



## Combat Supporter Winter 2016

### President's Report

This will be my last President's message for the 'Combat Supporter' as I am not nominating for President at this year's AGM in August.

On reflection, my time as Association President has been most rewarding. The Association, through the members, has contributed to the development in improved conditions and entitlements for both serving and ex-serving personnel. Programmes, such as the 'care consignments' to deployed personnel in operational areas was most welcome and appreciated. The response as to what can be achieved with a carton of 'Tim Tams' was remarkable. My thanks go to all the members, commercial businesses and welfare organisations that assisted to achieve this success. Another initiative is the BBQ liaison programme. Over the years, this get-together has allowed the opportunity for CSA members to meet and connect with current serving airmen and airwomen.

Fundraising has played a very important part towards the Associations progress. Through the expert leadership and guidance of George and Cheryl Hartley, the Association has managed to position itself in a very secure financial state with sufficient available funds to enable continuing support for all approved programmes.

Governance of the Association is continuing to develop with thanks mainly to the efforts of the members. In particular, I would like to thank the person of whom I refer as the 'Godfather' of the Association...Andy Kilgour AM. As Secretary/Treasurer, Andy was instrumental in forming the sound constitutional governance and professional management applications practiced by the Association today. Andy, I thank you for all your expertise and support over the past six years.

In conclusion, my time as your Association President has been an honour and a privilege. Through the Association, I have formed some very close personnel relationships and I look forward to

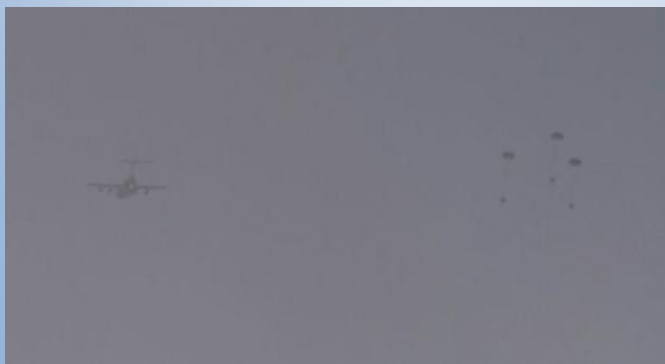
creating more. I am not going away, I will be close at hand to assist where needed.

*Rob H. Wadley, President*



**On the Ice** a C-17 Globemaster III aircraft of No 36 Squadron unloads at Wilkins Aerodrome, Antarctica in November's clear summer skies (above) while Antarctica's June winter darkness shrouds her parachute drop (below). Previously, 36 Squadron C130s conducted Antarctic missions to McMurdo Station 1978-1983 from NZ, and during the 1950s a RAAF Flight of two Auster aircraft, later Beavers and a Dakota were based at Mawson Station.

*Images courtesy abc.net.au date 23 November 2015 (summer), australianaviation.com.au, winter airdrop pic attributed to Michael Brill Australian Antarctic Division 8 June 2016. Ed*



## Secretary's Coordination Notes

CSA Website is at <http://www.combatsupportassociation.org.au/> please let me know of your suggestions for further improvement

One suggestion is that it would be convenient for members to pay their dues via EFT on the website. Let the Secretary know what you think of this idea and any other ideas you think deserve consideration by the Management Committee.

Please address all correspondence to the Secretary - [secretary@combatsupportassociation.org.au](mailto:secretary@combatsupportassociation.org.au)

**Meetings:** Our General Meetings are held at the RSL South Eastern District, 42 Oxlade Drive, New Farm 4005.

The next meeting will be the **AGM** at 1030hrs on **25 August 2016** - followed by a GM.

**CSA AGM** Nominations are now sought for the following committee appointments:

- + President
- + Secretary
- + Treasurer
- + Assistant Secretary
- + Welfare Officer
- + CSG Coordinator
- + Fundraising/Merchandise Officer

Nominations must be lodged with the Secretary by COB 18 August 2016.

Use the nomination form below

**CSA Social Activities** The Association works with CSG units to deliver lunch activities for those units. Lunches will be promoted via email during the year.

**Welfare Support** While much of our Welfare, Pensions and Advocacy focus is through the Ipswich and District Veterans Support Centre, it is worth a reminder that CSA has an emergency fund to support those in dire need in the combat support community. The fund is administered by our Welfare Officer and can be accessed through the Ipswich and District Veterans Support Centre or directly through our Welfare Officer, Rob Shortridge contact via email [robshortridge@hotmail.com](mailto:robshortridge@hotmail.com)

**Remembrance Day Badge Selling** As members are well aware, the Association funds its various welfare programs through Badge Selling activities prior to Anzac Day and Remembrance Day each year. Remembrance Day Badge selling will be at Lutwyche Central, Redbank Plaza, Yamanto Village and Masters Springfield in the couple of weeks prior to Remembrance Day. With the agreement of CSG Unit Commanders at Amberley, badges will also be available within their Unit areas.

**CSA Facebook Page** You can now join our closed Facebook group 'Combat Support Association of Australia'. From Facebook, just send a join request and one of our administrators will review and process the request ASAP.

**Membership Applications** Introduction of new members is a task for all of us. A membership application accompanies this issue.

**CSA Polo Shirts & Jackets** If you are interested in purchasing a CSA polo shirt (\$40) or CSA jacket (\$55) then please contact me for an order form. We hold limited stock of common sizes. We can also supply on order a Bisley collared shirt embroidered with CSA logo (\$35).

If I can be of any assistance, then please let me know.

Glenn Oldham  
Secretary/Treasurer  
Ph: 0417 828 623

[secretary@combatsupportassociation.org.au](mailto:secretary@combatsupportassociation.org.au)



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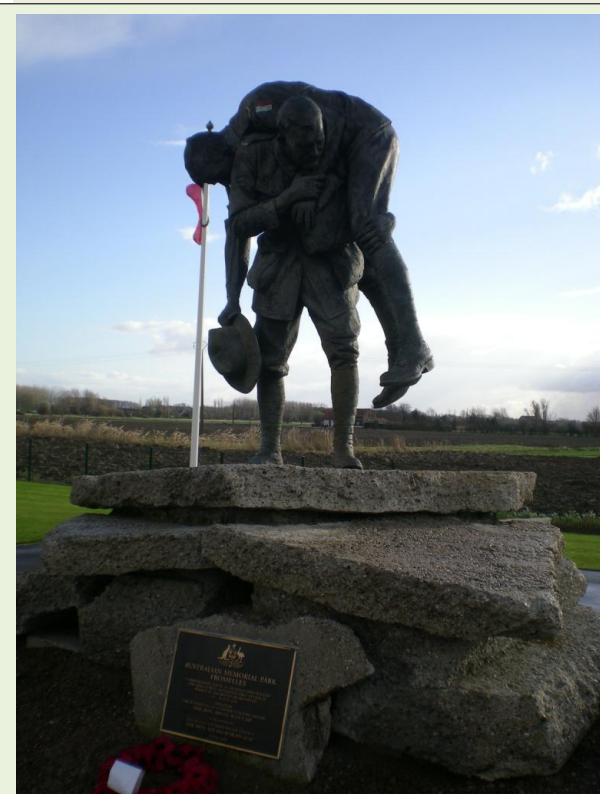
## ANZAC Day Brisbane 2016



## Fromelles, France 1916



*For the next three days we did great work getting in the wounded from the front and I must say (the Germans) treated us very fairly... we must have brought in over 250 men by our company alone*  
Sgt Simon Frasier 3101 57<sup>th</sup> Battalion AIF 31 July 1916



## From the Editor

It's a fond farewell to Rob Wadley as President of CSA, as he says in his message above, he won't be re-nominating at the coming AGM.

Thanks Rob, for your outstanding efforts in the many years you have served as president. You've introduced some great initiatives, built up our reputation and helped a lot of people along the way. Let's hope all of our members think about how they might help run our Association and consider nominating in your stead.

There's a lot to read in our *Winter Combat Supporter*, from the solid advice in *Welfare Corner* for both current and former serving members (thanks Rob S.), important information from our Secretary and a couple of short historical articles on Fromelles WW1, and Dakota accidents in 1945. My own fondness for the 'gooney bird' comes from a tour as a young navigator in the 1970s at the Darwin SAR Flight. I've always got one eye out for our former Darwin aircraft; A65-104 was destroyed by Cyclone Tracy and is scattered widely, in part at the Darwin East Point Military Museum. My favorite, A65-68 was gifted to the PNGDF but is apparently now with us again, in Australia.

I happened on the tragic AME flights in the article while researching into one of the victims, a former school friend of my Dad. Here's a table summary of the major Dakota accidents in 1945, out of the Pandora's Box of accidents I discovered (primary source is naa.gov.au RAAF Dakota accidents file).

Aircraft/Squadron	Date	Location and Fatalities
A65-34 36 Squadron	17 Feb 45	airdrop Tadj (New Guinea) 4 crew killed, 4 injured
A65-39 36 Squadron	3 May 45	airdrop Tadj 7 crew killed
A65-62 38 Squadron	1 Jun 45	Longreach, landing no deaths, aircraft destroyed
RAF KN344 RAAF crew	2 Jul 45	Milne Bay 2 RAAF, 1 RAF crew killed
A65-56 33 Squadron	11 Sep 45	Milne Bay, 11 killed
A65-61 38 Squadron	18 Sep 45	Irian Jaya, 28 killed
A65-54 33 Squadron	15 Nov 45	New Britain, 27 killed
A65-83 35 Squadron	19 Dec 45	Ambon to Darwin, 28 killed

Our worst accident was in March 1943 when a 36 Squadron Dakota crashed at Archerfield killing all 23 persons on board. Australia's better known, and commemorated war time military accidents though, involve US aircraft in north Queensland. Look out for a brief summary of USAAF major accidents in the next edition of *Combat Supporter*.

July 19-20 marked the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Battle of Fromelles, undoubtedly the worst days in our military history. This picture and its accompanying narrative, like the words and aerial



image in the short article below (& above) are from the panels at the Australian Memorial Park, Fromelles.

*'Men of 53<sup>rd</sup> Battalion 5 Division wait to don their equipment for the attack at Fromelles. Only three of these men survived, and they were wounded.'*

The two main memorials at Fromelles, in northern France are sited on the old front lines just a few hundred meters apart. VC Corner Cemetery, near the British lines just into no-man's land, is unique in that it has no headstones and it is the only all-Australian cemetery on the Western Front. Graves are marked by two large crosses laid flat on the ground inside a bed of roses, one rose for each grave (410 in all). Cobber's Memorial (see pics above, with ANZAC Day pics) is within the nearby Australian Memorial Park, on the old German lines.

I was bemused by our National centenary commemoration conducted at Fromelles; we chose not to invite Britain, for, under and with whom we fought in this battle. I don't get it, especially as we commemorated the centenary of the Battle of the Somme, further to the south, as Britain's guest just a few weeks earlier. National Commemorations of our fallen should not come with modern interpretations to suit a particular agenda.

Our involvement in The Somme also started 100 years ago, at Poziers on 23 July. Britain started on 1 July and suffered nearly 60,000 casualties on that first morning, their most disastrous day ever.

I hope you enjoy the *Winter Combat Supporter*. Feedback and input for future editions are very welcome to me ([grahamobrien@hotmail.com](mailto:grahamobrien@hotmail.com)) or to the secretary if you'd prefer. *Editor*



## Dakota crashes 1945

Three RAAF C-47 Dakota aircraft accidents in late 1945 resulted in the deaths of all 81 persons on board.



Dakota accidents were not uncommon in the latter part of WW2, there were 25 other deaths that year to September, from four major accidents and there were numerous other injuries and non-fatal accidents.

But the mass losses in late 1945 were all aero-medical evacuation flights, in contrast to the earlier accidents which, bar one, occurred on air drop operations in wartime conditions in mountainous terrain in New Guinea. Fatalities on the airdrops were all RAAF aircrew and Army air dispatchers. The AME flights on the other hand, had full passenger loads (28 for a Dakota) and at least one included a number of stretcher cases. Timing too, stands out - at war's end after the August surrender with some of the passengers in transit home after their service overseas. Coincidentally, the only other non-airdrop fatalities in 1945 also occurred post-war, with eleven deaths.

The first of the AME Dakotas, A65-61 of 38 Squadron, was lost on the Biak (Indonesia) to Bamaga (Cape York) leg of a Morotai to Townsville flight on 18 September 1945. An extensive search found nothing and all 28 persons on board, including seven crew, were presumed to have died at an unknown location. Until the wreck was discovered 25 years later, on a mountain side at 14,000 feet in Irian Jaya. Three separate recovery efforts were made to the crash site, in 1970, 1999 and 2005 in extreme environmental conditions.

Ultimately, with the last of the remains recovered in a combined RAAF and Indonesian Air Force Operation, which left behind a commemorative plaque (left), more than 50 relatives attended a military funeral at the Port Moresby (Bomona) War Cemetery in August 2005 (pic courtesy *Air Force* August 2005, note the wreckage in the background).

The medical escorts, Sister Marie Eileen Craig and SGT Francis Blackmore, both of No. 2 MAETU (Medical Air Evacuation Transport Unit), are buried



in a collective grave with the remains of some of the evacuees.

The second major accident in 1945 involved Dakota A65-54 of 33 Squadron which departed Jacquinot Bay on the island of New Britain, for Rabaul on 15 November. Wreckage was found the next day, widely scattered approximately 150 feet below the peak of a 7,000 feet mountain. The spot height was wrongly marked on WW2 maps by some 600 feet. None of the 28 persons on board survived the crash. Sister Verdun Sheah, RAAF Nurse of 1 MAETU who was named after the WW1 Battle of Verdun and called 'Chic' by her friends for her immaculate appearance, is buried at Rabaul (Bita Paka) War Cemetery with the others on board.



Marie Craig (left) & Verdun Sheah RAAFNS, lost in separate AME accidents in late 1945. AWM ART24278, Air Force 6 April 2006



The third Dakota, A65-83 of 35 Squadron left Ambon for Darwin on 19 December with 25 persons on board including 4 crew and RAAF Medical Orderly SGT William Mullen escorting 20 walking patients. Nothing further was heard and despite an extensive search, no trace has ever been found of the aircraft. Some brief radio messages received in the days following the loss have led to a theory that there may have been survivors, at least for a while, but those transmissions were vague and their source not clear.

All on board were officially presumed dead in December 1946 but the case was reopened by Army (Unrecovered War Casualties, UWC-A) in 2005 when relatives of one of the dead queried the completeness of the search. UWC-A concluded that the search covered all possible areas.

The lives lost are commemorated on the Ambon Memorial (left, [cwgc.org](http://cwgc.org)). Ed.



Sources: NAA A705 Series Accident to Dakota VH-CIZ, Presumption of Death, Series A99845 Dakota accidents, DVA nominal roll WW2,

AWM Roll of Honour, [cwgc.org](http://cwgc.org), *Air Force* August 25, 2005 & April 6, 2006, Army 22 November 2013, [www.pacificwrecks.com](http://www.pacificwrecks.com)

## Fromelles 1916

July 19-20 marks the centenary of the Battle of Fromelles, in northern France. These words are taken from the plaque in place at the Australian Memorial Park Fromelles (*other than the words in italics*). The pictures are taken by me at the site a few years ago and are placed to complement the passage.

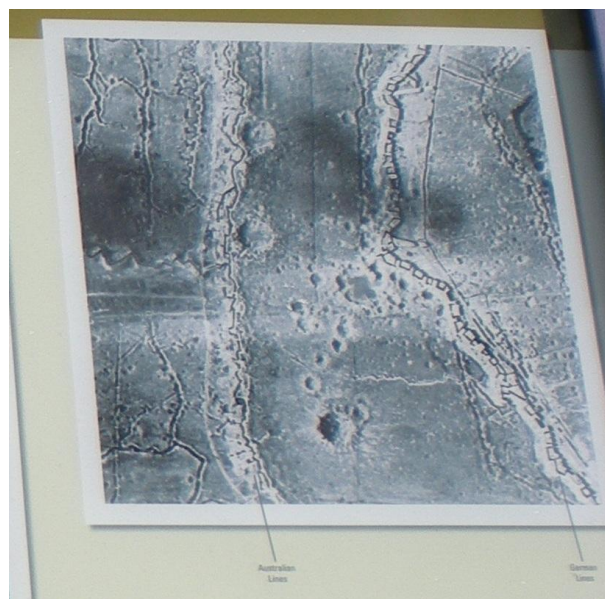
‘These German blockhouses (*below, concrete blocks*) are all that now remain of this section of the German line guarding Lille which they held throughout the 1914-1918 war. From October 1914 there was heavy fighting in this area. The Battle of the Somme began on 1st July 1916 and the Germans took reinforcements from here. To counter this the British ordered a limited attack at Fromelles using the 61<sup>st</sup> British Division and the 5<sup>th</sup> Australian Division along a front of four kms – starting 1km to the east of this position and 3kms to the west. (*aerial image 1916 of Fromelle battlefield, below, north to the left, west bottom, Australian lines at left, German at right, River Leys (Laies) at center left, Australian memorial in pic at left is on the German*



*line slightly below center, VC corner cemetery in pic below is on Australian line opposite).*

The Battle of Fromelles commenced late in the afternoon of 19 July 1916 after a long artillery bombardment. Four of the six Australian battalions, and two of the six British battalions, that advanced entered the German trenches. The remaining battalions were decimated crossing the open fields (*pic below*). The captured German trench system was surprisingly inadequate, with most support areas flooded.

Unable to defend these trenches against an inevitable German counter attack, at dawn on 20 July British HQ ordered the allied soldiers back to their original lines. (*pic below, looking*



*across the battlefield from the German to the Australian lines at VC Corner cemetery, about 200 meters).* The Germans now fought against



that withdrawal and 470 Australians and 51 British were taken prisoner.

This was the Australians' first and the most disastrous battle on the Western Front. In this battle 3 146 Australians and 977 British were wounded, and 1 917 Australians and 519 British were killed. The vast majority of the Australians were neither found nor identified.'

*Addendum:* VC Corner Cemetery (at right & above in distance) contains 410 unidentified bodies buried individually but marked in mass in two plots each by a large flat cross (one is partly visible in lawn to bottom left, surrounded by a (dormant) rose bed). All unknown soldiers who died at Fromelles are named on the commemorative wall at VC Corner (visible in pic at right). *Editor, words from a plaque at the Australian Memorial Park, Fromelles.*





## Welfare Corner

I attended the Queensland Veterans Advisory Council (QVAC) early June. The QVAC has a proactive minister by the name of Mark Ryan and he is actively looking at ways that the state can 'salute the service' of ADF personnel.

The Queensland Forum of Ex Service Organisations (QFE) met again and this forum, with the help of RSL Qld, has expanded significantly. It is a pleasure to work cooperatively with so many members of the Australian Defence Community to further the welfare of our veterans. If anyone is looking for an Ex Service Organisation to help them with their dealings with DVA and help them with any other issues the RSL Queensland web site has a comprehensive listing of ESO. It can be found on this site <https://www.rslqld.org/ESO-Directory>

### The Veteran Reintegration Study

The Gallipoli Medical Research Foundation (GMRF) is inviting ex-service personnel to contribute to the next stage of research aimed at improving support of the veteran community. They are specifically focussing on the process of reintegration and psychological adjustment to civilian life following military service.

Did you serve fulltime in the ADF for at least 3 years?

Have you discharged from the military within the last 10 years?

If so, this is a great opportunity to have your say! Participation involves an unstructured interview with a psychologist about your transition experience and 3 brief questionnaires.

GMRF would also like to talk to the partners of ex-service personnel who have discharged in the past 10 years.

**This project is proudly funded by RSL Queensland Branch**

If you are interested, please fill in your contact details via the below link and a member of the research team will be in contact:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/GW3FYLC>

### Superannuation

ADF Super is now the mandatory default superannuation scheme for new recruits to the ADF. The scheme is non contributory and has an employer contribution of 16.4% of salary and salary based allowances. Unlike the past schemes ADF Super will not be 'set and forget'. Members of the scheme

will have to become educated customers and be prepared to review their superannuation at least yearly and compare it with other funds. While the Commonwealth Superannuation Corporation is the default fund manager, members will be able to nominate a fund of their choice. Members of MSBS will have the option of transferring to ADF Super. The best option for you will depend on your circumstances so please make sure you get expert professional advice before any action is taken. There is some concern in regard to the Governments new super rules and the effect on Military Superannuation Pensions. At this stage no one really knows, especially the defined benefits pensions and the defined benefits portion of MSBS.

### Senate Inquiry into DHA

This inquiry stemmed from a study suggesting that DHA could be commercialized.

Nothing is happening with the Inquiry due to the Double Dissolution.

DFWA put in a submission and asked to present to the Inquiry but were told the submission was enough. The major concern is that good high quality housing is an important morale issue and if DHA was commercialized then profit may become the driving factor and costs and quality may be outside the control of Government.

Different markets would have different costs and how that is to be managed without detriment to the members would be an issue.

DHA was profitable so why was there a perceived need to commercialise other than to get a one off injection of in excess of \$2bn in funds?

The CEO was sacked. Rumors abound about the reasons but due to confidentiality issues no facts have surfaced. Within a week a senior DoF Dep Sec was appointed which also raised questions in regard to probity.

### Australian Vietnam War

<https://vietnam.unsw.adfa.edu.au/>

The 1st Australian Task Force (1 ATF) operated in Vietnam from 1966 through 1971. Some of its battles have become well-known to the public through film and literature. Many however, have not. This website is the product of over twenty years of research. It provides unprecedented access to information on nearly all 1 ATF ground combat actions Australians fought in during the Vietnam War, numbering over 4,500. Through the use of modern Web technologies, veterans, researchers and

the general public now have the power to understand the Vietnam War at a scale and depth not previously possible.

The Battle Map provides an ideal way to catalog and share veterans' stories, keeping them accessible to current and future generations. Our aim is to enable Vietnam veterans to record their stories, perspectives and images against contacts on the Battle Map. In doing so, we hope to develop the 'ground truth' picture of what happened at the tactical level, revealing the human dimension of the War.

This website is a continual 'work in progress'. In the future, it will feature contacts from 1 RAR and AATTV, as well as air and naval operations. We hope you find this website to be informative and useful. Read on to discover what you can achieve with this website and learn about upcoming attractions.

**The following two articles are repeated from DFWA Queensland Branch's supplement to their national magazine, *Camaraderie*.**

#### **ADF Post-discharge GP Health Assessment**

Did you know that all former serving personnel can access a health assessment from their general practitioner (GP)? After you have left the Australian Defence Force (ADF), you can access a one-off health assessment from your GP. This includes those who have left the Permanent Forces and are in the Reserves, and it also includes those who have left the Reserves. This is a comprehensive health assessment which can help your GP identify and diagnose the early onset of any mental or physical health conditions you may be experiencing. Your GP will then be able to treat you or refer you to other services, as necessary. A Medicare rebate is available for this assessment. To find out more, please visit the At Ease portal, <http://at-ease.dva.gov.au>. Talk to your GP, tell them you have served in the ADF and ask them about this health assessment.

The Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA) has a number of innovative websites and free mobile applications (apps) that you can use to help manage your mental health and wellbeing concerns whenever and wherever you need.

Taking action early is the key to good mental health. The At Ease portal is DVA's 'one stop shop' to access a wide range of online mental health and wellbeing resources. If you're looking for simple, relevant information and advice to help recognise the symptoms of poor mental health, or to keep your family healthy while caring for someone with a mental health condition, the At Ease Veterans and Veterans Families website is a good place to start. You can also use the Right Mix Your Health & Alcohol website and the On Track with the Right Mix app to help achieve a healthier lifestyle. To combat stress, use the simple tools found on the High Res resilience website. And if you are concerned about suicide awareness and suicide prevention within the veteran community, access the dedicated Operation Life Online website to learn how you can help those at risk. Remember, information to help you and your family cope with a range of mental health and wellbeing issues is readily available at your fingertips – simply check out the At Ease portal <http://www.at-ease.dva.gov.au>.

#### **DVAs Noticeboard**

Department of Veterans Affairs (DVA) has introduced an online noticeboard. This new portal will allow you to electronically view reunions, lost & found medals/other items and general notices at any time on your PC/ computer, smart phone or tablet. You can also compose your own notices and submit them directly, online, instead of posting or emailing them. Check out the new feature at: <http://www.dva.gov.au/vetaffairs/>

*Rob Shortridge WELFO*



*Combat Support Association  
of Australia FB*



## Member profile **Glenn Oldham**

My first full-time job was in charge of the Photography/Camera Dept with MYER Ballarat and later Geelong stores, then a couple of years as Detail Draughtsman with the auto-glass manufacturer Pilkington at Geelong.

After marrying Shirlee in 1973, I joined her family running the Hampden Hotel in Camperdown, Victoria. The smallest of three pubs in town, it was also the most intimate and more like a "Club" than a pub and the "regulars" provided plenty of "stories" and "entertainment".

I had always had an active interest in photography, from my teen years, and wanting to expand my knowledge, I applied to join the Army as a photographer. Luckily (as it turned out) they weren't hiring and suggested I try the RAAF. The RAAF accepted me and I joined as a recruit, 8 March 1977

By this time Shirl and I had one child and another on the way. As a mature age recruit I was able to (mostly) enjoy rookies - it was also probably the fittest I have ever been - if one had changed nappies and cleaned up baby vomit and cleaned Hotel toilets, what could the ADGs throw at you?

I also enjoyed the seven months on Basic Photo Course at RAAF East Sale, where my already solid knowledge of photography was broadened to include RAAF specific subjects such as aerial photography.

Postings to Central Photographic Establishment, RAAF Laverton (twice), RAAF Richmond, RAAF Butterworth and finally RAAF Amberley followed. The equipment used by RAAF photographers was extremely varied and the experience I gained using small, medium and large format cameras and printing hardware was way beyond what would have been available in "civvie street".

In March 1986, I left the RAAF and joined the Central Medical Illustration Unit at Royal Brisbane Hospital, Herston as one of three photographers. RBH was a teaching hospital so there was a requirement for high quality photography for medical education, seminars, patient treatment and diagnosis etc. etc.

As well as RBH, our rounds included the Royal Women's Hospital, Royal Children's Hospital and Qld Radium Institute.

In May 1988 the Co-Ordinator of the Department had a health scare and had to retire and I was appointed Co-Ordinator. Unfortunately, at the time the Qld Health Dept didn't recognize RAAF qualifications, experience or service so in Dec 1988 I resigned my position and for the next three and a half years was Locum Medical Photographer at all the major Brisbane Hospitals including Greenslopes and the Wesley.

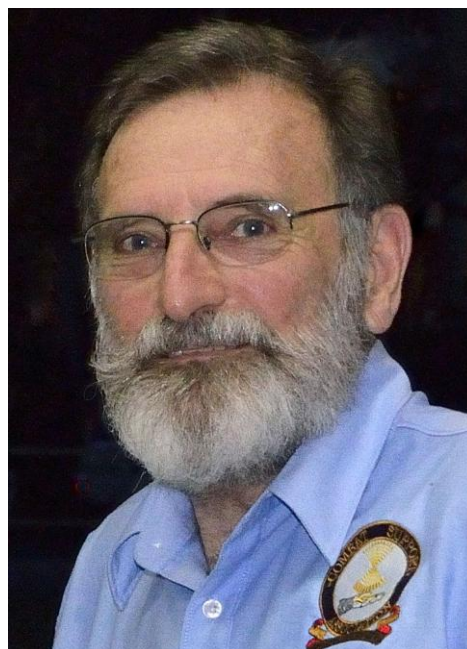
While the Qld Health Department didn't value my experience many business and private clients did and I continued to provide Commercial and Wedding photography and private tuition to clients.

Although I only spent nine years in the RAAF they had a profound, positive effect on me and I remember my service with great fondness. I am sure that feeling is shared by many CSA members.

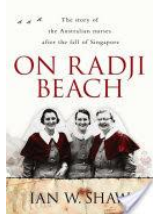
It is only when one has served in the Defence Force that one realizes it has unique strengths, weaknesses, responsibilities and privileges; and that the general public and politicians need to be constantly educated and reminded of that, so the conditions for current and past Defence Force personnel are improved and not eroded.

I guess joining the Combat Support Association was my way of making a small contribution to that aim.

*Glenn Oldham*

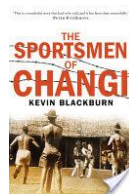


## Book Review



*On Radji Beach: The story of the Australian nurses after the fall of Singapore, Ian W. Shaw, published by Pan Macmillan Australia, 2010, 360 pages*

Unlike the modern Defence Force, in WW2 females were not allowed to serve overseas. Those who did were nurses with the military hospitals. More than 120 nurses served in the Far East with 8 Division in hospitals, field ambulances and casualty clearing stations located in Johore (Malaysia) and Singapore. Fearing more of the atrocities that had followed some of the Japanese victories in China (notably Nanking) and more recently at Hong Kong, Commander of the 8<sup>th</sup> Division, General Gordon Bennett, ordered that the nurses be evacuated. In the days immediately before the surrender, Japanese warships and planes patrolled the routes to the south and west, searching for any ships or small craft fleeing the imminent capitulation. *Singapore is no Dunkirk* they famously declared in a propaganda broadcast, meaning they would not allow an escape. A large group of about 60 nurses did successfully cross through the Japanese barrier, and made it to Fremantle but the remaining 65 nurses, aboard the coastal freighter *Vyner Brooke* were not so lucky. Attacked from the air, they ran aground and their vessel sank. Some died at sea, others made it to shore, on Muntok Island off Sumatra. A group of 22 of the nurses gathered on a beach within a larger group of about 60 survivors. The situation seemingly hopeless, they elected to surrender, but that was unacceptable to the Japanese who had discovered them. Instead, they were divided into three groups and killed, all of them, on Radji Beach. The lone survivor, Nurse Vivian Bulwinkle, fainted death, later surrendered and survived as a Prisoner of War. She was the sole witness and waited until after the war to reveal her secret. *On Radji Beach* tells her story and that of the other nurses, heroes all. It spans the fighting, before at Singapore and Johore, their escape, sinking, subsequent capture and captivity through to their homecoming. The book is well researched and the story is well told in a direct but delicate and easy style. It's well worth a read. *Ed.*



*The Sportsmen of Changi, Kevin Blackburn, NewSouth publishing, UNSW, Sydney, 2012 RRP \$32.99 paperback 296 pages*

Sport has always been a major part of military life and Singapore, before and after its fall in February 1942, was no exception. Surprisingly, or perhaps not, the RAAF dominated pre-war competitions with local, AIF and British teams.

Among the well known players was RAAF pay clerk and former Sydney first grade cricketer Corporal Alan Barnes, who later became secretary of the Australian Cricket Board. Air Force cook and former SA Colt's cricket all-rounder, LAC Bruce Bowley was another while legendary fighter pilot Jack (Kongo) Kinninmont captained the RAAF Rugby side. Kongo had a long flying career, two New Guinea tours after Singapore in WW2 and later he fought in Korea and in Malaya in 1962-64, retiring in 1970.

Test cricketer, Captain Ben Barnett, played occasionally for the AIF, which could also boast six Wallabies, State and first grade Rugby Union and League players, and several from the VFL including a Brownlow medalist.

But this book is about prisoners of war playing sport, not just at Changi but in the work camps too, on the Thai-Burma railway and others. At Changi, the largest PW camp, the prisoners ran season-long competitions and had interstate and international matches; even an occasional game with the guards, as spectators and less so with or against them. Basketball and baseball became popular, in competition with American prisoners, as was boxing. Tom Uren, a former heavyweight title challenger and later Federal MP, was undoubtedly the star of boxing but only transited Changi briefly, with another Wallaby, Weary Dunlop.

In Burma and Thailand sport was played at the larger base hospital camps as the fitness and health of prisoners didn't allow it elsewhere. In late 1942 all football except soccer was banned, because of injuries but sport, in its various forms, remained a welcome distraction for many PWs throughout their internment. *The Sportsmen of Changi* is available at leading bookstores, as an e-book or loan a copy from your local library. *Ed.*

## **Combat Support Association Inc. Management Committee Nomination**

I, \_\_\_\_\_, being a financial member of the Combat Support Association Inc., hereby nominate for the position of \_\_\_\_\_ at the AGM to be held on 25 Aug 2016.

Signed (Nominee): \_\_\_\_\_

Dated: \_\_\_\_\_

Proposer: \_\_\_\_\_ Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Secunder: \_\_\_\_\_ Name: \_\_\_\_\_

### **PLEASE NOTE:**

**BOTH PROPOSER AND SECONDER MUST BE CURRENT MEMBERS OF THE COMBAT SUPPORT ASSOCIATION INC. COMPLETED NOMINATIONS MUST BE RECEIVED BY THE SECRETARY BY 18 AUGUST 2015.**

**POSITIONS ARE: PRESIDENT, SECRETARY, TREASURER, CSG COORDINATOR, ASSISTANT SECRETARY, FUNDRAISING AND MERCHANDISING OFFICER, WELFARE OFFICER**



## APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

Surname: \_\_\_\_\_

Other Names: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Postcode: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: Home: \_\_\_\_\_ Business: \_\_\_\_\_

Mobile: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_

I hereby apply for membership of the (air force) Combat Support Association Inc. as an Ordinary member.

### (Category 1) Ex Service/Serving Member:

Country: \_\_\_\_\_ Service: \_\_\_\_\_

Served from: \_\_\_\_\_ to: \_\_\_\_\_

Service Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Rank: \_\_\_\_\_

Decorations \_\_\_\_\_

### (Category 2) Dependants of Ex Service/Serving Member:

Name of Relative: \_\_\_\_\_

Relationship: \_\_\_\_\_

Service Details of Relative: \_\_\_\_\_

I declare the above information to be true and correct. I hereby agree that, if admitted, I will abide by the Rules and By Laws of the Association. I enclose \$10 as my initial subscription, or \$100 to join as a Fully Paid Up member.

Signature of Applicant: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

We declare that the applicant meets the membership criteria detailed in the Association Rules and By Laws.

Proposer: \_\_\_\_\_

Seconder: \_\_\_\_\_



### **YOUR AVIATION HERITAGE CENTRE**

On Sunday 5 June 2011 the RAAF Amberley Aviation Heritage Centre officially opened. Dignitaries, former and current servicemen gathered to see the unveiling of the first stage of the Centre. The Heritage Centre is designed to tell the story of the Air Force, but more importantly the Air Force at Amberley from 1940 right through the war years until now.

Former Chief of Air Force Air Marshal Mark Binskin AO initialized the program to celebrate the relationship between the RAAF and the community by establishing heritage centres to be run through a partnership between Air Force and the community. Another former CAF, Air Marshal Geoff Brown AM as Deputy Chief was the Chair of the RAAF Heritage Advisory Council and was instrumental in our formal establishment.

The RAAF has also embarked on a program of rejuvenating its static display aircraft that have been suffering the effects of outdoor display. This has already paid off with an increase in morale within the service.

The RAAF Amberley Aviation Heritage Centre display includes:

- Australia's first Canberra bomber A84-201,
- English Electric Canberra A84-125 built by English Electric and delivered to Australia in May 1952,
- General Dynamics RF-111C A8-126, delivered to the RAAF 1 June 1973,
- Bell Iroquois A2-771 UH-1H # 67-17573 9771 which was delivered to RAAF 9 SQN in Vietnam in 1968. Returning to Australia in December 1971.
- Bell-47G Sioux A1-738. The Sioux was the first rotary aircraft operated by the Australian Army. A1-738 was the last Sioux to be flown in Vietnam on the 13 September 1971,
- Douglas A-20G Boston 42-86786 'The Hell 'N Pelican II', and
- DHC Caribou A4-236, a combat veteran that also saw humanitarian service in PNG, Indonesia, Pakistan, East Timor and the Solomon Islands.

Volunteers at Amberley have a long history of restoring aircraft, having completed the Boston and Catalina for the RAAF Museum. The restoration of these aircraft was completed whilst an annex of Point Cook was located at RAAF Amberley. They will now work on aircraft that will remain at the Aviation Heritage Centre including Canberra bomber A84-242, one of the last Canberra aircraft to return to Australia from Phan Rang, Vietnam.

The Centre is currently based in two hangars that were used for F-111 maintenance. Next year a portion of the administration building will have displays and a Gift Shop.

The RAAF Amberley Aviation Heritage Centre is open every Tuesday and Thursday for Community Groups of 10 or more, in their own coach or bus. For more information please contact RAAF Amberley Public Engagement Section on Ph: (07) 5361 1245 or e-mail [AMB.PES@defence.gov.au](mailto:AMB.PES@defence.gov.au). The RAAF Amberley Aviation Heritage Centre is also open on the second Sunday of every month with public parking at the RAAF Amberley Bowls Club car park, where a shuttle bus service will depart for the Centre every 20 minutes.



**Recognising the Aviation History of RAAF Base Amberley**



*IPSWICH & DISTRICTS  
VETERANS SUPPORT  
OFFICE*

MEMORIAL HALL  
CNR NICHOLAS & LIMESTONE Streets  
IPSWICH  
PH: 07 3812 3822 MOB: 0430 166 070

The Ipswich and Districts Veterans Support Office is open Mon – Fri, from 9.00 am to 12.30 pm. We offer assistance to all service and ex-service personnel and their dependants, with all Department of Veterans Affairs claims and applications, including VEA, MCRS, MRCA, Service Pensions and Appeals. Trained pensions / welfare officers and advocates are able to offer assistance in our office, hospitals, your home and on a Thursday morning at RAAF Base Amberley. All claims consultation is by appointment.

This office is run under a Memorandum of Understanding and represents the following Ex service organisations. The office is sponsored by Combat Support Association Inc; Australian Peacekeepers and Peacemakers Veterans Association; Ipswich RSL Sub Branch; Ipswich Railway RSL Sub Branch; Ipswich Legacy; Incapacitated Servicemen and Womens Association; Ipswich Naval Association; RAAF Association, Ipswich Branch; Rosewood RSL Sub Branch; and Moreton District RSL.

**ALL SERVICES ARE PROVIDED FREE OF CHARGE**