



SAMRA

Representing the Royal Australian Armoured Corps
Corporation Limited in South Australia



Incorporating the 2nd/9th Australian Armoured Regimental Group Veterans

January 2017, Number 36

SAMRA President's Report

"Nearly all people can stand adversity, but if you want to test a person's character, give them power"
Abraham Lincoln

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If you are reading this newsletter, you've made it to 2017 and the 100th anniversary year of the Battles of Gaza – Beersheba. I trust that you are all looking forward to celebrating the anniversary of the third battle and that famous charge of October 31st that resulted in the capture of Beersheba and the withdrawal of the Turks from the Gaza-Beersheba defensive line.



George Johnson MM Prize

It's great to see the George Johnson MM prize project come to fruition after more than two years (and many bottles of wine) in the making. The prize is designed to encourage and acknowledge outstanding performance by ARES members of the Squadron. The inaugural award was for the officer/NCO who made the most significant contribution to the operational effectiveness of A Squadron 3/9 Light Horse (SAMR) in 2016. The OC, Major Michael Harris and I had the pleasure of reviewing a strong field of candidates and announcing Lieutenant Rob Farrier as the winner, at the Squadron's closing parade in December 2016.



The 2016 winner of the George Johnson MM award—Lt Robert Farrier

The cash prize of \$3,500 will allow LT Farrier to visit the UK and possibly Germany to visit our affiliated British Regiment, the Queen's Royal Hussars. One of Rob's tasks during his visit is to examine the deployment of Reserve soldiers within this regular armoured unit and to compare it with the Australian Defence Force.

Ron Oxer's service as curator of the SAMRA Military Collection

Ron Oxer, the inaugural curator of our Military Collection has retired after more than 10 years of service in that role. I had the pleasure to acknowledge, on your behalf, his many years of dedicated service and his commitment to AMOSA, in the presence of the SAMRA members working on the museum display refurbishment.

Ron's assistant, Erik Fridmanis has assumed the role of curator from 1 January 2017 with Ron now assisting Erik and continuing in a less onerous role.

Social Activities

Our next social function is a luncheon at the Edinburgh Hotel at 12 noon on Saturday 11 February. I look forward to seeing many of you there.

Please mark your calendars with the Black Hat Night at the Naval Military and Air Force Club on Friday evening 7th April. This is an important RAAC gathering and we expect to have a guest speaker talking about topics of interest to us "old tankies".

Nec Aspera Terrent

Reg Williams AM RFD

BOER WAR DIARY OF 349 TPR F.H. EDWARDS
Fifth Contingent SA Imperial Bushman Corps
Departed: February 9, 1901— Returned: April 27, 1902
(The late Christopher Stokes 'Grandfather')

Ed: Continued from previous newsletter

THE JOURNEY TO THE FRONT— JANUARY 1902

JANUARY 1902

Wednesday January 1st 1902

Started the New Year well by turning out at 1am, marching at 2.30, all troops on patrol. Camped at "Wondruth" during the afternoon joined by "Byngs Column"

Thursday 2nd 3am camping at 5.30pm. The three columns now working together, the troops from two covering a large area of country, while the remaining troops guard the whole of the baggage etc alternately.

Friday 3rd 4am Our troops, and Col Byngs patrolling g (about 4000) A large number of the enemy sighted; by midday they were lost to sight. Camped at dark at "Driftfontein" having covered 40 miles.

Saturday 4th to "Susanna" enemy constantly sniping. At 8pm the SA' with a few IYs left camp. Very dark and wet night. Continue marching until 4am

Sunday 5th when we took up positions at a drift, and along a ridge, remaining here until 7am when we were joined by the column, having seen nothing of the enemy. Camped at "Sodafontein"

Monday 6th Reached "Mulshoop" at midday

Tuesday 7th Marched at 2.30am halting for breakfast at 7 until 8am. Number of the enemy following the rear guard. "Grootlee"

Wednesday 8th At 2.30am all available troops left camp expectantly. When the order was given to turn out, there was never so much seasonable language heard before; we now had to bustle around for rations etc, and we heard that DeWet with his guns were between us and the railway line. Soon after sunrise we sighted De Lisle's troops on our left rear. Halted from 10 till 11

Shortly after dinner the enemy was sighted and we chased them from ridge to ridge, knocking our horses out; sighted many more during the afternoon, lining all the ridges, but our horses were now so done up it was useless to continue on, so we turned back, continuing until 11.30pm all thoroughly done up, having 19 hours in the saddle that day. We rested here as best we could until 4.30 am.

Thursday 9th When we moved off and joined the column camped at Dorm Kloof

Friday 10th Marched at 6am to "Quaggafontein". Remained camped in the vicinity until

Thursday 16th protecting the line of blockhouses being built to Lindley. During most of the week it rained heavily. All the SA s with 2 guns escorted a convoy from "Dorm Kloof" to "Quagga", which is now main headquarters for the division, there being a "Detail Camp" formed here, also a large Field Hospital. Very stormy, wet night, numbers of the tents blown down.

Friday 17th and following day, we escorted a convoy to "Wit Kop", half way to "Kaffir Kop", where Col De Lisle is protecting the line of blockhouses being built there from Lindley, about 30 miles.

Sunday 19th After Church Parade which was held at 9.00 am General E.L.Elliot presented Corp Kermode of the SA's with a DCM won at "Grootvallie" on the morning of August 2nd. At 8pm C,D and F Squadrons SA moved from camp in a northerly direction. It was a very cold, and stormy night. After searching a number of farms during the night, we were unsuccessful until about 4.30am.

Monday 20th daybreak, we captured 9 Boers, part of a Commando of 200, who had been warned of our coming, we also captured several Cape carts and some good horses. No shots were fired at the farm, but it commenced as soon as we left at sunrise, the enemy being seen in large numbers. We marched back about 5 miles, where we took up a good position, and waited the arrival of our relief, 300 men and 4 guns, but only 1 more was captured. Arrived back at camp at 3pm.

Tuesday 21st and the day following, we escorted more convoys to "Wit Kop" for De Lisle

Thursday 23rd at 8pm all the SA's left camp, for south of the blockhouses. Had th3e usual rush on all the farms, but only found women and children. At 2.30 am



Trooper F.H. Edwards

To be continued.....

Secondment to the USMC 1st Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion

Captain Thomas Colyer, 3/9 LH (SAMR)

Captain Thomas Colyer was seconded to the United States Marine Corps' 1st Light Armoured Reconnaissance Battalion (1LAR Bn) based at Camp Pendleton in California for the period 28 March to 09 April 2016, as part of a 2015 Prince of Wales Award to provide professional development for selected ADF Reservists.



1LAR Bn's LAVs (CAPT Colyer second from the right. WO2 Andrew Donnelly, RAAC, at left).

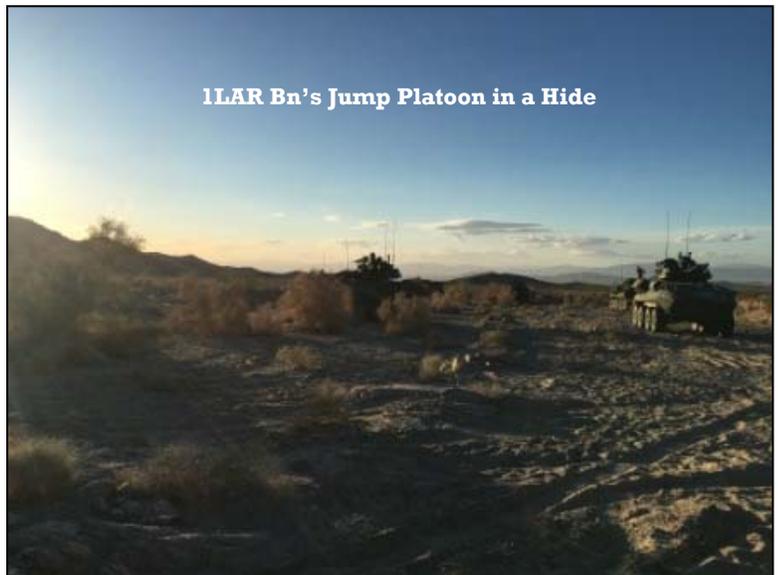
While seconded to the 1LAR Bn, Captain Colyer was embedded with the Operations Cell while they conducted a Marine Corps Combat Readiness Exercise (MCCRE). An MCCRE is a certification exercise for units deploying with the Marine Expeditionary Unit (MEU) – an amphibious task force made up of various units from within the US Marine Corps. The MCCRE focussed on Company-level tactics, with assessments being conducted for offensive and defensive tactics. During the MCCRE, the assessed company held dry-fire and live-fire activities with a multitude of assets employed. Assets utilised included Raven UAV, Organic IDF bounding with the assault force and a KC-130 Harvest Hawk on station for three hours providing direct fire-support to the ground units.

During the MCCRE Captain Colyer was able to observe the differences between the foreign forces, in how they operate strategically, tactically and administratively. 1LAR Bn is an infantry unit mounted in its own Light Armoured Vehicles., providing a different approach to the use of armoured vehicles.

1LAR Bn's focus on offensive tactics, using their organic firepower to achieve great effect in offensive actions, contrasted with Captain Colyer's experiences in his RAAC unit's (3/9 LH (SAMR)) cavalry focus on reconnaissance tasks.

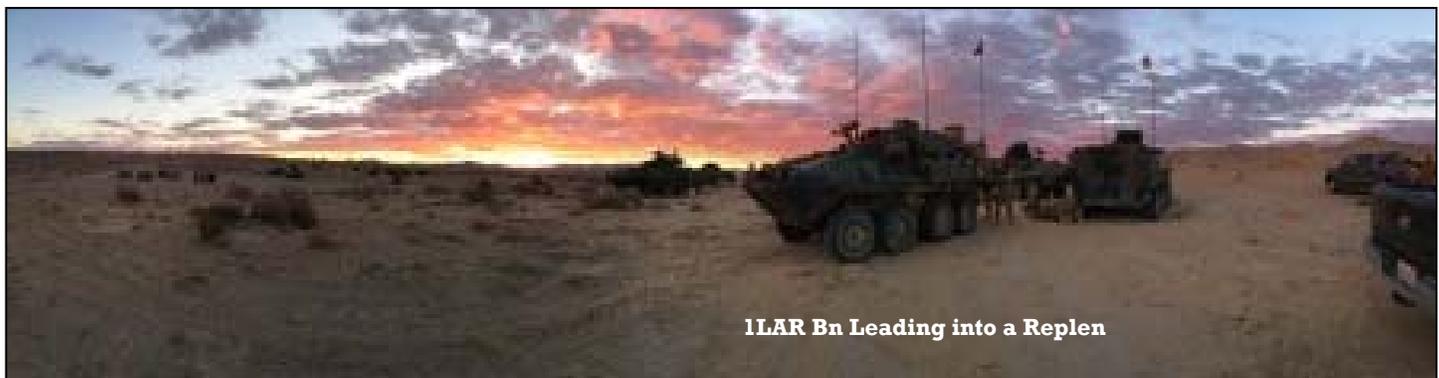
Each force can learn from each other. The strength of the 1LAR Bn are thoroughness of actions, and deliberate clearances of ground, much that infantry would achieve, but mounted in vehicles. Where as the RAAC cavalry strengths come with its ability to maintain high tempo, its independence, and speed at which it can achieve tasks.

Secondments like this one are a crucial part of developing relations between the two nations. As the USMC place more forces within the Asia Pacific region, there is a greater need to understand how each force operates and how they can benefit each other. Trust needs to be established between the allies to ensure we can be effective as a multi-national force to ensure the stability of the Asia Pacific region.



1LAR Bn's Jump Platoon in a Hide

1LAR Bn is committed to continuing the tradition of secondments and exchanges. There is currently a permanent exchange for a Senior NCO in place with the unit, and it would be worthwhile developing relations to commence an officer-level exchange program to ensure the continued development of this relationship.



1LAR Bn Leading into a Replen

Stansbury

CARAVAN PARK



SITREP FROM STANSBURY NOV 2016—ROB RICHARDS

The social activities around Melbourne Cup and SAMRA members, combined with fishing, cleaning fish, and washing the boat have kept me fairly busy. The Melbourne cup luncheon went well though it was cool and breezy. We totalled about 14 and we had a couple of ring-ins that Dirk had met in the park. They are newly arrived migrants from Switzerland. He had served in the Swiss Army and had worked for the army as a civilian (and yes I did ask him, and they do carry a version of the “Swiss army knife”).



Each couple had prepared salads and sweets, and the park provided chicken shashliks, snags and patties. We enjoyed the usual camaraderie and beverages as the Caravan Park (CP) management drew the free raffles accompanied by the usual cat calls and derogatory remarks.

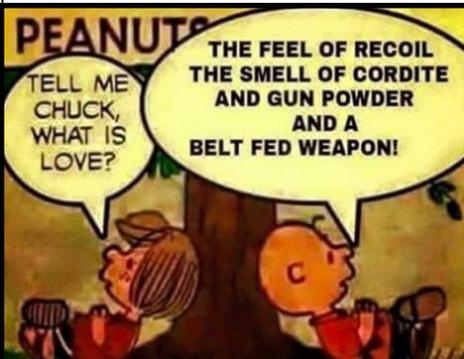
The various sweeps run by the CP produced winners and losers in our group, with yours truly featuring in the latter.

On the Wednesday following the cup we all went up to Mark McKenna’s place to enjoy his outstanding hospitality. We started with fresh oysters shucked by myself and Judy Nieuwenhoven (Judy learned very quickly and did most of them!) Mark made a large pot of seafood bisque, containing crabs, crayfish, oysters and mussels, eaten with crusty bread rolls. He then carried out a large platter of BBQ steaks, local sausages and patties served with salads and homemade sauce and chutney.



All washed down with copious quantities of wine and hop based beverages. A big thank you to Mark.

Our numbers have progressively dwindled as some couples have had to return home. Soon, only John and Mary Couch and the Richards will be left. On different a note the fishing remains excellent. Catches of squid, garfish, crabs and tommies are plentiful for those so inclined, while the most skilful fishers are able to get a bag of whiting without too much trouble. I have generally caught my limit and returned to camp by 0830-0900 h.



WELCOME TO THE NEW OFFICER COMMANDING A SQN 3/9 LH (SAMR) - MAJ CHRISTOPHER MANNING

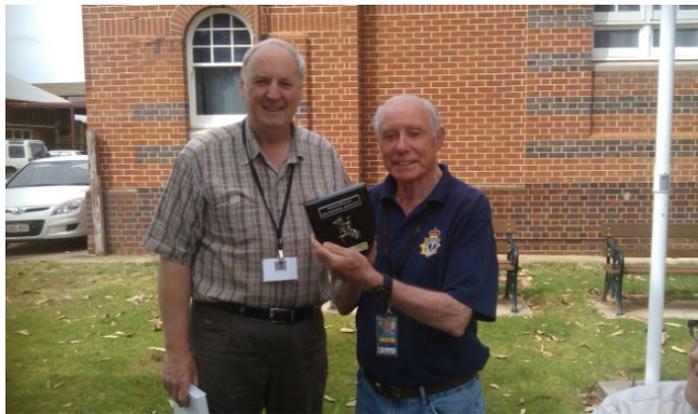


I enlisted in Jun 1999, graduated as a 2LT in RAAC and was posted to 3rd/9th LH (SAMR) in Jan 2002, where I was a Reconnaissance and later APC Troop Leader with M113s. I was promoted to CAPT in 2008 and underwent the transition to Light Cavalry (Land Rover and subsequently Bushmaster PMV). I completed 6 months CFTS in 2008 with HQ 9 Bde in order to "deploy" as the Operations Officer Rifle Company Butterworth rotation 83. Whilst on RCB I was also the Australian Contingent Commander at the 9th Brunei International Skill At Arms Meet (BISAM). After a brief period away from the Sqn I returned in 2010 as the Training Officer before being posted to AUR in 2013 where I was a Senior Instructor of OCDTs and subsequently OC recruiting. I look forward to returning to an Armoured Corps role as OC A Sqn 3rd/9th LH (SAMR).

In my civilian career I have been working at Defence Science and Technology Group (formerly DSTO) since 2002 with Joint and Operations Analysis Division in the Land Capabilities Analysis Branch and completed a Master of Science in Military Vehicle Technology at Cranfield University during a Defence Science Fellowship to the Defence Academy of the UK in 2010. I am an Operations Analyst and have been involved with Land 400 (Land Combat Vehicle System), the Army Experimental Framework (Headline series of experiments), Logistics Studies and Army Modernisation Research.

I have been married to my wife Alison for 11 years and we have a two and a half year old daughter Lillian.

SAMRA volunteers helping out with the new LH Display in the main gallery of the Army Museum of South Australia



VALE-John Sampson

433823 LCPL John Sampson was cremated on 24 Nov 2016. John's last posting with the Unit was with 1 Tp which was located at Warradale at the time. He served in the Unit from 1972 - 1986 and was a member of SAMRA for thirteen years.

SOUTH AUSTRALIAN MOUNTED RIFLES ASSOCIATION

Battle of Rumani
3 - 5 August 1916
Commemorative Shiraz
2014

Supplied by O'Leary Walker Wines,
Clare Valley 750mL

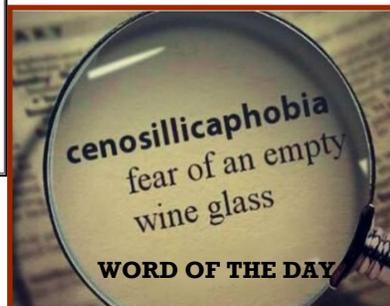
Battle of Rumani Commemorative 2014 Shiraz and the 2016 Sauvignon Blanc.

The cost to members is only \$135.00 per dozen (\$11.25 per bottle). Contact Reg Williams or David Mercer to order your wine. Stocks of this wine label are limited.

SOUTH AUSTRALIAN MOUNTED RIFLES ASSOCIATION

Battle of Rumani
3 - 5 August 1916
Commemorative Sauvignon Blanc
2016

Supplied by O'Leary Walker Wines,
Clare Valley 750mL



Q STORE ITEMS

The following items are available for purchase. All profits support the Association:

- REGIMENTAL / ASSOCIATION TIE— \$33.00
- ASSOCIATION WALL PLAQUES - \$40.00
- BLACK BASEBALL CAP EMBROIDERED WITH THE 3rd/9th LH (SAMR) BADGE ON THE FRONT AND THE WORDS 'SAMRA' ON THE BACK — \$20.00
- NAME BADGES—\$20.00
- BLACK POLO SHIRT, BADGE ON THE FRONT, WITH SAMRA UNDERNEATH— \$45.00
- CLOTH EMBROIDERED 3rd/9th LH (SAMR) BADGE - \$10.00 (Includes postage)
- RAAC BELT BUCKLE—\$35.00
- RAAC LAPEL BADGE—\$6.00
- SAMRA MEMBERSHIP LAPEL BADGE—\$5.00

Place your orders with David Mercer please add \$10.00 for postage and packing. You can also pay via your financial institution using EFT.

Send your payment, size and contact details to: 63 Barramundi Drive, Hallett Cove, SA 5158

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2017 SOCIAL CALENDAR

- **Sat, 11 Feb 17 - Reunion lunch at the Edinburgh Hotel, Mitcham, 1200 h**
- **Fri, 7 Apr 17 - Black Hat Night at the NM&AF club, 1800 h**
- **Tue, 25 Apr 17 — LH Memorial Service & ANZAC Day march, 0800 h**
- **Sat, 3 Jun 17 - Reunion lunch at the Seacliff Hotel, 1200 h**
- **Sat, 19 Aug 17 - Reunion lunch at the theme pub Bombay Bicycle Club Hotel, 1200 h**
- **Fri, 27 Oct - Black Hat Night at the NM&AF club, 1800 h**
- **TBA Oct - 100th Anniversary of Beersheba, Family BBQ at the Military Vehicle Preservation Society of SA, 10 Sturton Rd, Edinburgh Parks**
- **Tue, 7 Nov 17 - Melbourne Cup at Stansbury Caravan Park**