



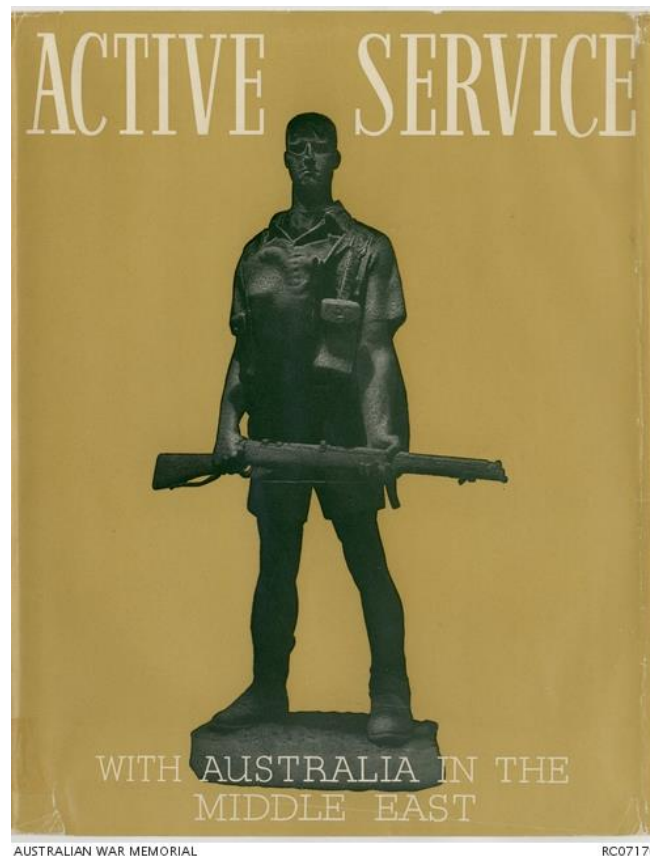
Respect, Gratitude, Admiration

TRIBUTE

The Newsletter of the Military
Historical Society Australia,
Queensland Division

President: Neil Dearberg
Website: www.mhsa.org.au

FEBRUARY 2022 No.8



Dust jacket of the 1941 edition of the Christmas Book 'Active Service: with Australia in the Middle East' published by the Australian War Memorial.

(Source: AWM)

President Report

Floods and Covid reduced our numbers for the January meeting. Nonetheless, speaker SQN LDR Robyn Green (retd) nursing officer, gave a wonderful address about the history of RAAF and general military nursing. Advances in field medical treatments, evacuations, surgical procedures and mates first aid saved many lives. She will be available at the March meeting in Brisbane for questions that didn't get time in Maryborough due to necessary flood evacuations.

To the Military Spectacular; what a list of amazing speakers;

- As well as those on the website,
- Dr Alexandra Douglas MG, surgeon Rwanda, Timor, Afghanistan
- Gary and Renee Wilson, helicopter crash victim and recovery story
- Lt Col George Hulse, military dog handling group commander and author
- Sgt Graeme Ellis, dog handler and trainer, Iraq, Afghan, Solomons, Timor
- Maj Heston Russell, Commando and veteran advocate
- Comdr Susan Harris, 1st female XO Aus submarine, nuclear project officer
- Director or Curator AWM
- Explosive detection dog, man down dog, RAAF guard dog
- Couple more on the “wanted list”

We have or are about to apply for funding grants from Dept Veterans Affairs, Gambling Community Fund, SC Regional Council, RSL sources, Jason Hunt MP State Member for Caloundra, Caloundra RSL sub-branch – this will help make ticket pricing affordable for many. Additional sponsors and partners are eagerly being sought.

Brisbane is our next venue so hopefully the locals there will come out and see our impressive speakers and enjoy some demonstrations of memorabilia. In addition, all the usual attendees from the Sunny Coast and points north are encouraged to “make the trip” to the State Capital for a great day – see you there. ☺

From the Editor

A February Edition of *TRIBUTE* was not on the cards when I planned out 2022, however thanks to a number of contributors and the amount of Defence News over the Christmas/New Year period we are publishing an additional issue.

The next issues, will be focused on the Post Vietnam period in preparation for the Military Spectacular so if you have any interesting stories or you know someone who has please contribute them for publishing. It is a great opportunity for young servicemen and women to set their story in print. All the regular items such as Show and Tell, humour, poetry, and of course the news section will continue to appear.

Some of our members, like me served during the long peace period and had no chance to deploy overseas on active service. Your stories are just as important.

CANVAS, WOOD, WIRES AND TYRES

The Story of No. 1 Sqn, AFC in Palestine 1916-1918

By Neil Dearberg

World War 1 was first the test, and then the confirmation, of what would become three of the most frightful and frightening not-seen-before methods of warfare: poison gas; submarines; air war.

Australia would provide the only Dominion air arm as part of the Australian Imperial Force (AIF); the Australian Flying Corps (AFC). Our youth was wildly enthusiastic to fly. But, many more flyers than flying machines; so many would-be flyers hastened to England to join the Royal Flying Corps (RFC) and Royal Naval Air Service (RNAS) before all their planes were gone too.

Air war was thought about but little understood before the war. British aircraft production lagged that of France and Germany and aircraft capability was even more retarded. At the outbreak of war and for some time after, the British and Australian flyers were at great disadvantage. Moreso in Palestine as the Western Front received priority in all things milita

Pilot graduates from the Central Flying School at Point Cook in Victoria were selected. Also selected were professional or higher-trade officers, without flying training. Ground crew who had never seen an aeroplane but with certain artisan skills were selected. On 16 March 1916, 28 aviator flyer officers and 195 ground crew, under command Lieutenant Colonel E.H. Reynolds, were outfitted with uniforms, pistols and swords, boarded the *SS Orsova* and told to go to Egypt to fly aeroplanes and win the war. None of the pilots had received any training in gunnery, photography or bombing, let alone seen combat. The observers had not fired a shot from their machine guns. Of the ground crew, most had never seen an aeroplane, some had scarcely swung a propeller. Go win a war!

They didn't have any aeroplanes, in the hope the Brits would provide. In fact, they had only a few cars and motor cycles, but "*no tools, no nothing...*" wrote Capt Richard Williams, later to become Squadron Commander, later Commander of 5th Wing RFC (an Australian, extraordinary!) and in WW2, Chief of Air Staff.

On arrival on 16 March, the AIF in Egypt and their British HQ were as surprised as was No. 1 Sqn that they had not been expected. This is hardly surprising given the standard of the British Army, its senior officers and (lack of) administration system at the time. Confusion arose; what to do with No. 1 Sqn AFC?

A week later an answer came. The squadron would be attached to 5th Wing, RFC and the three Flights of No. 1 split between the RFC squadrons. Although nominated as No. 1 Sqn, AFC, the British admin system couldn't separate their No. 1 Sqn from ours so called it No. 67 Sqn RFC – their admin finally sorted, in January 1918 they were again recognised as No. 1 Sqn AFC. (Nevertheless, throughout this article I will refer to it as No. 1 Sqn AFC).

Over the next six weeks, the squadron mechanics, riggers, instrument fitters, armourers, drivers and telegraphy specialists underwent further training with their British counter-parts who provided willing assistance. Plus, all the Observers and five of the least experienced pilots were sent to England for combat training.

That the Australians had been recruited for their specialist skills and experience became quickly apparent as they trained. Their aptitude and temperament, even in the harsh desert conditions and the fields of rainy England, enabled them to learn quickly. Throughout the campaign their initiative and creativity became further apparent as they consistently “invented” new ways to combat the wear and tear on parts, the wind and sand storms that played havoc with equipment, and the questionable attitude and capabilities of their hosts whose oft heard claim was “*we haven't done it that way before so surely that can't be done...*”

The Australians quickly stood out to the British senior officers; just as their ‘brothers’ in the Light Horse and Imperial Camel Corps were doing. The RFC Commander, Major General Geoffrey Salmond officially recorded, “*the rapid training and mobilization of the squadron reflected great credit on the industry, keenness and discipline of officers and all ranks.*”¹

At the same time, the enemy was one German squadron. Their aircraft were Fokker scouts and the two-seater Aviatiks; both superior to the BE2c in terms of speed, climb, manoeuvrability and fighting capacity. They were soon joined by the advanced Rampler fighter. Captain Williams reported “*at that time we had no guns firing through the propeller, and could not fire straight ahead. Our observers were in front of the pilots. The Aviatik observer was in rear of the pilot and the pilot could fire straight ahead. We really had little chance with him.*”²

The training, discipline, health and hygiene standards instilled by their procession of Sqn Comds throughout the war followed the consistent dictum of the Australian Commander, Major General Harry Chauvel, throughout the whole of the campaign. This ensured a high availability of aircraft, personnel and excellence of combat recognised by special attendance of the Force Commander, General Edmund Allenby, at the squadron's final parade before embarking for return to Australia in 1919.

But of course, aerial warfare was unknown. What strategies, what tactics were to be adopted? Generals who had fought only natives had no idea. Some openly opposed the concept. Others, curious, opened some thought. Nobody knew exactly what to do. And as Cutlack states, “*a pilot...may be sent out on no special commission at all except to 'see what is happening'*”³

Early aircraft were elementary machines. But, ‘*necessity being the mother of invention*’, the development of armaments, speed, climb ability, instrumentation and wireless telegraphy to contact ground forces, quickly occurred. But the AFC would see all these would be tested to the limit in heat, sand, wind, logistic supply chain isolation, theft (Bedouin) and some British ineptitude – much moreso than the ‘civilised’ towns and rural fields of the Western Front.

It's not hard to understand that No. 1 Sqn was initially given the worst of available aircraft by their RFC hosts, notwithstanding the lack of *any* good aircraft in theatre at that time. The under-powered BE2c biplane was slow with poor climb ability and a bizzare structure where “...*the observer sat in front of the 'BE' – a disadvantage as he could hardly have been in a worse position for gunnery and indeed, observation...a rear facing Lewis Gun was mounted awkwardly between the pilot and the observer...really quite useless as a defensive weapon, and put there perhaps to boost morale.*”⁴

This created two issues.

First, the AFC ground crews became inventive and tireless to give some credibility to the machines. Second, the AFC roles became reconnaissance, photography, bombing and strafing rather than aerial combat with German aircraft of superior abilities.

By now though, the Egyptian Expeditionary Force (EEF) had entered the Sinai and was progressing eastwards. Although supposedly a unified squadron, operational conditions necessitated the Flights or detachments being positioned with an RFC Flight. It would not be until December that all Flights would be on the same airfield.

¹ Australia's Official History, Vol VIII, the AFC, 11th Ed, p. 42

² *ibid*, p.33

³ *ibid*, Intro, p. xvi

⁴ Molkenntin, M. *Fire In The Sky*. Allen and Unwin, 2010. p. 60

To be continued.

BRIGADIER MICHAEL CALVERT, DSO AND BAR

By Frank Reid

I wonder how many of us have met someone and something they have said triggers a question mark about that particular person's background? Well, that certainly has occurred to me on more than one occasion and the one standout occurred when I was in Vietnam.

I had recently arrived in Vietnam in 1971 as a member of AATTV and was posted to a Night Operations Training Team in Phu Cat, Binh Dinh Province. The rest of the team had arrived from Pleiku at our new 'home' only a couple of days before. The WO I was taking over from, Allen West, another sapper, and who I already knew and had the greatest respect for. He and I were building some furniture when there was a knock on our house door. Given that we lived in a small corner of a National Training Centre and the long distance from the main road, this was really something quite unexpected.

Standing at the door was a very tough looking man of indeterminable age, dressed in a very British gentleman's style. Suffice to say he introduced himself, as Michael Calvert, in a very strong upper class English accent, an ex British army officer who had spent time in Australia. He said he was in Vietnam acting as a consultant on an engineering project. This, in itself, raised some questions in my mind for obvious reasons. When Allen and I told him we were both sappers he said he also had been a 'sapper officer', when he served as a member of the Royal Engineers during, and after, WW2 and had worked with explosives during his war time experiences. As Allen and I were the so called 'experts' in mine warfare, booby traps and mechanical ambushing, he took a real interest in what we had had to say. His brief summary of where *he* had served and what *he* had done and achieved was nothing less than extraordinarily remarkable.

After a couple of hours or so of chatting over a cup of coffee he left. I can't speak for Allen, but I certainly had my doubts about this man and some aspects of his history, so I decided I would research him when I returned to Australia.

When I returned home, and as computers were not readily available to the public at this time, I started with the books, "The Chindits' and 'Wingate and the Chindits' and then I found Calvert's biography, titled, 'Mad Mike'. I wasn't long into my research before I was wiping egg off my face! Michael Calvert, named 'Mad Mike' by his soldiers, was a true warrior and an expert in unconventional warfare and renowned for leading from the front. There is no doubt that he had a life and a career that movies are made of! Besides being awarded the DSO and bar, he was also recommended for the VC for his actions during battles in Burma.

One of the highlights of his military career was that, in the early years of WW2, he, together with Freddy Spencer-Chapman, who wrote the book 'The Jungle is neutral', came to Australia in November 1940 to establish a Commando School, at the newly established Infantry Training Centre at Wilson's Promontory, Victoria. They trained the men who were to form our first Independent Companies.

During WW2, Calvert had achieved the rank of brigadier at the age of 24! In Burma he had become the 2IC to Ord Wingate, of Chindit's fame., and had also commanded a brigade in the field.

Towards the end of the war he had also commanded a brigade of French and Belgium SAS, in Europe.

It is not a well known fact, but the SAS, along with a number of similar, so called 'private armies', was disbanded at the end of the WW2.

At the end of the war Calvert decided to remain in the Army but had to revert back to his substantive rank of major, a drop of four ranks! In due course he was posted to a staff job in Hong Kong in what was then known as the Far East.

In 1950 with the growing infiltration of communist guerrillas in Malaya, the War Office in London, directed Calvert to go around all of the British army units in the region and recruit enough experienced soldiers to form a long range, deep penetrating jungle reconnaissance unit. The unit became know as the Malaysian Scouts. Some will say the title included (SAS Regiment). Suffice to say that this unit formed the basis of what we now have in the SAS, both in the UK and other countries in the Commonwealth, including the Australian SAS.

The saddest aspect of Michael Calvert's life and career was that he was homosexual, which he kept very quiet about, for many obvious reasons, including the fact that in the UK, it was still a criminal offence to be an active homosexual.

Calvert climbed back up the ranks to brigadier and later, while posted to Germany, he was set up, trapped and ultimately court marshalled, and dismissed from the Service for being homosexual.

The other sad aspect of his life is that this impact on his life turned him to drink and he became an alcoholic. Unhappy, he left the UK and came back to Australia where he barely scraped a living, on a day to day base, for a number of years. He ultimately returned to the UK, realizing where his life was leading and set about turning it around, which he did. He wrote numerous papers on irregular warfare and was often invited to speak at various clubs on his ideas and concepts.

Research by an investigative journalist, during the early 1990s, provided new evidence that revealed that Calvert had, in fact, been set up. Another factor was that about this time, homosexuality had been de-criminalized. Despite all of this, his appeals against the original charges stood.

I understand that he was ultimately exonerated and pardoned in the late 1990s. One of the last photographs of Michael Calvert is of him in a wheelchair shaking the hands of Prince Charles. I often wonder if 'they' re-established his pension rights and gave him his back pay?

Michael Calvert was a great warrior, who had the most remarkable career and an extraordinary life. I wish I had met him again, after I had learned so much about him.

The postscript to this story is that evidence has come to light to reveal that he was in Vietnam trying to recruit a mercenary force to go and fight in Cambodia!

CAPTAIN GEOFFREY LEONARD HART – VIETNAM REPORT

By Russell Paten

The American involvement in Vietnam was becoming of increasing interest to the Australian government in 1964 so it was decided to send a member of the Australian Army on an orientation visit to gather information to guide the government with future decisions regarding potential Australian involvement. The officer who was chosen for the assignment was Singapore based Captain Geoffrey Leonard Hart. Captain Hart had been in the Australian Army since 1934 and had already served in the Second World War, Korea and Malaya. The main points of the report are contained below.

At this time, the US involvement in the Vietnam War was becoming more prominent and the Australian Government was assessing whether Australia should also become involved and, if so, to what extent. To assist with this analysis, on 15 September 1964, Hart was flown to Saigon and tasked to compile a report highlighting the methods being used by South Vietnam and the US to prosecute the war.

For nine days, from 15 September to 24 September 1964, he visited several encampments and accompanied an Army of the Republic of Vietnam (ARVN) unit and their US advisers as they patrolled their area of responsibility. The resulting report was blunt, hard hitting and damning of the way the war was being conducted. He stated:

In general, the tour is of immense value as it permits those participating to gain first-hand knowledge of problems which must be seen to be believed. Three basic factors appear to emerge from my personal observation. These are:

- a) The magnitude of the task of eliminating the Viet Cong (VC) element*
- b) The apparent apathy of the people of Vietnam generally*
- c) The keenness of the advisers to get on with the job.*

He first visited the Australian embassy for a briefing and then HQ US Military Assistance Command in Saigon to gather data regarding the estimated size and composition of the enemy forces and the plan being implemented to defeat them. He was impressed with the presented plan to clear VC occupied areas, secure these areas from future incursions and then develop them by strengthening government structure and aiding the economy. He was advised by General William Westmoreland that the plan had begun to be implemented. As a result, the VC were very angry and were increasing their disruptive activities.

Hart visited several hamlets and started gaining an understanding of the real problems on the ground. Some of the hamlets he visited were in much better condition and more prosperous than others. When he enquired why, he was simply told that the hamlet leaders paid the VC to leave them alone so they could prosper, a disturbing situation. The tour concentrated on Phuoc Tuy province and Vung Tau, both of which would feature prominently in Australia's role in the war in later years.

He accompanied a South Vietnamese unit, 38th Ranger Battalion on a 'Clear and Destroy' mission aimed at ridding the target area of VC. He was very critical of the operation. His comments on the operation include the following.

1. *Very poorly executed operation.*
2. *No formations, no thorough searching on either side and overhead, weapons not prepared or carried in a manner to enable immediate fire if necessary.*
3. *Bunching of troops consistent. Too much noise, troops smoking and talking.*
4. *Leading scouts only 5 to 10 metres from main party.*
5. *Though clear signs of enemy observed, no attempt made to make contact.*
6. *No side-tracks checked.*
7. *Discipline very poor.*
8. *No blocking forces.*

He noted that it was most noticeable when signs were seen of recent enemy activity, the noise of the troops increased considerably, obviously to ensure that the enemy knew a large force was participating in the operation, thus minimising the chance of ambush or fire being brought down.

During this exercise, the helicopter that Hart travelled in received heavy fire, highlighting the danger he was constantly in.

He concluded that at any time a small VC element could have caused considerable casualties.

His summary states that although the South Vietnamese forces are well equipped, they avoid night patrols, lack discipline and have not been taught many of the rudiments of warfare. His summary of the VC forces was much more complementary.

Interestingly, he concluded from this that it would be a good opportunity for Australian troops as the country lends itself to infantry tactics. He suggested that as many infantry officers as possible should get an opportunity to see what he had seen. He considered the most interesting area to be the Delta region as the type of country is completely new to Australian troops and the methods of fighting and holding in this type of terrain presents many problems which require to be seen to be believed.

His report appears to have influenced the Australian Government and Army as Australian troops were subsequently sent to operate in Phuoc Tuy province in the Delta area and their supply base would be Vung Tau.

He returned to Singapore on 24 September 1964.

From the News

50 Years since the abolition of the National Service scheme, 1964–1972

A fourth period of National Service was introduced in 1964, and in May 1965 the Coalition Government introduced new powers that enabled it to send national servicemen overseas. At that time Australian soldiers were involved in the war in Vietnam and with Indonesian Confrontation. The Menzies Government wished to raise the army's numbers to 40,000 in order to meet overseas commitments.

All 20-year-old males had to register with the Department of Labour and National Service, and their names were selected by the "birthday ballot", in which men were randomly selected

for national service by their date of birth. Those who were selected for national service were required to serve for two years full-time in the Regular Army and three years part-time in the reserves.

Exemptions were given to Aborigines and Torres Strait Islander peoples, the medically unfit, and theology students. Young men were granted exemption on the grounds of conscientious objection if they could prove their objection to war was based on religious beliefs. A temporary deferment of national service was granted to university students, apprentices, married men, and those who could prove that national service would cause them financial hardship.

From 1965 to 1972, over 15,300 national servicemen served in the Vietnam War, with 200 killed and 1,279 wounded. Once again, the issue of conscription provoked debate within the Australian community, with university students and other members of the community taking part in large anti-conscription and anti-Vietnam War demonstrations. The National Service scheme was abolished on 5 December 1972 by the newly elected Labor Government.

The Minister for Veterans Affairs Andrew Gee, recently announced that funding of \$6m for events to be held across Australia to mark the 50th Anniversary of the end of the Vietnam War will be put forward by the Federal Government.

Nearly 60,000 Australians served in the Vietnam War with 521 Defence personnel losing their lives and a further 3000 wounded.

The Minister stated that the 50 year commemoration is another important step in helping to heal the wounds that were inflicted back in Australia. The milestone is to be marked in January 2023.

(Ed; The NSW Branch of the Australian Railway Historical Society have obtained a grant to interview 10-15 people who were employed by the NSWGR and were selected by the 'conscription lottery' for military service. Their project is due for completion June 2022.)

AUSTRALIA / JAPAN – SPECIAL STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP

Prime Minister Morrison and Prime Minister Kishida met virtually on 6 January 2022. The two leaders reaffirmed the fundamental and enduring importance to both countries of the Special Strategic Partnership (SSP).

The SSP is based on a shared commitment to democracy, human rights, free trade and a rules-based international order, close coordination to contribute to the peace and stability of the Indo-Pacific and beyond, longstanding trade and investment ties, and the deep affinity between the Australian and Japanese peoples.

They reconfirmed that annual leaders' meetings play a significant role in strengthening coordination to ensure that the partnership continues to respond to the evolving strategic and economic environment.

Security and defence cooperation

The two leaders signed the landmark Reciprocal Access Agreement between Australia and Japan (Australia-Japan RAA), underscoring their commitment to further elevating bilateral security and defence cooperation in the interests of peace and stability in the Indo-Pacific region.

The Australia-Japan RAA will establish standing arrangements for the Australian Defence Force and the Japan Self-Defence Forces to facilitate cooperative activities such as joint exercises and disaster relief operations, including those of greater scale and complexity, while improving the interoperability and capability of the two countries' forces.

They confirmed their intention to pursue the completion of respective domestic procedures necessary to give effect to the Australia-Japan RAA as early as possible.

The two leaders confirmed the importance of promoting cooperation between the Japan Coast Guard and Australia's Department of Home Affairs, including to facilitate information-sharing and cooperation on maritime domain awareness.

The two leaders pledged to strengthen cooperation between the two countries on economic security.

They committed to deepening collaboration to address illicit technology transfers, build resilient supply chains and strengthen the protection of critical infrastructure.

They committed to significantly elevate our cooperation architecture on cyber and critical technology, including for promoting research and development of critical technologies such as AI and quantum, promoting the application of international law and agreed norms in cyberspace, and cooperating on standards setting in international fora.

They further underlined the need to strengthen cooperation on resource security, including by developing resilient critical minerals supply chains.

The two leaders pledged to further deepen and broaden security and defence cooperation between the two countries to address current and future threats and challenges.

In this regard, they looked forward to issuing a new Joint Declaration on Security Cooperation to serve as a compass for the two countries' engagement for years to come, reflecting the significant development of bilateral security cooperation and the evolution of the regional strategic environment since the milestone Japan-Australia Joint Declaration on Security Cooperation signed in 2007.

They instructed the respective relevant officials to expedite work toward issuing the new Joint Declaration at the earliest opportunity.

Cooperation in the Indo-Pacific and beyond

The two leaders concurred that Australia and Japan will play a significant role in realising a free and open Indo-Pacific, which is also inclusive and prosperous, and in strengthening regional resilience.

Amid growing challenges to the fundamental values shared by the two countries and their partners, the two leaders reaffirmed their unwavering commitment to a regional order where

the rights, freedoms and sovereignty of all countries, regardless of size or power, are protected by international law, rules and norms.

They recommitted to opposing coercive behaviour and to countering harmful disinformation.

The two leaders welcomed the strong and enduring contribution of the United States to stability and prosperity in the Indo-Pacific, and the US commitment to close cooperation with allies and partners.

They reaffirmed the importance of reinforcing the two countries' alliances with the United States and promoting Japan-Australia-US cooperation, including the enhancement of interoperability and the promotion of quality infrastructure, with a view to contributing to broader regional stability and prosperity.

They looked forward to strengthening cooperation with the United States on security and defence, including through the Trilateral Strategic Dialogue (TSD) and the Trilateral Defence Ministers' Meeting. They also welcomed the US intention to develop an Indo-Pacific Economic Framework.

The two leaders welcomed the growing quadrilateral cooperation among Japan, Australia, India and the United States, and looked forward to the next Quad leaders' meeting this year to drive forward coordinated responses to the most pressing challenges faced by regional countries, including through supporting the production and delivery of COVID-19 vaccines and the development of quality infrastructure.

Prime Minister Kishida reiterated Japan's support for the Australia-UK-US security partnership, AUKUS, the development of which will contribute to regional peace and stability.

The two leaders concurred on the vital role of the European Union and European partners in contributing to prosperity, stability and resilience in the Indo-Pacific, and to upholding international law and an open multilateral system based on shared values and shared interests.

The two leaders reaffirmed their commitment to partnering with Southeast Asia in pursuit of shared goals of prosperity and stability in the region, and reiterated their steadfast support for ASEAN centrality and ASEAN-led regional architecture, including the East Asia Summit as the Indo-Pacific's premier leader-level forum to discuss the region's most pressing strategic challenges.

They also reaffirmed their support for the principles of ASEAN's Outlook on the Indo-Pacific and for its practical implementation.

The two leaders underscored their commitment to reinforce ASEAN's efforts on COVID-19 response and recovery.

The two leaders affirmed their commitment to strengthen cooperation with Pacific island countries to help them respond to the impacts of climate change and recover from the severe and ongoing health and economic impacts of COVID-19, including supporting these countries to safely reopen their borders.

Prime Minister Morrison expressed his support for Japan's cooperation with Pacific island countries under its Pacific Bond (KIZUNA) Policy.

They welcomed trilateral cooperation with the United States on the East Micronesia undersea cable project, in partnership with the Federated States of Micronesia, Kiribati and Nauru, and reiterated their intention to explore further opportunities for infrastructure cooperation, noting that secure and quality infrastructure will serve as a foundation of sustainable and resilient economic development of Pacific island countries.

Prime Minister Kishida welcomed Australia's recent quick response, with Pacific family partners, to the civil unrest in Solomon Islands and its contribution to the restoration of order, following a request from Solomon Islands.

The two leaders reiterated serious concerns about the situation in the South China Sea, and underlined the importance of being able to exercise rights and freedoms consistent with the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS).

They reaffirmed their strong objection to China's unlawful maritime claims and activities that are inconsistent with UNCLOS.

They recalled that the 2016 South China Sea Arbitral Tribunal decision is final and legally binding on the parties to the dispute.

They strongly opposed any unilateral attempts to change the status quo by force.

The two leaders expressed serious concerns about the situation in the East China Sea, which undermines regional peace and stability.

They shared the intention to remain in close communication about the situation in the East China Sea and expressed strong opposition to any destabilising or coercive unilateral actions that seek to alter the status quo and increase tensions in the area.

The two leaders also underscored the importance of peace and stability across the Taiwan Strait and encouraged the peaceful resolution of cross-Strait issues.

The two leaders shared serious concerns about reported human rights abuses against Uyghur and other Muslim minorities in Xinjiang.

They also expressed their grave concerns over the erosion of democratic elements of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region's electoral system and the undermining of the rights and freedoms guaranteed under the Hong Kong Basic Law and the Sino-British Joint Declaration.

The two leaders condemned North Korea's ongoing development of nuclear weapons and ballistic missiles, reiterating their commitment to achieving the complete, verifiable and irreversible dismantlement of all nuclear weapons, other weapons of mass destruction, and ballistic missiles of all ranges of North Korea.

They urged North Korea to comply with its obligations under the relevant UN Security Council resolutions (UNSCRs) and emphasised the importance of the international community fully implementing the UNSCRs.

They called on North Korea to end human rights violations and to resolve the Japanese abductions issue immediately.

The two leaders reiterated their grave concerns about the situation in Myanmar and called for the immediate cessation of violence against civilian populations, the release of all those arbitrarily detained, including foreigners, and unhindered humanitarian access.

They urged the Myanmar military regime to implement ASEAN's Five-Point Consensus and encouraged the international community to work together to support an end to the violence, including by preventing the flow of arms into Myanmar.

The two leaders reaffirmed that the two countries will work closely with each other to maintain and strengthen the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) as the cornerstone of the international nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation regime, including through activities in the framework of the Non-Proliferation and Disarmament Initiative (NPDI).

The two leaders stressed that the 40-year long decline in global nuclear arsenals must be sustained and not reversed.

In this regard, the two leaders welcomed the extension of the New Start Treaty by the United States and Russia and looked forward to the development of future arms control frameworks that involve other countries and a wider range of weapon systems.

Defence support Tonga



The Australian Defence Force is supporting Tonga following the eruption of the Hunga Tonga-Hunga Ha'apai underwater volcano on 15 January 2022.

Defence, as part of the whole-of-Australian Government effort coordinated by the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, has established Operation Tonga Assist 2022.

The first Royal Australian Air Force C-17A Globemaster III aircraft touched down in Tonga on 20 January with essential supplies to support the Government of Tonga in its recovery efforts.

Supplies included shelter materials, hygiene supplies, PPE for people clearing ash and water containers, as well as communication equipment. Equipment also included a skid-steer loader with a sweeper to support runway operations.

This assistance will help the Tongan Government meet the Tongan community's needs and support immediate clean-up efforts. Many homes have been destroyed and many people displaced by a tsunami caused by the eruption.

The delivery of supplies is part of the initial package of urgent humanitarian assistance. This is in addition to the Australian Government's existing stores in Tonga, which are already being distributed to the most affected regions via two Guardian-class patrol boats and a landing craft that were gifted by Australia to Tonga.

The C-17A Globemaster III flight was made possible thanks to the tireless efforts of Tongan authorities who have worked to clear a thick layer of volcanic ash from the runway at Tongatapu Fua'amotu International Airport to enable the planes to land.

HMAS *Adelaide*, located in Brisbane, is preparing to deploy to Tonga with additional humanitarian and medical supplies, engineering equipment and helicopters to support logistics and distribution.

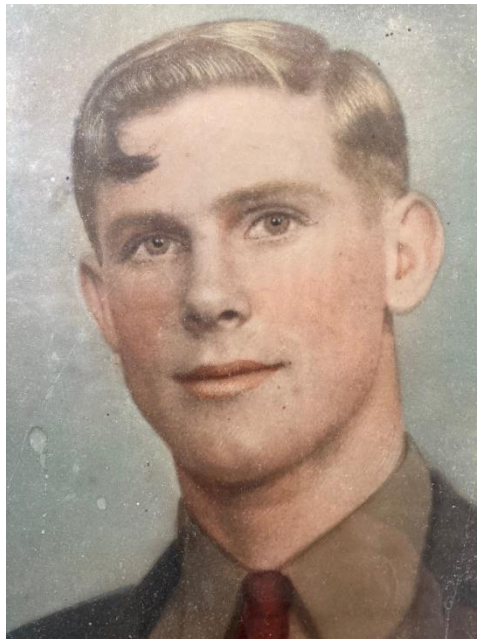
The Australian Government response is being coordinating closely with France and New Zealand under the FRANZ partnership, Fiji, Japan, United Kingdom and the United States.

Earlier in the week, two RAAF P-8A Poseidon flights and one C-130J Hercules conducted aerial surveillance over the central islands of Tonga at the request of the Tongan Government to help determine the extent of the damage, particularly in more remote locations, and inform their future disaster support requests.

Recognising Tonga's COVID-19-free status, Australia will deliver the supplies in a COVID-safe way, carrying out all work in close partnership with the Tongan Government.

(Source: Defence News)

Navy





Queensland Railways undertook an archaeological dig at Shorncliffe in early 2021. A sailor's cap was unearthed in the dig, telling of a seven-decade-old love story, and this cap has now been reunited with its owner's family! The cap, dating back to the late 1940s, belonged to Stoker Mechanic Ernest Hodgess, who served in the Royal Australian Navy for a decade (1947-1956) and passed away in 2007, aged 78. Queensland Rail reunited Ernest's son, Jamie, back with his father's hat.
(Source; Queensland Rail)



It was a bittersweet moment for onlookers at Fleet Base West on 2 December when HMAS *Sirius* returned home. *Sirius* was sailing into its home port for the final time before being decommissioned on 18 December 2021. *Sirius* departed Fleet Base West on 30 August and, after 94 days away, was

greeted with significant fanfare. Two days earlier, the ship had picked up families from Albany and had taken the opportunity to show them what life at sea in the oiler was truly like. Families who didn't join the jolly lined up along the wharf to wave the ship in, carting ice-creams, coffees and banners created for the celebration.

Commanding Officer HMAS *Sirius* Commander Christopher Doherty said the return home was important for families and the crew. "We don't go to sea effectively without the support of our families back home," Commander Doherty said. "To have our families on board and on the wharf as *Sirius* sailed in for the final time was a way to celebrate the combined efforts of our personnel and their loved ones throughout the ship's 15 years of service."

Since commissioning on September 16, 2006, *Sirius* has worked up a vast catalogue of operational experience. The ship's last deployment included being part of Indo-Pacific Endeavour 2021, Regional Presence Deployment 21-4 and Exercise Malabar 2021. *Sirius* concluded the sea time with a decommissioning tour of Australia, visiting Darwin, Norfolk Island, Sydney, Hobart and Albany.

"During its time, HMAS *Sirius* has served Australia and our allies proudly in all different parts of the world, in all different kinds of conditions," Commander Doherty said. "All of the crew are proud to contribute to Navy's efforts on board such an important capability, which allows our fleet and those of our friends to remain operational at sea. "It has been a real honour to command the ship through its last deployment and bring it home safely a final time."

HMAS *Sirius*' decommissioning will mark the official handover of logistics capability to the new Supply-class ships, HMA Ships *Supply* and *Stalwart*.

(Source: Contact)



As a child growing up on Queensland's Sunshine Coast, Sub Lieutenant Toia Mangakahia had a passion for travel and learning.

Joining Navy through the New Entry Officers' Course as a maritime warfare officer (MWO) submariner, Sub Lieutenant Mangakahia said she wasn't completely sure what she was going for, but knew it was a job that would help her grow and develop her own capabilities.

"The MWO course is two years of incredible dedication. You have to memorise every word of the [Sea] Rules of the Road – all 41 of them – and their annexes," Sub Lieutenant Mangakahia said. "There is so much to learn: navigation, damage-control protocols, and safety measures, to name but a few. "For me, the most challenging part has been remembering to keep things in perspective and remain positive in times of adversity."

Sub Lieutenant Mangakahia was one of 31 graduating officers awarded their Bridge Warfare Certificate at HMAS *Watson* on December 10, gaining her professional qualification as a MWO. The role of MWO offers opportunities in science, technology engineering and mathematics (STEM) and requires a particular aptitude for maths.

In school, Sub Lieutenant Mangakahia enjoyed the creative arts and music – she plays piano, guitar, bass and sings – but also enjoyed advanced mathematics. "Basic math equations are used every day as an officer of the watch," Sub Lieutenant Mangakahia said. "You have to calculate speed, time and distance to determine your speed of advance to a rendezvous position, or how long it will take to travel a certain distance.

"We use mathematics during evolutions to ensure accuracy – for example, during a replenishment at sea when two ships are underway, you have to know your mathematical calculations are accurate. "As you are approaching the other vessel, you need to be close enough to execute the objective while keeping your crew and the ship safe in addition to all the environmental factors, so there is a lot to work through."

Along with her MWO course classmates, Sub Lieutenant Mangakahia had a moment to celebrate with friends, family and instructors at the graduation ceremony at HMAS *Watson* and reflect on her achievements.

"Over this course, I have served in six platforms, spent 324 hours in the bridge simulator – 84 of those as officer of the watch – and I know I still have so much to learn," Sub Lieutenant Mangakahia said.

"I would say to anyone looking for a career in Navy who really wants to be challenged and pushed to their limits, then MWO is for you.

"I am very excited to start my next adventure and head into the fleet."

(Source; Contact)

Army



40 Years in the Making – Colours for the Pilbara Regiment

The Pilbara is a busy place, in amongst the iron ore, lithium, gold and nickel mines, largest ports and wide open pastoral lands operates the Pilbara Regiment.

This year the Regiment has supported COVID Assist, by way of check points, quarantine management, recovery from Severe Tropical Cyclone Seroja and the massive effort required to preserve and protect the population of that devastated region – as well as border-protection operations, OP Resolute, search and recovery efforts and members of the Regiment have undertaken clandestine surveillance missions, as part of JTF639, at undisclosed locations during recent weeks.

Among these day-to-day tasks, the Regiment prepares for long-range reconnaissance and surveillance missions by training its soldiers in tactical operations of the six-wheel SRV, establishment of clandestine OP's, use and operations of unmanned aerial platforms, water-based operations in the littoral space with Zodiacs, dinghy's and jet-powered regional patrol craft.

A week ago they were also in the midst of a demanding survival activity through the West Australian desert.

The Area of Operations for the Regiment covers more than 1.3 million square kilometres of ancient lands and 1200km of coastline and water ways.

Harsh yet beautiful, it is a place full of culture and tradition.

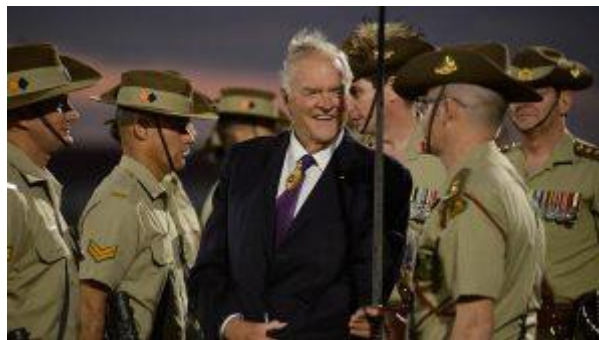
In mid November 2021 the Regiment came together from all corners of its AO, Karratha, Port Hedland, Carnarvon, Onslow, Geraldton, Newman, Tom Price and Perth, driving, in some cases, more than six hours or flying for two hours to meet on the parade ground for an historic event, the presentation and consecration of the Queen's and Regimental Colours.

The Pilbara Regiment is proud of its connection to the people of these lands by being the first ADF unit to adopt a Western Desert Aboriginal dialect as its motto – “Mintu Wanta” can mean many things to many people, but, to the Pilbara Regiment “Always Alert” as it fulfils its mission in protecting Australia’s northern borders.

The Pilbara Regiment was raised on 26 January 1982, its history well documented in the book *Desert Diggers*, is one of three Regiments that make up the Regional Force Surveillance group, with Norforce and 51st Far North Queensland Regiment.

Units that are tasked with long-range surveillance and reconnaissance across the northern frontier.

The Pilbara Regiment is approaching its 40th birthday, so the timing of this historic event, the presentation and consecration is perfect as the last unit in the ADF to receive their colours.



Governor of Western Australia Kim Beazley inspects the troops at the Pilbara Regiment Colours Parade.

The parade led by Lieutenant Colonel Damien Geary, formed up around the hollow double diamonds of the Regiment’s UCP, presented arms to the dignitaries – Governor of Western Australia Kim Beazley, Minister for Defence Industry Melissa Price, Senior ADF Officer in WA Air Commodore Fiona Dowse, and Commander 13 Brigade Brigadier Brett Chaloner.

The Army Band set the beat as the ceremony advanced to the presentation and consecration elements of the parade, as four six-wheeled, armed SRVs took up guard positions on each corner of the parade ground.

In setting new traditions and embracing much older cultural ways, two EF88 Austeyr rifles from the colour party sentries were replaced with two traditional ‘punishment spears’ as protection for the colours.

This symbolised the RFSG’s and the Regiment’s acknowledgement of lands and culture towards the custodians of the land in which we live and operate.

The two punishment spears, ‘Margurndu’ were made from the mulga tree – Wirndamarra or *Acacia aneura*, by Marshall Smith, a Milyarranypa Banjima/Burngurndi Gurruma man.

The spears are a deterrent to behaviours that create conflict and highlight our shared goal to protect country and will henceforth protect the Pilbara Regiment’s Colours.

The backdrop to the entire parade came into full effect, the Colours presented and consecrated were raised to become a part of a spectacular Pilbara sunset.

Lieutenant Colonel Geary said after the parade, “the unique symbolism of using the Margurndu strengthens our connection to country of its people, and being the first Australian Army unit to adopt a traditional-language motto, ‘Mintu Wanta’, reflects further our respect towards the culture of this place”.

“The Regiment is extremely proud and honoured to have received the Queens and Regimental Colours and we thank all those who participated in and attended this historic occasion.”

(Source: Army News)



The Anzac spirit was well and truly on show during a casualty evacuation exercise in the Solomon Islands recently.

The medical team from the Australian Army’s 4th Health Battalion conducted Exercise Casevac with personnel from the NZ Defence Force’s Deployable Health Organisation (DHO).

According to DHO senior medic Sergeant Graham Farndon, these training exercises are critical to ensuring the nations could work together in the unlikely event an injury occurred to a member of the multi-national contingent in the Solomon Islands.

“Practising this in training allows us to make a combined set of procedures that work in an Anzac environment,” Sergeant Farndon said.

“It identifies issues that may occur and allows us to rectify them before the fact.”

With NZ, Australia and Fiji all providing clinical components to the combined health effect for the operation, the health capability is increased.

Australian Army Doctor Captain Kyle Davies was impressed by how the Kiwi and Australian teams seamlessly came together.

“Our procedures are very similar and, ultimately, we are all part of one family, so when we do these activities, we learn from each other and become better,” Captain Davies said.

“We hope we never need to put this into practice for real, but now we have an increased confidence, and that means the men and women of the forces can have a greater confidence going about their roles.”

The Australian Government is responding to a request from the Solomon Islands’ Government under the 2017 bilateral security treaty to support the Royal Solomon Islands Police Force (RSIPF) in Honiara, Solomon Islands.

The ADF has deployed about 100 personnel from the Deployable Joint Force Headquarters, Army’s 3rd Brigade, 6th Brigade, and 17th Brigade, Royal Australian Air Force’s No. 4 Squadron, and Royal Australian Navy’s HMAS *Armidale* (II) to support the mission coordinated by the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade. Australian Federal Police also have been deployed.

The Australian contingent joined personnel from NZ, Fiji and Papua New Guinea.

Under Solomon Islands’ Health arrangements, the ADF personnel are no longer under quarantine conditions and do not need to wear masks.

(Source: Contact)



An original member of the then-named Australian Electrical and Mechanical Engineers Corps and WWII veteran, Herbert Barker celebrated his 100th birthday on 13 December 2021.

He marked the occasion with family and friends, some of whom are members of the Royal Australian Electrical and Mechanical Engineers (RAEME) Association.

Mr Barker enlisted in 1941 midway through completing a Bachelor of Electrical Engineering at Melbourne University, and was posted to the Australian Army Ordnance Corps.

On the advice of a mentor, he changed his career path and commissioned as an officer a year later.

On 1 December 1942, at the age of 20, he was transferred to the newly formed Australian Electrical and Mechanical Engineers, and had postings in NSW and Queensland.

It wasn't until 1944, the year he met his wife that he deployed overseas with the 1st Infantry Troops Workshop, but by that time "the bite had gone out of the opposing force", Mr Barker said.

The highlight of Mr Barker's career was becoming commanding officer (CO) and chief instructor (CI) at the RAEME training centre at Bandiana in the early 1960s.

"During that time, we had a fair bit to do with techniques for waterproofing equipment," Mr Barker said.

"We had a wading tank that enabled us to train people and develop activities to make equipment suitable for wading ashore in combat areas.

"It was satisfying seeing the product of your effort straight away."

Then-Lieutenant Colonel Barker handed over command at Bandiana in 1964 after five years as CO and was promoted to brigadier as the Chief Superintendent Army Design Establishment in Maribyrnong shortly after.

Reflecting on his time as the training centre CI, the centenarian urged young craftsmen to "grab every opportunity" in training and throughout their careers.

"Keep looking towards improvement and success will come," Mr Barker said.

"Use the time and opportunity at training establishments to improve yourself and keep learning."

Former 5th Aviation Regiment officer Major (retd) Barry Skinner and RAEME Association Queensland member said Mr Barker made a huge contribution to the corps over his 33 years' service.

"Bert belongs to a rare, surviving cohort of servicemen who are the original members of the proud RAEME corps," Mr Skinner said.

"He is a pioneer and an inspiration to the new generations."

RAEME will celebrate its 80th birthday in December 2022.

(Source: Contact)

Air Force



Air Force has farewelled the F/A-18A/B Hornets after more than 35 years of service, with an end of era event at RAAF Base Williamtown on 29 November 2021.

In a fitting tribute to the jet, a solo flying display marked its final farewell to the Australian public at the Wings over Illawarra Airshow on 28 November.

The first two F/A-18A/B Hornets arrived in Australia on 6 June 1984, partially disassembled in the back of a C-5 Galaxy all the way from St. Louis, Missouri, United States. They were followed by the next two Hornets, flown in a non-stop record-breaking trans-Pacific 15-hour ferry on 17 May 1985.

Over the next 3 decades, 71 Hornets contributed to multiple operations and exercises through the dedication of all aviators at Nos. 3, 75 and 77 Squadron, and No. 2 Operational Conversion Unit.

Commander Air Combat Group, Air Commodore Tim Alsop, said the farewell activity included a flying display over Tindal and Williamtown to thank the community for their support.

“We could not conduct our flying operations and exercises without the support of the community, particularly around RAAF Bases Tindal, Williamtown and Darwin, they have supported us for the last 30 years and for that we thank them,” Air Commodore Alsop said. “The Hornets have contributed to Australia’s air power for one third of Air Force’s centenary, protecting Australia and its interests both at home and on the world stage.

“Whilst pilots are critical to fly a Hornet, it’s a team effort to keep them in the air with technicians, engineers, logistics, life support fitters, personnel capability and security forces all ensuring that the Hornet could conduct its role.”

The F/A-18A (single seat) and F/A-18B (twin seat) Hornets have been an integral part of Australia's air combat capability, capable of air-to-air and air-to-ground missions.

The F/A-18A/B Hornets deployed to Operations Slipper, Falconer and Okra conducting strike and close air support missions in support of coalition forces.

Chief of Staff Air Combat Group, Group Captain Jason Easthope, said the Hornet was a capable aircraft that served Air Force with distinction.

“For the last 20 years, the Hornets have served on multiple operations overseas and at home, including our contribution to strike missions on Operations Falconer and Okra – this was significant as Australia had not dropped bombs in combat since the Vietnam War,” Group Captain Easthope said.

“On Operation Okra, F/A-18A/B Hornet squadrons flew 1937 missions and more than 14,780 flying hours, delivering approximately 1,600 munitions.

The end of Hornet operations for No. 75 Squadron marks the beginning of a new chapter, as the Air Force transitions to the F-35A Lightning II.

(Source: Contact)



The oldest known living member of No. 23 (City of Brisbane) Squadron, Esdale Davis, celebrated his 100th birthday on 24 November 2021.

The World War II veteran was born in Brisbane and celebrated the milestone with close family and friends.

To mark the occasion, Brisbane's Lord Mayor, Councillor Adrian Schrinner, presented Mr Davis with a certificate in front of the No. 23 (City of Brisbane) Squadron colours, which are displayed in Brisbane's City Hall.

Mr Davis was present when the squadron colours were first placed in the hall in 1977. His 100th birthday also fell within the Air Force's centenary year.

During his meeting with the Lord Mayor of Brisbane, Mr Davis was also presented with an Air Force centenary commemorative memento by RAAF Amberley Acting Base Warrant Officer, Warrant Officer Michael McDonnell.

Mr Davis is a proud former member of No. 23 Squadron and a living testament to the squadron's motto 'Dauntless'.

When asked what was the secret to his longevity, Mr Davis replied: staying fit and having a sense of humour. "It is a crazy world out there, so just sit back, watch and let it be," Mr Davis said.

Mr Davis enlisted in the Royal Australian Air Force on 16 May 1941, at Bowen Hills in Brisbane during World War II. He served with No. 23 Squadron at RAAF Station Archerfield (now Archerfield Airport) as part of the orderly room staff.

In 1942, he moved with the squadron to RAAF Amberley as the Japanese forces were advancing on New Guinea. He and the squadron then relocated to RAAF Airfield Lowood.

Mr Davis also served in No.12 Repair and Salvage Unit operating at Kiriwina in the Trobriand Islands, Papua (now Papua New Guinea).

(Source: Contact)



Award-winning military working dog Olly, a Belgian malinois, with handler Leading Aircraftwoman Mikaela Sim.

Olly was just 12 months old when the two were paired together four years ago. They now have a military working dog handler course behind them and share a strong bond. “He’s always taken to his training quickly and does everything I ask of him,” Leading Aircraftwoman Sim said.

“I just love how happy he is to work and it makes training fun for both of us. He’s a super happy dog, he just wants to please.” After completing the course, they were posted to RAAF Base Darwin. They’ve had many memorable moments in their career together but being involved in exercises had been a stand out.

“The most exciting and intense experience as a dog handler was during the three main exercises while at Darwin; Exercise Diamond Storm, Exercise Pitch Black and Exercise Talisman Sabre,” Leading Aircraftwoman Sim said. “Being able to show off Olly’s training, particularly during demonstrations, was a proud moment. He always gets great reactions.”

Having just completed their posting together at No. 3 Security Forces Squadron at RAAF Base Edinburgh, Olly and Leading Aircraftwoman Sim were formally recognised by the unit for their efforts in training, receiving the section top dog award.

“Knowing that you’ve put in the effort together to progress and succeed is a proud moment,” Leading Aircraftwoman Sim said.

(Source: Contact)

Quiz

Answer January 2021 Quiz; The First General Officer Commanding the Australian Military Forces was Lieutenant General Sir Edward ‘Curley’ Hutton.



Lieutenant General Sir Edward Thomas Henry Hutton, KCB, KCMG, DL, FRGS (6 December 1848 – 4 August 1923) was a British military commander, who pioneered the use

of mounted infantry in the British Army and later commanded the Canadian Militia and the Australian Army.

In late November 1901 it was announced that Hutton would become the first General Officer Commanding the Australian Military Forces. He was recommended by Field Marshal Lord Roberts after several other officers had refused or were rejected by the government. He arrived in Australia in January 1902, and his main task became that of transforming six colonial forces into one national Australian Army.

In 1904, Hutton promoted what was then a novel idea that Empire military attachés should be sent to witness the clash of Russian and Japanese forces in Manchuria. Australian sources reveal a nested array of factors affecting the mission of Colonel John Hoad, who was detached by the Deakin government to serve with the Imperial Japanese Army in 1904–1905. Along with other Western military attachés, Hoad had two complementary missions—to assist the Japanese and to observe the Japanese forces in the field during the Russo-Japanese War.

Hutton resigned as GOC Australian Military Force at the end of 1904

Question; Who was sacked on 28 September 1942 by General Sir Thomas Blamey from Command of the New Guinea Force? Answer will be published in the next edition of *TRIBUTE*.

Show and Tell

The Pentropic Era 1960 – 64 and the Vietnam War 1962 – 1972

From 1960 there was a major change in Australian Defence thinking with the introduction of the Pentropic organisation which was also used to promote a new modernised Australian Army. The implementation of the re-equipment program promised to provide the Army with new ideas, clothing, weapons, equipment and capabilities.

New weapons such as the 7.62mm L1A1 self-loading rifle replaced .303 in bolt action Short Magazine Lee Enfield No 1 Mk III rifle; the belt fed 7.62mm GPMG M60 machine gun replaced the magazine fed .303in Bren Light machine gun and the belt fed, tripod mounted, .303in Vickers medium machine gun.

Combat clothing

The change from khaki field uniforms to jungle greens during the late 1950's not only occurred for Australian soldiers serving in Malaya but also in Australia with Australian made cotton jungle green shirt and trousers being issued. The British jungle green cloth bush hat continued to be worn by Australian soldiers in Malaya was officially adopted by the Australian Army in 1964 and replaced wearing slouch hats in the field as a bush hat.



In early 1960's the American M1 combat helmet (with a fibreglass inner helmet and steel outer helmet) was introduced into service to replace the round British helmet which had been worn by Australians in both World Wars and the Korean War. The M1 helmet was worn extensively by soldiers on training exercises in Australia during the Pentropic era of the early 1960's and appears to have been used by the Army as a visible symbol of change. However, in the second half of the 1960's the helmet was rarely worn in training or on operations. The American cold weather jacket was introduced into Australian Army service during the mid-1960s as a replacement for the heavy and bulky woollen greatcoat.

Even though new weapons and equipment were acquired during the 1960's the development, trials and and production of new jungle green combat uniforms, combat boots and large field packs were shelved due to financial considerations and then had to be dealt with urgently during the second half of the 1960s when it became obvious that soldiers serving on combat operations in Vietnam were being hampered by the inadequacies of the clothing, boots and load carrying equipment they had been issued.

From October 1967 a new Australian jungle green uniform made from lightweight cotton was issued for service in Vietnam. The shirt could be worn either tucked into the waistband of the trousers or hanging out, it had two angled chest pockets and was referred to as a 'pixie shirt'; the new trousers were less baggy and had a map pocket on both legs. Although these new jungle greens were a great improvement there were some complaints that the lightweight

cloth was too thin and that mosquitoes could bite through it. Unfortunately, Australia did not adopt the rip-stop poplin cloth that the Americans used to make their jungle green and camouflage combat uniforms.

From late 1965 the ankle boots and gaiters were replaced by a new Australian design and manufactured black leather combat boot that had high uppers and moulded rubber soles and were officially known as boots general purpose (GP). The new boots were popular with the soldiers, who soon named them GP boots. The GP boot was well made and lacked cushioning, but had a steel plate insert built into the sole of the boot to prevent a foot injury if the wearer stood on a Viet Cong spike trap known as a 'panji stakes' (stakes of sharpened metal, wood or bamboo placed upright in a hole in the ground.) The only disadvantage of the GP boot was that once water got inside it you had to take your boot off to get rid of the water.

To be continued.



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

RELAWM07803

A variety of periscopes were used in trench warfare in the First World War. Angled mirrors were located at the top and bottom, allowing soldiers to look across 'No-Man's Land' without raising their heads above the parapet. This periscope could extend and retract, and was very portable. It was found at Gallipoli by Official Historian C.E.W. Bean in March 1919, having been abandoned there in 1915 – possibly due to being damaged.



During Christmas 1945, the men of 1st War Graves Unit, were stationed at Tol plantation in New Britain. The unit was involved in locating the remains of (and creating a cemetery for) the approximately 160 Australians massacred by the Japanese at the site in February 1942. In the midst of this cheerless task, Corporal Victor John Robertson, a signwriter from Western Australia, approached Captain David Keith Hanson with the idea of creating Christmas cards from the hard tack biscuits in their rations. Hanson readily agreed and Robertson created a biscuit card for each his nine unit members. Hanson sent his “card” to his fiancée; to his amazement, it arrived in one piece. The biscuit was donated to the Memorial in 1995, still in its original packaging. Image: Biscuit Christmas card, REL23942

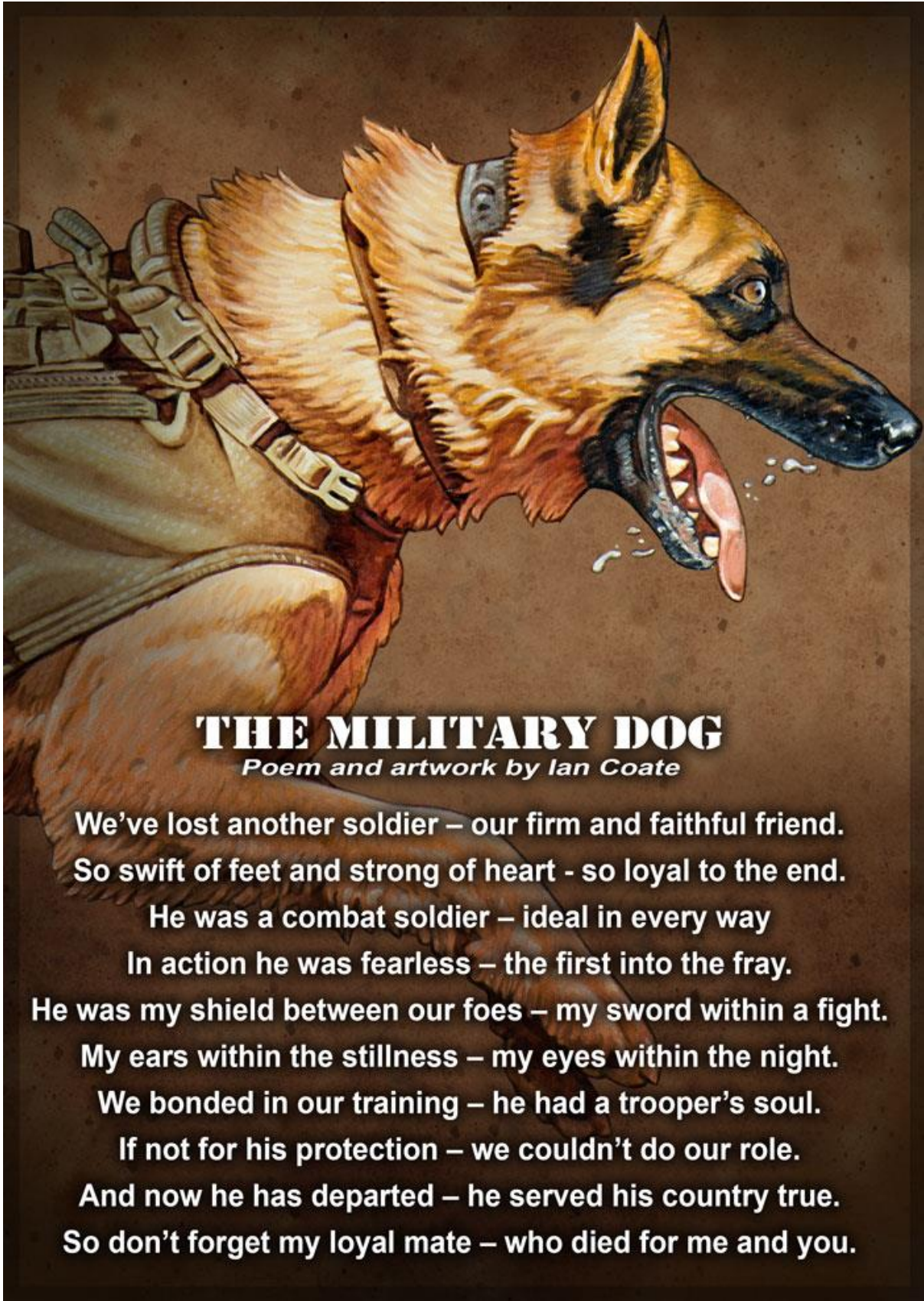


A Recent Find by Frank Reid. Appears to be a “Marlin Brando” style 1960’s leather jacket? Going by the art-work on the reverse would hazard a guess done within the last 20 years or so

Any comments or feedback is welcome.

Some Humour

1. Why in this stupid world ..do we leave our cars worth thousands of dollars in the driveway and put our useless junk in the garage
2. Only in this stupid world..do people order a double cheeseburger, large fries and a diet coke.
3. Only in this stupid world ..do banks leave vaults open and then chain the pens to the counter.
4. Why is ‘abbreviation’ such a long word?



THE MILITARY DOG

Poem and artwork by Ian Coate

We've lost another soldier – our firm and faithful friend.
So swift of feet and strong of heart - so loyal to the end.
He was a combat soldier – ideal in every way
In action he was fearless – the first into the fray.
He was my shield between our foes – my sword within a fight.
My ears within the stillness – my eyes within the night.
We bonded in our training – he had a trooper's soul.
If not for his protection – we couldn't do our role.
And now he has departed – he served his country true.
So don't forget my loyal mate – who died for me and you.

Commemoration Days 2022

Listed below are the Commemoration Days, Birthdays or important days in Australia's Defence History for 2022. If you have any dates you would like to add please email the editor.

February

- 1 February – 4 RAR Birthday (1964 and re-raised 1995)
- 1 February – 2/4 RAR delinked (1995)
- 1 February – 4 RAR Renamed 4 RAR (commando)
- 1 February – Commissioning of HMAS Cairns (1971)
- 1 February – HQ 1st Commando Regiment (1981)
- 1 February – Field Force Battle School, 9th Brigade (1976)
- 1 February – 138th Signals Regiment (1967)
- 1 February – Royal Australian Electrical and Mechanical Engineers Training Centre (1951)
- 1 February – Last Australian forces sail for home from Middle East (1943)
- 2 February – 3rd Battalion RAR recapture Baria after Tet offensive (1968)
- 6 February – RAAF Base Pearce (1939)
- 7 February – Chief Engineer Works (1963)
- 7 February – 49th Battalion RQR
- 8 February – Japanese invade Singapore (1942)
- 8 February – Commissioning of HMAS Betano (1974)
- 10 February – HMAS Melbourne/HMAS Voyager Collision (1964)
- 12 February – First convoy of Second AIF reaches the Middle East (1940)
- 13 February – Headquarters Special Forces (1990)
- 14 February – Relief at Kimberley (1900)
- 14 February – National Service Day
- 14 February – Australian Honours and Award system commenced to be introduced (from British System) (1975)
- 15 February – Fall of Singapore (1942)
- 15 February – HMAS Melbourne (111) Commissioned (1992)
- 16 February – Rapi Beach Massacre, Dutch East Indies (1942)
- 18 February – Australian troops arrive in Singapore (1941)
- 18 February – 2nd / 14th Light Horse Regiment (Queensland Mounted Infantry) (1860)
- 19 February – Bombing of Darwin (1942)
- 19 February – Battle of Hat Dich, Vietnam (1969)
- 23 February – Monash University Regiment (1967)
- 24 February – War Animal Day
- 24 February – Armoured Centre (1941)
- 23 February – Main Australian force on Timor surrenders to the Japanese
- 24 February – 2nd Commando Company (1955)
- 25 February – 7th Base Area Support Battalion
- 27 February – Commissioning of HMAS Paluma (IV) (1967)
- 28 February – Anniversary of the end of the Gulf War

March

- 1 March – Formation of Australian Navy and Australian Army (1901)
- 1 March - 5 RAR Birthday
- 1 March – 51st Battalion Far North Queensland Regiment (1985)
- 1 March – School of Signals (1940)
- 1 March – 11th Field Ambulance (1916)
- 1 March – 136th Signal Squadron – (1984)
- 1 March – Army Battle Simulation Group (1984)
- 3 March – 1/15th Battalion RNSW (1885)
- 5 March – Commissioning of HMAS Cessnock
- 5 March – Melbourne University Regiment (1910)
- 6 March – Commissioning of HMAS Launceston
- 6 March – 48th Field Battery, RAA (1976)
- 9 March – Commissioning of HMAS Labuan
- 10 March – Commissioning HMAS Dubbo
- 12 March – Australian Army Catering Corps (1943)
- 14 March – Commissioning of HMAS Warrnambool
- 14 March – Commissioning HMAS Watson (1945)
- 15 March – Commissioning HMAS Fremantle
- 15 March – Formation of Women’s Auxiliary Australian Air Force (1941)
- 16 March – Commissioning of HMAS Coonawarra
- 16 March – 5th Field Ambulance (1916)
- 17 March – 12th Chief Engineer Works (1976)
- 18 March – First arrival of Australian contingent of UNTAG in Namibia (1989)
- 18 March – 139th Signal Regiment (1967)
- 19 March – Iraq War commenced (2003)
- 20 March – Commissioning of HMAS Benalla
- 21 March – Commissioning of HMAS Canberra
- 29 March – 9th Battalion, RQR
- 31 March – Formation of Royal Australian Air Force (1921)



National Military History Spectacular
14-16 October 2022

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Caloundra RSL Events Centre

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Military Historical Society Association, Qld Division Committee 2021 – 22

President	Neil Dearberg
Vice President	Russell Paton
Honorary Secretary	Ian Curtis
Honorary Treasurer	Ian Curtis
Committee Member	Andrew Limpus
Committee Member	Scott Meares

<p><u>IMPORTANT EVENTS AND DATE</u></p> <p>19 February – 80th Anniversary of the Bombing of Darwin</p> <p>12 March – Bimonthly Meeting</p> <p>25 April – Anzac Day</p> <p>4 May – Bimonthly Meeting</p> <p>9 July – AGM</p> <p>10 September – Bimonthly Meeting</p> <p>14-16 October – Military Spectacular</p> <p>11 November – Remembrance Day</p> <p>12 November – Bimonthly Meeting</p>	<p><u>FELLOWS of MHSA</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • John Meyers • Anthony Staunton • Donald Wright <p style="text-align: center;"><u>NEW MEMBERS</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Malcolm Edmiston
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MILITARY HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF AUSTRALIA

Australian Business Number (ABN) 97 764 781 363

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Queensland Division

Membership Fee Ordinary Member \$50, Family Member \$55 (ie 2 or more domiciled at the one address)

Name/s

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Date/year joined the Society

Military Interests

I understand the above details will only be used by the Qld Division and the Federal Secretary of the Military Historical Society of Australia to maintain correct records of my membership and for general branch or administrative business, and by the Journal editor to assist with editorial planning. I understand that the Society's Constitution requires the Federal Secretary to maintain a membership register (including the Journal mailing list).

In addition to information kept for these purposes:

OPT IN I agree to my email details being included on the Federal Secretary's contact list which will be used solely to distribute Society business and convey items of interest to members (including members' notices) YES /NO (cross out whichever does not apply)

OPT IN I wish to be included on the members' interests register and give permission for my military interests and my phone/email/address contact details to be included on it (cross out whichever does not apply). YES/NO (cross out whichever does not apply)

I understand that I can revoke permission for inclusion on register and contact lists at any time

As part of your membership you will receive a quarterly edition of Sabretache, the journal of the MHSA. I require a hard copy (mail) / electronic (via email) version. (circle your option)

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Military Historical Society of Australia
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Email: curtisir131@gmail.com

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