

## 'FOLLOW THE SAPPER'

Website - [www.1fieldsappers.org](http://www.1fieldsappers.org)  
email: [info@1fieldsappers.org](mailto:info@1fieldsappers.org)

December 2019 Edition 33



### Greetings fellow Sappers and Friends.

As I know you have read in earlier editions, our President has been very active visiting Amiens in France and writing about the significance of the Battle of Amiens 8 to 12 August 1918, not only to the Australian Army but more particularly to our Corps, to the Field Company's that displayed conspicuous bravery during this battle. In acknowledgement of and to honour their feats, your Association is going to erect a 'memorial bridge' in the City of Amiens, dedicated to every Australian engineer unit that served in WW1. And well you may ask, 'what sort of bridge?' It will be a Bailey Bridge. Who of us cannot remember copping bruises from lumping bailey panels around SME during some Field Engineer courses. The plan is to conduct a huge event in Amiens on 8th August 2020. There is plenty of information on the following pages including our Association Press Release, an Itinerary and travel ideas. Folks this is a MUST DO event. It is getting huge coverage so I have no doubt you will learn of it via many other mediums.



General Monash

General Sir John Monash was the Australian commander. I recently came by a 1934 published book of his war letters to his wife and daughter. He wrote this.

*France 15 August 1918  
During the operations which commenced on 8 August, the Australian Corps captured a number of enemy headquarters, both divisional and corps. The whole of the headquarters of the 51st German Army Corps was captured intact, with all their papers, paraphernalia, motor cars, and gear complete.*

*Among the spoil gathered up in this headquarters was a box containing one hundred Iron Crosses all ready for issue. They were in due course "issued" to our own "Biljims" who came back from the battle wearing Iron Crosses all over their anatomy.*

*F.M. Cutlack. War Letters of General Monash. Sydney, 1934, p.261.*

I also spotted this gem on Facebook. Field Marshal Haig commented that, "Australian battle discipline had held up during the war despite the poor discipline away from the front." Monash replied, "A very stupid comment has been made upon the discipline of the Australian soldier. That was because the very conception and purpose of discipline have been misunderstood. It is, after all, only a means to an end and that end is the power to secure coordinated action among a large number of individuals for the achievement of a definite purpose. It does not mean lip service, nor obsequious homage to superiors, nor servile observance of forms and customs, nor a suppression of individuality...the Australian Army is a proof that individualism is the best and not the worst foundation upon which to build up collective discipline."

Well said General Monash. This old soldier reckons what Monash said still stands true today.

Derek Smith - Editor

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6th Australian Battery near Amiens - 8 Aug 1918



Oil Painting by Power H. Septimus.

### Contact Details

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

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

[info@1fieldsappers.org](mailto:info@1fieldsappers.org)

or

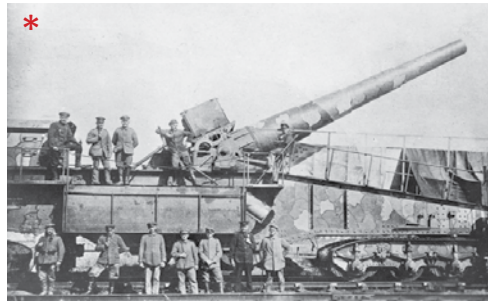
P O Box 236 Raymond Terrace  
NSW 2324

facebook



## SNIPPETS

As you will read in George's Presidents report, our Association has a new Patron, Brigadier John Carey CSC. Our Editor, Derek Smith OAM had the great pleasure of sitting next to him at the North Queensland Waterloo Dinner for 2019. The dinner was held at Jezzine Barracks Military Museum. BRIG Carey delivered the Corps message to provide all present with the current state of the Corps – RAE. We have no doubt our Corps is in good shape moving forward and we are indeed fortunate to have our Head of Corps as Patron of our Association.



You will have read in our last newsletter about the capture of the German railway gun that earned two Sappers the Distinguished Conduct Medal. Here is what one of them recorded. *"We had been sent with a quantity of Amanol to blow up the large gun however Les Strahan had been a driver in the WA railways and he found there was still a head of steam. He asked for a fair go, instead of blowing the gun he got the engine going. We were told then to try to get it back into a cutting so it could be camouflaged."* CPL John Palmer, 8 FD COY. And they did it. Sappernitiative eh!

The Association is proud to have a new marching banner that shows all the conflicts our Sappers, long past and present, have fought. Now of course we can display the Unit Citation for Gallantry that was awarded to the men of those units, including 1 FD SQN GP, who so gallantly fought against enormous odds, at FSB Coral and Balmoral in 1968. It also includes the Army Combat Badge that acknowledges 1 FD SQN GP as a unit that was engaged in combat during the Vietnam War.



Pictured is Association member and veteran of Coral/Balmoral, WO1 John Benningfield OAM (ret'd). John served two tours with 1 FD SQN GP.

Now compare this image of John in the snippet we have placed on Page 8.

## Vale - 1 FD SQN GP RAE members:

The following list is of our brothers who have marched out since our last newsletter.

WO2 Ken Gentle	1 FD SQN GP 1967/68 and 1971	Passed away 18 December 2016
WO1 George Biddlecombe	1 FD SQN GP 1967	Passed away 26 August 2018
SPR Les Stephenson	21 SPT TP 1966/67	Passed away 26 March 2019
LT John Webster	21 SPT TP 1971	Passed away May 2019
SGT John Bending	1 FD SQN GP 1969/70	Passed away 6 June 2019
WO2 Frank Mallard	3 IND FD TP and 1 FD SQN GP 1965/66	Passed away 10 August 2019
SPR Rodney Budge	1 FD SQN GP 1966/67	Passed away 16 August 2019
WO1 Peter Connors	1 FD SQN GP 1970/71	Passed away 22 August 2019
SPR D'Arcy Mackenzie	1 FD SQN GP 1970/71	Passed away 28 August 2019
WO1 Bret Nolan	1 FD SQN GP 1967/68	Passed away 31 August 2019
SPR Terry Evans	1 FD SQN GP 1971	Passed away 16 October 2019
SGT Colin Campbell	1 FD SQN GP 1967/68	Passed away 1 November 2019
CPL John (Jack) Green	1 FD SQN GP 1967	Passed away 27 November 2019

The Corps also lost a serving officer this year, COL Robert Sanders. He passed away on 17 October 2019. Rob had been a Commanding Officer of 3 CER, Townsville.



### Contact Address:

1 Fd Sqn Gp RAE Qld Inc  
P O Box 236 Raymond Terrace NSW 2324

Website : [www.1fieldsappers.org](http://www.1fieldsappers.org)  
Email: [info@1fieldsappers.org](mailto:info@1fieldsappers.org)

facebook

### 1 Field Squadron Group Web Site

is maintained by John Robertson at  
Visreal Productions - Warwick, Queensland. 4370  
Phone 61-7-4661 5222 Mob. 0421 045 100  
Email: [info@visrealproductions.com](mailto:info@visrealproductions.com)

We acknowledge photos marked with \* are from AWM or Wikipedia  
All others are from private collections and in some cases source is unknown.





Amiens Memorial Bridge – A 1st Field Squadron Group Project

## WE NEED YOU IN AMIENS FRANCE ON 8 AUGUST 2020

This is a call to all Australians – particularly members and veterans of the Royal Australian Engineers – to come to Amiens in France and be a part of the dedication of a brand-new memorial to our Sapper heroes of World War One.

The memorial is a Bailey Bridge dedicated to every Australian Engineer unit that served in the Great War.

On 8 August 1918, the first day of the Battle of Amiens, the Australian Engineers were awarded, in one-day, the highest number of high-level decorations for bravery on the battlefield that the Corps has ever received, DSO, DCMs, MCs and MMs. In addition, on 8 August 1918, three Australian Engineer soldiers captured the enormous German, “Amiens Railway Gun”, the barrel of which stands in place of pride at the Australian War Memorial in Canberra.

1st Field Squadron Group Inc. intend to perpetuate the memory of all our WWI Sappers with a memorial in the place where the battle commenced on the anniversary date – Amiens, 8 August 2020, which the Commander of the German General Staff, General Ludendorff, declared as the “Black Day of the German Army.”

Amiens is a start point for WWI battlefield tours. It is about 20 Kilometres from the official Australian WWI memorial at Villers-Bretonneux with its magnificent Sir John Monash visitors centre. If you would like to join us, or for more information, please contact: **Lt Col John Pritchard (Retd) by email: [sappercentral@gmail.com](mailto:sappercentral@gmail.com)**

1st Field Squadron Group have asked Boronia Travel to be our travel agent. Boronia Travel handled the tour and accommodation for the 100th Anniversary of the Waterloo Dinner in Turkey in 2015, so they are well placed in respect of the ethos of the heritage of the Royal Australian Engineers.

**Boronia Travel Agents** can arrange all tour bookings, travel, transfers and accommodation. Boronia Travel have access to a range of Military Historians who will guide you through the Battlefields of The Western Front as well as Dunkirk and The Normandy D Day Beaches.



\* Oil Painting by Power H. Septimus.



## President's Report December 2019

### Engineer Monument to WWI Sappers in France

This project is well advanced and you will see a separate promotion of it in this newsletter. You may have already received promotional material from other sources because John Pritchard has been extensively active promoting our project.

I urge as many Sappers as can come to Amiens in France (one hour by train north of Paris) on 8 August 2020 and bring your medals and slouch hat. More details will be posted on to our website page in addition to follow-up information using the normal email networks.

### 18 February 2020 in Canberra

There will be two commemoration events in Canberra that have a significance on 1 FD SQN GP during the Vietnam War. These are:

1. The 50th Anniversary of Operation Hammersley. This Operation was a major engagement by an 8RAR Battle Group that struck into a heavily fortified position defended by D445 Regiment in the Long Hai Hills in February/March 1970. It involved 8RAR supported by Artillery, Tanks, Cavalry, APCs and Combat Engineers. There were high losses to both sides with 1 FD SQN GP losing one Sapper KIA – Sapper R Hubble and six Sappers WIA – SPR E. Baker, SPR T Binney, SPR J Harrison, SPR D. Jensen, SPR J Miller MM and SPR M. Nevins. The armoured Corps lost several vehicles including a Centurion Tank that was destroyed by satchel charge. To call Operation Hammersley an intense engagement over three weeks would be an understatement. 8RAR was awarded the Republic of Vietnam Cross of Gallantry with Palm Unit Citation (RVCGP) for that unit's contribution to the Vietnam War. Operation Hammersley was their highest achievement during their tour-of-duty and was included in the citation that was written by the government of South Vietnam. 8RAR was awarded the RVCGP but the rest of the supporting units were not. LTCOL Bruce Cameron MC (Retd) is championing this cause (the "Cameron Case" at the DHAAT) and I am representing 1 FD SQN GP at the DHAAT hearing presenting the case to have 1 FD SQN GP awarded the RVCGP Unit Citation. More to follow on this. There will be a full parade of the Colours, Guidons, and the RAE Sovereigns Banner on parade in ANZAC Parade Canberra commencing at 1030hrs 18 February 2020. If you able to attend this ceremony, please contact me at eddsniffer@optusnet.com.au and I will pass on your details to the organisers.

2. FSPB Andersen Last Post Ceremony at the AWM commencing at 1645hrs 18 February 2020 this LPC will focus on FSPB Andersen. This was a disaster for 1 FD SQN GP. We lost four Sappers KIA on one mortar bomb while our lads were in a Standing Patrol position outside the wire. The sappers lost to this event were: S/Sgt C. McLachlan, SPR A. Pattison, SPR D. Steen and LCPL J. Garrett. If you can attend this LPC the poc is Peter Scott at holdfast6970@gmail.com. Peter has also arranged for a United States Corps of Engineers representative to attend the LPC in honour of the US Corps of Engrs soldier KIA at FSPB Andersen.

### Reunion 2019

Our reunion at Twin Towns Services Club, Tweed Heads was well attended and we thoroughly enjoyed the weekend. We conducted a memorial service on the Saturday afternoon in Chris Cunningham Park (next door to the Services Club) honouring our 63 Sappers lost to overseas service since 1945 then enjoyed a dinner where our Patron LTGEN Frank Hickling AO CSC presented the UCG to the FSPB Coral Balmoral 1 FD SQN GP veterans followed by the elevation of a Doctor Leonie Jones PhD to the rank of Honorary Sapper in recognition for her contribution to our campaign to have the UCG awarded to all units involved in

those battles in May/June 1968. General Hickling announced his retirement as our Patron and was presented with a Certificate of Appreciation from the Association plus a Sands of Gallipoli special medallion minted by Mr Hugh Polson, President of the Sunnybank RSL sub/branch and presented by him and Harry Glassen (a well-known RAE veteran).

### New Patron

It is with immense pride that I announce the appointment of our new Patron – Brigadier John Carey CSC - who is the current Head of Corps of RAE. Brigadier Carey is a veteran of the Afghanistan War and has served in several postings including his appointment as the Commanding Officer of the 2nd Combat Engineer Regiment.

### Head of Corps Conference at SME 4 November 2019

The HOC Conference was an inaugural initiative by the current HOC Brigadier John Carey CSC. There were a number of speakers who delivered presentations on current happenings in the Corps, DVA initiatives, a transitioning-out of the ADF update, ESO presentations (including 1 FD SQN GP RAE Inc Association) and a forum for people to meet and discuss ideas. It is anticipated that there will be further HOC ESO conferences going forward.

### Reunion 27/28 August 2021

The reunion for 2021 may require to be modified when compared to our previous reunions. Our numbers are receding. In addition, we are asking that as many of our members as possible attend the bridge dedication in France on 8 August 2020 and this is a significant outlay in financial terms. It would be prudent to provide a reunion at Tweed Heads in 2021 that has less impact on our personal finances. We are looking at a meet and greet on Friday afternoon 27 August 2021 followed by a memorial service in the afternoon of Saturday 28 August 2021 and then the reunion dinner that evening – end of Mission. No Sunday lunch. The AGM can be conducted immediately prior to the dinner. This is not a confirmed arrangement just yet. So, watch this space and we will confirm the arrangements for the 2021 reunion later.

### Colonel John Kemp AM

The Association is grateful that we have "Our man in Canberra" – Colonel John Kemp AM. He has stepped up several times to represent 1 FD SQN GP at meetings dealing with commemorative events involving combat engineers. John represented the Association at the Binh Ba commemoration in Canberra on 6 June 2019 by laying a wreath at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Canberra, attending two social functions on our behalf and attending the LPC at the AWM on the same day. John represented the Association at the Operation Hammersley anniversary coordination meeting arranging for the commemorative ceremony to be conducted in ANZAC Parade, Canberra on 18 February 2020. John represented me (again) as I was in a different part of Canberra attending a DHAAT hearing at the same time. John also lent a hand with the Last Post Ceremony at the AWM also scheduled for 18 February 2020 and which Peter Scott has arranged the RAE and United States Corps of Engineers input. A huge thank you from all of us John. You continue to lead the men you led way back in 1967/68.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to every member of our Association from every member of the committee.

**Follow The Sapper – George Hulse, President**  
15 December 2019

## AUSTRALIAN DEFENCE VETERANS' COVENANT (see [dva.gov.au](http://dva.gov.au))

The Australian Defence Veterans' Covenant serves to recognise and acknowledge the unique nature of military service and the contribution of veterans and their families. The Covenant is supported by the Veteran Card, Lapel Pin and Oath. These provide the opportunity for Australians to identify veterans when they are not in uniform or wearing their medals, and offer respect to them and their family.

Employers, businesses, local community groups and the broader Australian public are able to commit their support for the Covenant. The Covenant provides the framework that enables veterans and their families to better connect with their community.

Veterans and Reservists can apply for the Covenant, including the Veteran Card, Lapel Pin and Oath, on line using MyService. Depending on type of service they may be eligible for all, or some, of the Covenant items.



### AUSTRALIAN DEFENCE VETERANS' COVENANT

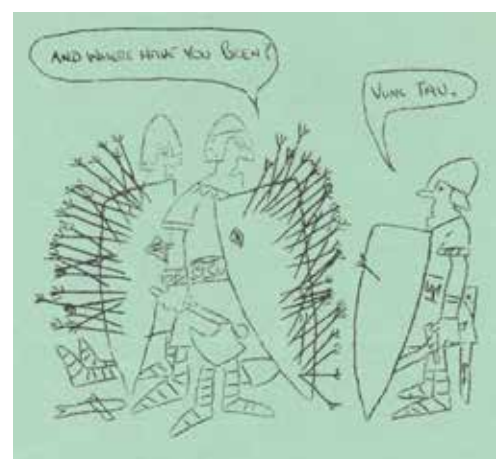
*We, the people of Australia, respect and give thanks  
to all who have served in our defence force and their families.*

*We acknowledge the unique nature of military service and the sacrifice  
demanded of all who commit to defend our nation.*

*We undertake to preserve the memory and deeds of all who have served  
and promise to welcome, embrace, and support  
all military veterans as respected and valued members of our community.*

*For what they have done, this we will do.*

And from our August 1971 Nui Dat News (53 years after Amiens) –  
“The Sapper is a hardened, well trained and highly motivated soldier. He is combat experienced, has received extensive specialized training and is a volunteer. His primary mission is to inflict casualties and to destroy equipment, weapons and installations. His primary weapon is the explosive. This is the description of a Viet Cong Sapper taken from an Intelligence Summary that floated across the Orderly Room Sergeants desk back in the day.”





## THE ITINERARY

SAPPERS – 1st FIELD SQUADRON GROUP WESTERN FRONT BATTLEFIELD TOUR  
AUGUST 2020 - FROM BORONIA TRAVEL CENTRE

### Day 1. Friday - 07 August 2020

For those members travelling on our group flights, upon arrival into Paris Charles de Gaulle you will be greeted by your Tour Director and expert battlefield guide and together, we travel to the World War One Somme battlefields and the city of Amiens. Located on the Somme River and overshadowed by the largest UNESCO world Heritage listed Cathedral in France, Amiens will be our home for the next few nights. Following check in and freshen up, the remainder of the day is free for you to rest or explore the city.

**Overnight: The Campanile Hotel, Amiens**

### Day 2. Saturday - 08 August 2020

Today marks a very special day as we honor the Battle of Amiens and attend a special re-dedication of the Amiens Botanical Gardens and unveil The Memorial Bridge to all Australian Engineer units. Following the service there will be free time in Amiens, perhaps visit the historic Notre-Dame d'Amiens cathedral or the "House with the Tower", where Jules Verne lived from 1882 to 1900. Alternatively you may like to relax and dine at one of the many wonderful restaurants located on the picturesque canal waterfront.

**Overnight: The Campanile Hotel, Amiens**

**Meals: B**

### Day 3. Sunday - 09 August 2020

This morning we commence our Western Front touring of the Somme battlefields, beginning at the famous battleground of Hamel, under Sir John Monash, and the breaking of the Hindenburg Line. We go to the Australian Corps Memorial at Le Hamel, the Richthofen ('The Red Baron') crash site, and the 3rd Australian Division Memorial, before a visit to the Australian National Memorial at Villers Bretonneux, including a tour of the newly opened Sir John Monash Centre. We'll then stop for lunch in nearby Albert (own arrangements) and then make our way to Pozieres and Mouquet Farm, where the AIF suffered 23,000 casualties in several short weeks. We'll see the poignant Windmill Memorial with its chilling acknowledgement: Australian troops ... fell more thickly on this ridge than on any other battlefield of the war, the 1st Australian Division Memorial, and the remains of the "Gibraltar" blockhouse. Other significant sites we will also visit are the Lochnagar mine crater at La Boisselle, Tommy's Museum and Thiepval, where the great British Memorial to the Missing of the Somme stands. We return to Amiens late afternoon.

**Overnight: The Campanile Hotel, Amiens**

**Meals: B**

### Day 4. Monday - 10 August 2020

Following breakfast we make our way to Lamotte – Warfusee, the start line for 'the Advance to Victory'. Making our way through Harbonnières and Chipilly to Mont St Quentin, we stop at the famous 2nd Australian Division Memorial. Our lunch stop today will be in Peronne (own arrangements). This major town was liberated by Australians on 1 September 1918. We then proceed on to the Hindenburg Line to view the Bellicourt tunnel, the 4th Australian Division Memorial and, finally, Montbrechain where the Australians fought their last infantry action of the war.

**Overnight: The Campanile Hotel, Amiens**

**Meals: B**

### Day 5. Tuesday – 11 August 2020

Today we begin at the battlefields of Bullecourt, where the AIF suffered 10,000 casualties in April/May 1917. We visit the Jean and Denise Letaille War Museum and inspect the local memorials including the Bullecourt "Digger" and the Slouch Hat Memorial. We then leave the Somme region heading for Flanders and the ancient town of Ypres. On the way we make an important stop at Fromelles to see where the Australians fought the disastrous action on 19/20 July 1916. We visit the old battlefield and go to the "Cobbers" Memorial, VC Corner and the new Pheasant Wood Cemetery.

We stop for Lunch (own arrangements) in Armentieres and then as we proceed to Ieper (Ypres, as it was known during the war), we travel via Messines to explore the preserved German trenches at Bayernwald overlooking the Messines battlefield. Later upon arrival into Ieper, after settling in and freshening up, together we will attend the Last Post Ceremony at the nearby Menin Gate Memorial during which we will participate in the wreath laying. The remainder of the evening is free to explore our new surroundings.

**Overnight: Novotel Centrum**

**Meals: B**

### Day 6. Wednesday – 12 August 2020

Today we concentrate on the Australian experiences in the Third Battle of Ypres where the AIF suffered over 38,000 casualties in eight weeks – its greatest losses of the war. We explore the battlefields at Hill 60, travel down the Menin Road to Polygon Wood, where the 5th Australian Division Memorial stands, and visit the Passchendaele Memorial Museum with its reconstructed trenches and dugouts and interesting collections from the battles of 1917 followed by time for lunch (own arrangements). Afterwards, we visit the enormous Tyne Cot Cemetery which contains over 11,000 burials including two Australian VC recipients. Then we'll visit the huge German war cemetery at Langemark before returning to Ieper. This evening is free for you to enjoy a final Belgian beer or waffle in the lovely summer atmosphere of the town square.

**Overnight: Novotel Centrum**

**Meals: B**

### Day 7. Thursday – 13 August 2020

This morning after check out, we visit the picturesque medieval city of Bruges, with its wonderful art, architecture, canals, chocolate and lace shops, perhaps enjoy lunch (own arrangements) or ice-cream and waffles in one of the many little cafes, or a scenic boat cruise along the canals. We then conclude our tour of the battlefields returning to Paris early evening. Upon checking in to the hotel, the evening is free to explore the city's many wonderful cafes & restaurants.

**Overnight: Novotel Paris Les Halles, Paris**

**Meals: B**

### Day 8. Friday – 14 August 2020

Today is a Free Day in Paris for you enjoy 'the City of Light'. Perhaps Visit the famous sites of this beautiful city such as the Champs Elysees, the Arc de Triomphe, the Louvre (the largest art gallery in the world) and the famous Eiffel Tower.

**Overnight: Novotel Paris Les Halles, Paris**

**Meals: B**

### Day 9. Saturday – 15 August 2020

The tour comes to an end following breakfast and for those tour members departing to Charles de Gaulle for the group flight, a transfer to the airport is provided (time to be confirmed by your Tour Director)

**Meals: B**

\* Itinerary subject to change due to prevailing circumstances.



\* Amiens is a city in Somme in the former province of Picardy in France.



## A TRAVEL PLAN

ITINERARY ESPECIALLY PREPARED FOR  
SAPPERS – 1ST FIELD SQUADRON WESTERN FRONT  
TOUR

**DATE OF ISSUE** 8 November 2019 **CCTE REFERENCE** SAPPERS AIR  
**CONSULTANT** Peter Symons **GDS REFERENCE** L7KJG7

### CONFIRMED FLIGHT EMIRATES EK 417

Check in at Sydney Terminal 1 ----- Booking Reference EXZ75F  
06 Aug 20 Thu \_\_\_\_\_ Depart Sydney 16:05 Economy  
07 Aug 20 Fri \_\_\_\_\_ Arrive Dubai 00:15 Non-stop  
07 Aug 20 Fri \_\_\_\_\_ Arrival in Dubai Terminal 3  
Aircraft Type \_\_\_\_\_ Airbus A380  
Flight Meals \_\_\_\_\_ Sydney - Meal  
Total Journey Time \_\_\_\_\_ 14hrs 10mins

### CONFIRMED FLIGHT EMIRATES EK 71

Check in at Dubai Terminal 3 ----- Booking Reference EXZ75F  
07 Aug 20 Fri \_\_\_\_\_ Depart Dubai 04:05 Economy  
07 Aug 20 Fri \_\_\_\_\_ Arrive in Paris - CDG 09:25 Non-stop  
07 Aug 20 Fri \_\_\_\_\_ Arrival in Paris Terminal 2C  
Aircraft Type \_\_\_\_\_ Airbus A380  
Flight Meals \_\_\_\_\_ Dubai - Meal  
Total Journey Time \_\_\_\_\_ 7hrs 20mins

### CONFIRMED FLIGHT EMIRATES EK 72

Check in Charles De Gaulle Terminal 2C --- Booking Reference EXZ75F  
15 Aug 20 Sat \_\_\_\_\_ Depart Paris CDG 11:25 Economy  
15 Aug 20 Sat \_\_\_\_\_ Arrive Dubai 20:00 Non-stop  
15 Aug 20 Sat \_\_\_\_\_ Arrival in Dubai Terminal 3  
Aircraft Type \_\_\_\_\_ Airbus A380  
Flight Meals \_\_\_\_\_ Paris - Meal  
Total Journey Time \_\_\_\_\_ 6hrs 35mins

### CONFIRMED FLIGHT EMIRATES EK 416

Check in at Dubai Terminal 3 ----- Booking Reference EXZ75F  
15 Aug 20 Sat \_\_\_\_\_ Depart Dubai 21:30 Economy  
16 Aug 20 Sun \_\_\_\_\_ Arrive Sydney 17:20 Non-stop  
16 Aug 20 Sun \_\_\_\_\_ Arrival in Sydney Terminal 1  
Aircraft Type \_\_\_\_\_ Airbus A380  
Flight Meals \_\_\_\_\_ Dubai - Meal

## GROUP FARE COST PER PERSON \$1,690.00

### GROUP AIRFARE TERMS & CONDITIONS:

- **A DEPOSIT OF \$250 PER PERSON MUST BE PAID TO CONFIRM A PLACE ON THE GROUP AIRFARE.**
- *Group Flight Numbers are limited and subject to spaces being available.*
- *The minimum group size is 10 Passengers, if numbers drop below 10 seats, the booking will no longer be regarded as a group, regardless of when the drop in numbers occurs. The fare will then be reassessed and prices may vary.*
- *The Outbound Travel Date from Australia, Must be with the Group.*
- *Individual returns are permitted from different European Airports and Dates serviced by Emirates subject to availability and will incur a break fee of **\$120.00 per person.***
- *Stopovers in Dubai are permitted, 1 free stopover in each direction is permitted and additional stopovers will incur a fee of **\$150.00.***
- *Date changes after tickets have been issued will be charged at **\$200.00 per ticket to be reissued.***
- *Cancellation Fees will apply at a cost of **\$300.00 per ticket.***

## IMPORTANT CONDITIONS

Please note that tour prices as quoted are subject to change without notice in event of unforeseen circumstances including currency fluctuations, and changes in airfares and land arrangements, which are beyond the control of the Tour Operators.

### TOUR INCLUSIONS

- *Twin share accommodation and those meals specified in the itinerary*
- *Meet/greet with return transfers airport/hotel/airport as specified*
- *Tours and entrance fees to Museums and sites as specified*
- *Maps and other relevant historical material, to assist participants to understand the places of interest visited on the tour.*
- *Assistance from Boronia Travel Centre in obtaining visa, and other travel advice.*

### TOUR DOES NOT INCLUDE

- *Meals other than those specified in the itinerary.*
- *International Travel insurance (required).*
- *Passport and visa fees where applicable.*
- *Items of a personal nature.*
- *Alcoholic beverages (except where included with meals).*
- *Laundry, telephone calls, excess baggage charges etc.*
- *Porterage for more than one piece of travel luggage. Please note in the regional hotels of Turkey and France porterage is not included.*

### ITINERARY

Every effort will be made by Boronia Travel Centre (hereafter shall be called "the Tour Operators") to ensure the itinerary as outlined is observed. Changes will only be made where absolutely essential for the efficient conduct of the tour and in the interest of improving the program. To this end the Tour Operators reserve the right to modify or alter the tour itinerary for any reason. Furthermore, itineraries are subject to alteration if airline schedules are amended. It is suggested that tour participants should check at the time of paying the balance whether tour arrangements have been amended in any way. Each land tour requires a minimum of 20 adult passengers travelling together throughout the tour. If this number is not reached, then the Tour Operators reserve the right to cancel the tour.

### CHANGES IN TOUR PRICE

Prices quoted are subject to change without notice in the event of unforeseen circumstances beyond the control of the Tour Operators; such as fluctuations in currency exchange rates, airfares and land content arrangement costs.

### TOUR RESERVATIONS

Tour reservations can be made by forwarding your booking form and \$500.00 per person non-refundable deposit to: Boronia Travel Centre, P.O. Box 555, Beaconsfield Vic 3807. Please note: Strict deposit/cancellation conditions are imposed by hotels during this period.

### FINAL PAYMENT

Boronia Travel Centre advises participants the final payment is due on or before Friday 31 May 2020.





**Cost of Land Tour is \$3,345.00 per person, twin share (land only).**

Tour Cost Includes:

- Accommodation (Please note hotels are subject to availability at the time of confirmation, and may vary due to final numbers).
- Meals as listed.
- Services of an Expert Australian Battlefield Guide for the full duration of your tour.
- Services of a Tour Director & Driver for the full duration of your tour.
- All Sightseeing as listed.
- Fully air conditioned coach transportation.
- Museum & Site entry Fees as listed.
- Tipping.

### **BORONIA TRAVEL CENTRE**

14A / 55 Old Princes Hwy, BEACONSFIELD VIC 3807, Australia

Tel: 61 3 9796 2744, Fax: 61 3 9769 8660,

Email: [info@beaconsfieldtravel.com.au](mailto:info@beaconsfieldtravel.com.au)

ABN:59 006 847 392



### **Who's down the hole?**

This image was taken by Derek Smith in 1971, one sees legs and boots disappearing into a hole. The hole is a VC tunnel situated outside a school classroom at Hoa Long. Now no one else would know, but those legs and boots are one in the same – John Benningfield. (See John's photo with New Marching banner on page 2).

This image appears in Derek's book, A Twist in the POGO's Tale (page 106)

## **WHAT MAKES A MAN A MAN**

*By John Novello*

*(John served in 21 Support Troop in 1969)*

As a young man they trained us hard  
To fire the weapons and gain each yard.  
We had to run with full packs  
Until we dropped, with aching backs.

They taught us how to disarm mines  
And run for cover at the last,  
Just before the Claymore blasts.  
We all learnt hard to shoot and charge  
And carry the mines with their deadly charge.

After this they said we were men  
I look back now and remember then,  
We were boys at heart, twenty-one all  
They said we were going to Vietnam you know,  
The Sergeant Major said, "Give us a damn good show."

They flew us in by Hercules and landed us among the trees.  
We thought the war had just begun  
As we stood in the rain and had no sun.  
The time went by so slowly then  
On guard at night, I would say a prayer  
To my family from, who knows where.

The guns at night would make a blast  
And the fifty calibre would finish last,  
To sit in ambush in the dark at night  
As the trip flare fired, to see the enemy in sight.



The rest I leave to you my friend  
As now I come to the end.  
Twelve months had past, it was time to leave  
My canvas home amongst the trees.  
It was sad to go and leave my mates  
When they flew me over the compound gates.  
But others will come and others will go,  
And the loss of life is sad you know.

**John Novello is pictured with his mate Allen Coleman at Nui Dat, 1969.**

**John was at our 2019 Reunion.**



## ASSOCIATION HISTORIAN

Our Association is now fortunate to have a historian and who has been awarded honorary membership of the Association. Greg, or Bear as he prefers to be known, has carried out significant research into 1st Field Company and will be a great asset to our Group. Below is a brief biography of Bear.

### Wing Commander Greg Pasfield (Bear)

Greg has had an extensive career in defence and aerospace with significant experience in the air force, joint operations, airlines and emergency services aviation. This work has covered areas such as air operations, flight test and evaluation, capability development, defence acquisition, joint operations planning, aviation safety and training. He is a Wing Commander in the RAAF Reserve having had postings in RAAF Air Mobility squadrons as well as Wing and Headquarters Staff Officer positions. In his final RAAF posting he was Deputy Director Exercise Plans for ADF Headquarters Joint Operations Command.



He spent 7 years dedicated to the introduction of KC-30A MRTT into RAAF operational service and the development of the RAAF Air Refuelling capability and interoperability with all coalition receivers. He is on the Board of Directors of the International Air Refuelling Systems Advisory Group (ARSAG) as well as having provided SME advice to European Air Group (EAG), NATO JAPCC and aircraft manufacturers on AAR interoperability.

He has qualifications in Advanced Air Force Studies, Advanced Air Power, Flight Test and Evaluation, Joint Operations Planning, Airworthiness and Aviation Safety and Risk Management. He has completed flight test courses at the US National Test Pilot School and US Navy Test Pilot School.

During his air force career he has had operational experience with B707, DHC-4 Caribou, C-130H/J, C-17A, C-27J, 737 BBJ VIP and Challenger CL-604 VIP, S-70A Blackhawk, UH-1H Iroquois, CH-47D Chinook, F/A-18A/B&F and KC-30A MRTT. In his last posting in RAAF Air Mobility Group, he was Staff Officer Capability Management for all RAAF Air Mobility aircraft. In this position he was an Air Mobility SME to the Air and Space Interoperability Council (ASIC) for the 5-eyes nations.



He also has a corporate business background with international defence aerospace companies and extensive experience working with government agencies.

He is currently Business Development Manager Aerospace and UAS Range Flight Test Director for QinetiQ Australia.

### “ March On The Colours ”

Our Association members proudly marched, each carrying an Australian flag representing each RAE member and dog lost in conflict during and since Vietnam. Our members followed our new marching banner carried by Coral/Balmoral veterans Ken Ford and John Benningfield OAM and as can be seen, were battling still but now, just against a strong wind. Each flag bearer came forward to the Cenotaph as the name of our fallen was read out. Their name liveth on and we **WILL** remember them.

Our President George officiated with guest speaker our retiring Patron, LT GEN Frank Hickling AO CSC, our Padre Fr. John Reid and Corps RSM (RAE) WO1 Sean Chainey DSM.



## Executive and Committee Members 2019 - 2020

### Patron:

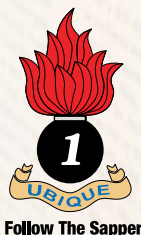
Brigadier John Carey CSC

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Mob: 0412 341 363

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**Hon: Secretary - Treasurer:** Jim Weston  
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## OUR HONORARY SAPPER DOCTOR LEONIE JONES

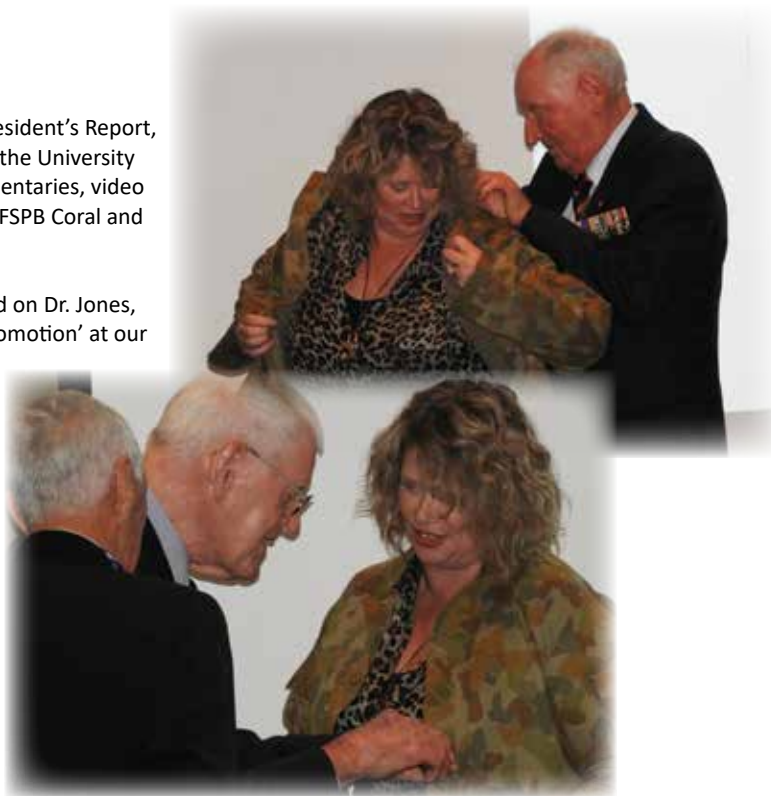
Association members will recall from our June 2018 edition, President's Report, mention of the 'on-going audio visual magic of Doctor Jones of the University of Southern Queensland. Leonie produced a number of documentaries, video presentations and audio-visual short run clips on the battles of FSPB Coral and Balmoral.

Our President, George totally supported by members, conferred on Dr. Jones, the rank of 'Honorary Sapper' and planned to formalise her 'promotion' at our August 2019 reunion.

Well that happened much to the delight of all present and of course, to Leonie.

It was a memorable event. Our past Patron, LT.GEN. Frank. J. Hickling. AO. CSC (Retd), anointed Leonie with her new gown – well camouflage shirt actually.

Then Colonel John Kemp AM, pinned the badge to her shirt, this event drawing many laughs from all.



## Award Presentations

At our Reunion dinner, those veterans of Coral/Balmoral were awarded their UCG. Our President George told all present that the Infantry veterans of Coral/Balmoral were awarded their UCG by very senior officers. Our guys received their award in the mail.

So the Association needed to rectify this and we did it way better. Our veterans were re-issued their UCG by a LT GEN, our very own Frank Hickling. We are, we are the Engineers eh! Pictured are some of those men waiting to be given their UCG.



## George Hulse's Book – "In Dogs We Trust"

We are the War Dog team .... and this is our story.

To be the very first person that an enemy soldier sees and not to be able to look for the enemy yourself while you concentrate on any indication of trouble from your dog in front of you requires a special kind of combat soldier. It requires a special kind of dog. This book will give you what it's like to be that person taken from first-hand experiences of military working dog handlers in both the Australian Army and the Royal Australian Air Force. Be amazed, informed and captivated by the accounts of this special asset in the Australian Defence Force that you probably didn't know existed.

Sales of George's book is going well. Order yours and a copy for a friend now before stocks run out!



George signing a copy for Association member Robert Ihlein while his wife Beverley chats to Jackie Ford.

[www.aussiewardogs.org](http://www.aussiewardogs.org)



**1 FIELD SQUADRON GROUP**THE ROYAL AUSTRALIAN ENGINEERS  
QUEENSLAND INCORPORATED

( 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	\$ 30.00 (Includes Newsletters)
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 40.00</b>

MEMBERS SIGNATURE \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

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

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

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(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/ Postal Order to PO Box 236 Raymond Terrace NSW 2324 or  
Direct Deposit to Heritage Bank BSB 638-070 Account 10045570 with your details.

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.



## Sappers Everywhere

We are building a monument to our WWI Army Engineer heroes in Amiens France. It will be a Single/Single Bailey Bridge. But we need a hand to pay for it.

Please go to the **Go Fund Me** website, click on "Search" and type in "Have some heart for the Sappers of Amiens", make a donation and then pass the information on to every other person you can contact to lend a helping hand.

A thousand thanks from every Sapper including all those who have long marched out and particularly every Sapper of WWI. Bring your slouch hat and medals and march with us on 8 August 2020 in Amiens France when we dedicate the bridge as a monument to every engineer unit of WWI.



[www.gofundme.com/f/have-some-heart-for-the-sappers-of-amiens](http://www.gofundme.com/f/have-some-heart-for-the-sappers-of-amiens)



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

## 1 Field Squadron Group Merchandise

NEW STYLE CAPS AND SHIRTS



1 Fd. Sqn. Gp. Polo Shirt - \$40.00 + P&H  
Check out the fabric - breathable  
and definitely no ironing.

*Note: Sizes are limited to Small  
(Suitable for the Girls),  
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Show your support for the Afghanistan veterans by  
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One size fits most.

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* 1 Fd Sqn Gp RAE Polo Shirts. Size: {    }	[    ]	No. required \$25.00 ea. + \$8.50 P&H=	\$ .....
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Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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