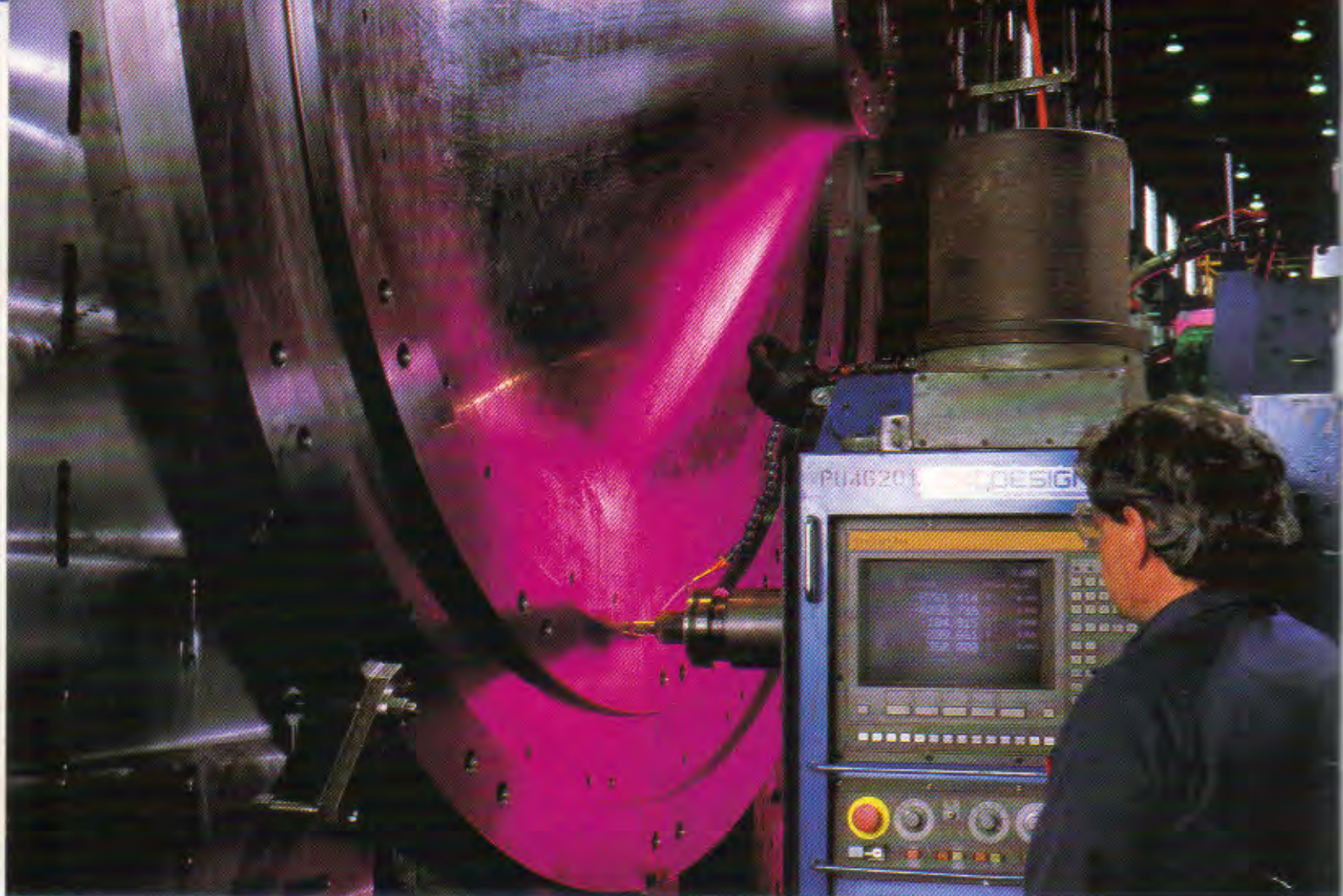


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THE MAGAZINE OF
**The Corps of Royal Australian
Electrical and Mechanical Engineers**



MAY, 1993 NUMBER 28



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THE MAGAZINE OF
THE CORPS OF ROYAL AUSTRALIAN ELECTRICAL
AND MECHANICAL ENGINEERS

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EDITORIAL

As new editor of The RAEME Craftsman I find myself in the happy position of having more quality articles than I have space to publish. The editorial board has selected articles that we believe will be interesting to our readers.

I thank those who submitted articles and encourage all to contribute to the next, November

1993, issue.

Thanks also to LtCol Bruce Amor and his board for a fine job on the November 1992 issue.

We close the Golden Jubilee theme in this issue with a feature on the Bandiana 50th Anniversary Parade and associated functions.

BRIAN JONES

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Articles should be sent to:

**The Editor
The RAEME Craftsman
J-4-38
Russell Offices
Canberra, ACT 2600**

DEADLINE

17th September, 1993

Please Note: Photos should be coloured if possible, with caption included.

FRONT COVER PHOTO

The cover shows Mr Tom Money, who at 92 was the oldest surviving crafty, "in the ranks" at the 50th Anniversary Parade at Bandiana on the 27th November, 1992.

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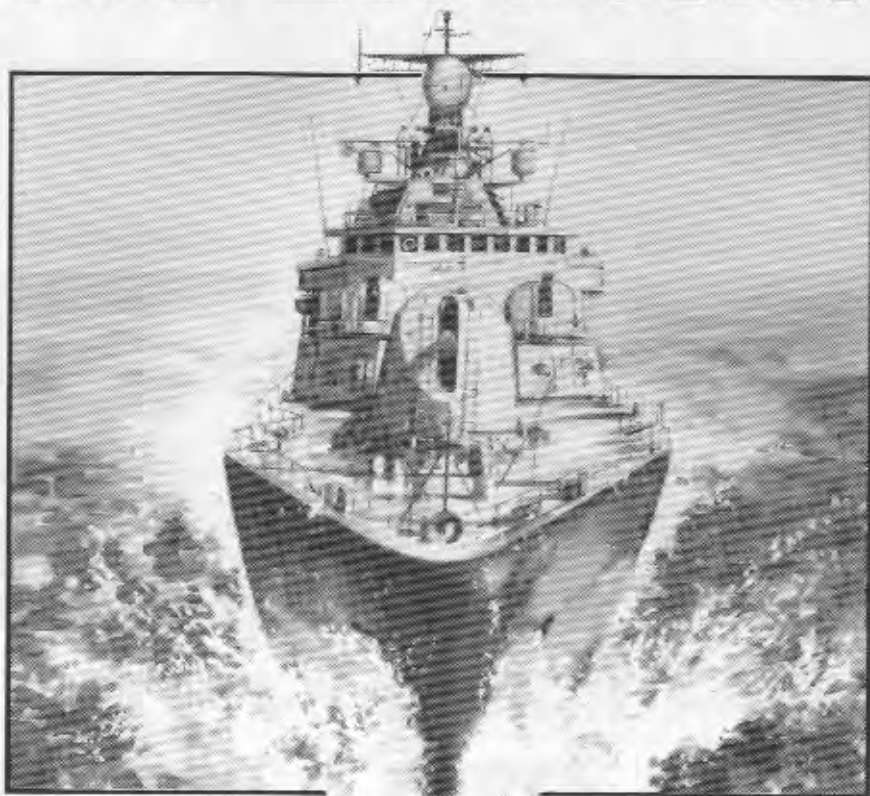
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The Director's Message

It was with a great deal of pride and pleasure that I assumed the restructured Head of Corps position as the DEME on 12 December 1992.

I believe my first duty in this column is to express the thanks of the Corps to Brigadier John Kingston for his worthwhile and personable contribution during his two years of leadership of the Corps. He has now assumed a newly created position as Army's Director General of Engineering. Our congratulations and best wishes go to him on his new appointment. We are fortunate that he will still have much to do with the Corps in his new job.

In this latest restructuring, the combined Head of Corps and Head of Service functions have been separated. The Head of Corps function of prime personnel adviser to the MS and to SCMA for all ranks remains vested in DEME, together with the responsibilities for providing advice to HQ ADF, Army Office Divisions and Functional Commands on EME operations, establishment planning, organisation, equipment, doctrine and training. These responsibilities are discharged through the Director General of Land Warfare Policy to the Deputy Chief of the General Staff.

The Head of Service function of materiel maintenance, enhancement of engineering standards and associated policy now resides with the Director General of Engineering. The Maintenance Engineering Agency, our premier engineering institution, now comes under his direct control as part of Materiel Division. EME systems and procedures has also been



Colonel L.J. Foley

transferred from Head of Corps to HQ Log Comd.

As the second largest Corps in the Army and the most expensive to train, we will continue to be a very active partner in the ongoing reviews and studies on how the Army will do its work in the future. Few know as much about how we do our work as well as we do ourselves. It is therefore vitally important that all members of the Corps contribute their professional knowledge and understanding to these reviews to ensure that we are employed to best advantage. However, once decisions to implement change have been made, I am confident that all members of

the Corps will give those decisions their full support.

To end on a personal note, I would like to bid farewell to Lieutenant Colonel Ernie McCart who has just completed his tour of duty as our Colonel Commandant in Western Australia. His efforts in promoting the well-being of the Corps have been outstanding. On behalf of all members of the Corps I wish him and his lady Betty all the best for the future.

I look forward to seeing as many members of the Corps as possible in the course of the next year. I will be seeking your views on topics of concern — please don't hesitate to give them to me.

"Arte et Marte"

WELL DONES

Australia Day Honours List 1993

The professionalism, leadership and technical expertise of the Corps members was recognised in the Australia Day Honours List announced in Jan 1993. Three RAEME members received awards.

LTCOL Roderick Studholme was awarded the Conspicuous Service Cross for conspicuous service to the Army as the Commanding Officer/Chief Instructor RAEME Training Centre.

Warrant Officer Class One Robert Zelesco was awarded the Order Of Australia for outstanding contributions to The Army and local community whilst posted to The School of Artillery.

Warrant Officer Class Two Dennis Cock was awarded the Conspicuous Service Medal for exceptional management and administrative skills whilst posted to Puckapunyal Logistic Battalion.

☆ ☆ ☆

Peter Jennings Award



The Peter Jennings Award was awarded to LT Doug Wheadon of 106 Fd Wksp at the RAEME Golden Jubilee Parade.

Craftsman of the Year 1993

234490 Craftsman D.M. Paterson

Craftsman David Paterson was born in Hobart in 1969, educated at Griffith High School and joined the Army in January 1986 as an Army Apprentice Vehicle Mechanic in the 41st intake of apprentices. On completion of his two years at Army Apprentice School he was posted to 4th Base Workshop Battalion to complete his apprenticeship. As a third year apprentice he entered the Defence Work Skills competition and was placed third. He also toured with the Military Tattoo in 1989.

Craftsman Paterson was posted to the 3rd Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment, on 10 January 1990 and enrolled into TAFE to complete an Associate Diploma in Mechanical Engineering. During his time in the Battalion he has completed a Basic Parachute Course and a Platoon Medic's course and participated in numerous exercises.

In 1992 Craftsman Paterson has been a guest speaker at a number of civilian clubs on the subject of "The life of a soldier in the modern Army". He has also submitted draftsman's plans for the unit's Drop Zone trailer modifications, extensions to the unit transport yard and the new 3 RAR Madden Club.

In March last year Craftsman Paterson was selected as a member of the Australian Honour Guard Platoon which participated in United Nations ceremonial parades in South Korea. Whilst in South Korea he volunteered on his stand down day to act as tour guide for 15 senior officers from 12 Allied countries, who visited the United Nations Memorial and the Kapyong Battlefield. Craftsman Paterson received letters of commendation from Lieutenant Colonel Foster, RAA, and Major General Donald M. Lionelli, US Army Chief of Staff Training and Doctrine Command for the professional manner in which he escorted senior officers.

On returning to Australia Craftsman Paterson assisted in the building of the Madden club acting as an adviser and as a tradesman and often working in his own time. In his capacity as committee member for the Madden Club he organised the entertainment for the opening night, by securing the services of the "Choir boys" and the "Radiators" as the bands.

At the recent Sydney RAEME Birthday parade he was awarded the 2 MD ARA Craftsman of the Year award and later was awarded the ARA National Craftsman of the Year award which was presented at the RAEME 50th Golden Jubilee Parade. In 1993 Craftsman Paterson is taking Leave Without Pay to complete a Mechanical Engineering Diploma and he hopes to undertake an Aeronautical Engineering Degree in 1994.

Craftsman Paterson is a thoroughly professional soldier whose actions last year enhanced the reputation of his unit, corps and the Australian Army.

☆ ☆ ☆

Junior Regimental Award — RAEME 1992

230422 SGT C.T. North

SGT Charles North (Charlie) originally from Dubbo NSW, enlisted in the ARA in August '81 and was allocated to Infantry.

Following three years with 8/9 RAR PTE North applied for and successfully completed the Calibration Technician course at RTC and was posted to 1 Base Wksp Bulimba.

WELL DONES CONTINUED

Charlie has since completed a 4-1/2 year posting at Broadmeadows Logistic Battalion (BLB) where he had commanded the Calibration Section of Equipment Company.

He attended the 2/92 Subject 2 (SGT) RAEME in May '92 and was acknowledged for his outstanding abilities and achievement throughout the course. SGT North was presented the Junior Regimental Award — RAEME 1992 whilst the Corps was celebrating the Golden Jubilee in Bandiana.



Charlie's enthusiasm and keen interest in Electronics has prompted him to commit himself to 4 years full time study at QUT Brisbane. From here he will graduate with a Bachelor of Mechanical Engineering Elec.

Upon his successful graduation Charlie will be commissioned to take up an appointment within the Technical stream of the Corps.



outstanding soldier, which is a tribute to the Corps and also his unit. The member is respected by his peers and also all the senior NCO's and Officers at 2 CER workshops.

Corporal Scholz joined the Army in 1980 and since that period has been posted to AAS, 4 Base Wksp, 17 Const Sqn, 8/12 Mdm Regt, 101 Fd Wksp, 9 Tpt Sqn, 20 Div ESS and 2 CER Wksp Brisbane. Corporal Scholz is now posted to 21 Cont Sqn and has been promoted to Sergeant.

From the OC and all the members of 2 CER Wksp congratulations on your awards and also your promotion, you will be sorely missed.



Brigadier Martins Award

Award to Corporal Phillip John Scholz

Corporal Scholz from 2nd Combat Engineer Regiment Workshop Brisbane has been awarded the Brigadier H.L.C Martins OBE Memorial Encouragement Award for 1992 and also recently received the Soldiers Medallion.

The first award consists of a perpetual trophy and a cash prize. Corporal Scholz was selected from the students attending the Subject 4 for Sergeant (RAEME) course conducted during the 1992 Training year, at both RAEME Training Centre and Aircraft Maintenance School. Selection is based on the results of the course, including the word picture and also any special confidential reports submitted to SCMA.

The second award is for outstanding service by those personnel of the rank of Cpl and below who do not normally have the opportunity to be recognised in the Australian Honours system.

Corporal Scholz is an outstanding student and also an



Regimental Award to WO2 Gary Smith

WO2 Gary Smith received the Regimental Award — RAEME for the 1991/92 Training Year.

Gary enlisted in the Army in January 1975 as a 30th Class Radio Apprentice. On completion of his apprenticeship he graduated as a Radio Tradesman in the Corps of RAEME. Although initially employed as a radio mechanic he was selected to be trained on the Rapier GW System and therefore changed ECN to Radar. He has been involved with the Rapier GW System for the past 12 years.

Gary has seen service with 3 Base Wksp Bn, 1 Armd Regt, 16 AD Regt Wksp, Adelaide Wksp Coy and P & EE Port Wakefield.

He is currently posted to the Entitlements & Scales Section of DCPM-A in Melbourne where he is part of a team providing expert and responsive acquisition, initial logistic support and technical



WELL DONES CONTINUED

documentation service for the Australian Army's capital procurement programmes.

Gary and his wife Christina have an eleven year old son, Michael, and they live in the Melbourne suburb of Croydon. He lists his leisure interests as golf (17), squash and he plays in the unit badminton competition. He is also endeavouring to complete his Associate Diploma in Electronic Engineering.

The Directorate congratulates WO2 Gary Smith on his achievement and wishes him all the best for the future.

☆ ☆ ☆

Artificer Of The Year Profile 318539 SGT R. B. Minato

SGT Robert Minato enlisted in the Army as a 31st class apprentice Electronics Technician in January 1976. He graduated in 1978 and was posted to 3 Base Wksp Bn where he completed his apprenticeship in December 1979. Whilst posted to 16 AD Regt Wksp in 1980 he attended the 2/80 Mach Dr (Rapier) course. He continued working on the Rapier missile system with subsequent postings to RAEME Trg Centre and Rapier Base Repair Facility.

In January 1989 he was posted to 1 Joint Communications Unit at Woomera in outback South Australia as a crew chief at the Joint Defence Facility, responsible for maintenance at the Satellite Ground Station. Whilst at 1 JCU he attended the 3/91 Subject 4 W (electronics/Electrical) course where he achieved excellent results.

SGT Minato is currently posted to 16 AD Regt Wksp as the Rapier TST section commander and has accepted a posting to

the Rapier Base Repair Facility on promotion to SSGT.

SGT Minato is continuing his education by studying for an Associate Diploma in Accounting with the Adelaide TAFE School of Business Studies.

While on Exercise "Aces North" in the Northern Territory in November 1992, SGT Minato was informed that he had been awarded the "Artificer of the Year" award for 1992.

☆ ☆ ☆

Australia Day Medallion Presentation

On Wednesday 17 January, the CO/CI, LTCOL Bruce Amor conducted his first CO's Parade. The Parade saw the presentation of an Australia Day Medallion to Mr Fred Plate, who has given exemplary service to all the RAEME Training Centre messes since 1968.



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The Brigadier Martins Trophy

Brigadier H.L.C. Martins, OBE was the Director of Electrical and Mechanical Engineering (DEME) from 8 January '67 to 29 December '69 when Army Headquarters was located at Albert Park Barracks in Melbourne. Having completed an apprenticeship as a fitter and turner with SA Railways, he worked as a design draftsman with BHP before joining the Permanent Military Forces in 1938. He was allocated to the

newly formed Army Electrical and Mechanical Engineers. Brigadier Martins was made an Officer of the Order of the British Empire (OBE) on 10 June '54, for services as the Commanding Officer of the British and Commonwealth Advanced Base Workshop in Korea. Brigadier Martins retired from the Army in 1969.

Brigadier Martins died on 17 July '89. Following a request by Brigadier Martins' wife and family, the RAEME Corps Committee agreed to establish a memorial award to be known as "The Brigadier H.L.C. Martins, OBE Memorial Encouragement Award". An interest bearing account titled the "Brigadier H.L.C. Martins, OBE Memorial Encouragement Award Account", has been established using money donated by the family. The family has also donated a perpetual trophy as part of the award.

Units were asked to submit designs for this trophy the winning design was submitted by CPL Neville (Nifty) Miller and Cfm Jason Harwood of ACT WORKSHOP PLATOON.

The Brigadier Martins OBE Award

The Brigadier Martins, OBE award is awarded to the best student from a Subject 4 (SGT) Course at RAEME Training Centre. The perpetual trophy was designed and constructed by two members of ACT Workshop Platoon: Corporal Neville Miller and Craftsman Jason Harwood as their winning entry in an Army wide competition.

The trophy represents the following:

The pyramidal base represents the rank structure of the Corps and hence the aspirations of the Craftsman. The anvil represents the strength and solidarity of the Corps as well as the training process during which the qualities of the tradesman are forged.

The hammer and spanner represent the physical characteristics of power tempered with restraint. The lightning bolt represents the spark of intuition.

The hammer, spanner and bolt of lightning also have their more conventional representations of the three major trade groups within the Corps.

The trophy is an anvil atop a pyramidal base. A lightning bolt flashes upwards from a hammer striking the top of the anvil.

The anvil started life as a solid piece of hot rolled 6 inch round mild steel. The basic shape was machined on the units Cincinnati milling machine. The horn was filed by hand. The flat surfaces were surface ground and along with all other surfaces were polished before being sent to Sydney to be BLACK chromed.

The hammer head is made from 3/8 inch hex steel bar black chromed, with the handle made from 1/4 inch round brass.

The lightning bolt and spanners are made from a flat sheet brass cut out and filed by hand.

The brass parts are to be gold plated.

The timber pyramidal base was made by SPR Craig Steer of Chief Engineer's ACT.

This trophy is a fine example of the quality of work that a tradesman in today's Army can produce.

The following appears on the plaque mounted to the base of the trophy. "This plaque was made and engraved by SSGT Andy Creeper."



Brigadier Kingston being presented the finished product by Cpl. Neville (Nifty) Miller, the RAEME Fitter Armourer who manufactured the trophy.

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DAWN SERVICE

Vietnam Veteran's National Memorial Day

By 41961 WO1 R.C. (Bob) Thompson (R)

Bang! Bang! on my door and a rather familiar voice sang out "Wakey, wakey, hands off snakey". Hell I thought, I'm still in the army! I looked out the window and it was still pitch black.

It all started to come back to me, we had to be on the steps of the War Memorial at least by 5.15am or for you old army blokes 0515 hrs. We, that is my mate of 30 years WO1 Phill Smith (31 years in the army) and I had to be early as we had to hold a night stick each, in fact there was 504 of them. Yes, you guessed it, one for each killed in Vietnam.

After the three "S" it was put on good clothes, on with the gongs, lift up the legs of the pants and rub the shoes on the back of the socks, then off to the Dawn Service.

We picked up our night sticks and made our arrangements for lost procedure, then we found our way through the crowd to a spot on the steps facing the old and new Parliament Houses. A voice said, "Shit my feet are cold." A voice inside me said "You're not wrong mate".

Phill and I spoke to all around us and asked the usual questions "What year mate?", "What Unit?", "Did you know ...?", "Where is your reunion?", "Have a nice day."

It's still pitch black, one can just make out people moving about.

A Yank (septic tank) in front of us says, "We don't have anything like this in America, what happens next?" A few of us share the telling. One of us asks the yanks, "You in Vietnam?" "No", the Yank said, "but I heard about your memorial from an Australian in St Pauls, so I had to come."

It's a bit lighter and we can see the people walking up Anzac Parade and it appears there is a lot. A speaker is turned on and somebody blows into it. Complete silence, except for the chortling of Australian birds who were flying around gum trees and the Australian War Memorial.

I was thinking about Nui Dat and feeling a little sad and my mate alongside of me whispered, "Jesus, I wish I was young again Tomo, and you and I still shared the same tent." I was saved from reply by the band as it struck up "O' Valiant Heart". I tried to read the words but it was still too dark. I did remember some of the words ("Deep your contentment in that last abode/Who wait the last clear trumpet call of God").

In the silences between the verses, magpies yodelled and



RAEME Vietnam Veterans give an "eyes right" as they swing down ANZAC Parade, Canberra during the March of Remembrance after the dedication of the Australian Vietnam Forces National Memorial on October 3. Thousands of veterans from around Australia look part in the parade, a church service at the Changi chapel at the Royal Military College, Duntroon, and a nostalgic concert on the lawns in front of Old Parliament House. Photo: ABPH CRAIG DUFF.

DAWN SERVICE FOR VIETNAM VETERANS CONTINUED

maggie larks raved from a discreet distance, and maintained this contribution right through the Service and it sounded especially nice when Sir Colin Hines gave his heartfelt rendition of "They shall grow not old etc."

Then it was almost full light so I could see Col (Killer) Kahn (now Brigadier) give his address in that deep distinctive voice that all his old diggers will never forget. He said, "It is entirely fitting that this, our ceremony, takes place here, in this place above all others, and especially at this time of the day, that the ghosts, the spirits of soldiers past are honoured and revered by the nation. Today, we the nation walk with the particular spirits of more than 500 veterans and civilians who died." Dawn he told us was a significant time for us to remember for it was at this time we as soldiers had stood to, and thought in silence as we watched our fronts.

I immediately thought of the dawn standtoos in Vietnam, when we had weapons in our hands and the sighs of relief when to our front, we only saw empty paddy fields.

Brig Kahn went on, "For the relatives of those who died, I promise that memory will paint this day with colours that can never fade."

We could all read the Service clearly now, so we sang as one voice "'O' God our help in ages past." By this time I had forgotten my cold feet, and my inner self felt warmed and I was glad to be alive and to be at this place, at this time, with these my digger mates.

The programme worked through the prayers and I remembered one particular verse in the prayer for Vietnam Veterans ("We pray for all citizens divided in conscience over the Vietnam commitment. Heal our divisions and bring us together as one people.") I was thinking of the welcome home parade we got in

Adelaide when me and my mates were pelted with rotten fruit and eggs. Then I thought, well it's 20 years ago, maybe I'll try to forget.

We finally sang as one, our National Anthem — we all stood straight, hands by the side, head up, I looked out the corner of my eye and saw two diggers helping a soldier out of a wheel chair. All stood, two with arms under the middle one, medals gleaming. I thought to myself, that's mateship.

As the National Anthem died I thought I heard a Huey helicopter and I said to myself, whoever thought to put that over the loud speaker system was bright, as the silence now was deafening. You could just, if you strained your ears, hear the chopper.

Then in the distance over Parliament House I saw a blinking very small blue light, and the chopper noise grew louder. Then the memories flooded back, how many times had I been out with a company of grunts on the "Ho Chi Minh Trail" and the GI air had promised to send a chopper to pick me up around 1600 hrs, if he could, or as I was told many times, you will have to stay with the Company for the night. And when, as I sat in the jungle straining my ears for that beautiful, lovely sound of the chopper coming to get me.

And there it was, a single Iroquois helicopter. It was flying up ANZAC Parade towards us and as it got closer the noise of the blades got louder, my heart filled to near bursting, as my eyes filled with tears of love and joy of life. I then noticed everyone was waving up at the Huey, still in its full camouflage, and I looked up and found my hand was waving too.

We all stood silent for what seemed an eternity, then I looked around at about 15,000 of my mates. This moment was magic for me and one moment in time I will never forget.

BOB THOMPSON *Task Force Armourer*
Units *Task Force HQ LAD*
1 *Armd Sqn Wksp*
106 *Fd Wksp*

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TELS SECTION FCU EQUIPMENT GRAVEYARD

By SSGT Steven Brown

Monday morning 0745, as I walked into EMEOPS for the morning conference, my thoughts wander from the sarcastic nature of the CPL who took the 0600 hrs PT session to the political reality of Cambodia and what the NADK (Khmer Rouge) might get up to during the week to disrupt the peace process. As I turned to sit down I found a signal in my pigeon hole, a quick perusal discovered several hand written comments at the bottom of the page;

SSGT Brown

1. Surprise!!

2. Pls prep an article for RAEME CFN, no more than two typed pages.

3. Pls Complete NLT 26 FEB 93

OC

And so started the week for TELS section FCU WKSP.

Upon arriving at the section — a collection of converted shipping containers and old equipment shelters — the usual morning news greeted me. "The RHQ Photocopier is broken." This meant that CFN Mitchell Woodward made his usual pilgrimage to RHQ.

Photocopiers are typical of most of the equipment the section repairs, overused, poorly maintained, Non Military and no parts available. As a result we have an ever increasing equipment Grave-yard and we've all become very adept at "controlled exchange".

Three other members of the section CPL Troy Doman, SIG Phil Elliott and SIG Brendan McInnes continued the on going task of inspecting equipment for return to Australia. This is proving to be a long process as each equipment requires a repair cost estimate; the repair bill for the UN at the start of the week was A\$70,000. CFN Woodward returned later in the morning to explain that yet again the photocopier had failed and he set about removing the required part from the equipment Grave-yard. We once had five working photocopiers, now we have one working and four waiting parts. We spent that afternoon trying to 'CON' a new photocopier from the UN. That afternoon SIG Jeff Woodman departed on leave to Greece. He usually works in the FRG at

Battambang, a town in the north west of the country.

Tuesday arrived with yet another pilgrimage to the photocopier and the departure on leave of CPL Garry Powell our RAAF representative in the section and also a member of the FRG SIG Royce Smythe set about inspecting yet another "Transit Damaged" equipment, this time a METLER balance from the Pathology Laboratory, the result, yet another bill for the UN. Late afternoon and a high capacity photocopier arrived from the UN. Great, all we had to do was assemble it and all our problems would be over.

Wednesday arrived with the news that the NADK had attacked the



The Workshop when together.

camp at Siemreap and Australians had returned fire. The other news of the morning was less favourable, the manual for the UN supplied Canon photocopier was in German.

This day also saw L/CPL Paul Phillpott going on leave to Thailand with his wife. She had arrived several days early with some much

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EQUIPMENT GRAVE YARD CONTINUED

needed parts from Dick Smith's. We ask anyone going on leave to bring in parts, this way we resurrect equipment from the Grave-yard.

The day dragged on with the inspection of equipment for return and the assembly of the photocopier proving more difficult than expected. At 1640 hrs CFN Woodward returned announcing that, "The photocopiers' assembled". "Great," I replied. "But it's displaying a fault message," he stated. "What?," I asked. "I don't know," he replied. "I can't read German that well." The next day was going to be fun!

Thursday started with SIG Elliott confined to bed with a stomach complaint "the shits". I hoped it was not the start of another dose going through the camp. A phone call to Canon confirmed we were stuck with German on the photocopiers display and a trip into town proved that our attempts to order parts through a local shop had again failed, but the day did bring some success, the Indonesians arrived with two antenna systems which required cables to be re-terminated and new connectors fitted. We had the parts to do it. Also our German improved enough to clear the fault and put the photocopier into service.

Friday and yet another pilgrimage to the photocopier started the day. A trip to town to arrange sound equipment for the UNTAC military concert also occupied the morning. This event is to be staged in an 8,000 seat basketball stadium. The section is involved because we arranged the sound for a unit concert in a 500 seat hall using a 100W amplifier (makes sense to us, only a small difference). On our return the Canadian Development Corporation requested help with their radio system. This resulted in SIG Smythe going to their HQ and returning mid-afternoon complaining about them being amateurs and not knowing the first thing about radios, or something worded a bit like that.



The entrance to Pteah Australia.

The afternoon also brought a phone call from the last member of the TELS Clan, CPL Devon Dutschke at the FRG, informing us that he was returning some equipment that was beyond their repair and that the ERV would be returning by train later that night.

Saturday morning eventually brought the arrival of the ERV, a rather sorrowful looking vehicle, but that's another article. In the back was the equipment being returned, most of it destined for the Grave-yard. As the morning finished so did the working week, as the afternoon is dedicated to sport and Sunday for most is a day of rest.

So that was the week for TELS section FCU, three members went on leave, the ERV returned, the repair bill for equipment returning to Australia reached A\$90,000 and our German improved. As for next week, 3 people will return from leave and the repair bill for returning equipment will increase and the UN may even pay. And we may just get a piece of equipment for which we have parts, but I'll lay odds we won't and that the Grave-yard will get bigger.

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THE BORLACE CLUB

By LT Trish Johansen

Opening

To coincide with the RAEME 50th Birthday celebrations at Enoggera on Friday, 13 November '92, 106 Field Workshop took the opportunity to have its new unit canteen opened. Brigadier J. Kingston, DGEME-A officially declared the club open by unveiling a plaque naming the facility in honour of Craftsman Douglas Borlace.

Vietnam

The original Borlace Club was opened in Nui Dat, South Vietnam in 1969 by Major Claude Palmer, the then OC of 106 Field Workshop. The soldiers' club was named after Craftsman Douglas Borlace, who was the first RAEME soldier killed on active service in Vietnam. He was killed in Phuouq Tuy Province on 15 July '68, when the APC he was travelling in ran over a mine.

Bandiana

On return to Australia in 1971 at the end of the Vietnam conflict, 106 Field Workshop returned to Bandiana and was eventually disbanded into the field wing at RAEME Training Centre. Prior to the disbandment, \$900.00 of unit RPA funds were invested in a painting by Michael Shannon. The painting was to be used as an investment to finance the raising of the 106 Field Workshop's RPA sometime in the future.

Coopers Plains

The unit was re-raised at Coopers Plains on the 1st May '81. However the soldier's club former name "The Borlace Club" was not re-instituted until 1987 when approval was given by COMD 6 BDE.

Enoggera

On relocation of the unit to Enoggera in May '91, planning commenced immediately for the construction of a unit canteen.

The new facility was built as a self-help project: designed, funded and constructed by members of 106 Field Workshop. In particular, WO2 George Tranter devoted many hours of hard work and construction skills in managing the development of the facility.

Funding for the project came from the closure of the messes at Coopers Plains, RPA fund raising activities and the sale of the painting for over \$6000. Construction of the facility commenced in June '91. In less than 16 months the unit constructed an excellent facility using the member's own time and resources.

Friday The 13th

A crowd in excess of 300 people attended the official opening on completion of the SEQLD RAEME Birthday celebrations. Three ex-OCs of the unit were also in attendance; COL Hicks-Hall (who raised the unit in 1968), LT COL C. Palmer (OC from Jan '69 - Jan '70) and LT COL Green (OC from Dec '89 - Jun '91). A considerable number of ex-members of 106 Field Workshop from 1968 to more recent years were also in attendance, as well as friends and families of current unit members; and members of the surrounding RAEME elements in SEQLD.

Several presentations were made to the unit on completion of the opening. These included a framed aerial photograph of 106 Field Workshop at Nui Dat in 1969, presented by Mr Frank Maloney. Also COL Hicks-Hall presented the unit with the 106th copy number of the Corps History.

Future

It seems that almost 24 years after the naming of the original Borlace Club in South Vietnam, that the soldier's club named in honour of Craftsman Douglas Borlace will continue to be associated with 106 Field Workshop for many years to come.



LT COL C. Palmer (ret'd) and MAJ K Alexander. LT COL Palmer opened the first "Borlace Club" in Sth Vietnam in 1969.



"The Borlace Club", 1992.

Exercise Canada Exchange 1992

By Captain Frank Oostermeyer

Adventurous Training Exercise, Canada Exchange '92, involving nine adventurers from MEA departed for Calgary Canada on the 18 AUG '92. The aim of the Exercise was to develop in the trekkers, endurance, leadership, fieldcraft skills and for them to experience the physical hardship and the mental stamina required to trek the Canadian Rockies. The team of adventurers ranged in age from 19 to 47 years, they were:

CAPT Ian Hicks OIC; CAPT Frank Oostermeyer; WO1 Geoffrey Cartwright; WO2 Robert (Buzz) Meakes; WO2 Dennis (Duck) Parkin, training officer and fitness adviser; WO2 Greg White; CPL Cyril Robinson-Goodwin; LCPL Melissa Stephens, tour operator/administrator; CFN Melissa O'Donohue, rollbook marker.

Before the team could depart for Canada, and to placate the bureaucracy, all required testing for AIDS. The results are none of your business, but all nine left for Canada. The team also required fitness training. This included a hiking weekend at Woods Point, long hikes carrying heavy packs through the Dandenong Ranges and walks around Melbourne during lunch hours. Sessions in the Victoria Barracks gym were also arranged to build up some of those flabby muscles. Alas, the training was not enough. Nothing could adequately prepare the team for the Rocky Mountains. The sore feet, blisters, backache, and the physical exhaustion of carrying our house on our back over mountains and passes higher than anything that exists in Australia, would take its toll.

The flight to Canada was long, boring and very tiring. Total travelling time was 30 hours, and we arrived at Calgary Airport the day we left Australia (work that out). The temperature was 32 degrees Celsius, fine and sunny with the promise of good weather. The Rockies were visible in the distance and covered in white. At first we thought it was cloud — no, snow. Our Canadian hosts spirited us away and before we knew it we arrived at the Canadian Forces Base in Calgary.

The next two days were a flurry of activity. We were introduced to workshop staff, particularly those who would be accompanying us on the trek. We bumped into the workshop OC who, like us, had just arrived, on posting. An extensive tour of the workshop followed. It is similar to one of our field workshops but much larger in both facilities and manpower. Contained within its establishment was a 3rd line facility manned by a civilian workforce. The workshop had similar methods of operation to our Fd Wksp. Its manning level was some 260 personnel. Following all the introductions and visits we were sent to their Q Store for outfitting. Q Stores are the same everywhere, you can't get away with anything. Ian Hicks was asked to sign a memorandum of understanding in case of damage or loss

of equipment. The equipment issued was first class and it became apparent that every attempt was made to ensure the success of the exercise.

Once all the Q and Admin was squared away, we decided to split the team of Australians into two groups, each group would be accompanied by a team of Canadians. Group one comprised of a Canadian Captain (who was in between posting and had a few days to kill), the four Australian and two Canadian warrant officers together with Cyril. The second group comprised of the two captains, two Canadian lieutenants, a Canadian master

corporal, three Canadian crafties and our two Mels.

The decision to split into smaller groups was forced upon us due to the rules of trekking. The Canadian parks authorities limit the number of people per group in some areas of the Rocky Mountains. In some places, the Rockies are considered ecologically fragile. As planning for the hikes commenced, we decided on two treks. The first trek was to be relatively easy, to allow for kit adjustment and acclimatisation. The second trek, of two phases was designed to be more difficult. The anticipated total trekking distance was 160km, however it proved to be much longer.

To the business end of the trip. The first trek turned out to be more difficult than planned. This was partly due to an unseasonable summer snow storm, the first for forty-six years. The trek was conducted

through the Mt Assiniboine Provincial Park which bordered the provinces of Alberta and British Columbia. Mt Assiniboine was named after the Canadian Indian tribe of that area. The wilderness scenery of the park is beautiful, with jagged rocks, shimmering lakes, glistening glaciers and alpine forest stands. Most of the trekking was relatively steady going until you reached the passes. The height above sea level varied from not less than 1500 metres to 2186 metres at Assiniboine Pass and 2360 metres at Citadel Pass. All of our intrepid warrant adventurers climbed a mountain called The Nublet (2600m), with Cyril Robinson-Goodwin and two Canadians climbing the Nub Peak at 2743 metres. Considering the ridge line they had to scale, it was a feat of bravery.

The distance covered during this trek was approximately 72km. The weather varied from sunshine and snow, to very cold, windy and snow. These conditions were not expected by the teams and as a result, some suffered from the cold. The thin air and the physical nature of the trek also took some getting used to. The effects of high altitude trekking became more obvious, with the gradual sapping of strength and continual need to stay warm.

The Australians learned invaluable lessons on the first trek which would prove useful on the next treks. The significant



The Warrant Group, ready for the assault on Assiniboine Pass. (L.R. standing) WO Ron Armstrong CA, WO2 Buzz Meakes, WO2 Dennis Parkin, WO1 Geoff Cartwright, WO2 Greg White, CAPT Peter McIntyre CA. (kneeling) WO Gerry Power CA, CPL Cyril Robinson-Goodwin.

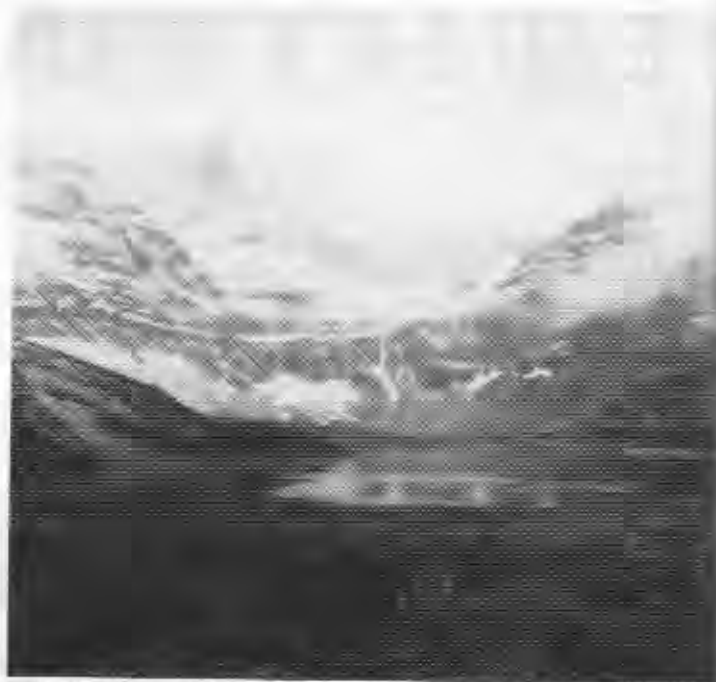
EXERCISE CANADA EXCHANGE 1992 CONTINUED

differences between Australian trekking and Canadian trekking, is that you are restricted to camping in designated areas. There is also the requirement to hoist your food onto 5 metre high poles, to discourage the abundant wildlife, particularly the bear population. Each camp site came equipped with at least one bear pole (food cache), sited no closer than 100 metres from the tent sites. Each had a deep trench toilet, and, of course, fresh running water. The water, in some cases, just trickling out of the ground.

The first phase of the second trek was through the eastern sector of Jasper National Park. This trek was treated with a numbed degree of enthusiasm. The weather had fallen foul to an Arctic Front. The temperature dropped to minus seven degrees Celsius. Buckets of snow and wind made the whole attempt seem impossible. As this was an adventurous training and we had plenty of food, shelter and protective clothing, a calculated risk was taken by the captains to push on. The groups split again, with one small party heading off on the planned trek. The others found a base camp and conducted day hikes for the duration of the first phase of the trek.

Within two hours of the start of the trek, the captains experienced what people in Melbourne learn to live with, four seasons in one day. The weather turned for the better, even though snow kept falling. The trek covered a distance of approximately 48km through Nigel Pass, Jonas Pass, Poboktan Pass down to the Sunwapta River. We covered it in two and a half days. Rumours and reported sightings of grizzly bears caused us some concern. No bears, bearets or bear babies were seen, but their pad marks, droppings and scratchings were prevalent. Caution was on everybody's mind. The Canadians who accompanied Ian and I were powered by steam. It soon became apparent that early morning rises would be necessary, for within three hours of our departure the Canadians would catch us up, pass us, and have dinner ready when we arrived at our night location. This trek was magnificent for the scenery, but back-breaking in effort. The passes and ridgelines reached heights in excess of 2636 metres. At that height we were touching low cloud. By this stage, the art in trekking was knowing when to stop and have a look at the scenery, catch your breath, bend your back and push on. Acclimatisation was not yet complete but carrying a heavy pack was starting to become natural. Breathing at these heights also became easier, and the knack of knowing how to stay warm helped. Ian and myself found the going most challenging and very rewarding, muscles were beginning to grow!!

The group who decided to trek on day hikes seemed to have the best deal, for they could dispense with their heavy packs. They trekked Wilcox Pass on one afternoon, knee deep in snow. On the second day they trekked 26km (round trip) to Glacier



(L-R) Mt Magog (3094m), Mt Assiniboine (3600m) and Wedgewood Peak (3030m). The snow below Mt Assiniboine is a glacier. Feeding Lake Magog.

Lake (a large lake fed by a huge glacier). During that trip the art of white water river fording was learnt very quickly. Men became women in the icy river, and the women didn't seem to care — Brass monkeys was the joke for the moment. On the third day they split into two parties, with one party trekking 17km to Nigel Pass, and the other party trekking to another glacier. There was more adventure packed into those two and a half days to last most "Normal" people a lifetime.

The second phase of this trek, the Skyline Trail, was reputed to be the best trekking in Canada. It was known for its scenic beauty and the fact that it traversed the top of a mountain range. That's OK if the weather is fine! this trek became a back breaking exercise for some of the team, due once again to the bad weather. To observe the world beneath your feet, the groups had to get up to the famous Skyline Trail, no matter which end you tackled the trail from, everything pointed towards the heavens. The trek started at about 2000 metres; the warrants group starting from the eastern end with the captains team starting from the western end. The plan was to meet in the middle and continue on. The trek was truly magnificent; emerald coloured lakes, small glaciers, spectacular views, barren craggy mountains of stone, narrow shale splintered ridgelines, windswept plateaus, and in the valleys, stands of Alpine Spruce

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EXERCISE CANADA EXCHANGE 1992 CONTINUED

trees and Canadian pine. The trail meandered through small valleys, over stone piled rivers and streams. The wildlife could be seen only if you were observant. Animal tracks dotted the trail, and sometimes the trail was covered in snow.

The Skyline ridge could be most distressing. The captain's team experienced an arctic blizzard, with winds estimated at 100km per hour, bringing with it snow, sleet and picking up the small particles of loose razor sharp shale. This cut into the exposed parts of the body. The scenic beauty for our team was lost, the two Mels required every ounce of energy to walk against the wind's ferocity. To make matters worse, visibility was restricted to 50 metres. Trekking became more than just adventurous, it was life threatening. On the other hand, the warrant's team had an absolutely glorious day when they reached the Skyline Ridge. It's always been said that WO's speak to God, captains are obviously mere mortals. The views from the top were magnificent, and the WO's descriptions made the others feel disappointed that they did not have the same fortune.

Generally speaking the trekking through the Rockies was a resounding success with the aim of the exercise achieved. The success of the trip was due mainly to the efforts of our Canadian hosts. Their genuine interest to satisfy our needs knew no bounds. When the teams were not trekking we were chauffeured and shown the sites around Calgary, Edmonton, Banff, Jasper and Drumheller.

In closing we wish to recognise the fine efforts of our Canadian friends: LT Rob Dundon, OIC and organiser; LT Adam Irwin, 2IC and casual observer; WO2 Ron Armstrong, strong man and guiding hand for young LTs; WO2/CIVI Gerry Power, who gave of his own time freely; CPL Carol Lapensee, animal tamer and fit lady; CFN Jamie Duncan, one crazy



*THE CAPTAINS GROUP
(L-R) CFN Mel O'Donohue, CPL Mel Stephens, CFN Scott Melvin,
CFN Jamie Duncan, MCPL Carol Lapensee,
CAPT Frank Oostermeyer, CAPT Ian Hicks, CFN Scott Jamieson,
LT Rob Dundon and LT Adam Irwin.*

chauffeur and story teller; CFN Scott Melvin, the lad from Newfoundland and story teller; CFN Scott Jamieson, the lad who hated getting up in the morning; and CAPT Peter McIntyre, ring-in and mad-keen trekker.



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RAEME TRAINING CENTRE

RAEME Training Centre so far this year has seen a number of changes, with the arrival of LTCOL Bruce Amor, MAJ Ann Martin and WO1 Gary Penhall as CO, MAJADMIN and RSM respectively, as well as a number of other new arrivals.

On Wednesday, 17 January, the CO/CI, LTCOL Bruce Amor conducted his first CO's Parade, where all Coys were inspected. The Parade also saw the presentation of an Australia Day Medallion to Mr Fred Plate, who has given exemplary service to all the RAEME Training Centre messes since 1968.

RAEME Training Centre would also like to congratulate the previous CO, LTCOL Studholme on receiving his Conspicuous Service Cross (CSC).

A number of staff have left RAEME Training Centre recently, including a few Redundees. Among them were MAJ Kev Stuart, now unrecognisable with a large bushy beard and a Harley, MAJ Geoff May, last seen sailing off into the sunset, MAJ Geoff (Holiday) Holloway, practising Thai, CAPT Doug Gammon, to build temporary structures, WO1 Ocker Carroll, WO1 Keith Bruinhout, and RSM Geoff Lowe all opting for the warmer climates.

The Bandiana Redevelopment Program is still developing, although our new Generator Training Facility was recently completed on 23 Dec '92 and a new entrance road to RAEME Training Centre is soon to be installed. DEMA and Co are still moving when the new buildings eventuate. More follows on the redevelopment, and on some of our departed staff.

FAREWELL — CAPT DOUG GAMMON

Although a change is as good as a holiday, it is always sad to see the departure of old stalwarts. One such person being CAPT Doug Gammon.

Doug Gammon enlisted in the Army on 9 January 1961 as an Army Apprentice fitter and turner. After 32 years service many people have experienced what it is like to have the "man mountain" cruising around. Doug arrived at RAEME Training Centre in January 1990, after managing to avoid a posting here for 29 years. However, Doug considers his last three years of service at the RAEME Training Centre one of his career highlights.

During his years of service Doug has left a number of landmarks — two squash courts and a smokers' annex. 1 Base Wksp Bn, Bulimba and P and EE Port Wakefield are each the proud owners of a Doug Gammon squash court. Last year the RAEME Corps Officers' Mess had built onto it an annex especially for smokers. Thanks Doug, it looked great until it burnt down.

Doug's plans for the future are a 3 month holiday, and from there anyone's guess — maybe PM. Why not! "Vote for Doug".

THE THINNING OF ARMAMENT WING

By WO2 Derek 'The Ancient One' Charlwood

MAJ Geoff 'Portly Person' May took a redundancy package this year after ... years service in the Corps. All those who have worked with him over the years wish him all the best in his new adventure as 'Mr Mum' or 'I will sail around Australia some day if the red plonk lasts!'

Geoff will be best remembered for his 'crazed obsession' with Armt Wing Thunderdome Kamikaze Hockey.

Geoff's vast experience and knowledge will be missed in the Corps. His fairness and honest approach to his subordinates was a feature of his leadership. Thanks for my PR66!

WO1 B (Henry) 'I am slimmer than Terry Stacey' Gibson, BEM has been posted to 101 Fd Wksp Coy. As with MAJ May again we have lost a dedicated 'chubby' member but this time only to another unit. We here at Armt Wing wish WO1 Gibson all the best in the Fighting 101st.

A special farewell was conducted by the wine merchants of

Albury/Wodonga for both MAJ G 'did I really drink that many?' May and WO1 Henry 'unaccustomed as I am to public speaking hic!' Gibson.

WO2 D 'I never crack on the sports field' Roberts was posted to 2 Cav Regt just so he can play golf at Darwin. He contributed to the Wing in that he reduced his andy cap, improved his swing and swanned off to Vanuatu for four weeks without me.

Good luck in 2 Cav, Dale. Golf starts at 1200 hr there, not 0900 hr.

SGT N 'Longbeach Ultra Mild' Rayment, posted to Puckapunyal Log Bn or whatever they call themselves. Once he heard of his posting we could not hold him down — or was that up?

SAMT qualified, licensed to weld LEOPARDS, BBQs and trailers. Keep smiling, Neal.

SGT B 'I'm not in the poo again, am I?' Gray, posted to 21 Const Sqn, Puckapunyal will be missed for his prowess with the touch footy and the cheap eggs. His ability to keep the heat off the rest of us will be sorely missed by the other staff members.

WO2 T 'Beach Ball' Stacey on temporary loan to Dev Wing till July when he will be posted to Puckapunyal. Terry will be missed for ... 11 years in RAEME Trg Centre.

The combined weight of Armt Wing has decreased twofold with the postings. We are now slim, trim, taut and terrific and love PT morning, lunch times and evenings. Get me out of here, I'm too old to get fit.

87 YEARS OF SERVICE FAREWELLED

By SGT J. J. McCarthy

RAEME Training Centre, in particular Vehicle Wing, lost a considerable amount of experience when two of its longest serving members "pulled the pin".

Anthony John 'Curly' Curtain and John Earle 'Jack' Straw decided that 1992 was a good year for retirement, both for the second time.

Curly Curtain joined the Army in January 1952, and was assigned to RAE, within six months he "saw the light" and transferred to RAEME.

During his career he saw service in New Guinea from 1959-61 and Vietnam in 1968.

Curly retired from the Army as a WO1 in June 1987, but continued his association with RAEME by becoming a civilian Technical Instructor at RTC one month later. Here he kept an eye on Basic and A Veh Courses.

Curly retired from working life in December 1992 and took up a well deserved life of leisure at Ulladulla, NSW, where he is determined that the hardest decision he will make is what bait to use.

Jack Straw joined REME (that English equivalent) in January 1947, just five years after EME was formed.

He served in Germany, Northern Africa, Malta and Hong Kong, and saw action in Cyprus, Malaysia and Northern Ireland.

Jack retired from REME as a WO1 in February 1975, and joined the Australian Public service as Technical Instructor in Vehicle Wing RTC in May that year.

Jack took on the job of COORD Officer in the wing, a job that was not truly appreciated until after he left. He retired from working life in February 1993 to devote more time to his wife, and his other interest the St John Ambulance (NSW) of which he is a Life Member.

Together, Jack and Curly total 87 years of service to the military, with over 40 years of that dedicated to RAEME.

Service and dedication like this is rarely seen.

An entire generation of Army Mechanics thank Curly Curtain and Jack Straw for their devotion and integrity, and wish them well in their well deserved retirement.



Interior of new generator training facility.



Exterior of the new building.

**RAEME TRAINING CENTRE
REDEVELOPMENT GENERATOR
TRAINING FACILITY**
By SGT Ian Richards

The first Training Facility to be refurbished as part of the Bandiana Redevelopment Program was recently completed and on 23rd December 1992 handed over to the SI of Electrical Wing, Major John Lord.

The original Generator Training Facility was earmarked for refurbishment after a 1990 Occupational Health and Safety inspection identified serious problems with exhaust extraction, roof leaks, POL contaminated dirt floors and noise pollution.

The program commenced in August 1992.

Features incorporated into the new facility include:

- Evaporative cooling and heating of work areas;
- Purpose designed exhaust extraction for each generator work station;
- Floating concrete slabs for vibration reduction at each work station;
- Safety lockout systems for the Load Banks; and
- A sound proofed air conditioned staff room.

Not only has the refurbishment provided an ergonomically sound training environment, it has provided Electrical Section with a long awaited improvement in working conditions.

The next Training Facility earmarked for rebuild/refurbishment is the Electrical Wing with work due to commence in Feb/Mar 1993.



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Happy Birthday RAEME

By MAJ K.J. Wrangle

I was minding my own business one day when the suggestion was made that I would/should take on the position of Golden Jubilee Project Officer.

After asking "What Golden Jubilee?", I was presented with a very thin file which was supposed to have everything I needed to know on it. I was then advised that the previous project officer had retired and that his SGT assistant was about to take discharge. Oh well, this is what skill and fighting is all about!

At about this time there were two people at RAEME Training Centre who didn't duck fast enough. They were Major Geoff May and WO1 Geoff Lowe who became the local project officers, and so the trio was formed.

Several important questions needed to be answered quickly. What form would the Golden Jubilee Celebrations take? After much deliberation it was settled that there would be a ceremonial parade, followed by an Open Day and a Church Service — oh, and in between the Officers would have a Dining-In Night for three hundred people and we would have two large parties for about 1200 people at some stage in the proceedings.

Several hurried trips to Bandiana and a few chats around the conference table later, the plot had been hatched. Invitations were printed, guests from far and wide were invited, and parade personnel were nominated.

Financial estimates were submitted (didn't I have something better to do with my time?). Resources were discussed and discussed again, reorganised, revamped, requested from everywhere and all-over. The most popular question known to be heard was "Can't the system provide this at no cost?", and the most popular response, "It's a freebee, yippe!". The second most popular question was, "are the RAAF or aren't they?"

The project office was in full swing at RAEME Training Centre by 19 October. Countless conferences were held. Anyone who breathed was given a sub-project. Sub-project officers reported both triumphs and tribulations, overcoming all manner of setbacks amazingly well. An endless procession of persons filed into the Headquarters at RAEME Training Centre, the words on their lips "Just a quick one ..."

After several trips to the hairdresser to have the greys covered up, I was still accused of smiling too much. Little did everyone realise that this was usually a nervous reaction designed to prevent my face from shrivelling up.

The padres were consulted to call in favours from above for fine weather for the duration of the Golden Jubilee. Major May indicated that good sailing weather was required — not too hot, with a slight gentle breeze blowing from the North-West. The RSM remained reassuring by saying that RAEME Training Centre would "rise to the occasion" and not only did they rise, but they went above and beyond the sides of the cake tin.

The weather was perfect for the parade on Friday, 27 November 1992. The Parade Host was MAJGEN A.D. Powell, the Representative Colonel Commandant RAEME, who was the host for all the Golden Jubilee activities. LTCOL David Pascoe, the CO Oakley Wksp Bn, overcame a case of laryngitis to command over 250 RAEME soldiers both ARA and ARES from around Australia in an excellent ceremonial parade. The CGS Lieutenant General J.C. Grey AO, reviewed the parade and was full of praise for the participants. The parade was attended by several senior officers from overseas who were guests of the Corps

for the duration.

Afterwards a buffet luncheon was held under tentage as the sun shone brightly on RAEME Training Centre. Soon it was time for honoured guest Mr Thomas Money of Melbourne, aged a spritely 92 years and the oldest known living member of the Corps, to cut the Golden Jubilee Birthday Cake. He was assisted by CFN Richard Hayes, Bandiana Log Gp, the youngest member of the Corps. The ceremony was observed by the CGS and other guests. A delighted Mr Money became an overnight media celebrity.

From there it was down to the Headquarters for the burial of a time capsule by MAJGEN Powell. The time capsule contained memorabilia of historical interest to the Corps, and is due to be opened in 2042. In the interim it has a very safe resting place under the tree outside the Headquarters of RAEME Training Centre.

That night the heavens opened up, but it didn't matter because 300 serving and retired officers were reminiscing together at the dinner. A good time was had by all until the wee small hours of Saturday morning, when it was time to have breakfast and gather energy for the Open Day. From the early hours preparations were underway setting up static and action displays of Army equipment. The jazz band set the mood, bus tours were conducted of RAEME Training Centre and other units, the drink sellers worked overtime, along with the tug-o-war and rugby teams. By 6pm, fatigue setting in, it was time for the big one.

The band was set up on the tennis court and as the sun set RAEME Training Centre arked up for a big night. The magnificent food eaten and cleared away, the cooks discarded their aprons and were seen discoing, along with children, Mums and Dads, grandparents and VIP guests. In the early hours the band wound down.

Sunday dawned, and that morning as a final and befitting end to a hectic weekend, a church service was held at St Peter's Chapel at the Army TAFE. After one of the smaller catering efforts of the weekend — a luncheon for only 200 people, the crowd dispersed to return home with many fond memories of places and people not seen in many years, taking with them many a headache and hangover.

As the project team sat down for a quiet drink on the Sunday afternoon the rain came down. I guess someone up there loved us and the Corps, for the duration of the Golden Jubilee weekend.

On a serious note, the credit for the success of the Golden Jubilee must go to RAEME Training Centre. It was "all hands on deck" from the subbies to the students and from the civvies to the CO, LTCOL Studholme.

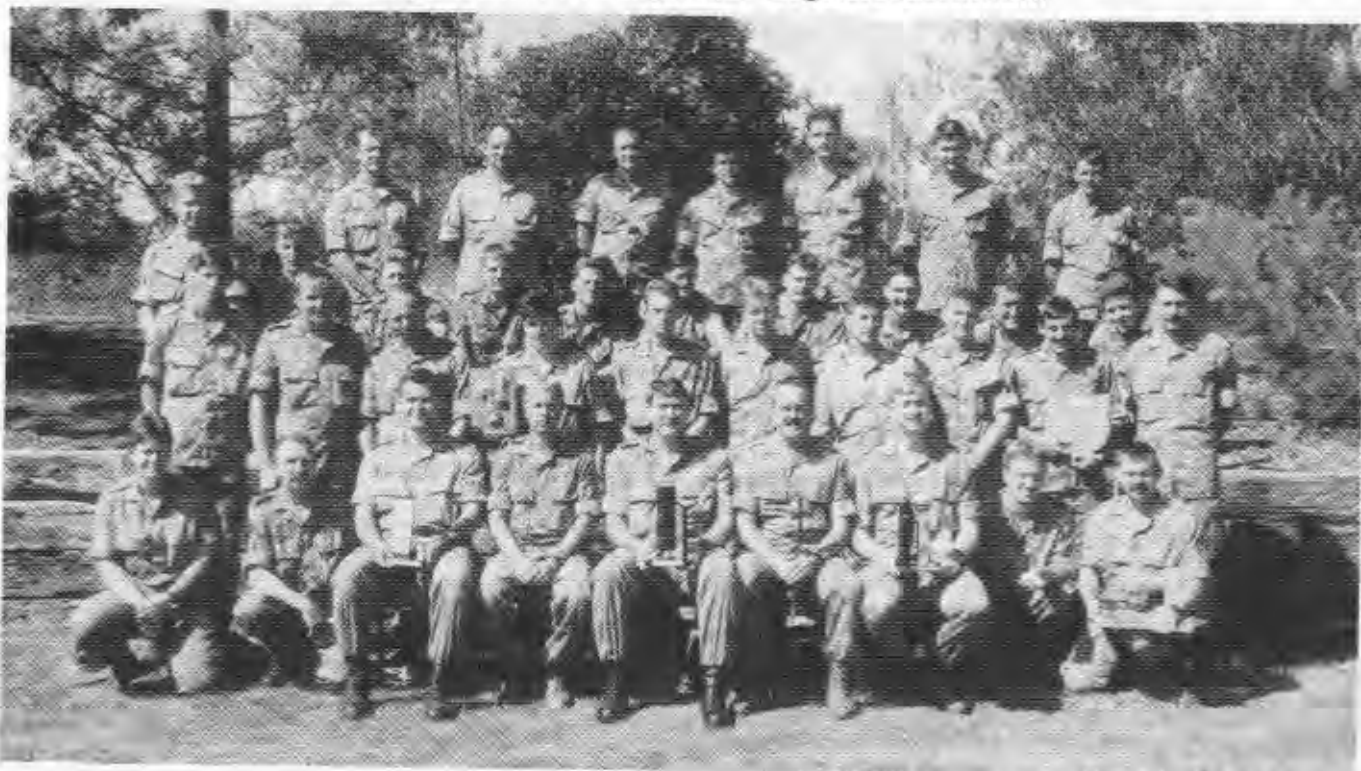
The RAEME Training Centre Project Officers saw this as their swansong and have headed off to civvie street. I'm sure every reader of the Craftsman wishes MAJ May and WO1 Lowe all the best for the future.

The formalities over, the answer to the question about whether the RAAF did or not is "yes — they did".

The project team wishes to make it known they are not in a position to answer the question on everyone's lips which is "What's really in the time capsule?" You'll have to wait until 2042 to find out!

Puckapunyal Logistic Battalion

The transition from 1992 to 1993 has brought about an exciting period of change within Puckapunyal Logistic Battalion.



Vehicle Company Puckapunyal Logistic Battalion, 1992.

The assumption of command by our new CO, LTCOL Bruce Grant, has seen the previous Company OC's (now known as Fleet Managers) take on the added responsibility of the operations function of their sub-units whereas in 1992 this function was performed for all sub-units by an independent Operations Branch.

The basic structure of the battalion now revolves around three 'Fleets' — Vehicle Fleet, General Engineering and Electrical (GEE) Fleet and Regional Support Fleet. Vehicle Fleet houses the 'greasers' of the battalion and GE and EIR are elements of GEE Fleet along with the Camp Earmark. Regional Support Fleet, as it would suggest, consists of Transport Platoon, Foodstuffs, Clothing and POL Platoon and Ammunition Platoon.

This increased control afforded to the three Fleet Managers should ensure increased efficiency and customer satisfaction from the Battalion.

On a lighter note let us turn our attention to the sporting field. 1992 was a great year for Vehicle Company who attained the title of Champion Company for the year. Among the many achievements were the athletics carnival plus inter-unit soccer, basketball, and volleyball. Vehicle Fleet also made a promising start to 1993 with the three Vehicle Fleet syndicates finishing first, second and third in Ex "TRAINING SOLDIER", a military skills exercise. It would be appropriate to mention at this point that the two syndicates from GEE Fleet finished fourth and fifth in this exercise which may indicate a certain amount of RAEME proficiency in this area.

1992 saw a number of RAEME personnel make Puckapunyal Logistic Battalion the last posting of their career. *These include:*

CPL John "J.C." Coster, Veh Mech, on discharge to Tasmania after 20 years service.

CPL Peter "P.J. Mild" Andriessen, Veh Mech, on discharge to SA after 20 years service.

CPL Andrew "Henry" Lawson, Veh Mech, on discharge to SA after 20 years service.

WO2 Danny Bright, Veh Mech, on discharge to NSW after 28 years service.

WO2 Peter "Gladdis" Davey, Veh Mech, on discharge to Ballarat, Vic after 21 years service.

Last but by no means least is a well known character within the corps, CPL Chester "Dog's Breath", "The Fox" Scaddan OAM, Rec Mech, who took his discharge to Seymour, Vic but not before totally impressing the Battalion hierarchy of 1992 at the OR's dining-in night by giving everyone a rendition of "On The Road Again" during the CO's speech.

This concludes the happenings at PLB for this issue. I look forward to keeping you up to date in subsequent issues as events unfold this year.

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PA5/93

Technical Support Platoon 1 RAR Operation Solace '93

Well, it started out to be the usual Christmas wind down for us, parking vehicles and preparing them for the cyclone season. The armourers were performing their final inspections of the armouries. Like everybody at 1 RAR, we were ready for chrissy.

However, on the 15th of December came the announcement that blokes had longed for and the wives dreaded. 1 RAR along with its supporting elements were to deploy to Somalia.

So began the task of recalling the platoon. Huck Berry, in his haste to return to his post, received a speeding ticket. He was so busy listening to the latest developments as he drove that he failed to notice an oncoming police car.

Once the platoon was back at Lavarack, the real hard slog began. Davo's store had to be packed up, vehicles had to be sea-prepared. Along with that came the medical checks, dental inspections and every other inspection and check known to man.

We also gained another ASM (one for peace and one for war) and four extra crafties (CLITs) who, due to a variety of reasons, were unable to deploy with us. Also 3 BASB lent us 2 tradies, CPL Peter Chalker and CFN Paul Salter, who would get to go to the "sharp end" with the rest of us.

The vehicles were loaded onto HMAS JERVIS BAY which left port on Christmas Eve, on time. However, HMAS TOBRUK was a different story. A gas leak held up loading for about seven hours. As a result loading was completed only about half an hour before the ship was due to sail.

Despite all the hard work, we were still able to send CFN's Andrew Goss and David Dick on a two and a half week cruise vacation on the JERVIS BAY. For some reason, when we saw our holidaymakers in Somalia, they demanded their money back. It seems that scrubbing decks, chipping and painting the ship wasn't on the brochure.

We also sent CFN's Andrew Bennett and Shane Scott on the TOBRUK (Slave Trader) and they also had a lovely time!

The rest of the platoon deployed by air to Somalia. The first push consisted of WO2 Bomber Lancaster, CPL's Huck Berry, Andrew Clarke, Peter Chalker, CFN's Nathan Davis, Scott Burden, Daryll Hall and Paul Salter. The second push, making up the remainder of the platoon, followed: LCPL Jim Grindrod, CFN Adam Bruhn and PTE Gary Kirkpatrick.

On arrival in Mogadishu, the platoon spent a lousy night at the airport and was rudely awoken at 4.00am by an American Galaxy. The airport was definitely an eye opener, all around the strip lay abandoned vehicles and aircraft. The place looked like something out of a combined Mad Max II and Rambo movie.

We then deployed inland to Baidoa, where we are presently stationed. Our current house is an abandoned building, made out of sandstone and without a roof. A couple of tarps from the GMV's over the top and Hey! Presto! BLUEBELL's house was completed.

Once the roof was in place it rained for the first time in years. This exposed several design faults in the tarps, allowing rain in. However, all was not lost, Bruhno decided to release the pressure of the tarps with his bayonet, causing a tidal wave to flow through our living area. Thus he saved all his boffin gear but succeeded in soaking everybody else's gear (only Bruhno).

Gossy became our first combat veteran, when sent on an FRT to repair a CARE Vehicle that was stolen by bandits. On arrival Gossy was shot at. He then proceeded to dig a weapon pit with his bare hands. Unlike during exercise, when you just hear a bang, this time he heard the "crack, thump". At this point Gossy's anus

was beginning to spasm (technical for pucker), and to top that off the vehicle was booby trapped which really made his day.

Clarkey and Dicko then thought they had the privilege of manning the first FRT in a GMV (1 RAR's GMV's have done more miles over water than over road!) After all the preparations they went through they found it only to be an inspection on a steyr.

The first real FRT (VM's) was a beauty. After chasing up an escort vehicle, FRT orders, and all that pre-planning and organising, the casualty turned out to be only 500 metres outside the front gate.

Everybody has been doing vehicle protection and vaccination runs, so all of us have at least got out and about. The corporals of Tech Spt have started doing urban patrols through town and are taking crafties out as well, so over here, we're definitely soldier/tradesmen. The weight of the flak jackets and front line ammo, together with the 45°C heat, is beginning to take its effect on us.

Even the ASM is doing protection parties. Coming back from the inoculation run he went to the hospital to check up on some shotgun wounded patients. He jumped through his skin when a bomb exploded 50 metres away and his backside went out in sympathy with Gossy's. All of a sudden he looks a bit grey.

Once again it has been demonstrated that whilst deployed a RAEME tradesman is still a smart cookie. Chalks made a very basic style washing machine. An ingenious device, made from old ammo boxes and fuel hose reels, certainly beats hand washing. All the grunts like it, but no one is prepared to pay for it (a carton of coke, starting price).

However, not all of our activities have been confined to army vehicles, with all the derelict vehicles about, naturally, a few have come our way. Gossy and Jim received an old Fiat bus. This bus had 13 owners before we took over ownership. All died as each took over the wheel, shot and thrown out, next driver please! Scotty being our resident Fiat mechanic naturally took over the job of restoration. Once he gets it back on the road the "bus from hell" is to be given to the sallyman to be used as a run-around vehicle. We also scored one from the marines, an ex-technical, but it was a bit too far gone, so Hally and Gossy took it out and gave it a painful and lingering death.



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OPERATION SOLACE '93 CONTINUED

Huck and Bruhno went down to Mogadishu as protection party for the media, but got more than they bargained for. On the return trip they had to go via the airport to do a protection party for a stores convoy. While driving over to the airport a very large crowd of locals were having a closed-road party (riot) with burning tyres, poles etc. Huck decided they had better stop so that he could assess the problem. The driver pulled up 30m short of the massive crowd, the Somalian's were singing out "come through Australia, come through". Now after seeing a few yank vehicles with smashed windscreens, Huck decided to withdraw back to the American Embassy. As the driver started to turn the truck around, the crowd started rushing the two vehicles, throwing stones and bottles, narrowly missing Huck and Bruhno. As the vehicle was fully in the "U" turn, the locals were upon the trucks, smashing it with rocks and sticks. After a few more lesser encounters they arrived back safely at the Embassy, where the crowd started to gather. Within an hour there were bullets flying in all directions. It wasn't a two way range, more like an any direction range, but they made it home safe and sound with some good yarns to spin.

While Huck and Bruhno were getting shot at and stoned (rocked), back here at Baidoa, Clarke and Gossy were doing a roving patrol and told over the radio (77 set) by Zero Alpha to check out a report of several locals inside the wire. As they patrolled over to the site they heard five or six weapons being cocked. Being the middle of the night and not being able to see anything they dived to ground, driving their bodies six inches into the dirt. Due to the unavailability of night vision goggles (in a war zone!) they couldn't see anything whatsoever.

So Clarke decided to get Gossy to radio back to Zero Alpha to tell them of the dilemma and to get more instructions. However,

Gossy's ratel procedure suddenly turned to s t due to the current situation. When he and Clarke returned from the wire, it was found that Clarke also had a speech problem, and a dirty face from burying his face in the sand (now that's really amazing!)

That wraps it up for now, so we'll sign off here and say "cheers" to all the other members of the Royal Corps. Have a beer for us (actually, have several).

Bye for Now

BLUEBELL 1 RAR

MEMBERS DEPLOYED

WO2 Bomber Lancaster

CPL Huck Berry

CPL Peter Chalker

CPL Andrew Clarke

CFN Daryll Hall

CFN Shane Scott

CFN Andrew Bennett

CFN David Dick

CFN Scott Burden

CFN Andrew Goss

CFN Adam Bruhn

CFN Paul Slater

CFN Nathan Davis

LCPL Jim Grindrod

PTE Gary Kirkpatrick

CLIT?'s (Crafty's Left In Townsville)

WO2 Phil Jarret

CFN Jamie Walters

CFN "J.R." McFarlane

CFN "Payny" Payne

CFN Paul Klieve

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2nd Combat Engineer Regiment Workshop

By *LT A Robinson*

The past year has seen challenges met, excellence maintained and transition achieved within 2nd Combat Engineer Regiment Workshop here at sunny Enoggera.

During 1992 the Wksp successfully amalgamated 2/3 Field Engineer Regiment Workshop and 20 Divisional Engineer Support Squadron Workshop into the new 2 CER Wksp. Also we supported 20th Support Squadron Plant Troop on Exercise K92, deployed numerous FRT's in support of troop activities, deployed on the 2 CER Regimental exercise (Initial Run), stretched the limits on our adventure training exercise (Rope and Rapid), and celebrated the Corps and the Regiments birthdays in November.

The start of 1992 saw us faced with the daunting task of combining two established workshops. An amalgamation of two large workshops does not proceed without some inherent problems. For instance, the RPS and Q accounts of both Wksp's had to be rationalised and action taken to transfer or return equipment. These tasks alone took most of 1992 to complete but was a job ably conducted by our push-bikers from hell, WO2 Peter Hattch and WO2 Steve Sharratt.

Primary responsibility for amalgamating the two units fell squarely on the shoulders of the newly posted in and promoted MAJ Doug Gillott. Plans were laid, timetables set and tasks commenced. The results of this planning can be seen today. 2 CER Wksp is a professional and highly skilled unit, proud of the service it gives to 2 CER. MAJ Gillott is no longer with us, having completed his task of overseeing the change, and he is now posted to Shrivenham in the UK. Our new OC is CAPT Ian Anderson who was posted in as the OC 20 Div Wksp before its close.

During the year the Wksp deployed an FRG in support of 20 Support Squadron Plant Troop on Exercise K92. The push was led by LT Andrew Robinson and SGT Lea Buckmaster. The plant troop and its FRG were used specifically for damage control and were working directly for 1 Civil Liaison Unit based in Darwin. Our first echelon site was at the Lea Point Caravan Park in Darwin, complete with large pool and air-conditioned restaurant facilities. Yes, we were doing it tough! As the exercise



2 CER WKSP Personnel 1993

Back Row L to R: CPL Mt Mahon, CPL M. Saikovski, CFN J.J. Hooper, CFN P.A. Hoffman, CPL C.P. Reidel, CFN C.N. Regan, CFN J.W. Frost, CFN M.R. Fraser, LCPL A.C. Cavanagh,
 4th Row L to R: CFN C.A. Hodge, CPL S. Bailey, PTE A. Bahur, CPL M.H. Craggs, CFN C.J. Newman, CFN I.K. Bradford, CFN P.J. Viney, CFN C. Marino
 3rd Row L to R: CFN R.C. Green, CPL P.J. Schole, LCPL S.M. Wilson, CPL A. Khalil, CPL S.P. Campbell, PTE R. Standen, CFN T. Bodle
 2nd Row L to R: SGT C.R. Green, CFN L.W. Semmens, CPL L. Bragg, PTE S. Newton, CFN N.B. Hitchings, CFN P.C. Constable, CFN P.J. Homer, SGT R.C. Winkle, SGT G. C. Hansen
 Front Row L to R: SGT W. Vella, WO2 A. Cunningham, WO1 W.R. Wardill, CAPT I.J. Anderson, LT A.C. Robinson, WO1 A.C. Rykers, SGT L.S. Buckmaster, WO2 S. Sharratt

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2ND CER WORKSHOP CONTINUED

start date neared we were moved into Larrakeyah Barracks. Soon after, our two FRT's were deployed to Fenton Airfield south of Darwin and Timber Creek on the Kununurra Highway. We were neutral throughout the exercise so after work the boys were left to their own devices.

The Timber Creek pub was a favourite after-hours haunt Mick, the owner, did his best to see that we caught a barramundi each in the nearby Victoria River. Best fish caught by the crew was a 9kg barra hooked by CPL Bruce "Crusty" Ferguson. Best rollover of a vehicle was won by two Swedish girls who rolled a Commodore three times near the WA/NT border — and drove away! Can't do that in a Volvo! Fortunately, no one was seriously hurt. Ugliest pick-up for the trip was a close fought battle but was finally won by CPL Max "I prefer blondes" Walker. His jelly-wrestling, Harley-riding, knock the top off a stubby (between her legs), ex-stripper, barmaid, girlfriend (tattoos included), was a true work of art. And finally the Most Obnoxious award was declared a no-contest with all votes going to CFN "Ram" Marino.

As K92 drew to a close the FRT's were called back to Darwin. We had trouble getting our recce mech back. CPL Lance Edwards was dug in at RAAF Base Tindal with an air-conditioned room, personal bar fridge and mixed grills every night. Once back in Darwin we weathered the fringe of Cyclone Neville then headed back to Brisbane.

The Workshop had a heavy FRT schedule for support to the Regiment and other units during the year. Exercises supported included Sapper Citadel, Tropic Lightning, Swift Eagle, Ready Sapper, Killerton Track, Hard Steel and Ready Ram. Swift Eagle was "The" most different exercise for the year. A field troop from the engineers, plus attached RAEME personnel, acted as natives on the fictional Limpopo Island at Shoalwater Bay Training Area (SWBTA). From all reports our three Wksp blackfellas, CPL Paul McKie, CFN "Clemmo" Clement and CFN "Ronnie" Regan did a great job.

The big exercise for the year was Initial Run when we deployed to SWBTA to support the Regiment in route denial and route clearance tasks. We also assisted 7 and 11 Brigades who were more than happy with the help we provided, especially the greaser support, led by CPL Phil Scholz. Also happy with our skills was Services Troop who used our crusty old welder, CPL Bruce Ferguson, whenever they could on the building of Elanora Bridge. The rest of GE was busy too, busy constructing the bays' biggest BBQ spit, made of old bailey panels to give it an Engineer flavour. Also busy was CFN JJ Hooper, who was always itching to do something around the place.

But making spits and building bridges wasn't all we did on the exercise. The greasers worked hard as usual, providing a round the clock service to the Engineers and our other dependencies. Our efforts were greatly appreciated and noted by all who had dealings with the Workshop. The officers in the Regiment were busy too. Nothing like some resistance to interrogation training to clear out the cobwebs.

With 1992 almost over the Wksp participated in the RAEME 50th Birthday Parade here at Enoggera, followed by the 6th Brigade Open Day and the celebration of the Regiment's 1st birthday.

1993 promises to be as full of challenges as last year. Already we have provided support to Exercise Raging Ram, Exercise Shakeout, Exercise Bardia and a Resources Troop deployment, and have conducted a Transitional Application practice with the F88 Austeyr. March will be even busier. But no matter, don't hesitate to drop in and say g'day if you're in the area.



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ON THE WATER AGAIN

By CAPT Bill Gradden

In keeping with the tradition of the activities outlined in the November 92 issue of the "Craftie", members of 106 Fd Wksp have again taken to the sea to sally forth on exercise. Returning to the scene of previous criminal activities 106 deployed personnel and equipment to Moreton Island by LCM8 to conduct Ex Moreton Venture, an adventurous training exercise.

With the DS maintaining a level of secrecy resembling a Figure 11 after a M60 practice, the main party departed the unit just after midnight on 3 Dec 92 for Bulimba and 34 Water Transport's LCM8s. As dawn broke the exercising sections strode onto the beach at Bulwer and set off inland in search of food caches. The following three days saw the sections traverse varied and at times difficult terrain in hot and humid conditions with limited food. Although there were some organisational problems, not the least of which was the OIC getting geographically embarrassed on the second day whilst receiving a cache location, this phase of the exercise achieved its aim of placing junior leaders in a stressful and challenging situation designed to develop their self-confidence and leadership skills. The section members also gained insights into their own ability to persevere, and several amusing anecdotes were related at the end of the exercise, especially with reference to the live chickens that were provided one night for dinner.

Whilst the majority of the exercising troops were battling hunger, wasps and the undergrowth, WO2 Wayne Luck was again at the controls of a JD450C, enhancing the local tracks at the request of the National Parks personnel. This Cat 5 DACC task not only further embellished the unit's high standing with the island community but quite handily negated any requirement for camping fees.



All smiles at the bottom for first timer CFN Thora Threadingham.

The arduous phase of Ex Moreton Venture was concluded on the afternoon of 6 Dec 92. After a shower the thirsty and famished hordes set about putting a sizeable dent in the liquid refreshment stocks and attacked the hangi, ably prepared by LT Tony Mitchell, SGT Mick Wilkinson and CPL Scott McInnes, with gusto. Due recognition should be given here to CFN 'Goose' Wellington who managed to accrue the most ticks in the drinks book and is reputed to have held up a bank on return to pay the bill.

For the next two days all personnel participated in many and varied activities which included abseiling, snorkelling, water skiing and fishing. Entertainment at night was provided by the fishermen and their inevitable stories of the one's that got away, and the singing SGTs Three, Wendy Pannowitz, Mick Wilkinson



No guts — no glory. SGT Wendy Pannowitz tries the rundown technique.

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**ON THE WATER AGAIN
CONTINUED**

and 'Rosco' Taylor. Their sparkling renditions of "Father Abraham", "Swing Low Sweet Chariot", and "She'll Be Comin' "



LT Tony Mitchell and PTE Cullen placing a food cache on day 2.

"Round The Mountain" from atop a FS table greatly amused the attendant masses.

Regrettably, the fun and frivolity came to an end on the morning of 9 Dec 92 as all the exercise participants once again embarked onto 34 Water Transports LCM8's, this time for the homeward journey. Despite a few mutters about the first three days not being "real adventure training" (ie an advanced drinking



WO2 Wayne Luck and SGT Mick Wilkinson at work on Moreton Island's Centre Track.

and fishing course) all who went enjoyed the get away and those lucky enough to remain posted to 106 will hopefully get the opportunity to again take to water in a big green boat bound for a sunny isle.

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Singleton Logistic Company

By Cpl Mark Underwood

Yes we do still exist, but not for much longer. On the 1 July 93 we amalgamate once again to become part of BASC HUNTER VALLEY. Although our numbers have diminished we are still alive and kicking, providing the same support to our dependant units.

Last year we didn't have any 'adventure training' but we managed to take part in a unit IMT exercise on sunny Singleton Range. I'm not one to cast aspersion, but we had to dig in to stage 2 on top of this hill which was just about solid sandstone, with mere entrenching tools, pick and shovels! There were some humorous moments though, one of which was when a certain officer had a birthday. He had candles and "Happy Birthday" sung to him in between contacts late at night by the enemy outside our perimeter. The same officer, the next day, on request, insisted on a birthday cake. He was provided with a chocolate cake, it was small, so he ate the lot. The best part was, the chocolate flavouring was "Laxettes". Needless to say he made many trips to the thunder box.

Our staff has just about completely changed over the last few months. CAPT "Russ" Parker from BASC Townsville replaced CAPT "Rusty" Playford, who is now languishing in Enoggera as housing officer! "Tony" Mitchell came in from 106 FD Wksp WO2 "Huey" Evans from Brisbane Log Gp marched in as ASM to replace WO1 "Marty" Dawson, who retired from the Army with more than 20 years service. He was last heard of in Africa on safari, before he was to visit his relations in Spain. He even took a Spanish language course before he left so he could speak to his relations. Sgt Dave Bynon came in from 1 Fd Regt to replace Sgt Don Robertson, who after a lot of hassels finally got the posting he wanted in Brisbane at 106 Fd Wksp. SGT Daryl Burgess came to us from Perth Log to replace SGT Peter Newcomb who is now at the Army School of TAFE. CPL Geoff Lewis left us for HQ 1 Brigade.

CPL Peter Richardson came to us from ACT Wksp P1 to replace CPL "Bugs" Moran, who thought a trade change from a Recovery Mech to a Production Clk would be nice. Go he did, got married again and moved to Hobart Log Coy. Who said things didn't come in threes? He is now also the proud father of 6 kids, that should keep him busy. Our one and only apprentice, CFN Danny Griffiths is now posted to 1 Sig Regt. He was one of our two sport stars, by playing rugby at interservice level and being selected in the ASRU side. He had a nice holiday with them in Darwin. The other sport star was CFN Peter Scott who played interservice lawn bowls and was selected in the NSW Services side.

The RAEME contingent at the moment consists of:

Capt Russ Parker — Ops Off
LT Tony Mitchell — P1 COMD Gen Spt
WO2 Huey Evans — ASM
WO2 Dave Preston — CQMS
SGT Dave Bynon — EME Planner
SGT Daryl Burgess — Temporary Finance Clk
CPL Mark Underwood — EMEMIC Supervisor
CPL Peter Richardson — Recovery Mech
CPL John O'Meara — Fitter Armourer
CPL Jeff Stephenson — VM (Detached to School of Inf)
CPL Donna Davies — Q Store
CPL John Leslie — Orderly Room
CFN Peter Scott — Fitter Armourer
Mr Bil Beggs — Veh Insp
Mr John Bourke — Trade Rep Offr
Mr Bob Austin — Trade Rep Offr

In April, our CQMS WO2 Dave Preston retired after 30 years service. He is moving to Tasmania on retirement, so all the best to him and his family. There is going to be three apprentices march in in June, 2 fitters and 1 VM. As you can see RAEME fill a variety of positions in this unit. But the manning will change when we amalgamate and confusion will rain again!!

PS Keep statin and graffin (Log units will understand).

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Broadmeadows Logistic Battalion

By **CORPORAL Brian Harrison**

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With the full implementation of the Corporate Plan, and change to the Fleet Operations concept a great deal of new ideas had to be customised to ensure a professional fleet operation, utilising resources and technology to the maximum.

The Battalion celebrated its fourth birthday by parading the three major Corps Banners with approximately 90 personnel on parade. Ground was held by 4/19th PWLH in armoured personnel carriers while dignitaries for the parade were chauffeured in vintage military vehicles and escorted by riders of the Light Horse Association in period dress. The parade was reviewed by the GOC Logistic Command MAJ GEN D. McLachlan AM, and the Parade Commander was MAJ E. Ball. Many presentations were made on the parade, however, CPL Lewis Fricker's award, being the Soldiers Medal for Exemplary Service, was the highlight of a very colourful day.

Another momentous occasion for the battalion was when, SGT Charlie North was awarded the Junior Regimental Award for the Corps on the 50th Anniversary Birthday Parade. Charlie

is now studying full-time at the Queensland University of Technology to earn a degree in Engineering, and upon successful completion in approximately four years time be commissioned into the Corps.



Parade Inspection.

Like all establishments, many reductions have been made in manpower with the march out list as follows:

MAJ Mohan, Log Comd; LT Surtees, MP Coy; WO1 Gniatkiewicz, RTC; WO2 Doubleday, Hobart; WO2 Green, MEA; WO2 Sutherland, Discharged; WO2 Voncina, Brisbane; SGT Foster, BLG; SGT North, Brisbane; CPL Meddings, Wagga.

And the welcomed additions to the Bn are:—

CAPT Jackson, Plans/Dev; LT Barrett, AO Equip Coy; WO1 Ellison,

QM; SSGT Tucker, Chief Clerk; CFN Jonker, Fitter and Turner. BLBN has been through major change. We are proud of our achievements and despite the continuing change are producing a better than satisfactory level of customer service. However, we are conscious of the need to continually monitor and improve our performance.

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SYDNEY WKSP COY

100th Birthday Celebrations

Sydney Workshop Company is to celebrate its centenary on the 17th August 1993 and the task of transmitting this news to the general RAEME populace has fallen upon me, SGT Peter Barr, Unit Historian. As you can imagine a Unit that clocks up a centenary also accumulates quite a deal of memorabilia, and many humorous anecdotes.

The history of Sydney Workshop Company can be traced to the establishment of the New South Wales Defences Workshop at Victoria Barracks Paddington in 1893. The workshop provided a central location for artisans such as Wheelwrights, Armourers, Canvas Workers and Blacksmiths.

Prior to World War I the name changed to 2nd Military District Headquarters Workshop and then again in 1916, to Ordnance Workshop 2nd Military District.

In 1938 the workshop was split with the move of the instrument and wireless sections to Leichhardt while the vehicle and gun repair sections remained at Paddington. 1942 saw the inclusion of the Paddington Workshop into the New South Wales Lines of Communication Workshop.

At the end of World War II the Workshop regained its independence and in 1956 became Sydney Area Workshop.

In 1960 the Leichhardt and Paddington elements moved to Kent Rd Mascot, leaving the Service Station at Leichhardt.

A major army reorganisation in 1973 resulted in the change of name to the present Sydney Workshop Company.

In 1991 the unit relocated to its present site at Banksmeadow, near the shores of Botany Bay.

That is the absolute "bare bones" of the many moves and name changes of Sydney Workshop Company, now for the trials and tribulations of those who preceded us at the workshop. One of the first things I noticed upon reading the unit's history was that while name changes and relocations abound, the character and attitude of the original artificers bear no difference to that displayed by the current members of the unit.

This attitude is perhaps best expressed by an "artificer" of 1937 who wrote: "there has always existed the situation which demanded initiative, perseverance and *our right* skill of craftsmanship". And so it does today.

So back to the beginning. The original workshop at Paddington was planned in 1891 and completed in 1893, however, from the original building it began to spread into every available nook and cranny. This inspired a wag of the time to comment on its expansion: "like topsy it grew". But really the Paddington era was fairly quiet, while the time spent at Leichhardt lacks anecdotes of any real mirth.

However, on moving to the "igloo" at Kent Rd Mascot things soon hotted up. Thanks to an unsuspecting workshop assistant and



An aerial view of Banksmeadow.

an over enthusiastic clean up of the Q clothing store, a significant quantity of naphthalene became lodged in the Workshop incinerator. The resulting explosion and grass fire meant that even in the highly industrialised Mascot area, the "igloo dwellers" were relegated to last spot in the good neighbour stakes. In fact the fire looked for a while as if it would belittle the previous years "bottle blaze".

If the workshop members thought their popularity had hit rock bottom after the fire they soon found that when the neighbour's white company cars were inadvertently sprayed with a fine mist of bitumen, the black hole of unpopularity is in fact bottomless. Alas it was not always one way traffic; in the early days of Qantas engine testing (next door) one of the old timers reckons it was guaranteed to deafen all in a 5km radius while in the "igloo" with its "unique acoustic characteristics" it was absolutely frightening. In addition, any southeast breeze drifting in at 2pm could make you regret having taken lunch, as Gearin and Omordon provided all the flavouring one might have lacked in ones sandwich — while these might have been a bonus to the glycerine industry, they were down there with the workshop in any good neighbour contest.

The workshop at Mascot no doubt holds many memories for those who were posted, or visited, during the 33 years it was there. However, that era is over and the workshop is now at Banksmeadow where this years centenary celebrations will be held.

The celebrations are being directed by SGT Peter Byrne and a committee consisting of SGT Tom Harlow, SGT Les Williams, SGT Tom O'Connor, CPL Brian Calnan, CPL Dave Harvey, CPL Corina Norris, CFN Mark Harper, PTE Greg Nagl, Mr Chris Davis and Mr Dave Thomas.



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SYDNEY WKSP COY CONTINUED

They will kick off on the 17th August with a parade in period costume at Victoria Barracks Paddington. This will be followed by a sports day on the 18th, a unit open day on the 19th, followed by a very dodgy night out beginning at the Pier Hotel — come at your

peril — on the 20th. The celebration week will conclude with a Centenary Ball on the 21st.

A port is being commissioned to mark the occasion and details on its release will be available on completion of an extensive pilgrimage to suitable winery's, paying due consideration to open and unbiased competition.

I trust you will find the time to share the celebrations with us at SWC. If you require details on any of the activities ring SGT Peter Byrne on (02) 316 0152.

See you in August.

Technical Support Troop 4th Field Regiment RAA

TST has a posted strength of 1 and 28 of which we have 9 VM's, 11 Fitters, 2 Boffins, 3 Storemen (1 silverfish and 2 cockroaches), 1 clerk, and 2 Fitter Appy's. Our role is to repair everything from a Steyr to a Hamel Gun, Unimog to Trailers at unit level.

As you may have guessed by our title we work in close conjunction with Artillery, supporting 107 Fd Bty, 108 Fd Bty, and HQ Bty to which we belong. Normally we all work as a team to maintain the Regiment's equipment, but when a Bty goes on Exercise (unless it's a Regt Ex) only the Bty Sections are called upon to suit up and go to the field. Bty Sect consist of 1 Fitter SGT and CFN, 1 VM CFN who operates out of a modified 6x6 L/Rover GS.

Even with all our workload we still manage to participate in most, if not all, of the Regiment's activities. The 1992 Bde Open Day meant that GE and Veh Sections were called upon to provide working stands where the public could see us in action. GE set up their GMV to demonstrate several of the units weapons undergoing repairs and minor fitting jobs. Veh Section, not to be outdone, took to removing a L/Rover front diff for panel beating.

During the past 12 months TST has had to carry the Regt with all of it's sporting prowess. The hockey team would have been lost without TST to help (or carry them to the final and win). LT Nick (I'm going to Uni so there) Stanton, CPL Darrin (all this hockey training is going to kill me) Yates and CPL Bob (old bugger) Murch. The athletics, swimming, water polo, cricket, rugby and Aussie rules would all be left lacking without the help of TST. Of course the champion Bty (HQ Bty) was again denied their status to allow the Gun Btys to think that they had in fact won.

This year holds the usual Regt Exercises: CDA's, Swift Eagle, and Tasman Link. The highlight of the year will be ANZAC Exchange, Tropic Lightening and Pacific Bond. ANZAC Exchange should see at least 1 fitter go to NZ on exchange. Tropic Lightening may have one from TST going to Hawaii for two weeks on a CPX. Ex Pacific Bond, the good one, should with a bit of luck and planning on the ASM's part see up to 10 pers from TST venturing over to Hawaii for a months (swan) hard work. That's the price you have to pay for being up the sharp end.

TST's social club is again up and running strong this year after an initial (as it turned out an unfortunate misunderstanding) scare. The highlight of the year was the annual Fitters Vs Greasers day and the only winner could have been the Greasers

(mainly because we umpired the Indoor Cricket) the fitters didn't have a chance. Seriously, as much as I hate to admit it the Fitters actually won. Must have been the (beer) water drinking that caused the problem.

**4 FD REGT RAA TST is located in sunny
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to and most don't want to leave.**



CFN Childs (standing) and CFN Scott from 4 FD Regt TST working on a Hamel gun.

4 Fd Regt TST is a very close knit group of people and whenever we can (which is most of the time) we save each other from the powers that be. As the old saying goes "we look after No. 1" and in this case it's TST. Please if you would like to join a very unique bunch of men, give us a call we might be able to arrange a swap (if you are lucky).



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RAEME RUGBY UNION

UK/USA TOUR 3-25 OCTOBER 1992

By *LT COL Buck Jones*

The touring squad was selected following the 1992 Inter-Corps games which were held at Moorebank in July. RAEME won all matches played.

We defeated Royal Australian Artillery 24-0 on Friday 17th July, and the Royal Australian Armoured Corps in two grades 80-0 and 72-0 on Monday 20th July. Outstanding results achieved by an exceptional squad against worthy inter-corps representational level opposition.

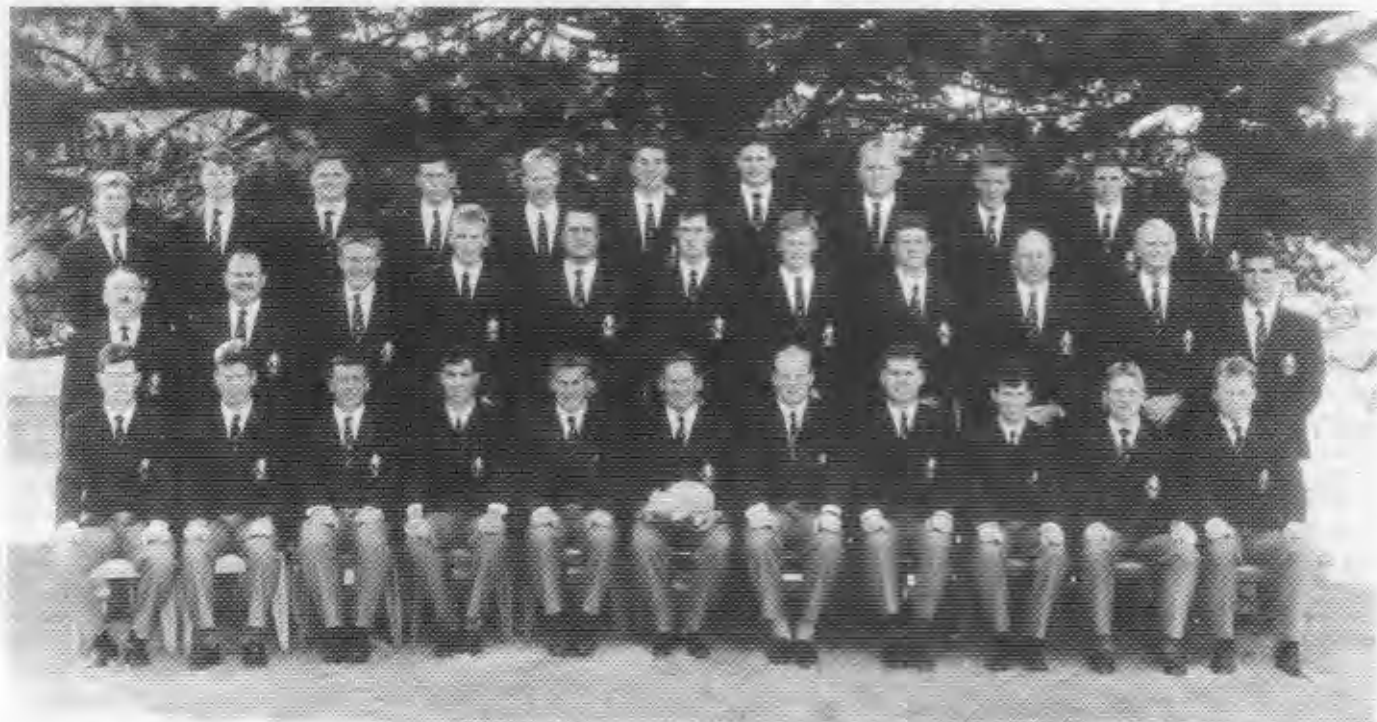
The squad, which assembled at Randwick on the 29th September to prepare and outfit for the tour, is shown in the photograph. Jason Murphy had to withdraw through injury and was replaced by Tim Connolly. Minor injuries to three players were sustained in opposed sessions against the Australian Services Rugby Union (ASRU) squad who were preparing for their USA east coast tour at the same time. We were to meet them again in Hawaii on the way home.

We departed Sydney on 2nd October following a farewell function, that many sponsors and supporters attended, the night before. The trip was long and tiring and in retrospect it would have been better to break the journey in the USA on the way over, rather than on the return trip.

On arrival at Gatwick on the 3rd of October we were met by our UK Liaison Officers Keith Allcock and Keith McQuilton, and

based to tour accommodation at Bordon Camp. After a training session in the afternoon to help get over the journey, we visited the SEME Rugby Clubhouse to meet our hosts. Some continued to party at a local pub "The Swan", (after all it was Saturday night!), but most were suffering from jet lag and had early nights. On Sunday we trained before and after lunch, then visited the tourist spots at Portsmouth in the late afternoon, followed by dinner in a local village pub, "The Red Lion". Monday was spent sightseeing London including a visit to the Tower of London for the "Ceremony of the Keys" in the evening.

Tuesday was the day of our first tour match. After early morning training and lunch we travelled to Tidworth for an afternoon match against the Royal Welsh Fusiliers. Unfamiliar conditions and poor use of the crosswind contributed to a 0-14 score at half-time. However the second half was a different story, good ball utilisation and excellent support play saw us score four good tries for a final winning score of 34-14. After a meal and short function we travelled to Salisbury RFC for a night match in very cold weather.



RAEME Rugby Union UK/USA Tour - October, 1992

Front Row (L to R): Peter Flannery, Paul Myhill, Andrew Clarke, Russell McRae, Marty Ryan, Bernie Byrne, Warrick Thomson, David Walsh, Len Darragh, Paul Raymond, Dean Taylor.
Second Row (L to R): Buck Jones (Chairman), Alan Kelb (Coach), Andrew Dawes, Rob Gadsby, Cameron Lutz, Tim Connolly, Paul Saller, Shane Andrews, Stephen King, Max Black (Referee), Peter Scott (Asst. Coach).
Back Row (L. to R): Dave McGroo, Alan Bradford, Red Hynds, Paul Woodbury, Brett Biddle, Stephen White, Doug Wheadon, Andrew Kelly, Phil O'Keefe, Karl Sams, Dick Boyce (Manager).
Absent: Peter Love, Andy Condon.

RAEME RUGBY UNION CONTINUED

This match was a real test of our competitiveness. Salisbury were a very strong and committed side who ran the ball at every opportunity and counter attacked very well. We led 8-3 at half time and ran out 11-8 winners. Bernie Byrne was very happy at the after match function as Salisbury was one of his old clubs when he was in the British army.

Wednesday and Thursday were spent training and resting in preparation for the first tournament match on Friday against REME BAOR.

After watching RNZEME 17 down REME (UK) 13 in the Friday morning game we went into the afternoon game against REME (BAOR) confident we could win. However the game was a very stop-start affair. BAOR were adept at tying up the ball in the tackle and we turned over a lot of possession. The score line was 0-0 at half time. We were unable to change the nature of the game in the second half and seemed to have even more trouble with the wet windy conditions. BAOR stuck to their game plan and we lost a game that in retrospect we were capable of winning. Final score 6-8.

The next day we bused to Aborfield and watched REME (UK) 34 defeat REME (BAOR) 3 in the morning game. Our game against RNZEME in the afternoon was the game of the tournament from a spectators point of view. Both sides ran and kicked the ball well, and retained possession with excellent support play by intense rucking. Despite dominating possession and ground in the first 20 minutes we failed to convert pressure into points. The Kiwis however seized their opportunities and led 10-0 at half time. The second half was very even but generally the Kiwis beat us to the break down and this proved the difference between the two sides. Final score 6-15 loss.

Back in Bordon on Sunday morning we watched RNZEME 21 defeat REME (BAOR) 3 and this third from three win ensured them the EME World Championship. In the afternoon match we again had trouble with the local conditions against an experienced and well disciplined REME (UK) side. At half time we were 0-3 down and feeling very frustrated. This continued in the second half and we lost 0-16. Total penalty count for the game was 45 (29 against us). We failed to play to the local interpretation of the laws.

Looking back on the tournament we realised that we lacked the experience at this level to adapt during a game to the local conditions and referee. We know we have the necessary ability to be successful, if we apply ourselves in the future.

Presentations were made on the pitch following the final tournament match. After accepting the Tournament trophy the



Brett Biddle and Bernie Byrne lead the team out for the final game at Bordon against REME (UK).

RNZEME team invited all to NZ in 1996 (their 50th Anniversary) to contest the next "EME World Cup". That evening the REME 50 RFC DINNER was held. Roger Uttley, immediate past England coach, was guest of honour. The "After-match" continued well into the night.

The following day (Monday) we travelled by bus to Stonehouse Barracks (Royal Marines) Plymouth, with our new LO Mike Hughes, where we stayed until Friday. During our time here we visited all the tourist spots, The Hoe, The Barbican, The Royal Citadel, Union Street etc, as well as the Naval Base and HMS AVENGER. We also played two fine Rugby Clubs, Devonport Services on Tuesday night and Plymouth Albion on Thursday night.

Devonport Services proved a strong side but we played well and led 13-6 at half time.

Our concentration lapsed in the second half and a penalty try followed by a try on the whistle saw us defeated 13-20 in an inspiring game in front of our largest crowd on tour.

Against Plymouth Albion on Thursday we had two quick tries scored against us early in the first half. However we gathered our composure and changed a 0-14 score line against to a 18-14 lead at half time. Our good form continued in the second half and a good team performance saw us finish 29-19 in front.



Rob Gadsley wins lineout ball in the game against RNZEME.

We returned to Bordon on Friday and the team dispersed for a free weekend before flying out of Gatwick on Monday 19th for Washington DC.

RAEME RUGBY UNION CONTINUED

At Washington we met with our LO Rod Margetts and travelled by bus to our accommodation at QUANTICO Marine Corps Base. On Tuesday we saw the sights in Washington. Wednesday afternoon we played at Quantico against a Combined Services side drawn from the Washington region which resulted in a fine 61-7 win.

On Thursday we travelled from Washington to Honolulu where we spent Friday playing tourist. Our ninth and final tour game was played on Saturday, under the palm trees besides Waikiki; against Hawaii Harlequins who play in board-shorts! We played well against a good side who perhaps lacked our level of fitness. 30-0.

That evening we flew out of Honolulu for Sydney and then to our various homes. Northwest Airlines, our major sponsor for the tour, were excellent throughout. We experienced no travel problems at all and every flight departed and arrived exactly to schedule.

From an overall perspective our tour record was 5 games won from 9 played, we scored 201 points to 105 against, and scored 23 tries with 14 against. The Captains' Player of the Tour was fullback Dave McGree while the Coaches' Player of the Tour was prop Andrew Kelly.



The tour PR team in action at Arborfield.

Most of the team got together again at Bandiana in November for a good win against a local side as part of the 50th Anniversary Parade celebrations.

Outline plans for the next four years are:

- 1993 First RAEME Inter-regional Corps Tournament
RAEME Development Team (Under 23) NZ Tour
- 1994 RNZEME Australian Tour
- 1995 RAEME Malaysian Tour
- 1996 RNZEME Host 2nd EME World Cup in NZ.

THE WILD WEST

By LT A Veschetti

It was certainly a wild west back in 1942 when the Aussie boys at war formed the Australian Electrical and Mechanical Engineers (AEME). In 1948 AEME was to become the Royal Australian Electrical and Mechanical Engineers Corps, or RAEME as we know it today. Some fifty years later and the West is still wild! This time however, the west is Western Australia, home to a sole RAEME workshop, 113 Fd Wksp. Western Region units with integral RAEME support include Perth Logistic Battalion, 10LH, 7 Fd Bty and the Pilbara Regt. RAEME personnel have even traded their spanners for winged daggers. In all, the West is home to one RAEME unit, eight units with integral RAEME support and over 300 RAEME personnel.

Members and machinery of the Corps gathered in the West at Karrakatta on November 1st to celebrate fifty years of the RAEME Corps by staging a parade with a difference! Different in that parade participants consisted of ARA and GRes RAEME personnel along with a platoon of "Olds and Bolds" — members who had previously served in the Corps in a regular or part time capacity.

With both men and machines in position to the right of the Western Region Band, the banner was marched on. The official guests were then received by the Parade Commander LTCOL C. Sharp, CO of Perth Log Bn. Official guests were BRIG R. Millar ADC, Commander of the Western Region and COL K. Ashman, Commander of 13 Brigade. BRIG J. Kingston AM, Director General of Electrical and Mechanical Engineers was the Reviewing Officer for the celebration parade.

Upon completion of the inspection, the parade was ordered to mount the vehicles which adorned the parade ground behind them. It was then a case of, "Gentlemen — start your engines!" All vehicles started on order and when the command to drive past was given each vehicle peeled off from the inspection line and drove past.

Vehicles on parade were APC's, a Fitters Track, assorted Land Rovers, LRPV's, Mack trucks, various Unimogs, an F1 International, a Studebaker and a WWII Troop Carrier. The Parade Commander, standing in the back of an Austin Champ, led the parade around in true "spanner-style".

After the drive past the vehicles formed up on the inspection line for the Advance In Review Order, dressing off the banner in the centre. At the halt the engines were cut and the drivers saluted. Every soldier drilling with an SLR then had a dream come true when all of the official guests were loaded onto a Wrecker and driven off with one General Salute! Congratulations RAEME.

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PHOTOGRAPH

Keeping The Red Rooster Up

By WO2 Glenn Dunham (ASM)

21 Construction Squadron Workshop has just completed a very busy 1992 in which the majority of the Workshop spent well over six months in the NT.

It is a well known fact that members of the Workshop have no complaints about the legendary Puckapunyal winters because most have never experienced one!!

The Workshop is about to embark on an equally busy 1993 with the highlight being the relocation of the unit to the old 20 Div ESS lines in Enoggera Bks in Brisbane. Sorry folks, there are no more vacancies in 21 workshop so no more phone calls expressing interest in serving at the unit!! Don't bother ringing SCMA either as they know your intentions are in the best interests of the unit and don't bother acting dumb when they mention the move to Brisbane!!

There is to be an open day held at the Squadron on 1 May to mark the departure from Pucka after a 42 year temporary location, so all those olds and bolds can come along, reminisce and renew old memories before the place gets levelled.

Christmas 1992 saw a dramatic change in the manning of the Workshop, particularly the SNCOs. A couple of the old familiar faces such as SGT "Doc" Holliday who followed his heart to 1 Tpt Sqn in Sydney and SGT "Rosy" Roberts who saw the light shining from RTC, LT (now CAPT) Frank Brindle handed over the reins to LT Darren Edwards and went chasing an OAM for services to Tyres at MEA.

SGT "Nigger" Gray turned off the light at RTC when he saw Rosy coming and has joined us to head up the BDF (or Brain Dead Fitters) GE section. The unit has successfully poached 1 Armd Regt Tech Sqn for a couple of prime movers in WO2 Brian Mills as TQMS and CPL Alby Allardyce (soon to be SGT) to lead the B Veh section after replacing SGT "Hobbo" Hobson who took discharge after 20 years beginning, I must mention, as a 28th Intake Apprentice. (obviously a jet!!). In Hobbo's 14 year stint with The Corps he accrued over 7 years with this unit. All the best to Hobbo and I hope you earn enough for that hair transplant!!

This year should prove to be interesting with the disbandment of 1 Const Regt, our HQ. The unit then comes under the direct command of HQ Land Command. 21 Construction Squadron Workshop is an independent unit which is commanded by 21 Construction Squadron and supports the Squadron in both an ODF and an LSG role. The unit is on a constant 28 days notice to move and continues to break new ground in areas of Workshop operation, in particular management and control of finance.

See you somewhere in the country and "Up the old Red Rooster".

Oakey Workshop Battalion Comes of Age

Oakey Workshop Battalion turns 21 this year and in time honoured tradition we're having a party. In fact, it is more than a party: a parade (essential), an open day (is this what Dad really does at work?) and then a party, a big one.

Actually, to be chronologically correct, it is the 5th Base Workshop Battalion's 21st birthday, as it was under that name that the workshop was established on 1 August 1972. On that date a general reorganisation of Army Aviation units in the then Northern Command saw 1 Aviation Regiment Workshop and stores section RAAOC redesignated as 5th Base Workshop Battalion. On 14th November 1989, the unit was redesignated as Oakey Workshop Battalion, which confuses the issue slightly. However, if you were to change your name by deed poll you would still celebrate your 21st — right?

Since its inception the workshop has seen 10 Commanding Officers, 5 RSMs and 10 ASMs pass through its doors. Countless others have also contributed to the fine reputation the workshop has established and maintained.

The present Commanding Officer, Lieutenant Colonel David Pascoe, extends a warm invitation to past and present members of Oakey Workshop Battalion to share in the celebration of its coming of age on Saturday 31st July 1993. For purely logistic reasons the dinner in the evening will be restricted to all present members of Oakey Workshop Battalion and former COs, RSMs and ASMs. Everyone is welcome to view the parade commencing at 1300hr and afterwards to enjoy the open day activities. We hope to see you there!

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Asset Management consists of a coordinated program of repairs and maintenance to buildings or engineering services, planned to ensure the Client has maximum use of the asset within an acceptable limit of cost and downtime.

An integral part of the Asset Management service is the services provided by the Business Centres.

To provide a highly responsive and coordinated building management service, groups of trades people and workshop facilities are located in the Melbourne Metropolitan Area.

Services

The Business Centres carry out work in all trades covering such areas as:

- Air Conditioning
- Electrical
- Plumbing
- Carpentry
- Painting
- Fire Safety
- Security
- Lifts
- Floor Finishes
- Mechanical Plant

The services offered are:

Urgent and Minor Repairs

Our Tradespeople will quickly respond to requests for repairs, both in and out of working hours. In the majority of cases where the Client nominates the response time:

- *Immediate* requests will be responded to in *two hours*.
- *Urgent* requests within *two days*.
- *Minor* requests will be completed within *two weeks*.

There is a varying cost scale depending on the response time requested and the nature of the repair.

Operational Services

We have skilled operators to attend to items such as boilers, pumps and incinerators. The services generally include consumables, labour, supervision and support costs.

Minor Works

We can carry out many minor works including fitout, electrical work and additional air conditioning.

Preventative Maintenance

The Business Centres carry out an agreed level of maintenance on plant and equipment throughout the year.

This service includes all labour and parts.

Planned Specific Maintenance

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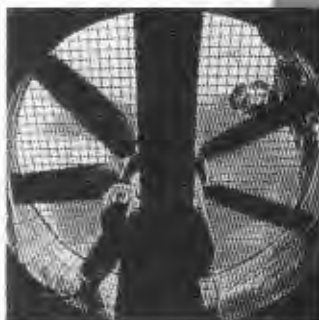
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