

The "Clipped Wings"

Issue 19 October 2010

The Journal of the Air Dispatch Association of Australia (Inc)
Patron ADAA - Major General D.B.Ferguson AM, CSC (Retired)



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PRESIDENT'S REPORT



It is proposed to hold the Queensland chapter's quarterly smoko in November. We are awaiting confirmation from 9 FSB for the date that is convenient for them, confirmation will be available on the ADAA website.

An invitation to all AD personnel (retired and others) to attend a function at 176AD Squadron on 19th November. It is always a great opportunity to see what happens in AD now and meet the current members doing what we are/were all proud of. If you are able to attend, please put the day in your diary and let Denis McCann know by email or phone as he is coordinating the visitor list for the Squadron and Gate Security.

IMPORTANT: Numbers are REQUIRED for catering purposes and if the security people do not have your name on the list, you may be considered an "undesirable".

Contact Denis McCann on (02) 9971 8314. { NSW Rep }. If you do not get an answer please leave a brief message.

1. Parade 1200 h
2. Promotions
3. Awards
4. Farewell the 176 AD Sqn members (20) to Afghanistan They deploy a few days later.
5. Welcome - affiliation with "Featherdale Wildlife Park" Their Pelicans will be visiting!
6. Family BBQ for all,
7. ADAA Soldier of the year

Medals for ex-service guests to be worn

176 AD Sqn formally invites you and all of your extended team to attend the day and we hope you can all be there!

ARNHEM 2010

Members have returned from the International Air Despatch Reunion held in Europe from the 9th to the 24th September. The reunion included :-

Phase 1: Battlefield tour of Normandy (WW2) covering the Air Assault by the 6th Airborne Div (UK), the 82nd & 101st Airborne Div's (USA), we covered this action in detail. We, the ADAA sponsored a Chelsea Pensioner who had jumped into Normandy, he was 93 & had a good knowledge of the action, plus a second veteran who had survived the attack on the "Merville Battery", the battlefield guides confirmed their activities.

Phase 2: Covered the battlefields of Belgium (WW1) which included the actions of the 5 Australian Divisions plus the New Zealand Division. We toured Flanders, Fromelle, Hill 60, Menin Gate, & Ypres to mention a few.

Phase 3: This part of the tour concentrated on "Operation Market Garden" in Holland. The activities of the 1st Airborne Div (UK), 82nd & 101st Div's (USA) plus the Independent Airborne Brigade. One of the highlights of this phase was the ceremony at Oosterbeek War Cemetery, where the graves of 75 Air Despatchers are located. Wreaths were laid at the Air Despatch memorial, a very moving ceremony by the UK, AUST, NZ, & USA Associations.

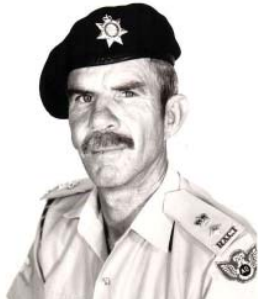
The reunion was a very successful activity mainly due to the high quality of battlefield guides who were arranged by Ron MacCaffery, they were predominantly ex Airborne & Air Despatchers who regularly host Officer cadets from around the world for military history field trips.

Next International Reunion will be held in New Zealand 2012 with details to follow.

THE OLD AND THE BOLD

LT COL LESLIE ALEXANDER POWER

07/02/1932 – 25/08/2010



Les Power was born in the suburb of Willoughby, Sydney on 7 Feb 1932. He was born into an Army family, his father Kevin already a professional soldier serving as a driver, in AASC; -- first in horse transport on GS wagons, and soon after on the new mechanical transport vehicles. Kevin served on to become a distinguished AIF Infantry officer, winning the Military Cross as an immediate award for personal gallantry during the New Guinea campaign of WW2.

Les' grandfather, Colonel Alec Christie, K St J, OBE, MBE, was also a professional soldier serving in the Australian Light Horse and Infantry before and during WW1, and in the AAMC / RAAMC in WW2 and after.

After attending a variety of NSW and Victorian primary schools Les' family settled back in Sydney and Les attended Sydney Technical High School for his secondary education. On leaving school he was initially apprenticed as an automotive fitter and turner but did not complete his trade. Following a period of diverse short term jobs ranging from rabbit trapper to process worker, to greasemonkey, to new vehicle ferry driver, in 1950 he eventually joined his father's business as an interstate semi-trailer driver.

He enlisted into the Active Citizen Military Forces (ACMF) with the rank of AASC Driver on 14 October 1948, having exaggerated his age by a year to be accepted. He was promoted to CPL (3 Star) in 1950 after having qualified as a Driver Class 1.

Two years later in Oct 50, Les transferred to the ARA with a change of corps to Infantry and was posted to 1 RAR at Ingleburn as a LCPL section 2IC in A Coy and then to 1 Rec Trg Coy, (still under command 1RAR), as a CPL Instr Inf. When 1 Rec Trg Bn was raised at Kapooka in 1951, he was sent there to fill a vacancy as a Platoon Sgt. 1952 saw him back at Ingleburn as a Pl Sgt/Instr with B Coy 4RAR, the reinforcement training unit for Korea Force.

He attended the third course at the Officer Cadet School Portsea, Jan-Jun 53 and on graduation was allotted to RAASC.

After completing his young officers course at Puckapunyal, Les was posted to 19 National Service Battalion in Jan '54 for his regimental officer training until first Corps posting back to his original ACMF unit at 2 Div Colm RAASC at Randwick. Then followed a series of postings to supplies and transport sub-units (notably Pl Comd A Pl 1 Coy RAASC at Holsworthy/Ingleburn) until promotion to CAPT as Adjt 18 NS Bn, Hobart.

Next posting as 2IC 15 Coy RAASC (Air Dispatch), Melbourne, was a pre-cursor to long term logistics training in the USA commencing in mid 1961, specializing in aerial delivery. There he underwent a programme of intense training courses and on- job training with US Army Quartermaster, Transportation and Aerial Delivery schools and units with a view to gaining expertise in future development of Australian joint-service aerial delivery procedures, employing our then recently acquired C130, Iroquois and Caribou aircraft

In 1962 he became the first Australian Army member to qualify as a US Army "Parachute Rigger" at the four month Parachute Packing, Maintenance and Air Delivery (Long) Course at Fort Lee, Virginia.

On return to Australia in Dec 1962, he was posted as Instructor Air Supply and Project Officer Air Movements Training Flight, RAAF Richmond.

In 1965 he returned to the USA for six months "on-job-training" with US Defence Force AD Research and Development units and Agencies, before promotion to MAJ and assuming command of the newly formed Air Movement Training and Development Unit (Army Component} in October '65 back at RAAF Richmond, NSW.

In 1967 he had a short few weeks tour attached to the US Army 109th QM Coy (AD) at Cam Ranh Bay, SVN, to gain experience in AD techniques in a combat environment.

Les attended the 1968 Staff College Queenscliff course and then after commanding 18 Tpt Coy RAASC in Brisbane, he served a full one year SVN tour in 69/70.

As the Australian Force Commander's advisor on supplies and transport matters, he was responsible for the technical control of RAASC units employment in the SVN theatre, including Corps personnel matters. He was also actively involved in dovetailing the Australian Force Vietnam combat supplies and transport system,

into the US Force logistic system.

After returning to Australia, while on the Logistics Staff at HQ 1 MD in 1973, he was seconded to the Australian Component, Exercise Planning Group, SEATO in BANGKOK for six months as the Australian Army Logistics Writer.

Les was promoted to LTCOL in March 1976 as Asst Comd 1 FF Gp (7 TF), Brisbane and in February 1977 assumed command as the first CO of the newly formed 1 Air Transport Support Regiment, RACT, at RAAF Base Richmond.

LTCOL Power discharged from the ARA in June 1977, and remained on with the Army Reserve in Brisbane until retirement in February 1982 after 34 years Army service. He is a foundation member of the Army Transport Association in Queensland and has remained active since 1984 in either management committee or ex-officio matters in both that organization and the Air Dispatch Association Australia.

A short break after leaving the Army then saw Les engaged as full-time Operations Planning Officer on the Headquarters of the Queensland State Emergency Service where he remained for two years, before setting up a small tipper and landscape supplies business and later a swim pool cleaner installation agency.

His last civilian venture found him occupied as a consultant in industry productivity-improvement with the Australian Productivity Council until full retirement in 1988.

Les was married to Patricia for fifty-four years and they have two sons, - (now 52 yrs and 45 yrs - both former ARES officers) and five grandchildren. Pat currently resides in Cashmere, Pine Rivers Shire north of Brisbane where she and Les enjoyed their retirement in a rural environment.

Les' interests included, besides his family, maintaining their small property, fishing from his small tinnie in the nearby estuaries and seaside, and keeping up with old comrades and Associations through computer channels.

WALLGROVE MEMORIES (PART 2 – CONTINUED)

Yes dear readers – there was a part one – in the issue of 13 July 2009. Reacquaint yourselves!

Our motley bunch of newly Corps trained ADs (6 weeks course as I recall but I can be corrected) arrived at Wallgrove just prior to Easter 1969. After being allotted to either 36 or 40 AD Pls (what was the basis – perhaps alphabetical? Can someone let me know) and our meagre accommodation (at least single rooms) allocated, we were told to stand down for Easter. It seems no one wanted to know us at this time – besides spending a dismal Easter at Wallgrove – the pleasure centre of the NSW outer Western Suburbs – they would have to feed and quarter us!

So it was decreed from on high that we should scatter to the nether regions for a brief break and not to reappear until a certain time when a roll call would be conducted. The good thing was that this enforced break didn't come off our meagre leave credits.

I was lucky – my parents lived at Homebush, not all that far away, but for many, particularly our interstate brethren, it was impossible for them to get home for a few days break. After some vital negotiations – a few free cans or two at the OR's "boozier" - I established that some of my erstwhile, newly found bosom pals would be quite happy to spend their enforced sojourn at "Chez Carpenter". Having established with my parents that my colleagues were welcome to doss on the newly acquired lounge room Axminster carpet over this period, we set out. Now my parents were expecting perhaps 3 or 4 mates, but I think it was more like a dozen. I had my own bed and they slept on the floor. And made sonorous sounds during the night, or was it just "passing wind"?

Dad didn't really mind – he was after all a WW11 digger, but his major concern was the havoc we might create at his local RSL – Homebush-Strathfield - and not to mention the drain on his money and reputation in entertaining us all. Mom – an ex-nurse – took it in her stride provided we did (1) not soil the new carpet (2) cooked and washed up for ourselves and (3) were careful not to swear too strongly.

I can recall Eric Carmody, Jeff Pope, John Barnett, Malcolm Gray, Roy Howard, Cos Care, Billy Williams, Mick O'Reilly and Tony Fitzgerald and others bunking down. Their collective snores were earth shattering.

We all arrived back at Wallgrove slightly seedy but on time for parade and on to a new phase. Training, and more training, was the order of the day with familiarisation with Caribous and Hercs at RAAF Richmond, under the dubious eyes of our instructing NCOs. A long, arduous training period beckoned, with our only salvation the

OR's "boozers" with its rickety pool table. Kitchen duties were inevitable – even for me. I preferred scrubbing pots and pans and even – shudder the thought – volunteered for it. You could immerse yourself into the tepid and greasy scum filled vats, with a "fag" and the trannie playing to keep you sane and unmolested by the cooks' requests (orders). They left you alone as long as you provided them with what passed for a clean utensil.

Weekends spent at Wallgrove, while not on guard duty (and God help those who forgot to stoke the coal-fed boilers) passed quietly, waiting for the official time for the "boozers" to open (and in the meantime catching up on personnel admin – i.e. – washing and ironing). Sometimes I escaped the drudgery and transported myself across the road to 2 Air Maint Pl (RAAOC para packing poofers) who were co-located with us. There was no one there so I honed my non-existent fork lift driving skills, driving their sole, unattended and unlocked fork lift around their training yard, shifting empty pallets from one spot to another. Wonder what they made of it on a Monday morning? And for that matter – what charge would I face if caught in the act?

(to be continued at some stage)

Doug Carpenter

Royal Australian Army Service Corps (68-70)

TOO MANY CHIEFS IN ARMY MESS

Ian McPhedran - Daily Telegraph - Defence Writer (Aug 2010)

THE Australian Army's recruitment levels are skyrocketing, leading to a record surplus of officers as the latest Digger to die in Afghanistan brings the nation's death toll in the conflict to 18.

Record recruiting levels and low departure rates have left the army with 1100 more soldiers than it budgeted for.

The figures were released as Australia suffered another fatality in Afghanistan, with the death of Trooper Jason Thomas Brown, 29, who was killed by Taliban insurgents in Kandahar province on Saturday.

The army attributed its excess troop numbers, known as average funded strength (AFS), to historically low separation rates, higher than predicted enlistment figures and continuous full-time service (CFTS) usage.

"Army forecasts it will exceed its AFS by approximately 1100 personnel if the issue is not managed," Defence told The Daily Telegraph.

There are 67 surplus warrant officers 1st Class (W01) along with 29 lieutenant-colonels and a staggering 121 too many lieutenants.

The force currently has 728 WO1s, 1964 WO2s, 1098 lieutenants, 1609 majors, 582 lieutenant-colonels and 571 colonels to manage a total permanent force of 22,800 troops. In addition there are a record 25 generals sitting at the top of the rank structure as well as 49 brigadiers the most bloated general's club in the Western world.

The US Army (including reserves) has a soldier-to-general ratio of 3632 GIs for each brass hat, compared with just 1560 Diggers for each general in the Australian Army.

Australia is well above Britain and Israel and not far behind "top heavy" forces such Thailand.

The budgeted AFS for 2010/11 was 28,800 personnel.

Colonel Kath Stewart said the army had a surplus at several ranks including lieutenant-colonel, lieutenant and warrant officer.

"Surpluses at the private and lieutenant ranks are required to continue Army's growth towards its future end state of 30,500 personnel by 2016," Colonel Stewart said.

Army reservists are paying the price, with a dramatic drop in deployment opportunities. Colonel Stewart confirmed that, until the surpluses were reduced, there would be restrictions on regular army promotion rates and Reserve W01 CFTS.

In the last issue of CW we asked members to comment on a name change for the association. The committee received replies from approx 11 % of the membership and from these replies approx 95 % were in favour of a change in name to The Army Air Dispatch Association of Australia.

During a committee meeting in Arnhem and after much discussion it was felt that 11 % was not sufficiently representative of the membership to continue. A motion was put forward to change the name of the Association but was defeated. The committee will take no further action in this matter but will be happy to listen to further debate and receive comment.



Hon. Mike Rann MP
Premier of South Australia

The Hon Julia Gillard MP
Prime Minister
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Prime Minister

In December 2008 the South Australian Government created a Veterans' Advisory Council (VAC). The VAC has 13 members and an independent Chairman, Sir Eric Neal AC, CVO, a former Governor of South Australia.

The VAC provides a direct link to the State Cabinet on issues of concern to the veterans' community. It meets bi-monthly and makes recommendations to the Hon Jack Snelling MP, Minister for Veterans' Affairs (SA).

One responsibility my Government accepted when the Veterans' Affairs portfolio was created was to make representations at a Commonwealth level should a Commonwealth matter be raised by the VAC.

One such matter was raised in 2009. It relates to the *Review of Pension Indexation Arrangements in Australian Government Civilian and Military Superannuation Schemes* by Mr Trevor Matthews.

At the request of the VAC the former State Minister for Veterans' Affairs in South Australia, the Hon Michael Atkinson MP, wrote to the Hon Alan Griffin MP, Minister for Veterans' Affairs, the Hon Lindsay Tanner MP, Minister for Finance and Deregulation, and the Hon Greg Combet MP, Minister for Defence Materiel and Science, about the Matthew Review.

Members of the VAC also met with the Hon Lindsay Tanner MP during a Community Cabinet held in South Australia in January 2010.

The issues raised by the VAC in their correspondence continue to cause concern to them. The veterans' community claim that whichever way it is presented, they are not satisfied with the outcome of the Matthew's Review.

In support of their objectives, the VAC quotes an example of a veteran who served for 21 years, all the while contributing 5.5% of his pre-tax wage to a compulsory superannuation scheme, and argue that he would retire with a pension marginally more than the age pension.

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SCMA – RACT

By Warrant Officer Class One Peta Dave

SCMA's Mission: Provide effective soldier career management in order to contribute to the delivery of the personnel dimension of capability to the Army.

Introduction

Ladies and gentlemen, we have had another busy year and it is my pleasure to contribute an article to “Clipped Wings” outlining the state of the Air Dispatch trade within the Corps and highlighting issues our soldiers are facing from a career management (CM) perspective. This article will cover a number of issues that directly effect soldier's careers.

Health of the Corps

Currently RACT is in a very healthy state, with every ECN being over-establishment at the PTE rank. We are also very healthy in most ranks for all our trades.

See table for current Corps figures.

ECN 035	PTE	LCPL	CPL	SGT	WO2	WO1	Total
Establishment	35	6	30	32	19	10	132
Asset	61	8	25	23	18	12	147
% manned	174%	133%	83%	72%	95%	120%	111%

ECN 171	PTE	LCPL	CPL	SGT	WO2	WO1	Total
Establishment	76	14	27	13	8	4	142
Asset	81	14	32	14	8	4	151
% manned	107%	100%	111%	108%	100%	100%	106%

ECN 218	PTE	LCPL	CPL	SGT	WO2	WO1	Total
Establishment	51	8	33	21	7	3	123
Asset	62	8	32	20	8	4	134
% manned	122%	100%	97%	95%	114%	133%	109%

ECN 274	PTE	LCPL	CPL	SGT	WO2	WO1	Total
Establishment	566	122	246	128	69	9	1140
Asset	769	91	222	111	89	9	1291
% manned	136%	75%	90%	87%	129%	100%	113%

ECN 274 - OSV	PTE	LCPL	CPL	SGT	WO2	WO1	Total
Establishment	96	11	22	0	0	0	129
Asset	53	9	23	0	0	0	85
% manned	55%	82%	105%	0	0	0	66%

ECN 099	PTE	LCPL	CPL	SGT	WO2	WO1	Total
Establishment	53	8	15	13	8	2	99
Asset	57	9	19	14	9	3	111
% manned	108%	113%	127%	108%	113%	150%	112%

Correct as at: 25 Aug 10

Note: asset figures for all ranks includes soldiers posted to non-corps positions.

What are the soldiers doing?

We currently have a number of soldiers employed within the trade and a number employed outside of the trade. The following are the figures:

	PTE	LCPL	CPL	SGT	WO2	WO1
HQ 1 Div					1	
HQ 9 FSB					1	
176 AD Sqn	47	8	13	7	2	
AMTDU	6		2	4	3	2
Army School of Transport			2		1	
SCMA					1	
1 RTB			3			
2 CDO Regt				1		
SASR				1		
Land Warfare Centre				1		
Postal			1			
Australian Federation Guard	2					
Army HQ						1

We have been able to secure some postings for CPLs and LCPLs out of the Air Dispatch arena. We are continually trying to attract our junior soldiers to experience soldiering outside of the trade this will enhance their soldier skills and show case our soldiers to the rest of the Army. We now have positions at the Parachute Training School, Defence Intelligence School and 39 Personal Support Battalion. We will continue to post our soldier to 1st Recruit Training Battalion and the Army School of Transport. I highly encourage our managers and supervisors to counsel their soldiers in taking a posting out of the trade.

Overseas Deployments.

When you take a look around at the soldiers within the Air Dispatch trade you will see many of them who have experienced overseas deployments. This is fantastic for all our soldiers. Unfortunately most do not deploy using their Air Dispatch skills. They are employed in other areas. However; when they get on the ground they find themselves utilising their skills and learning new ones. Our soldiers are proving 'Par Oneri' at all levels.

Conclusion

In summary, the Corps and the trade are in a very healthy state, with promotion being highly competitive. We have new Air Dispatchers graduating in Nov 10 which will provide more capability to the Army. The soldiers are gaining valuable skills whilst deployed and are continuing to train hard. The Army is in a time of many changes. The Corps and the trade will continue to develop and move ahead with Army's needs. What we did twenty years ago will not hold in today's climate. We must continue to develop our skills sets with the new capabilities which are being introduced. We must continue to be 'Par Oneri.'

From: Ray Payne

Received: Thursday, 26 August, 2010, 3:33 PM

I have been advised that some people are scamming mainly ex National Serviceman.

The ex serviceman is initially sent a letter advising them that they are entitled to Service pension and to contact the author.

Once they do this they are then sent a letter with AMF (not used for many years) headed paper asking for bank details to put the service pension into, date of birth and other personal information.

Their bank accounts are then cleaned out.

Please advise others of this scam.

THE GREAT BETRAYAL OF OUR DIGGERS IN AFGHANISTAN

Reprinted with permission - Zeek Zaffino

Dear Zeek,

I regard the decision of the Director of Military Prosecutions, Brigadier McDade, to proceed with manslaughter charges against three of our commandos as a betrayal of our national duty to provide legal protection to the servicemen and women we send to war.

I have written a short paper on the issue however I was neither a combat infantryman (never got more than a C pass in tactics!) nor a legal eagle so I have had to rely on my own research and my own feelings about the issue.

I plan to raise the matter in the NSW Parliament when we resume on 19 October. I would appreciate your thoughts on the issue - either as a comment on the above link - or in an email that I may be able to refer to in my contribution to the debate. I think it is important that Members of Parliament, the media and the wider community know how serving and ex-serving members feel about the issue. I will obviously keep your details confidential if you so desire.

'Stop firing' screamed the Afghan interpreter metres away from a suspected Taliban leader as he emptied his magazine towards a small band of Australian commandos. As the walls exploded the insurgent responded by clipping on a fresh magazine and unloading it at them. The Australians returned fire and lobbed a grenade into the dark room. The firing ceased. As they crept into the room they noticed a sight that will haunt them forever. The suspected Taliban leader lay dead amongst a human shield comprising women and children.

Three of the commandos in the raid, doing what they were sent to do by the Australian government, now face charges of manslaughter. These young men have been double-crossed by our political leaders who have exposed them to the jurisdiction of the International Criminal Court in the Hague.

Membership of the world court is a gold plated pass to the finer things in life for the international legal fraternity. First class travel, 5-star hotels, fine cuisine and vintage wine are standard fare for the elite in the justice system. The court provides a forum for eminent legal minds from Australia, Albania, Botswana, the Central African Republic, Romania, Serbia, Sierra Leone, Bangladesh, Mongolia, Tajikistan and others to discuss a new world order for law and justice.

Our major ally, the United States, is not a signatory to the world court. Neither are China, India or any of the major Middle Eastern nations. The conventions of the court are not recognised by the Taliban in Afghanistan.

The United States has enacted an American Service-Members' Protection Act to protect their troops against criminal prosecution by an international criminal court. Australia has failed to offer the same protection to our troops.

We have also failed to provide them with a system of justice that recognises and respects the unique nature of their role in combat i.e. to close with and kill the enemy. The enemy has a similar role. This was reflected in General George Patton's address to his troops in Europe in WW11. 'You don't win wars by dying for your country,' he urged. 'You win wars by

making the other bastard die for his country!'

Combat is not about group hugs and counselling sessions with your opponents. It's about training, discipline, fear, courage, sacrifice, mateship and leadership. Only those who have experienced combat understand these human complexities. Strategies to prepare soldiers for combat operations have evolved over the centuries.

Soldiers also understand, better than most, that modern wars are not won on the battlefield. They are won within the hearts and minds of civilian populations.

The historic decision to charge our commando's with manslaughter as the result of a night combat operation in Afghanistan is a shameless act of betrayal by the Australian government. The decision will have far reaching consequences on the command and control of combat operations which require split-second decisions to meet changing or unforeseen circumstances. Soldier's lives will be at risk if commanders hesitate as they weigh up the implications of their decisions against the laws of the International Criminal Court or the prejudice of an all-powerful Director of Military Prosecutions.

The traditional system of conducting military prosecutions by courts martial allowed for servicemen and women to be judged by peers with an understanding of the complexities of combat in a hostile environment. This system was replaced by a botched Australian Military Court in 2007.

The botched system sought to institutionalise the betrayal of our servicemen and women by our political leaders who would have been subject to trial by a civilian judge without a jury. The decision to prosecute was delegated to a new supremo, the Director of Military Prosecutions, who is not answerable to either the military high command or Parliament.

Whilst the Australian Military Court was found to be unconstitutional in 2009 the Director of Military Prosecutions, Brigadier Lyn McDade remains as a supreme independent authority. Whilst McDade was awarded the title of 'Brigadier' and gets to wear a uniform she has never had to earn the rank and has no experience in combat.

Her military-political sympathies were revealed in an interview where she believed David Hicks had been badly treated because he trained with terrorists in Afghanistan.

Uniform and rank are an integral part of the military system. Both have to be earned and respected. Soldiers are comfortable with specialist officers such as medical doctors, nurses and padres wearing the uniform because they enlist to save lives and souls. They are more sceptical of the legal profession who often use their association with the military to enhance their status within their own fraternity.

They have forfeited their right to wear the Australian military uniform with the decision to charge our combat soldiers with manslaughter.

The Australian government should move swiftly to disband the Office of Military Prosecutions and withdraw from the International Criminal Court to protect the integrity of our command and control system. If our political leaders do not have the will or the fortitude to do this they should be banned from attending military funerals and not bother with meaningless motions of condolence in Parliament.

Please feel free to distribute this to any ex-servicemen on your mailing list for comment and feedback. I will let you know the outcome.

*The Hon. Charlie Lynn MLC
Member of the Legislative Council
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<http://www.charlielynn.com.au>*

BRING BACK ANY MEMORIES?

Someone asked the other day, 'What was your favourite 'fast food' when you were growing up?'

'We didn't have fast food when I was growing up,' I informed him.

'All the food was slow.'

'C'mon, seriously.. Where did you eat?'

'It was a place called 'home," I explained. !

'Mum cooked every day and when Dad got home from work, we sat down together at the dining room table, and if I didn't like what she put on my plate, I was allowed to sit there until I did like it.'

By this time, the lad was laughing so hard I was afraid he was going to suffer serious internal damage, so I didn't tell him the part about how I had to have permission to leave the table.

But here are some other things I would have told him about my childhood if I'd figured his system could have handled it:

Some parents NEVER owned their own house, wore jeans, set foot on a golf course, travelled out of the country or had a credit card.

My parents never drove me to school. I had a bicycle that weighed probably 50 pounds, and only had one speed, (slow).

We didn't have a television in our house until I was 10.

It was, of course, black and white, and the station went off the air at 10 pm, after playing the national anthem and epilogue; it came back on the air at about 6 a.m. and there was usually a locally produced news show on.

I never had a telephone in my room. The only phone was on a party line. Before you could dial, you had to listen and make sure some people you didn't know weren't already using the line.

Pizzas were not delivered to our home... But milk was.

All newspapers were delivered by boys and all boys delivered newspapers --My brother delivered a newspaper, seven days a week. He had to get up at 6AM every morning.

Film stars kissed with their mouths shut. At least, they did in the films. There were no movie ratings because all movies were responsibly produced for everyone to enjoy viewing, without profanity or violence or almost anything offensive.

If you grew up in a generation before there was fast food, you may want to share some of these memories with your children or grandchildren. Just don't blame me if they bust a gut laughing.

Growing up isn't what it used to be, is it?

G-G PRESENTS LONG TAN MEDALS

A VETERAN of the epic Vietnam Battle of Long Tan 44 years ago has been presented with the Medal for Gallantry.

That's the equivalent of the Military Cross, initially recommended for Second Lieutenant Geoff Kendall, a platoon commander in the thick of the fighting in the best known action of Australia's decade in Vietnam.

In the aftermath, that was downgraded to the lesser Mentioned in Despatches (MID), also awarded in the same honours list to the Australian task force postman for meritorious service.

In Canberra today, Governor-General Quentin Bryce officially presented the Medal for Gallantry to Second Lieutenant Kendall.

She also presented to Distinguished Service Medal to Mrs Joan Dohle, the widow of Flight Lieutenant Clifford Dohle.

He was the captain of one of two Iroquois helicopters which delivered the vital resupply of ammunition to the beleaguered Australian soldiers at the peak of the fighting.

Both pilots were initially recommended for the Distinguished Flying Cross but in Flight Lieutenant Dohle's case, that was downgraded to the MID.

The Battle of Long Tan was fought on August 18, 1966 when the 108 members of Delta Company, 6th Battalion (6RAR) encountered a vastly superior North Vietnamese force, repelling a series of attacks until the enemy finally withdrew.

Eighteen Australians died in the bitter fighting.

Following the battle, Delta Company Commander Major Harry Smith made a series of award recommendations which in many cases were downgraded or rejected.

That prompted a long campaign for redress and a series of reviews, with recommendations in some cases that Long Tan veterans receive current day awards in place of no longer available imperial awards.

The 44th anniversary of Long Tan - Vietnam Veterans Day - will be marked in Canberra on Wednesday with a service at the Vietnam War Memorial.

(Aug 2010)



3RD BATTALION ROYAL AUSTRALIAN REGIMENT

2ND TOUR VIETNAM 2001

NATIONAL REUNION - CANBERRA ACT

14, 15, 16 OCTOBER 2011

The reunion to mark the 40th anniversary of the 3rd Battalion RAR return from Vietnam in 1971 will be celebrated in October 2011 in Canberra ACT.

An open invitation is extended to all former members and their families, friends and allied personnel who have an association with the Battalion in 1971, to attend.

Individual companies will plan their reunion activities. The formal Battalion gathering will occur at the Vietnam Veterans National Memorial on Sunday the 16th of October at 10.00am.

Latest reunion details, please visit www.3rar.com/reunion.html

Contact: Tony on 0412 377 884 or 02 4261 1664.

Email: webmaster@3rar.com

STRONGER THAN GRIEF

A poem as read by "Macca" on Australia all Over (ABC Radio) - August 29, 2010

By Chaplain Jim Cosgrove

Chaplain at Gallipoli Barracks, Enoggera

Australians are all reeling and many folks are feeling
dismayed with all our recent soldiers' deaths
We farewell a fallen brother then another then another
and its like we need to stop to catch our breath
While one family is grieving another is receiving
the news that takes their world to grief and sorrow
There's lots of fear and tension, you can sense the apprehension
as we wonder if there's more bad news tomorrow.
But the families will tell us they are so proud of their fellas
even as they stop to wipe away their tears
They say they feel inside an intense and burning pride
as they face the nightmare of their deepest fears
Their courage and belief are even stronger than their grief
that their sacrifice is for a worthy cause
They believe their precious sons, brothers, dads, beloved ones,
have paid the price for freedom on our shores.
They want to tell their mates to never doubt or hesitate,
to fight this fight against the reign of terror
An untimely made decision to turn our backs on this mission
Would be at this sad time a costly error
As families deal with grieving they are strengthened by believing
that their soldiers gave their lives for you and me
In the history of their nation there are many generations
whose sacrifice has made our country free.
And so in this time of grief, please don't falter in belief
that our Aussie boys are where they need to be
They've got the guts to fight their wars, keep supporting them because
They need support from their community

TREASURER'S REPORT TO JUNE 30, 2010

The following report are the audited account records to June 2010.



AIR DISPATCH ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA INC

(ABN: 82 580 295 387)

Income and Expenditure Statement for the Year Ended 30th June 2010

30/06/2009	INCOME	30/06/2010
\$ 2,940	Subscriptions	\$ 2,640
\$ 48	Sponsorship/Donations	\$ 50
\$ 18	Interest	\$ -
-\$ 550	Reunion Deposits adj	\$ -
\$ -	Sundries	\$ -
	\$ 677 Merchandise Sales	\$ 471
	\$ 4,181 Opening Stock	\$ 4,770
	\$ 998 Purchases	\$ 514
	\$ 4,770 Closing Stock	\$ 4,073
\$ 268	\$ 409 COGS	\$ 1,211
		-\$ 740
<u>\$ 2,724</u>		<u>\$ 1,950</u>
	LESS EXPENDITURE	
\$ 1,362	Newsletter	\$ 719
\$ 287	Bank Fees	\$ 214
\$ 160	Printing/Post/Stationary	\$ 95
\$ 140	Meetings/Functions	\$ 420
\$ 2,257	Insurance	\$ 2,289
\$ -	Telephone	\$ -
\$ 178	Sundries	\$ -
\$ -	Sponsorship	\$ 52
\$ -	Reunion Costs	\$ -
\$ -	Welfare	\$ 251
<u>\$ 4,384</u>		<u>\$ 4,040</u>
-\$ 1,660	Surplus/Deficiency for the Year	-\$ 2,090

AIR DISPATCH ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA INC

(ABN: 82 580 295 387)

Balance Sheet as at 30th June 2010

30/06/2009	ACCUMULATED FUNDS	30/06/2010
\$ 17,760	Opening Balance	\$ 16,100
-\$ 1,660	Add Surplus/Deficiency for Year	-\$ 2,090
\$ -	Stock Adj	\$ -
<u>\$ 16,100</u>	Closing Balance	<u>\$ 14,010</u>
	REPRESENTED BY	
\$ 11,281	Cash at Bank	\$ 9,664
\$ 4,770	Stock on Hand	\$ 4,073
\$ 49	Debtors	\$ 273
<u>\$ 16,100</u>		<u>\$ 14,010</u>

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WO2 Garry "Jock" McGravie

US RIGGER LIAISON OFFICER

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- please forward to Secretary.

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HONORARY SOLICITOR

Mr Ross Adams

HONORARY AUDITOR

Mr. Bill Hardman

BISCUIT BOMBER LIAISON OFFICER

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'Clipped Wings' articles - ("any time, anything . . ."): clippedwings@adaa.net.au

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