



Respect, Gratitude, Admiration

TRIBUTE

The Newsletter of the Military
Historical Society Australia,
Queensland Division

President: Russell Paten
Website: www.mhsa.org.au

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Flying the colours at veterans' markets

From President Russ

Thanks very much to the members and others who manned the Yandina RSL barbecue stand at the Veterans Markets on Saturday. While the event was considerably quieter than last year, we still achieved some good interactions and helped to get our name out

there. In the photo are, from left, Snow (Kevin Snow), Vietnam navy veteran and good mate, Colin Piper, Bob Ryan RAAF veteran and neighbour of mine, Mick Walls (good mate). Also present on the day but not in the picture were Paul Newton and Wuzzy Alford. Many thanks to all attendees and special thanks to Wuzzy for organising the marquee, chairs, table and accessories via the Gympie RSL.



Sicily visit reveals links to the past

Last year my wife and I went on a cruise of the Mediterranean. We visited the town of Taormina in Sicily, where we went to a community garden that had been designed and built by an English woman at the turn of the century. To my surprise there was an Italian WW2 human torpedo (Chariot) displayed there. A memorial to a Frogman killed in WW2 attack on Gibraltar. Nearby was small cannon with various Italian names relating to WW1. When I pointed out to our lady guide that Italian frogman had bravely sunk English battleships in Alexandria Harbour she was disinterested. I asked her if people still were injured by WW2 explosives she just shrugged.

- **Photos and info supplied by Colin Piper, Queensland member of MHSA from Eumundi.**



President Report

It is with pleasure that I again provide a President's report for Alan's October Tribute edition.

September had a productive meeting at Maroochydore RSL with a humorous and

informative presentation by Terry Dillon who provided anecdotes on his Army career, focussed on his time in Vietnam.

Show and Tell was, as usual, fascinating, with several interesting and intriguing items being displayed.

Unfortunately, September also featured the uncovering of disgusting behaviour by our national broadcaster as it was revealed it doctored footage contained in the 7.30 Report aimed at Heston Russell.

An investigation into war crimes is one thing but to deliberately falsify the evidence to suit a narrative is nothing short of despicable. Why would the ABC do this to someone who has now been proven to be an honourable and brave soldier? What is their motivation?

Even worse, the reporter behind the story gets to keep his Gold Walkley award, regardless of the proof of falsification while our soldiers get their medals taken away, even though they have not been found guilty of any crime.

Events have included participation in the Veterans Markets at Yandina RSL where we showcased our society, provided research services for the public and manned the barbecue. Thanks again to Wuzzy for being the backbone behind the logistics of our participation.

Also coming up is our next meeting at the Gold Coast on 16 November which is being facilitated by John Steele and Russell Linwood.

The address is 1 The Cove Crescent, off Nielsen Road, Carrara. Detailed map for egress and exit, plus parking etc. to be supplied.

I sincerely hope that we can get a good attendance and set a precedence for future such meetings.

Now, on to the real reading. I've been fortunate enough to preview this edition and, as usual, really enjoyed the diversity and quality of the content. Enjoy.

From the Editor

An eclectic collection of yarns this edition. As always, thanks to those who contributed.

Spoke to my ex-RAAF WO brother about the Caribou being erected at Dreamworld and he was very interested.

He was in 38 Sqn for a bit and said, as an electrical fitter, he would have worked on every Caribou the air force had. Interestingly he said the planes were only meant for 4000 hours and then to be discarded.

Australia bought the Canadian discards and kept them another 14 years, he said.

Anyway, I thought it was interesting and so you can read a bit about it below. Enjoy.

Feature Article



Preparing to salute Her Majesty

From Terry Dineen who was a platoon sergeant in one of four platoons of his class at Officer Cadet School which graduated in June 63.

Prelude to the Royal Visit 1963

Most of us can recall one of the highlights of our final term at Officer Cadet School, that of the Ceremonial Parade in Canberra on Tuesday 12 March 1963. Can we recall though some of the events that made it so memorable?

Let's start with Daryl "Audie" Howells. Probably one of the best instructors I have ever had the good fortune to be taught by.

I had served for five and a half years with the guns before going to Portsea and had done several Ceremonial Parades in blues and pith helmets but it was Andie who taught us how to maintain the cadence while slow marching on grass without musical accompaniment.

Rated even higher on the instructor list is Paddy Brennan. It was a pleasure to have him instruct us in drill.

Remember 'on the command stand at ease' you will, and he then proceeded to detail some two dozen rifle drill and marching movements he wanted performed before returning to the position of 'stand at ease', and he had the metronome on us to check our timings which were precisely that required by the Drill Manual.

So it came to pass that midway during our senior term we were required to parade with the other officer producing establishments in the nation's capital before herself, the "memsarb, and him pella belong Queen".

Much rehearsals were required and were conducted under the watchful eye of the RSM, RMC one Tommy Muggleton. Needless to say, the drill timings by the various Colleges were not uniform.

Recall Paddy standing one pace to the left and rear of Tom during rehearsals. Also, that our timings were never challenged but the other Colleges slowly but surely conformed to ours.

For the final rehearsal we were without the band, for whatever reason. So, we all four Colleges are slow marching on grass in line around the paddock and the step and some of the lines are beginning to waver.

However, within the OCS ranks can be faintly heard the, "Tea for Two Cha Cha Cha". We were holding our line and step when Ed was prompted to command, "OCS sing" and we did.

The other Colleges could not handle it and lost it completely. Paddy swelled up with pride and could have easily been mistaken for the Michelin Man.

The Parade next day went well and "Mam" was pleased, except I recall someone got stuck with a bayonet, not seriously though.

Our performance though was the result of superb instruction by two outstanding instructors, Audie and Paddy.

I can still remember it clearly today, even though it was half a century ago.

Navy

Commander Bond on His Majesty's service

Queensland naval officer, Commander Thomas A. Bond DSO VD MID RANR, (pictured at Suvla in 1915. AWM photograph) gained an early, probably the first, DSO awarded in WWI while in the ANMEF, basically a military unit, and later while in the RAN Bridging Train was twice mentioned in dispatches.



The Australian Colonies assisted, after British requests, with conflicts in New Zealand, Sudan, South Africa, and China and while the Boer War and the Boxer Rebellion ended after Federation, the first approach to the Commonwealth Government for troops was at the commencement of World War I.

While Naval reservists served in many units, there were few opportunities to serve as a group. The Naval and Military Expeditionary Force of 2000 was established on 18 August 1914 (1) to capture German New Guinea.

The force included a naval detachment of 500.

Thomas Arthur Bond, an Englishman was born in 1865. He joined the Brisbane Naval Brigade of the Queensland Defence Force (Marime) on 1 September, 1900 as an Acting Sub Lieutenant (2).

After Federation, he was appointed Sub Lieutenant in the Australian Navy on 23 May, 1902 backdated to 1 September, 1900 (3). Transferred to Unattached List on 3 April 1909 (4).

Appointed Acting Lieutenant in the Australian Naval and Military Expeditionary Force on 19 August, 1914 (5).

The troops reached the mainland and landed without incident and on 11 September, 1914, near the wireless station at Bita Paka.

Lieutenant Bond, in the presence of another officer and one man, captured eight Germans in the presence of 20 armed native German troops.

For this bravery, Lieutenant Bond was awarded the Distinguished Service Order (6).

At this time, many Australians were proceeding to the war front in the northern

hemisphere. The period of service was six months, after which a new unit without a naval component was raised (7).

The RAN Bridging Train was raised in Melbourne on 24 February 1915, and Lieutenant Bond was appointed Lieutenant and became Executive Officer (First Lieutenant) to the Commanding Officer (8).

The unit went straight to Gallipoli, leaving Melbourne. on 3 June, 1915, arriving Lemnos on 21 July, 1915.

The British Command eventually decided that the unit was not required and it was terminated in May 1916. However, months earlier in March 1916, Lieutenant Bond was transferred to the Royal Navy, firstly at the 2 Administrative Headquarters at Alexandra, then to the depot ship HMS *Hannibal*, where he remained until hostilities ceased. While in England, promotion to Acting Lieutenant Commander occurred (9).

During the Gallipoli Campaign, Lieutenant Bond was twice Mentioned in Despatches (10)(11).

After the war, Bond remained in England, leaving on 22 November, 1919 and arriving Brisbane on 14 January, 1920.

Suffering from a war wound, he was admitted to a military hospital, where he remained until August 1920.

After hospitalisation, he was medically unfit to continue his naval duties and these ceased on 19 October, 1920. The final rank being Commander (12).

The time requirement for award of the Volunteer Officers Decoration was achieved, and after application was presented on 28 November, 1922 by the Governor General (13).

The medals of Commander Bond are held by the Australian War Memorial.

He died at Kangaroo Point, Brisbane on 4 September, 1942.

He was a member of the Brisbane Stock Exchange and there was no call on change on 5 September 1942 (14).

Obituaries appeared in the Brisbane press (15)(16) and also a notice of a private cremation (17).

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Supplied by Dr John Haken

Army

A bomb of a working day

Warrant Officer Class Two (WO2) Kyle Johnson arrived at work on June 26 expecting a routine day.

After a phone call from Northern Territory Police later that afternoon, however, his team members were on their way to Stokes Hill waterfront precinct in Darwin to dispose of a World War 2-era Japanese bomb.

It all started with contractors at the upcoming Larrakai Cultural Centre in Darwin discovering an odd find rolling around in their excavator bucket.

The North Queensland Joint Explosive Ordnance Support (JEOS) team was then contacted to assess the situation.

WO2 Johnson said the contractors did the right thing calling the police, who called the unit and provided a photo.

“We originally were told it was a possible grenade, which is something that we see quite regularly,” WO2 Johnson said.

“But after hearing it was about 45 centimetres long, this raised our alarm. We lighted up the vehicle and proceeded down to the waterfront to get our eyes on it.”

The unexploded ordnance (UXO) was assessed as a 60kg Type 98 No.7 Mk 6 incendiary bomb Model 1. Despite its age, the risk of it malfunctioning was high and needed to be safely managed by the JEOS team.

“Older unexploded ordnance are still very dangerous. You never know. Having it tossed around in an excavator bucket could have been the last straw for that fuse, even after 80 years,” WO2 Johnson said.

“Following best practice, a cordon was established allowing only essential personnel. We then conducted the procedures necessary to make the area 100 per cent safe.”

WO2 Johnson and Corporal Russell Forrest, with support provided by 1 Combat Service Support Battalion, 1st Brigade, transferred the bomb to an excavated 1.8-metre-deep hole for destruction by explosives.

“It’s not as dramatic as in the movies, but the explosion lifted two tons of covering sandbags a good 30 metres in the air. I wouldn’t want to be standing on it, put it that way,” WO2 Johnson said.

The ADF JEOS team’s personnel deal with about 420 UXO callouts in Australia each year. – **Author Bob Zhang, Defence News**

Air Force

New job for historic RAAF Caribou



Some of you may have seen on the news recently a former RAAF Caribou (gravel truck to some former RAAF personnel) being placed as part of an attraction at Dreamtime on the Gold Coast.

The former workhorse had an interesting past.

RAAF Caribou A4-179, like the other DHC-4s, was purchased from Canada, and its call sign was VH-JMD.

In August 1964 it departed Toronto for RAAF Richmond but was abruptly held up at Butterworth and sent to join RAAF Transport Flight Vietnam.

Caribou Cargo website tells us the aircraft was assigned to 35 Squadron and in Vietnam until February 1972.

It had the reputation of being the first Aussie aircraft in Vietnam and the last out.

It was later used by 38 Sqn for numerous flood relief work.

Hopefully in its new life A4-179 will still be respected for its efforts and history.

Military humour

3:24        

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III  

Important Dates

October 1, 1918 – Australian Light Horsemen take Damascus in WWI.

October 2, 1943 – 9th Division captures Finschhafen in New Guinea,

October 3, 1918 – VC for Lt J. Maxwell for action on the “Beaurevoir line” near Estrees, France.

October 3, 1992 – Dedication of the Australian Vietnam Veterans’ National Memorial in Canberra.

October 3-8, 1951 – Battle of Maryang-San, Korea when the 3rd Battalion made a successful assault against Chinese positions on Hill 317.

October 4, 1917 – Posthumous VC for Sgt L. McGee, 40th Battalion, from Tasmania at Ypres.

October 4, 1917 – VC for L/Cpl W. Peeler, 3rd Pioneer Battalion from Victoria, at Broodseinde Ridge, Ypres.

October 5, 1918 – Capture of Montbrehain, France by the 2nd Division, the AIF’s final action in WWI.

October 5, 1918 – VC for Lt G. Ingram, 24th Battalion, from Victoria, at Montbrehain.

October 5, 1951 – HMAS *Sydney* first operations in Korean waters.

October 5, 1951 – Second Australian battalion committed to Korea.

October 6, 1971 – HMAS *Sydney* at Vung Tau, Vietnam. Embarked the 3rd Battalion RAR.

October 7, 1950 – UN command forces authorised to cross 38th parallel in Korea. Precipitated China’s entry into the Korean War.

October 8, 1942 – Fighting at Templeton’s Crossing as 25th Brigade, 7th Division contacts Japanese rear-guard along the Kokoda Trail.

October 9, 1950 – UN forces advance into North Korea following the landing at Inchon.

October 10, 1917 - Battle of Poelcappelle on the Western Front in the third battle of Ypres.

October 11, 1944 – Australians land at Jacquinot Bay to open the successful New Britain campaign.

October 12, 1917 – Posthumous VC awarded to Capt. C. Jeffries, 34th Battalion, from New South Wales for action at Passchendaele in Belgium.

October 13, 1969 – HMAS *Brisbane* returns to Sydney to end its first deployment to Vietnam.

October 14, 1927 – HMAS *Adelaide* at the Solomon Islands as part of a British punitive expedition.

October 16, 1967 – RAN helicopters deploy to Vietnam and joined the US Army's 135th Aviation Company at Vung Tau.

October 17, 1950 – About 1500 North Korean soldiers surrender to the 3rd Battalion RAR at Sariwon in Korea.

October 18, 1944 – HMAS *Geelong* sinks after colliding with an American merchant ship off New Guinea. It was one of four Corvettes lost during the war.

October 18, 1967 – HMAS *Perth* struck by return fire near Cape Lai, Vietnam. The only time an Australian warship suffered casualties from enemy fire during the Vietnam War.

October 19, 1945 – War Widows' Guild of Australia founded and remains an active organisation.

October 20, 1900 – NSW naval contingent enters Peking as part of a British Empire force deployed against anti-western Chinese secret societies.

October 21, 1915 – Australian Red Cross Missing and Wounded Enquiry Bureau established in Cairo by Vera Deakin, daughter of former prime minister Alfred Deakin.

October 21, 1916 – 5th Australian Division enters Western Front near Flers on the Somme.

October 21, 1944 – HMAS *Australia* damaged by Kamikaze aircraft while supporting American landings on Leyte in the Philippines.

October 22, 1946 – Cpl J. Sewell awarded the George Cross for his rescue of Japanese survivors after an explosion in Japan.

October 22, 1950 – Battle of the Apple Orchard, Yongju, Korea. First major action for C Coy 3rd Battalion.

October 23, 1942 – Battle of El Alamein begins.

October, 23-31, 1942 – VC for Sgt W.H. Kibby, 2/48th Battalion and originally from the UK for actions during El Alamein.

October 25-26, 1942 – VC for Pte P. E. Gratwick from Western Australia at El Alamein.

October 27, 1950 – Chinese enter Korean War.

October 28, 1916 – First conscription referendum defeated. It was mooted by PM Billy Hughes after heavy losses at Fromelles and Pozieres.

October 29-30, 1950 – Australian troops reach Chongju in North Korea.

October 30, 1918 – Armistice with Turkey ending its involvement in WWI.

October 31, 1917 – Charge of the 4th Light Horse against the Turks at Beersheba, Palestine.

NOVEMBER

November 11, 1918 – Guns fall silent on the Western Front ending WWI.

Military Historical Society of Australia, Qld Division Committee 2023 – 24

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Committee Members	Scott Meares, David Geck, Wuzzy Alford

<p><u>IMPORTANT EVENTS AND DATE</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 16 November – Bi-Monthly Meeting	<p><u>FELLOWS of MHPA</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• John Meyers (Deceased)• Anthony Staunton• Donald Wright <p><u>NEW MEMBERS</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mike Styles <p><u>VALE</u></p>
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