



The Newsletter of the 9 RAR Association SA Family
published April, August and December annually

Nine News

August 2014

FROM THE PRESIDENT

- Visit to Normandy beaches
- Important database information - Vietnam war dead, Centennial Park
- Opening of the Iroquois "Huey" Museum

NORMANDY BEACHES. Speaking personally, most of the events since the April magazine and Anzac Day, have been overshadowed by my visit to the D-Day landing beaches in Normandy. Following our European River Cruise, with pre-paid train tickets in my pocket and the Australian flag luggage label prominent on my backpack, I safely negotiated the French rail system from Paris to Bayeaux - my only French language being basic greetings! With British Battlefield Tour Guides Alan and Beverly Leeson

(www.discoveringbattlefieldtours.co.uk)

I walked all the landing beaches - Sword, Juno, Gold, Omaha, the bunker system where American Rangers scaled the cliffs, Utah Beach and St Mere Eglise where a dummy of the parachutist caught on the church tower still hangs.

The topography, guns and the field of fire gave a very clear indication why the casualties on some beaches were great and some light (see statistics later in this newsletter).

In the Normandy American Cemetery and Memorial overlooking Omaha Beach we located the graves of the three Ryan brothers, subjects of the film Saving Private Ryan. On the way to Utah Beach, which had an uncanny resemblance to Goolwa Beach, we paused at the monument to Richard D. Winters. Winters was featured in a number of books and portrayed in the TV mini-series Band of Brothers.

The 70th anniversary wreaths were still fresh two weeks after commemoration ceremonies attended by veterans, Presidents, Prime Ministers and Royalty. I was very lucky to drive on the narrow tarmac newly laid for these dignitaries - one side of the road only!

VIETNAM WAR DEAD, CENTENNIAL PARK.

Since 2009 we have been aware that the Centennial Park Cemetery website has shown the status of grave licences of the Vietnam War Dead who are buried there, as having expiry dates. Interstate cemetery websites such as Springvale (Melbourne) and Karrakatta (Perth) show licences for graves of some Vietnam war dead as "in perpetuity".

We are most grateful to Bill Denny and Veterans SA Veterans Advisory Committee for their recent support. I am now very pleased to notify members that Mr Bryan Elliott, CEO Centennial Park, has advised that information on the website database has been updated for the Vietnam war dead. The changes now show:

- "war dead" following the name
- N/a in the interment right expiry
- and, quote "this interment right will be maintained by the Department of Veterans Affairs" . It is to be hoped that this action will be the benchmark for burials of Vietnam War dead in all cemeteries. www.centennialpark.org

IROQUOIS HUEY MUSEUM, PT PIRIE

Congratulations to 9 RAR's Haydn Madigan, President of Pt Pirie RSL Sub Branch on the Iroquois Huey Museum project. All are welcome to attend the opening event on Saturday 16th August (see below for details). RSVP's were due by 4th August.

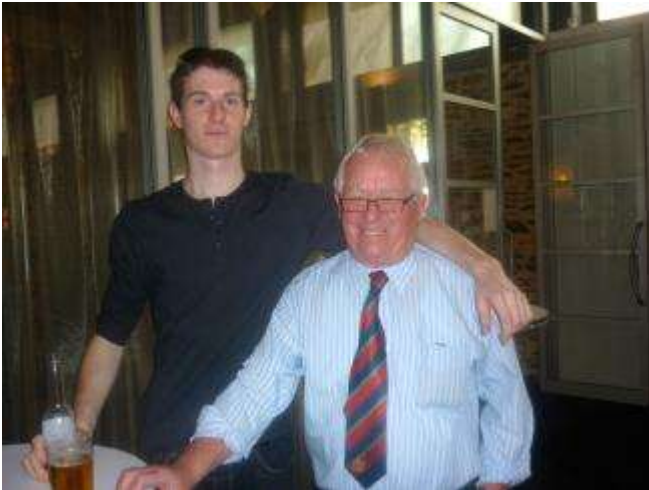
David Stacey

FROM THE EDITOR

Thank you to those who contributed photographs and/or reflections on Anzac Day, 2014, and 9RAR/RAR events. Simon's moving address delivered at "The Repat", Bruce stepping out in Melbourne, James at the football in Strathalbyn, Jeanette from the march in Adelaide, and regular contributor Adrian.

Wherever Anzac day was spent - Dawn Services, marches, unit gatherings, sporting matches in the country or city, or watching local and international commemorations on TV, the family and community support and respect was evident.





PAGE TWO
(Clockwise)

Adrian Craig
Barry Whitehead & Bob Plummer
Tom (Tex) Bruce & Leon Eddy
Entertainers
NOK Michelle, Jacquie & Janet
Geoff Boettcher & Warren Featherby

PAGE THREE
(Clockwise)

Peter Stammers, LAC Damian Gainey, David Stacey & Kate Breynaert
Fundraiser extraordinaire Michael Mummery & delighted prizewinner
Ken Dorward
Blue Dixon & family



ANZAC Day – Strathalbyn Oval

Anzac Day, Strathalbyn

Thousands of people attend the Annual Anzac Day football and netball matches between Langhorne Creek and Strathalbyn. The venue alternates each year between "the Creek" and Strathalbyn. In 2014 the grounds in Strathalbyn looked spectacular. Prior to the commencement of the A grade football match,

local veterans were paraded around the oval on the back of utes. After the Strathalbyn RSL President Cate Goodall gave a short address and tossed the coin, the Last Post sounded and Ode recited, the formalities concluded and play began.

Photograph: James Stacey

OPENING OF THE IROQUOIS HUEY MUSEUM, SATURDAY 16th August, 2014

Invitation from Haydn Madigan, President, Pt Pirie RSL Sub Branch

Opening of the Iroquois Huey Museum
Port Pirie Trotting Club, Float Park, opposite the Port Pirie RSL

Saturday 16th August, 2014 1100-1500 hours

Opening the museum:

WO2 Keith Payne VC, OAM: ARMY retired
Rear Admiral Clinton Thomas AM, CSC: RAN
Wing Commander Bob Macintosh AFC, MID:
RAAF Retired

Also appearing: John Schumann, The Navy Reserve Band.

Medals to be worn.

RSVP 4th August 2014, Haydn Madigan, President Port Pirie RSL Sub Branch
telephone 08 8633 1448; fax 08 8633 1854;
email: rsllptpirie@westnet.com.au

There will be food and other stalls happening on the day.

9 RAR 45th ANNIVERSARY COMMEMORATIVE SERVICES AND NEW BANNERS. *Adrian Craig*

In the first half of July we conducted the last two of the 45th Anniversary of the deaths of our SA war dead.

The first was at Whyalla for LCpl Richard Abraham who was KIA on 6th July, 1969. Rick was the Section 2IC of 2 Section 10 Platoon D Company 9 RAR and was killed when the enemy fired upon the platoon's ambush position.

A Meet & Greet was held at Rick's nephew's home on 5th July followed by the commemorative service at the Whyalla Cemetery at 1100 hours next day. This was followed by a short service at the Whyalla Oval where there is a pictorial display of Rick and Australia's involvement in the Vietnam War. The service was well attended, with Rick's family, family friends and 10 Platoon playing key roles at both services.

A highlight of the service was the letter by Peter Abraham and read by family friend Geoff Ettridge. This described the desperate method Rick took to get fit to pass his Army medical after a motor bike accident left a leg with multiple fractures and the subsequent placing of pins in the leg. After working on the injury Rick had the pins removed and passed his medical to enable him to do his duty in National Service. Talk about *Duty First*!



D Coy 9 RAR. L-R Rick's brother Peter Abraham, Peter (Noddy) Cliff of 12 Platoon of Wauchope, NSW, Adrian Craig Platoon Commander 10 Platoon, John Retschlag of 3 Section 10 Platoon of Kilcoy, Qld, Tony Mullavey rifleman of 2 Section of St Marys, NSW; Jeff Howe Coy HQ D

Coy of Parafield Gardens and Graham Cousins of Maitland, NSW.



Lunch at the Sundowner Hotel/Motel with 10 Platoon's Graham Cousins, Tony Mullavey and John Retschlag, while Denise Retschlag and Sandra Craig look on.

The second service was at Centennial Park for Cpl Bruno Adamczyk who along with his forward scout Pte Beresford Paul Edwards were KIA on 12th July, 1969, while investigating a bunker system. Bruno was a veteran of active service in Borneo with 4 RAR and was the Section Commander 5 Section 11 Platoon D Company 9 RAR.

The service was well attended with Bruno's family and D Company having key roles. Lunch followed at the Torrens Arms Hotel.



NEW BANNERS

We are having two new banners made with one to be placed in the RAR RSL and the other for use at services. They will be identical and interchangeable.

**OCCASIONAL ADDRESS BY SIMON KELLY, ANZAC DAY SERVICE 2014,
THE CHAPEL, REPATRIATION GENERAL HOSPITAL, DAW PARK, 0700 (reprinted with permission)**

In just three months' time, we will mark the 100th Anniversary of the beginning of the war that did **not** end all wars, and we will begin up to five years of World War One commemorations, ceremonies and related activities. Such a prolonged and sustained period gives our nation a unique opportunity to engage deeply and meaningfully with her military history, to learn more about her service men and women - past and present, and to really get to know the personal, family, community and national costs that such service carries with it.

Millions of taxpayer dollars augmented by generous donations from the private sector will fund a myriad of gatherings and events; but will they lead us to a more informed and objective understanding of conflict and those involved in it and touched by it?

Earlier this month when opening an exhibition of photographs from the Gallipoli campaign at Manning Clark House, Frank Bongiorno from The Australian National University said, *"Recalling war is a precondition for understanding it, including its awful consequences. But public memory is a fundamentally political thing. Political, business and media elites have a strong vested interest in promoting some kinds of memory over others. Language is never politically neutral. Silence is full of meaning."*

So what might this mean for us and especially for our young people?

Will there be a bombardment of adamant and uncontested jingoism without a mature and measured attempt to come to grips with the layers and complexities around military service?

Behind me is the stained glass window commissioned by the Third Forward General Hospital and the Third Field Ambulance. Its bottom panel depicts the iconic figure of Simpson and his donkey carrying a wounded soldier from a battlefield at Gallipoli. When I've

asked peers, pre-service teachers and students about this larger than life character called Simpson, they can add some detail to the 24 days he spent at Gallipoli but little of significance about other aspects of his life of nearly 23 years.

Isn't that the silent moment that begs the question, "So who was John Simpson – what sort of a bloke was he?"

To that end, I devised a kit made up of various primary and secondary sources – photos of Simpson, the rugged peninsula and his gravestone, texts from a picture book, novel and history books, his enlistment papers and so on. I give it to pre-service teachers in workshops and ask them to begin to discover who Simpson was.

I do not give them a politically approved version of history but rather the opportunity to interrogate the evidence, draw their own conclusions and to pursue further questions of their own.

From his enlistment papers they learn amongst other things that John Simpson signed up in Perth on 25th August 1914, that he was British born, a ship's fireman by trade, stood five foot eight and a half inches tall, weighed 12 stone and with a deep breath expanded his chest from 37 to 38½ inches.

From the extracts of the primary school age picture book, they learn that Jack, as he was known as a child, along with his brother Billy, used to earn pocket money by taking passengers on donkey rides along the beach of South Shields.

In the excerpt taken from his historical novel "Simpson's Donkey," Dr Peter Stanley, a former Principal Historian at the Australian War Memorial and currently Professor of History at the Australian Defence Force Academy, writing through the eyes of Murphy, describes what Simpson would do when the donkeys were tethered at Mule Gully :

When the shells exploded around us, Simpson would come out from the Indian camp and sit with us.

He would stroke our noses, and especially between our ears, and talk to us of many things.

He had been a sailor, and would describe the places he had visited and the sights he had seen – faraway lands, people of all kinds.

.....Simpson's stories took us away from this terrible place, though in the mornings we woke to find that we were still in a war.

The discovery is made that Simpson and his donkey was not just a Gallipoli phenomenon but a skill and relationship developed from childhood. As one pre-service teacher exclaimed, "He was a donkey whisperer!"

But they also notice when looking again at Simpson's personal details on his enlistment form amended after his death, and at his gravestone which reads in part:

John Simpson Kirkpatrick - served as 202 Private J Simpson

that he had two surnames, which raises the question why?

The answer is not to be found in the kit provided but in personal research. They discover that John Simpson Kirkpatrick was a member of the British merchant navy, that as an adventurous 18 year old he jumped ship at Newcastle, NSW in May 1910; that he spent the next four years moving around the country doing a variety of jobs but, as was his wont, he was often on the water with commercial shipping, finally docking in Fremantle. As a deserter, he could not sign up under his real name for fear of arrest, so he dropped the Kirkpatrick and used Simpson as his surname. It is generally accepted that one of his motivations for enlisting was free passage home but his boat sailed to Egypt, where the troops undertook further training before embarking for Gallipoli.

While politically challenging, I contend that bringing these personal and historical insights of the man, to the legend of Simpson and his donkey, does not diminish the legend but enhances it. He had family back home he cared for, he loved the sea and travel, and when it

came to his mates, he would not hesitate to risk his life for them. He becomes real and more believable.

He was a larrikin who did legendary things.

But during times of war and conflict, courageous service is not just limited to the battlefield. Retired Major General John Cantwell in the epilogue to his book 'Exit Wounds' captures the notion well when he writes:

*I've learnt that courage is not just physical:
it can be volunteering to carry the coffin of a
dead mate into the belly of an aeroplane;
the enduring courage of the grieving;
the daily bravery of family members who tend
their wounded warriors;
or the patient courage of loved ones waiting at
home, dreading awful news.*

In the context of authentic commemoration and remembrance, these stories must also be heard.

Amongst the best listeners to the veterans and their families in South Australia, have been the nurses, doctors and volunteers of the Repat.

The window to my immediate left was donated by the nursing staff of this place as a token of their deep respect for veterans, war widows and those who died during the wars. It aims to reflect the energy and commitment invested by the hospital's nursing staff in caring about patients as individuals.

My father, Leo Kelly, born in 1914, served as a Flight Sergeant with the RAAF in World War 2. His service came to an abrupt end on a training flight when his Tiger Moth crash landed at Port Pirie. Being the air-gunner/navigator seated up front, he bore the brunt of the crash.

The priest who administered the Last Rites later joked to Leo that he didn't think he had any brains until he saw them. His injuries were extensive but he made a reasonable recovery, married seven years after the war ended and another seven years later in his 44th year I was born, followed by my brother, Tim, a year later again.

Dad's mobility was hampered but he taught me how to drop a footy properly on to my boot, and in summer up on the nearby school's hard wicket, when teaching me off-spin bowling, he would sticky-tape an unfolded paper serviette onto 'the spot' as he called it, and oblivious to my requests, he would set middle stump only.

I also learnt more serious lessons about faith, family and friends, respect, especially for the elderly, and the value of education.

In my teenage years during the early 70's, I came to know the Repat well, when Dad now TPI, needed both in and outpatient services. As time went on and with Mum's health also suffering, I found myself assuming responsibilities I had not anticipated.

ANZAC DAY, MELBOURNE – REBECCA AND BRUCE

*Submitted by Bruce Perks with
consent of Sue & Rebecca Presgrave*

After the commemorative service for David Presgrave on 21st January, 2014, Stan Sutherland from the Melbourne 9RAR contingent approached Rebecca (David's daughter) and asked if she would like to lead the march on Anzac Day this year.

A little bit of persuasion and Rebecca accepted this honour. However, she did ask Bruce to support her as she wanted to ensure the role was carried out with aplomb.

Bruce (and Johanna) agreed to come over for the Anzac Weekend. On the Thursday evening outside the Melbourne Club, Collins Street saw



I have clear memories of significant interactions with doctors and nurses of this place – and as I reflect on those, and on the window to my left,
I see the word *Compassion*.
I remember that compassion well.

My father's service and my family's story are largely unremarkable but along with all of our veterans' stories to the present day, and those still to come, they help to form a deep tapestry of duty, loss, suffering, resilience and compassion which deserves voice and demands understanding.

I hope, indeed I pray, that in the course of the next few years, our society will come to know those stories - and all that service entails.



Simon with "our mate" Ali in Turkey.

Col Perks and Rebecca going through the paces....
'Start with the
Left.....Left/Right Left/Right.....Halt....' (that proved to be a bit trickier).

However, on the day there was not a better Leader of a group of soldiers than Rebecca. She marched tall and straightthe boys kept in step.....it was a sight to remember.

And we feel sure that Rebecca will hold strong and close memories of that day ...when she marched IN honour of all soldiers but in particular for her Dad.



LONG TAN DAY

There will be a service at Burnside RSL commencing at 1100 hours Monday 18th August, 2014. The service will be conducted inside the clubrooms, followed by a light lunch.

Dress; service and ex-service members are requested to wear decorations and medals as a mark of respect to our war dead.

3 RAR ASSOCIATION SA BATTLE OF MARYANG SAN COMMEMORATIVE SERVICE, LINDEN PARK 1100 HOURS 7TH OCTOBER 2014

On Tuesday the 7th of October 2014 the 3 RAR Association (SA) will conduct its annual commemorative service for the Battle of Maryang San at the RAR RSL Linden Park commencing at 1100 hours.

The Royal Australian Regiment was awarded the battle honour Maryang San 3 RAR's actions 2-8 October 1951 as part of Operation Commando.

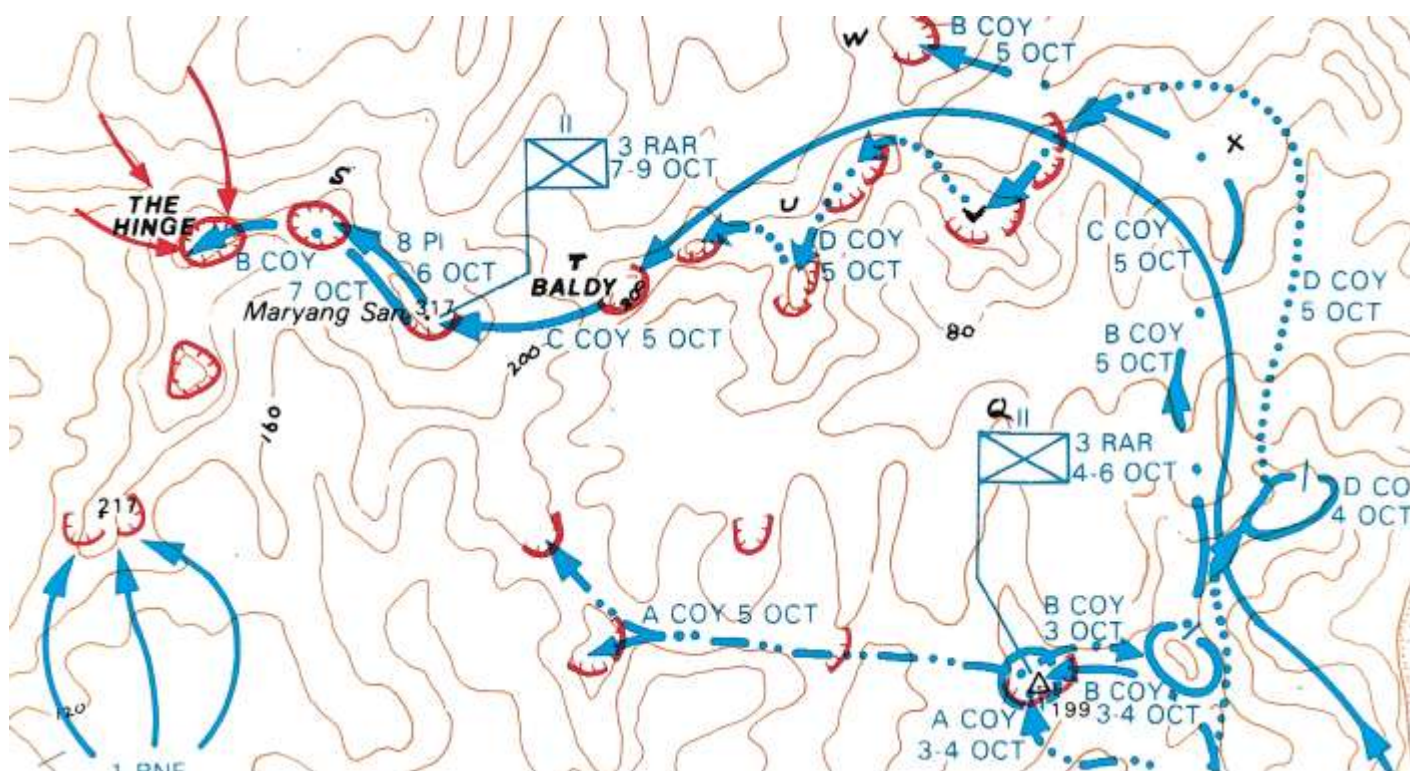
The venues for the service and lunch have changed this year from the 3 RAR Memorial on the Pathway of Honour and the London Tavern

respectively and to the RAR RSL per Kapyong Day this year.

The service will be held outside the clubrooms weather permitting. A light lunch will follow and it is hoped to have some music entertainment during that lunch.

As a mark of respect to our war dead current and ex-service members are requested to wear decorations and medals.

Questions on the service and lunch should be addressed to the Ceremonial Officer 3 RAR Assoc. SA Adrian Craig on 8263 4784 or as.craig9rar@bigpond.com



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL EXHIBITION
REMEMBER ME - THE LOST DIGGERS OF VIGNACOURT
State Library of South Australia 5th August-19th October, 2014
Riddoch Art Gallery, Mt Gambier 19th February-3rd April, 2016

The small French village of Vignacourt was always behind the front lines. For much of the First World War it was a staging point, casualty clearing station and recreation area for troops of all nationalities moving up to and then back from the battlefields on the Somme. *Remember me: the lost diggers of Vignacourt* tells the story of how one enterprising photographer took the opportunity of this passing traffic to establish a business taking portrait photographs.

Captured on glass, printed into postcards and posted home, the photographs made by the Thuillier family enabled Australian soldiers to maintain a fragile link with loved ones in Australia. The Thuillier collection covers many of the significant aspects of Australian involvement on the Western Front, from military life to the friendships and bonds formed between the soldiers and civilians. The exhibition showcases a selection of the photographs as handmade traditional darkroom prints and draws on the Memorial's own collections to tell the story of these men in their own voices.

The Louis and Antoinette Thuillier Collection contains almost 4,000 glass-plate negatives depicting British, French, Australian, US, and Indian soldiers, Chinese labour corps, and French civilians. More than 800 of these glass-plate negatives featuring Australians were generously donated to the Memorial by Mr Kerry Stokes AC in August 2012. You can view all the Thuillier images donated to the Memorial on these webpages.

The Australian War Memorial's exhibition *Remember me: the lost diggers of Vignacourt* showcases 74 photographs specially hand-printed in the Memorial's darkrooms from the original glass-plate negatives.

You can see more images from The Louis and Antoinette Thuillier Collection on Seven Network's [Lost Diggers](https://www.facebook.com/lostdiggers) Facebook page.
www.awm.gov.au/exhibitions/remember-me

BATTLE OF NORMANDY

Statistics published on www.ddaymuseum.co.uk are sobering.

"Over 425,000 Allied and German troops were killed, wounded or went missing during the Battle of Normandy. This figure includes over 209,000 Allied casualties, with nearly 37,000 dead amongst the ground forces and a further 16,714 deaths amongst the Allied air forces. Of the Allied casualties, 83,045 were from 21st Army Group (British, Canadian and Polish ground forces), 125,847 from the US ground forces. The losses of the German forces during the Battle of Normandy can only be estimated. Roughly 200,000 German troops were killed or wounded. The Allies also captured 200,000 prisoners of war (not included in the 425,000 total, above). During the fighting around the Falaise Pocket (August 1944) alone, the Germans suffered losses of around 90,000, including prisoners. Today, twenty-seven war cemeteries hold the remains of over 110,000 dead from both sides: 77,866 German, 9,386 American, 17,769 British, 5,002 Canadian and 650 Poles.

Between 15,000 and 20,000 French civilians were killed, mainly as a result of Allied bombing. Thousands more fled their homes to escape the fighting."

Guide Alan Leeson & David Stacey
Utah Beach



Floating bridge used as artificial harbor
Omaha Beach



Omaha Beach



Les Braves WWII memorial – Omaha Beach



First bridge captured by British

German bunker on Utah Beach



Omaha Beach



German Bunker at Pointe du Hoc



Omaha Beach American Cemetery



American Cemetery and Memorial
Omaha Beach



Statue of US War Hero
Major Dick Winter
Sainte-Marie du Pont



British Tank 86th Field Regiment RA
Gold Beach



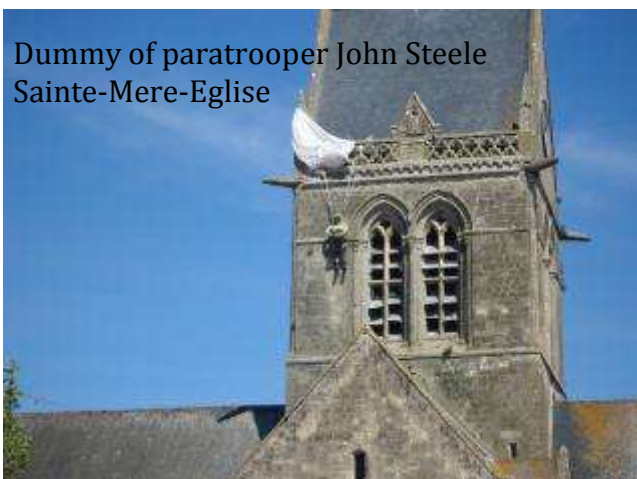
La Cambe German War Cemetery near
Bayeux, Normandy



New statue Omaha Beach



Dummy of paratrooper John Steele
Sainte-Mere-Eglise



Liberty Marker, Utah Beach, 00km.
Markers erected every 1km to Berlin.



YPRES BUGLERS

Belgian buglers Tony Desodt and Dirk Vandekerckhove are members of the Ieper (Ypres) Last Post Association. During March and April 2014 they played at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra and were also guests at a special ceremony at the Yarloop War Memorial, WA.



Menin Gate, Ypres.

4/9/2007

9 RAR's tour of Turkey
and the Western Front.

NATIONAL REUNION, 2015 – MELBOURNE

9 RAR National 48th Anniversary Reunion and Commemoration, Melbourne, 13-15 November, 2015.

Registrations opened April, 2014.

Friday 13 November	Arrival, registration, meet and greet, cocktails and finger food	National Gallery of Victoria
Saturday 14 November	Reunion dinner and entertainment - 1900 hours	Melbourne Cricket Club
Sunday, 15 November	Remembrance Service - 1100 hours BBQ - 1315 hours	Shrine of Remembrance Government House
Monday, 16 November	Post-reunion options.	Day trips to Vietnam Veterans Museum, Philip Island. Commemorative walk and Army Tank Museum, Seymour.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

APRIL 2014

3 1300 General Meeting – RAR Clubrooms
 25 0930 ANZAC Day March
 25 1200 Reunion Lunch, Lion Hotel, North Adelaide

MAY 2014

JUNE 2014

12 1300 General Meeting – RAR Clubrooms
 JULY 2014
 6 1200 Abraham Service, Whyalla
 12 1100 Adamczyk Service, Centennial Park

NOVEMBER 2017 50th ANNIVERSARY REUNION IN ADELAIDE

HONOUR ROLL

L Cpl R J Abraham 6 Jul Whyalla
 Cpl B A J Adamczyk 12 Jul Centennial Park
 L Cpl P A Chant 14 Feb Centennial Park
 Sgt J R Cock 19 Jan Centennial Park
 Sgt J M Duroux 5 Jan Centennial Park

Cpl A W Graham 7 Jan Stirling North
 Cpl H R Musicka 19 Jan Centennial Park
 Pte R A Phillips 18 Jan Murray Bridge
 Pte B J Plane 20 Jan Ardrossan
 Pte G J Scales 5 Mar Centennial Park

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