



Respect, Gratitude, Admiration

TRIBUTE

The Newsletter of the Military
Historical Society Australia,
Queensland Division

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

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Australia's Federation Guard Present Arms during the Australia Day 2019 National Flag Raising and Citizenship Ceremony at Lake Burley Griffin in Canberra. Photo Petty Officer Paul Berry.

President Report

The Open Day and Static Display is nearly upon us. 11th March 10am to 2pm - Day with a fun difference. Hosted by the Gympie Aero Club and our MHSAQ.

We are expecting a RAAF officer to address the crowd "The aircraft and role of the modern RAAF" and, just maybe, a fly-by.

Ron Sutton's Qld Military Jeep Club will be on hand to take folks for a drive around the airfield and show us their wares.

Have a go..... Adventure or joy flights in warbirds, helicopter and aerobatic aircraft - as well as their on-ground displays. A parachute 'drop-in' to excite.

Feast on a sausage sizzle, pizza van, coffee van, juice van or bring a picnic for your mates and family.

Car parking free for MHSA members and others \$2 per vehicle

BE AWARE of on-ground marshals to park cars and keep people off the active aircraft places, so you go home with all your hair and body parts. **No Show n Tell that day**

Now, keep in mind that at the AGM in July we need a new President and Secretary & Treasurer. I will be away for much of this year and next, as will Ian so continuity is important. There is also the potential organising of the 2024 Military Spectacular, should you wish that to go ahead. I'm happy to help where I can but need several others to assist if it is going to work. Allan Fuary has offered and has some good thoughts - who else?

Should the Federal Council get organised, we may have (1) a new logo, similar but a little different to that in your Tribute (2) some sort of union between our MHSA and the NSW MHS that is currently a separate body and (3) a national Business Plan.

Look forward to seeing you all at the Open Day

From the Editor

Welcome to an earlier than usually publish *TRIBUTE* No 20 for March 2023. I am trying to squeeze in a Special Edition – Queensland@War before the April Edition. If you have any stories about Queensland during WW2, please submit them for publication. There will be more room for articles as I will not be including all the regular sections in the Special Edition. Would appreciate a few Show and Tell stories in particular.

This month the major article has been taken from the Australian War Memorial, 'It was a chance to say Good-bye' by Claire Hunter in honour of Captain Paul McKay a young veteran who was lost to PTSD.

I have also included Part 2, A Band of Hero's along with all the regular sections.

As always, enjoy the read and feedback is always welcome.

Letter to Editor

Tribute No19 is as great as usual.

The O'Hare story is great but the date of the action is also a story.

The US Navy was attempting to attack Rabaul the day after Darwin was bombed.

O'Hare helped the Lexington escape.

Three weeks later it was back in the Coral Sea with the Yorktown, and they shot up Japanese ships landing at Salamaua.

The Japanese realised they would need carriers for further landings in the Solomons and to take Port Moresby.

The Japanese carriers were not available until early May, and we know what happened.

This was followed by Japanese defeats at Midway in June, Milne Bay and Kokoda (Imita Ridge) in September, Papua in January 1943 and Guadalcanal a month later.

By the beginning of 1943, the hulls laid down in US shipyards in 1940 and 1941 were launched and were joining the battle.

The naval balance was now strongly in favour of the US and was getting stronger.

What if O'Hare was not there and the Lexington was sunk? Thankfully, we will never know.

Anthony Staunton



Aviation Open Day & Static Displays

GYMPIE AERO CLUB



"GETTING PEOPLE INTO THE AIR"

GYMPIE AERODROME - YGYM

Warbirds, Parachute jumps, Gliders, Military Jeeps
General & recreational aircraft fly-ins
Flying Schools & Local Aero Clubs



This display day is open to the public, veterans and all aviators to promote the joys of aviation

SATURDAY 11 MARCH 10AM - 2PM

Warbirders are invited to fly in and show the public the splendor of years now gone and your love of these amazing machines. Arrival between 0800 and 0930 local time - marshals will direct you to your display area.

Aero Clubs are invited to fly in to enjoy the show and hospitality

- YGYM Landing Fees have been waived for the day
- Discounted Fuel available - MC & Visa
- Car Parking available, gold coin donation
- Sausage Sizzle
- Coffee available
- Cold drinks

PLEASE COME AND JOIN THE FUN OF PROMOTING AVIATION AS WE ENCOURAGE PEOPLE TO GET INTO THE AIR AND LEARN THE JOYS OF FLYING. LET US KNOW IF YOU ARE COMING SO WE CAN ARRANGE SPACE AND FACILITIES FOR YOU

CONTACT: Neil Dearberg 0412 017715 | neil.dearberg034@gmail.com

Representatives from Red Cross and RSL Gympie will be available to assist with mind recovery if needed

Hosted by Gympie Aero Club and the Military Historical Society of Australia Qld Division supported by the Gympie Regional Council.

It Was a Chance to say Goodbye'

By Claire Hunter (AWM)



Every year, a small, remote village on the other side of the world pauses to mark Anzac Day in honour of an Australian Army officer, Captain Paul McKay.

The 31-year-old Afghanistan veteran had been suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder when he travelled to the village of Saranac Lake in upstate New York and went missing in the Adirondack Mountains on New Year's Eve in December 2013.

His body was found two weeks later, on a rocky outcrop near the summit of Scarface Mountain, following an extensive search in sub-zero temperatures. He had died of hypothermia and exposure, the coroner later ruling his death a suicide.

Clyde Rabideau was the Mayor of Saranac Lake at the time. He announced the news of Paul's death on Facebook that afternoon. Within hours, the post had been viewed and shared thousands of times, with locals writing to express their sorrow at the loss of an Australian soldier so far from home.

"I am grieving today," Rabideau wrote. "A young man ... a soldier from Australia ... somehow inexplicably chose Saranac Lake to be his final resting place. "I only know him by his photographs. "He looks handsome, virile and strong ... not unlike my son and [the] sons of so many readers of this post ... yet he decided to cross the globe and trek onto our local mountain, where he died. "It strikes home to me and many here. May he rest in peace."

The mayor took the unusual step of declaring 25 April 2014 the first Anzac Day in Saranac Lake, after a pledge to honour Paul and others who struggle with post-traumatic stress disorder.

Rabideau led a hike up Scarface Mountain on Anzac Day, climbing the mountain in the early hours of the morning to lay a poppy where Paul's body had been found. "One of Captain McKay's friends asked that I lay a single poppy in his honour in [an] appropriate place on Anzac Day," Rabideau told reporters at the time. "It is a unique and very special day ... not just in Saranac Lake, but in two other nations that have had our back — and we theirs — for over a century."

The climbing party included US military veterans, the Saranac Lake police chief, and members of the parks and forest ranger service, who had led the search. They gathered rocks to create a memorial cairn for Paul and placed a blue ribbon and a poppy on it. "We said some prayers and toasted Captain McKay with some Australian beer," Rabideau said. "It was a nice, simple, solemn service."

The community of 5,500 then held a special Anzac Day ceremony at its First World War memorial, with Australian veterans in attendance. "Captain McKay's death profoundly affected many in our community," Rabideau said. "We asked ourselves 'why us?' over and over again as we were alerted to Captain McKay's psychological state. "It is our hope that his memory will raise awareness of post-traumatic stress... "PTS was and remains an important issue for us as a nation and an extended family to understand, to recognise and to treat. "Together, as a larger family, it is my hope and aim that we can help many of our brothers and sisters reintegrate and 'come back home'."

Paul McKay was born in Adelaide, South Australia, on 17 November 1982, the son of Angela and John McKay.

A highly intelligent and disciplined student, he was studying law and commerce at the University of Adelaide when he joined the Army Reserve's Adelaide Universities Regiment in December 2004. While most reserve officers take two to three years to complete their training, Paul finished his in just 13 months.

Major Duncan Hains remembers the time fondly. "Paul joined our cohort towards the end of 2004 and we became good mates," he said. "[He was] intense, and I don't mean that in a bad way. "He was very, very focused, and he had a really dry and wicked sense of humour, but when he put his mind to something, he was absolutely focused on achieving it."

The pair would often go running together, hiking to the summit of Mount Lofty, and racing each other to the top. “Sometimes it was Waterfall Gully, sometimes Chambers Gully, and often a fully laden pack was involved,” he said. “The Waterfall Gully run he and I did go all the way up to the Mount Lofty Summit, and you’re working hard to get up there in under 45 minutes. Most people do it in about 60 minutes just plodding along, but he got up there in 28 minutes with me not far behind. “I was throwing up by the time I got there ... only to find him just leisurely staring at the view of Adelaide as though he’d just strolled up...

“When he was committed to doing something, he just threw his mind behind it.”



Paul pictured with his parents, John and Angela, in Adelaide.

His friends in the regiment called him Reggie or Reg, as in “Regimental” or highly disciplined and by the book. “I think he relished the nickname because it took the piss a little,” Hains said. “It represented the characteristics he aspired to always espouse, but it also reflected dependability too; he could always be relied upon.”

A high achiever, Paul hoped to pursue a career in the law while serving in the reserves and had long-term aspirations of entering business or politics. His friends and family had no doubt he would achieve both.

He finished his law degree with honours in 2009, and was admitted to the bar, but then almost immediately quit, to pursue a full-time career in the Regular Army instead. He transferred from the reserves to the Regular Army in January 2010, and was posted to the 1st Battalion, the Royal Australian Regiment, based in Townsville.

His friend Major Matt Jones has fond memories of meeting Paul while they were serving together as young platoon commanders in Charlie Company, 1RAR. “One of the things you

were struck by, pretty early on when you met Paul, was that he had this drive and energy,” he said. “He’d studied to be a lawyer, so he was this blend of the academic and the officer. Studious, and well-read, he would bring all that knowledge and energy into his work, genuinely wanting to make things better for his soldiers.

“He was extremely physically fit, which turned out to be one of the cornerstones of his personality, and how he liked to spend his free time – hard training so he could lead from the front. “He hated to be idle, and needed to be doing something and doing it the right way, as he saw it. That commitment and sense of what was right left an indelible mark on those around him.

“Paul, Andrew [Evans] and I became friends during our time as Platoon Commanders in Charlie Company and on Rifle Company Butterworth. Being young blokes with a lot of responsibility, going through the same challenges, dealing with the same problems, it created a bond... “We were all just poor ‘subbies’ at the time so we’d take turns going over to each other’s places after work, have a few drinks and whinge about work. Inevitably, that would see us ‘solving’ all the Army’s problems over the course of the discussion as I forced Paul to listen to ‘70s rock. “It was over those conversations you really got to know Paul and how fiercely he cared for his soldiers, and wanted to make things better for them.”



Paul McKay - He could always be relied upon.

When Paul deployed to Afghanistan in May 2011, he was based at Tarin Kowt in Uruzgan Province. As the evening Battle Captain in the command centre at the Combined Team Uruzgan Headquarters, he was in charge of coordinating responses to any attacks or incidents that occurred in the province.

He was on duty in the tactical operations centre during the 'green-on-blue' attack at Patrol Base Sorkh Bed on 29 October 2011. Without warning, an Afghan soldier opened fire on a group of Australian soldiers who had been tasked with mentoring the Afghan National Army, killing three Australians (Captain Brian Duffy, Corporal Ashley Birt and Lance Corporal Luke Galvin) and an Afghan interpreter, and seriously wounding seven others.

In the aftermath, Paul's response was to work even harder, working 12 to 16-hour days on little or no sleep. Friends and family say he was "never the same person again" after Afghanistan. When he returned to Australia in January 2012, he was "troubled and lived in a world of silence and sorrowful memories", a shadow of his former self.

On 29 December 2013, Paul flew to the United States, eventually making his way by bus to Saranac Lake. He had never travelled to America before and had left his home in Canberra without a word while on annual recreation leave from the Army.

His family and friends didn't even know he had left Australia.

On New Year's Eve, Paul left Saranac Lake and walked along the road towards Lake Placid. He had sent an email to his father the night before, leaving him all his possessions, before leaving Saranac Lake on foot to climb Scarface Mountain – named after its massive scar, a rocky ledge covered in snow for most of the year. Even in summer, the scar is clearly visible. Paul also had scars - but Paul's scars were all on the inside.

He was last seen walking along train tracks near Ray Brook, dressed in snow pants and a winter jacket, carrying a large backpack.

Before long, a polar vortex hit the region and temperatures plummeted to minus 30 degrees. Local police, park rangers and volunteers searched the mountain in sub-zero temperatures after his father reported him missing on 3 January 2014.

Paul's father had traced the email Paul had sent to a Saranac Lake hotel and had called the Saranac Lake police. In the email, Paul had told his father that everything was okay, but that he had some "housekeeping issues" to clarify. What had followed was a two-page list transferring all his belongings to his father. When his family went to check Paul's apartment in Canberra, they found his dress uniform and medals laid out on his bed, his ceremonial sword at its side.

Paul's body was found on a shoulder of Scarface Mountain on 15 January by forest ranger Scott van Laer.

It was meant to be his day off, but he had been mulling over an idea, so he walked out of his back yard, up into the woods, and worked his way towards an ice floe, covered so thickly with evergreens that the search helicopters couldn't see through them. "When I started out that day, I didn't believe I was going to find him," he said. "I thought there was no chance."

At first, he thought he had stumbled across an illegal hunting camp, having noticed something off to the side that wasn't quite right. "And then I got closer," he said. "And I thought, 'Oh. We've ended the search.'

On 23 January, a formal procession wound its way solemnly through Saranac Lake as a police escort accompanied Paul's body to New York City, from where he was flown home to Australia. Pallbearers included police, forest rangers, and veterans; schoolchildren lined the streets of Saranac Lake and Ray Brook to pay their respects as temperatures dropped to minus 20 degrees.

Mark Simkins had served as a medic in the US military in the 1970s and had volunteered to escort Paul's body home. He and his wife Janet have a deep connection with the mountain and had been heavily involved in the search.

"Why Paul picked Saranac Lake, we will never know, but he did," Janet said. "When Paul went missing, everyone tried to trace his steps, and when it was believed that he might have gone up Scarface, people went looking.

"When Scott Van Laer found Paul, the community had a sombre reaction. I guess we had all hoped he had just moved on ... and sadly, he had. "Since then, Mark has walked up to Paul's cairn every Anzac Day. "He will forever pay his respects, and salute Paul."

Paul's friend Andrew Evans shared his story at the Australian War Memorial in Canberra at a Last Post Ceremony commemorating his life. "I still remember him every day," he said at the time. "Occasionally they are sad and mournful thoughts at losing a brother and my closest friend. Other times they are happy memories. "What I'll always remember fondly about Paul is that he was never afraid and always up for a challenge. He did what he wanted to do, on his own terms. "Despite the pain, that is how I try to remember him. Every day. Even if only for a few moments."

A friend who climbed the mountain sent a note to Paul's parents afterwards, along with a photo of the memorial cairn and cross in the shadow of the boulder where he died. "It was a very quiet spot," he wrote. "Sadly, I didn't find Paul there. I think I lost him a long time ago."

His friend Duncan Hains climbed the mountain in January 2019, placing a flag where his friend died. "It was pretty emotional," he said. "When we were all posted to units around the Brigade, we'd still catch up as naïve young Second Lieutenants and then Lieutenants and solve the Army's problems over a few steins and a schnitzel.

"But after Afghanistan ... he was just very distant..."

"I remember exactly where I was [when I found out he was missing]. I got a call from [the Army] to ask whether we'd any contact with him ... and then there was just a flurry of text messages and phone calls."

Climbing the mountain was his way of saying goodbye. "It was closure, more than anything, and it was a chance to reconnect on a number of missed years," he said. "It was a chance to say goodbye and to try to understand.

Matt Jones was in Thailand when Paul went missing. He had reached out to the local police chief, sharing whatever information he could in an effort to help with the search. "I thought perhaps he'd gone travelling to physically test himself ... to put things behind him ... certainly climbing a mountain during a storm seemed to fit ... but I wasn't willing to accept that he never intended on coming back."

He retraced Paul's steps the following year, climbing the mountain on the anniversary of Paul's death to pay his respects and say goodbye. "Paul was one of the hardest working people I had ever known but that came with a cost; he tolerated a lot without complaint when others might have asked for help," he said. "He was always fiercely proud of being part of a team, of being an infantry officer and being in the Army. "From what little he would talk [to me] about his time in Afghanistan, he had this misconception that he had let people down ... but you didn't fail us mate... "We just didn't get a chance to tell him, or he couldn't hear us."

The new mayor of Saranac Lake, Jimmy Williams, has vowed to continue the Anzac Day tradition, hiking Scarface Mountain on 25 April and performing a Dawn Service in honour of Paul.

A former US Navy Seal, Williams has worked closely with Australian SAS soldiers and commandos and has an intimate understanding of war, and the great costs levied on all involved. "This year's ceremony was an intimate one, held at dawn in keeping with the Australian tradition," he said. "It was a beautiful Adirondack morning alongside ... Lake Flower that flows through our small mountain village. "As steam rose from the lake waters, it was an opportunity to stop everything, to think, remember, thank, and respect all of those who gave so much for the good of the rest of us.

Being such a small community, Paul made the hardships of war real for many of our citizens. "I believe it is healthy to be reminded of how fortunate we all are, and that there are strong men and women who gave all to make this beautiful life possible. "For myself, I felt briefly connected again to those I will not see until the next life."

In June 2014, Paul's parents made the difficult journey to Scarface Mountain to scatter their son's ashes on the quiet, wooded peak where he had chosen to die. His mother Angela thanked the community for the "outstanding care and compassion they showed to our dear son, Paul." She said it was an "amazing mark of respect" that the village had chosen to commemorate Anzac Day. She and her husband are forever grateful for those who continue to remember and pay their respects to their son. "It is a wonderful gesture and one our son Paul would be proud of," she said. "Sadly, Paul was never the same when he returned from Afghanistan. He retreated into himself and lived in a world of silence and sorrowful memories. "It was tremendously sad for us, as his family, who could remember such a fun-loving person, to see him with no life in his face and no light in his eyes. "It was a testament to his bravery, his moral courage and his great inner strength that he lasted as long as he did. But he never complained, which ultimately was his downfall.

We have no idea why Paul chose Scarface Mountain to be his final resting place on Earth, but six months after Paul was found there, we honoured his wishes when we climbed the mountain. "As we scattered his ashes around the rocks a slight breeze caught some and blew them up in a spiral. It was as if we were releasing Paul's spirit where he wanted to be, free now to roam on Scarface Mountain. "Our son was in their town for less than 24 hours. He hardly spoke to anyone. But he has left a lasting impression on the community ... The locals took him into their hearts and identified him as one of their own. "This is small town America at its best. "They are absolute class.

We hope ... this article might give [people] a better understanding of the pressures and stress that members of the ADF experience in their military careers, and especially when on deployment.

"For any serving or ex-serving ADF members who read this article, if you identify in any way with our son, Paul, then please seek assistance so that you too do not become another statistic.

The Royal Commission into Veterans' Suicide continues for another year and is already highlighting the high mental stresses involved with being a member of the ADF and we sincerely hope it will bring about recommendations and solutions that will support our ADF members.

“Perhaps it is only fair that Paul himself should have the final words ...“Just before boarding the bus to Saranac Lake, in the final letter he wrote to us, he finished with the words: ‘I am not suicidal, nor am I weak, but basically fighting an unwinnable battle.’

“In the 31 years of his short, but amazingly talented life, it was the only battle he ever lost.

“While Paul’s brave struggle is over, we hope that his legacy will continue to live on.”



Each year, the people of Saranac Lake continue to pay tribute to Paul after he went missing on Scarface Mountain in the Adirondack Mountains in Upstate New York. Photo: Whitney MacDowell Morgan

A Band of Heroes – Part 2

By Brian Rough

(Continued from *TRIBUTE* No 19)

The 2nd Annual General Meeting of the Queensland Scottish in Brisbane was held at the Town Hall on the evening of Wednesday 31st August. About 150 members attended including a large number from Ipswich. The Honorary Lieutenant-Colonel, Sir Thomas McIlwraith chaired the meeting, and other officers present were Major Stevenson, Captains Wilson, Primrose and Grant, and Lieutenants W Robertson-Strong, Fisher and Mackenzie. Captain Wilson acted as secretary of the meeting. The committee congratulated the corps on the fact that notwithstanding that the war scare, to which the corps owed its origin, had died away, no abatement had taken place in the interest first aroused: but, on the contrary, the movement had widened and extended to the other leading towns of the colony. This work had not been accomplished without heavy expenditure, and the liabilities of the corps amounted to £1399 4s. 6d. Of that sum, £547 8s was due for uniforms supplied to country corps. Subscriptions to the amount of £208 16s. 6d. had been received during the year, and it was estimated that £500 would be received from the capitation grant, which would materially reduce the liabilities. The debt had been chiefly incurred for full dress uniforms, which should last some years. It was expected the next capitation would do much to remove the debt. Sir Thomas McIlwraith had made himself responsible to the Government for the value of the uniforms in question, and the committee desired to impress upon every individual member “the obligation which rested upon him of making it a point of honour to do his utmost to promote the efficiency of the corps as a means of furthering that object.” The committee further reported that during the year three new companies had been formed in

Brisbane, Ipswich and Toowoomba. That had brought the strength of the Corps to six companies comprised of 419 officers and men, including a band of twenty-one members. A table, detailing the number of efficient the previous year compare with the current year, was also presented.

1886 1887 A Company 91 62

B Company – 35, C Company – 46, D Company – 55, E Company – 70, F Company – 36,
Total - 304

The committee explained that there were also many men who had joined since March who were not, according to regulations, able to make themselves efficient for the year. The small number of efficient in the original companies was attributed to the depressed condition of the times and the difficulty experienced by men in getting work.

The rejection of the application by Maryborough men to form G Company was noted with regret, as was the Commandant's refusal to gazette the corps an Administrative Battalion. Note was also made of the tireless work of Captain Wilson who had been acting secretary since the resignation of Mr Moody, and who had been working on behalf of the Corps with great sacrifice of time and interference with his own business. Special thanks were given to Sergeant-Major Jamieson, Quartermaster-Sergeant Kesson, and Pipe-Major McKenzie.

John Anderson regarded it as a disgrace that after two years they still did not have proper white belts, to which Captain Wilson responded that 500 belts were on their way out from England. Lieutenant Fisher of Ipswich noted the small number of efficient in the metropolitan companies as opposed to the country corps. He suggested that special entertainments, such as assaults-at-arms, should be promoted to increase the numbers.

The financial statement revealed a total income for the year of £754 18s 7d. Expenditure had included clothing, band instruments of £13 1s 6d, and over £45 on advertising. The motion for the adoption of the report and the balance sheet, the latter audited by Lieutenants Roberston-Strong and Mowbray, was passed unanimously.

The first Annual General Meeting of C Company was also held on Wednesday evening of the 31 August, at the Exchange Chambers. Captain Gavin took the Chair, and Major Robinson, Lieutenant McIntosh, Sergeant Colquhoun, and twenty-five members. The financial report of the Company revealed, amongst other things, almost £45 spent on materials to manufacture camp bags and rifle racks, and uniform cloth. Also noted was the fact that several members collectively owed the considerable sum of £73 17s 6d on their undress uniforms. That the earlier fund-raising concert was a success was revealed in its proceeds amounting to £32 17s 6d. During the course of the meeting, Corporal Kerr was elected to represent the NCOs and Privates Nichol and Steele to represent the men on the executive committee. It was decided that a picnic would be held at Stanwell on the Prince of Wales birthday, the 9 November, to commemorate the anniversary of the company.

No 17 Pte B Ford, C Company was transferred to E Company Ipswich, 16 September 1887.

At a combined Sunday parade held in late September in Rockhampton, 50 men and officers of the QSVC turned out to for an inspection by Lieutenant-Colonel Mein of the Moreton Regiment. After the inspection pipers preceded the procession which moved on to take the

Defence Force and Volunteer companies to Church Parade. The Scottish company attended the Presbyterian Church where the Rev Mr Aitken preached.

QDF forces in Rockhampton held their quarterly muster and all-night drill on the last Saturday of September. The exercise began at 3 o'clock in the afternoon, with 35 men of the Naval Brigade and thirty-five men of 'A' Company, QDF forming the attacking force. Twenty-five men of the Naval Artillery and forty of C Company QSVC represented the defenders. The Scottish were under the command of Captain Gavin, and Lieutenants Todd and McIntosh. Major Robinson was the Umpire for the exercise.

During October Captain Gavin received from Brisbane the new buff belts for the corps and the yellow belts hitherto worn have been returned to the authorities. An Executive Committee meeting of C Company resulted in the election of J Nichol as Secretary and Mr Meikle and Arthur Brown elected to the Management Committee. The Committee determined to hold the annual picnic on 9 November at Stanwell.

In the Musketry returns for the year 1885-86, sixty-eight men of A Company completed the course. Pte A McIntosh was the best shot in the Corps, and Pte J Moodie, Captain W B Kesson, Sergeant J L Dixon, Pte H Patience and Sergeant T R Gray were awarded prizes. Thirty-two men completed the musketry course in B Company, Sergeant A D Campbell being the best shot with sergeant T Reid, Sergeant R Williams and Pte T M Gibb receiving prizes. C Company only underwent the recruit's course. Forty-three men of D Company completed the course, Pte J M McIntyre being the best shot, with Colour-Sergeant M H McLeod also receiving a prize. Sixty-eight men of E Company completed the course. Pte B Ford was the best shot, while Sergeant D Edwards, Pte P Harrower and Pte W Lindsay won prizes. F Company completed the recruit's course.

In late November C Company mustered well for their weekly Monday evening drill, which took place at the Gymnasium Grounds in North Rockhampton. The men were put through company, extension and skirmishing drill for a considerable amount of time.

The camp of continuous training in the Southern Military District for 1888 was held from 26 March to 2 April at Lytton. Baggage regulations noted the baggage for A, B and D Companies QSVC, was labelled with a white band and the numeral 5. E Company baggage was labelled with a white band and the numeral 16. F Company had a blue band and the numeral 4, and C Company a green band and the numeral 2.

The annual Commandant's inspection of C Company, Rockhampton was made at Rockhampton on 10 March, the Commandant also inspecting A Company, Queensland Defence Force.

The Rockhampton men arrived at late hour on Monday night. The contingent consists of 24 members of A Company, Port Curtis Division, and 26 of C Company, Queensland Scottish volunteers. They came down in the AUSN Company's steamer *Victoria*, and had a fairly smooth though somewhat slow passage. Upon their arrival in camp, they found everything prepared for their reception, and after a good rest they had their first breakfasting camp, and then fell in the general duty as if they are being used to such things all Reliance. The *Victoria* had a lot of difficulty in getting alongside the wharf on account of its proximity to shallow water, but this was eventually accomplished with the loss of a warp or two. The men are, generally, a fine-looking lot, and hold their own and compare with the other corps.

A, B, D and E Companies departed Musgrave Wharf, South Brisbane on 29 March at 7:30pm for the Lytton encampment. E Company journeyed by train from Ipswich to meet the steamer. F Company departed Toowoomba at 12:50am on 30 March by mail train, arriving in Brisbane in time to catch the 6:35am steamer from the South Brisbane Railway Wharf. C Company departed Rockhampton on a coasting steamer at 8pm on the evening of 24 March.

The members of the various Volunteer forces left last night for the encampment by the steamers *Otter* and *Lucinda*. The various corps, including the Volunteer Rifles, the Queensland Scottish, and the Queensland Irish, formed up at the drill-sheds in Adelaide-street, and marched through Queen-street to the Musgrave wharf, South Brisbane. The Scottish Volunteers, who mustered ninety-six, were in command of Lieutenant Strong, and were accompanied by their pipers during the march.

At the Governor's Review held at Lytton on Saturday 31st March, the pipers played as the Queensland Scottish marched past headed by Major Haldane. The Scotchmen are always favourites, and their appearance on this occasion was greeted by a burst of applause, and their picturesque dress, and the general soldierly manner in which they marched past, was very much admired. On Sunday the Rev J F McSwaine conducted the Presbyterian Church Parade at Lytton, which was attended by many other units besides the Queensland Scottish. The text was from Matthew, xxviii, 6.

The camp was broken up on the Sunday afternoon, and the Volunteers along with the Naval Brigade, Moreton Regiment, and Wide Bay and Burnett Regiment, were transported by government vessel to the Toombul wharf where they disembarked. They marched to Kedron Park, along Stafford Road and bivouacked in the vicinity for the night. According to the Courier, each man was provided with a blanket, a water bottle, and enough German sausage and cabin bread to last until the close of operations. The night was generally fine except for a short period of showers, but it was reported everyone was reasonably comfortable.

There was no Muster held at Rockhampton 31 March as the Company was in Camp.

At Rockhampton, 10 August several members of C Company's Scottish Rifles were summoned at the Police Court today, for the capitation allowance which they neglected to earn in not qualifying as efficient the amount being £2 10s. This money was paid.

Some Volunteers of C Company (Rockhampton) Scottish Rifles were, by a £2 10s. fine, recently disagreeably awakened from the delusion that a soldier's life consists in wearing a uniform and getting drunk. Others might as well be awakened also. A general weeding out wouldn't be bad, for the man who can't drill thirty- two hours a year and fire sixty rounds of ammunition is certainly more fit to get underneath a hearthstone than to guard it.

Captain Gavin, Officer Commanding C Company, Rockhampton was in Brisbane in late September 1888. He sought and received an interview with Sir Thomas McIlwraith on 27 September to discuss issues relating to his Company and the Capitation grants. Later the same day he placed his concerns in writing to Sir Thomas, who promptly forwarded the letter on to the Commandant. Gavin's intent was to bring to the notice of Sir Thomas ...that the Company which I command have earned as capitation grant for the years 1887 £115 and 1888 £97.10. That I have received from the Brigade Office the sum of £10 leaving the sum of £202.10 due me as the balance of capitation grant to 30 June.

It is specially laid down in regulation No 275, "That Commanding Officers are responsible to Government for the due custody and expenditure of the capitation Grant, no portion of which is to pass from their control or be expended except by their direction.

I am aware that I am due a certain sum for full-dress uniforms to the Brisbane Scottish. This I am prepared to pay for as soon as I am made acquainted with my indebtedness, and although I have made repeated applications for this information the same has not been forthcoming.

I should not have troubled you but as the delay in settling this matter has been so injurious to the success and discipline of my company, I have been compelled to bring the matter thus under your notice.

On receipt Colonel French requested a report on the matter by the Officer Commanding the Corps. Captain Grant duly replied a few weeks later, on the 18 October.

In December the amount of drill per year to be carried out by each man to prove efficient or extra-efficient was notified. "It is notified for the information of members of all Volunteer Corps that, in accordance with regulation 266, which requires that members of Volunteer Corps shall perform in order to qualify as efficient a total of one-half, and in order to qualify as extra-efficient a total of two-thirds, of the hours' drill required in each particular year for non-commissioned officers and men of the Defence Force the number of hours 'drill required to be performed by members of Volunteer Corps for the current year ending 30th June, 1889, will be for efficiency, forty-two hours; and for extra-efficiency, sixty-eight hours."

No 79, Corporal J Nicol, C Company, was dismissed for insubordinate conduct on parade.

(To be continued)

A VISIT TO THE WORLD WAR11 MEMORIALS AT MILNE BAY, PNG, AND GUADALCANAL, SOLOMON ISLANDS. November 2022.

By John Steel

These two memorials present a puzzling contrast. Each remembers significant victories over Imperial Japanese forces in WW11. Both are firsts!

The Milne Bay campaign lasted from August to November, 1942. The battle was fought principally by units of the 2nd. Australian Imperial Force (2nd AIF) and the Australian Military (AMF), the Militia, plus airmen of 75 & 76 squadrons, Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF). Support was also provided by Royal Australian Navy Ships, mainly destroyers and corvettes, but also including the hospital ship *Manunda*. American engineers and 3 artillery batteries also took part.

It is well known that the victory by the Australians against the Japanese was the first defeat Japanese forces had incurred against Allied forces in the Second World War. The news of this victory boosted morale in all Allied Armies fighting the Japanese in PNG, Burma and the Pacific.

The Guadalcanal Campaign was a much more complex and expansive conflict.

1. It included divisional units from the US army, Marines and Japanese army

2. Various Sea battles involving Japanese and American ships
3. Fierce air conflicts from land based and carrier borne aircraft.

The fighting began in August 1932 and ended in January/February, 1943. The outcome was a victory for the Americans, the first successful offensive actions to drive Japanese forces from occupied territory. Japanese Navy Captain Homma, a naval tactician at Rabaul said, “after Guadalcanal I knew we would not win”.



The Australian monument is situated near the provincial centre of Alotau. It stands at the end of an overgrown landing field, Number 3 Airstrip. Here, in an enclosed grassy clearing, a path leads to memorial plaques and two RAAF

Memorial Insignia. Four vacant flagpoles stand forlornly nearby. Small memorials for different Units can be found within the area. One is dedicated to the 7th and 18th Infantry Brigades, 2nd AIF. The other, topped by a Japanese 70mm, model 92, howitzer, represent those of the 61st AMF Battalion, Qld Cameron Highlanders. As far as could be ascertained most of the memorials here were partly constructed and maintained by sympathetic and caring local people.



The US memorial on Guadalcanal is very different. This memorial stands impressively on Skyline Ridge, offering sweeping views of Savo Island and Ironbottom Sound to the west, Honiara, the Solomon Sea and Skylark Channel in the foreground and Henderson International Airport (Henderson Field) to the east. The Memorial consists of a tall marble block guarded by the flags of the US and the Solomon Islands. Placed throughout were marble blocks describing the battles. A small Visitors' Centre provides pamphlets and offers a visitors' book. The American Battlefields Commission constructed this tribute to all US and Allied personnel participating in the conflict.

In retrospect, one feels disappointed with the Australian Memorial in Milne Bay. Australian Air Defence Force personnel have participated throughout the world, and these are remembered by the presence of dignified, respectful shrines. These can be found in the United Kingdom, the Middle East and Israel, South Africa, Papua New Guinea, and Asia. Compared with such expressions of pride and remembrance, the Milne Bay Battle and those who were victorious seems to be overlooked and forgotten.

News

A leader in the response to the COVID-19 crisis and a long-serving rear admiral are among the Defence personnel recognised in this year's Australia Day honours and awards for their outstanding service.

Lieutenant General John Frewen has been made an Officer in the Military Division of the Order of Australia for exceptional leadership that "directly enhanced Australia's national resilience" during the pandemic.

Lieutenant General Frewen served as Commander of the Defence COVID-19 Task Force and Coordinator General of the National COVID-19 Vaccine Task Force.

Rear Admiral Peter Quinn was also promoted to Officer of the Order of Australia for his distinguished service across demanding command and senior leadership appointments.

His citation recognises his involvement in various programs and activities that “contributed to the improvement of Navy capability through a period of rapid change in the culture, structure and workforce demand”.

The Australia Day honours list recognises 30 ADF personnel in the Order of Australia’s military division and 64 ADF personnel for distinguished and conspicuous service:

OFFICER (AO) IN THE MILITARY DIVISION OF THE ORDER OF AUSTRALIA

Rear Admiral Peter Quinn AM CSC RAN

Lieutenant General John Frewen DSC AM

MEMBER (AM) IN THE MILITARY DIVISION OF THE ORDER OF AUSTRALIA

Navy: Commander Debbie Butterworth OAM CSM and Bar RAN; Rear Admiral Stephen Hughes CSC RAN; Captain James Levay RAN; Rear Admiral (retd) Nigel Perry CSC RAN; Rear Admiral Christopher Smith CSM RAN

Army: Brigadier Kahlil Fegan DSC; Brigadier David Kelly CSC DSM; Lieutenant Colonel Glyn Llanwarne OAM; Brigadier Gregory Novak; Colonel Leonard Oei; Brigadier Craig Shortt DSC CSC DSM

Air Force: Wing Commander Kerry Hollings; Warrant Officer Brett Hooper OAM; Air Commodore David Paddison CSC; Wing Commander Mark Pentreath CSM; Warrant Officer Dean Rhodes; Group Captain Catherine Williams

MEDAL (OAM) IN THE MILITARY DIVISION OF THE ORDER OF AUSTRALIA

Navy: Chief Petty Officer Nathan Byast; Warrant Officer Richard Dorey; Warrant Officer Michael Madigan; Captain P

Army: Major Laurent Berlioz-Nott; Warrant Officer Class One Timothy Langston; Warrant Officer Class One Eric Lewis; Warrant Officer Class One Nardia McCulloch

Air Force: Sergeant Jason Bahadur; Sergeant Timothy Davies; Wing Commander Rachael Quirk

DISTINGUISHED SERVICE CROSS (DSC)

Army: Lieutenant Colonel Kevin Humphreys

Army: Lieutenant Colonel L

DISTINGUISHED SERVICE MEDAL (DSM)

Army: Brigadier M

COMMENDATION FOR DISTINGUISHED SERVICE (CDS)

Army: Lieutenant Colonel Khalid El Khaligi

BAR TO THE CONSPICUOUS SERVICE CROSS (CSC and Bar)

Army: Colonel John Papalitsas CSC

CONSPICUOUS SERVICE CROSS (CSC)

Navy: Captain Anne Andrews RAN; Commander Cindy Jenkins RAN; Warrant Officer Andrew Jocumsen; Lieutenant Commander Makaila Lasalo RAN; Captain Richard Lindsey RAN; Commander Andrew Newman RAN; Lieutenant Commander Simone Paterson RAN

Army: Lieutenant Colonel Adam Bryden; Lieutenant Colonel Séan Fleming; Colonel Douglas Humphreys OAM; Lieutenant Colonel Marek Janiszewski; Brigadier Jocelyn King; Major N; Lieutenant Colonel N; Colonel Thomas Nairn; Colonel Marc Rhodes; Colonel Michael Scott; Lieutenant Colonel Benjamin Shepherd; Lieutenant Colonel David Silverstone; Brigadier David Smith AM DSM

Air Force: Squadron Leader Gregory Baker-Moss; Squadron Leader Andrew Boeree; Sergeant Alisha Clarkson; Squadron Leader Del Gaudry; Flight Lieutenant Laura Haws; Sergeant Amy Hestermann-Crane; Flight Lieutenant David Hughes; Corporal Christian Kneale; Air Commodore Stephen Martin AM; Squadron Leader Justin Van Beuningen; Corporal George Wallace

BAR TO THE CONSPICUOUS SERVICE MEDAL (CSM and Bar)

Navy: Commander Kathryn Ford CSM RAN

Army: Lieutenant Colonel Clarence Hovell CSM; Warrant Officer Class One Mark Retallick OAM CSM

CONSPICUOUS SERVICE MEDAL (CSM)

Navy: Chief Petty Officer Christopher Bell; Lieutenant Commander Tristan Colclough RAN; Commander Samuel Dale RAN; Chief Petty Officer Garry Danaher; Petty Officer Justin Macey; Commander Christopher McGregor RAN; Leading Seaman Darryl Malone; Warrant Officer Benjamin Reid RAN; Warrant Officer Cherie Theyers

Army: Major Heath Clancy; Lieutenant Colonel Leigh Crawford; Warrant Officer Class Two D; Lieutenant Colonel Marcus Doherty; Major Brent Doyle OAM; Major Robert Gibson; Warrant Officer Class One Tanya Graham; Lieutenant Colonel Gareth Kemp; Lieutenant Colonel Paul Manning; Warrant Officer Class Two P; Lieutenant Colonel Jacob Penley; Warrant Officer Class One Craig Smith; Warrant Officer Class Two John Van de Maele; Corporal Gavin Watson

Air Force: Corporal Anthony Kunda; Squadron Leader Mark Mohr-Bell

For the full Australia Day lists, visit [Homepage | Governor-General of the Commonwealth of Australia \(gg.gov.au\)](http://Homepage | Governor-General of the Commonwealth of Australia (gg.gov.au))

Navy



Sub-Lieutenant Andrew Dakin's dream of following in his grandfather's footsteps to become a Fleet Air Arm pilot is one step closer after graduating from HMAS *Creswell* this year. It's been a dream in the making for more than nine years. Sub-Lieutenant Dakin, from Toowoomba, first applied to join the Navy in 2013 but said he wasn't ready physically or

mentally. Since completing degrees in cartography and aviation in the intervening years, he feels better equipped to take on the challenges of service life. The thrill and challenge of landing a helicopter on the rolling, pitching deck of a ship, in unfavourable weather conditions and inhospitable environments, was what kept him motivated to pursue his dream career through the years.

Officer training also threw up some challenging and team-building moments. Singing songs while paddling a seven-person raft across Jervis Bay in cold, rainy and windy conditions was one of them. “The row never seemed to end and then it started to rain, and then the rain went sideways. But these little motivational pieces between each other that banded us together put it up there amongst my best memories of training,” Sub-Lieutenant Dakin said.

He’s looking forward to working in a team in different operating environments at sea, from anti-submarine warfare, search and rescue and vertical replenishments at sea.

He has some advice for others who haven’t succeeded in landing their dream jobs immediately after leaving school.

“It’s if it is a challenge and it’s something you enjoy, pursue it to your absolute best,” he said.

(Source: Contact)



Order of Australia Medal recipient Chief Petty Officer Nathan Byast on board HMAS Maryborough in 2017

Few technical trainers can boast a 100 per cent success rate, but a former Cape-class patrol boat chief engineer was commended this Australia Day for doing just that.

. Chief Petty Officer Nathan Byast received an Order of Australia Medal for developing and implementing a process to train the next generation of patrol boat engineers while posted to Australian Defence Vessel *Cape Inscription*. Over three years, he personally took on and qualified more than 50 marine technicians across all operator qualifications, a greater number than any other patrol boat in North Queensland.

All trainees went on to gain their operator qualification without any loss to operational capability, significantly contributing to readying the future work force – in particular Cape-class patrol boats and evolved Cape-class patrol boats.

Chief Petty Officer Byast said when he joined *Cape Inscription*, there wasn't a clearly defined process to qualify marine technicians in good time and to a high standard in both electrical and diesel trades.

He developed a training package that included familiarisation, hands-on learning, written and verbal examinations. "I was really excited to train the people who were going to replace the current patrol boat engineering workforce and knowing they were at a high standard," Chief Petty Officer Byast said. "The feedback I got was that these sailors were surprised at how simple the process can be when given clear expectations and guidance on what was required."

As well as maintaining the complex engineering systems on the patrol boat, Chief Petty Officer Byast said teaching sailors had become part of his daily life and a part from which he gained great satisfaction.

He was humbled to learn he received a commendation. "To be recognised by my superiors and peers among the engineering community is just unreal," he said. "It was just part of everyday business, so to have someone say that I've gone above and beyond the standard – it's hard to put into words."

(Source: Contact)

Army



A US Army UH-60M Black Hawk in Germany

Australia will acquire 40 new UH-60M Black Hawk helicopters for the Army, with first deliveries expected to commence this year. Announce 18 January 2023

The purchase, under project LAND 4507-1, will be made via a Foreign Military Sale agreement from the United States Government.

Head Land Capability Major General Jeremy King said this was an important acquisition which would meet the strategic needs of the Australian Army. “The Black Hawk capability will be a crucial element for us to protect Australia’s sovereignty, and deliver foreign policy objectives, including providing humanitarian assistance and disaster relief,” Major General King said. “The Black Hawk will support the deployment of our troops and their equipment where they are needed in times of crisis. “Black Hawk is a reliable, proven and mature platform supported by a robust global supply chain. “This acquisition will mean we can continue to defend Australia and respond in times of need in a safe and effective way for years to come.”

Black Hawk has proven itself to be a dependable and versatile battlefield and special forces aviation asset for, not only Australia but, for 35 other countries around the globe”.

Lockheed Martin Australia Chief Executive Warren McDonald said the UH-60M Black Hawk was a tough, reliable and proven utility helicopter. “Australia’s acquisition of the Black Hawk reinforces our nation’s enduring military interoperability with the US and allied nations,” Mr McDonald said. “Black Hawk will enhance future joint operations and the ongoing protection of Australia and the Indo-Pacific region.”

Headquartered in Canberra, Lockheed Martin Australia, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Lockheed Martin Corporation in the US, also owns Sikorsky Australia, which has sustained the ADF’s Black Hawk and Seahawk helicopter fleets for more than 30 years.

Lockheed Martin employs more than 1200 people in Australia.

Delivery of the Black Hawk helicopters will commence this year.

(Source: Contact)



Soldiers from 3rd Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment, on parade during the Australia Day flag raising ceremony at Jezzine Barracks, Townsville

Guns blasted from the hilltops, flags flew, soldiers marched, the band played and guests were welcomed with a warm respect for country at the Australia Day flag-raising ceremony in Townsville.

The event, at the historic Jezzine Barracks, was a reminder of how integrated the ADF and the Royal Australian Regiment's 3rd Brigade are in the Townsville community.

Deputy Commander of 3rd Brigade Lieutenant Colonel Ken Golder said it was important for Townsville to host the celebration and for the ADF to take part. In times of need, the ADF and North Queensland community are always there as one," Lieutenant Colonel Golder said. "The ADF, Townsville, North Queensland and greater Queensland community are so closely linked, it's a garrison city."

The event was hosted by Commander of the 1st Division Major General Scott Winter, and was attended by Queensland figures including Townsville Mayor Jenny Hill, Queensland Premier Anastacia Palaszczuk and Queensland Governor Jeannette Young.

The 3rd Battalion stood on parade as the Royal Guard, the Royal Australian Artillery's 4th Regiment provided the 21-gun salute, and Army and Air Force members were part of the flag-raising ceremony.

(Source: Contact)

Air Force



From left, RAAF Squadron Leader Katherine Wright, UN Navy Lieutenant Brady Martin, RAAF Corporal Hayley Davis, RAF Warrant Officer Graham Davis and US Navy Commander Pete Salvaggio take part in Exercise Resolute Hunter in Nevada, US

Delivering faultless and detailed analysis is critical to the successful execution of a major military operation.

For UK-based Squadron Leader Kate Wright, the quality of that analysis has earned her a Royal Air Force commendation.

Squadron Leader Wright arrived in the UK nearly three years ago as part of AIR7003 remote pilot project, to gain operational experience on the MQ-9A Reaper. “My role was as a mission intelligence coordinator (MIC) – one of three crew positions, along with a pilot and a sensor operator, of the Reaper intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance aircraft,” Squadron Leader Wright said. “My job was to ensure the aircraft provided accurate intelligence and support to units deployed in operational theatres around the world, including Iraq, as part of Operation Shader.”

Despite not previously serving in an aircrew role, Wright’s strong performance as a MIC resulted in her being selected to lead 13 Squadron’s tactical development and training. “It was a huge honour and quite unexpected,” Squadron Leader Wright said.

The Royal Australian Air Force Adviser in London, Group Captain Adrian Maso, said the approach and attitude of Squadron Leader Wright hasn’t gone unnoticed. “She accrued more than 500 hours on the Reaper platform as a MIC, qualified as a senior MIC and has been facilitating training of her peers over and above her normal duties,” Group Captain Maso said.

Squadron Leader Wright’s commendation notes said there had been a revolution in the delivery of synthetic training at 13 Squadron, in no small part due to her outstanding contribution to the planning, introduction and operation of a new simulator.

She has since gone on to complete the Qualified Weapons Instructor (ISR) course, receiving an award for best academic performance. The course involved participating in Exercise Resolute Hunter, based out of the US Naval Aviation Warfighting Development Centre at Naval Air Station Fallon in Nevada. “The course offered the chance to be a deep level expert in ISR, which has been an empowering and enjoyable experience,” Squadron Leader Wright said.

The Head of Australian Defence Staff – London, Brigadier Grant Mason, described Squadron Leader Wright’s work as having enhanced the overall capability of both defence organisations. “Kate has contributed significantly to both the RAF and the RAAF and is a worthy recipient of a commendation she’s worked well with our British colleagues and is an example of all that is great about the Australian Defence Force,” Brigadier Mason said.

Squadron Leader Wright is due to return to Australia later in 2023.

“Arriving here as the UK entered lockdown was challenging but I have loved the experience, especially being able to make new friends, as well as learning and sharing skills and capability that will enhance future integration and interoperability,” she said.

(Source: Contact)



Royal Australian Air Force air traffic controller Flight Lieutenant Sean Morell communicates with aircraft in the vicinity of Fitzroy Crossing during Operation Flood Assist

Flight Lieutenant Hartley said the team was also experienced in remote operations through exercises such as last year's Vigilant Scimitar in Charters Towers and previous deployments such as Operation Bushfire Assist in Gippsland, Victoria. "Dealing with these types of situations in remote parts of the country is why we train and it's why we're in the ADF, so we're very happy to bring our skills and help in an emergency situation," he said.

Fitzroy Crossing was at the centre of the state's worst flood event on record, with the main highway and many surrounding communities isolated by floodwater and damage to infrastructure.

RAAF C-27J Spartan aircraft and Army MRH-90 Taipan and CH-47F Chinook helicopters have been flying into Fitzroy Crossing with supplies, personnel and equipment to aid the flood response efforts, while the Department of Fire and Emergency Services is also using small commercial aircraft and helicopters from the general aviation sector.

(Source: Contact)



A RAAF KC-30A refuels a No. 6 Squadron EA-18G Growler during a ferry from Australia to the United States for Exercise Red Flag Alaska.

The first Exercise Red Flag Nellis of 2023 is off to a flying start at the Nellis Air Force Base in Nevada, USA, with the Royal Australian Air Force deploying up to five EA-18G Growler aircraft from No. 6 Squadron and approximately 100 aviators in support of the Exercise to enhance Australia's air-power interoperability with partner nations

RAAF's Director General Air, Air Commodore John Haly said combined-force training between the Royal Australian Air Force, the United States Air Force and the United Kingdom's Royal Air Force provided a critical opportunity for partner nations to enhance their skills.

"Exercises such as Red Flag Nellis are an opportunity to advance relationships and interoperability with the United States and United Kingdom," Air Commodore Haly said.

"Although Australia conducts similar training activities domestically, the scope and scale of Red Flag Nellis cannot be replicated within Australia."

RAAF's detachment commander Wing Commander Steven Thornton said Exercise Red Flag Nellis would provide complex and advanced aerial training against simulated targets and realistic threat systems. "This training helps ensure RAAF remains ready to deploy aircraft and personnel away from their home base and sustain high-tempo operations," Wing Commander Thornton said. "It also provides the necessary environment for testing and development of new work practices, systems or role expansion."

Exercise Red Flag Nellis concluded on 10 February 2023.

(Source: Contact)

Show and Tell

AWM Memorial Boxes are engaging learning resources, filled with real and replica uniforms, equipment, artefacts, and more. They are supported by a range of case studies and activities which are available online. Memorial Boxes can be used to invigorate classroom lessons, inspire historical investigation, and add meaning to commemorative activities. They can also be adapted for use as a therapeutic tool or as a display in a community museum.



Memorial Box 1 - Australians in the First World War

The Boxes

There are four different Memorial Boxes available, corresponding to different conflicts or aspects of wartime experience.

Australia in the First World War - Memorial Box 1

Go back 100 years to a defining moment in our nation's history, and put yourself in the shoes of those who were there.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander wartime service - Memorial Box 3

Unravel the unique wartime experiences of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders, and their significant contribution to Australia's defence.

Australia in Wartime and Peacekeeping Operations since 1946 - Memorial Box 2

Journey through more than 70 years of the Australian Defence Force's contributions to peace and security across the globe. Explore Australian involvement in Japan, Korea, Vietnam, East Timor, Bougainville, Pakistan, Iraq, and Afghanistan.

Australia in the Second World War - Memorial Box 4

Objects and stories from land, sea, and air, exploring a selection of the almost one million Australian men and women who served during this time of upheaval.

Note to the reader: The objects and case studies in these boxes tell stories of service during conflict. Students may be strongly affected after reading some of the case studies. Encourage them to tell a teacher or trusted adult if they require support. There are many mental health organisations that they can talk to if they need help. Teachers may wish to be sensitive to those students who have personal experience with conflict, family members who are veterans, or parents serving in war zones.

(Source: AWM)

AIF Slang

Babbling Brook, Babbler – An Army Cook, originated in the rhyming slang as 'Babbling Brook'.

Baby Elephant – the Baby Elephant was a nickname for a scout aeroplane, manufactured by Martinside Ltd in 1915 and used by the No 1 Australian Squadron in Egypt

Balls in a Knot – to lose one temper.

Banger – sausage

Banjo – Shovel, so called by reason of its similarity in shape and also perhaps because of its metallic ring of the steel when struck

Bass attack – A drinking bout. Bass was a brand of English beer

Bastard – a term of endearment

Beachy Bill – The Turkish guns emplacement in Olive Grove (Gallipoli) which caused considerable casualties at Anzac, mostly on the beaches. (See poem below)

Bean – A mode of address, as ‘Hello old Bean’

Beer up – a drunken orgy

Bertha – A German long-range gun

Bill Harris – Abbreviation for ‘Bilharzia’ a common disease in Palestine.

Black Hand – A section of Infantry bombers

Blighty – England, or a wound sufficiently serious to necessitate the recipient removal to a hospital in England.

Poetry and Humour

There’s a certain dammed nuisance called Beachy,
Whose shells are exceedingly screechy,
But we are keeping the score,
And we’re after your gore –
So, look out **Beachy Bill** when we meet ye.

We’re goin to sock the blighters
If we ‘arf a show,
Of cause we’re bloomin skiters –
We can do our bit of blow.
But we know our blanky brothers,
Who have gone along before,
Fought as well as most the others,
Though they ain’t quite won the war.
(The Skiters, April 1917)

Military Words of Wisdom

1. If the enemy is in range, so are you
2. It is generally inadvisable to eject directly over the enemy you just bombed
3. Who ever said the pen is mightier than the sword obviously never encountered automatic weapons
4. Any ship can be a minesweeper...Once.
5. Never tell the Platoon Sergeant you have nothing to do.

6. Clean it, if it is dirty, Oil it, if it squeaks, BUT: Don't screw with it if it works!
7. If you see a bomb technician running, keep up with him
8. Yea, though I fly through the Valley of Death, I Shall Fear no Evil, for I am at 80,000 feet and climbing
9. The only time you have too much fuel is when you're on fire
10. What is the similarity between the air traffic controllers and pilots?
If pilot screws up, the pilot dies
If ATC screws upthe pilot dies
11. Mankind has a perfect record in aviation. We never left one up there!
12. The three most common expressions (or famous last words) in aviation are;
Why is it doing that?
Where are we?
Oh Sh.t!

Important Date – March

- 1 March 1985 – 51st Battalion Far North Queensland Regiment
- 1 March 1984 – 136th Signal Squadron
- 1 March 1984 – Army Simulation Group
- 1 March 2003 – Commissioning of HMAS Yarra (IV)
- 2 March 1944 – Captain Lionel Mathews MC was executed by a Japanese firing squad at Kuching Sarawak, after months of beating, torture and starvation.
- 2 March 1990 – Captain Reginald Saunders passed away of natural causes in Canberra
- 3 March 1942 – The second-worst air raid on Australia, in terms of lives lost was made in Broome WA. The Japanese also attacked Wyndham on the same day.
- 4 March 1942 – HMAS Yarra sunk south of Java
- 6 March 1970 – HMAS Sydney arrives at Fremantle, enroute to Sydney with 5 RAR returning from Vietnam. HMAS Sydney made 21 voyages to Vietnam during the war
- 6 March 1975 – PNG Servicemen were discharged from the Australian Forces and re-enlisted in the PNG Defence Force. (PNG Independence Day 16 September 1975)
- 7 March 1942 – Japanese occupation of Java completed
- 8 March 1942 – Japanese land at Lae and Salamua
- 9 March 1942 – 7th Division AIF arrive in Adelaide from the Middle East. Elements had been sent to Java where they became POW's
- 10 March 1942 – Japanese land at Finchhafen
- 10 March 2005 – Private James Clarke 3 RAR died in the Solomon Islands after falling down a 15-metre shaft whilst on patrol. He was part of RAMSI

11 March 1917 – Baghdad occupied – Members of the 1st ANZAC Wireless Signal Squadron attached to Lieutenant General Stanley Maude's force of two British Army Corps and one Indian Cavalry Division occupy Baghdad.

12 March 1900 – Australians (NSW Mounted Rifles) arrive at Bloemfontein, South Africa

13 March 1943 – Japanese reconnaissance flight over Darwin

14 March 1942 – Horn Island Bombed by Japanese

15 March 1940 – First two women from the Voluntary Aid Detachments organisation enlist in the AIF

15 March 1943 – 14 members of 4th Battalion were Killed in a field at Moora when a mortar exploded during a demonstration.

16 March 1942 – Darwin Bombed

16 March 1943 Flight Lieutenant W E Newton was posthumously awarded the Victoria Cross for action at Salamua Isthmus, New Guinea.

16 March 2009 Corporal Mathew Ricky Andrew Hopkins 7 RAR – died from small arms fire during Operation Slipper Afghanistan

17 March 1917 – Australians occupy Bapaume, Western Front

17 March 1942 – General MacArthur flies to Darwin

17 March 1942 – Formation of the Torres Strait Light Infantry

17 March 1976 – 12th Chief Engineer Works

18 March 1915 – Allied fleet attempts to force the Dardanelles

18 March 1989 – First arrival of Australian contingent of UNTAG in Namibia

19 March 1916 – Sir John Maxwell withdrawn from Egypt, leaving Sir Archibald Murray in command

19 March 2009 – Sergeant Brett Till RAE Incident Response Regt – died from an IED Explosion during Operation Slipper in Afghanistan

19 March 2003 – Iraq War commence

20 March 1916 – ANZAC Corps land in France

20 March 1917 – Lieutenant F H McNamara became the first Australian Airman to be awarded a Victoria Cross for rescuing a downed comrade in Palestine

20 March 1990 – Commissioning of HMAS Benalla (11)

21 March 1918 – Final German offensive of the First World War begins.

21 March 1942 – Air battle for Port Moresby begins

22 March 1942 – Japanese aircraft bomb Katherine

- 22 March 1945 – Corporal R R Rattey 25th Battalion awarded Victoria Cross for his actions on Bougainville
- 23 March 1945 – Waitavolo and Tol plantations captured by Australian, New Britain
- 24 March 1901 Australians capture Boer convoy and guns at Veldfontein
- 24 March 1942 – Port Moresby bombed by Japanese
- 25 March 1945 – Lieutenant A Chowne awarded the Victoria Cross posthumously at Dafua, New Guinea
- 26 March 1917 – Captain P H Cherry awarded Victoria Cross posthumously for his actions at Lagnicourt
- 27 March 1944 – Australian Government launch first Victory Loan aimed at raising £150 million for the war effort
- 27 March 1953 – Last engagement between Meteors and MIGS in the Korean War
- 28 March 1918 – Sergeant S R McDougall 47th Battalion awarded the Victoria Cross for his actions at Dermancourt
- 29 March 1885 – NSW contingent arrive in Sudan
- 29 March 1941 – Battle of Matapan, Greece
- 29 March 2003 – Commissioning of HMAS Rankin
- 31 March 2021 – RAAF 100th Birthday (formed 31 March 1921)
- 31 March 2001 – Commissioning of HMAS Warramunga (11)

Military Historical Society of Australia, Qld Division Committee 2022 – 23

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

<p style="text-align: center;"><u>IMPORTANT EVENTS</u> <u>AND DATE</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 11 March – Bi-Monthly Meeting • 25 April – ANZAC Day • 13 May – Bi-Monthly Meeting • 8 July – AGM • 9 September – Bi-Monthly Meeting • 11 November – Remembrance Day • 18 November – Bi-Monthly Meeting 	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>FELLOWS of MHPA</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • John Meyers (Deceased) • Anthony Staunton • Donald Wright <p style="text-align: center;"><u>NEW MEMBERS</u></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>VALE</u></p>
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MILITARY HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF AUSTRALIA

Australian Business Number (ABN) 97 764 781 363

Membership Application

Queensland Division

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Postal Address

.....

Telephone

E-mail

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 MHS. **I require a hard copy (mail) / electronic (via email) version. (circle your option)**

.Cheque/Money Order: Military Historical Society of Australia, Qld Division - Please send this form and your membership fee to:

**Treasurer, Qld Division
Military Historical Society of Australia
PO Box 243
MALENY Q 4552
Email: curtisir131@gmail.com**

Or,

Direct deposit to the Qld Division MHS Westpac Account at Maryborough, Qld.

BSB No. 034-128 Account No. 23-3618

If paying by Direct deposit, reference your name and forward the application form as well.