



WARTIME
VEHICLE
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CONSERVATION
GROUP-S.A.



BARTREAD

NEWSETTER **OF THE** *WVCG SA INC.*



JUNE 2013
ISSUE NUMBER 6

WELCOME ABOARD

The Benghazi Express



WE NEED YOU

To join your mates on the Benghazi Express over the Long Weekend, 5—7 October 2013 to fight the German Troops who will attack the train twice somewhere between Woolshed Flat and Quorn. It is believed there could be disguised German Soldiers on the train ready to assist their comrades when the train is attacked. The German troops will be supported by vehicles and aircraft strafing the train. So speak to the wife and organise your leave passes *NOW*. Help your mates fight off the attacks. *More updates in future magazines.*

WE LOOK FORWARD TO YOU JOINING US
Pichi Richi Troop Train from Pt Augusta to Quorn

THE HARD LIFE OF A JEEP





REPORT FROM RICKS BARN



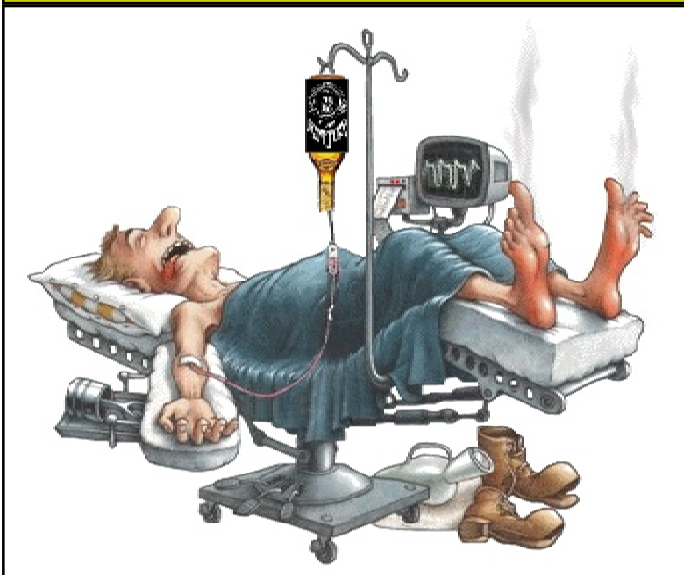
The regular group of guys, Mick Jenner, Alan Newton and Tony Van Rhoda again attended Rick's barn to pitch in and help out. This was to assist in standing up the framework ready for collection to be sandblasted and painted. Once it has all been blasted, painted and returned, work can commence on re-constructing this giant "Meccano" set on site for the new "Rick's Barn". Which will contain a new workshop and to house his collection of restored vehicles. A lot of work still to go before completion, but when completed it will be a real showplace. And a credit to Rick and Fiona.



Rick, Alan and Mick assist in attaching the chains for the crane lift.



Allan and Mick survey their handiwork, all the steel beams lined up like soldiers on parade.



REPORT from COROWA

This picture was sent in by a mystery person who was at the 2013 Corowa Swim In. The anonymous person claimed Allen Newton had a run in with a “Mr Jack Daniels” and it is reported Allan came off second best.

Allan was asked what he knew of the incident and all he had to say to the enquirer was. “No comment”.



CONSCRIPTION WAS AN ABUSE

An apology and redress is needed to the thousands of young men conscripted into the Australian Army.

Reprinted as written by:

BRUCE HAIGH

On November 26 last year Defence Minister Stephen Smith announced a judicial inquiry into cases of abuse within the Australian Defence Force from the 1950's through to the present day. The single act of introducing conscription, by ballot, of young men into the Australian Army, in the years 1965 to 1972, for military service overseas in a war zone, constitutes one of the graver acts of abuse and bullying of Australian citizens in recent history. The judicial inquiry, should look at the ethics, effect, equity and justice of conscription. It was an abuse of power and of people, and redress and an apology are required to right the wrong that was committed.



HMAS Sydney – an aerial shot showing her open flight wells. The aircraft carrier was not air-conditioned and in the tropics the heat below decks was extreme.

Australia twice voted against the introduction of conscription during World War I. Conscripts fought in Papua, in World War II, because it was an Australian Territory; they fought with great distinction on the Kokoda Track, stopping the Japanese just short of Port Moresby and getting abused by the head of the Army, General Thomas Blamey, for their trouble.

Conscription or national service as it was euphemistically called, was introduced in

1965 to provide a pool of trained young men for military service in Vietnam, Australia had a professional army of volunteers, but after the decision was made to go to war with the United States, concern was expressed within a small a restricted circle of government, that volunteers might not come forward in sufficient numbers to man an expanded army in a commitment of unknown duration and intensity.

The Prime Minister, Robert Menzies, announced the introduction of conscription on November the 10, 1964; the necessary amendments to the Defence Act were made on April 6, 1965. Menzies announced the commitment of 1 RAR, a battalion of regular soldiers, to Vietnam the next day. He gave no indication that he intended to send the first of the conscripts when their training was completed at the end of 1965



Boarding diggers' in 1966. HMAS Sydney departed Sydney, Brisbane, Fremantle, Port Adelaide and Townsville during her 25 operational deployments to South Vietnam between May

In citing the need for a limited ballot to draft 20 year old men into the army for two years, Menzies referred vaguely to the growing communist threat from the north and the need for Australia to be prepared to meet any sudden threat quickly.

There was also a hint that Indonesia might again threaten regional security. However it seems that Menzies knew exactly why he wanted a bigger army; he had given secret undertakings to the US that Australia would be prepared to give legitimacy, through provision of Australian troops, to a much increased US involvement in Vietnam. It was an act mirrored by another Liberal prime minister, John Howard, nearly 40 years later.. On August 6th, 1964, the US Congress gave the president the pow-

to take whatever action he thought necessary in Vietnam. This was expressed in the Gulf of Tonkin Resolution. Menzies and foreign minister Paul Hasluck were led to believe that Australia would be asked to make a major commitment to the war in Vietnam.

If Menzies had wanted to prepare for a general but unspecified threat he would have drafted young men not only into the army but also into the navy and air force. This was the system in operation from 1950 to 1960. This system required three months full-time training and a camp once a year. It was scrapped because the service arms saw it as an unnecessary drain on limited resources. Too much time was spent on training recruits rather than lifting and maintaining the skills of professional volunteers.

Anne Marie Jordens, in a chapter "Conscription and dissent" of the book *Vietnam Remembered* (New Holland, 2009). Says. Menzies avoided seeking a mandate before introducing conscription for overseas service....and the intense secrecy with which the government enshrouded its plans, ensuring no widespread debate occurred before the scheme was firmly in place.

From 1965 to 1972, 804,000 young men registered for national service, 63,375 conscripts served in the army, 19,450 in Vietnam; 1479 were injured and 200 killed. Many others were killed and injured during training and road accidents travelling interstate to see family and friends. No record has been kept of national servicemen who died while serving in the army, other than in Vietnam. More than 61,000 Australians served in Vietnam 42,700 in the army. In all, 520 Servicemen died in Vietnam and 2398 were wounded.

Conscripts or "Nashos" as they liked to refer to themselves, were not legally allowed to vote or drink at the time of their registration; they were not allowed to take out a bank mortgage. They were legally under-age. The only way out of military service was to fail the medical, become a conscientious objector, evade the law or be undertaking studies or skills training at the time of registration. Some were allowed to join the Citizens Military Forces because they were in reserved occupations, such as farming.

Unlike regular soldiers awarded the Australian Defence medal, they are not entitled to a pension. By and large they accepted their fate and made good and loyal soldiers; they fought with distinction in Vietnam and did their duty in Australia. They are not asking for much, just recognition that at the age of 20 they were removed from family, friend, jobs and careers and stripped off everything familiar, including their hair. They were taught to be aggressive, mechanical, neat and tidy.

Recognition of the nature of the 1965/72 National Service Scheme and of the ethics of conscripting men, not yet able to vote, for service overseas in a war as bloody and complex as either of the two world wars and Korea needs

acknowledgement and examination. Conscripted and trained 63,000 to go to a specific war. They were not just trained to be soldiers; they were trained to go to Vietnam.

Nashos who went to Vietnam get the benefit due to veterans of that war. It has been suggested that the 1965/72 conscripts would like a clasp on their National Service Medal to show the years in which they served and some limited benefits, such as an annual medical check and a rebate on commonly used drugs, hearing aids and glasses, for conscripts who, although eligible, did not go to Vietnam.

The judicial inquiry should look into the abuse brought about by the unjust act of conscription an act that led to a great deal of protest and civil unrest. The enquiry should examine the efficiency of an apology and the introduction of some benefits to conscripts who are not recipients of other veteran entitlements.

**Bruce HAIG is a political commentator and
a former national serviceman and diplomat.**

A NIGHT OUT WITH THE SEA SCOUTS

On evening of the 10th April members of the WVCG attended the Noarlunga Sea Scout Troop at their base head quarters. 5 WVCG members vehicles were placed on display for the sea Scouts to view and each member and described their vehicle and spoke about their role in WW2. The Sea Scouts were broken into groups and were able to talk to the owners and sit in the vehicles.

The Noarlunga Sea Scout Group is the largest in Australia with 120 members, both boys and girls. WVCG members were made very welcome. The Scout Group leader Adam Burge is also a member of the WVCG. Adam gave us a tour of their facilities, Boat Ramp, Club Rooms, Canoes and boats. They then put on a sumptuous BBQ for us and after a good evening we all headed back home.

Our thanks go to Adam Burge and his Sea Scouts for making us welcome and to WVCG members; Aaron FELL, Mick Jenner, Pedr HORLEY, Brad MITCHELL, and Tony VAN RHODA, who supplied their vehicles for the evening event.





SPECIAL CLUB NOTICE

All members are reminded that our annual "Registration Day" will be held on **SUNDAY 23rd JUNE 2013** at Hazelwood Park, behind the swimming pool. Turn left off Greenhill Road into Howard Avenue, then first left into Davenport Terrace and you are there. Take your military vehicle for a ride and also bring your Log Book and vehicle Registration Papers for stamping. Statutory declarations for members with historic vehicles will be available for signing on the day. Tony Van Rhoda JP. Will be in attendance on the day to witness your statutory declarations.

BBQ LUNCH PROVIDED BY THE CLUB

MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS NOW DUE

You will shortly receive a renewal notice for membership for the 2013/14 financial year. As previously announced, the fee for existing members has been increased to \$50 to cover increasing costs of operation.

Fees can be paid on the inspection day on 23rd June at Hazelwood Park, or forwarded directly to the Treasurer or Secretary, as follows.

Mick Jenner

Treasurer WVCG

6 Bowden Court

MOUNT BARKER SA 5251

Rick Shearman

Secretary WVCG

PO Box 213

DAW PARK SA 5041

IMPORTANT NOTICE FOR OPERATORS OF VEHICLES ON HISTORIC REGISTRATION

With the passing of the new legislation covering the registration of historic vehicles, the Department of Planning, Transport and Infrastructure (DPTI) is now enforcing the requirement of operators of vehicles on historic registration to be financial members of approved organizations at all times. In effect this means that **there is no longer a "grace period"** and members not financial from 1 July 2013 will effectively be considered as having unregistered (and un-insured) vehicles.

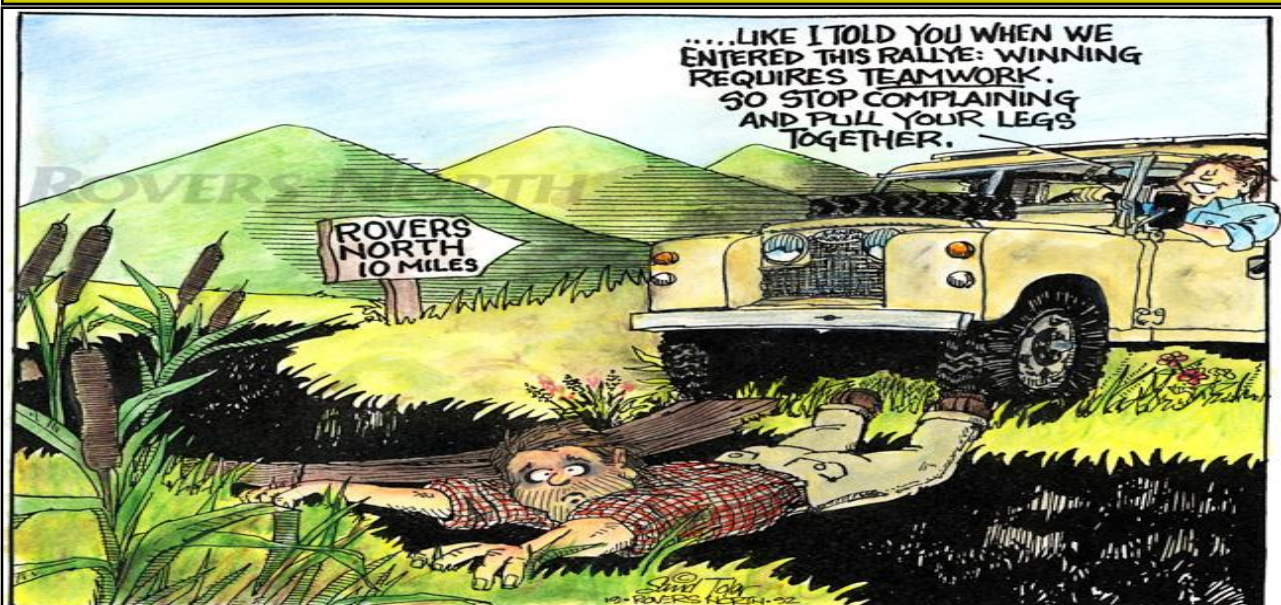
From 1st September 2013 the club will be required to submit names of un-financial members to the department. The department may then revoke the registration and require the operator to undergo a new registration application.

Members are therefore urged to ensure their membership of the club remains current by renewing before the 30 June 2013.

THE GLOBAL HAWK



The Global Hawk is controlled via satellite. It flew missions that went from Edwards AFB and back nonstop. Basically, they come into the fight at a high mach # using military thrust power, fire their AMRAAMS, and no one ever sees them or paints with radar. There is practically no radio chatter because all the guys in the flight are tied together electronically and can see who is targeting who, and they have AWACS (Airborne Early Warning and Control Systems) direct input, as well as 360 situational awareness from that and other sensors. The enemy had a definite morale problem before it was all over. It is to air superiority what the jet engine was to aviation. It can taxi out, take off, fly a mission, return, land and taxi back on its own. There are no blackouts, pilot fatigue, relief tubes, ejection seats, and best of all, no dead pilots, and no POWs...





ANZAC DAY—2013



Another Anzac Day has come and gone and again members of the WVCG rallied and supplied their vehicles to carry Australian veterans of conflicts around the world. It was hoped that people at the march would have provided the editor with photographs of their wonderful vehicles, but alas few were provided.

The 2013 Anzac Day March was again very well supported by members of the public who turned out in droves. This all looks very promising for the 100th anniversary in 2015. It was estimated that around 10,000 people turned up for the Dawn Service and what I have heard around the net, all country towns had larger than normal attendances at their Dawn Services.

I was proud to again carry Rat's of Tobruk Veterans, two were 92 years of age and I found that even though they were getting older they had not lost their sense of humour and we had a lot of laughs along the way. One of my veterans was, Max "Chappie" CHAPMAN of Moonta. The Advertiser printed a long story of his time in the desert and New Guinea and I was proud to carry him in the march. I took a photo of him behind the wheel of my Jeep.



Tony Van Rhoda with Rats of Tobruk aboard



Pedr Horley and Nashos in his Land Rover



John Hornibrook with a Veteran in his Jeep



Aaron Fells & Nashos in his Vietnam MUT

Rommel's 'War Without Hate'

By: Steven Pressfield.

*In this article, he introduces a new – Point of View – in which authors and other experts present questions based on their research for readers to discuss. Here, Pressfield raises questions about why the North Africa Campaign is known as a **war without hate.**"*



The North Africa campaign (1940–43) of World War II was characterized by a quality rarely seen in warfare of this age or any other: chivalry. This is particularly interesting since just about every other campaign of that war produced no shortage of barbarities, atrocities, torture and genocide, with which the world is all too familiar—not to mention the outrages we see now coming from Iraq and other Middle East theatres. What made North Africa different?

Field Marshal Erwin Rommel, who commanded the Axis forces for most of the campaign, wrote a book about his experiences there called *Krieg Ohne Hass* (**War Without Hate**). It was common practice in the North Africa campaign for machine gunners of both sides to hold their fire when enemy soldiers bailed out of shot-up tanks. Stretcher bearers were routinely permitted to dash into the open to retrieve the wounded. (Of course there were notorious exceptions; the Italians displayed the nasty habit of killing any Arabs suspected of collaborating with the British by hanging them by a hook set under their jaw.) But by and large, the troops of the British. Field Marshal. Archibald Percival Wavell, General. Claude Auchinleck, General. Sir Neil Methuen Ritchie, Field Marshall. Bernard Montgomery, Field Marshal. Harold Alexander, and those of Rommel and his generals behaved with remarkable restraint.

Rommel himself was one of the foremost practitioners of this knightly self-command. One famous incident reported in the British press tells of Afrika Korps troops overrunning a British field hospital in which both Axis and Allied soldiers were being cared for by the British doctors and staff, who had refused to withdraw in the face of the enemy approach but had insisted on remaining with their patients. When Rommel learned of this, he went personally to the hospital, shook the hand of every man and woman on the staff and with great emotion thanked them for their care of his men. He asked them to stay on until he could bring up his own doctors and nurses, to which the British readily agreed. Rommel deliberately did not take them prisoner (which might have set them at hazard once they were out of his direct care) but instead saw to it that they were repatriated through neutral Switzerland.

Rommel insisted that Allied prisoners receive the same rations and care that he did. Brigadier Desmond Young (who wrote the excellent Rommel The Desert Fox) tells

Rommel insisted that Allied prisoners receive the same rations and care that he did. Brigadier Desmond Young (who wrote the excellent *Rommel The Desert Fox*) tells the story of his own capture by the Germans. The battery that Young commanded remained unsubdued, though surrounded. An Afrika Korps officer held Young at gunpoint, demanding that Young order his men to hoist the white flag. Young told him to stuff it. The situation was getting a bit sticky, as the Brits might say, when suddenly a staff car chanced to appear, braking in a cloud of dust. Out stepped Rommel. As soon as the situation was explained to the Desert Fox, he upbraided his own officer for conduct in violation of the code of soldierly honour. The officer would have to find, Rommel declared, another way of solving the problem.

My questions are: Was this sort of chivalrous conduct merely a freak of war, an anomaly? Or were there reasons why the Germans, British and Commonwealth troops behaved by and large so decently toward one another—and, if so, what were those reasons? Can we learn something from them? Are those days gone forever?

MOWING THE GRASS

A picture of this Australian Digger in Afghanistan with His Tiny ‘Plot of Grass’ in front of his tent. It's heart-warming! Here is a soldier stationed in Afghanistan ; posted to a Big Sand Box. He asked his wife to send him dirt (Australian soil), fertilizer, and some grass seed so that he can ‘smell the grass’, and feel it grow beneath his feet. When the men of the Squadron have a mission that they are going on, they take turns walking through the grass in Australian soil – to bring them good luck

If you notice, he is even cutting the grass with a pair of scissors. Sometimes we are in such a hurry that we don't stop and think about the little things that we take for granted. Upon receiving this, please say a prayer for our Australian Soldiers that give and give (and give up) so unselfishly for us.



A FITTING MEMORIAL

A memorable end product made from a destroyed building which took the lives of many innocent people.

Here she is, the USS New York, made from the World Trade Centre.

She was built with 24,000 tons of scrap steel from the World Trade Centre ..

It is the fifth in a new class of warship - designed for missions that include special operations against terrorists. It will carry a crew of 360 sailors and 700 combat-ready Marines to be delivered ashore by helicopters and assault craft..

Steel from the World Trade Centre was melted down in a foundry in Amite , LA to cast the ship's bow section. When it was poured into the moulds on Sept 9, 2003, 'those big rough steelworkers treated it with total reverence,' recalled Navy Capt. Kevin Wensing, who was there.. 'It was a spiritual moment for everybody there.'

Junior Chavers, foundry operations manager, said that when the trade centre steel first arrived, he touched it with his hand and the 'hair on my neck stood up.' 'It had a big meaning to it for all of us,' he said. 'They knocked us down. They can't keep us down. We're going to be back.'

I am sure every sailor who sails in her will be so proud.



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ITEMS FOR SALE

MEMBERS WISHING TO SELL ANY ITEMS ARE REQUESTED TO FORWARD ALL DETAILS OF ITEMS FOR SALE AND INCLUDE A PHOTOGRAPH, TO THE EDITOR. Tony VAN RHODA. Via to email: gumbrae@arcom.com.au - or Post to. Tony Van Rhoda. 49 Barton Circuit Mount Barker SA 5251.

FOR SALE

Original Brass Fire Extinguisher.
Ready for restoration. \$60.00
Contact. Tony Van Rhoda.
Phone: 08 8391 1864



FOR SALE

Trailer Lunette Ring.
Suit a WW2 Jeep Trailer.
Priced for a quick sale. \$80.00
Contact. Tony Van Rhoda.
Phone: 08 8391 1864



CLEARING SALE

Alan NEWTON is having a clearing sale and nearly everything he has is going up for sale.

So if you are looking for parts give Allan a call and secure your items.

Contacted Alan for details of all Items on sale.

Mobile: 04286 685 463

Alan_n@bigpond.net.au