



Austin Byrne—Editor

Sapper Summit

From the Editor

In the last issue, we covered the Sir Clive Steele Lecture where it was announced that the two ARES Regiments in Victoria will consolidate into one in early 2014. We now have an update on this, including the numbering of the Regiment and the Squadrons, plus some Troop details for the Construction Squadron.

— see page 10.

The RAE occupied the Swan Street site from about March 1935 to November 1991. It was also the Chief Engineer's HQ during WW2. The RAA Depot was at the southern end of the compound also. For some time, Bruce Campbell has been negotiating to have an appropriate plaque mounted in the Bubbledome complex to mark the Army use. He now reports that the CEO of the Melbourne and Olympic Parks Trust has advised that the Trust will use artist Ron Bastian to design a plaque covering RAE and RAA occupation of the former Swan Street and Batman Avenue Depots. The Trust will pay for the production of the plaque.

On 12 August, I was one of some 30 Sappers and RAA Association members who went on an excursion to Puckapunyal to see Ex Big Bang. It was excellent. See page 8.

Just as this issue was about to go to the printer, word came through that Sapper James Thomas Martin has been killed in Afghanistan as one of five soldiers killed in 24 hours. Our thoughts and condolences go out to his family and to his fellow soldiers at 2CER, and in fact, to the whole ADF, and the all families impacted on by these events.

... *The Editor*

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SAPPER SUMMIT

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See page 15 for a note regarding receipts for
subscribers who take the email version of
Sapper Summit.

Rob Youl's Column

Last issue I wrote about the late New Zealander Captain Charles Upham VC and bar, drawing especially from an interesting but stilted 1962 book. In contrast, Mike Colman's 2009 biography of Keith Payne VC has a straightforward, very Australian style.

Keith Payne, grandson of a WWI soldier, son of a WWII veteran, fourth in a family of thirteen spread from the 1930s to the early 1950s, turns 79 on 30 August 2012. Keith grew up in Ingham, the far North Queensland sugar town. Completely at home in the bush night and day, he and his boyhood mates were clannish, self-reliant, lively shooters and fishermen. Besides satisfying their youthful adventurous spirits, they fed their families during the Depression and WWII. Leaving school at fourteen, reluctantly pursuing a cabinet-making apprenticeship, Keith joined 31 Regional Cadet Battalion, and at sixteen and six months, the CMF.

He enjoyed all this, partly as in those days one took one's .303 home and used it on local crocodiles and pigs, but especially because soldiering came easily. Enlisting in the ARA on 13 August 1951, after recruit training at Enoggera he moved to 2 RAR at Puckapunyal, source of reinforcements for 1 RAR and 3 RAR, which rotated on active service in Korea. Keith joined 1 RAR on Hill 317 for ten days before the battalion moved back into the reserve. A fortnight later he was in Samchon valley on Holiday Hill opposite The Hook, at which the Chinese threw tens of thousands of troops during the war, to be repulsed four times. Then it was Hill 355, Little Gibraltar, and winter, with its extreme cold, underground living, huge rats, dangerous improvised heaters, the same clothes for weeks at a time, and demanding night patrols. The most challenging was Op-

SAPPER SUMMIT SUPPORT

Can you help with news items, suggestions, and letters to the editor, etc. Send them to either:

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Our target date for articles for the remaining 2012 issue is:

November issue: by 19 October

Note that articles or opinions of authors or contributors are their own and do not necessarily reflect the position of the Association. The format and clarity of the articles is the responsibility of the contributor.

eration Flora, a company-sized patrol to take prisoners. They brought none back, but Keith and comrade Albert Charfield dropped into a long, deep Chinese communications trench to throw hand grenades into side entrances, and had anxious moments being extracted hanging onto their mates' rifles—maybe that's why *ropes, assembly* became part of one's field equipment.

Keith, a reinforcement, had to stay behind in 28 Commonwealth Brigade when 1 RAR returned home in March 1953. Promoted to corporal, he shepherded supply convoys to the front. One night a returning water truck rolled or was hit by artillery; Keith was badly injured—jaw, legs—and was soon in an Indian field hospital, then off to Japan for a long recuperation, and repatriation on his twentieth birthday. Ingham was too quiet; as nobody understood Korea's complexities and challenges, Keith spent the rest of his long leave in Brisbane. Joining 4 Cadet Battalion in Townsville as a corporal storeman/driver, he started instructing. On an Enoggera transport course he met a WRAAC, Florence Plaw, and they were soon engaged. As in so many arenas in those days, marriage meant Flo, also a corporal, had to leave the army. They started a family, which eventually numbered five boys, moving in 1956 to 11 National Service Battalion, Wacol. The late fifties were satisfying for Keith, training 1950s nashos in the largest of the state battalions, and doing numerous courses himself. When the scheme ended in November 1959, he remained in Brisbane, transferring to 3 RAR as a section commander then a platoon sergeant.

The Malayan emergency, when British troops campaigned against communist terrorists (CTs) throughout the peninsula, had ended by 31 July

1960, however 1 RAR stayed a further year, to be replaced by 2 RAR, then 3 RAR in 1963. Keith and family lived at Terendak on the beach; Keith's patrols on the Malay-Thai border yielded few contacts. However, from 1962, Dr Sukarno's Indonesia had been sabre-rattling in the east of the region. Sukarno was determined to 'crush Malaysia', the post-colonial confederation of Malaya, Singapore (which soon left), Sarawak and British North Borneo (which became Sabah). Ironically, while Keith was away in the northern jungles, Indonesian infiltrators blew up power poles near his family's Terendak quarters. Later Keith was involved in the capture of an Indonesian landing party. Eventually 3 RAR served in Borneo itself, but by this time Keith and family were back home. The Australian Army was raising a large force for service in Vietnam, partly through national service, which would start in mid 1965. In late 1964 Keith joined the staff of OTU Scheyville, the national service officer academy outside Sydney. He ran the fieldcraft wing for thirty months—five courses—with a small, quirky but able group of other warrant officers and sergeants, all with overseas experience. I was at OTU then, and well remember Keith's enthusiasm, confidence, broad grin and *in-your-face* demeanour, and his colleagues, Welshman Taff Evans and the archetypal German greyhound, Alex Von Kurtz.

Throughout his OTU posting, he and his colleagues itched to somehow get onto Vietnam-bound drafts. In late 1966 he joined 2 Battalion, Pacific Islands Regiment at Wewak. Many readers will remember that Australia fostered a distinctive, tough and able post-war force in what became PNG. Clad in smart juniper green uniforms, PIR members patrolled throughout the country. Keith's unit was in the Star Mountains along the Irian Jaya border where Indonesians made numerous incursions. Keith enjoyed leading indigenous troops, not the least because he grown up around Aboriginal people, and the Paynes lived happily at Wewak. Then in late 1968, Keith got what he wanted: a posting to South Vietnam with the Australian Army Training Team Vietnam (AATTV). He did an advisors course at Canungra, then a language course in South Australia in Vietnamese—he reflected that French might have been better because many of the Montagnards he would lead in battle spoke it.

Posted to Pleiku in the central highlands near the Cambodian border, he commanded 212 Company, 1 Battalion, Mobile Strike Force, made up of Montagnard tribesmen, paid by the day, who had little time for the lowland Vietnamese. Alongside him in the battalion were three other Australian warrant officers and several US Army special forces personnel. This cadre of experienced infanteers devoted as much time as possible to training these raw but rugged soldiers, with Keith's recent PNG experience proving invaluable. In the bush, the battalion faced very challenging times against the Vietcong (VC) and North Vietnamese Army (NVA). Heliborne operations were hectic, employing aircraft from Iroquois to Chinooks. However, thanks to

the Vietnamisation policy there was no guaranteed air and artillery support, as the Vietnamese favoured their own troops.

Colman's book covers this period in interesting detail. In late April 1969, during what's now called the Anzac Day operation, a bullet zipped across Keith's face, knocking him down. Even before he recovered, which luckily was almost immediately, the Army had promulgated a casualty report. Back in Brisbane, when Ronald Payne saw an army car from the front window, his mother Flo asked how many men were in the vehicle. To her extreme relief, he said, 'Only one, Mum!' She realised immediately that had Keith been killed, the army would have also sent along a padre. On that operation, which lasted ten days, Payne's and the other companies, now depleted by battle losses, found a full NVA camp. Keith was awarded the US Silver Star. Then early in May, Keith's colleague WO II Ray Simpson's inspiring leadership of 3 Battalion and repeated bravery generated a nomination for the Victoria Cross—the other VC.

Two North Vietnamese regiments besieged nearby Ben Het. The Montagnard battalions swept the countryside, their combat power down because the thirty-seven new troops taken in after Anzac Day had had just twelve days training. From 24-27 May, Keith's company was totally occupied holding back numerous NVA attacks. His men were faltering, several were dead and many wounded. When at night a young and callow US lieutenant called down fire on a feature, Keith countermanded the order and went back up the hill to muster his soldiers, despite the hill also being heavily occupied by the enemy. In the dark, dodging NVA personnel, he managed to collect many of these men, lead them off the hill, then locate a group some distance away that had withdrawn earlier that night. After many more challenges, the group returned to base, with heavy losses including one of the American special forces NCOs. Within a few weeks CO AATTV Lieutenant Colonel RDF Lloyd finalised Ray Simpson and Keith Payne's nominations for the Victoria Cross. Payne learnt of his award from Major General Hay, GOC Australian forces in Vietnam. Taken out of the combat zone, Keith filled a training position until in September 1969 he collapsed from duodenal ulcers. Eventually repatriated to Brisbane, he received his medal from the Queen on 13 April 1970.

Winning the Victoria Cross required a huge adjustment for him and his family, bringing fame, responsibilities and demands. In 1970 Keith Payne joined the staff of RMC Duntroon. On deciding to leave the army, he swapped places with a CMF cadre NCO at Mackay, where he has lived ever since. From April 1975 he served six months in Oman where the Sultan was putting down the Dhofar revolution. Again his experience with local soldiers was very handy, in this case Baluchi tribesman. As a captain, he spent six months in the desert patrolling and occupying defensive positions.

Returning to Mackay, he fished professionally—with his fame, traumas and challenges alcohol was doubtless a refuge. However his family proved the best haven, which he and Flo have presided over for some 60 years. Keith Payne became a national icon, quasi-ambassador with numerous civic duties, and elder statesman for the veteran community. Flo fought breast cancer in 1997, with Keith there to support her as she had helped him so often before. He sold his medals to the Maryborough Military and Colonial Museum in south-eastern Queensland. In 1995 he went back to Pleiku, and almost to Ben Het, with son Derek, Ray Martin, the late Paul Lockyer and a camera crew.

The Americans presented him a Distinguished Service Cross on Norfolk Island in 1995, and his Silver Star on the warship *USS Harpers Ferry* in 1997. Keith and Flo travel a lot; they watched the Jubilee Flotilla on the Thames last June.

Today Keith's in reasonable health, and, as the last recipient of the imperial Victoria Cross, is a very respected Australian. I'm meeting him again in Melbourne in October at a Scheyville function.

... *Rob Youl*

Colman, Mike. *Payne VC*. (ABC Books: Sydney) 2009

Recent Events

OFFICERS WATERLOO DINNER

The annual Waterloo Dinner was held at the Royal Australian Signals Corps Officers Mess, Watsonia on 23 June 2012. This annual dinner commemorates the first held by members of the Corps at Gallipoli in 1915. The inaugural dinner celebrated the completion of Watson's Pier at Anzac Cove.

In recognition of the officer who led the construction of the pier, LT Stan Watson, being a signals officer within the Royal Australian Engineers at that time, an officer of the modern Royal Australian Signals Corps attends each dinner as a guest and this year we welcomed LTCOL Paul Galea to address and toast our Corps very proud history and legacy.

BRIG Hutch Hutchinson, COL COMDT Southern Region, then took the opportunity to provide the annual RAE Head of Corps (HOC) address on behalf of BRIG Wayne Budd, which provided diners with a summary of RAE activities internationally and domestically. The COL COMDT outlined operations in Afghanistan and highlighted some of the activities in trialling new equipment like lightweight hand held metal detectors,

improved complex detectors, improved electronic counter measure equipment and other war-fighting equipment to improve the protection and survivability of our Sappers. The RAE HOC address elaborated on the conversion of the 2nd Division, and it reaching a milestone in its consideration of Reserve force structures. The address enforced the pleasure to see new required units added to the order of battle and for appropriate structures to be put in place. Sadly this often means we lose some older units. When this occurs we will honour those units and their achievements appropriately but we must understand the need to adapt and move forward. However, in all these considerations we must not lose sight of the work of all elements of the Corps. The capability that the Reserve component adds to the Army and Corps must never be underestimated.

Dining President, LTCOL Darren Potter, CO 22 Const Regt gave a "call for arms" at dinners end requesting all Sapper officers in the Southern Region to continue their support of this wonderful Corps history with attendance at the dinner and stories of contemporary experience. Only through attendance will the RAE maintain its proud traditions including the continuation of this annual dinner.





Officers Waterloo Dinner
CAPT R. Collins, LT A. Kocovski, CAPT S. Ott, LT A. Downing and LT.S Harris.

RAE HEAD OF CORPS

WATERLOO DINNER ADDRESS – 2012

Each year, the Head of Corps prepares an address which is read at all the Waterloo Dinners. Brig Wayne Budd CSC is Head of Corps, and his address is reproduced below.

Good evening fellow Sappers and distinguished guests. It is a pleasure to join you here tonight (or for this message to reach you in the far flung regions of this globe). This annual update is a great opportunity for me to consider our Corps' achievements and to provide you all with a message of confidence in our future.

As with each of my previous updates I observe we remain and Army and Corps at war. Since this time last year a member of the Corps has paid the ultimate sacrifice in serving his country. Corporal Ashley Birt from 1 Topographical Survey Squadron was killed in action in October last year and has joined our role of honour. While acknowledging the fog of war, I believe our fortune in only losing another great individual to an act of betrayal rather than to the skill of arms by our adversary, reflects the good work of our men and women on operations and the support that they receive by the Department at large. We have suffered more wounded through activities in Afghanistan and

our need to provide support as a priority part of our Corps support regime remains. There has been an enormous level of support organisations put in place during the last 12 months. Like the SASR and Commando Welfare Trusts before it, the Legacy Services Trust has been invested in by Government to provide additional support for our returned veterans and their families. Groups like the new 'Soldier On' organisation and our own RAE Foundation are focusing on the needs of our people post conflict and I am confident that we will have the structures, resources and commitment to provide comprehensive welfare support to those who need it.

You will all have seen the Governments transition strategy for our forces in Afghanistan. You should not assume that our work is over. The troop rotation planning will see continued deployment of Corps members into high threat operations. 2 CER is in the middle of unit rotation as our Mentoring Task Force rotates while the next Engineer task unit will be based around 1 CER soldiers who are deep in their force preparation cycle. 6 Engineer Support Regiment is also being called upon to support the required engineer force structure. 20 EOD Sqn has formally shaken out its support structure to operations and in support of the Special Operations Task

Group our newly named Special Operations Engineer Regiment sappers provide vital support to operations that have an ever increasing diversity and tactical effect. The support that all our sappers provide Australian and Coalition forces remains second to none.

In support of these operations we have been active in the equipment front. While soldier basic ensembles have been improved, we have continued to trial new equipment like lightweight hand held metal detectors, improved complex detectors, improved Electronic Counter Measure equipment, better Bushmaster vehicles and a range of other warfighting equipment. One of the most significant enhancements has been the addition of a mounted protected route clearance capability. Husky blast protected vehicles fitted with state of the art Ground Penetrating Radar lead the way supported by a system of remote interrogation arms, mast mounted optics, improved mine rollers and a suite of robots. This represents one of the biggest capability leaps that the Corps has fielded in many years. The training and TTP development remains a challenge but this will be an enduring capability to which we will add capabilities and which also fits nicely with our intended Modular Engineer Force structures.

At our recent Corps Conference we looked at the state of the Corps and our future developments. You will be pleased to hear that the basic tenants of the Modular Engineer Force concept remain strong and sound. The challenge will remain the re-equipping of our units. The Force Engineer concept has been reinforced this year at HQ 6 Brigade and the Force Engineer has a robust staff to support our warfighting requirements. The 2nd Division is reaching a milestone in its consideration of Reserve force structures and many will have heard of plans to disband and raise new units. It is always a pleasure to see new required units added to the order of battle and for appropriate structures to be put in place. Sadly this often means we lose some older units. When this occurs we will honour those units and their achievements appropriately but we must understand the need to adapt and move forward. The key determinant for the Corps must be - does the change support the requirements of our Modular Engineer Force structure and add capability to the Army. If so then we must embrace change and support restructure. This is a key reason for renaming the Incident Response Regiment to the Special Operations Engineer Regiment. The title now reflects the change in role that has occurred over many years and the maturing of this regiment in its support to Special Operations Command across its full range of responsibilities.

In all these considerations we must not lose sight of the work of all elements of the Corps. The capability that the Reserve component adds to

the Army and Corps must never be under estimated. In outlining our operational activities we can overlook the great work that our infrastructure engineering staff are doing with the development of the Defence Estate. The vast sums of money being spent wisely and the skills being developed to support operational activity is an essential reason for our technical structures and trades. The Geomatic personnel support all operational activity and are a much valued capability across Army and Defence, as are our Multimedia Technicians.

The re-equipping agenda that supports the Modular Engineer Force structure remains an area of focus for your Corps leadership. The budgetary constraints delivered by Government will make development agendas challenging. This will impact the Corps like the rest of the Army. What we have decided is that we need a Corps consolidated position to guide our way through the capability development cycle and to press our requirements to add engineering capability to Army through re-equipping our units.

On the personnel side the Corps numbers are healthy. While our rank structures remain a little unbalanced we have a pool of young sappers to grow into our new structures. There will remain a challenge to ensure that these young personnel are adequately led, properly mentored and provided with the training and development opportunities that retains their continued service. I expect that many will wonder 'what now with the draw down in operations in Afghanistan and East Timor', particularly when most of our young soldiers joined while we have been at war with a desire to seek adventure. My message is clear – we live in an uncertain world where a continuing cycle of conflict has confronted us. While we don't wish for more conflict the possibilities seem endless. What we do need to do is take time and opportunity to reset our Army, replenish our reserves and re-hone our skills. This will mean some exercising in an environment where operational activity continues at a low scale and pace. The experience gained by the Corps must be used to build our foundation and preparedness for any new conflict.

On the training front the Force Engineer Branch has delivered some outstanding remediation for some key Corps capabilities. Our EOD and EOR trades have been revitalised through some outsourced training activities and our EDD capability is set for expansion this year through similar external support. We have been able to source new digitised training lanes to help us hone our search skills and the lessons of war are guiding the redevelopment certain skills. I believe we are learning lessons and taking action as a truly adaptive engineer force.

While we consider our personnel it goes without saying that our Corps members are providing outstanding service to our Army and Defence Force. In the Australia Day Honours list we had Lieutenant Colonel Alan Mellier awarded a Conspicuous Service Cross for his work with Soldier equipment modernisation as was Warrant Officer Class One Neil Patrick for his work at

the Army Explosive Hazards Centre and 20 EOD Squadron. Warrant Officer Class One Brent Doyle received a Medal of the Order of Australia for his work as Regimental Sergeant Major of 4th and 3rd Combat Engineer Regiments. Members of Special Operations Engineer Regiment have also received Distinguished Service medals, a Commendation for Gallantry, and a number of Conspicuous Service Medals. In this weeks Queen's Birthday Honours List, Colonel John Shanahan our Force Engineer was made a Member of the Order of Australia for his work in Forces Command, Warrant Officer Class One John Heffernan was awarded Medal of the Order of Australia for his Quartermaster work in 6th Engineer Support Regiment and 2nd Combat Engineer Regiment, Major John Bosio received a Commendation for Distinguish Service for his work in Afghanistan and Lieutenant Colonel John Carey received a Conspicuous Service Cross for his leadership of 2nd Combat Engineer Regiment. I am sure you join me in congratulating each of these members for their outstanding contribution to Army. The work enhances the reputation of the Corps at large. In looking at the future I see that we remain a busy Army. Operations in Afghanistan will remain a central focus and the force preparation cycle will continue to require our committed efforts. Essential training exercises, AACAP and individual training commitments will ensure an active and dynamic work load for all of us. We will need to await the outcome of the Force Structure Review and the next White Paper to know the future fully but the simple fact remains that the Army and Defence Force needs its 'Sappers' to live, fight and move.

You will have seen the continuing momentum behind the relocation of the School of Military Engineering. It is inevitable that the school will move and we have embraced the opportunity to have the project deliver a world class learning environment. The modernisation in facilities and systems will empower our training staff in their endeavours for superior training outcomes. The people in the school work as hard as ever and deliver the personnel outcomes needed to empower our operational cycle.

I am encouraged by the output of our people, their commitment to difficult operational activities and their dedication to duty. I am also encouraged by the compassion and willingness for our current members to support their mates in difficult times. We are truly a strong Corps family and an essential part of this Army. We serve the nation proudly and whether we be on humanitarian or disaster relief activities, operational or peace support commitments, your commitment and capabilities are recognised by the nation you serve.

Before I close tonight let me congratulate 13 Field Squadron on their soon to be reached 100th Anniversary. Laying claim to the longest continuous serving unit in the Australian Army, 100 years represents a rare milestone in the history of our Army. I look forward to representing you all on this forthcoming occasion.

I thank you for the opportunity to provide this update and encourage you all to look after the welfare of your mates, to maintain contact with our past members, support the families of the deployed and to strive for continued excellence in service.

Thank you.

... Brig Wayne Budd

RESERVE FORCES DAY PARADE Sunday 1 July 2012

A Good Show Put On to Honour Boer War Veterans. — Our First Australian Reservists —

Of the order of 300 guests and spectators attended the 2012 Reserve Forces day Parade at the Melbourne Shrine on Sunday 1 July, and gave generous support to the 300+ serving and retired reservists on parade.

The theme for this year's parade was remembrance of Australian volunteers who served in the Boer War – which ended 110 years ago, on 31 May 1902. This was the first occasion on which Australian (as distinct from colonial) militia volunteers served in an overseas country. Throughout the period of that war, approximately 23,000 Australian soldiers served in South Africa, and of these, almost 1,000 were killed in action or died of wounds or sickness. It was also the first time in which Australian infantry and light horsemen demonstrated their fighting ability on the world stage, and established their reputations which they further enhanced in WW1, in battles such as Beersheba – the last great cavalry charge.

During the, parade medallions were presented to approximately 100 descendants of the Boer War Veterans as well as to several partners of serving and retired present day reservists. The Boer War veterans' descendants included some whose ancestors had amazing service histories. These included descendants of one soldier who served two tours of duty in the Boer War, followed by service in the Light Horse in WW1, including the charge at Beersheba.

The parade this year was lead by the Band of the Royal Australian Air Force, and escorted on the Shrine forecourt by a mounted Colour Party of Light Horsemen carrying Unit pennants representing the Light Horse units which served in the Boer War and WW1.

The RAE contingent, totalling approximately 40 reservists, was made up of the Old Sappers Association members, led by President Jim Muir and the Woodpeckers, led by President Rob Youl. Geoff Brumhead again acted as ASM, with Bruce Campbell carrying the RAE Standard.

This year, we were very pleased to include three serving RAE members in our group, being LT Haki-mova, plus two sappers. Unfortunately, WO2 Fiona Ince was a last minute withdrawal due to injury.

The parade was inspected by MAJ GEN David McLachlan AO, as Reviewing Officer accompanied by the Parade Commander, LTCOL Bruce Powell, the Governor of Victoria, His Excellency The Hon Alex Chernow AC QC and the Parade Host BRIG Neal Bavington RFD ED.

Addresses this year were confined to a welcome by the Parade Host, an address by MAJ GEN David McLachlan, and messages read from the Governor General and the Prime Minister.

Considering we had the usual cold and damp conditions, those on parade welcomed the somewhat abbreviated format this year.

Following the usual Ceremonial Wreath Laying, Last Post, National Anthem, the parade marched off to the accompaniment of healthy applause from the large number of spectators.

Approximately 25 Sappers and partners then adjourned to the Emerald Hotel in South Melbourne, and enjoyed an excellent lunch and get together. As usual, we particularly appreciated the opportunity to get together with so many of our strong supporters --- particularly those who travel such long distances from country centres to attend.

Next year's march will be held on Sunday 7 July --- so put this date in your diary.

... Bruce Campbell.

PUCKAPUNYAL EXCURSION

Sunday 12 August

— Ex Big Bang —

Some 20 retired Sappers were joined by 8 members of the RAA Association in an excursion to Pucka on Sunday 12 August to witness ex Big Bang. The excursion was arranged by CO 22 Construction Regiment.

The Regiment had a 4-day exercise under way, and this was Day 3. The visitors saw 4 features of the weekend:

The first was a ride in a Bushmaster. For most, this was a first time. You need ear-muffs on because of the scream of the engine & gear train.



**Bushmaster!
Lets look
at this
bit of
kit!**

The second was the demolitions training. This was more realistic than I have ever seen. The team had assembled a 2-span Bailey bridge, each span having 4 Bailey panels. All that was missing was a deck. In all my training, we only got to lean a Bailey panel against a tree and place three sets of explosives to cut the panel in two. There was usually a search exercise afterward to find the bits. The before and after photos show what actually happened. They also had a crater charge in the bridge abutment, and separate charges on a concrete tetrahedron (a tank trap obstacle) and on a steel drum full of concrete — not much left afterwards!



Explosives Placed on a Bailey Panel



A Thoroughly Demolished Bridge Span



The Cratered Abutment

The third feature was to see the Engineer Compound at Puckapunyal, and in particular, the completed Lysaght Shed. The construction of this has been reported over the last few years in Sapper Summit. It is enormous, and is a great base from which to carry out Sapper tasks. The whole compound means that you have a base from which to carry out training without having to bring in stores and equipment every time.



The Inside of the Lysaght Shed — Plenty of Room

The fourth feature was to see a 3-day building make-over — just like a TV show does. In this case, it was a 4-room building that looked OK on the outside, but was worn out on the inside. Starting on the Friday, teams had bogged in and replaced internal door frames and doors, patched walls and carried out a re-paint; replaced worn lino with a new sheeting base and a glued vinyl covering. They had also installed a set of pack kitchen units, including a sink. Altogether a slick job!

All this, and a barbecue lunch — a very good effort 22! ... and thanks from the excursioners.

* * *

Coming Events

22 CONSTRUCTION REGIMENT REUNION GROUP — 2012 REUNION

The 22nd Const Reunion is definitely on this year. It is at Lakes Entrance over the last weekend in October — 26th to 28th.

Friday night is a dinner at the Lakes Entrance RSL, all welcome to attend. The Saturday activity is still in the planning stages. There will be a formal dinner on the Saturday evening.

Contact Jen Eaton for more details — bookings are essential . . . tel 0427 196 038
Email: jenmaree57@gmail.com

The RAE Corps Officers Golf Day 2012 — The Holland Cup — at the Royal Melbourne Golf Club.

Keep **Friday 19 October** free.
Tee off is 1000hrs

We will play the West Course.

Green fees: \$80.00

The handicapper requires accurate handicap information before the day.

To book, please contact:

Capt Bill McAuley on (03) 5489 3218 or
Mobile 0404 197 100.

There are two recent Sapper books out:

A Sappers War

By Jimmy Thomson and Sandy MacGregor

— JIMMY THOMSON is a journalist, author and screen-writer whose credits include the ABC-TV series Rain Shadow. He is the author of Snitch, Tunnel Rats and Watto.

A graduate of the Royal Military College, Duntroon, as a young captain SANDY MACGREGOR commanded 3 Field Troop in Vietnam, where he won the Military Cross. He served in the Army for 30 years, finishing as a colonel in the Reserves.

A Vietnam Vet's Remarkable Life

— The True meaning of Mateship

By Spr John 'Jethro' Thompson

— He served in 1 Fd Sqn RAE in South Vietnam where he stood on a landmine. He was wounded and two of his mates died.

He is a multiple amputee ... his story is about his life and the enormous support he has received.

Available in bookshops.

THE ENGINEER REORGANISATION -- LATEST UPDATE --

The last Sapper Summit included a rundown on the Sir Clive Steele Lecture where LTCOL Steve Gliddon said that there would be one consolidated engineer Regiment in Victoria from the start of 2014. At that stage, the format of the new Regiment was a work in progress. Here is a further explanation of the background to the consolidation, plus the latest decisions.

Plan Beersheba is the Chief of Army's plan to upgrade the Army. It is based on the need to be ready to fight the 'future' fight – not one based on old perceptions of what might come at us. There are some 15 key activities in the plan, but the primary requirement is to generate three Multi-role Combat Brigades (MCBs) (ie. three 'alike' Brigades each with similar capabilities) within the Regular Army. The Reserve will be required to generate a range of 'ready' capabilities that would augment the MMBs. Within the RAE and the Reserve this 'ready' capability will be generated from restructured Engineer units that will result from the amalgamation of the Construction Regiments in Victoria and NSW with their sister Combat Engineer Regiments. Within the 4th Brigade this will result in the 22nd Construction Regiment becoming a Construction Squadron and amalgamating with the 4th Combat Engineer Regiment to become the fourth Engineer Regiment.

The key implication for Victoria is that there will be only one Engineer Regiment. The Regiment will consist of two Combat Engineer Squadrons and a Construction Squadron and it will be required to provide a directed level of support to regular units, both in normal sapper tasks, but also in some yet-to-be-determined specialist roles that regular units are unlikely to have -- examples include field timber milling and quarrying.

The decision has been made that the new fourth Engineer Regiment will be based on the HQ of 4CER, and the HQ of 22 Construction Regiment will be 'disestablished'.

The establishment review for the formation of the Construction Squadron was finalised in late May and the review of the Combat Engineer elements and the RHQ will be finalised in early 2013. It is expected that the new fourth Engineer Regiment will be officially established on 1 January 2014. There is still a significant body of work being done, which includes confirming the specialist capabilities that the new unit will provide to Army (eg: tree felling, timber milling, quarry operations) and further updates will be provided in coming editions.

Some further decisions are:

- The Regiment will be called 22nd Engineer Regiment.
- It will have two Combat Engineer Squadrons (10 and 38)
- It will have one Construction Squadron -- to be called 105 Construction Squadron.
- It will have a Works Section.
- 105 Construction Squadron will have Troops as follows:
 - 107 Plant Troop
 - 105 Trade Troop (3 sections of 8)
 - 39 Resources Troop
- There will be 4 Engineer Construction Squadrons across Australia, and between them they are to always be able to have one Troop available for rapid deployment.
- The other existing Construction Squadrons are 11, 17 and 21.

There will be more to follow.

* * *

News from the Units

4 CER

Once again 4 CER answered the call when Lakes Entrance and Paynesville were flooded. A team of Sappers deployed to RAAF Sale and then onto various flooded areas over 05 to 07 June.

I was in command of 4 members of 4 CER and 4 drivers from 4 CSSB. By the end of three days we had the drivers sorted out and some of them a bit interested in becoming Sappers.

Most of the tasks involved sandbagging operations and movement of RAAF personnel through the affected regions.

CPL Carl Seccull was able to employ his civilian skill set to great effect when the team was called upon to protect a sewerage pumping station in Lakes Entrance. It is always handy to have a plumber on the team.

The June training weekend was well attended and EX PLATYPUS BLAST proved to be very popular. The weather for the activity was excellent, just enough cloud cover remained over the dems practice area to the right amount of concussion effect.

June 23 saw plenty of Sappers at the Waterloo Dinner held at Simpson Barracks Officers Mess. The event was well organised and well run by Mr Vice LT Natalie Canham from 22 Construction.

The July training weekend was also well attended and was activities based around basic CE training. The weekend was held at the Ringwood East Depot and gave the Troop Commanders and Section Commanders plenty of scope to incorporate training with a little bit of depot maintenance. The result is the depot is looking clean and organised.

The August training weekend is also planned to occur at the Ringwood East depot. This time EX PLATYPUS REVS is a small engine based activity. I sense another opportunity for a little more house keeping for the depot as well as attending to the never ending cycle of maintenance and non tech inspections of equipment.

Our deployed members as part of TLTG 4 are all doing amazing things in Timor. The unit hosted our second afternoon tea with the families and was once again a great event where stories were shared. Most of the members on deployment had just finished their ROCL.

Many of the wives commented on how the deployment was over halfway and time seemed to be going much faster. Our team is due back in October.

4 CER also has a number of personnel supporting AACAP 19. CAPT Fewerda has been in location on full time service with 17 Construction since April and will remain until Oct.

Once again great things being done home and abroad by Sappers.

*... LT I S GREEN
ADJT 4 CER*



**TLTG 4
Construction Tasks
in Timor**

**Sandbagging
Operations,
Lakes Entrance**



Timor Leste Task Group 4



Commander of the International Stabilisation Force, COL Luke Foster, farewells Capt Noel Tipton as he completes his tour of duty in Timor-Leste.

22 CONSTRUCTION REGIMENT

Force Preservation Training

22nd Construction Regiment paraded at Newborough Depot over the weekend 15 -17 June 12 for their annual Force Preservation Training. This year, 22 Const Regt utilised this mandatory training weekend to implement not only essential lessons for force preservation of Army, but to provide an opportunity for unit members, employers, Old Sappers and the Emergency Services to collaborate together in an informal environment.

A soccer friendly match between Newborough and Oakleigh Depots gave relief to a day of lectures. On Saturday evening, Newborough Depot Mess held a dinner function for the members, the visitors and employers of the Reservists.

Representatives from Victoria Police and SES also gave presentations on their respective agencies, their experience working with Reservists during disaster recovery and where they found benefits a collaboration working relationship between the Defence and the Emergency Services. This was a great opportunity for

Senior Sergeant Clint Wilson, VICPOL, Ray Curram and his supervisor Chris from the SES, OC 39 Const Sqn, MAJ C. Reeves.

perspective on the value of a multi-service response. Employers were given the opportunity to learn more about the reservist life. The function gave the Unit an opportunity to show its appreciation to employers and to reinforce effective Reserve service is in direct proportion to employer's flexibility and understanding. MAJ Ian Toohill from Defence Reserves Support Council gave a presentation to the employers, which highlighted the entitlements and benefits that come with employing a Reservist. Employers were able to mingle with Unit members and were given a rare insight of their employees in their 'other' profession.

... *LT Nargiza Hakimova*



LCPL Helmuth instructs members of 22 Const Regt on Technical Inspections.



Prince Of Wales Awards

The Prince of Wales Awards (POWA) seeks to reward selected Australian Defence Force (ADF) Reservists for their dedication and commitment to Reserve service, by providing an opportunity for individuals to undertake a training or development activity, either in Australia or overseas, related to their civilian occupation or profession. Importantly, the Award also acknowledges the support of a Reservist’s employers. POWA was established in 1984 by the Citizens in Support of Reserve Forces (CISORF) Trust as a reward for Reservist achievement in both civilian and military employment. The POWA grants selected recipients up to \$8,000 to undertake a proposed development or training activity, which will provide benefit to their employer. The conduct of the POWA is undertaken in conjunction with the Defence Reserves Support Council (DRSC).

22nd Construction Regiment is fortunate in 2012 to have two members selected to receive the POWA; CAPT Joshua Farnsworth, and CPL Mark. Hicks. CAPT Farnsworth intends to undertake Electrical Engineering Technical training courses in Sweden and Belgium in support of his position as an Export Sales Engineer for global engineering company ABB and CPL Hicks intends to undertake the Diploma of Building and Construction and Certificate IV in Occupational Health and Safety at Holmesglen TAFE.

The POWA provides an excellent opportunity to support personal and professional development of Defence Reservists within their civilian occupation in acknowledgment of the continued support that civilian employers provide to Defence Reservists.

.....MAJ Brent Rodgers, XO 22 Const Regt.



☛ **CPL Hicks receives POWA from COL Westphalen and CO 22 Const Regt, LTCOL Potter.**

☛ **COL workforce planning and capability, COL Westphalen presents POWA to CAPT Farnsworth.**

From the Associations

OLD SAPPERS ASSOCIATION INC.

Our Waterloo Dinner was held on Sunday 17th June at the East Malvern RSL with 43 members and guests present.

This year we were privileged to have one of the few remaining survivors of the 2/22 Battalion Lark Force as our guest speaker. Lark Force, which contained an element of Fortress Engineers, played a key role in the defence of Rabaul during 1941/42 and Norm Furness provided us with his personal insight.

We also participated in the Reserve Forces Day March on Sunday July 1st at the Shrine of Remembrance Melbourne with a good attendance by members marching under the Old Sappers banner. On the Day, 4 of our members wives were presented with the: - Reserve Forces Day Medallion "In Recognition of Your Support to Reserves Forces."

Over the last 3 months we have welcomed 6 new members into the Old Sappers Association - 3 before Waterloo Dinner and 3 from Reserve Forces Day.

We are always keen to welcome new members and anyone interested should contact our Secretary, John McNabb on 8802 8293.

.. Jim Muir

President

WOODPECKERS



The Woodpeckers relished their visit to Puckapunyal for Big Bang – thanks to Lt Col Darren Potter and regiment for their hospitality. Six ancients of 91 Forestry Squadron attended – and Ian Kincaid brought along his son. All especially enjoyed meeting several serving members, and hope to next see the regiment when it is working in the far north-east on the trestle bridges of the Tallangatta-Cudgewa rail trail.

When Lt Col Darren Potter outlined the new RAE Victorian organisation, no Woodpecker failed to pray that the number '91' would somehow appear in unit or sub-unit names. The Woodies also would like to provide some sort of commemorative marker for moderately conspicuous display at the new 'mill site/compound'.

Several members marched on Reserve Forces Day. The association will visit Dimboola next autumn and hold a general meeting before Christmas.

... Rob Youl

President

RECENT DEATHS

Mrs Grace Youl

Our condolences are extended to LTCOL Rob Youl and family on the recent passing of his mother Grace, aged 94 on 4 August. Rob was CO of 7 Engineer Support Regiment from 1992 and the editor of Swan Street Sappers.

Because of some family members being overseas, the Memorial Service will be held at:

St James Anglican Church, corner Grey and Burns Streets, Traralgon at 2.00 pm on Sunday 16 September.

Mrs Patricia Glazebrook

Our condolences are extended to Maj Tom Glazebrook and family, on the recent passing of his wife Patricia, aged 84 on 4 August. Tom enlisted in 1950 in 22 Construction Regiment and was OC of 104 Construction Squadron.

* * *

VALE

JAMES (Jim) NEWLANDS

16 May 1942 — 4 August 2012

Jim Newlands passed away on 4 August after a long illness. He was not a Sapper, but gave enormous support to the Corps, and was a member of the RAE (Vic) Historical and Heritage Association.

Jim was born in Scotland and migrated to Australia when 10. He had a degree in Agricultural Science and was a teacher. He was a member of the Melbourne University Mountaineering Club, where he was a life member, and was a person of note for climbing 'The Bard' at Mt Arapiles in the days before proper mountaineering equipment was readily available.

Jim would befriend anybody, and was well read on nearly any subject plants, British comedy, history, wars, fortifications! He made an overland trip from Europe to Australia in the days when few tried it.

Jim had a major interest in fortifications, and was an expert on the early fortifications around Victoria and on the fort models which are mounted on the walls at Oakleigh Barracks. A series of his articles were published in Sapper Summit in 2006 and 2008. He also organised excursions to fort sites.

Our condolences go to his wife Jan.

... Austin Byrne

VALE

Capt M J K (Mick) LODGE

17 April 1925 — 8 February 2012

Unfortunately Mick Lodge's interesting obituary published last issue contained a mistake in the fourth paragraph regarding the family firm, Lodge Brothers, perhaps Melbourne's premier masons. We sincerely apologise to Mick's nephew, Mike Cecil, and reprint the obituary here as it should have appeared.

An outstanding engineer and oil industry executive, Matthew James Kane 'Mick' Lodge, who also had an interesting military career, died on 8 February 2012. Born on 17 April 1925, he graduated from RMIT with a civil engineering diploma. Serving firstly from 1948-53 in 16 Construction Squadron RAE, one of Swan Street's original post-war CMF sapper units, he then joined the ARA via RAS (B), a grading within the Regular Army Supplement that allowed qualified people with valuable skills to be commissioned without the conventional Duntroon or Portsea training.

In February 1954 he transferred to the ARA, remaining there until early 1962 with postings to 21 Construction Squadron; SME as a student and staff member; 2 Airfield Construction Squadron RAAF at East Sale; and 6 Const Group, Swan Street. CMF postings followed in 15 Corps Field Park Squadron and at Group. He left the army as a CMF captain in October 1969.

Noted military historian Mike Cecil, formerly of AWM Canberra and now resident on the US West Coast in Washington state, is a nephew. He says, 'Mick was a loving uncle, and he and Auntie Shirley were marvellous to my siblings and me. We are sad to see him go, but he had been ill quite a while.' Mike Cecil provided these notes on Mick.

During his studies, and on finishing RMIT, Mick worked for the family stonemasonry firm, Lodge Brothers, founded in 1918 and still operating today in Preston and Geelong, although family involvement ceased some years ago. Dick Lodge, Mick's father, ex-2 Pioneer Battalion, 1AIF, was a principal. The firm's projects included churches and monuments around Melbourne, particularly the Shrine of Remembrance, completed in 1934. Mick was the model for the sculpture of the small boy holding back the lions at each corner of the Shrine. Lodge Brothers was later principal contractor for the redevelopment of the forecourt and construction of the WW II memorial, with Mick one of the masons.

In the ARA, Mick supervised improvements to runways and facilities at East Sale, Darwin and elsewhere. As an SME instructor, he helped erect the Sir Clive Steele memorial gateway. Leaving the Army in the early 1960s, he worked for various engineering firms including Costain, the MMBW, and as a consultant.

In the mid 1960s, Esso-BHP engaged him to head onshore works for its new Bass Strait project, in-

cluding design and construction of major facilities: LPG plants at Long Island Point, Westernport Bay; the onshore rig jacket construction and rig servicing facility at Barry Beach near Welshpool; the Longford gas plant near Sale; and the vast pipeline network.

Woodside-Burma (later Woodside Petroleum) then approached Mick Lodge to lead onshore construction for the North West Shelf project, including Karatha's infrastructure. This meant a move to Perth. The story goes that construction offshore was experiencing some delays, while onshore was ahead of schedule and under budget, so the GM approached Mick to become deputy GM and chief of construction, onshore and offshore. Mick got everything on track in his usual style, and the entire project came home on budget and on time. Eventually an AM recognised his services to the petroleum industry. There are great images of him the day the 26 000 DWT North Rankin rig jacket arrived by barge, and was slid off into the sea. Mick always said that those few minutes after the rig jacket slipped off the barge and disappeared beneath the surface of the Indian Ocean, until it finally resurfaced, to be righted and floated into position over the well, were the longest minutes of his career!

Retiring from Woodside, he returned to Melbourne, did occasional consultancies and started building a steam traction engine—one-eighth scale. He was very, very particular, so while each completed part was a masterpiece, the engine remained unfinished when old age forced him to give up. Upon his death, grand-nephew Chris Cecil took over Mick's extensive workshop and the unfinished engine. Chris will complete the project to Mick's high standards.

Mick Lodge was a remarkable man: engineering in its many forms, and Shirley, his wife, were his entire life.

... Rob Youl and Mike Cecil

VALE

Spr Ian Gregory Douglass

4 December 1954—15 March 2012

Due to a lack of space,
Greg's Vale will be in the next issue.

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& Heritage Association Inc**
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