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PRESIDENT'S REPORT



It's strange how, that as we get older, time seems to go faster. It was only a short while back to Xmas and here

we are looking at assembling in Melbourne in a few days' time for Anzac Day. The last time I came to Melbourne for a 9 RAR Assoc. get together, which was for our Remembrance Day service at the Shrine, both Jan and I were struck down by covid necessitating me aborting the mission and returning home a few days before the service. Thankfully, Bill Forrest filled in for me to ensure the day went off without a hitch.

For this Anzac Day true to form, we'll be coming down to Melbourne about 5 days earlier and I'll keep my fingers crossed. There is a lot going on in the world that's quite disturbing and Australia is also facing turbulent times on a number of fronts but comment on these events are

not suitable to chronicle here, hopefully though, common sense, logic and sanity will prevail in due course and our people can get together on the same page and one day, get back to building the nation because there is so much work to be done in this respect.

On a lighter note, the Yackandandah folk festival was held last weekend and in participation, I sold the produce from my beehives from a little stall right outside my front gate. These days so as not to upset the bees or people I don't use the phrase "rob the bees" to do so has a traumatic affect on some people and impinges adversely on their sensibilities, so now I say, "harvest the honey". This is more acceptable in today's environment. A couple of people from the flat earth society visited my stall and tried to convince me to join. It's at moments like these that I lament the closing of the Beechworth Lunatic Asylum.

Let's hope the weather for Anzac Day is kind to us because it normally is and it's terrific to be out on a great occasion on a lovely autumn day in Melbourne.

Sadly, these days we hear too often that one of our comrades has passed on so now we all have to make a concerted effort for 9RAR Assoc. to make a good show of ourselves in numbers. I very much look forward to catching up with you all on the day and until then keep well and don't forget to clean your shoes. "That's a good lad".

Stan Sutherland

9RAR NEWS

ANZAC DAY 2023

8RAR will be the lead battalion in this year's march. They are having their National Reunion in Melbourne and around

130 diggers will be marching to the Shrine.

MAJGEN Adrian Clunies-Ross AO, OBE (Retd) SVN 1962/63 AATTV also 1969/70 8RAR and Arthur Koo, President of the 8RAR Association Australia, will lead the 130 men.

Assembly, Form Up and Order of March

Assembly location

Swanston Street East (between Flinders Lane and Collins Street)

Form Up

Commences 0900 hrs and Step Off at 0930 hrs.

Order of March

RAR Association, followed by

- 8RAR
- 2/4RAR
- 5/7RAR
- 1RAR
- 2RAR
- 3RAR
- 4RAR
- 5RAR
- 6RAR
- 7RAR
- **9RAR**

All units will have cadets as their banner bearers.

Transport

3 cars have been ordered to assist with those veterans unable to march to the Shrine.

Service after the March

This will be held at the usual place by the RAR Tree immediately after the March. Rev. Richard Wilson the RARA Vic padre will conduct the service.

Reunion location

We have arranged to have our reunion lunch at **Rosco's** on St Kilda Road. I have told the owner Jason, to expect between 30-40 people. If we achieve this, I'm sure we will

have all future reunion lunches at Rosco's, if we don't get the numbers, we will need to find another location or you attend the RARA venue, see below.

The reunion get-together for those RARA units not already aligned to other locations will be **Coopers Inn, 282 Exhibition St.** The food is good, beer at fair prices and two up will be played. (I think).

ARMY NEWS

Army establishes new health brigade



For the first time in its 122-year history, the Australian Army has a dedicated health brigade to ensure Army's deployable health capability is ready to support future operations and training, both at home and overseas.

Today's transfer of authority parade at Victoria Barracks, Sydney, has officially commemorated the raising of Army's new 2nd Health Brigade, which began in 2022.

Comprised of Army's four health battalions, 2nd Health Brigade brings together almost 1,700 trained and highly capable medical and non-clinical personnel under one formation to further enhance Army's deployable health capability.

Chief of Army, Lieutenant General Simon Stuart, AO, DSC, said the consolidation of the health battalions under the command of the 2nd Health Brigade was a key component of Army's modernisation.

The dedicated health brigade will enhance Army's ability to raise, train and sustain health assets ready to deliver multi-disciplined health support to

operations and training, both at home and overseas," **Lieutenant General Stuart** said.



The 2nd Health Brigade is now responsible for all deployable Army health capabilities that support conventional operations.

The four health battalions, based in Darwin, Brisbane, Adelaide and Townsville, are aligned to major Defence concentrations in each of these locations; with sub-elements distributed across all states and territories.



Brigadier Jocelyn King, CSC, the inaugural Commander of the 2nd Health Brigade, said the health battalions had been structured to offer a greater mix of deployable health capability in each region, with their members drawn from Army's full and part-time workforces.

"Building teams within units that draw on both our full-time and part-time workforce will enable the entire health workforce to

benefit from the specialist skills and experience resident within Army's part-time health workforce," Brigadier King said.

"The integrated workforce model across the entire brigade also provides greater opportunity for Army's part time health workforce to participate in operations and training, and to apply their professional skills in a military context."

Nearly 50 per cent of the 2nd Health Brigade workforce is part-time, many of whom bring specialist skills that are trained and sustained in the civilian health system.

The 2nd Health Brigade will provide enhanced health capabilities for Army, including independently deployable surgical elements, combat health support, mental health support, increased aero medical evacuation capacity and allied health support.

Editor: Is this new brigade modelled on existing system used by say, NATO or is it something our politicians and senior defence officers decided to install.

1RAR boning up on anti-armour weapons.



Private Jack Sewell, of Direct First Support Weapons Platoon, demonstrates a one-man reload of the 84mm Carl Gustav recoilless rifle. Story and photo by Warrant Officer Class 2 Max Bree.

Tanks are perfect for annihilating foot soldiers, with their cannons, heavy machine guns and impressive speed.

But they are vulnerable when operating alone.

That's why there's more to destroying them than firing a rocket and receiving high-fives from your section.

Hours go into setting fire positions, exfil routes and mutually supporting arcs of fire, which is why soldiers from 1st Battalion, the Royal Australian Regiment (1RAR), went through a week of anti-armour familiarisation and revision with the battalion's Direct First Support Weapons (DFSW) Platoon in Townsville.

Soldiers were taken through the basics of anti-armour theory and engagement, including vehicle recognition, to know what capabilities an enemy might bring.

They also planned anti-armour ambushes with the 84mm Carl Gustav recoilless rifle and were briefed on how DFSW can use Javelin missile launchers to provide support.

DFSW section commander Corporal Oliver Drews said modern militaries were primarily mechanised or motorised units, so it was important to engage armour as well as dismounts.

"For the 84, you could have between two to six tubes in an engagement, depending on the availability of manpower and weapons," Corporal Drews said.

"Ideally, the more the better. And the larger space we have for the engagement, the better it is for us."

Weapons need a good line of sight, but obstacles and vegetation should also be set between attackers and their targets, to slow any vehicles who may try and charge at the anti-armour team.

"If the enemy isn't sure where they've been attacked from, you've got the advantage," Corporal Drews said.

"Recon and terrain are always going to be your friend."

An anti-armour team will usually have a high-value target list dictating which vehicle to engage. But when attacking a column, they may target the first or last vehicle to pin the formation.

"That means they'll have less manoeuvrability and if you can

identify the command variant, you want to target that as well," Corporal Drews said.

While the battalion's rifle companies don't carry Javelins like DFSW, they do have the 84s.



An anti-armour team's effectiveness depends on what weapons they have and what vehicles they're up against, according to Corporal Drews.

"You need the element of surprise and a well-drilled section to engage successfully," he said.



[Destroyed Russian tank - Ukraine.](#)

"I feel like we could engage very effectively from long distances, before we'd be noticed."

The week of training with DFSW was part of 1RAR's month-long training package in February and March that included rifle company soldiers being refreshed on first aid, combat shooting, and communications.

Army marks anniversary of unique Indigenous unit



[An Australian Army soldier from Sarpeye Company, 51FNQR in traditional Torres Strait Islander](#)

[clothing for the 80th anniversary ceremony.](#)

[Story by Captain Jon Stewart. All photos by Leading Seaman Leo Baumgartner.](#)

One of two surviving veterans of Australia's only all-Indigenous military unit joined the Torres Strait Islands community and Australian Army members on Thursday Island on March 17 to mark the 80th anniversary of the unit's formation.

Formed in 1943, the Torres Strait Light Infantry Battalion was raised to defend Australia's northern lands from the threat of Japanese invasion during World War 2.

The battalion, comprised of 880 men from across the Torres Strait Islands, initially performed a light infantry role, but soon expanded to conduct a wider range of support functions including engineering, transport, supply and signals.

Chief of Army Lieutenant-General Simon Stuart and members of the modern-day 51st Battalion, the Far North Queensland Regiment (51FNQR), which traces its heritage back to the historic Torres Strait Islands unit, attended the anniversary event.



[Chief of Army Lieutenant General Simon Stuart with Regimental Sergeant Major – Army Warrant Officer Kim Felmingham, WW2 veteran Mr Awati Mau and members of Sarpeye Company, 51FNQR.](#)

Today, Charlie (Sarpeye) Company, based on Thursday Island, provides a continuing presence for the Army throughout the nation's northern-most island chain.

Lieutenant-General Stuart said the establishment of the Torres Strait Light Infantry Battalion was an important event to recognise and commemorate 80 years on.

"The role performed by the Torres Strait Light Infantry during our nation's largest conflict cannot be understated," he said.

"Almost every man across the Torres Strait Islands volunteered to join the battalion during World War 2 to defend their homes and their nation.

"The example of service and dedication set by veterans like Mr Mau is an incredible legacy for today's Australian Army. All current members of Sarpeye (Charlie) Company, 51st Battalion, The Far North Queensland Regiment, are descendants of Torres Strait Light Infantry soldiers, continuing the multi-generational history of service to the Army and Australia."

Commanding Officer 51FNQR Lieutenant Colonel Jeremy Schieb said the legacy of the Torres Strait Light Infantry Battalion, and the members of the Torres Strait Islands community who served within it, provided unity of purpose in the defence of Australia during a time of war.

"51st Battalion, the Far North Queensland Regiment, is the proud continuation of this legacy," Lieutenant Colonel Schieb said.



Australian Army soldiers from Sarpeye Company, 51FNQR during the ceremony at Thursday Island.

"The Sarpeyes are the Australian Army's largest primarily Indigenous sub-unit, with more than 90 per cent of serving

personnel originating in the Torres Strait Islands.

"Their local knowledge of the lands and waters of the Torres Strait and their deep connection to country provides an unparalleled capability to protect Australia's northern borders in the same way their ancestors did during World War 2."

MILITARY STUFF IN THIS MAN'S ARMY

A book by Stan Sutherland, 9RAR:

9th October. We received a re-supply and the company moved to deploy around a suspected enemy bunker system. We couldn't find the system and a number of patrols were sent out looking for a sign.

Lt. Langer asked me to take my section out on quite an extensive patrol looking for tracks used by the VC. The area we were asked to cover required a journey of four legs. Most patrols were contained within three legs. Each leg on this particular patrol was about a thousand metres

After we'd gone a hundred metres from the company, we broke out of the jungle onto a large flat plain. The plain was featureless. There were no hills or mountains from which to get bearings. The grass on the plain was up to our knees and was punctuated by clumps of bamboo scattered randomly across the plain. Each clump looked like the next. There was nothing to distinguish one part of the plain from another.



We patrolled along the predetermined legs, on their respective compass bearings, stopping every hour for a smoke or a

brew. We'd left the company position at 1100 hrs and were looking for tracks that cut across the plain and also tracks on the edge where the plain gave way to jungle. If we found a track it might suggest a bunker system nearby.

We were making very good time. The only hold up was wading through the long grass. The grass was wet from the rain early this morning. We were halfway along the third leg when walked up and Vic, pointing to an object on the grass and said, "What do you make of that Stan? That large egg over there."

"Jeeze, it is a large egg. I've never seen one as big as that before. It's much bigger than any emu egg I've seen."

I signalled the other five blokes to come and have a look as well. "Shit! What sort of an egg is that, there's no bloody emus or cassowaries in Vietnam, are there?" asked Henderson. "Not that I'm aware of," chipped in Peter Wynd.

"What about ostriches? Are there any ostriches?" asked Vic Patrick. "No, only in South Africa," I replied. "What about a snake?" asked Wynd. "Could it be one of those great big pythons? You know the ones that grow twenty feet long. Big, like a power pole."

"Fuck Peter! Snakes don't lay eggs." Responded Vic. "Yeah some do. I think those big pythons do," replied Wynd.



At this point in the conversation everybody had a look over their shoulder and sideways as if half expecting a big python to wrap itself around them. "I think Peter's right. There's definitely no bird

that lays an egg this big in Vietnam," I said.

"What about we take it back with us and have scrambled egg for dinner tonight," suggested John Arnold.

"Bullshit we will!" said Peter "The mother will follow our trail and swallow one of us up while we're asleep tonight.



Anyway, there'll be a baby snake inside. You can't scramble snake eggs."

"Yeah. We'll leave it alone. The mother is probably not too far away. Let sleeping dogs lie I say. C'mon Vic, push off mate and we'll follow.

Vic Patrick headed in the direction we were going, and the rest fell into their spot in the line as we left.

There were only about six hundred metres to the end of the third leg. We got there in half an hour and pulled up under some bamboo for a rest and a smoke.

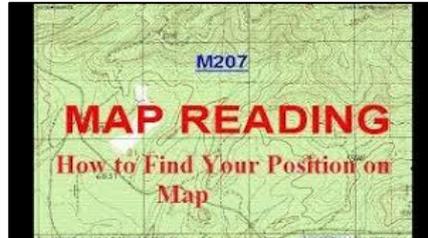
After fifteen minutes I said, "C'mon fellows, saddle up, we're on our way again." When everybody had got to their feet and put their packs on, I said to Vic, "Right Vic. Are you ready to lead out?" "Yeah, I'm right to go."

Pointing to indicate the direction I said, "Right head out mate." He looked at me with confusion on his face and said, "We're going home aren't we Stan?" "Yes, this is the last leg."

"Well if we're going home, we gotta go that way," he said, pointing in a totally different direction. "No! It's the way I indicated. I've been following the map and compass."

Vic was quite sure I was wrong, and he said to the other blokes,

"Any of you blokes got any idea the way we gotta go to get home?" Four of them sided with Vic's sense of direction and two didn't have any idea. This made me a little worried and I said, "Righto! Let's have a look at the map and our bearings again. It won't hurt to spend a few minutes checking,"



I spread the map out on the ground. The four legs we had to march on were ruled and marked in red ink on the map. The bearings were written down in my notebook, which I'd taken out and put down on the map. The relative page was open showing the bearings. Taking my protractor from my pocket, I positioned it on the map to get the first bearing and asked, "Well Vic. What does it say? Does it agree with the first leg written down?"

"Yes, it agrees Stan."

Repositioning the protractor I asked again, "Does the third leg agree Vic?" It did.

"Ok. Now for the last leg." I am repositioning the protractor. Vic beat me to it this time. "It agrees with what's written down as well Stan."

"Ok then, there's only one thing left to do I took the compass out of its pouch on my belt. During our smoko, I'd pre-set the compass for the last leg and, placing it down on the map, I waited until the compass card settled and then said, "You tell me which way it's pointing Vic and that's the way we'll go."

Vic stood up and pointed to the direction in which I'd indicated to him five minutes earlier.

"I'm heading off in that direction," I said. "You blokes can be guided by your fucked-up sense

of direction but I'm sticking with the compass."

"I'm coming with you Stan, these other dickheads can go where they like," said John Arnold.

"With a big grin on my face I asked, "Is anybody else coming with me and John? Hold up your hands if you're coming with us." The other five held up their hands.

It was nice to pretend for a minute that we were a democratic patrol and that the diggers had a choice. We all knew there were no individual choices. I was the patrol leader and that was that. The responsibility for the patrol was mine but it was a little bit of fun anyway. Furthermore, it was good to involve them in the exercise. Compass protractor and map is interesting when the exercise has a practical application such as the one we just went through. It was also a good reminder to the rest of the patrol that a featureless plain, like this one, has its own traps, when reliance for direction is based on one's senses.

Vic led off and another hour elapsed before we came across the track we'd made when we originally came out from the jungle onto the plain. We then simply followed our track back into the company position.

VALE



**AT THE GOING
DOWN OF THE
SUN, WE WILL RE-
MEMBER THEM
"LEST WE
FORGET" OUR
FALLEN AND DE-
PARTED COM-
RADES**

BRIAN HENRY MOONEY

SVN 1968/70

Passed away 9 March 2023

WO1 ROBERT GEOFFREY GEORGE

SVN 1968/69, also **8/9RAR**

Passed 20 February 2023

**EARNEST STEPHEN
HARDGRAVE**SVN 1968/69, also **HQ 1st Aust
LSG** 1969/70

Passed away February 2023

**SGT JOHN STAFFORD
VAUTIN, MID**

SVN 1968/69

Passed away 6 February 2023

DENIS LLOYD PERRY

SVN 1968/69

Passed away 22 Jan. 2023

IAN FRANCIS LYGOE

SVN 1968/69

Passed away 21 Dec. 2022

WAYNE RICHARD MANSER

SVN 1968/69, C Coy

Passed away 4 Nov. 2022

LIONEL LESLIE CORRIESVN 1968/69. Aslt. Pioneer Pl,
Spt Coy

Passed away 10 October 2022

KEITH DALE EVANSSVN 1968/69, Anti-Tank, Trac-
ers

Passed away Sept. 2022

JAMES ALLEN CONNELLY

SVN 1968/69, 10 Pl. D Coy

Passed away Sept. 2022

EDITORS CORNER**FORGOTTEN SOLDIER****WO1 ROBERT GEOFFREY
GEORGE****From: Greg Decker****Secretary RARA National**

I received a very disturbing call from one of our beloved NOK, Carol Rogers (nee George) yesterday, the details of which are in the email below.

For context, two George brothers served with us in 9RAR Vietnam, Barry, and Bobby. Barry in A Coy and Bob in C Coy. Sadly, Barry was KIA in April 1969. Bobby came home but and continued to serve with Australian Army.

Inexplicably, he died and was buried without the knowledge of his sisters or his military family. He deserved better.

**From Carol Rogers to Doug
McGrath**

Nice to speak to you yesterday. Sadly Bob passed away 20.2.23 from a heart attack and was buried at Mt Gravatt cemetery yesterday.

Neither my sister Lyn nor I, his only living relatives, were informed of his passing. Bob was a volunteer at Jimboomba RSL in QLD but they also did not contact us, telling a neighbour it was too hard to find his relatives.

I have asked the President to call me this morning. I also have concerns about where his medals are and will keep you posted as they are located. Bob's wife Bev has had health issues over the years and has an impaired capacity to remain living on her own.

Bob was not buried in the Returned Soldiers Section of the cemetery and did not receive a Military funeral which is devastating for Lyn and I after the service he gave to his country and the dreadful effect Vietnam had on our entire family with losing Barry in 1969 and the health issues for Bob.

Please inform the Vets of Bob's passing and I will be in contact when all is sorted out with his solicitor etc.

Love to you and the men of 9RAR

Carol Rogers**From Lt Mick Mummery (Rtd)
OAM, Ex OC 9PI, 9RAR, SVN**

More on Bob George, yes his brother was KIA while serving with A Coy and yes Bob did come home at the request of his mother and as was the practice of the day. However, Bob fought to be allowed to return to C Coy and did so, returning to spend the rest of our tour with us returning home again on HMAS Sydney.

Bob served under Laurie Lewis as the Comd RSM in Adelaide 1986-7 or thereabouts.

Bob was one of my soldiers in 7 PI whilst we were in Woodside. The last time I saw him was in Brisbane during the Last Bn reunion there in about 2012. A fine soldier, he will be missed by many.

**SAS MURDERERS
TRUE OR FALSE**

SAS Veteran Oliver Schulz reportedly murdered an Afghan civilian in the Uruzgan Province in Southern Afghanistan in May 2012.

Alan Jones, says.

**Hanging Australia's troops
out to dry -**

Australia's treatment of veterans is treason of the highest order.

The Brereton Report into alleged misconduct by our troops in Afghanistan tars battlefield soldiers as war criminals – while unfairly letting top generals off the hook, writes Alan Jones.

**The Yamashita Standard –
extract from an internet article.**

It can only be concluded that those who commissioned this enquiry were apparently unaware of, or do not understand the Yamashita Standard, which is enshrined in international law and has been accepted by Australia as applicable to our military. Firstly, let me provide a little history on the disgraceful show trial that convicted General Yamashita.

Gen. Yamashita was hanged on February 23, 1946, for crimes committed by his soldiers in the defence of the Philippines. It is important to note that Yamashita was not accused of personally committing any crime, nor could it be proven that he even knew of the atrocities committed by any of the 360,000 soldiers under his command. Yamashita took command of 14th Army only 10-days before the American invasion. Yet, after the war ended MacArthur had him court-martialled for *'failing in his duty as commander*

of the Japanese forces' by not preventing massacres of civilians in Manila.

Editor It is hard to see the difference between the military position of Gen. Yamashita and the Australian Commander who was in charge of Australian the troops in Afghanistan between 2011 and 2012.

I do not think it matters how many civilians were killed by soldiers under either command. Murder is murder, Yamashita paid with his life, our Commander walks free and has received gongs for his outstanding service to the Australian military, while sitting on his backside.

As always, nothing thing to see here from our political elite and senior army officers.

A member's letter published in the Herald Sun, Thursday 23, March 2023.

Forget signing up

The Australian Defence Force recruiting centres can close their doors. Any young person who was considering a career in the army, navy or air force should forget it, in light of the murder charge against a former SAS trooper.

The politicians can send you into a hostile territory, where you can be shot at, humiliated, and ridiculed, but you have to operate under strict rules of engagement.

The Chief of Defence is a non-combatant who sits in a plush office in Canberra answering to politicians.

Our defence force could not defend Kangaroo Island at present, and there will be a wave of resignations of current personnel if the grapevine on social media is correct. They should get out now.

SGT Graham Griffiths (ex army), Rye

[GG served with 4RAR Malaya and 9RAR South Vietnam.](#)

Heston Russell speaks out about war-crime-arrestee's identity.



MAJ Heston Russell (Retd) has come to the defence of the former soldier arrested yesterday – attacking media outlets who named the accused and the absence of laws to protect the man.

Mr Russell said it was a national shame and absolute disgrace the way that too many people in positions of power have treated and now abandoned our service men after sending them to do what they would and could not do themselves.

“Our role in Afghanistan was not comfortable, nor was it easily conducted with the clarity of the armchair opinions that now seek to slander what they can and will never understand firsthand,” Mr Russell said.

“Our roles in special forces require us to embark upon actions that bring real dangers to ourselves and those we love back home.

“This is why all special-forces personnel are supposed to be afforded ‘protected-identity status’ – the ability to keep our identities out of the Australian media – especially at a time when Afghanistan is back under Taliban control and knowing all too well the real evil that is out there in the world.

“Instead, over the past few years, outlets and certain journalists have taken it upon their righteous selves to publish the names, pictures, and other personal details of our special-forces veterans for the benefit of their own media agendas.

“This has to stop!

“It’s time to step up and support those who have served and sacrificed so much for this nation.

Protects those we have a moral obligation to still support – so they can be afforded due process and the presumption of innocence – to be decided in the courts of law in this land, not the media circus that now destroys the lives of our veterans and their families before any trial.

“Child sex offenders in Australia have more rights to protect their identities under current legislation than our veterans who have served in special forces.”

“People taking action together, united with purpose, is how we do what needs to be done,” Mr Russell said.

“Please take action today and support those who have and continue to serve.”

Most Famous Battles in History

The Siege of Troy 1190 BC



Troy’s siege has been listed as one of the iconic legendary battles in the history of Greek mythology. The Achaeans waged the Trojan War against Troy. The war is one of the most important events in Greek mythology and has been narrated most notably in Homer’s Iliad. The war site was today’s Western Turkey.

Several battles marked the siege of Troy. It lasted more than ten years until the morning of the eventful Trojan horse. The Greek armies retreated from their camp. As part of a plan, they left a large wooden horse outside the gates of Troy. After much debate and despite warnings, the Trojans pulled the mysterious gift into the city. When night fell, the

horse opened up. A troop of Greek warriors, led by Odysseus, climbed out. They sieged Troy from within, bringing the war to an end.

Battle of Hastings 1066



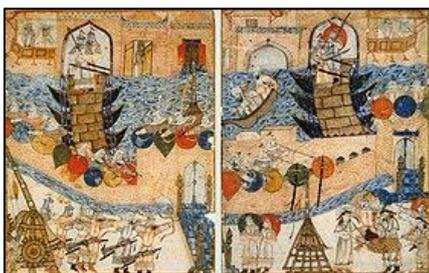
William, new King of England 1066

The Battle of Hastings was a decisive victory by the Normans, led by William, Duke of Normandy (William the Conqueror) over the English King Harold Godwinson and was the turning point in the Norman conquest of England. The battle was fought on 14 October, and when King Harold was killed, the battle was lost by the English army.

But the differences between the English and the Normans were not as distinct as the term "Norman conquest" implies. The Normans were former Vikings, who had been permitted to settle in the French coastal region of Normandy.

By this war, it was the beginning of the Norman conquest of England and taken ownership of approximately 11 kilometres northwest of Hastings which is now close to the town of Battle, East Sussex.

Mongols Seize of Bagdad 1258



This was the most treacherous battle in world history in terms of the death toll and the killings. It

resulted in about 2 million violent casualties when the Mongols sacked Baghdad's city under Hulagu Khan.

Baghdad's Caliph was forced to surrender to the Mongol forces. Upon his refusal, the violent Mongols ransacked the city. Within 12 days, the blood-bathed city was under the Mongol control, bringing an end to the golden age in Arabia. The outbreak resulted in massive destruction of significant monuments and the population of Arabia.

Battle of Agincourt 1415

The Battle of Agincourt was one of the English victories in the Hundred Years' War.

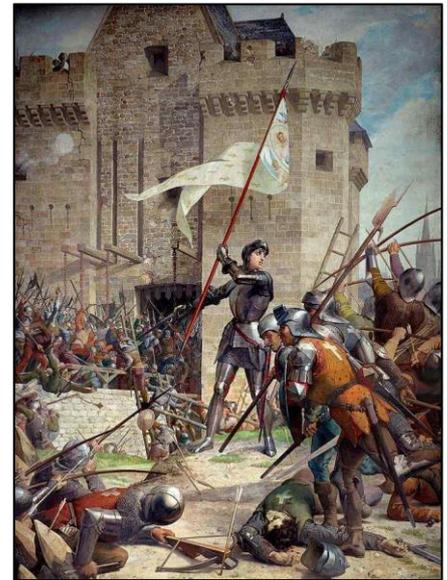


It took place in October 1415 near Azincourt in Northern France. King Henry V of England led his troops into battle while the French forces were led by various prominent French noblemen of the Armagnac party.

80 % of King Henry's army comprised of the English and Welsh archers skilled in the use of the longbow. England won against the superior French army, which gave a significant setback to France, and started a new period of English dominance in the war. Agincourt is one of England's most celebrated victories.

Siege of Orleans 1429

The Siege of Orléans was the turning point of the Hundred Years' War between France and England.



It was the French royal army's first major military victory after the crushing defeat in the Battle of Agincourt in 1415.

The French won the siege of Orléans, France, in May 1429, mainly because of Joan of Arc. She was a young French peasant who led her country to fight in the Hundred Years' War. Under her supervision, the French defeated the invaders.

The win saved France from centuries of British rule.

New commemorative medallion for Vietnam War vets



Prime Minister Anthony Albanese and Minister for Veterans' Affairs Matt Keogh launched a commemorative medallion today to honour those who served in the Vietnam War.

Mr Albanese said the medallion was a small but meaningful way to honour the service of Vietnam veterans and to recognise the sacrifice of those who never returned home, and that of their families.

"This year, as we mark 50 years since the role of Australian troops in the hostilities in Vietnam came to a close, let us acknowledge your service and sacrifice," Mr Albanese said.

"Your experiences during and after the war are a powerful reminder of the sacrifices made by those who have served our country and the debt of gratitude, we owe each and every one of you.

"These medallions are a small but meaningful way to honour your service – to recognise the sacrifice of those who never returned home, and of those who did, and endure the scars of service."

Mr Keogh said the Vietnam War was at times contentious at home, and for some veterans their service not recognised as it should have been.

"To each and every one of our Vietnam veterans – "We honour you. We thank you", Mr Keogh said.

Some 60,000 Australians served in the Vietnam War, more than 3000 were wounded and 523 tragically lost their lives.

The medallions announced today are available for every veteran, and can be applied for by Vietnam War veterans, widows of veterans and other family members of veterans.

The launch of the medallions continues the recognition of this significant anniversary throughout 2023, culminating in a national commemorative service on Vietnam Veterans' Day, 18 August 2023.

For more details on the commemorative medallion, including how to apply, or for more information about the other commemorative events planned, visit the DVA website.

A case of coincidence and a good deed.

Once a TTE (Train Ticket Examiner) was on duty on a Bangalore bound train from Mumbai

and caught a girl who was hiding under a seat.



She was around 13 or 14 years old.

The TTE asked the girl to produce her ticket. The girl hesitantly replied that she had no ticket.

The TTE told the girl to get off the train immediately.

Suddenly, a voice from behind said, "I will pay for her". That was the voice of Mrs. Usha Bhattacharya, who was a college lecturer by profession.

Mrs. Bhattacharya paid for the girl's ticket and requested that she sit next to her. She asked what her name was.

"Chitra", the girl replied.

"Where are you going?"

"I have nowhere to go," the girl said.

"Then come with me." Mrs. Bhattacharya told her.

After reaching Bangalore, Mrs. Bhattacharya handed over the girl to an NGO, to be taken care of.

Later Mrs. Bhattacharya shifted to Delhi and the two lost contact.

Around 20 years later Mrs. Bhattacharya was invited to San Francisco (USA) to deliver a lecture at a college.

She was in a restaurant, having a meal. When finished, she asked for the bill, but she was told the bill was already paid for. When she turned back, she saw a woman with her husband smiling at her. Mrs. Bhattacharya asked the couple, "Why did you pay my bill? "

The young woman replied, "Ma'am, the bill I paid is extremely little, compared to the fare you paid for me for that train

journey from Mumbai to Bangalore".

Tears rolled down from the eyes of both women.

"Oh Chitra... It's you...!!!" Mrs. Bhattacharya said happily astonished.

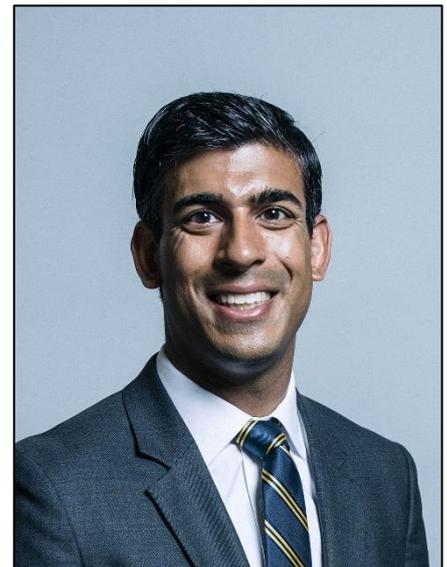
While hugging each other, the young lady said, "Ma'am my name is not Chitra now. I am Sudha Murty. And this is my husband... Narayan Murty".

You are reading the true story of Mrs. Sudha Murty, the Chairman of Infosys Ltd, and Mr. Narayan Murty, the man who established the multi-billion Infosys software company.

The little help you extend to others may change their whole lives!

Going a bit deeper into this story...

Akshata Murthy is the daughter of this couple and married to RISHI SUNAK who has become the new Prime Minister of Great Britain.



[Rishi Sunak, PM United Kingdom](#)

TIGERS & PIGGIES

In a zoo in California, a mother tiger gave birth to a rare set of triplet tiger cubs. Unfortunately, due to complications in the pregnancy, the cubs were born prematurely and due to their tiny size, they died shortly after birth. The mother tiger, after recovering from delivery, suddenly started

to decline in health, although physically she was fine.

The veterinarians felt that the loss of her litter had caused the tigress to fall into a depression.

The doctors decided that if the tigress could surrogate another mother's cubs, perhaps she would improve.

After checking with many other zoos across the country, the depressing news was that there were no tiger cubs of the right age to introduce to the mourning mother. The veterinarians decided to try something that had never been tried in a zoo environment. Sometimes a mother of one species will take on the care of a different species. The only orphans that could be quickly found were a litter of weanling pigs.

The zookeepers and vets wrapped the piglets in tiger skin and placed the babies around the mother tiger.



Would they become cubs or pork chops? Take a look...

Article included in "7RAR Porky Seven News", Edition 60

Editor: This is a "Believe it or Not" story, I have read the picture was taken in Thailand in 2004 at the Sriracha Tiger Zoo, not California. It was part of an experiment to see if tigers could be made less aggressive to farm animals, such as pigs. Do you think that Thai tigers stopped eating pigs? Chomp! Chomp!

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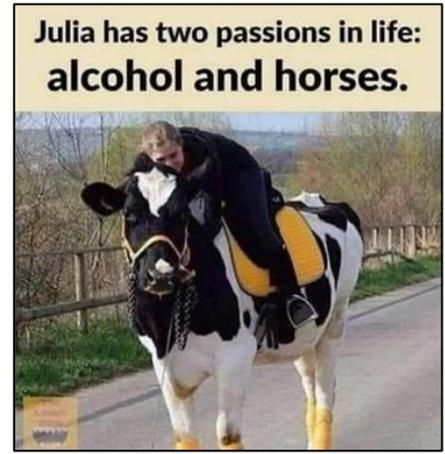
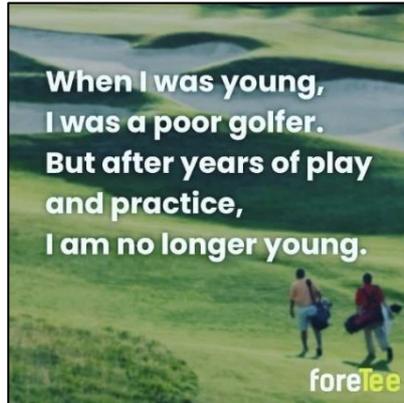


The Royal Australian Regiment Assoc Victoria Branch Inc.
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Non-financial members may not be eligible for a copy of the Newsletter in the 2023 year, via post or email.

It's only \$30.00, that's a lunch and one pot of beer at an RSL.

HUMOUR



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