



The WAURior

No 24
March 2009

The official newsletter of the Western Australian University Regiment Association Inc.

In this edition...

Look out for these items and more

- ✓ WAUR News
- ✓ Member contributions
- ✓ Unit History file
- ✓ Sightings
- ✓ Funny Stuff!

Contributions Sought!!

Thanks are again due to those who forwarded emails. Remember, if there is something you would like to see in your Newsletter, please let me know. As I have often said, I would be delighted to receive your contributions - no matter how small!

Regards, Shaun Chapman (Ed)

Want more?.....

Back issues of previous
WAURior's are available for
FREE via Email just send a
request to
chapmans@iinet.net.au

Ramblings from the Treasurer

With Shaun Chapman

Greetings and welcome to The WAURior Newsletter issue 24.

WAUR is everywhere and on a weekly basis either another dodgy bugle turns up, something on EBay even bizarrely on face book there is the Women Against Uterus Rebellions which use WAUR as their acronym. (Is it worth the Association have a group?). If you spot a WAUR related item then please send it through to me.

Your Association is also under going a change with moves afoot to totally revamp the way we have done things in the past. It pretty obvious to all that we started in a blaze of glory but have slowed down to just ticking over. This is nothing to be concerned about and just needs to be addressed to make us efficiently reflect the state of things as they are.

There a few ideas about and at the soon to be announced AGM decisions will be made. The one thing you can rest assured of is that we are here to stay and will continue to carry the WAUR flag.

Anyway enjoy the read...

UPCOMING EVENTS

AGM

WAUR 60th Birthday Celebrations

ANZAC DAY 2009

WAUR Ball Sat 9 May 2009

www.waurassociation.iinet.net.au

Details soon.....

WAUR 60th Birthday Celebrations

April 22nd 2009 marks the 60th Birthday of WAUR.

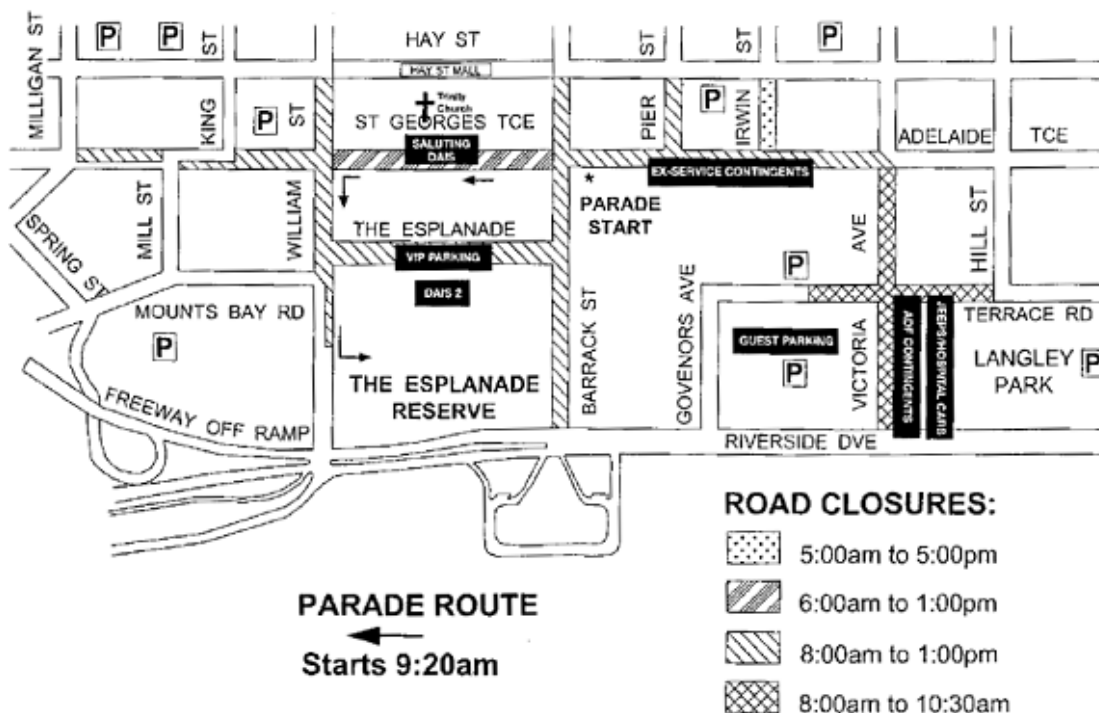
To celebrate there will be a parade at Leeuwin Barracks followed by cake and beer at the mess.

Those wishing to attend should be at the front gate of the Leeuwin Barracks, East Fremantle at 2100. At 2115 we will be escorted in for a tour of WAUR's new home prior to the parade.



ANZAC Day 2009

The WAUR Association will once again march in Perth on ANZAC Day with the Defence reserves Association (DRA). We will be forming up on St Georges Tce near council house. Details will follow when available. All members are encouraged to join the March it is well worth the effort.





WESTERN AUSTRALIAN UNIVERSITY REGIMENT GRADUATION BALL SATURDAY 9th MAY 2009

Lieutenant Colonel John Fisher
and the WAUR Association
have much pleasure in inviting you to the
WAUR Graduation Ball

to be held at the Sheraton Hotel
Grand Ballroom, Perth
Saturday 9th May 2009
6pm to midnight

Dress

Mess Dress or Black Tie,
Jacket and Tie or Dress 2F Polys Longsleeve with Tie
Ladies "after five"

Tickets

\$110.00 each

Ticket includes a three-course meal, all beer and wine, table service
plus entertainment including
The Army Band Perth and the Army Pipes and Drums.

\$110 per ticket by Tues 1 May 09 to

CCLK WAUR - 9311 2176
or MAJ Natalie Wigg - 040 300 2000
Cheques payable to WAUR Regimental Property Account

Units are encouraged to book tables of eight via the above

The 2010 WAUR Ball will be on Saturday 8 May 2010

Ken Keesing sent in this excellent report on his 2008 battlefield tour:

I had the good fortune to spend a month in France and Belgium in April and May last year. The first week was with an organised tour to the Somme battlefields sponsored by TBS Travel and The Australian. This was more expensive than my normal travel but considering the large area to be covered, inaccessible places, inconvenient timings [dawn and evening functions!] and the provision of military history experts as group guides, it was well worth the cost.

My father Ross [21] was a member of the 51st Bn [13 Inf Bde 4 Div AIF], in the now famous night counter attack to recapture Villers Bretonneux on 24/25 April 1918. Although successful it was a bloody "stunt" and many of Dad's mates are buried in the Adelaide Cemetery next to the village. It had been a black week prior to the battle with the Germans using mustard gas, tanks and planes and eventually taking the town. Morale was lifted when the "Red Baron" was shot down nearby by Australian ground fire. Von Richthofen's cockpit cane basket seat, can be seen in the Peronne war museum where our tour officially commenced with a Lord Mayoral reception.

I was asked to place my slouch hat on the stage with the WAUR badge proudly facing the 500 participants who were feted with French champers. I wore most of my Waurior "regalia" during the week as you can see in the photos taken at battlefield locations, such as the 2 Div Memorial just outside Peronne on Mont St Quentin. The WAURA Regimental tie and my Dad's miniatures were worn proudly at "Le Grand Bal Militaire" in Amiens, to wind up the Somme tour week. Ex WAUR CO Rod Willox and some other past unit members were also at this function.

The Dawn Service at Villers Bretonneux would have to be the standout event of my trip, [which also included the Menin Gate Ceremony, a visit to the grave of John McCrae in Boulogne and viewing the battlefields at Pozieres, Passchendaele, Messines and Fromelles.] We arrived by bus at the National Memorial about 0330 and there were already thousands of others there. They emerged from the darkness having arrived in all manner of vehicles that were clogging the usually empty narrow country road.

Well rugged up against the cold and speaking in hushed tones we made our way through the Cemetery. All was bathed in an eerie amber light just sufficient to be able to find our way past the Sword of Sacrifice to the seating in the grassed area before the Wall of Honour and the Great Tower. Beneath the tower stood the 90 year old 51st Bn Memorial Cross which had been erected at the burial site of its 76 members KIA in the assault.[13 Bde suffered over 1,000 total casualties and the 14th & 15th Bdes of 5 Div who assaulted from the north suffered 495.]

In Perth, the Memorial Cross shares the Soldiers' Chapel at St George's Cathedral with the VC won by Cliff Sadlier and the DCM awarded to Charlie Stokes in the counter attack. By dawn's light at the end of the service, the steps at the foot of the Cross were covered in a glorious colourful mass of wreaths and small floral tributes, laid in memory and gratitude by anyone who wished to pay personal homage.



Red Baron's plane cockpit seat



1 Div AIF memorial

The Anzac Service was excellently organised and presented and the 5000 in attendance were enthralled by the precision of the Catafalque Party and all the Service personnel smartly turned out in uniform. The Official speeches in French and English highlighted the close ties which exist between the People of the Somme and Australia after 90 years. The Service hymns and prayers and the Last Post bugle calls and period of silent remembrance were embraced by all, in a highly emotive atmosphere.

As the story of the Counter Attack was told I thought of the 15th Bde storming over the very ground where we stood, at that hour 90 years ago, to take ferocious revenge on the enemy for the decimation of their units at Fromelles 2 years earlier. Their coppers in the 13th Bde to the south of Villers Bretonneux could hear their frenzied shouting in the darkness as they strived to overcome unforeseen resistance to reach their own objective. The Somme Pipe Band whom we had met in Peronne provided the Pipers for the wreath laying period and the men and boys of St George's Cathedral Choir led the singing in the Service. Many men and some cadets were authentically dressed in WW1 uniform and carried the Lee Enfield rifle. After the service I was given an excellent demonstration of their rifle drill proficiency. I was pleasantly surprised by the large number of high school students present. Their interest and demeanour augurs well for the future of Anzac Commemoration at home and abroad in the future.



Dawn Service



Stone 51st Cross



Hill 60 1st Aust Tunnelling Coy

Breakfast with the teachers, students and townsfolk of Villers Bretonneux followed the Dawn Service. The children entertained with a rendition of Waltzing Matilda with delightful French accent and presentations of cash and books were made to the School by our tour members. [This is an Australian tradition started by the children of Victoria shortly after WW1.] All then formed up for the march through the town. Those in service uniform first, followed by the by the horsemen and the cadets and then the Aussie civies, many proudly wearing their relation's medals on the right breast. Watched by the applauding locals, [who expressed their sincere gratitude for the sacrifice made by the AIF to retake their town], a valiant attempt was made by the marchers to keep in step to the strains of the Somme pipes and drums. The march was dismissed at the Town Hall and many then attended a service in the local church where a stone replica of the 51st Bn Memorial Cross was presented.

Another group travelled by bus to Bullecourt to participate in a wreath laying service at the Digger Memorial, where the Newcastle High School cadets provided a guard of honour. It was very gratifying to see that in all the towns, memorials and cemeteries we visited in the days to follow, that flags were flying and floral wreaths had been placed. We visited all the AIF Division Memorials in the Somme. 1Div at Pozieres [of Windmill and Mouquet Farm sorrow], 2 Div at Mont St Quentin, 3 Div at Sailly-le-Sec and 4 Div at Bellenglise [near the Hindenburg Line]. Later in my trip I also visited the 5 Div Memorial on the Buttes of Polygon Wood Cemetery in Belgium and was amazed to see beautiful parks and woodlands, where scenes of mass slaughter had occurred, in such an inappropriately named place such as Sanctuary Wood. Another sombre experience was the visit to Fromelles, [not far from Armentieres] where the excavation of burial pits at Pheasant Wood was being prepared. The Cobbers Memorial and VC Corner Cemetery are a short distance apart, both memorable for the bravery displayed and wasteful and unnecessary sacrifice made there in 1916.

In Ieper [Ypres] I met a man who melts down the shrapnel balls to make lead soldiers. These sinker sized, deadly balls are still easy to find 90 years later after rainfall in the fields. I picked some up at Messines Ridge, where we were told that "fortunately" one shell in three failed to explode. These still remain a deadly hazard for the locals working the land. Confronting and horrific displays, such as that found at the "In Flanders Fields Museum" in Ieper and unofficial collections of war memorabilia, as at "Tommies", in Pozieres, are an unpleasant but essential experience. An opportunity to gain an insight to the underground life of thousands of diggers can also be experienced at Arras, Ieper and Albert. Of all the material of war left on the battlefields in 1918, the most sought after by the farmers were the very efficient double action hand pumps, which had to be continuously manned to keep the tunnels dry. Another useful reminder for farmers, are the gigantic craters left by the mine explosions at Messines Ridge, these now full of water are excellent dams for watering cattle.

Many of you who read this will I hope sometime in the future make your own trip. If you are planning to do your own exploring of the battlefields, I recommend you take the book by Mat McLachlan titled, "Walking with the Anzacs". It is a step by step guide through all the major battles but is very easy to read and excellently indexed. The locations of cemeteries and memorials are included as are the exploits of individual heroic incidents, which make your being there, a very personal and moving experience.

Lest We Forget
Ken Keesing



Ken at Dawn Service



Ken with Tom Keesing at Grevillers

WAUR Colours Presentation

David Treloar sent in this photo from the 1958 colours presentation parade clearly showing the troops on the grounds of the university of Western Australia.

John Le Tessier recalls: promptly at 2.30 p.m., the Regiment marched on to the parade line to the strains of "The Great Little Army". For the purposes of this ceremony the Regiment was drawn up in line of four companies with a number of troops used to line the ground.

Thanks David for this great piece of WAUR history.



The following was WAUR's contribution to the 1983 Chronicle – an Annual report on the Royal Green Jackets activities.

WESTERN AUSTRALIAN UNIVERSITY REGIMENT

Commanding Officer:

Lieutenant-Colonel T. J. Arbuckle, ED

Second-in-Command:

Major L. A. Stewart

Regimental Sergeant Major:

Warrant Officer Class 1 R. E. McKeown (ARA)

The Western Australian University Regiment has gone from strength to strength over the last twelve months. Our posted strength now stands at 417, an all-time high.

At the time of writing, the Regiment has all but concluded its successful 1983 training programme and is poised to commence 1984 with our Annual Camp in the South West of Western Australia.

1983 is summarised as follows:

A Company-Officer Commanding: Major S. E. Dean

A Company, our only rifle company-completed Advanced Training for all members, which comprised exercises in all phases of war, and in particular "The Advance" this was stressed during Camp 1983 in the form of an "ARTEP".

During the non-continuous phase of training, the company conducted a Machine Gunners Course and a Scouting Course for all members of the company. In September the company strength almost doubled with the influx of IET soldiers from Training Company who, having completed the individual cycle of IET, now prepare for the collective phase during the 1984 camp as part of A Company.

Training Company-Officer Commanding: Major J. B. Houliston

Training Company began the year with Officer Course 3 commencing the final phase of their training during the Regimental Camp from 3rd January to 18th January. After two weeks of the theory of tactics, the course continued on to the Unit Courses Camp from 18th January to 1st February to complete the practical tactics phase of their training. Officer Course 3 commenced training in January 1982 with 20 students, and 12 students graduated at the Regimental Parade on 23rd April 1983.

Officer Course 4 commenced training on 18th January 1983 with 15 students and are due to complete their course in 1984. Training during 1983 is aimed mainly at the theoretical aspects of administration, instructions, leadership, management and first aid and health, together with development of practical skills in minor tactics; all of which will be tested during the final period of practical training to be conducted in January/February 1984.

Other aspects of training undertaken by the company during the year have been: Subject 1 Course for Promotion to Corporal, and Initial Employment Training for soldiers who have completed a basic recruit camp. IET is designed to develop individual infantry skills and leads to later training which enables the soldier to perform tasks as a member of an infantry platoon.

Headquarter Company-Officer Commanding: Captain B. Whelan

During the latter part of 1982 members of Headquarter Company provided support at the various Regimental activities. Advanced driver training was also conducted, with exercises in wading and fording, recovery and navigation.

During Regimental Camp 1983 the company played a major part, and cooks, clerks, medics, drivers and storemen were able to practice their skills in field conditions.

During January, courses were conducted for drivers and signallers. This training was completed later in the year and those who attended now hold positions in the respective platoons. In addition, several members were trained as storemen at an external course in May.

The company has continued to provide support for the Regiment's activities throughout the year, and has also participated in the Regimental Parade and Annual Range Practice. This on the job training will equip members with the skills they need for camp next year.

There has been a large number of changes in personalities through 1983, and it's not over yet. The Honorary Colonel, Brigadier I. D. Stock, ED, completes his term in office, as does our CO, Lieut-Colonel T. J. Arbuckle, ED-both replacements have yet to be named

Some changes amongst our Regular Army Cadre have also taken place, with more to follow. Captain Neil Rankin, the Quartermaster, has already left, and has been replaced by Warrant Officer Class I "Scotty" Alcorn. Captain Ray Martin, the Adjutant, is to leave by the end of the year and will be replaced by Captain John Edwards. Warrant Officer Class 2 Len Faver is also soon to march out to Recruiting and will be replaced in the Training Cell by W02 "Blue" MacPherson. The RQMS, W02 Bob Bayliss, was replaced on his retirement by W02 Noel Laurent. In fact, the only Cadre not to be changed in 1983 were S/Sgt. Dick Spain, the Chief Clerk, and L/Cpl George Fikerle, who maintains the continuity of the Regiment's Q function.

JUST A COMMON SOLDIER

He was getting old and paunchy, his hair was falling fast, He sat around the Legion, telling stories of the past. Of a war that he had fought in, and the deeds that he had done, In exploits with his buddies, those heroes every one.

Though sometimes to his neighbours, his tales became a joke, All his pals had listened, for they know of where he spoke. But we'll hear his tales no longer, for old Bill has passed away, And the world's a little poorer, for a soldier died today.

He'll not be mourned by many, just his children and his wife, For he lived quite an ordinary and uneventful life. He held a job and raised a family, going quietly on his way, The Work's won't know his passing, though a soldier died today.

When politicians leave this earth, their bodies lie in State, While thousands note their passing, and proclaim that they were great. Papers tell their life stories from the time that they were young, But the passing of a soldier goes unnoticed and unsung.

Is the greatest contribution, to the welfare of our Land, A chap who breaks his promises and con's his fellow man? Or does the ordinary fellow who, in times of war and strife, Go off to serve his Country and offers up his life.

A politician's stipend and style in which he lives, Are sometimes disproportionate to the service that he gives, While the ordinary soldier, who offers up his all, Is paid off with a medal and no doubt a pension small.

It's so easy to forget them, for it was a long time ago, That the 'Old Bill' of our Country went to battle but we know, It was not the politicians, with their compromise and ploys, Who won for us the freedom our Country now enjoys.

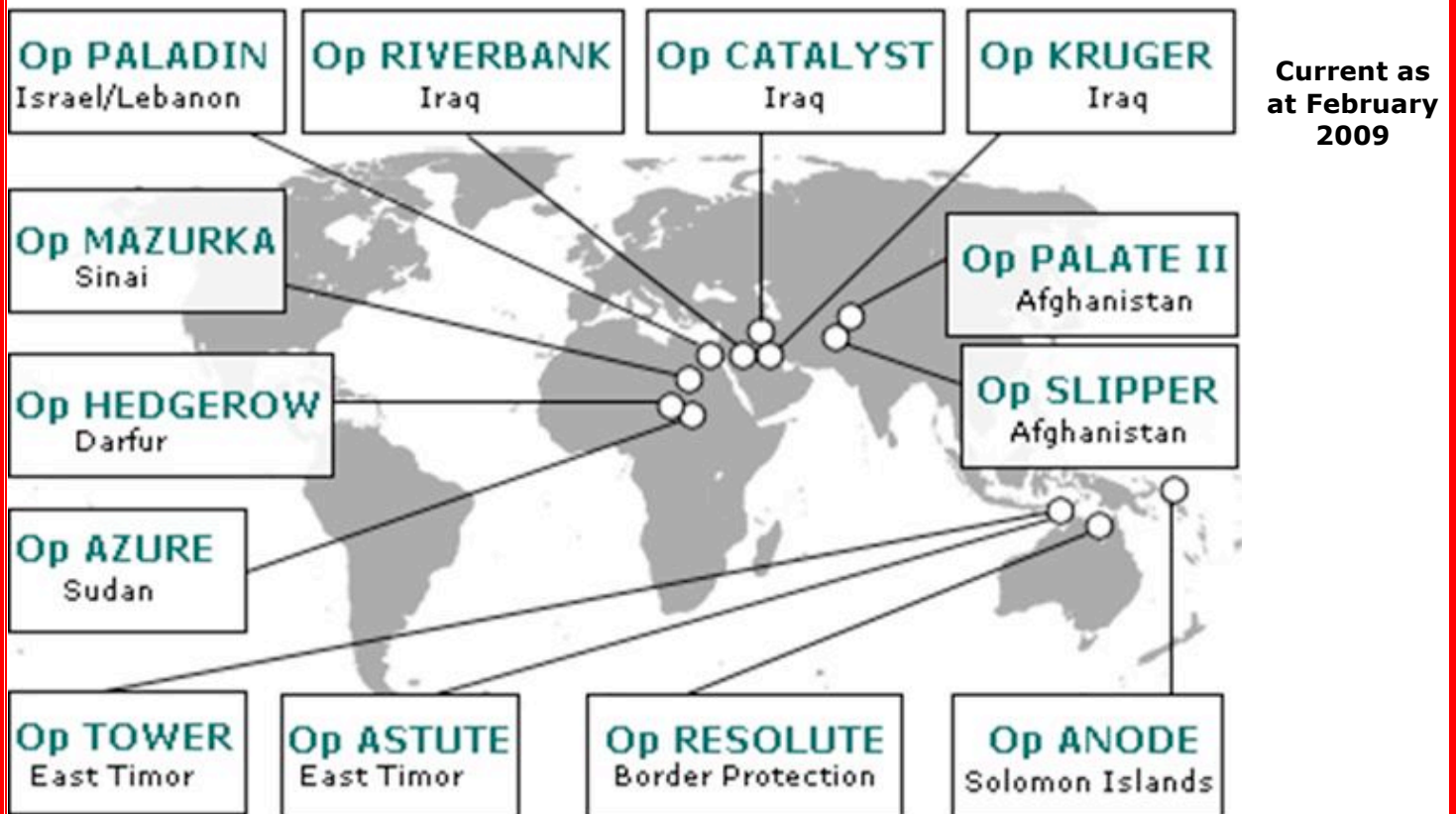
Should you find yourself in danger, with your enemies at hand, Would you want a politician, with his ever shifting sand? Or would you prefer a soldier who has sworn to defend, His home, his kin and Country and would fight until the end.

He was just a common soldier his ranks are growing thin, But his presence should remind us, we may need his like again. For when Countries are in conflict, then we find the soldiers part, Is to clean up all the troubles the politicians start.

If we cannot do him honour while he's here to hear the praise, Then at least let's give him homage at the ending of his days. Perhaps a simple headline in the paper that would say, "Our Country is in mourning for a Soldier died today".

An anonymous old soldier.





Over upcoming issues of the WAURior details of 13 Brigade operations will be published:

OP ANODE

Operation ANODE is the name of the ADF contribution to the Australian-led Regional Assistance Mission to Solomon Islands (RAMSI). RAMSI's assistance is known as Operation HELPEM FREN (Pidgin English for 'Helping Friend'). RAMSI's mission is to assist the Solomon Islands Government in restoring law and order, economic governance, and improving the machinery of government.

The military component of RAMSI is comprised of personnel from four troop-contributing nations - Australia, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea and Tonga. The main task for the military component is to provide security for RAMSI's multinational Participating Police Force (PPF) who work alongside the Royal Solomon Islands Police in maintaining law and order

The ADF contribution to RAMSI

Since the introduction of RAMSI in 2003, the number of Australian troops in support has varied depending on the degree of unrest experienced. After the rioting that followed the April 2006 general elections, RAMSI military personnel have continued their contribution to maintaining a calming effect on the situation in the Solomon Islands.

LTCOL Russ Lowe is the Commander of the Combined Task Force. Approximately 140 ADF troops, drawn from the Tasmanian and South Australian based 9th Brigade, are deployed in the Solomon Islands and are involved in roles including:

- Soldiers who support the PPF by accompanying them on patrols of the Solomon Islands, and
- Specialist military staff in RAMSI headquarters whose role is to coordinate the multi-national military effort with the PPF.

Since 2006, the ADF has deployed five Army Reserve Company groups accounting for more than 700 part-time soldiers. The deployment of these ADF personnel, at the invitation of the Solomon Islands Government, aims to ensure the ongoing success of RAMSI in improving law and order in the Solomon Islands. Australia remains determined to ensure that the law and order established in the Solomon Islands is maintained.

OP ASTUTE

Operation ASTUTE is the ADF's contribution in assisting to restore peace and stability to East Timor, following a request from the Government of East Timor to the Australian Government.

The ADF deployed to East Timor to assist the East Timorese Government and the United Nations in bringing stability, security and confidence to the Timorese people.

The New Zealand Defence Force (NZDF) is working alongside the ADF to assist with this mission.

Together, the ADF and NZDF personnel form the International Stabilisation Force (ISF) in East Timor.

International police from Australia and 20 other nations provide security in Dili as part of the United Nations Police Force. The ISF provides support to these police operations as required.

Current ADF commitment

The Australian-led ISF is comprised of approximately 650 Defence Force members alongside 140 New Zealand Defence Force troops.

The ISF is composed of:

- A Joint Task Force Headquarters drawn from elements throughout the ADF and commanded by **Brigadier Bill Sowry**;
- An Aviation Task Group; and
- An Infantry Battle Group.

East Timor Battle Group 5 consists of:

- An infantry battalion headquarters;
- Two Australian infantry companies and an administration company from the 5th Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment, and a New Zealand Rifle Company (Kiwi Coy); and
- A Battery from 16 Air Defence Regiment.

Specialists and additional personnel from a number of other units around Australia are also involved in the Battle Group. A total of approximately 35 units are involved.

East Timor Battle Group 5 is commanded by LTCOL Darren Huxley.

The East Timor Aviation Group (EMAG) comprises of about 70 personnel including:

- An Australian Army Aviation detachment equipped with Black Hawk helicopters; and
- Technical support staff, logistic staff, headquarters and operations staff, and an emergency response cell.

The EMAG provides a logistic and airmobile response capability for the JTF.

OP AZURE

Operation AZURE is the deployment of ADF personnel to the United Nations peacekeeping operation in Sudan known as the **United Nations Mission in Sudan (UNMIS)**.

The contribution includes military observers and personnel who specialise in air movements and logistic support. The Commander of the Australian contingent is LTCOL Peter Fleming.

The UN Security Council authorised the establishment of UNMIS on 24 March 2005 under Resolution 1590, after the government of Sudan and the Sudan People's Liberation Movement signed the Comprehensive Peace Agreement to end a civil war lasting more than 20 years.

Operation AZURE is commanded by Lieutenant Colonel Peter Flemming. There are approximately 25 ADF personnel serving on Operation AZURE.

This year, taxpayers will receive an Economic Stimulus Payment. This is a very exciting new program that I will explain using the Q and A format:

Q. What is an Economic Stimulus Payment?

A. It is money that the federal government will send to taxpayers.

Q. Where will the government get this money?

A. From taxpayers.

Q. So the government is giving me back my own money?

A. Only a smidgin.

Q. What is the purpose of this payment?

A. The plan is that you will use the money to purchase a high-definition TV set or some such thing, thus stimulating the economy.

Q. But isn't that stimulating the economy of China ?

A. Shut up.

Below is some helpful advice on how to best help the Australian economy by spending your stimulus cheque wisely:

If you spend that money at Kmart, all the money will go to China .

If you spend it on petrol it will go to the Arabs.

If you purchase a computer it will go to India .

If you buy a car it will go to Japan .

If you purchase useless crap it will go to Taiwan .

And none of it will help the Australian economy.

We need to keep that money here in Australia. You can keep the money in Australia by spending it at garage sales, going to a cricket match or footy game, or spend it on prostitutes, beer and wine (domestic ONLY), or tattoos, since those are the only businesses that may still be owned by Aussies



This is a University of Western Australia archive photo of the original WAUR barracks circa 1950.

Below is an extract from a 1980 recruiting leaflet.....sucked me in anyway.....

It is a fact that since 1949 thousands of tertiary students have served part-time with Western Australian University Regiment, without any interference to their studies.

WAUR is the Army Reserve's special unit in W.A. for students. Our annual training cycle is geared to the academic year breaks, with all major activities, such as promotion courses and Annual Camp, held in the May and January vacations.

WAUR is an officer training unit. If you join in your first year of studies it is possible for you to gain a Queen's Commission as an officer in the Australian Army by the time you graduate - if you are good enough.

Training in WAUR, which is an infantry unit, includes marksmanship, navigation, fieldcraft and all other basic soldiering skills. Then follows specialist training such as in mortars, assault pioneers, driving, communications, and adventure training. You will meet and mix with fellow students from other institutions, form comradeship's and share adventures whilst learning these skills. You will get a complete change doing things very different from everyday student life. You will overcome the personal challenges involved in doing physically arduous training, fending for yourself and others, learning to live in the bush and doing a difficult job, to become a soldier.

At WAUR you will gain organisational and administrative training, develop as a person, become a leader and receive tax-free pay for the time you put in. Are you good enough? Are you a stayer? If so we welcome your inquiry.

For further information telephone (09) 3213141 8am - 4pm weekdays also Tuesday evenings between 7.30pm - 9.30pm, or fill in the coupon below.





To: Army Reserve Enlistment Staff
 Western Australian University Regiment
 20 Mounts Bay Road
 Perth, W.A. 6000.

Please send me further details about your unit.

Name

Address

Postcode

Phone Age

Authorised by the Unit Commanding Officer for the Director-General of Recruiting. Publication No. 151-P (WAUR) August 80.

The Certificate of Non Achievement is awarded to

CPL CRAFTER

For distinguishing himself by exceptionally mediocre service during the period JAN 54 to FEB 54 while in the position of SECT COMD. During this period SIMON was confronted by a variety of inconsequential challenges. Unlike his more level-headed associates, SIMON crumbled under the slightest pressure. He has consistently displayed a total lack of knowledge of, or interest in, any facet of his position. During his tenure, his position rapidly deteriorated into a state of complete disarray. His selfish and unco-operative personality soon infected his associates to the extent that all those with whom his section dealt were treated with hostility and contempt. His unkempt appearance, sloth and general 'Fuck You' attitude stand as a tribute to those who seek to undermine the military system. His sub-standard performance is in keeping with the lowest traditions of humanity and reflects distinct discredit upon himself, his unmarried parents, and society as a whole.

Signed [Signature]

DE-SET 2A

Date 27 MAR 54

The Western Australian University Regimental has had a alliance with the Rifles for nearly 50 Years. The original affiliation was made in 1955 with the The Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry (43rd & 52nd). Much like the Australian forces the British reorganised and amalgamated their Military, the result for WAUR being an affiliation with The Rifles. This short extract from their website gives some details:

The Rifles trace their values and heritage back to the Peninsular War and the time portrayed in the TV series Sharpe. Then, as today, independence of thought and action were prized amongst the specialist soldiers equipped with rifles who were known as Riflemen. Scroll down for introductory video about the Rifles...

ABOUT US

We formed in 2007 from The Devon & Dorset Light infantry, The Royal Gloucestershire, Berkshire Wiltshire Light Infantry, The Light Infantry and The Royal Green Jackets.

With 5 Regular and 2 TA battalions, The Rifles offer unique, full time (Regular) and part time (Reservist) opportunities to acquire skills and to experience a wide range of adventures. If you want Respect, Independence, Friends for life, to Learn new skills, Excitement and Success in later life, we can offer it.

If you are interested in joining as a Rifleman, we will prepare you for this adventure with a thorough training package which will help you to make the best of yourself and teach you to meet the challenges of today's Infantry.

OPERATIONAL ROLES AND SKILLS

We have the widest range of roles of any infantry regiment and, uniquely, we have a battalion in the Commando Role with 3 Commando Brigade. Other battalions offer Armoured infantry in Warrior AFVs, Light Role for jungle and mountain operations and Mechanised in Bulldog AFVs. Our wide range of roles requires the modern day rifleman to master many skills including: Sniper, Mortar Man, Medic, Anti Tank Guided Weapons Specialist, Driver including HGV & Tracked, Radio Operator, IT specialist, Combat Engineer plus a range of people skills and experience transferrable to a successful career later in civilian life.

CURRENT OPERATIONS AND WHATS GOING ON

The Rifles are often on operations and training deployments worldwide including The Falklands, South Georgia, Kosovo, Belize, Iraq and Afghanistan. There are plenty of opportunities for sport and expeditions and in the last 18 months Riflemen have climbed in the Himalayas, skied in the Alps and boxed at National level. To follow what we do in more detail see the news section

WAUR RELOCATE

December 16th saw WAUR hold a marching out parade as they left Artillery Barracks to take up residence at Leeuwin. By the Associations count this is the 8th move since formation in 1949.

A contingent of former WAURiors watched a brief display of drill which proved the old saying those that can do those that can't teach, followed by a symbolic handing over of the keys to the Army Museum (whose chairman Tom Goode who was a former CO of WAUR from 1985 to 1988). The parade concluded with WAUR and the colours being marched out of the barracks.



You asked for it - now **buy** it!

In response to member's demands, your Association (at great expense to the management it has to be said) arranged for the production of quality ties, lapel badges, cuff links and tie bars. These items will be on sale at Association Functions and are also available by mail order. The lapel pins, tie bars and cuff links are in a quality gold coloured metal and feature the Unit crest. The Association ties are modeled on the original Unit tie and have been made up in a quality silk blend material. An order form is with this newsletter or visit the Website for ordering details.

Price List

INDIVIDUAL ITEMS

Cuff links (pair)	\$20.00	(Gold metal, swivel clasp)
Lapel pins	\$ 7.50	(Gold metal, single pin)
Association Shirt	\$30.00	(Quality fabric, embroidered logo)
Stubby holders	\$ 7.50	(Yellow text on Green, top quality)
Tie bars	\$12.50	(Gold metal, bulldog type clasp)
Ties	\$45.00	(Silk blend)

VALUE PACKS

Association pack ~~85.00~~ \$62.50
(Tie, ~~tie bar~~, lapel badge, cuff links)

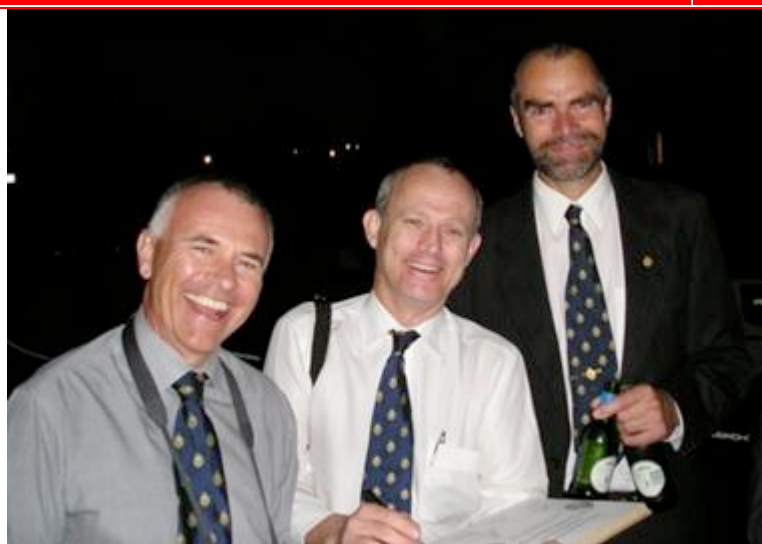
~~**Tie pack** 57.50 \$50.00~~
(~~Tie, tie bar~~)

Lapel pack ~~27.50~~ \$25.00
(Lapel badge, cuff links)



Left: Tie Pin, Below Tie Bar.
Right Shirt Crest





Above and below right: Roger May – man of action!

Above Left: Graham McMahon. Ian Gaynor and Shaun Chapman

Got any goss or self promotion – send it to chapmans@iinet.net.au

CANNON BALLS !!!

It was necessary to keep a good supply of cannon balls near the cannon on old war ships. But how to prevent them from rolling about the deck was the problem. The best storage method devised was to stack them as a square based pyramid, with one ball on top, resting on four, resting on nine, which rested on sixteen.

Thus, a supply of 30 cannon balls could be stacked in a small area right next to the cannon. There was only one problem -- how to prevent the bottom layer from sliding/rolling from under the others.

The solution was a metal plate with 16 round indentations, called, for reasons unknown, a Monkey. But if this plate were made of iron, the iron balls would quickly rust to it. The solution to the rusting problem was to make them of brass - hence, Brass Monkeys.

Few landlubbers realize that brass contracts much more and much faster than iron when chilled. Consequently, when the temperature dropped too far, the brass indentations would shrink so much that the iron cannon balls would come right off the monkey.

Thus, it was quite literally, cold enough to freeze the balls off a brass monkey. And all this time, you thought that was just a vulgar expression, didn't you?

Bill Hawthorn sent in this account of his time with National Service and WAUR, this detailed and humorous account gives a great insight into part time service in the late 1950s and early 1960s. Congratulations to Bill for this outstanding work and we can only hope that reading it inspires other association members to also put pen to paper.

Weekend bivouacs and the annual camp were much more interesting than the weekly parades. A number of camps were held at Northam usually in January or February the hottest time of the year or at Kingston Barracks on Rottnest Island which was a much more acceptable location. On a camp at Northam, I remember it was important for all of us under 21 year old guys to get into a pub in Northam for some underage drinking. In army uniform we would be driven into town in the back of trucks, the drivers of which, delighted in coasting down a long hill with the ignition switched off so that when the ignition was switched on the accumulated compressed fuel would explode with a resonating bang that sent us all through the canvas canopy on the back of the truck. In town we would head into a back bar of a pub and any one over 21 would order enough beers to supply us all whilst we usually had a sentry posted outside to warn us of any approaching military police. If they arrived on the scene we quickly discarded our beers and held in our hands a convenient glass of lemonade that we always kept close by. No one was fooled by this procedure, but it meant that when the MPs saw us we were abiding by the law.

Because the camps ran, I think for about two weeks, there was plenty of time to organize all sorts of devious procedures for avoiding many of the more onerous camp duties. On one camp I remember a small group of about 7-8 of us found ourselves without sleeping quarters - all the barracks seemed to be full and we were assigned to a small hut some distance from the main sleeping quarters, this proved very beneficial as we seemed to have been overlooked and managed to avoid morning inspections and roll calls and being somewhat enterprising we noticed a cleaning squad that came around each day in a jeep with mops, brooms brushes and buckets etc, so we determined to be another cleaning squad except we would have nothing to clean. Spinning some cock and bull story about a separate group needing the equipment we managed to draw the required permit for a jeep and the associated cleaning gear. This gave us a golden opportunity to drive into Northam during the day, pretending to be on official duties. Some of the men seemed to quickly find lady friends in town so we developed a roster system as to whose turn it was to borrow the jeep for those clandestine visits. As it turned out our misappropriation of one jeep for non existent cleaning duties was a misdemeanour compared to one private of Russian descent who decided he'd had enough of the army so he stole a jeep and drove it to his parent's place in Albany - a week later he was back in camp in jail under guard and charged with numerous offences. I could speak to him through the iron bars of a small external window and learned that he was enjoying the whole debacle, as being a law student, he was studying military law and preparing his own defence and seemed confident that he could beat the charges against him. His only complaint was that because he couldn't eat in the mess hall his meals were rather spartan and he asked me to get him a packet of biscuits and some chocolate, which I duly did, passing them through the iron bars when no one was watching. Naturally the case of Private ??? versus the Western Australian University Regiment created some interest amongst the members of the unit. However all this was thrown into chaos as the Australian Government announced that compulsory military service was being abandoned. This meant that all the conscripts in the regiment on a specified date would be free to return their military equipment and leave the regiment with an honourable discharge.

Whatever happened to our Russian law student, I don't know, but I think the army was glad to get rid of him so it probably dropped the charges against him or imposed a hefty fine.

Of course, faced with a huge reduction in their numbers the WAUR., NCOs and Officers seemed to conduct a rushed public relations campaign to encourage as many people to stay on in a voluntary capacity as possible. The pay was good, it was fun and there was the promise of promotion so I stayed on. At the end of another camp at Northam the day of return to Perth for the troops became a real dilemma. On the final night of our camp a certain band of renegades had broken into the sergeant's mess and breached the liquor store, stealing and consuming vast quantities of spirits. As it turned out many of the renegades were drivers of our army trucks so it was a sobering experience the next day to see the drivers trying to pass a sobriety test by walking a white tape laid out on the parade ground. Only 20% of the drivers passed the test - it looked as if we were to be marooned in Northam. At this stage every available man who had an army truck driving permit and who was sober was called upon to help get us all back to Perth. Our return journey to the city was in a slow carefully driven convoy with many of the trucks occupants suffering from hangovers. Fortunately we all arrived safely in Perth. Before closing on my memories of Northam, I should refer to a Salvation Army man whose name I think was Horrie, who on the hottest days would appear with his van at the end of a days training. He would supply us all with ice cold lemon squash drinks which were very much appreciated..

Dear Editor,

I read your letter to Presidents, "Rewarding Illness?" and am amazed that such a premise as you describe, as coming from bureaucrats in the DVA, had even got past a word processor without the CPU hemorrhaging and the screen imploding and spontaneously combusting. I am incensed that people so out of touch and clearly combative with the veteran community could be employed by DVA. I therefore, would like to begin and encourage such a shake up of DVA that these people are either sacked or moved to another department.

I would love just one of these people to have spent the 3 months in the psyche ward at Palm Beach-Currumbin Hospital with me after, probably for the 5th but certainly the most dynamic time I "crashed and burnt". The first 5 weeks I lay in foetal position, not able to even move without drugs and encouragement from other clients, Staff, Psychologists and Doctors until I was diagnosed by a PTSD specialist Psychiatrist.

I spent the following 9 weeks in a fulltime Vietnam-war PTSD treatment program with other diggers from all sorts of corps and jobs, and yet, the things we had in common were endless; even though none of us had ever met before.

Sometimes I hate having to even admit to myself let alone others, that I'm a Vietnam veteran. I know what pain and inability to cope it has caused me. I have a difficult life to keep together anyway, being notorious, being a single-parent, having kids who are or have been leading dysfunctional lives, and a hopeless ability to keep intimate relationships (wives/partners) together. Yet when, the audience is expecting the same old happy, clowning, effervescent entertainer they've always known, I'm bleeding inside because of my inability to cope with the overwhelming stress of my personal life. Then some insulated, moron accuses me and thousands like me of the second most despised attitude in the Australian Military (the first being a "Jack-man" the second of being a malingerer), I have to throw my hands up and violently protest and scream enough!!

During my time in the hospital I was honoured to be privy to some personal stories that will never be told outside the safety of the group sessions we attended. I don't mean just those of the horrors of actions in the war itself either. In fact, the way so many veterans have had to psychologically subsist saddened me very deeply. The "being together", "being safe" enough to let go of feelings we were ashamed to have in the first place, and then to be able share those feelings not even our partners had known about, with people we hadn't met before and yet with whom we still felt safe, was a revelation. No, it wasn't a cure, but certainly a relief. A relief to know we aren't alone. We now know that there are others who understand, and to whom we can turn, and who will not judge us because all of a sudden a great dark cloud has descended upon us and triggered uncontrollable weeping and sadness, and feelings of utmost despair. People who will support us with care and love and mateship when a sense of panic and anxiety that cripples rational thinking to a point that the only way out is by suicide. Suicide? But how? What way, with the least collateral damage? What way, that our loved ones will understand that our wish is to remove their biggest liability? That liability? Ourselves. Being around them and causing them so much pain having to watch us struggle with the awfulness visited upon us constantly, periodically or often in short bursts or for long lengths of time, without notice, that the only way out for them to be able to have a peaceful life, is for us to be out of their life's equation.

Heartless, cold and completely, either ignorant or uneducated these bureaucrats have no right to be dealing in any matter that involves veterans. Tim, if we let these people perpetrate such injustices in the twilight of our watch, then what of the younger veterans coming through the ranks and the years? What will they have to endure in the name of the honour of serving our country? Especially when the "Jack-men" who scavenge their living at the carcasses of honourable men and women, faceless behind their desks, decry and belittle the very nature, mortal danger, and the physical and mental fallout of the service provided by these men and women of courage.

I'm tired of crusades, I'm tired of life. I'm tired of hearing "just move on, put it all behind you" but I'll be damned if I'm going to be called a bloody malingerer. And so I would be happy for you to pass this letter onto your constituents if it would incite them to write and demand the severance or removal from DVA people who have systemically been taught that all veterans are non-deserving bastards who are only out to "rot the system".

And while we're at it I, like so many of my ex-service mates and colleagues who were press-ganged into the military, now have the privilege to pay to have prescriptions filled for medicines that treat conditions caused by the military service.

I now wish to demand that DVA pay the full cost of the pain and misery it's counterparts of the past, present and the future have caused. and will cause in the future.

I didn't ask in the first place to be forced into service. It has already cost me and all my colleagues immensely. Why should I still have to keep paying? If you don't think that's an insult then can anyone please explain what is?

In addition to completely costless meds, I think we should get back every cent that we have paid out in the past, filling prescriptions. And that's not my opening gambit.

In honour of our mates gone, and those of us still standing-to at the perimeter.

After this was graded and the child brought it home, she returned to school the next day with the following note:

Dear Ms. Davis,

I want to be very clear on my child's illustration. It is NOT of me on a dance pole on a stage in a strip joint. I work at B&Q (hardware) and had commented to my daughter how much money we made in the recent snowstorm. This photo is of me selling a shovel.

Mrs. Harrington



A platoon of soldiers was marching north of Fallujah when they came upon an Iraqi terrorist, badly injured and unconscious.

On the opposite side of the road was an Australian soldier in a similar but less serious state.

The soldier was conscious and alert and as first aid was given to both men, the Platoon Leader asked the injured Australian what had happened.

The soldier reported, 'I was heavily armed and moving north along the highway here, and coming south was a heavily armed insurgent.' We saw each other and both took cover in the ditches along the road. I yelled to him that Saddam Hussein was a miserable, lowlife scum bag who got what he deserved.

He yelled back that Kevin Rudd is a bureaucratic, Good-for-nothing, left wing labour dickhead who knows bugger all about running the country.'

'So I said that Osama Bin Ladin dresses and acts like a frigid, mean-spirited lesbian!'

He retaliated by yelling, 'Oh yeah? Well, so does Julia Gillard!'

'And, there we were, in the middle of the road, laughing, shaking hands, when a fucking truck hit us.'



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