CATERING PURPOSES
MEALS AVAILABLE FROM THE BAR
AFTER THE AGM—BOOKINGS ESSENTIAL**

WATCH THIS SPACE

We are in the process of having a 100th Anniversary of Beersheba Medallion made to recognise this important date in our LH history. The medallions will be approximately \$30 each and will be a limited edition. If you would like to reserve a medallion please advise the Secretary. Actual size 55mm



THE SENIOR SERVICE — An alternative point of view



The Royal Australian Navy (RAN) claims to be (Australia's) Senior Service, however, it is not. The Navy adopted the title 'The Senior Service' from the Royal Navy, but the use of this title for the RAN is incorrect.

In England, prior to the mid-1600s, soldiers were recruited into units raised for the duration of a particular war or campaign; there was no permanent or standing army. However, the Navy was a full-time service; be it that a good number of the seamen were press-ganged (kidnapped) from pubs. The British Navy was therefore technically, as a permanent force, well in-place before a full-time British army, hence the Royal Navy's title "The Senior Service".

In Australia the Australian Army was officially proclaimed on 1st March 1901, two months after Federation, when the newly formed Australian Federal Government took over the responsibility of defence from the States. The Army, raised in 1901, consisted of the Permanent Military Forces (later re-named the Australian Regular Army in 1947), the Militia (later re-named the Citizens' Military Forces (CMF) and then re-named as the Army Reserve in the mid-1970's) and the Volunteer Forces (1). The first Australian regular army organization was raised in 1899 with the amalgamation of the New South Wales, Victorian and Queensland regular (State) Artillery Regiments as the Royal Australian Artillery, nearly two years before Federation.

The RAN was not formally established until 10th July 1911 (the Royal Australian Air Force was raised on 31st March 1921). Therefore, technically speaking, the senior service within the Australian Defence Force is the Australian Army.

The word 'senior' is described in the *Oxford Dictionary* as "older in age or standing", in the *Collins English Dictionary* as "higher in rank or length of service" and in the *Macquarie Dictionary* as "older" and "longer service". The *Nuttall Dictionary of English Synonyms and Antonyms* lists the synonym to 'senior' as being "older, elder". The Australian Army is 'older in age', 'higher in length of service', has 'longer service' than, and is 'elder' to, the Royal Australian Navy (being raised in 1901 is 'older' than, and 'senior' to, being raised in 1911).

1. The Militia were paid part-time soldiers, whilst the Volunteer Forces were unpaid and its members had to meet all expenses out of their own pockets.

Editor: Just a different point of view, not sure that our 'Pusser comrades' would be convinced though— Source unknown.



SAMRA members, the Squadron is raising money for Legacy by participating in the Boss for Bootcamp fundraising appeal. Gone are the tins and pins and soldiers strolling through the mall, Legacy's major fundraiser is now online with a chance to send the OC back to boot camp!

As an added incentive we are going head to head with the rest of the Brigade to raise the most money as a unit. So not only will you be supporting Legacy (which is a Defence approved charity) who as you know supports those who serve or served and their families, but continuing to showcase 3rd/9th as the best unit in the Bde!

Click on the link below

<https://secure.artezpacific.com/registrator/FundraisingPage.aspx?eventId=49104®istrationId=1125076>

or go to www.bossbootcamp.com.au and then search Chris Manning

Chris Manning

OC—A SQN 3/9 LH (SAMR)

Q STORE ITEMS—SPECIALS AVAILABE

The following items are available for purchase. All profits support the Association: **We have reduced the price of some of the merchandise for a limited period (Special Price in red)**

- REGIMENTAL / ASSOCIATION TIE— **\$25.00** (Normally \$33.00)
- ASSOCIATION WALL PLAQUES - \$40.00
- BLACK BASEBALL CAP EMBROIDERED WITH THE 3rd/9th LH (SAMR) BADGE ON THE FRONT AND THE WORDS 'SAMRA' ON THE BACK — **\$15.00** (Normally \$20.00)
- NAME BADGES—\$20.00
- BLACK POLO SHIRT, BADGE ON THE FRONT, WITH SAMRA UNDERNEATH— **\$35.00** (Normally \$45.00)
- CLOTH EMBROIDERED 3rd/9th LH (SAMR) BADGE - \$10.00 (Includes postage)
- RAAC BELT BUCKLE—\$35.00
- RAAC LAPEL BADGE—\$6.00
- SAMRA MEMBERSHIP LAPEL BADGE—\$5.00

Place your orders with David Mercer, please add \$10.00 for postage and packing. You can also pay via your financial institution using EFT.

Send your payment, size and contact details to: 63 Barramundi Drive, Hallett Cove, SA 5158

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2017 SOCIAL CALENDAR

- **Thu, 17 Aug 17 - Reunion lunch at the Bombay Bicycle Club Hotel, 1200h**
NOTE THIS LUNCH IS NOT ON A WEEKEND THIS TIME
 - **TBA Oct - 100th Anniversary of Beersheba, a number of actys have been proposed, they are;**
 1. **Friday evening 27 October – Mixed formal dinner, in conjunction with A Sqn 3rd/9th Light Horse (SAMR)**
 2. **Sunday morning 29 October – Support A Squadron 3rd/9th Light Horse (SAMR) in exercising the Freedom of the City of Gawler (TBC)**
 3. **Sunday afternoon (3pm) 29 October – ALH memorial service**
- If you do not have an email address please contact David Mercer to confirm the above actys.**
- **Tue, 7 Nov 17 - Melbourne Cup at Stansbury Caravan Park**
 - **Sat, 2 Dec 17 - EOY Family BBQ at the Holdfast Bay Scout facility, 1200h**