

'Paludrine Parade'

Official Newsletter of the Royal Australian Army Service Corps
Vietnam Supply Platoons Association



Patron: MAJGEN David McLachlan AO (Rtd). Web Site: <http://raascsupply.asn.au/>

Search for relatives of SVN servicemen interred in Malaysia & Singapore

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June, 2015

Inside this issue:

In May this year, the Prime Minister, Tony Abbott MP, announced the Government's decision to offer repatriation to Australia of the Australians interred in the Terendak Military Cemetery in Malaysia. This offer of repatriation responds to concerns that Terendak Military Cemetery is not readily accessible. The Terendak cemetery is located within a large operational Malaysian Armed Forces Base and due to security restrictions, does not enjoy the ready access of cemeteries elsewhere where Australian service personnel are interred. Until the change of Australian repatriation policy in 1966, service personnel who died overseas after WW2 were interred in the closest practicable 'Commonwealth' cemetery, unless the next of kin elected to have the remains returned to Australia at their own expense. This offer will ensure that all Australian service personnel who died in the Vietnam War will finally be treated equally. The repatriation will be organised by the Office of Australian War Graves. The repatriations are planned to occur in June 2016 when they will be welcomed home with full military honours. Between now and then, the OAWG will engage with families as they consider whether to accept the Government's offer. No remains will be returned to Australia where there is not support from the veterans' surviving spouse or if they were never married the parents, or in their absence, the unanimous support of children or siblings. All costs associated with the repatriation and reburial will be met by the Australian Government. The decision to take up this offer of repatriation rests solely with the families. Any graves remaining at Terendak will continue to be maintained by the OAWG. The offer will be made to the families of the 27 Australian servicemen and eight Australian dependants commemorated in Terendak.

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The offer will also be extended to the family of the only other Australian who died in the Vietnam War who is interred overseas. He is buried in Kranji War Cemetery, Singapore. All known relatives have been contacted by the OAWG who are now seeking to locate relatives of GNR Thomas Checkley, PTE Norman Allen, SIG Kenneth Charles as well as the relatives of service dependants, Kathleen Ridley and Tracey Thompson who are also commemorated in the cemetery. **Enquiries and information to wargraves@dva.gov.au.**



2014/2016 Committee and State Representatives

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Editors Notes

It's always a pleasure to put down these newsletters, but I can't do it alone. I'm always looking for suitable input and if you have anything of interest to tell your fellow members, I'd only be too happy to include it into the next edition. We have had a few of our good folk feeling crook recently and we sincerely hope everyone gets better soon. These cold, wet and wintery days don't help much, but there are those far worse off. We hope those in north west QLD desperate for some rain, get some soon. Take care. DVM

Australian Government
Department of Veterans' Affairs

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Veterans and Veterans Families Counselling Service (VVCS) and Veterans Line can be reached 24 hours a day across Australia for crisis support and free and confidential counselling.

Phone
1800 011 046

2016 RAASCVSPA Reunion Perth

Dates: Mon 2nd May - Fri 6th May, 2016

Proposed Program

Sat 30 th April	Free Day	Train Travelers Arrive In Perth.
Sun 1 st May	0930-1430	<u>Tour 1</u> Swan Valley with Sweet Treats. \$57.50pp.
Mon 2 nd May	0900-1100 1100 1230-1500 1500	Free Time. Commencement of Formal 2016 Reunion Events. Registration Lunch – Anzac House Free Time
Tue 3 rd May	0900-1600	<u>Tour 2</u> Mandurah/Cruise Estuary/Kings Park \$66.00pp.
Wed 4 th May	0900-1600	<u>Tour 3</u> Fremantle/Barrack St. Cruise. \$60.00pp.
Thu 5 th May	0900-1400 1400-1430 1500-1730 1800	Free Time Service (Yet To Be Determined) AGM Corps Formal Dinner - Anzac House
Fri 6 th May	0900-1100 1200-1430	Free Time Lunch – Anzac House Or Hillary's (Bus). Air travelers & those with Caravans Etc depart to do their own thing.
Sat 7 th May	Free Day	
Sun 8 th May	Train Travelers Depart For Adelaide.	

Recommended Accommodation Venues

<u>Riverview Hotel</u> (Highly recommended for single rooms)	<u>Mont Clare Boutique Apartments</u> (Recommended for two bedroom apartments).	<u>Central Caravan Park.</u> (For powered sites, 1 or 2 b/rm cabins).
Address: 42 Mount Street, West Perth WA 6005. Phone: (08) 9321 8963 Email: manager@riverviewperth.com.au Website: www.riverviewperth.com.au	Address: 190 Hay Street, East Perth, WA 6004. Phone: (08) 9224 4300 Email: info@montclareapartments.com Website: www.montclareapartments.com	Address: 34 Central Avenue, Ascot WA 6104. Phone: (08) 9277 1704 Freecall: 1300 760 060 Email: mailbox@perthcentral.com.au Website: www.perthcentral.com.au
<u>Pricing standards.</u> \$130.00 per night & deluxe \$150.00 per night. Standard rooms are fine. No two bedroom apartments are available here. Free & secure parking. Anzac House in St Georges Terrace is only a 21 minute walk away. (1.6 kms).	<u>Pricing standards.</u> \$180.00 per night for a single bedroom apartment. Two bedroom apartments each with a Queen size bed, \$199.00 pn. Free, secure parking provided. Anzac House in St Georges Terrace is only a 14 minute walk away. (1.1 kms).	<u>Pricing standards.</u> Based on seven nights or more as at Jul 2015. Powered sites \$42.00 pn x 2A. One bedroom cabin from \$145.00. Two bedroom cabins from \$175.00 pn. Anzac House in St Georges Terrace is a 20 minute SE drive away (11.3 kms). Or you can take a bus. (30 minutes).

Notes on booking hotels etc. Please be careful when using booking agencies such as Trivago, Expedia, Hotel.com and the like. All is not always what it seems. They may require full upfront payments. Refunds may be hard to get. Certainly get a price from these agencies, but then ring the hotel/motels direct - sometimes they can match or get you a better price. Booking agencies can be a good thing, but do your homework.

We need to know what members intentions are for 2016. Whilst it is early days – we would like an idea of how many members may be attending the 2016 reunion. Please let Christina Luff know ASAP on either 0430 125 195 bamberg01@bigpond.com

When orders are clear and concise

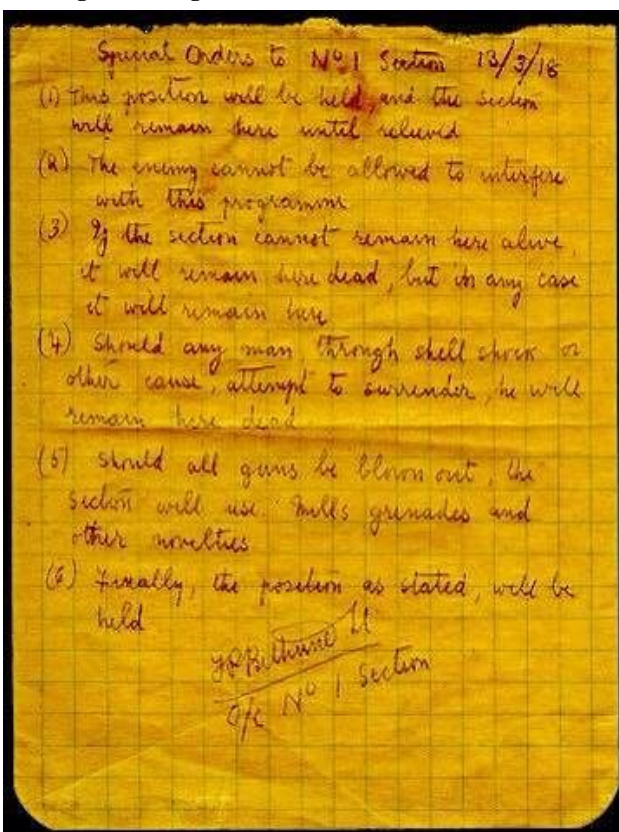
Special Orders to No.1 Section 13/3/1918 (7 men)

- (1) This position will be held, and the section will remain here until relieved.
- (2) The enemy cannot be allowed to interfere with this programme.
- (3) If the section cannot remain here alive, it will remain here dead, but in any case it will remain here.
- (4) Should any man, through shell shock or other cause, attempt to surrender, he will remain here dead.
- (5) Should all guns be blown out, the section will use Mills grenades and other novelties.
- (6) Finally, the position as stated, will be held.

F.P. Bethune Lt O/C No.1 Section.

These were the orders issued by Lieutenant F.P. Bethune (1877 - 1942) to his group of seven men in No.1 section, 3rd Machine Gun Company, Australian Imperial Force, when sent to defend an exposed position at Passchendaele in France in March 1918. Bethune was a clergyman from Tasmania who had enlisted in the AIF in Hobart on the 1 July 1915. Interestingly, Bethune chose to enlist as a soldier rather than as a padre, seeing action numerous times, being wounded and also gassed twice. After Bethune had issued the above orders, the unit repulsed repeated attacks over an 18 day period. They were also subjected to constant artillery barrages of high explosive, shrapnel and gas shells. All

survived. The orders were later circulated throughout the allied armies in France and embodied in British Army Orders until 1940. Twenty-two years later, after the fall of Dunkirk, they were reproduced as posters under the caption 'The spirit which won the last war' and displayed throughout England.



It's amazing what you'll find in old museums and historic villages that are found the length and breadth of Australia. Here we were in the Herberton Historic Village on the Atherton Tablelands in Far North Queensland when I came across a military display which included a full tin of 1942 Army ration 'Guests' biscuits. (See picture on left). Not too far removed from those horrible dog biscuits we found in our modern ration packs I bet! Then sometime later, when we visited the remarkable Cobb & Co Museum in

Toowoomba, we came across this rather wonderful selection of tinned goodies that were destined for the troops at Gallipoli and later at the Western Front. This was part of a WW1 display and if you're in Herberton or Toowoomba, both places are well worth a good look see.



**RECORD OF INFORMAL
COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD AT MERCURE
(FORMERLY OLIMS)
AINSLIE ACT
7th March, 2015**

Present: Denny Vice Pres, Ray Brown Public Officer, Christina – Membership Secretary and Russ – Secretary. Apologies: Dave, Ken, Bruce. Christina presented several pieces of correspondence including:

1. RAASC Vietnam Veterans Association membership card-current to Dec15. We receive at least four newsletters each year which provides us with valuable information of RAASC related events and material for our newsletter.

2. Letter from Korean War Veterans Association—notice of approved motion by KWVA re ADF WAR CASUALTY MEDAL (enclosed)-for discussion off line pending a decision agreeable to all. This appears similar in intent to the USA Purple Heart: *(The Purple Heart is awarded in the name of the President of the United States to any member of the Armed Forces of the United States who, while serving under competent authority in any capacity with one of the U.S. Armed Services after April 5, 1917, has been wounded or killed).*

3. Notice of Intent for Perth

Reunion. Christina has forms for Anderson, Ansen, Atkinson, Breaden, Griffiths, Greenhalgh, Hazel(1), McKay, Manning, Morison, Taylor, Sherriff. All 2. Additionally, Christina Luff, Don Noy, Dave and Robyn Evans, Ray and Val Brown, Denny(3). Total of 32. Early days. Russ will contact WA Vets and encourage participation.

4. Russ has offered to remind email addressees, and those in WA to encourage their participation in the Reunion.

5. For current newsletter, Chris needs the following printed:

- 10 Membership forms
- 25 Expressions of Intent
- 30 Newsletters for snail mail.

Dave-to print Wednesday along with Newsletter delivered to Christina on Friday.

6. Denny-Next newsletter edition should include Ray as Public Officer. Needs a copy of latest membership form for inclusion in June Winter edition of newsletter.

7. RAASC VSPA Association Badges-we are running low and will need to secure more. Anticipate 50 @ approx \$6 ea-need \$300 allocated. Dave-can you authorise this please? Note new members automatically get given one free, but replacement is \$10.

8. Denny is about to depart on a caravan trip for two months to North Queensland. In the in-

terim he raises the following requiring our action:

9. VSPA collared shirts. The 2013 AGM agreed in principle to having us produce a VSPA collared shirt. It has become obvious that it is difficult to produce a decent looking sewn image of our VSPA Badge design. Denny proposes we have a full ribbon bar on the right hand front with a RAASC OR silver badge, and RAASC Vietnam Supply Platoons Association sewn into and underneath the medal ribbons. He will investigate and provide details for us to consider, and propose to the members to pre-order prior to the 2016 Reunion.

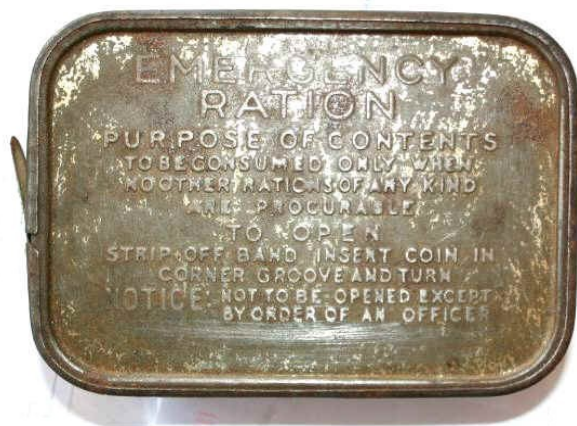
10. Commemorative Port. Proposed that, as we are heading to Perth, where port is cheaply available, we produce a Commemorative Port bottle with a label reflecting the Association and Corps Badges, and the three Supply Platoon TAC signs. The aim would be to produce sufficient detail to include in the Reunion Registration Form for September newsletter, along with the T shirt order. We would not proceed with either unless we had orders for fifty (50) each.

11. Current membership stands at 55, of which 25 receive snail mail.

Meeting ended at 3pm.

Russ Morison

Secretary RAASC VSPA



WW1 Emergency Ration. Purpose of contents”.

“To be consumed only when no other rations of any kind are procurable. To open strip off band and insert coin in corner groove and turn. NOTICE: Not to be opened except by order of an officer”.

From the Treasurers' Desk.

We have received documentation on our Association's formalities with the ACT Govt's Office of Regulatory Services. These

relate to our current updated Executive Status as well as our audited financial reports. Members who wish to view these documents can simply ring me on

0435 205 999 or email me at

itsdaveidevans@hotmail.com

and I'll email you a PDF version of the reports. I also have some material regarding Anzac Day services earlier on this year and these will be published in the next edition of PP. David Evans, Treasurer.

Operations Manna and Chowhound. British and American Food Relief drops to the Netherlands towards the end of WW2

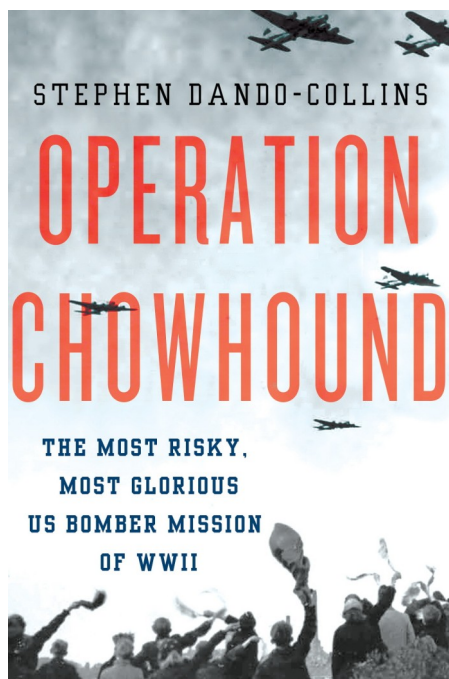
Operations Manna and Chowhound took place from April 1945 to the end of WW2 in Europe.

These two operations, Manna by the RAF and Royal Canadian Air Force and Chowhound by the U.S. Army Air Forces dropped a total of over 11,000 tons of food into the still-unliberated western part of the Netherlands, with the acquiescence of the occupying German forces, to help feed civilians who were in danger of starvation during the Dutch famine. On 2 May, 200 Allied trucks began delivering food to the city of Rhenen, behind German lines. By early 1945, the situation was growing desperate for the three million or more Dutch still under German control. A relief operation, agreed to by the Germans and code named Operation Manna was started first by the British. It was named after the food which was miraculously provided to the Israelites in the Book of Exodus. The planning of the whole operation was done first by the RAF. The first of the two RAF Avro Lancasters chosen for the test flight, the morning of 29 April 1945, was nicknamed Bad Penny, as in the ex-



pression: *"a bad penny always turns up"*. This bomber, with a crew of seven young men, took off in bad weather, despite the fact that the Germans had not yet agreed to a ceasefire. Bad Penny had to fly low, down to 50 feet (15 m), over German guns, but succeeded in dropping her cargo and returned to her airfield. Operation Manna then began in earnest. British aircraft took part, flying between them a total of 3,298 sorties. These bombers were used to dropping bombs from 6,000 metres (20,000 ft), but this time they had to do their job from a height of 150 metres (490 ft), some even flying as low as 120 metres (390 ft), as the cargo did not have parachutes. The drop zones delivered a total 6,680 tons of food. The drops included tinned food, dried food and chocolate. Crews reported that; *'As we arrived people had gathered already and were waving flags, making signs, etc, doing whatever they could. It was a marvellous sight'*. As time went on, so there were also messages, such as *'Thank you for coming boys'*. The idea was for people to gather and redistribute the food, but some could not resist eating straight away, which caused some people to get sick, a result that fatty food can have on starved bodies. Distribution sometimes took as long as ten days, resulting in some getting the

food only after the liberation. Nevertheless, many lives were saved, and it gave hope and the feeling that the war would soon be over. The Americans were also heavily involved in the relief operation. Code named Operation Chowhound, ten bomb groups of the US 3rd Air Division flew 2,268 sorties delivering a total of 4000 tons. 400 B-17 Flying Fortress bombers of the USAF dropped 800 tons of K rations on Amsterdam Schiphol Airport. Recently published in 2015, a book of the same name; *'Operation Chowhound'*, authored by Stephen Dando-Collins is well-documented as to the statistics behind these operations. Three aircraft were lost: two in a collision and one due to engine fire. Bullet holes were discovered in several aircraft upon their return, presumably the result of being fired upon by German soldiers. In 2007, British Air Commodore Andrew Geddes who pioneered the food drops, was honoured when a hiking trail in Rotterdam was named after him. This path goes past the Manna Chowhound monument in the sound wall of the northern ring road around Rotterdam.



**A statement from Senator
Michael Ronaldson,
Minister for Veterans' Affairs.**

May 2015 marks 50 years since Australian Forces arrived in South Vietnam. While the major commemorative service for the Vietnam War will be held next year on the 50th anniversary of the Battle of Long Tan, I encourage all Australians to remember those who served our country during the Vietnam War. Australia deployed more than 60,000 servicemen and women to the conflict in Vietnam between 1962 and 1975, 521 of them made the supreme sacrifice. All of our Vietnam veterans served their nation at their nation's request. In the past, we have not properly recognised their service and sacrifice. In the Centenary of Anzac, honouring a century of service, it is right and proper that we honour these men and women who upheld the finest of the ANZAC tradition. In 2016, the Australian Government will undertake a range of commemorative activities and initiatives to recognise Australia's involvement in the Vietnam War. As announced by the Prime Minister, we will offer the families of those Vietnam veterans buried at the Terendak Military Cemetery in Malaysia the chance to bring them home. The repatriation will take place in June 2016. (See cover story). A key focus of the Australian Government's *Saluting their Service* grants in 2015-16 will be to recognise the service and sacrifice of Australia's servicemen and women in the Vietnam conflict. Subject to agreement with the Vietnamese Government, the Department of Veterans' Affairs will organise a small veteran's mission to Vietnam in August 2016 to commemorate the shared sacrifice of both nations. A national commemorative service is being planned for August 2016, in collaboration with the Vietnam veteran community, at the Australian Vietnam Forces National Memorial in Canberra, a memorial dedicated to Australians who served, suffered and died in the Vietnam War. We honour our Vietnam Veterans, and their families. We acknowledge that our nation has, in the past, not appropriately recognised their service and sacrifice. As we mark our century of service, the Australian Government is determined to ensure that we do not repeat the mistakes of the past and honour those who have served their nation.

Did you know?

As part of the major Army reorganisation in 1973, the RAAOC assumed responsibility for engineer stores, food-stuffs, POL, medical and dental stores, thus becoming the single Australian Army Supply Service. At the time of this change selected RAE, RAAMC and former RAASC personnel were transferred from their corps to the RAAOC. RAAOC today represents a large integral part of the ARA and ARES. It is a Corps comprising approximately 4,150 officers and soldiers with about 1,500 civilian and contract staff which forms the basis of what was previously known as the Australian Army Supply Service and which is now part of the integrated logistics service which provides support to the Army. The current role of the RAAOC is to provide



supply support and services to the Army in peace and war. This involves the provisioning, receipt, storage and issue of all Army items of supply and the provision of other Ordnance services such as ammunition repair, salvage, manufacture of industrial gases, parachute maintenance, laundry and bakery facilities. The Australian Army currently stocks an inventory comprising more than 200,000 different types of equipment's, commodities or individual line item headings. Whilst the Corps has no battle honours, RAAOC personnel have served with distinction in every theatre of war, consequently, members must be soldiers first and technicians second, and the Corps training is based on that premise. As was the case during desperate days just prior to the fall of Singapore in 1942 when Ordnance elements were formed into a battalion and fought as infantry, holding on to their section of the line against heavy attacks by Japanese invaders. In other WW2 theatres, Ordnance soldiers suffered their share of enemy air action and bombings, particularly during the siege of Tobruk and the fall of Crete and when called upon to repel attacks by German dive bombers, paratroopers, infantry and tanks. Ordnance also suffered casualties in the Vietnam war.



Membership Application/Renewal Form

New Application or Renewal (circle which ones) 2015/16 or 3 years

Surname:

Given Names:

Address:

State: Postcode: Date of Birth:

Phone No. (Home) (Mobile)

Email Address:

Vietnam Service Details:

Dates: From To

Spouse/Partner's Name:

Membership: 1-year membership (Vietnam Veterans and Associate/non-Vets) \$20
3-year membership (Vietnam Veterans and Associate/non-Vets) \$60
Association Badge \$10 – Free badge to new members

Payment details: (Any one of the following):

- By cheque payable to: RAASC Vietnam Supply Platoons Association, PO BOX 207 Mitchell ACT 2911. (And include this form).
- Electronically by direct credit to: Defence Credit Union, BSB 803 205 Account 20726970. (And send this form by post or email)
- Or cash deposit at any National Bank, BSB 083 422 Account 207269708. (And send this form by post or email).

Office Use Only: Member Number/Receipt:.....

Membership Card issued/date.....Database.....Banked.....

Scan/send to Area Reps.....Membership Mgr Notified.....