



Porky Seven News November 2020



Edition 55 .. Newsletter of the 7th Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment Association .. November 2020



From the President

Firstly may I pass on my best wishes to all members and their families during these difficult times. I know many of you will have been effected by the recent fires across the eastern and southern states and we now find ourselves in the middle of a pandemic known as the Coronavirus. Now more than ever, is the time to reach out on the phone to that mate who you haven't spoken to for a while and check on him.

As you would expect, the Pig Battalion was front and centre during the bushfire crisis. I can

personally attest to the great work they did on the south coast of NSW and around the ACT, and I received very good feedback on their performance in Victoria from my counterpart in the Victorian Task Force. The work they did in southern NSW provided great relief to communities who had experiences significant loss during early January, and the preventative work they did in and around the ACT was essential in protecting it from the fire and in helping residents prepare for evacuation.

As you might expect the whole of the Defence Force has been put onto an operational footing to help deal with the Coronavirus. Given the highly contagious nature of the virus and the requirement to limit interstate travel, the Defence response is state based and therefore the Battalion is most likely to remain in SA unless other states' capabilities are



Porky Seven News November 2020



Edition 55 .. Newsletter of the 7th Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment Association .. November 2020

degraded very significantly. In a similar manner to our response to the fires, I would expect to see soldiers employed on a range of tasks where workforces are depleted or unavailable. Here in NSW for example, troops are already employed in a variety of tasks such as preparing welfare food packages, escorting air arrivals into quarantine, and providing staff in medical call centres.

I expect they'll remain on those tasks until a contracted workforce is arranged. In Victoria, small numbers of troops are working in a surgical mask manufacturing firm as assisting with quarantine compliance. Regardless of what is asked of them, I'm sure the Battalion will be up to the task.

I know all of you will be disappointed that the Coronavirus has taken away our opportunity to gather for ANZAC Day. A number of you were involved in planning

Company level reunions in Adelaide and I thank people such as Greg Shepley and Rob Gilles for their work. Given the nature of the threat and the fact that the majority of the Association are in the most vulnerable age bracket, cancelling reunions early was the most sensible approach.

Noting that the intention of the lockdowns is to 'flatten the curve' and therefore delay the spread of virus, I think it will be wise to postpone all gatherings requiring interstate travel until 2021. The Adelaide reunion would have provided the opportunity for an AGM, but given the social distancing requirements we will postpone this until it is safe to gather. Lastly, this is one of those times where the informal network of our Association needs to come to the fore. The best way for us to maintain contact during this time is to reach out to each other on the



Porky Seven News November 2020



Edition 55 .. Newsletter of the 7th Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment Association .. November 2020

phone or by Skype or Facetime. Your phone call will help a mate.

Stay safe. Mick Garraway/April 2020

President's Report for 7 RAR Association AGM – Sun 30 August 2020

Website and social media

Our webmaster continues to update the site very effectively. The Facebook group remains effective for the purpose of camaraderie. I have toyed with the idea of a second Facebook 'page' but the website is in good shape and I think the single source is with the occasional link posted onto Facebook is probably most effective means of advising members when new material has been added.

We recently established a LinkedIn group as a means to connect those transitioning to civilian employment. The target is the second generation, with

the aim of providing testimonials, links to quality employment services and schemes and to provide a network to share opportunities. I will reserve my judgement in regard to its effectiveness, but it is showing some promise, with 40 members joining within 48hrs. I am of the view that LinkedIn is professional in nature and purpose, therefore its well suited to those who want to plan their transition using a professional network.

Secondly, if people provide testimonial type videos and tips, I do want their views to be treated respectfully, and LinkedIn provides that degree of assurance. To go to the effort of establishing the profile and joining the group is indicative to me that the person is serious about a second career and therefore the likelihood of inappropriate conduct is fairly low. LinkedIn does not require significant maintenance or



Porky Seven News November 2020



Edition 55 .. Newsletter of the 7th Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment Association .. November 2020

oversight. Finally, it will not be used by all, many soldiers establish their own links, but for those who wish to reach out, the group provides that opportunity.

Membership

The current membership is 996 of which includes 110 current serving members of 7RAR. I continue to think that there will always be a gap in the typical post discharge period where soldiers are not inclined to be a financial member (probably until they are in their 40s). I have wrestled with this for some time and wondered whether a 'non-financial member' model needed investigation. I'd welcome the committee's feedback on this and whether post COVID that a reunion be conducted in Adelaide at which time we target those in the second generation who are more likely to join, ie.40+years of age, and offer a membership package of

some form (for example a 5 year membership plus silk tie \$125).

Reunions

The COVID-19 pandemic forced the Adelaide Reunion for ANZAC Day 2020 and based upon my interaction with State leadership in NSW, I don't see COVID restrictions easing prior to Anzac Day 2021. I would suggest that we work with the battalion to identify opportunities in the second half of CY 2021. In the strategic plan we referred to using Anzac Day in Adelaide as the focus but I think we should consider a broad concept, with preconditions such as interstate travel being permitted, along with easing of aspects of social distancing (in order to allow a gathering), with a series of potential dates such as the nearest weekend to battalion birthday 2021, Anzac Day 2022, etc with a decision point no later than three months prior.



Porky Seven News November 2020



Edition 55 .. Newsletter of the 7th Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment Association .. November 2020

Merchandising

The partnered arrangement with BD Apparel has not gained the traction I had hoped for. The cancelled reunion and lack of activities around Anzac day have worked against us. I am of the view that we accept the status quo with a view to invigorating once the normal cycle of Anzac Day and reunion schedule can be confirmed. A broader range of products and a more active 'advertising' on the Facebook group may help.

Seven in Seventy 2nd edition

I see the re-print as an excellent way of engaging with the membership in the absence of reunions. I think we need to consider a subcommittee for finalisation for the Seven in Seventy 2nd edition. Tasks such collecting and accounting of payments, postage and packaging, etc, as well as the final negotiations and administration with the printer

are likely to require a small team.

Conclusion

We find ourselves at an unusual place in history and one which does not auger well for many of our first generation members from a health and welfare perspective and also the ability to gather for reunions and get-togethers in the near future. I see the way forward in the short term by maintaining engagement of membership through the website, social media, and newsletters along with a re-print of Seven in Seventy, with a mid-term goal of a reunion in SA when conditions allow.

On behalf of the national executive I'd like to offer our members and their families our very best wishes for Christmas and the new year, and we hope that 2021 will bring us some relief from the extraordinary year of 2020. We appreciate that



Porky Seven News November 2020



Edition 55 .. Newsletter of the 7th Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment Association .. November 2020

for the majority of our members the coronavirus will have imposed many restrictions on you, particularly for our Victorian brothers who were subjected to a long and harsh lockdown.

Many of us look forward to the opportunity to conduct a reunion, particularly those from recent deployments, but the coronavirus situation can change rapidly and State governments have demonstrated their willingness to impose strict entry requirements in the event of an outbreak.

Until the coronavirus situation has stabilised, we encourage members to gather on occasions such as Anzac Day in regional capitals in order to minimise our risk and avoid potential quarantine requirements.

Our thanks go to LTCOL Adam Gower and WO1 Paul Dehnert for their service as CO and RSM

of 7 RAR. The Battalion has provided a significant amount of support to domestic operations this year in addition to being ready battalion group, all ranks of the Battalion should be proud of their effort through a challenging year, it certainly has not been easy soldiering in 2020.

We welcome the incoming command team of LTCOL Roland Spackman and WO1 John Craig and wish them well for their tenure.

Mick Garraway. President



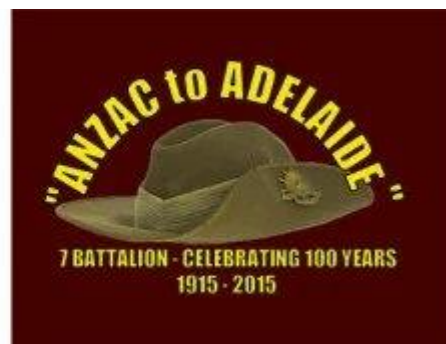
Editor's note: Congratulations to the Association President on his promotion to Brigadier and command of the 5th Brigade.



Porky Seven News November 2020



Edition 55 .. Newsletter of the 7th Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment Association .. November 2020



CONTENTS PAGE - CALENDAR MAY TO NOVEMBER

Page/s

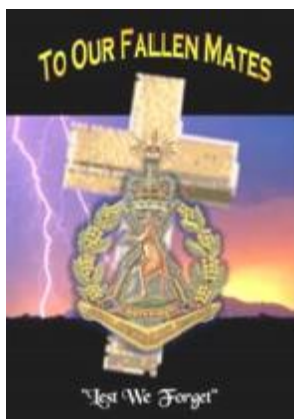
- 1-4 From the President, April and August 2020.
- 5. Contents this issue.
- 6/7. Vale.
- 7-9. From the Editor.
- 10-28. Rookwood Cemetery refurbishment, Terry Harper.
- 29-30. The Diggers - A great Story.
- 31-32. From Shorty Hylard.
- 32-33. The Australian Army at a glance.
- 34. Lest We Forget - Fridge Magnets, Don Cruden.
- 35-36. The Long Shadow, Australian Vietnam Veterans since the War, Launched by Graham Edwards.
- 37. General Sir Peter Cosgrove, A Memoir, a ripper read.
- 38-41. 7RAR Presentation.



Porky Seven News November 2020



Edition 55 .. Newsletter of the 7th Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment Association .. November 2020



Rest ye oh Warrior, You will battle no more,

No longer to live the horrors of war,

Your duty was done with honour and pride,

Farewell oh brother, until we march by your side.

It is with deep and sincere sympathy that I report the death of former friends and comrades in arms.

**6851 Wallace Charles Sutherland, MBE, OAM, JP, CSM Admin Coy
1st tour, passed away Sunday 10 November 2019.**

**3789386 Colin Barry Marsh, D12 1st tour, passed away Friday 27
December 2019**

**2794027 Michael Kim 'MO' Allan, Support Coy 2nd tour, passed
away Sunday 12 January 2020.**

**2239803 Stephen Paul Brinkworth, PNRS 2nd tour, passed away 23
January 2020.**

**311461 Alistair Martin Robb, OC D/SPT Coy 2nd tour, passed away
Friday 24 January 2020.**



Porky Seven News November 2020



Edition 55 .. Newsletter of the 7th Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment Association .. November 2020

**235410 Richard Alexander Arnel, MORS 2nd tour, passed away
Thursday 20 February 2020.**

**37012 Frank, (The Sock) Curphy, Sig Pl, 2nd tour, passed away
Friday 1 April 2020.**

**5411125 Victor Talivadis Neimanis, D12 1st tour, passed away
Sunday 5 April 2020.**

**3787988 Geoffrey Lyle Trusler, 1st tour, passed away Tuesday
4 August 2020.**

**39882 Ronald James Boast, C Coy 2nd tour, passed away Thursday
2 July 2020.**

**2791591 James (Jock) Ansley, A1 2nd tour, passed away Tuesday 25
August 2020.**

**Frances Csorba, wife of 4717908 Jozsef Alex, (Steve) Csorba, F/ASLT 1st
tour, passed away Saturday 10 October 2020.**

**37896067 John Alfred (Macca) Poland/McPoland, D11 1st tour, passed
away Monday 9 November 2020.**

**15942 John Thomas Barnes, F/ASLT 1965/66, passed away Mon 2
November 2020.**



Porky Seven News November 2020



Edition 55 .. Newsletter of the 7th Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment Association .. November 2020



From the: EDITOR'S DESK

Well here we are in 2020, it only seems like yesterday that I enlisted in the ADF in January 1961, to everyone I met and served with over those egalitarian years they were the best years of my life as I had the pleasure in meeting all my long standing friends of those years and of course those I met during the years I have spent being involved with the 7RAR Association.

Well as we all should know by now that ANZAC Day services throughout Australia and commitments overseas have been cancelled due to the ban on the number of restrictions on gatherings. All those who had planned to attend the B & C Company Reunions in Adelaide obviously have been advised that these activities were cancelled.

Obviously the planned AGM advised to be held in Adelaide as part of these reunions was not be held. The planned AGM meeting is reported by the President in his extended report. COVID-19 restrictions on assemblies have disrupted all gathering activities to date.



Porky Seven News November 2020



Edition 55 .. Newsletter of the 7th Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment Association .. November 2020

There is hope that gathering activities in 2021 will enable our attendance at ANZAC Day and any other planned activities.

ASSOCIATION MEMORIBILIA

You can put down that I provide hats, stubby holders, ties, shirts, stickers and coffee mugs at this stage and will be looking to expand the range depending on what members want. Everything can be bought securely online at: Once on click SHOP.

www.belligerentdigger.com Carl Sengstock

NOTICE

IS THERE ANY EX 3 RAR MALAYSIA/BORNEO ERA (1963-65) THAT RECALLS 54683 GRAHAM S. DANIELS - I AM TRYING TO GATHER DETAILS OF HIS SERVICE FOR HIS DAUGHTER HERE IN WA. ANY INFO WOULD BE APPRECIATED, PHOTOS INCLUDED.

SEND EMAIL dcrudden1@bigpond.com OR PHONE. 0431 672 001

Below is a WEBSITE showing the story by Victor Bartley 2nd tour, Vic is now a member of the Bourke Council and President of the Bourke RSL Club. Very much worth a look at it, in this very active time of the BLM movements around the world today.

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2020-07-19/aboriginal-soldiers-experience-of-racial-equality-in-vietnam-war/12462118>



Porky Seven News November 2020



Edition 55 .. Newsletter of the 7th Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment Association .. November 2020

“Finding Private Campbell”

Rookwood Anglican Military Section Cemetery Refurbishment

Background

I was asked to find the grave of Private John Campbell, 3rd Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment, a Vietnam veteran, who had been killed in action on 03 August 1968.

John Campbell had been the uncle of Mrs Janice Collins, a close friend of my partner. Mrs Collins lives in Echuca, Victoria, and had wanted to visit John's grave for a long time, but was unsure how to find it.

After some research, I found that his grave was located at Rookwood Cemetery in Sydney, however, I was unable to ascertain the exact location.

My partner and I visited Rookwood Cemetery with Mrs Collins on 23rd May 2016 in search of Private John Campbell's final resting place.

We had difficulty finding the site and requested help from ground staff of the Office of Australian War Graves, (OAWG) who were working at Rookwood War Cemetery on that day. That area of Rookwood is immaculate with white headstones, beautifully manicured lawns, gardens, trees and sandstone structures.

To our disappointment, we were told that there were no Vietnam veterans buried at the Rookwood War Graves Cemetery (at that time) and that he suspected we might find John Campbell's grave at another location at Rookwood Cemetery.



Porky Seven News November 2020



Edition 55 .. Newsletter of the 7th Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment Association .. November 2020

It was explained to us that the location would be difficult to find, so the OAWG staff member kindly offered to escort us to the location, being the Rookwood Anglican Military Section.

This was to be an emotional time for Janice Collins and unfortunately the finding of Private John Campbell's last resting place was not what she had imagined it would look like.

After viewing the grave of Private John Campbell and other Vietnam veterans' graves at the site, I discovered that there were two 7th Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment soldiers buried there.

This was of particular interest to me as I had served with 7 RAR in Vietnam.

In total, there were 11 Vietnam veterans who were killed in action and 2 Vietnam veterans that had completed their tour of duty, but sadly, died soon after their return to Australia, buried at the Rookwood Anglican Military Section.

The area had a total of 112 military gravesites dating back as far as 1885. Vietnam veterans buried at the site are:

2412151	PTE William L Nalder	1RAR
217898	PTE William W Donnelly	1RAR
215745	CPL Robert B Hickey	1RAR/SAS
2787278	PTE John A Campbell	3RAR
216920	PTE Marvin W Ayres	7RAR
216115	PTE Paul Z Trzencinski	7RAR



Porky Seven News November 2020



Edition 55 .. Newsletter of the 7th Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment Association .. November 2020

213006	WO2 Ronald A Scott	AATTV
212909	T/WO2 Ronald Seiler	AATTV
2412508	GNR Barry Tregear	4 FD REGT
2412486	SPR Kenneth R Nicholson	1 FD SQN
217762	PTE William McGoldrick	1 ARU
3103843	GNR Verdun L Blazely	1 FD REGT
216618	LCPL Michael J Connors	6 RAR

We were later to find out that this area has a significant military history. It contains the largest amount of Vietnam veteran graves, buried in the one location, in Australia.

Also, Warrant Officer Ronald Scott, who was killed in Vietnam in 1965, whose burial in Australia, at this site, was responsible for the change in Australian Government Policy. That is to say, that all soldiers killed in action from that point forward were returned to Australia for burial, at no cost to the family.

Findings

Our findings, on the day, revealed that the area was in terrible condition, overgrown and obviously neglected for some time.

The majority of head stones were weathered and, in some cases, washed away from their original spot.

There was little lawn, and any lawn that was there was riddled with rabbit holes.



Porky Seven News November 2020



Edition 55 .. Newsletter of the 7th Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment Association .. November 2020

Access to the area was also challenging, at best, but potentially unsafe for most people visiting the area.

Wheelchair access was simply not possible.

Suffice to say, we were most disappointed with what we found. It was as if these soldiers were hidden from the public and not worthy of a final resting place, as afforded to other soldiers interred at the Rookwood War Cemetery.

I discussed with Janice Collins and my partner Juliet, that it would be incumbent of me to report our findings to the Office of Australian War Graves.

I wrote to the OAWG to advise our disappointment, and detailed our findings. We received a prompt response within just a day or so.

Reply

I received a reply from Mr Kel Pearce, Deputy Director Operations, OAWG, stating that he had requested his staff, in Sydney, to visit the area. He agreed with my findings and supplied additional photos of the area for me to add to the collection that I had taken myself.

A review of the site was instigated by Kel Pearce, to provide advice on what actions could be taken to improve the condition of the individual commemorations, presentation, site amenity and site access.

Following this, Kel Pearce met with Rookwood General Cemeteries Reserve Trust (RGCRT) to discuss options regarding the area.



Porky Seven News November 2020



Edition 55 .. Newsletter of the 7th Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment Association .. November 2020

Kel Pearce agreed to escalate my concerns appropriately and advised that Mr Ken Corke, the Director, Office of Australian War Graves, had been apprised of the situation and he fully supported pursuing the matter further.

Kel Pearce sought approvals from NSW Heritage Office and Heritage Council. To this end, he sought to engage the services of a heritage consultant. He was assisted by Ms Kate Maynard from OAWG.

We arranged a meeting at the Anglican Site at Rookwood, where we discussed a range of improvements that could be made to the area.

Ongoing

As with any project of this scope, progress was slow due to limited resources and the fact that other projects were also under way by OAWG. We never expected this to be a quick fix but it was fair to say that we were frustrated with the lack of progress at that time.

Kel Pearce's assistant, Ms Kate Maynard was quick to move things along and she engaged an eminent heritage consultant specialising in cemetery heritage management and interventions. The Heritage Consultant was to liaise with the Heritage Office and the Heritage Council to seek approvals in conjunction with Rookwood Cemetery Trust.

A ground penetrating radar survey was conducted to determine any constraints or issues that may need to be addressed in relation to any excavation work.

Initial engineering concepts were completed and specific enhancements to the site were discussed, including discussions with the RGCRT on improving access, amenity and visitor experience.



Porky Seven News November 2020



Edition 55 .. Newsletter of the 7th Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment Association .. November 2020

We were told that Mr George Simpson, CEO Rookwood General Cemeteries Reserve Trust had been extremely supportive.

A proposal for consideration was drawn up and distributed to me to share with other stakeholders. By this time the list of stakeholders had increased considerably, and included:

Families of the soldiers (that could be contacted)

Kirribilli R.S.L Sub Branch

Rookwood General Cemeteries Reserve Trust (RGCRT)

Friends of Rookwood Cemetery

NSW Office of Environment and Heritage

Commonwealth War Grave Commission

Office Australian War Graves (OAWG)

Military Associations (7 RAR)

General veteran community

Unfortunately, at this time, Ms Kate Maynard was moved to another position within the organisation. Ms Maynard had been a great asset to the project and was instrumental in getting the project to its current level, at that time. A replacement for Ms Maynard was sought by Kel Pearce, and Ms Tamsen Gregory was appointed to that position.

Not long after, Kel Pearce advised that he was leaving the OAWG.

Mr Martin Farrell was to be his replacement, and Martin Farrell along with Ms Gregory would continue with the project.



Porky Seven News November 2020



Edition 55 .. Newsletter of the 7th Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment Association .. November 2020

Around June 2018 OAWG completed a tidy up exercise of the Anglican site that included pruning of the surrounding hedges, hand weeding, filling in the rabbit holes with new soil, minor relevelling and straightening of the headstones so that they were in their correct location. This was never meant to be a final fix and a full refurbishment of the area was still under consideration and budget approval.

A Structural Engineering company by the name of “Contour” was engaged to draw up more detailed plans that would allow the project to go out to tender. These plans were specific and covered the full scope of the complete project. Consultation with RGCRT continued and the plans were sent to the Heritage Office and were duly stamped as “approved”.

The services of a historical researcher were sought by OAWG and Dr Jacqui Donegan was assigned to this task. Dr Donegan was asked to research the 112 gravesites at the Anglican Site and to commence preparing information for the interpretative signage that was to be erected at the site as part of the planned work. After conducting extensive research Dr Donegan produced an amazing historical sketch of each person buried at the site. The research identified, among many other things, that there were two brothers, husband and wife, a female soldier and a 14 year old buried at the site.

Ms Gregory continued to seek Heritage approvals that included a Section 60 application for the site. (This is a formal application to carry out a Section 57(1) activity to an item or land listed on the State Heritage Register or to which an Interim Heritage Order applies). The application was fully approved.



Porky Seven News November 2020



Edition 55 .. Newsletter of the 7th Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment Association .. November 2020

OAWG advised that they would continue to engage a heritage consultant during the project and the next step would be to re-engage a structural engineering consultant to go over the plans and the engineering structural drawings.

In conjunction with "Contour", Ms Gregory provided an updated Bill of Quantities to assist in the procurement of services process for the complete project as per the plans.

We were advised that the project was now ready to go out to tender in January 2019 and included the full scope of work that we had been promised.

That work included but not limited to:

112 New plaques on pedestals

Pedestrian / wheelchair access

New sandstone walls

Crushed granite or grass walkways

Interpretive panels

Relevelling and replacement of turf

Irrigation system and new border beds.

New plants and or scrubs around pedestals

Furthermore, we were told that DVA would be looking at dates in 2019, potentially prior to Anzac Day 2019, for an official opening day, including an official opening ceremony. We were told to advise all



Porky Seven News November 2020



Edition 55 .. Newsletter of the 7th Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment Association .. November 2020

stakeholders and begin to look at who we should invite to the opening.

Around Christmas 2018, the good news turned to bad.

We were advised that there had been a change to what we believed, had already been planned, approved and funded by OAWG. In other words, after more than two and a half years of consultation and planning, we were told that the project was now on hold and under reconsideration due to conflicting information surrounding the ownership of the site.

Martin Farrell advised us that the Anglican Military section at Rookwood essentially consists of “private graves” even though it is unique and contains a number of war dead from a number of Australia’s conflicts including the Vietnam War.

Without the clarification on the ownership of the land, the OAWG did not have the legal authority to undertake the works of the scale previously agreed to.

The OAWG did not have the authority to acquire a site of that scale and provide the care and maintenance, when it was a non-Commonwealth War Graves Commission war cemetery.

The OAWG remained supportive and talks continued towards a solution, however they simply could not maintain any cemetery that is not owned by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission.

By that time Mr Ken Corke Director of the Office War Graves, had completed his tenure with OAWG. Among other projects, including the Anzac Centenary, Mr Corke was instrumental in having the remains of 33 Australians interred at Tekendak Military Cemetery in



Porky Seven News November 2020



Edition 55 .. Newsletter of the 7th Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment Association .. November 2020

Malaysia and the one at Kranji War Cemetery in Singapore, repatriated back to Australia. Interestingly, of those 33 remains, eight Vietnam veterans were buried at the Rookwood War Cemetery in Sydney.

Brigadier Paul Nothard took up the role of Director of the Office of War Graves from 11 January 2019.

The Way Forward

During further discussions with Martin Farrell and his team, we agreed to get the major stakeholders into the same room and try and work towards a solution.

A meeting was called at Rookwood Cemetery on 07th March 2019.

In attendance were:

Mr Paul Nothard, AM CSC Director of the Office of Australian War Graves.

Mr Geoff Taplin, State Manager Office of the Australian War Graves.

Mr Martin Farrell, Director of the Office of Australian War Graves.

Mr George Simson, CEO Rookwood General Cemeteries Reserve Trust.

Mr Sach Killam, Monumental-Heritage Team Leader Rookwood General Cemeteries.

Mr Julian Robinson, President Kirribilli RSL Sub Branch

Mr Tom Richardson, OAM Secretary Kirribilli RSL Sub Branch and President Kirribilli Club



Porky Seven News November 2020



Edition 55 .. Newsletter of the 7th Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment Association .. November 2020

Mr Tony Keech, OAM Executive Officer, 7th Battalion Royal Australian Regiment Association.

Chair - Mr Terry Harper, Member 7TH Battalion Royal Australian Regiment Association and Member Kirribilli RSL sub Branch.

While robust, the discussions were amicable and conducted in a constructive and positive manner by all in attendance. The common goal and passion by all were to find a way to get the project moving again. Mr Paul Nothard and Mr Martin Farrell from the OAWG gave the stakeholders their undertaking to assist in any way they could, and Mr George Simpson from RGCRT told us they fully supported the project being completed.

While funding would come from OAWG, there was still a considerable amount of work that fell outside of their area of responsibility. That additional cost would be covered by RGCRT.

We were extremely grateful for the ongoing understanding and support from the Office of Australian War Graves and Rookwood General Cemetery Reserve Trust, to get the job done.

Within the next few months, OAWG received the clarity they required, in respect to the ownership of the land that the Rookwood Anglican Military Cemetery was located, and engaged the services of additional resources to work on the project. The remaining part of 2019 was taken up with a myriad of checks and balances on the plans and engineering – structural drawings, further historical research and contacting family members where possible.

By mid-January 2020, work had commenced on the total refurbishment of the site and a completion date had been set for Anzac Day 2020. Work at the site continued until it's completion on



Porky Seven News November 2020



Edition 55 .. Newsletter of the 7th Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment Association .. November 2020

24th April 2020, as promised. The only missing part of the project is the interpretive signage that is planned to be erected prior to the official opening.

The final result is amazing, befitting the soldiers that are interred there, giving them a final resting place that reflects the family's wishes and expectations.

Well done to everyone that has been involved and shared the same passion about the completion of the project, particularly the families of these soldiers, Kirribilli RSL Sub-Branch and 7th Battalion Royal Australian Regiment Association.

A sign has been erected at the project site by the Department of Veterans' Affairs / Office of Australian War Graves that states, among other things, "These works will assist in ensuring that the cemetery reflects the significance of the service and sacrifice of those at rest within it".

We all say, they deserve no less.

So, on 16th June 2020, Janice Collins returned to Rookwood Cemetery with her husband Tod to see the fully refurbished Anglican Military Section. It had been exactly 4 years and 24 days since her last emotional visit to find her uncle, Private John Campbell.

While this visit was no less emotional than the first visit, there were tears of joy and happiness to see Private John Campbell had a final resting place, along with the other 111 souls, that we could all be proud of.

Due to the Covid 19 virus, an official opening or dedication ceremony has not been possible, however, at some stage in the future, the Office



Porky Seven News November 2020



Edition 55 .. Newsletter of the 7th Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment Association .. November 2020

of Australian War Graves and other stakeholders will work towards conducting a fitting ceremony.

Terry Harper 7TH Battalion Royal Australian Regiment Vietnam 1970/71. Check on this website for the story, Vetaffairs November 2020:

https://issuu.com/vetaffairstest/docs/p04174_vetaffairs_november_2020/24





Porky Seven News November 2020



Edition 55 .. Newsletter of the 7th Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment Association .. November 2020





Porky Seven News November 2020



Edition 55 .. Newsletter of the 7th Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment Association .. November 2020





Porky Seven News November 2020



Edition 55 .. Newsletter of the 7th Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment Association .. November 2020





Porky Seven News November 2020



Edition 55 .. Newsletter of the 7th Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment Association .. November 2020



**THE TWO 7RAR GRAVE SITES BEFORE BEING REFURBISHED,
PAGE 28 AFTER THEY WERE REFURBISHED.**



Porky Seven News November 2020



Edition 55 .. Newsletter of the 7th Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment Association .. November 2020





Porky Seven News November 2020



Edition 55 .. Newsletter of the 7th Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment Association .. November 2020



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Porky Seven News November 2020



Edition 55 .. Newsletter of the 7th Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment Association .. November 2020





Porky Seven News November 2020



Edition 55 .. Newsletter of the 7th Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment Association .. November 2020





Porky Seven News November 2020



Edition 55 .. Newsletter of the 7th Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment Association .. November 2020





Porky Seven News November 2020



Edition 55 .. Newsletter of the 7th Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment Association .. November 2020





Porky Seven News November 2020



Edition 55 .. Newsletter of the 7th Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment Association .. November 2020





Porky Seven News November 2020



Edition 55 .. Newsletter of the 7th Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment Association .. November 2020

GREAT STORY - THE DIGGERS!

Airline Lunches

I put my carry-on in the luggage Compartment and sat down in my Assigned seat.

It was going to be a long flight from Perth. 'I'm glad I have a good book to read Perhaps I will get a short sleep,' I thought. Just before take-off, a line of diggers came down the aisle and filled all the vacant seats, Totally surrounding me.

I decided to start a conversation. 'Where are you blokes headed?' I asked the Digger seated nearest to me. 'Puckapunyal. We'll be there for two weeks for special training, and then we're being deployed to Afghanistan .

After flying for about an hour, An announcement was made that Lunches were available for five dollars. It would be several Hours before we reached Melbourne And I quickly decided a lunch would Help pass the time. As I reached for my wallet, I overheard a soldier ask his mate if He planned to buy lunch. 'No, that seems like a

lot of money for Just an airline lunch. Probably wouldn't be worth five bucks.

I'll wait till we get to Pucka. His mate agreed. I looked around at the other soldiers. None were buying lunch. I walked to the back of the plane And handed the flight attendant a Fifty dollar note. 'Take a lunch to all those soldiers.' She grabbed my arms and squeezed tightly. Her eyes wet with tears, She thanked me.

'My young bloke was a digger in Iraq, it's almost like you are doing it for him.' Picking up ten lunchboxes, She headed up the aisle to where the Digs were seated. She stopped at my seat and asked, 'Which do you Like best - beef or chicken?' 'Chicken,' I replied, wondering Why she asked. She turned and went to the front of plane, returning a minute Later with a dinner plate from first class.

This is your thanks. After we finished eating, I went again to the back of the plane, Heading for the rest room. An old bloke stopped me. 'I saw what you did.

I want to be part of it. Here, take this.' He handed me twenty-five Dollars.



Porky Seven News November 2020



Edition 55 .. Newsletter of the 7th Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment Association .. November 2020

Soon after I returned to my seat, I saw the Captain coming Down the aisle, looking at the aisle numbers as he walked, I hoped he wasn't looking for me, but noticed he was looking at the numbers Only on my side of the plane..

When he got to my row he stopped, smiled, Held out his hand, and said 'I want to shake your hand.' Quickly unfastening my seat-belt I stood and took the Captain's hand. With a booming voice he said, 'I was an army pilot a long time back.

Once someone bought me lunch. It was an act of kindness I never forgot.' I was embarrassed when applause Was heard from all of the passengers. Later I walked to the front of the plane So I could stretch my legs. A kid who looked about 18 was sitting about Six rows in front of me reached out his hand, wanting to shake mine. He left another twenty-five dollars In my palm. When we landed I gathered my belongings and started to depart. Waiting just inside the aeroplane door was a man who stopped me, put Something in my shirt pocket, turned, and walked away without saying a word. Another twenty-five dollars!

Upon entering the terminal, I saw the soldiers gathering for their Trip to up to Puckapunyal.

I walked over to them and handed Them seventy-five dollars. 'It will take you some time to Reach Pucka. It will be About time for a sandwich. God Bless You Blokes.' Ten young blokes left that flight feeling The love and respect of their fellow Aussies. As I walked briskly to my car, I whispered a prayer for their safe return. These soldiers were Giving their all for our country. I could only give them a couple of meals. It seemed so little.... A digger is someone who, At one point in his life, wrote a blank Cheque made payable to ' AUSTRALIA 'For an amount of 'up to and including my life.' That is Honour, and there are way Too many foreigners in this country Who don't understand it.' May you have the strength and courage to pass this along to Everyone on your email mates list....

LEST WE FORGET!



Porky Seven News November 2020



Edition 55 .. Newsletter of the 7th Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment Association .. November 2020

MESSAGE FROM RICHARD, (SHORTY) HYLARD:



Hi Tony Wayne Hill and I attended VP day in Bundaberg it was held at the Nurses Memorial adjacent to the base Hospital. After the ceremony morning tea was at the RSL drop in centre which we attended with our wives, the banner we held was of the 47bn a local unit.

The banner we held below, was of the 47bn a local unit.





Porky Seven News November 2020



Edition 55 .. Newsletter of the 7th Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment Association .. November 2020

The Australian Army at a Glance

A friend once told me he didn't understand the military system. Dumb civilian, I said to myself, but openly I said, "The system is really quite simple."

You see, all people in the Army are soldiers, all privates are soldiers, but not all soldiers are privates. Some are officers who are commissioned, but some are officers who are not commissioned. Obviously if every private was called private it would be confusing, so some privates are called things like trooper, driver, gunner, craftsman, sapper or signaller.

Not all of the drivers actually drive because some of them cook, but we don't call them cooks, for that matter, not all drivers are called drivers - some of them are privates or gunners. Gunners as I'm sure you know are the blokes that fire guns, unless of course they are drivers or signallers in which case we call them gunners rather than drivers or signallers just to make it clearer.

All gunners belong to the artillery, except that in the infantry we have gunners who are called privates

because they fire a different sort of gun, for the same reason we call our drivers and signallers private as well.

A Lance Corporal is called Corporal, unless he is a Lance Bombardier then we call him Bombardier to distinguish him from a full Bombardier, who is just like a Corporal. All other ranks are called by their rank for the sake of simplicity except that Staff Sergeants are called Staff, but they are not on the staff, some Warrant Officers, who are not officers, are called Sergeant Major although they are not Sergeants or Majors. Some Warrant Officers are called Mister which is the same thing that we call some officers but they are not Warrant Officers.

A Lieutenant is also called Mister because they are subalterns, but we always write their rank as Lieutenant or Second Lieutenant, and second comes before first.

When we talk about groups of soldiers there obviously has to be clear distinction. We call them Officers and Soldiers although we know that officers are soldiers too, sometimes we talk about officers and other ranks which is the same as



Porky Seven News November 2020



Edition 55 .. Newsletter of the 7th Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment Association .. November 2020

calling them soldiers. I guess it is easiest when we talk about rank and file which is all the troops on parade except the officers and some of the NCOs - - and a few of the privates - and the term is used whether everyone is on parade or not.

A large unit is called a battalion, unless it is a regiment but sometimes a regiment is much bigger than a battalion and then it has nothing to do with the other sort of regiment. Sub units are called companies unless they are squadrons or troops or batteries for that matter. That is not radio batteries and don't confuse this type of troop with the type who are soldiers but not officers.

Mostly the Army is divided into Corps as well as units, not the sort of Corps which is a couple of divisions but the sort which tells you straight away what trade each man performs, whether he is a tradesmen or not. The Infantry Corps has all the infantrymen for example and the Artillery Corps has all the gunners. Both these Corps also have signallers and drivers except those who are in the Signals or Transport Corps. In fact the Signals Corps is not a service at all because it is an Arm. Arms do all the fighting, although Signals don't have to fight too much, rather like the Engineers who are also an Arm but they don't fight too much either.

So you see, it's really quite simple .

Fellow PIGS

LAST TIME LAST TIME

DON HAS 100 OF THESE FRIDGE MAGNETS FOR SALE AT \$5 EACH (INCL p&h). EACH MAGNET IS 8cm x 14cm

SEND PAYMENT TO 7 RAR (WA) BANK COMMONWEALTH

BSB 066132 ACCOUNT 0091 3220 PLEASE ENSURE YOU SHOW YOUR SURNAME SO WE KNOW WHO HAS PAID.

AFTER MAKING PAYMENT SEND YOUR POSTAL ADDRESS BY EMAIL TO dcruden1@bigpond.com FOR FAST POSTAGE.



40



Porky Seven News November 2020



Edition 55 .. Newsletter of the 7th Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment Association .. November 2020

ANY ENQUIRIES PLEASE RING DON ON 0431 672 001

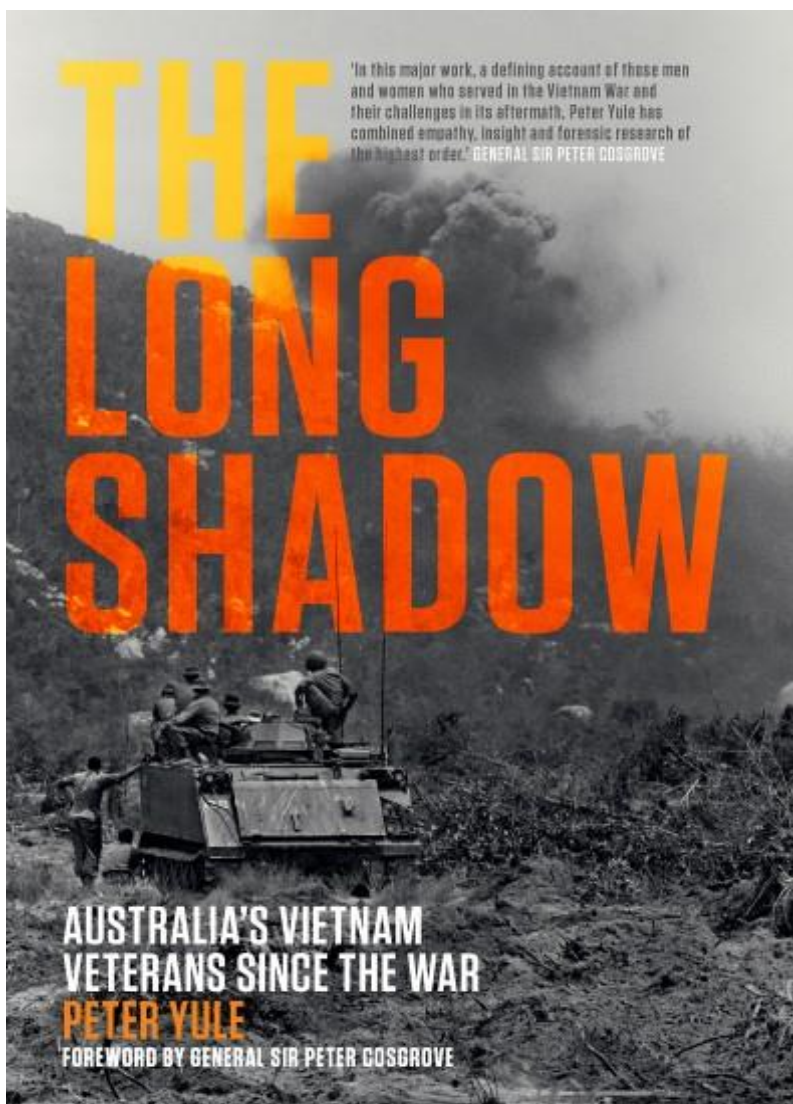




Porky Seven News November 2020



Edition 55 .. Newsletter of the 7th Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment Association .. November 2020



The Long Shadow Publication

Australia's Vietnam Veterans since the War: Dr Peter Yule

Dear Mr Graham Edwards

The Australian War Memorial, in conjunction with publisher New South Books is pleased to announce the long-awaited launch of *The*



Porky Seven News November 2020



Edition 55 .. Newsletter of the 7th Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment Association .. November 2020

Long Shadow: Australia's Vietnam Veterans since the War publication.

In anticipation of this launch the Memorial would like to thank all those involved in making this book possible. Your contributions have helped bring a stronger understanding of the post-war experiences of our Vietnam veterans, and the evolving medical understanding of veterans' health issues.

The Long Shadow: Australia's Vietnam Veterans since the War can now be pre-ordered from the Australian War Memorial shop.

This publication will be launched at the Memorial on 28 October by the Hon. Graham Edwards AM, and Dr Peter Yule, with limited guests in attendance due to the ongoing restrictions of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The launch proceedings will be made available later that day for you to view, via an emailed video link.

Thank you for supporting the Australian War Memorial.

Yours sincerely,
Matt Anderson

If you have any queries regarding the purchase of your copy, please contact esales@awm.gov.au or call 02 62434555.

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Porky Seven News November 2020



Edition 55 .. Newsletter of the 7th Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment Association .. November 2020

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Australian War Memorial
GPO Box 345 Canberra ACT 2601
www.awm.gov.au

7RAR PRESENTATION

7 RAR assumed Ready Battalion responsibilities from 8/9 RAR on the 1st October 2019. The Battalion was proud to assume this responsibility for the first time and was thankful for the series of training experiences Army and the Amphibious Task Group had designed to get us to this point in good order.

The 7 RAR Christmas reduced tempo period was shortened with the Battalion being recalled on the 3rd Jan 2020 to deploy on Operation Bush Fire

Assist. The RBG deployed to assist in achieving the Government intent of generating a rapid ADF response to this national emergency.

In less than 24hours from recall commencing B Company had mounted and deployed to Victoria and was commencing battle procedure in Puckapunyal. C Company and Support Company also deployed and for several weeks our tasks and locations evolved



Porky Seven News November 2020



Edition 55 .. Newsletter of the 7th Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment Association .. November 2020

as the emergency unfolded. We learned that we must continually test ourselves and adapt our systems to new conditions.

During Operation Bush Fire Assist 7 RAR assisted our federal and state partners along the South Coast, with sub-units from 7 RAR deploying at short notice to assist in Sale, Orbost, Nowra, Canberra and the Adelaide Hills. Liaison Officers deployed even more broadly to State Emergency Control Centres and into the Brigade Headquarters in each state. We re-learned the importance of liaison officers through this experience. Out on the ground 7 RAR soldiers provided route clearance, HLZ and fire break reinforcement, protected mobility and air-mobile response forces in support of emergency authorities across Victoria, NSW, the ACT and SA. This experience reinforced that our junior commanders and

soldiers are full of initiative, drive and empathy for our fellow Australians.

The 7 RAR mechanics were found fixing the Country Fire Service trucks and firefighting systems. Rifle Platoons mounted in Bushmaster PMVs enabled firefighters to reconnoitre the highway into Mallacoota. Dismounted sections deployed out of RAAF East Sale and, working with 5th Aviation Regiment Chinooks, delivered essential supplies and fodder to cut off rural Victorian communities. Soldiers deployed on a foot search to successfully locate a toddler missing overnight in remote bushland. Our reconnaissance NCOs and soldiers worked with Emergency Control Centre Liaison Officers and supporting aviation assets to augment fire mapping systems and provide fire fighters with real time night updates on the fire front.



Porky Seven News November 2020



Edition 55 .. Newsletter of the 7th Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment Association .. November 2020

With the majority of the Battalion deployed, Administration Company and many from Battalion HQ remained in Adelaide and provided support to those deployed forward. A Coy resumed their role as Ready Combat Team – only 48h after handing it off and balanced this with preparing for their own deployment to Malaysia on Rifle Company Butterworth rotation 129. As the majority returned from the bushfires, A Company deployed and immediately commenced training in the jungle. Whilst in the jungle, the world changed as we felt the impact of the pandemic.

Rifle Company Butterworth 129 turned out to be a very different experience to those before it. A Company spent their deployment in lockdown, with minimal training resources and even less opportunity to experience what South East Asia

has to offer. Unperturbed, A Company decided to see the opportunities in the pandemic and trained themselves. They replaced modern forms of soldier entertainment with new found distractions like chess, cards, PT, reading and getting to know each other better. They found a way to generate meaningful value out of the experience and to grow as a team.

Back in Australia, the Battalion implemented measures to preserve the Ready Battalion as the pandemic exploded. Adopting a dispersed approach to training in no more than section strength, our soldiers trained on unmanned aerial systems (drones) and several communications courses. The Battalion used the opportunity to build capability that at other times would have been difficult to achieve. As restrictions have eased, we have been fortunate to be able to retain a focus on



Porky Seven News November 2020



Edition 55 .. Newsletter of the 7th Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment Association .. November 2020

individual and small team (no higher than platoon) training. We have built our pool of APC crews, run Support Company Courses, enhanced our combat shooting, first aid and physical fitness training.

Highlights included the DFSW course being able to evaluate the Fire Control System -13 on the 84mm Carl Gustav. This new sighting system resulted in a significant increase in accuracy and target hits - including on moving targets. The course was also fortunate to use the moving armoured vehicle Raider targets. These two systems enhanced our capability and increased soldier confidence in their equipment and the capability they provide.

The Mortar Basic Course also focused on incorporating new ways to train. In addition to line drills, marching and vehicle operations, the course incorporated the WASP Small Unmanned Aerial System

(SUAS) in the Army's first employment of an unmanned aerial system to call in mortar fire. From this trial the WASP was able to place rounds within 25m of the target.

Signals Platoon continued their understated professional approach, delivering more courses than anyone else and training over a hundred soldiers throughout the year. In particular, they showcased the ability to transmit video feed from the Black Hornet drone across a radio network, providing live time feed and grid information to Command Posts and demonstrating some of the potential of new technologies.

As the courses concluded we turned to community engagement through the annual Exercise Thura Yura. In early October 7 RAR soldiers travelled to Port Lincoln to engage with the indigenous youth, participating in survival



Porky Seven News November 2020



Edition 55 .. Newsletter of the 7th Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment Association .. November 2020

training, cultural immersion, rappelling and for some, cage diving with white pointers. Leaders from both Defence and Aboriginal communities came together to teach our younger members life skills and resilience. This enduring activity continues to strengthen the relationship between 7 RAR and regional South Australia communities and is a highlight for many.

As we prepare for our second Christmas 'online', 2021 looks promising. The Battalion will deploy to defend Cultana in March, will assist CASG to

evaluate the Infantry Fighting Vehicle options, trial the optionally crewed (semi-autonomous) fleet of APCs and will continually develop our close training area to enable our sections and Platoons to run more training, more often, with less overheads. Whilst for many 2020 has been a year to forget, we take forward many lessons and the confidence that our soldiers will always adapt, will deliver results under the most uncertain and demanding of conditions, and that our Duty First approach retains relevance regardless of circumstance.



Porky Seven News November 2020



Edition 55 .. Newsletter of the 7th Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment Association .. November 2020



PEARLS FROM VICTORIA

Anzac Day 2020



Porky Seven News November 2020



Edition 55 .. Newsletter of the 7th Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment Association .. November 2020

Anzac Day was quite different for us all this year with no Dawn Service, Marches or the chance to catch up with mates afterwards.



One of the most heartening aspects was the community's ability to still mark this especially important day for Veterans. The impromptu Stand-to where many of us stood at our driveways with lights or music (pipes or bugles/trumpets) whilst maintaining the social distance. The various services that were broadcast by the media was also quite moving; let's hope 2021 will be back to normal. I chose to go to my son's shared accommodation house and join with him for this silent tribute. As promised, I read our Roll of

Honour that afternoon at the normal time we would have conducted this ceremony at our Post-March Reunion, I read it in front of an iPad but the quality was good enough to send out.

Shrine of Remembrance Services

At one stage it looked as if we would have been able to conduct our combined 7s Service in August but Covid reared its ugly head which put paid to that. Fortunately, Dale Capron (Co-ordinator Ceremonial Programs) liaised with Ian Dunn and





Porky Seven News November 2020



Edition 55 .. Newsletter of the 7th Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment Association .. November 2020

offered to run a virtual service on our behalf, A wonderful tribute was created with not much warning and was available on the Shrine's website for August 4. The service takes nearly 10 minutes and the Shrine's staff are to be highly commended for their efforts.

That service, along with many others, is still available on the Shrine's website (shrine.org.au). The full range of services can be found at Remembrance services.

At the Remembrance services dropdown panel, you can find the combined 7s at item 52. Entering 7RAR into the search on the same page box brings up a wide range of stories about including a short interview with Matthew Hopkins. Video clips and covers both Vietnam and Afghanistan which could bring back several memories for us,

Committee Meetings

Due to the severe Victorian lockdown we did not hold any committee meetings as there effectively no business to conduct. Restrictions are now being eased and with wonderful coming together of circumstances we were able to hold almost a mini reunion with far-flung members from South Australia and Phillip Island able to join the Metro members at Noble Park RSL

We had a very quick meeting at which it was decided that we would defer our





Porky Seven News November 2020



Edition 55 .. Newsletter of the 7th Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment Association .. November 2020

2020 AGM until the first meeting in 2021



Would you please note that the 2020 AGM will be held on February 10, 2021 at the Noble Park RSL (1128 Heatherton Rd, Noble Park) starting 11:00 am. We hope to see you there

On behalf of the committee we wish all our 7RAR mates and family a warm and safe Christmas and may 2021 be good for all of us

Parting Shot



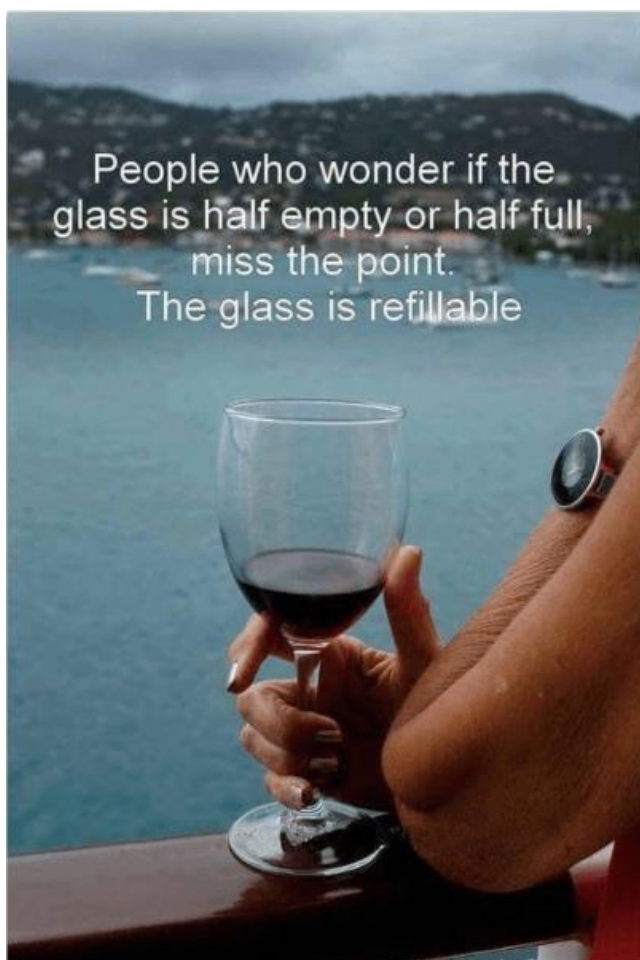


Porky Seven News November 2020



Edition 55 .. Newsletter of the 7th Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment Association .. November 2020

Parting Shot



Bill Anderson

0419-877-463

lastwill@hotmail.net.au



Porky Seven News November 2020



Edition 55 .. Newsletter of the 7th Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment Association .. November 2020

THE BEST FROM THE WEST

From all PIGS in the WEST, all the best to PIGS everywhere else, stay safe amid all the trials and tribulations relating to Covid-19 and we wish you all a very merry Christmas and a safe and healthy 2021 when we are all, hopefully, back to normal.

Vale VIK NEIMANIS 1st Tour

Vik passed away earlier this year but unfortunately, we were unable to attend a service for him due to the virus. However, on October 9th we were able to attend a service for Vik at Karrakatta cemetery, together with Vik's family and friends, where his ashes were interred. It was a wonderful service in a very peaceful section of the cemetery, which was followed by drinks and nibblyies at a nearby rotunda. Vik's sister Zig and all the family were very grateful at our involvement and, as Vik never talked much about his military service, they learned a few things about what a great soldier he was. We had a good turnout of PIGS, with Don providing both 3RAR and 7RAR flags as a tribute to Vik's service with both battalions. Bob Sexton, 1st Tour wrote and recited a poem about Vik, as follows:

Viktors Neimanis

*Anzac Day, reunions, Vik wore the hat
Neat and square was the hat, eyes alert
He marched straight and measured, not slack
Medals proudly on the chest, no trace of dirt
Vik always counting the paces
This was not the bloody races*

Blue, my scout, go careful there



Porky Seven News November 2020



Edition 55 .. Newsletter of the 7th Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment Association .. November 2020

*Bluey, be extra smart
The enemy is near
We can't drift apart
Walk straight Blue, always stay straight, don't wander
Count the bloody steps if you want to live a little longer*

*Vik, never without the hat
Always neat, fresh washed, wavy brim
Oh, it takes us back
Vik, spare of frame, always trim
The eyes missed nothing, focused, clear
The mouth firm, but never a sneer*

*Jim and Ron, Alby and Jock
They led the team
With Vik they could take any knock
By crikey they kept us lean
Vik, vigilant, maintaining tension
No slackness escaped his attention*

*We remember the bush hat, oh it takes us back
It takes us back to when we were strong
To that place where we were not slack
The place where we got along
And now when we march along, older, slower
We think of our digger brother
Viktor of the HAT.*



Porky Seven News November 2020



Edition 55 .. Newsletter of the 7th Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment Association .. November 2020



VIKTORS NEIMANIS



Porky Seven News November 2020



Edition 55 .. Newsletter of the 7th Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment Association .. November 2020



Vik's medals and "bush hat"



Porky Seven News November 2020



Edition 55 .. Newsletter of the 7th Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment Association .. November 2020



Some of the PIGS in attendance at Vik Neimanis' interment service.
Missing from the photo: Don Cruden, Bob Sexton.

COMMEMORATIVE SERVICE - NOEL CROUCH

Covid-19 forced us to cancel the 50th anniversary commemorative service we had planned for Noel on May 21st, however in conjunction with the Shire of Katanning we held the service in Katanning as part of the council's Remembrance Day service on November 11th. It was a wonderful service, which commemorated both Noel Crouch and in recognition of the service of indigenous soldiers and their subsequent harsh treatment they received on their return from active service. Graham Edwards did a terrific job as MC, with the service commencing with a welcome to country, followed by Steve



Porky Seven News November 2020



Edition 55 .. Newsletter of the 7th Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment Association .. November 2020

Chamarette reading a letter from Noel's platoon commander, Chris Johnston.

Ian McNee recited Psalm 23 and Noel's sister Val O'Brien gave his commemoration. We were lucky to secure the services of a bugler, a lady from Albany who, after Don recited the "ode", gave us the Last Post, followed by a minute's silence, then Rouse. The poem "In Flanders Fields" was recited by Shire President Liz Guidera, then wreaths were laid at a plaque honouring Noel Crouch's service and a plaque honouring indigenous soldiers from the district and at the main memorial. Liz Guidera then gave the Commemorative address, followed by St Patrick's School Katanning choir singing the National Anthem.



Noel's funeral in Katanning 4th June 1970, the first Military funeral to be held in the town. (Source: Great Southern Herald.)



Porky Seven News November 2020



Edition 55 .. Newsletter of the 7th Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment Association .. November 2020



Noel Crouch's plaque.



Porky Seven News November 2020



Edition 55 .. Newsletter of the 7th Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment Association .. November 2020



The bunch of PIGS who attended the commemorative service with Graham Edwards and Shire President Liz Guidera in front.



Porky Seven News November 2020



Edition 55 .. Newsletter of the 7th Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment Association .. November 2020



Val O'Brien giving Noel's commemoration.



Porky Seven News November 2020



Edition 55 .. Newsletter of the 7th Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment Association .. November 2020

Just a footnote: Gordon Dickson, 2nd left and John Dorrington, 2nd right met each other for the first time since 1970.



Noel's family, L to R: Malcolm, Rodney, Teresa, Valerie, Francis, Rosemary, Maurice. Nancy at front with the painting Valerie presented to the Shire of Katanning.

COMMEMORATIVE SERVICE - PAUL NAVARRE

Once again Covid-19 scuppered our plans to hold the 50th anniversary service for Paul on the 6th June, so the service was held on November 18th at the Ocean Reef RSL in Perth. Mick O'Halloran, who was in Paul's section, did a great job MC-ing the service and helping to make it something to remember for Paul's family, who have all been a great support to 7RAR marching with us every Anzac Day for over 30 years. Albert Jacob, Paul's nephew and mayor of the City of Joondalup spoke on Paul's time up to his call up for military service.



Porky Seven News November 2020



Edition 55 .. Newsletter of the 7th Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment Association .. November 2020

Albert's brother Michael recited a prayer, followed by Mick O'Halloran talking about Paul's time in Vietnam, which included a letter from Paul's Platoon Commander David Kibbey and was read out by Les Kail. Then followed the "Ode", followed by the last Post, a minute's silence, rouse and the National Anthem. Then wreaths were laid and a 7RAR flag was presented to Julia by Spunky Fieldhouse. After photos, the song "I was only 19" was played, very emotional. Tea, coffee and nibblies followed what was a wonderful service. Mick O'Halloran and Les Kail



Mick O'Halloran and Spunky Fieldhouse presenting the 7RAR flag to Paul's sister Julia Jacob



Porky Seven News November 2020



Edition 55 .. Newsletter of the 7th Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment Association .. November 2020



The gathering commemorating Paul Navarre, under the arch at the Ocean Reef RSL.



Porky Seven News November 2020



Edition 55 .. Newsletter of the 7th Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment Association .. November 2020



Paul's family



Porky Seven News November 2020



Edition 55 .. Newsletter of the 7th Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment Association .. November 2020



Paul's "proud as punch" great nephews

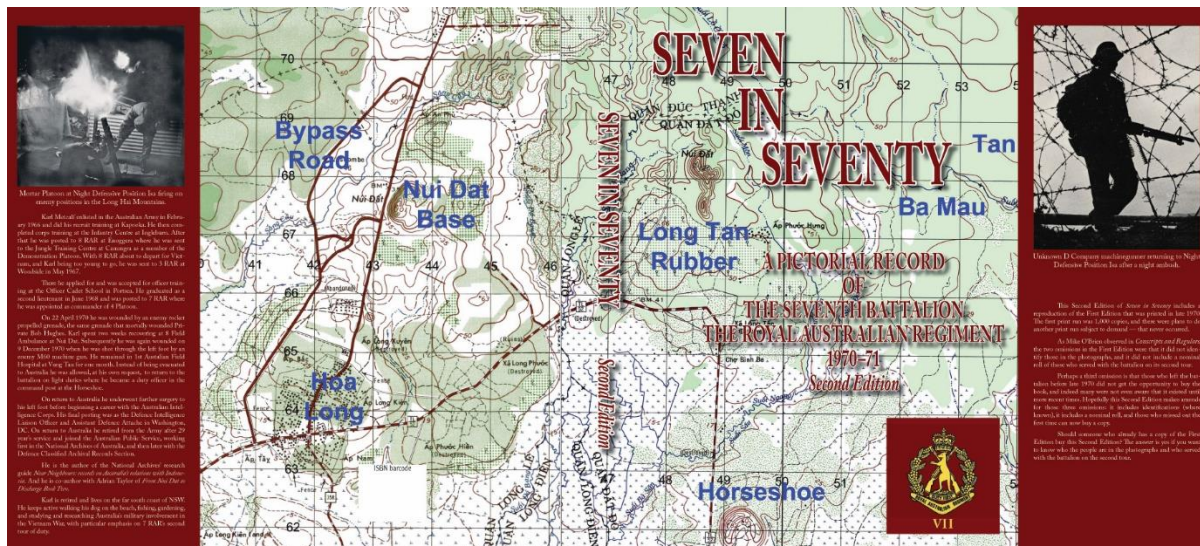


Porky Seven News November 2020



Edition 55 .. Newsletter of the 7th Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment Association .. November 2020

KEV GILLETT SECRETARY/WEBMASTER



The book *Seven in Seventy* has been reborn courtesy of Karl Metcalf. Karl has done a significant amount of work with contributions from the membership identifying soldiers that were previously unnamed.

Karl has added over 80 pages of notes on photographs identifying, in most cases, those pictured. He has also included a Nominal Roll that he has edited in liaison with DVA to ensure its accuracy. Maps have upgraded to include specific areas of operations

The text and layout has been verified by several interested members so it will represent a honest copy of the first edition with a lot extra. With all the additions the book is now 350 pages compared with 207 pages in the original.

The book is now a historical, record of the Battalion's second tour rather than just a pictorial record. The original book was good but this second edition represents a great improvement.



Porky Seven News November 2020



Edition 55 .. Newsletter of the 7th Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment Association .. November 2020

The current thinking is to publish the book in time for ANZAC Day 2021 but this will only happen if we get sufficient funds up front.

To print the second edition we need members to put their hand up **AND THEIR OTHER HAND IN THEIR POCKET** to make the project worthwhile.

Each edition will cost \$100 plus \$20 postage so all up \$120.

Money must be deposited into

Name: 7th Battalion Royal Australian Regiment Association

Bank: ANZ Penrith

BSB: 012429

Acct: 190140003

You must identify yourself in the transfer details by Association membership number and name. If you're not a member then just insert your name.

ANZAC Day 2021

For Brisbane Pigs

Warning Order

From the ANZAC DAY PARADE BRISBANE (ADPB) COMMITTEE
meeting held 10 Nov 20

SPECIAL RESOLUTION That the 2021 Anzac Day Parade Brisbane be relocated on a one-off basis to comply with COVIDSafe planning regulations. The chosen location to be the



Porky Seven News November 2020



Edition 55 .. Newsletter of the 7th Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment Association .. November 2020

RNA Showgrounds which offers a venue that can be controlled within the resources available to the ADPB Committee.

I will provide more info as it comes to hand.

AFGHANISTAN INQUIRY REPORT

If you are interested in the Brereton Report on alleged activities in Afghanistan follow the link below.

[Link](#)

SVN Rego Plates

Any Victorians interested

My personalised plates are for sale as I have relocated to Queensland.

Have checked Vic Roads and offer my collector plates for same price of \$650 postage included.

Ctc me on 0408723185.

Paul Murphy.

Private retired ex 2RAR



Porky Seven News November 2020



Edition 55 .. Newsletter of the 7th Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment Association .. November 2020

