

Follow The Sapper

1 FIELD SQUADRON GROUP
THE ROYAL AUSTRALIAN ENGINEERS
QUEENSLAND INCORPORATED

December 2016 Edition 27

'FOLLOW THE SAPPER'

Webpage - www.1fieldsappers.org
email: info@1fieldsappers.org

Greetings fellow Sappers and Friends.

To date 2016 has been a year of significant memorials including the 100th anniversaries of the Battle of Fromelles and the Battle of Pozieres and the 50th anniversary of the Battle of Long Tan. I remember very well the day after that battle. I was serving on AS3051 John Monash. We were berthed at Vung Tau. A mob of us were transported up to 17 Construction Squadron Q Store where if memory serves me, Max Campbell was a corporal storeman. We were to be given our first issue of GP boots which was a great leap forward from boots and gaiters. It was then that we first learned of Long Tan. I recall that we were shocked at the high number of deaths and what this battle meant to all us Australians.

I had the honour of meeting Harry Smith OC D Company, 6 RAR, a few years ago. I admire his persistence in his fight for recognition of his men. At last he has had success of sorts but one must ask, why did it take so long?

I have visited the Long Tan Cross on a number of occasions. I first saw the Cross in 1999 then again in 2007. The undergrowth had changed significantly. Many will know that the original Cross is actually in a Vietnamese museum at Bien Hoa. That Cross was recently on display at the Australian War Memorial. It is now back in Vietnam.

I was there for the Anniversary in 2008. There was no path as such to the Cross then, just that red Long Tan dirt. My very good friend Bill Tweddell officiated. He was our Ambassador in Vietnam at that time. Then the rain came and that red dirt turned to red mud. The steam etched its way up from the ground and I wondered if this atmosphere was similar to that afternoon back on 18th August 1966. No one was shooting at us so that was one hell of a difference.

I visited again in 2012 with Rhonda (my wife) a young lady from Austria, a Vietnamese lady and two orphan kids from Vinh Son 1 orphanage in Kon Tum. We had to bring one of the boys to Ho Chi Minh City to see a heart specialist and included a side trip to Vungers and Nui Dat. The boys knew nothing of Australian involvement in the Vietnam War. It was not something included in the curriculum at the Government schools in Vietnam, so we have broadened their education a wee bit. Just as an aside, we took in Rows Lagoon and the old 1 FD SQN site also.

We have all no doubt, heard of the saga's to come out of the 50th Anniversary at Long Tan. There have been so many rumours floating around. Some thousands - maybe 3000 or so, Australians (and probably some KIWI's too) wanted to attend the site for this significant memorial.

... Continued next page

Abbatiale de Cerisy-la-Forêt See Page 7

"2017 Sapper Reunion"

Make sure you have registered
This date should now be in your diary.
See Page 9 for details.

Contents

Editorial	1-2
A Twist In The POGO's Tale	3
Presidents Report - Nov 2016	4-5
Jottings	6
Australians Sappers should visit	7
Forward to POGO's Tale	8
Red Rooster	8
Lest we forget	10
Reunion / Membership	9 & 11
Merchanidize	12

Contact Details

**Please ensure your mail
and contact details are
correct!**

If you have relocated or your
contact details have changed
please message our Hon
Secretary directly at:

info@1fieldsappers.org
or

PO Box 703 Warwick. Qld. 4370

facebook

The local authorities refused to let such numbers onto the site. Who to blame? We have heard that our Government had been negotiating with the Vietnamese Government for 18 months or so, to ensure there would be no issues that might disrupt the memorial. What went wrong? I have been told that a couple of days before 18th August, a group of Aussies, wearing slouch hats and carrying on a treat caused the authorities to baulk. I cannot verify that story. It was sad for all concerned, particularly folks like Harry Smith and Little Pattie.

What I am hearing is a very hostile reaction from, not only those who were there, but many here at home. I am hearing that we (Australians) should stop travelling to Vietnam. Stuff them all! But hang on a bit here. Look at my photo of the Long Tan Cross in 2008. Try to picture 2-3000 people in that space. Never happen. Despite the disappointment of not being able to commemorate our fallen and of Little Pattie not being able to have the concert, and all the other 'not to do' stuff, we must not blame the whole population for this. Bureaucrats are bureaucrats whatever the country. Please, don't take our anger and frustration out on the ordinary Vietnamese or Montagnard who in all likelihood does not even know where Long Tan is let alone what it stands for. We still honour our fallen. We still are in awe of their courage. LEST WE FORGET.

Now may I wish each and everyone a safe, happy and holy Christmas and hope that 2017 will be a more peaceful year for all.

Editor: Derek Smith



Photos of the cross at Long Tan and of the original Cross in the museum at Bien Hoa



To all our avid readers and fellow Sappers - I am sure you have some great photos and yarns that we would all enjoy reading. We want more content for "Follow the Sapper". Please, if you have stuff you are happy to share, pass it along to me.

My email address is dvsmith@ozemail.com.au.



This Newsletter is produced for the members of the 1 Field Squadron Group, The Royal Australian Engineers, Queensland Inc. It is written with care, in good faith and from sources believed to be accurate at the time of writing. However, readers should not act, nor refrain from acting, solely on the information in this newsletter about financial, taxation or any other matter. Readers should consult the relevant authorities or other advisors with the expertise in the particular field. Neither this auspice, it's Executive Committee, Committee Members or Editor, accepts any responsibility for any actions taken, or not taken by the readers.

Cover photo: 'Cerisy-la-Forêt (Normandie, France). L'abbaye Saint-Vigor.' Courtesy of WIKIMEDIA Commons.



WANTED URGENTLY

Folks, this is serious. This Association to which we all proudly belong, is desperately in need of a new Secretary / Treasurer. Robin Farrell has been at the helm for at least 14 years. Ask yourselves, isn't it reasonable for him to have a breather?

Needs to be Queensland Resident Contact George Hulse now!

Of course it is but like lots of organisations, someone NEEDS - no make that MUST step up to the plate on this. Please fellows, don't just read this and assume that other fellow - Someone else - will do it. **YOUR ASSOCIATION NEEDS YOU.** It is a team that takes the field. We need you on the team. It is not asking much but we cannot survive without someone lending a hand.

Your Editor Has Written a Book

A Twist In The POGO's Tale - An Army Clerk's Passage From Childhood to War in Vietnam

ISBN - 9780994 559104

POGO is an acronym for 'Posted on Garrison Operations.' POGO's are generally non-combatants; clerks, cooks, storemen, drivers and the like.

The book contains 132 pages. It has fifteen (15) chapters, three (3) appendixes and six (6) maps. It has taken about five (5) years to reach this point. Derek has 'self published'. He has pledged in the book to give all profits to the ethnic minority (Montagnard) orphanages that he and his family have been supporting since 2004. The orphanages are located in Kon Tum, Central Highlands, Vietnam. For more information on this please visit www.askatvso.com

The foreword for this book was written by LTGEN John Sanderson, AC, (ret'd) former Chief of Army and Governor of Western Australia.

Much detail for this book has been drawn from diaries that Derek kept, particularly in 1966/67 and 1969/70. There are numerous other references noted in the footnotes. There is a list of abbreviations in the back of the book. The book contains many photographs.

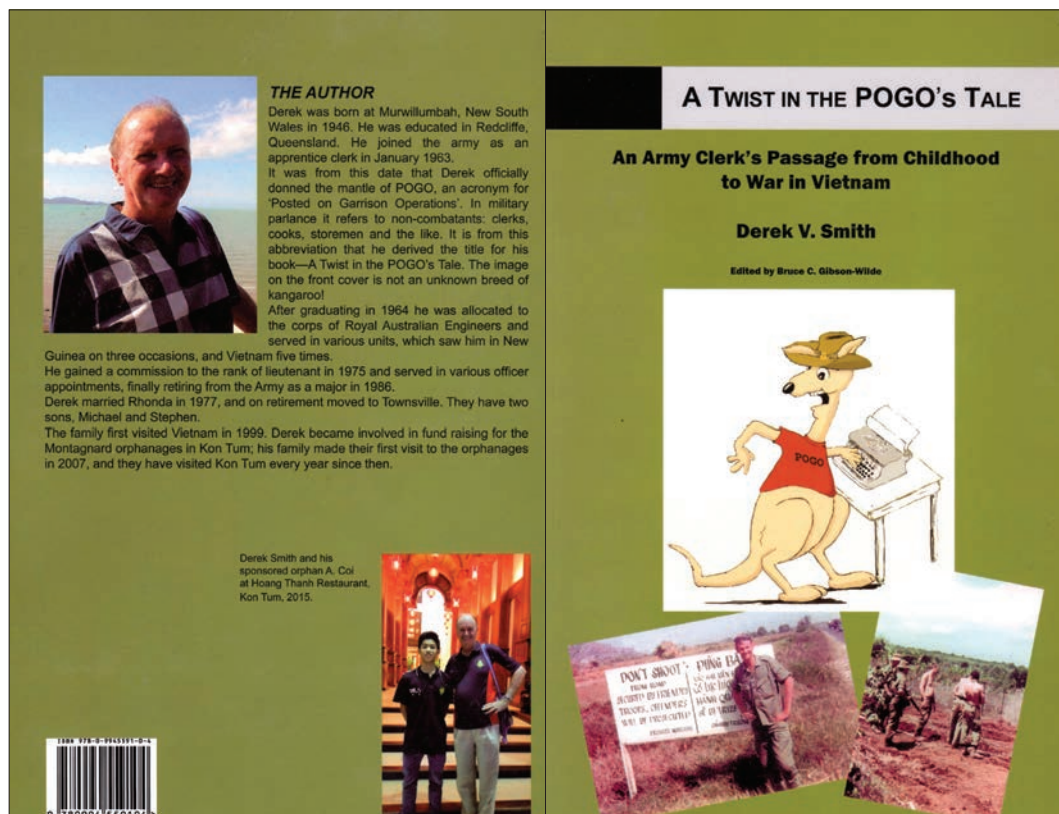
The book covers the period of Derek's early childhood including primary school, high school, cubs, scouts and Army cadets. It then travels into his time in the Army beginning at the Army

Apprentice School, Balcombe Victoria where he was in training to be an Army Clerk. Then on graduation he leads us to his posting as a clerk in the Army Small Ship Squadron where he served on board a landing ship and cargo ship from 1964 to 1967. In that time he sailed to New Guinea three times and Vietnam three times.

Derek then leaves the Ships and is posted to the Royal Australian Engineer Field Squadrons which in 1969 see him back in Vietnam. He comes home in 1970 and finds himself back in Vietnam in 1971 which is where the book finishes.

Derek has attempted to include much of the humour that is typical of the Australian digger but which is often not included in such stories. The title denotes what Derek was, a clerk, but his story or TALE does have many twists and turns including meeting the enemy which finds this POGO feeling well out of his depth. It is a good read. Derek is selling the book for \$25. He will post to anyone wishing to buy one. Cost including postage and packaging is \$31.20. Direct deposits can be made to his bank - BSB 064823, account number 00530203 - CBA.

The account is in the name of Derek and Rhonda Smith. His email contact is dvsmitth@ozemail.com.au and his mobile phone is 0438 221 114.



See the FORWARD to "A Twist in the POGO's Tale" on Page 8

President's Report November 2016

Annual General Meeting

Our next AGM is booked for 7 February 2017 commencing at 1030hrs at the Twin Towns Services Club at Tweed Heads in NSW. Most of the committee positions have been applied for with one notable exception. We need a **Secretary/Treasurer** as soon as possible because Robin Farrell who has shouldered this job for numerous years, needs to attend to some personal circumstances and needs a break from the job. Robin tells me that the job is not something that needs to be addressed daily. There is little correspondence and minor movement of finances apart for the once-a-year renewal of memberships. So, please step forward if you can take on board the position of **Secretary/Treasurer** of our Association..

Reunion 2017

Our reunion for 25, 26 and 27 August 2017 is locked in at Twin Towns Services Club. See the relevant details in this newsletter. Remember that members of this Association receive a 10% discount on the accommodation listed in this newsletter. The take-up rate for the next reunion is very low at this time. This puts at risk my approach to the Australian Army Band - Brisbane and 2CER for a Catafalque Party. We need about 150 attendees to make it worth their while to get polished up, draw weapons, organise transport etc. If you intend to attend the reunion, could you send me a quick email telling me that you (and how many of your guests) will be attending please? I am on eddsniffer@optusnet.com.au I just need the confidence to make arrangements without fearing that the Band will outnumber the entertained.

Unit Citation for Gallantry

The Chief of Army, Lieutenant General Angus Houston DSC AM, has advised that the submission calling for a Unit Citation for Gallantry for units that fought at FSPBs Coral and Balmoral from 13 May to 6 June 1968 can NOT be supported by him. He has given his reasons for this outcome and has advised us on the methodology for appealing his decision. The committee will appeal the CA's decision through the Minister for Defence Personnel, The Honourable Dan Tehan MP. We intend to conduct a vigorous campaign beforehand seeking support by way of petitions etc and information videos so that when the Minister receives our appeal, he will have a shed load of information and supporting evidence to assist him in his decision. Please watch this space and I ask for your support when we launch our change.com appeal in the New Year.

Sadly, the original Chairman of the committee into this submission, Gary "Pepe" Pendergast, passed away suddenly in July this year. However, the remaining members of the committee are fired-up to continue this campaign for as long as it takes.

50th Anniversary of the Battles of FSPB Coral and Balmoral - May 2018

The location for this commemorative event is firming for Canberra. There are no official announcements from DVA yet confirming this, but I expect those to arrive during the next few months.

History of World War One Combat Engineers

This work has produced some incredible information. I discovered that three Australian engineers were written up for the Victoria Cross for their actions on 8 August 1918 at a tiny village called Cerisy-La-Forêt in northern France - near the city of St Lo. I have replicated what the three Sappers (two rank of SPR and one LT) of 12 Field Company AE accomplished on that remarkable day together with the outstanding work achieved by 3 Pioneer Battalion (listed as "Engineers" by the AWM). I visited the AWM in Canberra and was able to read the citations, read the intelligence and situational reports, study the actual battle maps of the area and look at photographs.

I have proposed to the RAE Corps Committee, through our Head of Corps, Brigadier Wayne Budd, that Australia should take action through DVA and the diplomatic channels with the Government of France, to nominate the Cerisy area as an Australian commemorative site for Australian Engineers and also for that place to act as an Australian focal point with particular interest to all members of the RAE. Dr Brendan Nelson of the AWM wrote me a letter expressing his encouragement for us to pursue this initiative. I will report on this work-in-progress in the next "Follow The Sapper".

So. This brings up a potential commemorative event for this Association to organise a gathering at Cerisy in France to mark the centenary of what happened there on 8 August 1918. Please let me know if you would be interested in organising a group to go there on that day and take a look at the battlefields of Australian Engineer relevance and to pay homage to the Sappers who formed the "DNA" of today's Royal Australian Engineers. I intend to be there to represent all of us - God willing - on 8 August 2018.

Proposed Trips to Gallipoli and Villers-Brettonneux in 2018

The tour operators for Gallipoli assure me that security for the 2018 ANZAC Day event will be extremely tight. Safety for attendees cannot be absolutely guaranteed, but the event is still being organised with the same diligence as previous ANZAC Day events. This said, I have insufficient folk who wish to form a tour group and go there at this time. Therefore, I must consider this event to be a "meet you there" experience.

Villers-Brettonneux for 11 November 2018 has a few starters. I will wait and see if more members show interest in this event before committing to a tour group. This might also become a "see-you-there" experience.

George Hulse
President 1 FD SQN GP RAE Association
10 December 2016

Seasonal Greetings

Merry Christmas and a Happy 2017 from George Hulse and The Team
The years go by and we are celebrating the year of the Cockerel next year.
To every member of the Association I wish you every success, happiness and health for a wonderful Christmas and a successful New Year. I look forward to seeing you in person during 2017, particularly at the reunion in late August.

A New Addition for Our Corps Museum

Today I accompanied Bob Tully to 3 CER where he handed over to the CO, LTCOL John Daunt, a Chinese sword that was captured during an operation in the May Tao mountains in 1969. Bob was the troop sergeant in 1 Troop of 1 FD SQN operating with the infantry. A huge cave complex was discovered which housed a hospital, many weapons and munitions and the sword. Bob being a keen member of RAE, managed to secrete this souvenir to safety and has had it ever since. He wanted the sword to have a good home so off to the Corps Museum it goes via 3 CER. Well done Bob.



Bob Tully with CO
3 CER John Daunt
and the Chinese
Sword.
24 Nov 2016



Further Research

While searching for information on the operation that Bob snaffled the sword, I was looking at 6 RAR War Diaries, Operations Log and found this page. I thought I was in 1969 but it was 1966. Still at this time of year, worth sharing. It is good to see the Grunts had a sense of humour even in tough times.

25 Dec 66

Period from 251905 H to 252400 H

6 RAR OPS LOG

Sheet No 3

Serial	Date/Time	From	To	Orig No	Subject or Detail	Action	Completed
33	1905	6 RAR	D Coy		c/s 41 Radio check, answered by 3 pressel presses Have no worries		
34	2005	6 RAR	D Coy		c/s 41 Radio check(by pressel switch) OK.		
35	2020	ENTRE			Received 1 Rn Regt Op Order.		
36	2020	6 RAR	1 ATF		SITREP NTR		
37	220	6 RAR	?		Contact report. BRAVO. 252200Hrs. CHARLIE. YS ANGELS 15. DELTA. 5 VC. ECHO. Main force 4 in brown with 4 legs and 2 antennae, 1 in red with black boots and white beard. FOKTROT. NAME Recovered 1 whip, 1 sleigh, 1 bag goodies. GOLD. Direction blistery North, thought towards ARTIC ETA 1967.		
38	2215	ENTRE			Artillery fired 3,500 rounds of snow balls. No result seen. thought to have received with gay reception.		
39	2230	ENTRE			Checked Bn and Task Force nets. Comms A - OK.		
40	2310	Arty Tro			Forwarding papers to be by vehicle now - to reach BC before tomorrow.		
41	2319	D Coy			Reports 2 flares in C Coy posn. rang C Coy. No Answer. Can not get them. WF Assure some idiot has fired 2 hand held flares. Confirmed 1 H/Held flare, other tnp.		
42	2335	6 RAR			Received Fire Plans - 1 sent to BC one held D/Offr.		
43	2355	C Coy			A trip flare set off in front of his wire. Investigated with star scope looked like movement, not definite - possibly 2 - 3 forms moving.		
44	2400	6 RAR			Raise C Coy - can not do so.		
45	2402	6 RAR			Got them - they fired one flare - nothing to see.		
46	2405	6 RAR			Informed Mr Leprous of C-Coy to keep obs. and report. Consider this to be FG info!!		
47	2407	6 RAR			SITREP No 1, NTR.		



This image is from **Dogs Queensland**, and features a dog for each month plus the front cover where a military working dog (pup) is featured. For any of our dog lovers who would like a copy of this calendar, please visit the shopping site of DQ at www.dogsqueensland.org.au It's a fabulous calendar of man's best friend.



**YOU'RE NOT REALLY A
BAD-ASS UNTIL YOU CARRY A
HOLSTERED ATTACK DOG!**

Needless to say this great shot was contributed by our Leader.
Thanks George.



Lloyd Thompson's 100th Birthday. Lloyd served in 1 FD SQN.
Sincere congratulations Lloyd.
Lloyd had 75 descendants present at his special day.



**You're SAFE
UNTIL I
RETURN !**



V360 Australia Ltd. Are proud to announce the first NATIONAL FREE CALL number for veterans, their families and friends to contact our Outreach Team and seek information or assistance for any ex-service personnel who are vulnerable, at risk or experiencing homelessness.



1800 838 360 will be manned 24/7 by our experienced operators and link callers directly with Outreach staff.

Australians Sappers should visit the township of Cerisy-La-Foret

If you have ever worn the badge and lanyard of the Royal Australian Engineers, and you get to visit the beautiful country of France, you owe it to yourself to visit the gorgeous town of Cerisy-la-Foret. Its on the road that links the cities of St Lo and Bayeux. Here's why:

On 8 August 1918, 12 FD COY took their pontoon bridges to the Somme River at Cerisy where they discovered German infantry and artillery facing them on the opposite bank. The Australian sappers conducted a reconnaissance of the bridge site and were engaged by rifle and machine gun fire. Sapper George Hook was seriously wounded in this contact. The engineer officer, Lieutenant Ralph Hunt, saved the life of his wounded sapper, by carrying him to safety under fire. He then withdrew his unit using resolute leadership under difficult circumstances. LT Hunt was recommended for the Victoria Cross by OC 12 FD COY, Major Consett Carre Riddell, but this was downgraded to the Distinguished Service Order - a very high decoration for a Lieutenant.

Upon regrouping, the Sappers confirmed that a road bridge was still intact a little further along the river and did not need to construct their pontoon bridge under direct fire from the German positions. However, as this bridge was well within German artillery range, engineer bridging reconnaissance patrols were despatched to identify further candidate crossing places.

Two sappers, SPR William Campbell and SPR Arthur Dean of 12 FD COY, were pushing forward along the Somme River conducting a reconnaissance patrol, when they saw that two German machine guns were creating havoc for a British unit immediately across the river from them.

They could have just ignored the situation as somebody else's problem and continued with their own bridging task. Instead, this is what they did.



Cerisy-la-Forêt (Normandie, France)
the town bears the name of Cerisy Abbey

***Cerisy-la-Foret
should be on the
"must-see" places to
visit for Australian
Army engineers***

They worked out a high-risk two-man plan of attack against what would certainly be a grouping of two German machine-gun crews and their protective infantry element. They charged across an open area and despite coming under fire, they captured the machine guns and 30(+) German infantrymen who were supposed to be defending the position. The two sappers handed the whole bag over to the advancing British troops. Sappers A. Dean and W. Campbell were both recommended for the Victoria Cross but were awarded the Distinguished Conduct Medal for their exemplary courage, determination and initiative. At another place in the same war, they may very well have received the Victoria Cross. They certainly deserved it and would have been the only VCs won by Australian engineers to date. But, that's how things go and a DCM each is not bad.

Also in the Cerisy area, 3 PNR BN constructed a bridge using the demolished pieces of the original bridge at Chipilly. This was an exercise in innovation and imagination under fire. The Pioneers converted bits and pieces of the original demolished bridge into useful bridging components and introduced recycled material captured from a German stores dump to finish the job. The Pioneers built their bridge in well under the time given for it's completion and the British advance pushed forward. They crossed the bridge on 8 August 1918 as if the bridge had never been demolished by the withdrawing German engineers.

Innovation, Improvisation, Improvement.



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

E03711

12 Field Company at work World War 1



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

P01 356.004

12 Field Company group photo World War 1

FOREWORD TO “A TWIST IN THE POGO’S TALE”

In many ways A Twist in the Pogo’s Tale is simply a very detailed personal account of one man’s journey and experience in building a life and a profession in the Army through the transformative decades after the Second World War. On the other hand, Derek Smith has gifted us an insight into what it was like for a young Queensland man to be swept up in the Australian coming of age entailed in closer engagement with Asia after the Western ascendancy ended in the decade following the surrender of Japan in 1945.

At the time few of us would have recognized that our experiences were part of such a transition. Like the author we grew up in country and suburban Australia, children of parents who had struggled through the Great Depression of the 1930s and the sons and grandsons of veterans whose values were shaped by the experiences of two catastrophic world wars in the service of the British Empire. For young boys of the time, playground battles followed by military service in school cadets and national service training battalions was almost universal. With the raising of an Australian Regular Army in 1948, young men were offered the opportunity to extend this experience and gain education and training through a fulltime military career. This book tells a successful story of such a transition through to eventual commissioned rank.

Many veterans of the Vietnam War and operational life in the Royal Australian Engineers will read the Pogo’s Tale with fond memories of the comradeship and the individuals who made up the emerging professionalism of the Corps. They will recognize the mixture of the good times and the difficult times together that Derek Smith gathers into a detailed account of his personal experiences.

Not everyone kept a diary that is this informative across such a broad range of experiences. The fact that, in this diary, the younger Derek included reflection on the political and cultural issues of the time and can now translate these into his story adds significantly to its value for those who want to think about these experiences in hindsight and in the context of modern developments.

The new Australian Army of the Sixties and the Seventies engaged in a form of warfare that was very different to that experienced by earlier generations. Nothing was straightforward and everything was complex. Pogos like the author could no longer be considered to be separate from the battle and had to be trained and ready to take their part in the action. That is part of the twist in this story. The other part is the sympathetic connection with Vietnam that followed for many veterans of the War and is very much a part of this Pogo’s Tale.

Lieutenant General John Sanderson, AC (retd)
Chief of the Australian Army 1995 - 98



... see more details about “A Twist in the POGO’s Tale” on Page 3.

THE RED ROOSTER SQUADRON

Over the years I have often heard the saying “UP THE OLD RED ROOSTER AND MORE PISS”.

Like most of us I have heard it called out in many locations throughout Australia and overseas. It is often heard at a function where engineers celebrating a sporting event (win or loose) or some other activity where the amber fluid has been steadily flowing for a considerable time. I have also heard chanted at non engineer functions where there are a few members of the corps present. I feel the chant belongs to the RAE, and more importantly the red rooster squadron 21 Construction Squadron.

Having joined the corp back in 1959 I was posted to 21 Construction Squadron at Puckapunyal and remained with the squadron until the end of 1969 (must have loved the location). The squadron is now located about five km across the paddock at Amberley from where we live, small world!

Like most young sappers I was into many codes of sport, the unit had teams in all the competitions played at Puckapunyal. Naturally the squadron had a very well patronised sportsmans club where everyone adjourned to at the conclusion of each sport played.

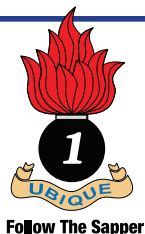
If memory serves me right it was at the finals of the AFL competition in 1960, 21 Construction Squadron playing 1 Armoured Regiment where at the start of the game one of the squadrons players (a firey called Crispy) came onto the oval carrying a sugar bag. Playing at full back nobody took any notice until the umpire was about to start the game. Crispy opened the bag releasing a chook that had been dyed red, it took off around the oval being chased by children and cheered on by players from both sides.



As was normal in those days after the game was finished (the squadron winning) everyone adjourned across to the squadrons sportsmans club for a few beers and reply the game, of course later in the night the game turned to “carry the mail”. It was at this time somebody yelled out UP THE OLD RED ROOSTER AND MORE PISS.

I don’t believe I had ever heard it said before. In the years since I have heard it called out on numerous occasions. Perhaps this was the origin of the chant?

... Contribution from Bob Pfeiffer



1 Field Squadron Group
Royal Australian Engineers Qld Inc.
25th, 26th & 27th August 2017

2017 FAMILY REUNION REGISTRATION FORM

Venue: Twin Towns Services Club – Tweed Heads NSW

Personal Details

Family Name: _____ Contact Phone: () _____

First Name: _____ E-mail Address _____ @ _____

Postal Address: _____ State: _____ Postcode: _____

'Nickname' or

Preferred Name: _____ Partners Name: _____
(Required for ID Tags at Reunion) (Required for ID Tags at Reunion)

Other guests attending - Number () Preferred guests names: _____
It is preferred by the Executive Committee that all Members Guests are over the age of 18 years.

Cost of Events

Cost: \$175.00 per person.

Covers all events, Friday Meet and Greet, including Saturday Memorial Service,
Saturday Evening Family Reunion Banquet and Sunday Luncheon.

Payment Details

Please accept my Registration for:

Number attending: _____ Amount: \$ _____

Method of Payment: ☐ Cheque. ☐ Money Order. ☐ Direct Deposit into account.

When making a Direct Deposit, ensure you mark it **'Reunion'** and then you're **'Family Name'**
Heritage Building Society: **BSB 638-070. Account No: 10045570.**

Amount enclosed: \$ _____

Make cheques, money orders payable to: **1 Fd Sqn Gp RAE Qld Inc.**

All registrations to be pre-paid by Friday the 11th August 2017

(This is a huge catering event. Much goes on behind the scenes, therefore

'No Late Numbers will be taken—DEFINITELY.'

Please send this Registration Form to:
2017 Reunion Treasurer
1 FD Sqn Gp RAE Qld Inc.
P O Box 703 WARWICK QLD. 4370.
e-mail: info@1fieldsappers.org

DONATION FORM

AMOUNT: _____ Receipt required: Yes
No

NAME: _____

THANK YOU FOR YOUR DONATION



This photo shows George Abbott (deceased), Bob Pritchard (deceased) and Col Jeffers. Probably taken 1969 at the Peter Badcoe Club. All great guys and members of 1 FD SQN GP.



Lest we Forget

It is fitting that as Remembrance Day 2016 has come and gone that we honour all our lost comrades and in particular those who we have lost since our last issue.

May they rest in peace.

Vale - 1 FD SQN GP RAE members:

CAPT Chris Trickett - Served in 1 FD SQN GP (21 SPT TP) 1967/68. Passed away 5 July 2016.

CAPT Bill Hadley - Served 1 FD SQN GP 1969/70. Passed away 7 July 2016.

Mrs. Jan Kenny (SSGT Ray Kenny). Passed away 13 August 2016.

Sapper Gary Deggering - Served in 1 FD SQN GP 1968/70. Passed away September 2016.

Sapper Stewart Law - Served in 1 FD SQN GP 1965/66. Passed away September 2016.

Sapper Norbert Hagel OAM - Served in 1 FD SQN GP 1968. Passed away October 2016.

Sapper Ray St Leon - Served in 1 FD SQN (21 SPT TP) 1966/67. Passed away 26 October 2016.

Mrs. Chris Muir (Sapper Ian Muir of Darwin). Passed away November 2016.

SSGT Bob Pritchard - Served in 1 FD SQN GP 1969. Passed away 8 November 2016.

Executive and Committee Members 2016 - 2017

Patron:

LT.GEN. Frank J. Hickling. (Retd) AO. CSC

Executive Committee:

Hon: President: George Hulse
Email: eddsniffer@optusnet.com.au
Ph: (07) 3399 7659
Mob: 0412.341.363

Hon: Vice President: Jim Weston
Email: james.weston5@icloud.com

Hon: Secretary - Treasurer: Robin S. Farrell
Email: rfarrell1@bigpond.com
Ph: (07) 4661 7791



Follow The Sapper

Honorary Committee Members:

Gary Sutcliffe - loosepizzle@bigpond.com
Bob Pfeiffer - carolynpfeiffer@bigpond.com
Peter Krause - krause22@activ8.net
Peter North - popnorth@gmail.com

Follow The Sapper:

Editor: Derek Smith
Email: dvsmith@ozemail.com.au
Ph: (07) 4773 5104

Web Master: John Robertson

Contact Address:

1 Fd Sqn Gp RAE Qld Inc
PO Box 703 Warwick. Qld. 4370

Website : www.1fieldsappers.org
Email: info@1fieldsappers.org

facebook

1 Field Squadron Group Web Site

is maintained by John Robertson at
Visreal Productions - Warwick, Queensland. 4370
Phone 61-7-4661 5222
Email: info@visrealproductions.com

1 FIELD SQUADRON GROUPTHE ROYAL AUSTRALIAN ENGINEERS
QUEENSLAND INCORPORATED

(Including 1 Field Squadron Workshops and 21 Engineer Support Troop)

'NEW MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION'

Surname _____ First Names _____
 (Family Name) _____ (Given Names) _____

Date of Birth _____ Wife/Partners Name _____
 (Confidential if ticked) ☐ (Confidential if ticked) ☐

Residential Address _____ State _____ Postcode _____

Private Phone () _____ Email _____ @ _____
 (Confidential if ticked) ☐ (Confidential if ticked) ☐

Veteren's Service Details or other appropriate information. (If possible)

Name _____ Service No. _____

Period of Service: From ____/____/____ To ____/____/____ Active Service: Yes ☐ NO ☐

Unit/Units _____ Which Country Served for? Australia or Other _____

Which duties? (F.E, Plant, Mine Clearing, etc.) _____

Membership Year is 1st July to 30th June in each year. Fees are accepted until 30th September, in accordance with the Association's Constitution. Unfinancial members will not be able to vote at the Annual General Meeting.

New Member Entrance Fee \$ 10.00 (Once Only - Inclusive of Association Badge.) *Lost Badge \$5.00 each
 Annual Subscription Renewal \$ 30.00 (Includes Newsletters)
TOTAL \$ 40.00

MEMBERS SIGNATURE _____ Date ____/____/____

**MEMBERSHIP 'RENEWAL / UP-DATE' FORM**

\$30.00 per year. (1st July to 30th June)

Name _____

Address _____

STATE _____ POSTCODE _____

Private Phone () _____ Email _____ @ _____

Wife/Partners Name _____
 (Confidential if ticked) ☐

EXTRA or 'LOST' Membership Lapel Pins Required, please tick - How many? ☐ \$5.00 each P&H included.

MEMBERS SIGNATURE _____ Date ____/____/____

Return Application with Cheque, Money Orders or Direct Deposit to:

Direct Depositing into account: Heritage Building Society. BSB: 638-070 Account No: 10045570

Ensure you mark it, 'Membership' and then your 'Surname' or 'Regimental Number' for identification.

IF YOU USE THE DIRECT DEPOSIT FACILITY PLEASE FORWARD THIS FORM AS WELL.

NO CASH IN MAIL PLEASE -



One-time opportunity for Members of 1 FD SQN GP RAE Association

The painting of "Silent Guardians" is an oil-on-canvas showing all six Australian military working dogs that were killed in action during the Afghanistan War. The artist is Sapper David Sturmer a veteran of 1 FD SQN GP RAE in the war of South Vietnam. There are a small number of limited edition prints of this painting still on offer, should you wish to buy one. Each print is individually numbered and contains the signature of David Sturmer and initials of CPL Mark Donaldson VC, who unveiled the painting on 7 June 2015. The price of each print is \$100-00 and includes packaging, postage and GST.

If you would like a print of "Silent Guardians" please contact Mr John Quane at secretary@aussietrackers.org with your details and he will arrange for payment and shipping. Alternatively, you can contact George Hulse on eddsniffer@optusnet.com.au and purchase a print through him. Profits go toward paying for the Medals for Australian Military Working Dogs program of the Australian Defence Force Trackers and War Dogs Association.

Reunion Accommodation Offer
Contact Mantra now for 10% Discount







I will stay the night

Mantra Twin Towns are pleased to extend to all guests of the **1 Field Squadron reunion group from 25-28 August, 2017** a 10% discount off the best available accommodation rate. The hotel rooms or apartments are beautifully appointed with stylish and comfortable furniture and all the amenities you need to make yourself at home. Relax in the on-site pool or take a short walk down to Greenmount beach. For group accommodation blocks, please email twintowns.conf@mantra.com.au.

To book call **1800 19 20 20**
or email twintowns.res@mantra.com.au

mantra | twin towns, coolangatta

*Terms and conditions apply. Subject to availability at the time of booking and subject to change.



1 Field Squadron Group Merchandise

NEW STYLE CAPS AND SHIRTS



1 Fd. Sqn. Gp. Polo Shirt - \$25.00 + P&H
Check out the fabric - breathable
and definitely no ironing.

*Note: Sizes are limited to Small
(Suitable for the Girls),
Medium, Large & Extra Large*



BUMPER STICKERS—\$5.00

Show your support for the Afghanistan veterans by
putting this under your Vietnam sticker.



Follow the Sapper Cap - \$17.50 + P&H
One size fits most.

1 Fd. Sqn Gp. RAE Tie - \$30.00 + P&H
'Aussie Made' 100% Polyester
1 Fd. Sqn. Gp. Logo at the bottom &
'1 Field Squadron Group' raised print
diagonally across navy blue area.

ORDER FORM

Name: _____

Address: _____

Town: _____ State: _____ Postcode: _____

* 1 Fd Sqn Gp RAE Unit Tie.	[]	No. required \$30.00 ea + \$8.50 P&H=	\$
* 1 Fd Sqn Gp RAE Cap.	[]	No. required \$17.50 ea. + \$8.50 P&H=	\$
* 1 Fd Sqn Gp RAE Polo Shirts. Size: { }	[]	No. required \$25.00 ea. + \$8.50 P&H=	\$
* Veterans Supporting Veterans' Bumper Stickers	[]	No. Required \$5.00 ea.	\$
(Postage free with other purchases)			

ALL Order Forms to the Honorary Treasurer

Total \$ _____

'Cheque, Money Order or Direct Deposit by NetBank' (Confirm by email-Please)