



The President
and Committee
of the Assaociation
Wish Everyone
a Very Happy Christmas
And a Fine and Prosper-
ous
New Year



The Horse's Mouth

The Newsletter of the
RAEME Association
of WA (Inc.)

Summer 2000-01

This newsletter is the official journal of the **ROYAL AUSTRALIAN ELECTRICAL AND MECHANICAL ENGINEERS ASSOCIATION OF WA (INC.)**. Meetings are held on the first Thursday of each month, except for January, at 7.00pm, ANZAC House, 28 St. George's Terrace, Perth. Membership or other enquiries may be made to any of the committee members. A list is printed on Page 2 of this journal.

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DEADLINE

All contributions for the next edition of THE HORSE'S MOUTH must be with the editor no later than 23rd of February 2001.

DISCLAIMER

Thoughts expressed in articles in THE HORSE'S MOUTH are those held by the writer/contributors and not necessarily those of the Association.

Editorial

Another year is coming to its final conclusion. Our Corps Birthday Dinner is over (and the headaches cured). This year has seen a lot of changes, both for our members, the Association and for the Army. It would take a book to offer explanations of the changes. Probably the greatest impact is the regular posting of members from the Reserve to the local hot spots, East Timor and Bougainville. To these members we wish a safe return to Australia. Others, too, have left us. Some to return, safely we hope. But some have permanent postings to other parts of Australia. To all those we wish the very best for the future.

Perhaps the saddest thing we must endure around this time is the closing of JLU-W. For those who remember, the RAEME element was the descendant of the Perth Workshop Company. Everything is now being farmed to Trade Repair. Apart from the operational units, the RAEME part of the Regular Army is well on its way to disappearing. We fervently hope that it will not disappear altogether. On a lighter note, who is going to win the Kinetic Sculpture Race next year?

To those who are leaving JLU-W we wish you well. To everybody we wish a Merry Christmas and a Very Happy New Year.

Thanks to Veterans

Our Veterans have served to keep us free.
 They have fought on land and on the sea.
 They have lived under fire and under
 attack
 and some of them would never come back.

They carried a helmet and a gnat into the
 fields of World War 1;
 just a few years later they fought a war,
 and stormed the beaches in World War
 1

They survived Korea, and Vietnam,
 and liberated Kuwait from Saddam.
 These battles would have never been won
 without the job our forces have done.

So to every man who carried a gnat,
 Thanks to Veterans, each and everyone!

and were surprised to find there were ducks everywhere! In no time at all, Jake stepped on one. The duck quacked, then they all quacked. They made a terrible racket and it just went on and on. Pretty soon along came St. Peter with a terribly homely woman in tow. "I warned you that if you broke the duck rule you'd be punished." He chained the homely woman to Jake and said, "You will be together forever, and walked away."

Sometime later, despite his best efforts, Johnny accidentally stepped on a duck. The duck quacked, then they all quacked and made a terrible commotion that just went on and on. Sure enough, along came St. Peter with an even homelier woman. "I warned you that if you broke the duck rule you'd be punished." With that, he chained the woman to Johnny and said, "The two of you will be together for all of eternity." and walked away.

One day St. Peter came along with a drop dead gorgeous blonde. He chained her to Billy Bob and said, "You will be together now and forever more, and walked away."

Billy Bob exclaimed, "Wow, I wonder what I did to deserve this?" "I don't know about you," said the beautiful woman, But I stepped on a duck."

Queenscliff's Future Secured

The Minister for Defence, John Moore, today welcomed the decision by the Chief of Army, Lieutenant General Peter Cosgrove, to continue Army's commitment to Fort Queenscliff in Victoria.

The Minister has been advised of the

Army's intention to relocate the Soldier Career Management Agency (SCMA) from Victoria Barracks in Melbourne to Queenscliff.

Fort Queenscliff is a significant heritage facility that has, for many years, been home to the Army Command and Staff College. The College is moving to Canberra and there had been speculation about Queenscliff's future use.

"The decision to move the SCMA to Queenscliff means that this unique complex will continue to contribute, not only to Army's future, but to the future of the communities in and around Queenscliff," Mr Moore said.

"The Government has received strong representations from the local Federal Member, Stewart McArthur, about the positive economic and social impact Fort Queenscliff has on the area.

"Mr McArthur has successfully represented the views of his constituents and I'm certain that General Cosgrove's decision to relocate the SCMA will be welcomed by the people of Queenscliff," said Mr Moore.

The Soldier Career Management Agency comprises 100 military and 35 civilian personnel. It is of an equivalent size to the Staff College but has been operating within limited facilities at Victoria Barracks.

Army's assessment of the relocation proposal considered maximising the use of existing Defence facilities while minimising operating costs and disruption to personnel, their families and local communities.

"General Cosgrove has advised me that moving the SCMA to its new home represents a sound solution to Army's long term requirements.

RAEME Corps Dinner

Wow! What a great night!

The dinner took place on the 2nd of December 2000 at the usual time of 7 for 7.30 (that's 1900 for 1930 for the old soldiers).

The first impression of the 73 that arrived for the dinner was "here is a fun group to be with". Everybody seemed to mix in together and the hubbub of conversation was very friendly and jovial. The only regret was forgetting the camera to record the occasion.

Dinner started with Chaplain Howard MacCallum saying the Corps Grace. He was followed by John Klein, the Dining President, declaring "NO NICKING THE MENU COVERS". His little talk before the first course. John also offered the apologies of the Honorary Colonel and Mrs. Stewart for not attending. The Honorary Colonel had a small accident and damaged his back. Don Horsley, the Secretary of the Corps Committee - Western Region, quite ably stepped in and took COL Stewart's place.

The meal itself was the usual excellent quality that comes from the ANZAC House catering staff. We started with Savoury Ham and Cheese Vol-au-vents, followed by a beautiful Roast Lamb and Vegetables (in season). The last course was a Strawberry and Cream Pavlova.

During the course of the dinner, the Dining President discovered that the SASR ASM was without his RAEME Card. He asked all members from Campbell Barracks to stand and hold their cards up. Those with cards were then asked to be seated. There was the ASM, standing on his "Pat Malone". Bad luck, Ace. Actually, we wonder how much was paid in bribes for the Ace's lovely partner to nick his card.

At nine pm (2100 for the oldies) the gathering was asked to stand for the reciting of the Ode. In the minute's silence after the Ode, Don Horsley read a list of our members who had passed away in the last 12 months.

At the completion of the dinner and the Toasts - many and often - "Would you please pass the Port!!!", Don concluded the proceedings by awarding framed certificates to the nominees for the Western Australian Craftsman of the Year. Finally came the big announcement. David Andersen was the Association's choice of the Western Australian Craftsman of the Year. With the announcement came a framed certificate, an engraved Corps Plaque and a cheque for \$100.00.

The Head Table then left the dining room and Paul Watson, our very able Dining Vice President, took over the reins with all the power required to control the rabble. He picked the biggest and the meanest to accompany him and the results were quite hilarious. Our Chaplain came out with his usual side splitting joke.

All evening the Secretary of the Association was expecting to be canned for wearing "odd shoes" after the several comments made in both the Ante and the Dining Rooms. However, he was forgotten by the time the "Kangaroo Court" started. He lived to breathe another day.

Back to the bar in the ANZAC Club and the festivities took off. Even a few of the "Old's and Bold's" attempted to out do the younger members.

The raffles in support of the Association went of very well. Tom Harris, who organised this years raffle, had done a fantastic job on them. The range of prizes was something else again.

The first raffle had, as its first prize, a

Jarrah veneer Dresser generously donated by Supreme Kitchens of Bayswater (more of that later). The 2nd prize was a Mitsubishi Watch and the 3rd, a beautiful Dinner Set.

The second raffles had prizes donated by Truckworld, Skills Engineering and Komatsu. The items proved to be extremely popular, especially with Glenys Doyle, who bought six tickets and won four prizes. (My turn next year, Glenys).

The party was still sparking on all six when marching orders were issued for the President and the Secretary - The bus was leaving whether we were on it or not.

To all those who attended, we hope to see you there again next year, and, to all those who missed out, get in early for next year.

JC

A Very Special Thank You.

The Dinner is over and we must say some very special "Thank You's" for those people who, very generously, assisted us with our raffle prizes.

Our major prize was the beautiful Jarrah Dresser provided by Supreme Kitchens of 2 Cullen Street, Bayswater and our thanks go to Donald Gunn for arranging the deal. Our special thanks go to the management and the staff of Supreme Kitchens for putting in the effort for such a lovely Dresser.

Mal McWhinnie and his wife Denise have been hard at work arranging for quite a few prizes, including the dinner set that went into the first draw. Our thanks go to both of you for all your efforts. One of the prizes, bought in by

Mal and Denise, was donated by Wanneroo Mitsubishi through Mr Terry Greenhill. The prize, a beautiful watch, was eyed off by many of the people at the dinner.

Then we have Truckworld (via Mr. Bernie Williams), Skills Engineering (via Mr. Peter Illfield) and Komatsu (via Mr. Ross Graham). These three companies were largely responsible for the mountain of prizes in our second raffle. They donated Bomber Jackets, Sports Bags, Caps Hats, Stubby Coolers, and Pens. (Glenys Doyle won four of prizes!). It was through their generosity that the evening was successful in the Association getting the much-needed funds to continue our welfare work.

To all the donors of prizes we can only say

THANK YOU!

THANK YOU!

Now these companies have seen fit to help us, it is only fitting that we should remember them, be it for furniture, for a car, a truck or for spare parts. They helped us, so we should help them!



What might have been!

beautiful it looked and it covered up the entire problem area.

Then he noticed the woman walking down the centre aisle. Her face was like a sheet. "Pastor," she asked, "where did you get that tablecloth?" The pastor explained. The woman asked him to check the lower right corner to see if the initials, EBG were crocheted into it there. They were.

These were the initials of the woman, and she had made this tablecloth 35 years before, in Austria. The woman could hardly believe it as the pastor told how he had just gotten the Tablecloth. The woman explained that before the war she and her husband were well-to-do people in Austria. When the Nazis came, she was forced to leave. Her husband was going to follow her the next week.

She was captured, sent to prison and never saw her husband or her home again.

The pastor wanted to give her the tablecloth; but she made the pastor keep it for the church. The pastor insisted on driving her home, that was the least he could do. She lived on the other side of Staten Island and was only in Brooklyn for the day for a house-cleaning job.

What a wonderful service they had on Christmas Eve. The church was almost full. The music and the spirit were great. At the end of the service, the pastor and his wife greeted everyone at the door and many said that they would return.

One older man, whom the pastor recognised from the neighbourhood, continued to sit in one of the pews and stare, and the pastor wondered why he wasn't leaving.

The man asked him where he got the tablecloth on the front wall because it was identical to one that his wife had made years ago when they lived in Austria before the war and how could there be two tablecloths so much alike? He told the pastor how the Nazis came, how he forced his wife to flee for her safety, and he was supposed to follow her, but he was arrested and put in a prison. He never saw his wife or his home again all the 35 years in between.

The pastor asked him if he would allow him to take him for a little ride. They drove to Staten Island and to the same house where the pastor had taken the woman three days earlier. He helped the man climb the three flights of stairs to the woman's apartment, knocked on the door and he saw the greatest Christmas reunion he could ever imagine.

True Story - submitted by Pastor Rob Reid, New York, NY

Look Out for That Duck!

Jake, Johnny and Billy Bob went to the rodeo. Unfortunately, a big bull jumped the fence into the spectators and they were trampled to death. Being good God-fearing men, they ascended to Heaven where they met at the Pearly Gates by St. Peter. He said, "Welcome to Heaven, gentlemen. I'm sure you'll be quite comfortable here, but I must warn you that we do have our rules in Heaven. If you break them, you'll be punished. One rule is never step on a duck. If you step on a duck, the duck quacks, then they all quack, and it goes on and on." That sounded simple enough.

They passed through the Pearly Gates

asked why, I was told that she wouldn't stand for perverts (pedophiles?) working in her company. Finally, he showed me her copy of the memo, with her demand that I be fired and the word "pedagogical" circled in red. The HR manager was fairly reasonable, and once he looked the word up in his dictionary and made a copy of the definition to send back to her, he told me not to worry. He would take care of it. Two days later, a memo to the entire staff came out directing us that no words which could not be found in the local Sunday newspaper could be used in company memos. A month later, I resigned. In accordance with company policy, I created my resignation memo by pasting words together from the Sunday paper. (Taco Bell Corporation)

A Good Story

The brand new pastor and his wife, newly assigned to their first ministry, to reopen a church in suburban Brooklyn, arrived in early October excited about their opportunities. When they saw their church, it was very run down and needed much work. They set a goal to have everything done in time to have their first service on Christmas Eve. They worked hard, repairing pews, plastering walls, painting, etc. and on Dec 18 were ahead of schedule and just about finished.

On Dec 19 a terrible tempest - a driving rainstorm - hit the area and lasted for two days.

On the 21st, the pastor went over to the church.

His heart sank when he saw that the roof had leaked, causing a large area of plaster about 20 feet by 8 feet to fall off the front wall of the sanctuary just behind the pulpit, beginning about head high.

The pastor cleaned up the mess on the floor, and not knowing what else to do but postpone the Christmas Eve service, headed home. On the way he noticed that a local business was having a flea market type sale for charity so he stopped in. One of the items was a beautiful, handmade, ivory coloured, crocheted tablecloth with exquisite work, fine colours and a Cross embroidered right in the centre. It was just the right size to cover up the hole in the front wall. He bought it and headed back to the church.

By this time it had started to snow. An older woman running from the opposite direction was trying to catch the bus. She missed it. The pastor invited her to wait in the warm church for the next bus 45 minutes later. She sat in a pew and paid no attention to the pastor while he got a ladder, hangers, etc., to put up the tablecloth as a wall tapestry. The pastor could hardly believe how

Cuisse de Grenouille



BIOGRAPHICAL DETAILS OF HIS EXCELLENCY LIEUTENANT GENERAL JOHN M SANDERSON, AC GOVERNOR OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Lieutenant General John Sanderson retired as Chief of the Australian Army in June 1998. He was sworn in as Governor of Western Australia on 18 August 2000, returning to his home state after 43 years absence.

Born in Geraldton in November 1940, General Sanderson completed his secondary education at Sunbury High School in 1957 before entering the Royal Military College Duntroon in 1958. He graduated in 1961 and was commissioned into the Royal Australian Engineers in December of that year. After completing a Fellowship Diploma in Civil Engineering at the Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology, General Sanderson had a series of regimental postings. These included second in command of 10 Field Squadron and Troop Commander and Construction Officer of 21 Construction Squadron on operational service in Sabah, Malaysia. He was promoted to Captain in 1965.

Following eighteen months as a Staff Officer in the Office of the Engineer in Chief, he was posted as the Exchange Instructor at the Royal School of Military Engineering, Chatterden UK from 1967-

69. He returned to Australia to command 23 Construction Squadron at Holsworthy prior to taking up command of 17 Construction Squadron in South Vietnam at the end of 1970.

Returning to Australia in late 1971, he was the Senior Instructor at the School of Military Engineering throughout 1972 before attending the Australian Staff College Queenscliff during 1973.

General Sanderson was promoted to Lieutenant Colonel in 1975 after serving for a short period as a Staff Officer at the Headquarters of Field Force Command. His initial appointment as Staff Officer Grade 1 at the Directorate of Engineers was followed by two years (1976-78) as the Exchange Instructor, at the British Army Staff College, Camberley.

He commanded the 1st Field Engineer Regiment from 1979-80, and then attended the Joint Services Staff College in 1981. General Sanderson was appointed as the Military Assistant to the Chief of the General Staff in late 1981, serving in that capacity until being promoted to Colonel as Director of Army Plans in 1983.

From June 1985 to the middle of the following year he attended the US Army War College. Returning to Australia in the rank of Brigadier. After a six-month period as Chairman of the Army Reserve Review Committee, he assumed command of the 1st Brigade at Holsworthy.

General Sanderson served as Chief of Staff Land Command for a brief period in 1989 and was then promoted to Major General and appointed as Assistant Chief of Defence Policy. In this role he was tasked to develop and

carry out major reforms to the Higher ADF Staff, which resulted in him becoming the first Assistant Chief of Defence Force Development at the end of 1989.

From October 1991, General Sanderson became engaged directly in the United Nations process to bring peace to Cambodia; first as adviser to the Secretary General of the United Nations, and then from March 1992, in the rank of Lieutenant General as the Commander of the 16,000 strong international military component of the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC).

After the successful completion of the UN mission in October 1993, General Sanderson returned to Australia to be appointed as the first Commander Joint Forces Australia (now COMAST), and developed this role until becoming Chief of the General Staff in June 1995. General Sanderson's appointment was changed to Chief of the Army in 1997.

Over time General Sanderson's service to Australia has been recognised by the award of Member of the Order of Australia (1985), Officer of the Order (1991) and Companion of the Order (1994). General Sanderson has also been recognised by the United States of America for his service to the region and the alliance by the award of the Legion of Merit - Commander Class.

General Sanderson is married to Lorraine. They have three adult children and close to six grandchildren. They enjoy most things in life, but have a particular enjoyment of golf and the arts in all forms.

DEFENCE RECOGNISES FIRST ANNIVERSARY OF PEACE KEEPING DEPLOYMENT TO EAST TIMOR

The first anniversary of Australia's military deployment to East Timor marked an important milestone for our United Nation's peace keeping record, the Chief of the Army, Lieutenant-General Peter Cosgrove, said today.

Recalling the important role played by Australian Defence Force personnel in restoring peace to the East Timorese, Lieutenant-General Cosgrove said he believed everyone who had taken part in the International Force in East Timor (INTERFET) operation, and those Australians serving with UNTAET, could reflect on their achievements with a strong sense of pride.

"I am amazed by the resilience of the East Timorese people as they labour to re-build their shattered country. Of course, the re-building work will continue for years to come and those Australians currently serving with the UNTAET Peace Keeping Force are helping to create an environment in which this can occur.

Lieutenant-General Cosgrove praised the professionalism and commitment of the Australian Defence Force personnel and peacekeepers from 21 other countries who served with INTERFET. The integration of the forces of 22 nations was the key to INTERFET's success.

In achieving its mandate for peace and security in East Timor, INTERFET succeeded in providing a credible and deterrent security presence in all parts

Dilbert in the Office

A magazine recently ran a "Dilbert Quotes" contest. They were looking for people to submit quotes from their real life Dilbert-type managers. Here are the finalists:

1. "As of tomorrow, employees will only be able to access the building using individual security cards. Pictures will be taken next Wednesday and employees will receive their cards in two weeks." (This was the winning quote from Fred Dales at Microsoft Corp. in Redmond, WA.)

2. "What I need is a list of specific unknown problems we will encounter." (Lykes Lines Shipping)

3. "E-mail is not to be used to pass on information or data. It should be used only for company business." (Accounting manager, Electric Boat Company)

4 "This project is so important, we can't let things that are more important interfere with it." (Advertising/Marketing manager, United Parcel Service)

5. "Doing it right is no excuse for not meeting the schedule.

6. No one will believe you solved this problem in one day! We've been working on it for months. Now, go act busy for a few weeks and I'll let you know when it's time to tell them." (R&D supervisor, Minnesota Mining and Manufacturing/3M Corp.)

7. "My Boss spent the entire weekend retyping a 25-page proposal that only needed corrections. She claims the disk I gave her was damaged and she couldn't edit it. The disk I gave her was write-protected." (CIO of Dell Computers)

8. Quote from the Boss: "Teamwork is a lot of people doing what I say." (Marketing executive, Citrix Corporation)

9. My sister passed away and her funeral was scheduled for Monday. When I told my Boss, he said she died on purpose so that I would have to miss work on the busiest day of the year. He then asked if we could change her burial to Friday. He said, "That would be better for me." (Shipping executive, FTD Florists)

10. "We know that communication is a problem, but the company is not going to discuss it with the employees." (Switching supervisor, AT&T Long Lines Division)

11 . We recently received a memo from senior management saying: "This is to inform you that a memo will be issued today regarding the memo mentioned above." (Microsoft, Legal Affairs Division)

12. One day my Boss asked me to submit a status report to him concerning a project I was working on. I asked him if tomorrow would be soon enough. He said, "If I wanted it tomorrow, I would have waited until tomorrow to ask for it!" (New business manager, Hallmark Greeting Cards.)

13. As director of communications, I was asked to prepare a memo reviewing our company's training programs and materials. In the body of the memo in one of the sentences I mentioned the "pedagogical approach" used by one of the training manuals. The day after I routed the memo to the executive committee, I was called into the HR director's office, and told that the executive vice president wanted me out of the building by lunch. When I

Jim's Life in the US

Here is the latest offering from our brother in arms from the US of A. Perry, you had better stay on your toes after this lot.

Head Nurse:

When you're hospitalised, it pays to be nice to your nurse, even when you're feeling miserable.

A bossy businessman learned the hard way after ordering his nurses around as if they were his employees.

But the head nurse stood up to him.

One morning she entered his room and announced, "I have to take your temperature."

After complaining for several minutes, he finally settled down, crossed his arms and opened his mouth.

"No, I'm sorry, the nurse stated, "but for this reading, I can't use an oral thermometer." This started another round of complaining, but eventually he rolled over and bared his bottom.

After feeling the nurse insert the thermometer, he heard her announce, "I have to get something. Now you stay just like that until I get back!" She left the door to his room open on her way out, and he cursed under his breath as he heard people walking past his door laughing.

After almost an hour, the man's doctor came into the room.

"What's going on here?" asked the doctor.

Angrily, the man answers, "What's the matter, Doc? Haven't you ever seen someone having their temperature taken?"

"Yes," said the doctor. "But never with a carnation.

Things I've Learned in Life!

I've learned that you cannot make someone love you. All you can do is stalk them and hope they panic and give in.

I've learned that no matter how much I care, some people are just assholes.

I've learned that it takes years to build up trust, and it only takes suspicion, not proof, to destroy it.

I've learned that you shouldn't compare yourself to others - they are more screwed up than you think.

I've learned that you can keep puking long after you think you're finished.

I've learned that we are responsible for what we do, unless we are celebrities. (OR U.S. PRESIDENT!!!)

I've learned that regardless of how hot and steamy a relationship is at first, the passion fades, and there had better be a lot of money to take its place.

I've learned that sometimes the people you expect to kick you when you're down will be the ones who do.

I've learned that we don't have to ditch bad friends, because their dysfunction makes us feel better about ourselves.

I've learned that no matter how you try to protect your children, they will eventually get arrested and end up in the local paper.

I've learned that the people you care most about in life are taken from you and all the less important ones just never go away.

of the country, preventing armed violence by the militia groups and developing with Indonesia agreed procedures for border management along the border with West Timor.

However, LTGEN Cosgrove was concerned for the future of East Timorese refugees who were still suffering from poor living conditions in makeshift border camps in West Timor. "I hope those East Timorese that wish to be repatriated to their former homes can do so as quickly as possible," he said.

Background:

At its peak the INTERFET force comprised approximately 9800 personnel, including 4500 Australians. The operation began early on September 20, 1999, when transport aircraft flew an advance party of Australian INTERFET soldiers into Dili Airport. Currently, approximately 1500 Australian Defence personnel are serving with the UNTAET force in East Timor.

RESERVE'S ON THE RISE

The four R's of the Australian Defence Force Reserve - Role, Responsibilities, Recruitment and Retention - are expected to rise under the new look National Defence Reserves Support Council (DRSC) chaired by James Packer, the Minister Assisting the Minister for Defence, Bruce Scott, said today.

Mr Scott's comments came during a visit to Hobart where he addressed the inaugural meeting of the Federal Government's revamped peak advisory body on Reserve matters under the

Chair of Publishing and Broadcasting Limited's Executive Chairman, James Packer.

In August, Mr Scott announced sweeping changes to boost the effectiveness of the Reserves, including legislation to protect Reservists' civilian jobs and financial support to employers of Reservists.

"There is a need to encourage acceptance of Reserve service and improve Reserve retention by better explaining to Australians the roles and responsibilities of Reservists, and to educate employers about the benefits of Reserve service," Mr Scott said.

"The National DRSC will promote the Reserve to the employment/industry sectors and communities from which the ADF Reserve is drawn.

"Mr Packer has accepted the challenge of raising the profile of the Reserve, and I am confident that he and the Council will rise to this challenge with vigour."

The new National DRSC, comprising some 27 members, has been bolstered with broader representation from employer; business and trade union groups, as well as for the first time representatives from youth, ethnic community councils, the media and education sectors.

Mr Scott said former Queensland Governor Leneen Forde and former Northern Territory Chief Minister Shane Stone, himself a Reservist, have accepted appointments as Vice Chairs, and Sir James Killen, the immediate past Chair of the National Defence Reserve Committee, since 1993, will stay on as Patron of the new look Council.

DEFENCE RESPONSE TO SIXTY MINUTES '3RAR' REPORT

Deputy Chief of Army, Major General Peter Leahy reiterated tonight that the allegations made on the Sixty Minutes programme are currently the focus of military justice proceedings.

“As such, Army is not at liberty to discuss the specifics of any of these matters. Investigations and disciplinary proceedings are underway and all those involved must be viewed as innocent until proven guilty. Both the victims and the accused deserve a fair go.” General Leahy said.

“Army has and will continue to thoroughly investigate and act on any allegations, regardless of rank or position.”

“All ranks, including officers, were interviewed during the Military Police investigation and no one is immune from prosecution.”

General Leahy encouraged anyone with any allegations to come forth and emphasised that Army would provide its full support.

“All incidents and allegations of this nature are taken seriously. The most serious for the Army as an organisation is that such activity may have been condoned. Rough justice or unlawful punishment is not acceptable in the Army at any level.”

“The Army and Defence is totally focussed on eliminating unacceptable behaviour of any type.”

The Chief of Army, Lieutenant General Peter Cosgrove will soon be announcing a range of initiatives designed to ensure

that all ranks feel comfortable at their work and have confidence that their leaders will give them support when and where it is needed.

In addition, Chief of the Defence Force, Admiral Chris Barrie, has announced the establishment of a high level audit team, led by retiring Federal Court Judge, Justice James Burchett and the appointment of a Military Inspector General to ensure all personnel are treated fairly.

Since the releasing of this report 15 soldiers and one Officer have been charged with various bastardisation charges. The Officer has been found guilty.

Bursary to Help Children of Vietnam Vets

The Federal Government and the Vietnam veteran community have launched a new initiative to help needy children of Vietnam veterans to enter tertiary education.

The Long Tan Bursary was officially launched on 18 August - Vietnam Veterans' Day - as one of a series of Government initiatives to strengthen the support available to Vietnam veterans and their families.

The bursary is being fielded through the Department of Veterans' Affairs and administered by the Australian Vietnam War Veterans Trust (VVT).

The bursary is designed to help needy children of Vietnam veterans make the move into tertiary study and to gain the qualifications and skills they need to pursue a career.

None of my guys have once complained and all have volunteered to help in any way. The Cole's Supply Officer (Suppo) was injured and flown home. The disbo is now running things. I will assess his needs when I go over. The Suppo on the Hawes has been controlling the efforts but now that the Tarawa is on station they seem to be taking the rains, but I think I can at least provide him some insight. Let there be no doubt that this is a hostile land. It took days before we were even allowed to enter territorial waters and still we are heavily restricted in flights and must maintain a constant vigil against additional hostile actions. The Yemen government is still not being very helpful and we are trying to place all personnel onboard the ships that are currently staying at the two hotels in town. The Cole's crew remains emotionally and physically drained I'm told. So, since you have experienced Navy life, try relay to those back home the sacrifices we make, hardships we endure, and the dangers we face in an effort to keep those Stars and Stripes flying high over a ship 10,000 miles from home. Take care and sleep well knowing the US Navy is on watch tonight, but say a prayer for the 250 members of the Cole who must wake tomorrow to another day of fighting for their ship.

John Cassani

USS ANCHORAGE

“Ain't Learning Great!!!!!!”

Interpretations of nature from junior high, high school, and college test papers and essays submitted to science and health teachers (spelling errors preserved)

When you breath, you inspire. When you do not breath, you expire.

H2O is hot water, and CO2 is cold water
To collect fumes of sulphur, hold a deacon over a flame in a test tube

When you smell an oderless gas, it is probably carbon monoxide

Water is composed of two gins, Oxygen and Hydrogin. Oxygen is pure gin. Hydrogin is gin and water.

Three kinds of blood vessels are arteries, vanes and caterpillars.

Blood flows down one leg and up the other.

Respiration is composed of two acts, first inspiration, and then expectoration.

The moon is a planet just like the earth, only it is even deader.

Artificial insemination is when the farmer does it to the cow instead of the bull.

Dew is formed on leaves when the sun shines down on them and makes them perspire.

A super-saturated solution is one that holds more than it can hold.

Mushrooms always grow in damp places and so they look like umbrellas.

The body consists of three parts - the brainium, the borax and the abominable cavity. The brainium contains the brain, the borax contains the heart and lungs, and the abominable cavity contains the bowls, of which there are five - a, e, i, o, and u.

The pistol of a flower is its only protections agenst insects.

The alimentary canal is located in the northern part of Indiana.

For asphyxiation: Apply artificial respiration until the patient is dead.

From 3CAV Regiment Association

Dear John,

The Third Cavalry Regiment Association in conjunction with the First Armoured Regiment Association are holding a National reunion for both Associations in Fremantle from 24 April to 28 April 2002.

It is important for us to ensure that all former members that served with the two units in Vietnam are aware of the reunion. To enable us to do that, we need your assistance in trying to track down those soldiers that served in the LAD of both Units.

It would be appreciated if you could include in any of your newsletters or mail-outs, information in respect of the reunion. I have enclosed a notice that you may wish to incorporate in any mail-out that you may be conducting in the near future. If you have a National body, it would be appreciated if they could also be informed of the reunion.

The LAD were an integral part of both units and a reunion with former RAEME members would only enhance the occasion and I am sure your members would also thoroughly enjoy it themselves. There are number of LAD members that are members of our association and some have already registered to attend.

If you require any further information about the reunion I would only be too happy to supply it to you. I can be contacted on the numbers shown above.

Your anticipated co-operation in this matter is greatly valued,
Yours sincerely

Terry Stidwell
Secretary, Reunion Committee

USS Cole

This is a letter from a member of the US Navy aboard the USS Anchorage. The Anchorage is assisting the USS Cole which has now been loaded onto a heavy lift ship for transportation to a repair facility. This letter shows the damage that has been done to the USS Cole. It also shows the feelings of the crew of that ship.

John,
Your friend said it all. We too are on station and I will be going over there in the morning to provide a lunch. I wanted to grill steak for them on their deck, but there is still too much oil and fuel, not to mention every square foot of deck is now their living space, to set up a grill. Their requests have been simple, hot food, cold drinks and dry coveralls and boots. The ships here are all taking turns doing their laundry and cooking their meal. The Cole's crew has been offered repeatedly to take R&R on another ship but most have refused. They refuse to leave their ship. The details of their shipmates having to be cut from the bulkheads and descriptions and photos of the description have filtered to our ship. It is amazing that more were not killed. It is equally amazing that it is still afloat. The keel is ripped apart and at present cannot even be towed to open water to be placed on a dry-dock vessel. The #1 engine room is flooded solid, as is AUX 1. The Messdecks deck is now pressed against the overhead. The entire galley was pushed to the starboard side and the equipment is unrecognisable. This is where many crewmembers died. The ship was very nearly lost. They are truly heroes. We all have a lot to do to save this vessel but the crew of the Cole has endured the brunt of it so far. I have vowed myself and my department to offer any comfort, large or small that we are capable of providing, to the Cole.

Successful applicants will receive \$6000 to meet the costs of their first year of full-time tertiary education. Two bursaries will be awarded every year to successful applicants from each State and one each to applicants from the Northern Territory and the Australian Capital Territory.

To be eligible to apply for a Long Tan Bursary applicants must be:

- the child of an Australian Vietnam veteran;
- under the age of 25, unless exceptional circumstances exist;
- living permanently in Australia and planning to enrol in their first year of full-time tertiary education in Australia, in an approved course of one or more academic years' duration;
- in needy financial circumstances (the test is eligibility on financial grounds for Youth Allowance educational benefits); and
- not a previous recipient of a Long Tan Bursary.

Applications are open until 31 October of each year. For more information telephone the VVT on 1800 620 361 toll free or visit their web site at www.accsoft.com.au/~vvt or DVA's web site at www.dva.gov.au.

Contact - Contact!!

Kevin Hughes would like contact with any current and former BLUEBELLS.

Kevin is now Mobile Ranger No. 2 with CALM.

Kevin operates out of Derby at Windjana George up until September each year and then moves to the Esperance area.

If you plan on visiting one of these areas, you can contact Kevin by writing to:
Kevin Hughes
Mobile Ranger 2
50 Hayman Road
Como 6152
Or you can contact him by phone on 9191 7076

Meeting on Future East Timor Defence Force

The Minister for Defence, John Moore, today announced that Australia would make a substantial commitment to the development of an East Timor Defence Force.

Mr Moore's announcement follows a multinational meeting held in Dili from 21-23 November to discuss international support for the development of a defence force for East Timor.

The meeting was hosted by the United Nations Transitional Administration in East Timor (UNTAET), with active participation by East Timorese representatives.

It was attended by representatives of Australia, Portugal, Thailand, Malaysia, Singapore, the Philippines, Japan, Korea, New Zealand, the United States, the United Kingdom and Brazil. UNTAET and East Timor have invited Indonesia to attend the final plenary session of the meeting, which is being held early today.

"As a near neighbour, Australia has an interest in the development of an independent East Timor which is secure, stable, democratic and able to offer its citizens a better future," Mr Moore said.

“A key element of preparing East Timor for independence is to give it the ability to provide for its own defence. The development and final shape of the force would have to take into account East Timor’s other development priorities and needs. By necessity, the defence force would be modest.”

Through UNTAET, Australia has offered an in-principle program of defence assistance with a potential value of up to \$26 million over five years.

“The development of East Timor’s national defence force will be a major and complex task involving the ongoing collaboration of many nations in close partnership with UNTAET and the East Timorese,” said Mr Moore.

“I have been encouraged by the participation of significant regional countries in the Dili meeting and their in-principle commitment to the process. Australia also will be working closely with Portugal, reflecting our shared commitment to assisting East Timor.”

Tenix Everest 2001 Expedition Launched

The Army Alpine Association’s Tenix Everest 2001 expedition was launched today by Deputy Chief of Army Major General Peter Leahy.

The expedition will climb the North Ridge of Mt Everest (8850m) from May to June next year and will be the first all Australian team to attempt this route. The expedition will also coincide with celebrations for the Centenary of Federation and the Army’s centenary.

Twelve members of the Army Alpine Association (AAA) have been selected

for the expedition. The team includes Captain Tanya Bylart who is only the third Australian woman to summit an 8000m peak as part of the AAA Shishapangma expedition last year.

The team includes Army, Navy and Air Force personnel as well as civilians. Expedition leader Major Zac Zaharias and Colonel Peter Lambert were also members of Bicentennial Everest Expedition in 1988.

MAJGEN Leahy said he was proud of the professionalism, dedication and commitment of team members and said the AAA was an excellent example of the high level of cooperation and skill that existed between all areas of the Australian Defence Force.

The expedition will fly to Kathmandu, Nepal and travel across the Himalayan divide to Tibet where they will set up base camp in March next year. The expedition will be accompanied by journalist Captain Lorraine Mulholland who will provide daily satellite reports and images on the progress of the expedition which expects to summit Mt Everest in early June.

The AAA was formed in 1975 by General Peter Gratton to foster alpine adventurous training throughout the Army and the ADF. The AAA is the largest and most active adventure association in Australia with over 600 members and this month celebrates its 25th anniversary.

Over the last 25 years, the AAA has been a pioneer in the promotion, development and conduct of alpine adventurous training for ADF personnel. As an organisation, the AAA promotes positive and healthy pursuits with physical and psychological challenge

The comprehensive Review of National Security, which will examine PNG’s strategic circumstances, and make recommendations on the size and structure of the PNGDF appropriate for PNG’s strategic situation.

This assistance is expected to take the form of financial aid, and the participation of a prominent Australian who has appropriate PNG experience.

The total cost of the assistance package, which will be funded through Australia’s Defence Cooperation Program, will be finalised over the next few weeks.

Relocation Of Helicopter School

The Minister for Defence, John Moore, today said that a decision to relocate the Australian Defence Force (ADF) Helicopter school from a centralised location in Canberra to Nowra and Oakey was good news for regional Australia.

After an extensive review of the School and the ADF’s requirements, the basic training facility at RAAF Fairbairn will be aggregated with the advanced rotary

wing flying training conducted by Navy at Nowra in New South Wales, and Army at Oakey in Queensland.

“Defence believe this course of action will increase the effectiveness of training for each service,” Mr Moore said.

“The more focused approach to helicopter flying training also will result in savings to Defence of up to \$700,000 per annum.”

The Navy element of the ADF Helicopter School, comprising three staff and 12 trainees a year, will transfer to Nowra in December.

The Army element, comprising 43 staff and up to 44 trainees a year, will relocate to Oakey in December 2001.

Maintenance of Army aircraft used for training at RAAF Fairbairn is performed under contract by Boeing. This contract also will relocate with contract employees given 12 months notice of the move.

“I am confident Nowra and Oakey will welcome personnel from the Helicopter School and their families. I know our people will make a valuable contribution to the local communities,” said Mr Moore.

Can We Help You

The RAEME Association is concerned about the welfare of RAEME members in Western Australia, Particularly if they have a disability or getting a bit on the elderly side. We would like to set up a practical help and support group who can provide a voluntary service such as gardening, home help, transport, or assistance with shopping, etc.

So, if you are fit and healthy and are willing to give a little of your time to help other members of the Corps, contact the Secretary and let him know. We will maintain a database of helpers and expertise.

If you need assistance because of age or infirmity, let us know. We will be only too glad to make sure that you have the help you need. And the best part of it is that it is all part of the service.

Number 1 in the Darwin Awards 2000

PADERBORN, GERMANY - Overzealous zookeeper Friedrich Riesfeldt fed his constipated elephant Stefan 22 doses of animal laxative and more than a bushel of berries, figs and prunes before the plugged-up pachyderm finally let fly-and suffocated the keeper under 200 pounds of poop! Investigators say ill-fated Friedrich, 46, was attempting to give the ailing elephant an olive oil enema when the relieved beast unloaded on him like a dump truck full of mud. "The sheer force of the elephant's unexpected defecation knocked Mr. Riesfeldt to the ground, where he struck his head on a rock and lay unconscious as the elephant continued to evacuate his bowels on top of him," said flabbergasted Paderborn police detective Erik Dern. "With no one there to help him, he lay under all that dung for at least an hour before a watchman came along, and during that time he suffocated. "It seems to be just one of those freak accidents that happen.

This really did happen!!

Assistance to PNG Defence Force

The Minister for Defence, John Moore, today said he was pleased that Australia was proceeding with a package of assistance to the Papua New Guinea Government aimed at helping with its reform measures for the PNG Defence Force (PNGDF).

Prime Minister John Howard, announced the assistance measures

today. Defence will provide direct help to the PNGDF with rationing, base services, and financial management. Australia also will assist with the discharge and repatriation of PNGDF members made redundant as a result of reform initiatives.

"Assistance will be provided that will provide stability and certainty within the PNG Defence Force," Mr Moore said. "It will help the PNGDF successfully implement the PNG Government's public sector reform agenda.

"In talks I had during the visit of my counterpart, PNG Defence Minister Muki Taranupi, in May this year, it was evident that the PNG Government wanted to get serious about its own Defence reform program.

"As I outlined to Mr Taranupi, Australia remains committed to considering requests for appropriate assistance to the PNG Government to implement its reform initiatives.

"Implementation of the assistance package is likely to result in a short-term increase in the numbers of Australian Defence Force and public service personnel advising the PNG Government on defence issues.

"We may increase the number of personnel permanently posted to PNG should the PNGDF request greater longer-term assistance. Currently, there are 30 Australian Defence personnel working in PNG," said Mr Moore.

"Australia wants to help the PNG Government reform the PNGDF to ensure that it can respond appropriately to PNG's security challenges.

Australia also has offered the PNG Government assistance to conduct a

being the central theme. It encourages junior soldiers and officers to develop Army values and qualities such as courage, initiative, teamwork and leadership.

Welfare Corner

This issue we are going to have a look at a number of small articles that will have an effect on a lot of the members of this Association.

GST-free Cars for T&PI and Amputee Veterans

Totally and Permanently Incapacitated (T&PI) and certain amputee veterans are able to buy new or used cars and car parts GST-free.

These veterans were previously exempt from paying Sales Tax on motor vehicles and parts before Sales Tax was repealed with the introduction of the GST.

Eligible veterans can request a supply of GST-free declaration form from any office of the Department of Veterans' Affairs.

At the time of purchase, details of the car or car parts are written on the declaration form which is signed by the veteran.

This form is retained by the motor dealer.

The dealer should also be shown a Gold Card embossed T&PI or some other official document that shows the veteran is entitled to make the declaration.

The benefit is available at the point of sale, with the car or car parts being supplied GST free. Eligible veterans do

not pay any GST to the dealer.

The benefit is available on new or used cars up to \$55,134 which is the 'car depreciation limit'.

Eligible veterans are free to purchase more expensive cars but the GST and luxury car tax apply to the amount above the 'car depreciation limit'.

The cost of modifications to a car that are made solely for the purpose of adapting it for driving by, or for transporting, the eligible veteran, are not included in the value of the car for GST and luxury car tax purposes.

An eligible veteran may be provided with such modifications by the Department of Veterans Affairs under the Repatriation Aids Program (RAP) at no cost to the veteran.

For example, Bill is a T&PI veteran who wants to buy a new Holden sedan which has standard power steering. He has a problem with his wrist so he adds power windows as an option.

The normal purchase price of the car would be \$38,000 (GST inclusive)

By using his entitlement to purchase the car GST-free, Bill only has to pay \$34,545.45.

He can also use his entitlement to purchase a spare fan belt, spark plugs, oil and air filters. But the entitlement does not extend to petrol or oil.

More Veterans may Meet New Income and Assets Tests

More people may now be eligible for a service pension or income support supplement (ISS).

The implementation of the Government's

tax reform package has resulted in changes to the way that income support pensions are calculated.

In particular, the rate at which private income lowers the pension has been reduced.

The amount of pension that a person is eligible for is calculated according to income and asset tests.

Don't forget that you have to satisfy the asset test as well as the income test.

If you think that you might now be eligible for a service pension, you should contact your nearest Department of Veterans' Affairs office.

Travel Cheats Face the Courts

Two Victorian veterans have paid a heavy price for attempting to defraud the Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA) by lodging false travel expense claims.

One veteran was found guilty at the Melbourne Magistrate's Court on 20 April 2000 and released on a 12-month good behaviour bond.

He was also ordered to repay DVA \$4,383.

Another veteran was sentenced in May at Shepparton Magistrate's Court to four months imprisonment, to be served as an intensive correction order, and ordered to repay \$7,940.

Both men forged the signatures of health providers on their false travel claims to claim for trips that they had not undertaken.

One also submitted fraudulent claims in a relative's name without the knowledge of that relative.

The forgeries were detected by processing staff as part of the normal claim verification process. The processing staff reported the men to DVA's National Fraud Control Unit.

The unit's specially-trained investigators reviewed previous travel expense claims and conducted surveillance to prove the extent of the fraud before the cases were referred to the Director of Public Prosecutions.

In some cases the Director of Public Prosecutions agrees to issue formal warnings rather than proceed to court.

The activities of a number of other veterans are currently being investigated by the National Fraud Control Unit following an audit of travel claims.

It is strongly suggested that claimants should be very careful when submitting paperwork. Consult your Welfare Officers!

Gulf War Veterans Study Begins

Australian veterans of the 1990-91 Gulf War are encouraged to take part in a \$4 million study into their health and well being. The study, which began in Melbourne in August, will take a comprehensive look at the medical and psychological health of as many as possible of the 1872 Australian veterans of the Gulf War.

Servicemen and women who served in the Persian Gulf between August 1990 and September 1991, during the Gulf War, are encouraged to participate in the study to give a clearer understanding of the impact their service has had on their health and well-

Life According to Perry

Here is the latest offering from our own home spun Philosopher Perry.

The Top 17 Ways to Tell Someone Their Fly Is Unzipped

You've got Windows on your laptop.

Sailor Ned's trying to take a little shore leave.

Your dork is ajar.

Quasimodo needs to go back in the tower and tend to his bells.

I can see your Gap dancers.

Paging Mr. Johnson... Paging Mr. Johnson...

Your pod bay door is open, Hal.

Elvis Junior has left the building!

Mini Me is making a break for the escape pod.

Ensign Hanes is reporting a hull breach on the lower deck, sir.

Captain, sensors detect a wormhole in the forward quadrant!

Lil' Shaq's at the free show line.

You've got your fly set for "Monica" instead of "Hillary."

Your closet door is open and Donato's peeking out.

You've got a security breach at Los Pantalones.

I see you have an opening in senior management.

And the Number 1 Way to Tell Someone Their Fly Is Unzipped...

Our next guest is someone who needs no introduction.

Proverbs You Should Know:

* Before you criticise someone, walk a mile in his shoes. That way, if he gets angry, he'll be a mile away - and barefoot.

* A clear conscience is usually the sign of a bad memory.

* If you must choose between two evils, pick the one you've never tried before.

* My idea of housework is to sweep the room with a glance.

* Not one shred of evidence supports the notion that life is serious.

* It is easier to get forgiveness than permission.

* I have found at my age going bra-less pulls all the wrinkles out of my face.

* For every action, there is an equal and opposite government program.

* Age is a very high price to pay for maturity.

* A closed mouth gathers no feet.

* If you look like your passport picture, you probably need the trip.

* Always yield to temptation, because it may not pass your way again.

* Bills travel through the mail at twice the speed of checks.

* A conscience is what hurts when all your other parts feel so good.

* Eat well, stay fit, die anyway.

* Men are from earth. Women are from earth. Deal with it.

* No husband has ever been shot while doing the dishes.

* A balanced diet is a cookie in each hand.

Missing, please find!!

1 Field Squadron

Barry Reid of Lot 4 Murphy's Creek Road, M/S 224, Toowoomba Qld 4352,

Ph(07) 4630 5326

Barry would like to contact Vietnam veterans:

ASM WOI Phil Harris, Glen Ernest ('Deadly'), Cpl Patterson ('Patto') and Major Peter Jackson, who were attached to 1 Field Squadron Workshops, 1969 to 1970.



Supreme Kitchens

This company has been of great assistance to the RAEME Association. They donated a beautiful Dresser for a raffle at the Corps Birthday Dinner. **Supreme Kitchens are situated at 2 Cullen Street Bayswater.** If you want a really good job down on any furniture, call **Don Gunn on 9272 4422.** Ask for a quote, you will be pleasantly surprised. **Don is a committee member of the Association.**

Don't Forget

The HORSE'S MOUTH welcomes any correspondence, letters to the Editor, moans or groans. If you have a point of view, let us know. You can send contributions to the Editor at the address on page 2. Remember that you are responsible for what you write. The journal has a disclaimer, also on page 2. So let's have the articles and points of view that are just busting to get out.

You Know You're Getting 'Marvelously Mature'

When.....

1. You and your teeth don't sleep together.
2. Your try to straighten out the wrinkles in your socks and discover you aren't wearing any.
3. At the breakfast table you hear snap, crackle, pop and you're not eating cereal.
4. Your back goes out but you stay home.
5. When you wake up looking like your driver's license picture.
6. It takes two tries to get up from the couch.
7. When your idea of a night out is sitting on the patio.
8. When happy hour is a nap.
9. When you're on vacation and your energy runs out before your money does.
10. When you say something to your kids that your mother said to you and you always hated it.
11. When all you want for your birthday is to not be reminded of your age.
12. When you step off a curb and look down one more time to make sure the street is still there.
13. Your idea of weight lifting is standing up.
14. It takes longer to rest than it did to get tired.
15. Your memory is shorter and your complaining lasts longer.
16. Your address book has mostly names that start with Dr.

Drinkin' 'Til He's Heaven

Father Murphy walked into a pub and said to the first man he met, "Do you want to go to heaven?"

The man said, "I do Father."

The priest said, "Leave this pub right now!" He then approached a second man. "Do you want to go to heaven?"

"Certainly, Father," was the man's reply. "Then leave this den of Satan!" said the priest.

Father Murphy then walked up to O'Toole and asked, "Do you want to go to heaven?"

O'Toole replied: "No, I don't Father."

The priest looked him right in the eye and said, "You mean to tell me that when you die you don't want to go to heaven?"

O'Toole smiled, "Oh, when I die. Yes Father. I thought you were getting a group together to go right now."

being.

The study is being funded by the Department of Veterans' Affairs, with support from the Department of Defence.

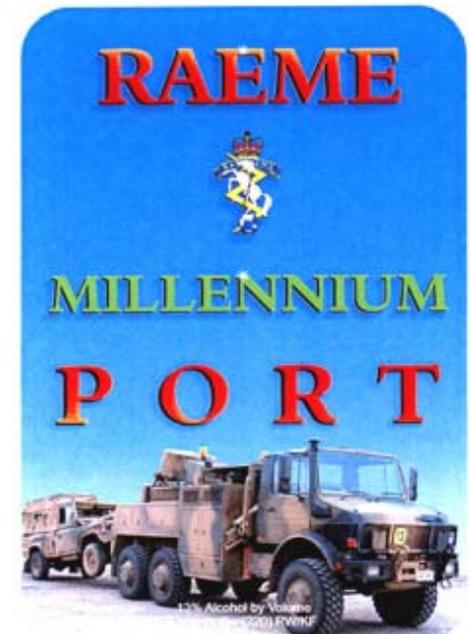
Monash University's Department of Epidemiology and Preventative Medicine and Health Services Australia are conducting the study. The Gulf War Veterans' Health Study will focus on service personnel who served during the Gulf War and associated operations in and around the Persian Gulf, during the period August 1990 and September 1991. Participants in the study will undergo thorough medical and psychological examinations and will be asked to provide details of their medical history and experiences while serving in the Persian Gulf. Those Gulf War veterans wishing to participate in the Health Study should telephone 1800 502 302 for details.

Millennium Port

The Association has just received notification that MEA has been selected to provide this year's RAEME Port.

Orders for the Port must be submitted to MEA by 23rd of February 2001. If you wish the Association to get some Port for you, please let us know before the 16th of February 2001. The Association will send a bulk order to MEA and arrange delivery as appropriate. The Secretary may be contacted on the phone number on page two or by email at curtisj@bigpond.com.

If you wish to write address is PO Box 186, Bayswater, WA 6053



One of our staunchest supporters and also a committee member is Peter Humpston. Peter began his service in 1938. Peter served in the Royal Army Ordnance Corps prior to the formation of REME. He has agreed to write a serialised version of what happened to him in the dim, dark past. Over the next few issues we are going to follow Peter and see what he got up to. Now read on———

“Boy Service” Nostalgia

The morning of the fifth of October 1938 was exactly two months to the day after my fourteenth birthday, and a day I will never forget as it was without doubt the first day of the rest of my life. As I'm sure it also was for the majority of the other 249, fourteen and fifteen year olds that, on this most auspicious morning were to leave home. Possibly for the first time in their young lives, to proudly receive the King's Shilling and commit to serving their Sovereign and Country for at least the next twelve years. As I pushed my way against the wind with my small bag of what ever personal effects, I had been instructed that I could take with me, there was naturally a basic sense of foreboding within me at finally leaving home and proceeding out into the wide world for the first time on a permanent basis. Not knowing where exactly I was going or when, if ever .I would be coming back to the old home fire again. But this sense of foreboding was to a great degree offset by the anticipation and excitement of becoming a **soldier** and what the future may have to offer.

It was difficult to believe that only three months previously I had been an average fourth former at a junior college

with no exceptional academic abilities, but most pleased with my various sporting achievements ranging from boxing and athletics to swimming. Not forgetting my riding and the apprenticeship I was due to commence in a couple of months time at a nearby National Hunt racing stable, and which I now realised was to be just a dream, together with my ambitions to obtain a full National Hunt ticket and make riding my career.

In addition to these disappointments the dark clouds of war had been gathering steadily for some time and it was generally thought most unlikely that war with Germany could be avoided. At that particular time our well meaning but completely naive Prime Minister, Mr. Neville Chamberlain, had not yet paid his famous visit to Herr Hitler and returned with that equally famous piece of paper confirming “Peace in our time“.

Finally, I completed my trudge to the railway station on time and duly caught the train for the half-hour run to Leicester. Where in accordance with my instructions, I was to report to the recruiting officer at the Leicester Central Recruiting Office for my official enlistment into His Majesty's Regular Army, in the Royal Army Ordnance Corps, for a period of four years technical apprenticeship, eight years colour service and four years reserve commencing in the rank of A. T. (Apprentice Tradesman). Such final enlistment being subject to the satisfactory results of a medical examination. Shortly after my arrival at the Recruiting Office and firstly being greeted by the recruiting sergeant, two more equally bemused boys arrived

Moving House - Helping Defence Families To Cope

A new booklet designed to help Defence families better cope with moving house was launched today by the Minister Assisting the Minister for Defence, Bruce Scott.

Speaking at the Parliament House launch of Home is Where the Family Is: Moving House With Children, Mr Scott said on average a Defence family would move house every three years because of the highly mobile nature of the Australian Defence Force.

“A move is never easy, and when a young family is involved it can be a very daunting experience indeed,” Mr Scott said.

“Home is Where the Family Is: Moving House With Children, deals with understanding change, preparing children for the move, the move itself, and the settling in process.

“This booklet is an easy to read guide for families that has been developed following significant consultation with serving ADF men and women, their families and the Defence Community Organisation.

“Defence removals number in the thousands during any twelve month period, and I am confident Defence families will find Home is Where the Family Is: Moving House With Children a very useful resource,” he said.

Home is Where the Family Is: Moving House With Children, written by Pam Linke, is a joint venture between the Defence Community Organisation and the Australian Early Childhood Association.

and were, I'm sure, just as pleased to see me and know they were not entirely on their own, as I was to see them for the same reason.

Having been duly documented by the sergeant we were taken to an adjoining room where we experienced the first of the very many identical medical examinations which we were to go through during our service and to come to know as “Short Arm Inspections” I had of course heard of the “bend over” requirements said to be applied in such examinations, but had always treated such claims with the disbelief I thought they deserved. But, as I was to do with many things from this particular time of my life onwards, I learnt that all that glitters is not necessarily gold.

With the satisfactory completion of the medical exam we were declared physically fit and free from infection or as we were to come to know it F.F.I. As a result we were lined up one behind the other outside the Recruiting Officers office and once again experienced our first of many such future “march-ins“ to senior officers.

We all know that Peter made it. But! How did he make it? More will be revealed next issue.

Did You Know?

One CMF Unit has a unique history in that it is the only one that was raised in an Australian University entirely as RAEME. In 1949 a University of Technology was opened in Sydney and, in 1951, raised its CMF unit . It was known as the New South Wales University of Technology - Regiment - RAEME, its short title was UT Regt.