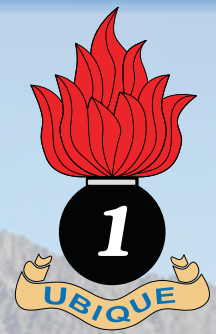


'FOLLOW THE SAPPER'

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



Follow The Sapper

November 2014
Edition 23

Greetings fellow Sappers and Friends.

*With proud thanksgiving, a mother for her children,
England mourns for her dead across the sea.
Flesh of her flesh they were, spirit of her spirit,
Fallen in the cause of the free.*

*Solemn the drums thrill: Death august and royal,
Sings sorrow up into immortal spheres.
There is music in the midst of desolation,
And a glory that shines upon our tears.*

*They went with songs to the battle, they were young,
Straight of limb, true of eye, steady and aglow.
They were staunch to the end against odds uncounted,
They fell with their faces to the foe.*

*They shall grow not old,
As we that are left grow old,
Age shall not weary them,
Nor the years condemn.
At the going down of the sun,
And in the morning
We will remember them.*

I had never read all these words; a sorry admission from this veteran. It seems most appropriate to open this edition with the full text. What we all know as the Ode, comes from 'For the Fallen', a poem by the English poet and writer Laurence Binyon (1869-1943) and was published in London in *The Wincing Fan: Poems of the Great War* in 1914. The verse which became the League Ode was already used in association with commemoration services in Australia in 1921. Source www.rslnsw.org.au.

This year we remember the 100th anniversary of commencement of World War One. Next year we remember the 100th anniversary of ANZAC and, significantly for Sappers, the 100th anniversary of the completion of Watsons Pier at Gallipoli and the birth of Waterloo Dinner. Many current and ex Sappers will celebrate 2015 Waterloo Dinner at Gallipoli. What an event that will be.

Although the Ode evokes remembrance of the Fallen of the Great War, whenever I hear it I remember those who did not come home from Vietnam. No doubt others remember those lost in other conflicts. We must honour their sacrifice, not just at significant anniversaries, but always. No matter what political views we hold; whether we believe conflicts were or for that matter, still are justified, our Defence forces did and continue to do the bidding of the Government of the day. Our Forces never should have, nor should they now, be blamed for any conflict they have been or are committed to.

LEST WE FORGET

Regards

Derek Smith, Editor
Ph. 07 4773 5104
dsmith@ozemail.com.au



"This is a photo of Jethro Thompson and me at Melbourne on Vietnam Veterans Day. He reckons it should be on the front page and I think the back. Both Queenslanders met up by accident and it was a great day, weather aside."

- Robin Farrell

Photo above - Sapper Darren Fong and Corporal Shaun King from the First Mentoring Task Force, survey a new community development site north of Tarin Kowt. Courtesy of Defence Media

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ROCKY CREEK MEMORIAL – ATHERTON TABLELANDS

Recently my wife and I spent some time on the Atherton Tablelands. It is a fantastic place to spend relaxing time. While there we visited Rocky Creek Memorial Park which is just a short drive from Atherton. Many of our service men and women served and trained in this area during World War Two. The actual Park is situated on the site of the 2/2 Australian General Hospital laundry and medical stores site. There are over 77 military unit plaques mounted on granite obelisk from the Wongabel Quarries and erected free of charge by Atherton Shire Council. If you are travelling in this neck of the woods, a visit to Rocky Creek is a must.



We identified the following Engineer unit plaques. 12th Army Troops Company RAE, 2nd, 10th and 15th Australian Field Company's RAE, 54th Australian Field Park Company and 7th Division Corps of Engineers.

Information on these units can be found in Volume 3 of our Corps History, The Royal Australian Engineers 1919 to 1945, by Maj. Gen. R.R. McNicoll, CBE, AM.



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 dsvsmith@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: Courtesy of Defence Media

Some World War Two Humour

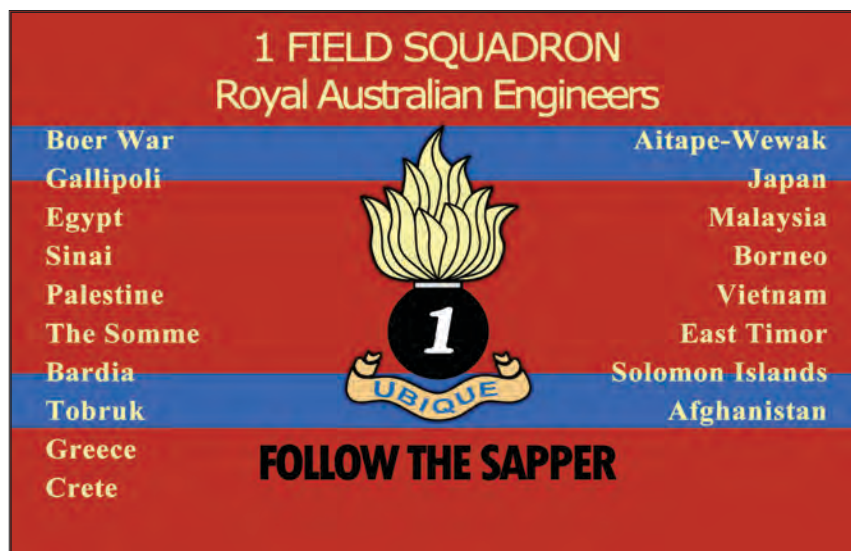
I pulled this from 'Khaki and Green' published for The Australian Military Forces by Australian War Memorial, Canberra, ACT, 1943.



These pictures are from the same publication. The caption reads, 'Road Making in New Guinea' Life is arduous for these Sappers who are engaged on a great road-making project in an advanced New Guinea area. Picks and shovels are the principal tools used to hack a track from the steep mountain side. Never let us complain about doing it tough.



Marching Banner



The Association has received very positive feedback on the proposed marching banner. The only change to the draft concept for the banner is that we make the colouring of the words "FOLLOW THE SAPPER" to match the colour of our RAE lanyard, which is Midnight Blue (Black). It will be made in time for the ANZAC Day 2015 march at Palmerston.

Presidents Report November 2014

2015 will be a big year for our Association. We have our reunion and Memorial Service booked for Twin Towns Services Club during the weekend 28 to 30 August 2015, more details in this edition of "Follow The Sapper". We also have the opportunity for a one-time celebration of the Centenary of ANZAC Day with a march at Palmerston in the Northern Territory together with our younger brothers of today's 1 FD SQN RAE. More details below and also on our updated website at 1fieldsappers.org.

We Will Remember World War 1

1. ANZAC Day 2015.

The Association has organised a one-time event together with 1 CER in the Palmerston and Robertson Barracks area for ANZAC Day 2015. Meet and Greet at Palmerston RSL Thursday 23 April 2015 between 1700 hrs and 1900 hrs. 24 April 2015, bus from Palmerston RSL leaving at 1000 hrs and go to 1 CER lines at Robertson Barracks for a memorial service of every 1 FD SQN/ FD COY sapper lost to wars since WWI and all sappers lost in Afghanistan. This will be followed by lunch and a viewing of current equipment and vehicles. 25 April 2015, Dawn Service at the Palmerston RSL Monument commencing at 0600 hrs followed by breakfast in the Palmerston RSL Sports Club. ANZAC Day march - assemble in the Palmerston RSL carpark at 0930 hrs, step off at about 0950 hrs together with uniformed sappers of 1 FD SQN. There is a morning service after the march, followed by lunch in the RSL Sports Club. All catering to be paid for by individuals. Disperse at your leisure. Be aware that the average temperature at Palmerston is around 30 degrees with high humidity. The RSL accepts that our members may wear polo shirts with full medals if they wish. Miniature medals are also acceptable.

Please advise the President if you intend to attend this event with your name and names of your group by email: eddsniffer@optusnet.com.au

2. Gallipoli and France/Belgium 2018.

The committee has contacted the Commemorations Branch of the Department of Veterans Affairs requesting information about laying wreaths at Gallipoli on 25 April 2018 and in France and Belgium on 11 November 2018. They have provided advice and recommendations for us to follow. More details to follow.

- a. 25 April 2018. We are planning a visit to ANZAC Cove and Lone Pine on 25 April 2018 and we will lay a wreath at Lone Pine. A tour of the Gallipoli battle ground will be organised for those attending. We will have a close look at the areas where 1 FD COY AE operated. Costs to be advised closer to the time. Follow the conversation at 1fieldsappers.org
- b. 11 November 2018. We are planning a visit to several battlefield sites in France and Belgium, particularly those in which 1 FD COY AE took part. Events which are being planned by DVA for 11 November 2018 include services and march at Villers-Bretonneux (V-B), (the official Australian Memorial to WW1), a march through the township of V-B and a service at Bullecourt. Naturally, there will be a huge opportunity for our group to undertake other battle ground tours in The Somme area, plus attend other memorial services in addition to our commemoration of our lost brothers of 1 FD COY AE.

Pencil these activities into your future diary, if you are interested.
More details can be followed on 1fieldsappers.org

Updated Website

The Association website has received a huge update. We are now accessible via iPad and iPhone (and their equivalents). The site is interactive, so you can send your comments and feedback to the committee from your tablet or smart phone if you want to. We will be able to keep information up-to-date on our events and activities and you can let the committee know of your opinion on the things that we have planned or have completed. Visit us on 1fieldsappers.org.

Reunion 2015

This is our opportunity, once every two years, to come together and catch up over a couple of meals and a moving memorial service. We need to plan ahead as early as we can and I would ask everyone who intends to come to the 2015 reunion, to fill out the form in this newsletter and send it in as soon as you can please.

Congratulations

The Association congratulates two of our members who have received high decorations for their service.

Jim Marett received an OAM in July 2014, for his service to the veteran community. Congratulations Jim.

Trevor Shelley received the Papua New Guinea Logohu Medal for his services to rural communities in PNG. Gutpela tumas Trevor.

Also congratulations to Derek Smith. He was one of three finalists for the News Corp COMMUNITY SPIRIT MEDAL "QLD Pride of Australia 2014" award for his work with 900 orphanage kids in Vietnam. Nice work Derek. And thanks for being our editor too!

Newly Formed 1 Combat Engineer Regiment Association

The Commanding Officer 1 CER, LTCOL Mick Say, has had an objective for some time, to inaugurate a 1 CER Association. This has been accomplished and we in the 1 FD SQN GP RAE Association can expect to hear more details of membership and other information in connection with this new Sapper initiative. Future editions of "Follow The Sapper" will contain more details as they come to hand.

Christmas

The Association wishes every member and your family, and indeed every Australian, a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Please be careful on the roads and with your health over this period as we want to see you around for a fair while yet. And let's maintain our right to keep CHRIST in Christmas while we can - before somebody legislates that right away!

George Hulse
President

10 November 2014

I remember Phil Baxter MM

I received a phone call from HQ 1 FD SQN GP at Nui Dat in 1968, that my "reos" were in-bound to 1 Troop. I was a Lieutenant, Troop Officer in those days. It was a pleasant Wednesday and the sun was out. I waited at the 1 TP entrance to the lines and saw Sapper Phillip Baxter headed my way. We said our g'days and fell into conversation. Phil was assigned into Corporal Ken Ford's section and I introduced them. Little did I realize that we had just started a three-way friendship that would last the rest of our lives.

Phil was a quiet sort of bloke with a pleasant personality, quick wit and high intelligence. He was well received by all the guys in 1 TP and got on well with every one he met. He had leadership. Ken Ford and I found that out the hard way. On a bunker denial operation, we sappers had laid a huge amount of C4 explosive into a large bunker and tunnel system. The infantry protection withdrew and we were given authority to fire the demolition. But just as we were deciding how much safety fuze to cut, Ken and I entered into an unbelievable discussion on how long the fuze should be. We couldn't agree. In frustration, Phil stood up over the two of us and ordered (yes, ordered!) us to cut the fuze at 12 inches. The Lieutenant and the Corporal quickly shut up and did exactly as they were told by the Sapper.

Phil supported numerous operations as a combat engineer. He was in the all-engineer patrol that uncovered an enormous haul of rice, explosives, medical stores and clothing in the Hat Dic area in October 1968. His iconic leadership and courage together with Sapper David Sturmer on 20 July 1969 earned him his Military Medal. Dave is another close friend and one more unsung engineer hero.

Phil had two battles with cancer. He had a lot of support during that time. Ken Ford and I would exchange concerns about our mate and prayed for a miracle as he neared the end. His second bout of cancer took him from us on 29 May 2014. We extend to Phil's wife, Denice and all his family members, our most sincere condolences. We thank Phil for any number of good memories and happy moments.



George Hulse

Follow The Sapper
George Hulse
President
May 2014

Valediction - 2781699 Sapper Michael Geoffrey GEORGE OAM

Inaugural president of the 1 Field Squadron Group, Royal Australian Engineers, Qld Inc.



It is with an extremely heavy heart, that we reported the death of 2781699 Sapper Michael Geoffrey George OAM on Friday the 19th September 2014.

Michael has not had the best of health for some time and following a fall of recent times, had emergency surgery twice, but was unable to recover this time.

Mike's service to the community has been a family tradition for RSL sub-branch stalwart Mike George who followed in the footsteps of his grandfather, father and uncle to assist war veterans and their families. Michael George joined the Returned and Services League in 1967 after coming back to Dubbo from the Vietnam War.

He was the inaugural president of the 1 Field Squadron Group, Royal Australian Engineers, Qld Inc. and held that position for ten years.

He served on sub-branch and club committees for 32 years, rising through local, district and state ranks. After holding multiple executive positions his hard work has been recognised by peers through nomination for the Australia Day Honours List.

The OAM award citation acknowledges Mike's commitment to veterans and youth organisations.

He was NSW Youth Council president from 1994-2007 and chairman of the Lima Allen Memorial Youth Hostel Trust from 1997-2007. "Although retired from active sub-branch activities, Mike was still involved in running the army cadets group in Dubbo.

Mike was conscripted into National Service from 1965-67 and spent one year in Vietnam with 1st Field Squadron Royal Australian Engineers.

He was one of the original "tunnel rats" performing search and destroy missions in extensive underground complexes created by the Viet Cong.

"After his Vietnam service he returned to my former job as a tractor mechanic and header expert with Case Farm Machinery in Dubbo.

"He then spent 18 years in field service with Waugh and Josephson before joining International as service manager."

After eight years running his own business Mike retired due to back problems emanating from Vietnam service.

Building Concrete Slabs and Bridges

By Derek Smith

This is yet another of my stories. It began in 1971 when the Sergeant cook, Don Treen and I decided to build a slab at our tent entrance. It would do the job to scrape the mud and other gunk from our boots. Even POGO's got muddy boots from time to time. So employing all right and proper engineer skills, we did the job, and as you do, we scribed our names and the date into the wet cement. Piece of cake.



Out Tent

Time passed and in October of that year, 1 FD SQN withdrew from Nui Dat to Vung Tau then sailed home in November on board HMAS Sydney. Of course I did not give the slab another thought. That was until I received a letter from CARO in September 1992 advising that Mr. Terry Walsh, the executive officer of Melbourne Legacy had recently returned from a visit to Vietnam and "whilst at Nui Dat uncovered a slab of concrete with the name of D. Smith and D. Treen etched deeply into one side."

Wow! We have kept a presence in The Dat. I wrote to Terry and received a prompt reply. Here is part of what he wrote. "I teamed up with a Sapper named Graeme Hobley (17 Const Sqn 66/67. . . About 20 metres from the HQ, in undergrowth about knee high, I stepped on a slab of concrete. Turning it over I noticed it had something etched on one side."



Graeme Hobley with locals Mr. Luc and his wife - 1992

After a couple of minutes of cleaning it down, the result is what you see in the photo. A marvellous piece of history brought back to life. I did try to impress on the locals the significance of the slab and to request that they keep it safe and intact. I trust the \$2.50 was enough incentive."

Well, I am not sure what the exchange rate was then but his \$2.50 worked. My family and I took a trip to Vietnam in 1999. We went to Nui Dat in hope of finding our slab. I had my old patrol map with me and knew if I could locate Rowe's Lagoon, I would be close to my old tent location and the slab. I also had the photos that Terry had kindly sent to me. I was pondering over the map when down the dirt road (just off Luscombe Field) came a lad on a bicycle. I will never forget him. His name is Tau and his bike had no seat – ouch. He knew exactly where to go so escorted us to the general area.

Our interpreter was showing the photos to one of the local villagers, probably indicating that these dinky dau (crazy) Uc Da Loi (Australians) are searching for a rock. One of the village men became really excited. Turned out he was in the picture. Well it did not take long for the real purpose of our mission became apparent and we were led to the Slab. I would be less than honest if I admitted to being quite emotional at this wonderful moment.



The Slab in 1992



The Slab in 1999



The Slab in 2012.
A bit the worse for wear but still there.



Derek with Mr. Luc and wife, another local and our interpreter in 1999



My two sons Michael and Stephen with Tau age 12



Tau with parents in 2008



Derek with VC medal and Tau's Dad with Rising Sun badge

I have returned to Nui Dat on a number of occasions since 1999 and always visit the Slab. On one such visit I located Tau again by showing locals some photos. He was living with his parents and other siblings in a small house off Luscombe Field. I was invited in to meet his family and to take tea. I had an interpreter with me so language was not a barrier. Now here is where the bridge building comes in. Tau's dad was a chemist and his mum was a nurse, both served with D445 VC unit, our former enemy. There were photos on the wall of both in uniform. Through the interpreter we had a wonderful discussion. Like many Vietnamese I have met on my regular visits, these people were looking forward, not behind.

Tau's Dad told me that, like me, he was doing the bidding of the Government he believed in and now life moved forward.

I had taken some Rising Sun badges with me and decided to give him a badge. He was truly moved by my gesture. He then went into a back room and returned with a medal which he then gave to me. He had been given the medal for his part in the War. This was a huge thing. We embraced each other. I still have that medal and would not trade it for anything. If that isn't building bridges, I don't know what is.

A CALL FROM THE PARDANELLES

DRAFT History of 1 Field Squadron

Royal Australian Engineers

The military history “hot topic” for the next four years will be World War 1 (WW1). 1 FD SQN RAE has strong links to this war through 1 FD COY AE and 1 FD SQN AE. To keep faith with the Sappers of WW1, we will remember them by running a serialised history relating to our forebears of the “Great War” - “The War To End All Wars” - in our newsletter “Follow The Sapper”. Our first instalment covers 1 FD COY AE at Gallipoli. The principal reference for this series is “The Royal Australian Engineers 1902 to 1919 - Making and Breaking”: Major General R.R. McNicoll CBE: ISBN 0 9596871 2 2. Also acknowledged is “The Great War”. Les Carlyon, ISBN 9781405037990.

As author of this series, George Hulse, President of 1 FD SQN RAE Association bears full responsibility for any errors or omissions. Should any member of the Association have an issue with the information presented, please feel free to contact George at eddsniffer@optusnet.com.au

1 Field Company - Australian Engineers

Gallipoli 25 April to December 1915

The declaration of war on Germany reached Australia by telegram from the British government on 30 July 1914. On 2 August, the Australian government ordered mobilisation. Britain accepted Australia’s offer of an expeditionary force on 6 August and this organisation grew so rapidly that it soon became known as the Australian Imperial Force (AIF). Things moved very quickly indeed.

The AIF was initially to be supported by three companies of engineers. 1, 2 and 3 Field Company - Australian Engineers (FD COY AE). 1 FD COY AE was raised in Sydney and formed up in the Royal Agricultural Society’s showground.

In just one month, 1 FD COY had been raised, trained, equipped and made ready for war. They trained in the use of explosives, made expedient roadways, and bridging was conducted using barrel and pontoon bridges on the duck ponds of Centennial Park. Technical stores were either scarce or non-existent. The unit would have to make up for them overseas.

1 FD COY embarked on the ship “Afric” in Sydney on 18 October 1914, destination Egypt via Albany (Western Australia), Colombo (Ceylon/Sri Lanka), Aden (Yemen) and finally Alexandria, arriving 5 December 1914. They moved to Mena Camp, some 16 Kms from Cairo, and became a part of the 1st Australian Division.

Field fortification training was undertaken on the Suez Canal. 1 FD COY had rotated with 3 FD COY who are reported as having been among the first Australian diggers to fire at the enemy in WWI during an attack on the Suez Canal by Turkish forces. 1 FD COY had a posted strength of 6 Officers, 211 Other Ranks and 76 horses. In March 1915, Australian units were issued with an identifying colour patch. 1 Division was oblong in shape and the engineers were allocated the colour purple. This was a cloth insignia worn at the head of the shirt sleeve and measured about 75 mm x 45 mm.

The orders for the Gallipoli campaign arrived at HQ 1 Australian Division on 20 February 1915. The 3rd Brigade was committed to the initial assault and 1 FD COY was its sapper support. They were transported by ship to the Island of Lemnos on 4 March. On arrival the sappers were under pressure immediately to supply potable water to a large force. 1 FD COY provided a reservoir, laid almost 600 metres of water pipe and produced 26 wells at about 10 metres deep. This produced some 63,000 litres of water per day. They also erected barrack accommodation and signal facilities.

3 Brigade was ordered to provide the initial assault as a “Covering Force” and capture the high ground contiguous with the beach area so as to cover the landing of the remainder of the ANZAC force. The task of 1 FD COY was to establish a road and some landing facilities at the beachhead immediately upon landing. At 0200 hrs they boarded the landing craft, were towed toward their beach and just before first light, the first of these boats touched the beach near Ari Burnu. They received accurate and intense small arms fire immediately from the Turkish soldiers defending that area. Four men of 1 FD COY were KIA in the initial contact. They were: Corporal AJ Mac Donald and Sappers Reynolds, Moore and Howlett. Sapper (SPR) Fred Reynolds was shot in the head before he left the boat and died in the boat as it was being taken back to the ship for another sortie. He is registered as the first soldier to be KIA in the Gallipoli campaign most probably because his is the first name on the records of the receiving vessel as recording its first KIA victim.

The “Reynolds Bar” located in the 1st Combat Engineer Regiment’s (1 CER) lines at Robertson Barracks near Darwin is named as an inspiration to current day 1 CER soldiers and in perpetual memory of Fred and his mates.

... 1 Field Company continues on the next page .

... 1 Field Company continued from previous page.

On landing at ANZAC Cove, most of the 1 FD COY sappers rushed forward with the infantry and had to be brought back from the high ground in order to produce the beach-head facilities for the following ANZAC troops. By 0530 hrs, 3 Brigade had established itself on Plugge's Plateau to cover the landing of the remainder of the ANZAC forces.

On 26 April 1915, 1 FD COY constructed sand bag walls for two dressing stations on the beach and further developed the beach head facilities. The unit was ordered forward to support their original affiliate formation, the 1st Brigade. Once in position, the sappers were involved in extending trenches. By day, they sapped forward so as to stay under cover from Turkish fire. By night they were able to deploy obstacles and knife rests into no-man's-land and other areas. They produced loop-holes for rifle fire, and a bivouac area for administration. Saps measured about 1.5 metres deep by 600 mm wide. Trenches developed from these were about 2 metres deep by 1 metre wide. The soil was described as alluvial moraine which made it amenable for trenching and tunnels, which in many areas, progressed without the need for revetment or the use of timber supports. The throwing of spoil over the top of a trench line allowed the enemy to predict where the Australians trenches were headed and the Turks tried to interdict this work. The order was given to commence tunnelling between fire pits and then collapse the roof afterward thereby completing fire trenches and removing the spoil to the rear.

Turkish mines under Australian positions, particularly at Quinn's Post, led to a continual mine/counter-mine and tunnel/counter-tunnel phase for both sides. Camouflet charges were fired by both sides as counter-measures. However, the Australian and New Zealand sappers began to get the upper hand with offensive mining. An example was the demolition, on 24 July near Lone Pine, of an Australian counter-mine when the Turks were within 1.5 meters of them. The offensive nature of the ANZAC counter-mines caused the Turks to become very careful when sapping forward towards the ANZACs. The Turks, at times, fired their own counter-mines prematurely. Despite this, the Turks were relentless in their mining and tunnelling work.

Living conditions were very uncomfortable with the constant threat of sniper fire, suppressive fire machine guns, rifle patrol clashes, mortar harassment, disease and the incessant need to de-louse their clothes and themselves. Despite this, the sappers continued to develop beach logistic facilities and constructed four landing piers, mostly under some form of enemy fire. The infamous "Watson's Pier" was completed on 17 June using a combination of LT Watson's signallers and sappers from 2 FD COY.

By 30 June 1915, 1 FD COY was down to 33 all ranks due mainly to medical casualties and needed support, in many tasks, from infantry units. Reinforcements eventually arrived in time for the 1st Brigade's assault on Lone Pine on 7 August. The sappers were required to assault with the infantry so that they could quickly organise trenches and other fortifications in time for the infantry to repel Turkish counter-attacks. It was a very intense and dangerous time for the sappers as they often had to mark out the centreline of the trench above ground with the enemy at close quarter, and then dig like hell.

On 17 September, half of 1 FD COY rotated with 4 FD COY and returned to Mudros. This contingent of 1 FD COY did not return to Gallipoli. The remainder of 1 FD COY (-) remained with a strength of 39 all ranks. Shortly after this the unit received some further reinforcements and continued with combat engineering tasks such as developing trenches and construction of administrative and logistic facilities in the forward area.

By 5 December 1915, the decision to abandon the Gallipoli initiative was decided and thinning out of all British and Allied troops commenced. 1 FD COY (-) was withdrawn from Gallipoli in early December to the island of Lemnos. From Lemnos, 1 FD COY was moved to Egypt and supported the 1st Australian Division in the defence of the Suez Canal.

If Gallipoli was considered a bloody baptism of fire for the Australians, the sappers of 1 FD COY were to experience far worse battlefield conditions and enemy firepower in the long months to come in the Somme area of Belgium and France.

To be continued . . .





1 Field Squadron Group
 Royal Australian Engineers Qld Inc.
 28th, 29th & 30th August 2015

2015 FAMILY REUNION REGISTRATION FORM

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: \$150.00 per person.

Covers all events, Friday Meet and Greet, including Saturday Memorial Service and 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 14th August 2015

(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:
 2015 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

1 FIELD SQUADRON GROUP

THE ROYAL AUSTRALIAN ENGINEERS
QUEENSLAND INCORPORATE

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

'NEW MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION'

Mrs
Surname Ms _____ First Names _____
(Family Name) Mr _____ (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 \$ 25.00 (Includes Newsletters)
TOTAL \$ 35.00

MEMBERS SIGNATURE _____ Date ____/____/____



MEMBERSHIP 'RENEWAL / UP-DATE' FORM

\$25.00 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 -

MISSING IN ACTION CLOSURE



The I D Tag belonging to the Missing in Action American Soldier

As many will know I visit Vietnam each year to support Montagnard orphanages in the Central Highlands. On my travels this year, I became involved in a task that was not at all related to building dormitories or kitchens for the orphanages, but which was just as, if not more rewarding than my usual missions.

I am getting past such modes of transport for rider and yours truly took a tumble. No serious damage thank goodness. The red mud of Vietnam has not changed since I was there back in the day.

I made contact with our Consulate in Ho Chi Minh City who contacted our Embassy in Hanoi and forwarded the information to the US Embassy who got back in touch with me.

These remains were indeed those of an American soldier who was listed as MIA. So through a rather convoluted linking, this discovery will bring some closure to a grieving family in the USA for one of their MIA's.

Montagnard folks from a remote village north of Dak To have a cousin who knows one of the Catholic Nuns in Vinh Son 2 orphanage in Kon Tum. She is good friends with the Sisters in Vinh Son1 orphanage. Dak To was on the Ho Chi Minh trail and was the scene of some serious combat during the Vietnam War.

One of these Montagnard men was working his crops and found the remains of an American serviceman. He was afraid to tell the Government for fear of being punished. Via the link through the Nuns, he ended up meeting with me at VS1 orphanage. Seems he were told I could be trusted. I ended up travelling to Dak To to meet with him and some other villagers. My journey was on the back of a motor bike – 120km round trip.

The villagers had the soldier's ID Tags and other bits and pieces they had found with the body. I took photos of all this stuff. My biker friend and I then rode back to Kon Tum in heavy rain, along muddy roads I fear



Mr. A. Ja Cda the Montagnard farmer and my biker mate A. Sieu Lim, at our meeting in Dak To July 2014

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