

# THE ROYAL AUSTRALIAN REGIMENT ASSOCIATION VICTORIA



## NEWSLETTER WINTER EDITION MAY 2022

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE

#### PRESIDENT'S REPORT

#### RARA VIC NEWS

ANZAC DAY MELBOURNE 2022

#### ARMY NEWS

NEW BALL CAPS  
SNIPERS - 6RAR

#### MILITARY INFORMATION

GORGET PATCHES  
AIGUILLETES  
THIS MANS ARMY - D & E PLATOON

#### VALE

#### EDITOR'S CORNER

BOOK REVIEW  
SUBSCRIPTIONS/DIRECT BANKING  
\$250 POWER SAVING BONUS  
MILITARY HUMOUR  
DISCLAIMER

#### 2022 COMMITTEE DETAILS

#### 2022 MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

## CORRESPONDENCE

All mail to be forwarded to  
The Secretary  
RAR Assn (Vic) Branch  
PO Box 6213  
Frankston Vic 3199

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT



Anzac Day 2022 in Melbourne was a return to normal – preceded by some serious negotiations

regarding the march step-off time and major confusion about the RAR assembly point.

The march itself went well with us again having cadets from Melbourne High School carrying our banners and the City of Melbourne Pipe band leading the RAR contingent. It was most pleasing to see the numbers of younger veterans gradually increasing.

Our post-march venue, the Coopers Inn (Cnr Exhibition and Little Lonsdale Streets) was, again, a great success. Our host Matt O'Kane did a wonderful job and clearly appreciated the chance to welcome the RAR to his establishment again. Feedback has been very positive. It is easy to enjoy yourself when the room is full of RAR members, their families and friends.

We are now in the process of organising this year's Regimental Dinner for RAR veterans, Association members, friends and family. Once we have all details confirmed date, location and timings will be promulgated.

In the meantime, stay Covid free.

**John James**

Duty First

## RARA VIC NEWS

### ANZAC DAY MELBOURNE 2022



Victoria Police (Mounted) leading



Col John James (Ret'd) leading RARA Victoria



1RAR



2RAR



3RAR



5RAR



6RAR



7RAR



8RAR



9RAR



2/4RAR



5/7RAR

**Editor:** I have been advised that the **4RAR Vietnam members** now march with the 2<sup>nd</sup> Commando Regiment. The 4th Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment (4RAR) was an **Australian Army infantry battalion** and part of the Royal Australian Regiment. The battalion was formed on 1 February 1964 and was renamed the 2nd Commando Regiment on 19 June 2009.

**ARMY NEWS**

**Army authorises new ball cap – for limited use**



A new AMCU baseball-style cap will roll out across Army this year, as an alternative to the bush hat.

This style of field headdress will allow soldiers and commanders an alternative headdress when operating in different environments, such as in vehicles and on boats.

ADF Clothing Manager Sandy McNerney said it was also an alternative form of headdress for soldiers conducting domestic operations as directed by unit commanders.

The new cap is to be worn with field dress, but individual units will have the final say on which headdress is worn out field.

The caps, which will have a hook-and-pile patch at the front to support the wearing of ANF patches, will roll out in two phases, with personnel in north South Australia and Sydney metropolitan areas receiving issues between now and May.

Sydney regional areas, Western Australia, Victoria, Tasmania and the ACT units will receive caps from May to August.

"The baseball cap has been an item that's been desired by personnel for a long time. Army is in a position where it can make these smaller modernisations happen," Ms McNerney said.

Navy and Air Force will also adopt the AMCU baseball cap when the AMCU uniform is worn by their respective personnel.

From **ARMY Newspaper** dated 14 April 2022

**Snipers hone their skills**  
By **Captain Taylor Lynch**  
9 February 2022



Snipers from 6th Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment (6 RAR), started the new year with a week in the Wide Bay training area, near Gympie in Queensland, to true their weapons, bond in their small teams, and maintain the lethal accuracy they are known for.

'Truing' is a highly mathematical process snipers undertake to finely tune their weapons, taking into consideration factors such as elevation and bullet flight time, ensuring they shoot accurately regardless of the conditions.

Throughout the week, the two-person sniper teams, made up of a 'number one' and a 'number two', were also afforded the opportunity to fine-tune their working relationships.

Lance Corporal Reece Tomlinson said sniper teams had a unique dynamic.

"While there's a separation between the number one and number two in terms of leadership, the majority of the time we are discussing the mission on the same level," Lance Corporal Tomlinson said.

"It's a very intimate team; we work closely with one another, so it's essential we establish an effective working relationship."

Sniper teams are required to undertake a variety of tasks operationally and during training exercises.

"We generally step off at night, working our way to different rendezvous points before pushing onto an observation point," Lance Corporal Tomlinson said.

"From there we observe the objective and relay information back to the headquarters, provide battlefield commentary for up to 72 hours and, if required, fire upon the objective."

Snipers have a lot of trust placed on them as one of the battalion’s forward observers.

“The responsibility we are afforded is what I love most about this role; we all work to a high standard and expect a high level of competence,” he said.

“While we’re soldiers at a lower rank, we’ve received enough training allowing us to report to an officer in the headquarters, often the commanding officer, who will use that information to inform decisions on the battlefield.

“We work hard to learn this skill set and it’s rewarding to be given this responsibility.”

Private Jack Sendall, who passed the sniper course in late 2021, said he was enjoying honing his marksmanship skills in Wide Bay.

“As a sniper you’re trained to a high level in the basic marksmanship principles,” Private Sendall said.

“Your breathing techniques, correctly positioning yourself behind the rifle, calming yourself down, firing accurately, maintaining a perfect sight picture – they all come together.”

Private Sendall said he relished the experience he was gaining as a new addition to 6 RAR’s sniper cell.

“The number ones have a good amount of experience and are happy to share that knowledge, and often, as a number two, you understudy your number one,” he said.

“It’ll only take a couple of years and I’ll have enough knowledge to be able to step up to become a number one myself.

“Working within the sniper cell, you work with some really professional guys.”

**Editor:** Is this the favourite rifle you would suggest for our snipers, the:-

**“AMR 50 Cal AW50F”**

The AMR is a bolt operated, magazine-fed weapon that fires several types of 12.7mm ammunition with the capability of

engaging point targets to a range of 1500 metres.



It has an adjustable bipod and third leg that can be adjusted to fit soldiers’ personal and tactical requirements. It may be fitted with telescopic or iron sights.

**Calibre** - 12.7 millimetres

**Weight** - 14.93 kilograms (with loaded five-round magazine)

**Length** - 135 centimetres

**Barrel Length** - 692 millimetres

**Muzzle velocity** - 825 metres per second

**Feed** - five-round magazine

**Effective range** - 1500 metres

**Ammunition types:**

- Ball F1
- 
- Tracer
- Armour piercing
- Armour-piercing incendiary
- Multipurpose

**MILITARY INFORMATION**

**Gorget Patches**



Generals, Brigadiers and Colonels wear gorget patches, known colloquially as red tabs, on the collar.

Originally, the gorget was a

piece of armour that protected the throat or gorge, which date from the fourteenth century, first appearing on suits of armour. Improvements in musketry brought about the gradual demise of

protective armour. By the beginning of the 18th Century, any pieces that remained had no practical value and were nothing more than a distinguishing accoutrement on an officers’ uniform for ornamental or ceremonial purposes.

During the Boer War, a khaki uniform was introduced, and red gorget patches were added to distinguish senior officers.

There are two types of gorget patch, both worn on the collar and identical in shape and colour, but with different design features. The gorget patch worn by a colonel or brigadier has a central line of silk gimp (the thread with a cord or wire in the centre) the same colour as the gorget patch. The patch worn by major generals and above has oak leaf embroidery on the full-size patch and a strip of gold braid on the smaller patch.

There are some variations in the gorget patch dependent on the members’ corps.

Members of Nursing Corps wear a silver silk gimp.

The senior officers of three corps wear a gorget patch of a different colour: the Chaplains Department wears a purple patch; the Medical Corps wears a dull cherry; and the Dental Corps wears burnt orange patches. Senior officers of the Australian Army Cadets wear a royal blue gorget patch.



British Army officer’s gorget, circa 1783 – 90.

**Editor** A gorget, from the French gorge, meaning throat, and over time it also became a steel or leather collar to protect the throat.

**Aiguillettes  
pronounced “a gwa’ let”**

Aiguillettes are gilded cords ending in gold metal tagged points and are worn by officers to distinguish special and senior appointments.

Aiguillettes distinguish special and senior appointments, such as Army officers of General rank, Chief of Army, Deputy Chief of Army, members of the Chief of Army’s Senior Advisory Committee, Military Attaché and Aide-de-camp.



Several traditions account for their origin.

One account of the origin is that the Aiguillette denotes the rope and pickets carried by the squires to tether their knights’ horses.

Another authority has it that they were ‘aiguilles’ or needles for clearing the touch hole of very old muskets and that the cords were originally lanyards, which fastened the needles to the soldiers’ equipment.

It is also suggested that the Aiguillette represents the Provost Marshall’s rope with which he hanged defaulters.

The most probable explanation is that they were the pins used to secure a pauldron, or shoulder protector, on the cuirass (a piece of armour) of a knight or cuirassier’s plate armour.

Another position on the origin of the Aiguillette is that they

represent the pencil that every good Staff Officer had at hand, tied to his person by a piece of string. The Aiguillette of the Japanese is in fact adapted for use as a pencil.

The type of Aiguillette worn depends on the rank of the officer and/or the position or appointment they hold. The appointment also dictates which shoulder the item is worn. Most senior officers wear the Aiguillette on the right shoulder, while Military Attaché and Aide-de-camp wear the Aiguillette on the left.

The Governor-General of Australia, as the Commander in Chief of the Australian Defence Force, is also entitled to wear a uniform on which an Aiguillette made of platinum is worn.

**D & E PLATOON, 1 ATF**

FROM STAN SUTHERLAND’S BOOK *“IN THIS MAN’S ARMY”*

8<sup>th</sup> January. D & E Platoon arrived down at the Badcoe club in Vung Tau on TCVs for two days leave on R & C. It’s been quite some time since we’ve had any leave and all the troops are looking forward to it. Once everybody had jumped from the trucks, Lt Cosgrove lined us all up for a pep talk and warned, “Now boys, you’re down here for two days. Go into town, enjoy yourselves but above all behave yourselves. If any of you land up in the slot, you’ll have me to deal with as well. Don’t get drunk more than necessary. Don’t fight or abuse the Yanks. Don’t fight the pogos, don’t wreck the bars, keep out of the way of the White Mice (South Vietnamese Police) and observe the curfew. If you’re in town make sure you allow enough time to get back to 1ALSG before they close the gates. I don’t want to be spending the next two days getting you lot out of trouble. Now, don’t say I didn’t warn. Clear off, have a good time and stays out of bloody trouble.”

I spent the whole of next day from 0900 hrs to 2100 hrs sitting in a bar drinking American Budweiser beer. I didn’t let them take the cans away and by the end of the day I had 33 cans lined up on the table. For such a good customer, the Mama San gave me a bowl of rice lunch and another one in the evening. Near the end of the day Bluey Lewis walked in and I said, “Hey, Bluey come and have a look at this mate, thirty-three cans and I can walk a straight as a die. As a matter of fact, I’m just as sober as what I was when I walked in here this morning.

“Yeah, this American piss is like having sex on the beach,” said Bluey, ordering a can.

“What do you mean by sex on the Beach, Blue?”

It’s fuckin’ near water mate,” he said with a big smile on his face. I thought that was quite funny. I hadn’t heard the expression before.

“You’re not wrong there Blue, but I’ve had enough, it’s almost 2130 and time to get back to the Badcoe Club to beat the curfew. I don’t want to spend the night in the lock up.”

We found a Lambretta as soon as we out from the bar.



We told him to take us to the *uc dai loi* camp. On the way-out Bluey rolled a couple of five cent notes around some other paper he had to make it look as though it was a big wad. When the driver pulled up at the gate, Bluey handed him the wad and we took off making it through the gate before he could unwrap it to find he’d been ripped off.

Earlier in the evening Jim Fraser, Ken Earney and Blue Costello were having their own fun. They gave a Lambretta driver a

hard time, repeatedly calling him a VC. The driver, at the end of his tether, took hold of the chain which he uses to secure his vehicle with and swung it around his head in a threatening manner as if to lash out at them. This was too much Jim, Bluey and Ken, so the three of them, so the three of them set about wrecking his Lambretta. Jim picked up a rock and smashed his headlights and Bluey and Ken picked up the Lambretta and turned it over. Ken burned his hand when he inadvertently got hold of the exhaust pipe when turning it over. Vietnamese civilians came to support the driver and they were picking up rocks and throwing them at the three troublemakers. A few minutes later, the White Mice came speeding around the corner.



One jumped from his vehicle and ran towards them drawing his pistol at the same time. When he got to them, he fired a shot in the air and placed the muzzle of his pistol against Jim's temple. This action had a very calming effect on the three of them. Shortly after, the Aussie MPs arrived and took charge of the proceedings.

Earney asked one of the MPs if he could have a look at his burnt hands under the headlights of the MPs vehicle. The MP said, "OK, but don't forget you're under arrest."

"I won't, but thanks, I'll just have a quick look at my hands, they're bloody sore and I'll only be a few seconds."

Ken walked over to the vehicle, which still had its lights on, parked at the side of the road. He was looking at his hands and heard a Lambretta coming along. As soon as it got near him, he made a bolt for it, jumping

abroad and scaring half to death the Vietnamese woman who'd hired the vehicle. Ken commanded the vehicle, taking no notice of the woman who was swearing and cursing at him in Vietnamese. He pulled a five dollar note from his pocket and waved it under the nose of the driver and told him to step on it.

Naturally, he got away.

Jim Muir thought he would assist with a gaol break and, getting hold of Lt. Cosgrove's battle jacket, he and Earney presented themselves at the cells, Jim claiming to be the officer in charge of the unit to which Jim Fraser and Blue Costello belonged. He was discussing the gravity of the misdemeanours with the cell keeper and requested that the three miscreants be placed in his charge. Whist in the middle of his negotiations, the real Lt. Cosgrove turned up and took one look at Jim in his officer's jacket and said, "I think you better get yourself back to camp Jim."

Meanwhile, in the cells, Bluey was pretending to be asleep. He'd made up his mind that when a provost came to wake him up, he would lash out and hang one on him. Unfortunately, it was Lt. Cosgrove that came to him, giving him a shake and saying, "Are you all right Blue?" Bluey thinking it was a provost got the boss in a headlock and Earney's yelling, "Bluey, it's the boss! It's the boss! It's the lieuey Blue!"

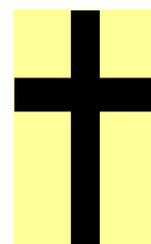
Lt. Cosgrove got them out of the lockup. If he came down with 28 men, he wanted to go back to Nui Dat with the same number.

Back at 1ALSG the troops were all quite subdued. Lack of sleep, too much beer or whatever poisons they drank, plus frolicking with the bar girls of Vunga's had taken its toll. Unlike the pogos down at 1ALSG who had the good life and learned how to pace themselves, the infantry units always went on a spree and, generally those who overdid it and gave the MPs a

hard time saw the inside of the slammer.

After breakfast everybody packed up, weapons were handed back, and all boarded the trucks in the convoy to go back to Nui Dat. We arrived at 1100 hrs but everyone was too under the weather to do anything.

**VALE**



**AT THE GOING DOWN OF THE SUN, WE WILL REMEMBER THEM "LEST WE FORGET" OUR FALLEN AND DEPARTED COMRADES**

**3RAR**

**MAJ ALEXANDER WEAVER (RET'D)**

Korea 1953/54, PI Cmd, also SVN, 1968/69 1<sup>st</sup> Australian Civil Affairs Unit  
Passed away 18 February 2022

**LTCOL GORDON ROBERT HILL AM**

CO 3RAR 12/1989 – 8/1991  
Passed away 3 February 2022

**5RAR**

**RSM RONALD EDWIN BRIAIS**  
SVN 1969/70 , 12 PI, D Coy, also 7RAR 1970. 8 & 8/9 RAR Aust.

Passed away 15 May 2022

**MAJ JOHN FREDERICK MILLER (RET'D) CVO, AM, MBE**

SVN 1966/67, OC C Coy, also served with 1RAR, 3RAR in Malaya & 4RAR.

Passed away 21 April 2022

**WO2 THOMAS WITHERIDGE**

SVN 1966/67 & 1969/70, also served with 1RAR in Malaya and 3RAR & 4RAR.

Passed away 4 March 2022

**WILLIAM JOSSEPH MURPHY**

SVN 1966/67, 2 PI, A Coy  
Passed away 25 February 2022

**JAMES PATRICK DUFFEY  
WIA**

SVN 1966, 10 Pl, D Coy  
Passed away 16 February 2022  
**ANTON NIEUWENHOUT WIA**  
SVN 1966/67, 7PI C Coy  
Passed away 23 January 2022

**7RAR**

**MAJGEN RONALD ALWWN  
GREY AO, DSO, MID**  
SVN 1970/71, CO 7RAR  
Passed away 21 January 2022

**9RAR**

**WO2 THOMAS HENRY  
CROSS MID**  
SVN 1968/69, 4/5 Pl, B Coy,  
also **1RAR** 1965/66 and **3RAR**  
Malaya  
Passed away 23 February 2022

**COLIN LESLIE KEAST WIA**  
SVN 1969, 12 Pl, D Coy, also  
**4RAR** 1969.  
Passed away 20 February 2022

**ANTHONY JOSEPH HINDSON**  
SVN 1968/69,  
Passed away 17 February 2022

**ANDREW SCOTT MANSELL  
TURNER**  
SVN 1969, Assault-Pioneer Pl,  
Spt Coy, also **HQ, ATV** 1969/70  
Passed away 20 October 2021

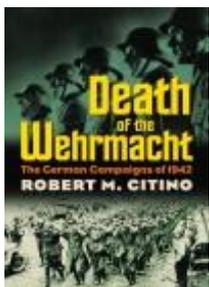
**KEVIN LINDSAY EASON**  
SVN 1968/69, Catering Corp,  
also **6RAR** 1966/67 & **1RAR**  
1966  
Passed away 20 October 2021

**EDITOR'S CORNER**

**BOOK REVIEW**

**Death of the Wehrmacht:**  
The German Campaigns of  
1942

By Robert M Citino



For Hitler and the German military, 1942 was a key turning point of World War II, as an over stretched

but still lethal Wehrmacht replaced brilliant victories and huge territorial gains with stalemates and strategic retreats. In this major re-evaluation of that crucial year, Robert Citino shows that the German army's emerging woes were rooted as much in its addiction to the "war of movement"—attempts to smash the enemy in "short and lively" campaigns—as they were in Hitler's deeply flawed management of the war.

From the overwhelming operational victories at Kerch and Kharkov in May to the catastrophic defeats at El Alamein and Stalingrad, Death of the Wehrmacht offers an eye-opening new view of that decisive year. Building upon his widely respected critique in The German Way of War, Citino shows how the campaigns of 1942 fit within the centuries-old patterns of Prussian/German war making and ultimately doomed Hitler's expansionist ambitions. He examines every major campaign and battle in the Russian and North African theatres throughout the year to assess how a military geared to quick and decisive victories coped when the tide turned against it.

Citino also reconstructs the German generals' view of the war and illuminates the multiple contingencies that might have produced more favourable results. In addition, he cites the fatal extreme aggressiveness of German commanders like Erwin Rommel and assesses how the German system of command and its commitment to the "independence of subordinate commanders" suffered under the thumb of Hitler and chief of staff General Franz Halder.

More than the turning point of a war, 1942 marked the death of a very old and traditional pattern of war making, with the classic "German way of war" unable to meet the challenges of the twentieth century. Blending masterly research with a gripping

narrative, Citino's remarkable work provides a fresh and revealing look at how one of history's most powerful armies began to founder in its quest for world domination.

**About the Author**

Robert M. Citino is professor of European history at Eastern Michigan University and author of seven other books, including most recently *The German Way of War: From the Thirty Years' War to the Third Reich*.

**Reviews**

"This book is a winner across the board. Citino's concept of *Bewegungskrieg* (mobile war), elegantly defined and convincingly demonstrated, should become the new benchmark for analysis. Citino's clarity and perception, his understanding of the operation level of war, informs this work from first page to last."

*Historian*

"Citino's well written and thoughtful study will be of great value to experts and novices alike.

*NYMAS Review, New York  
Military Affairs Symposium*

**SUBSCRIPTIONS 2022**

**DIRECT BANKING DETAILS**

 **Bendigo Bank**  
**The Royal Australian Regiment Assoc Victoria Branch Inc.**  
**BSB 633-000**  
**A/C No. 154956494**

2022 subscriptions can now be paid into the above account or send a cheque or money order to our correspondence address.

**\$250 Power Saving Bonus**

The Victorian Government has announced a new \$250 Power Saving Bonus program for all Victorian households. From 1 July 2022, you can access the

new \$250 program by visiting the Victorian Energy Compare website and submitting an application.

The existing \$250 Power Saving Bonus for Concession recipients remains open and is available until 30 June 2022. Before submitting an application for the bonus, please read the eligibility requirements.

Eligibility Requirements for the existing Power Saving Bonus program:

- You must be a Victorian residential energy consumer (i.e., have a residential electricity account).
- You must be receiving payments under one of the following concession programs:
- Centrelink Pensioner Concession
- JobSeeker, Youth Allowance, Austudy or Abstudy
- Department of Veterans Affairs Pensioner Concession
- Or hold a Department of Veterans Affairs Gold Card

## MILITARY HUMOUR

**British Officer:** "Soldier! Why didn't you salute me!"

**Digger:** "Bugger you, mate! Think a man's a bleedin' windmill? 'Ave a good look at me and then go 'ome and tell yer ma that you've seen an Australian soldier!"



## DISCLAIMER

Information and articles printed in this newsletter is either reprinted from other publications or is derived from verbal or other notes received by the editor. While all efforts are made to verify the information, the opinions expressed by the Editor, or any other contributors are not necessarily those of the Committee of RARA Victoria Branch. No responsibility or guarantee is

given or implied for any action taken by individuals or groups because of information contained within this publication and no liability will be accepted for any loss from such use.

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THE ROYAL AUSTRALIAN REGIMENT ASSOCIATION VICTORIA

**APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP – 1<sup>st</sup> January to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2022**

I, ..... (Given Names) ..... (Surname)  
wish to apply for membership of the Victoria Branch of the Royal Australian Regiment Association.  
If accepted, I agree to abide by Association Constitution and the Rules and By-Laws of the Branch.

Date of Birth ..... On first name terms, I prefer to be called.....

Details of my service with the Regiment are:

Regimental Number ..... Rank ..... Units and dates served .....

.....(If insufficient room use back of form)

Honours, Awards and/or Post Nominals .....

Full Residential or Postal Address .....

..... Postcode .....

Telephone (Private) ..... (Bus/Fax) .....

Present Occupation ..... or Retired Yes No (Circle)

Next of Kin ..... Relationship .....

Address of NOK (if not As Above) .....

..... Postcode .....

Enclosed is my subscription for one year's membership

**REMITTANCE:**

Annual Subscription @ \$30.00 \$.....

Donation (Optional) \$ .....

**TOTAL:** \$ .....

**Date:** .....

**Signed:** .....

..... Direct Payment to **BSB 633-000, Account No. 154956494 with your name included.**

Please make cheques/Money Order's payable to 'RAR Association Victoria Branch'.

Please do not send cash in mail

Send to Secretary, PO Box 6213, FRANKSTON VIC 3199. **For a receipt by return mail, please enclose a stamped, self-addressed envelope.**