



RTFV-35SQN Newsletter

16 March 2009

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Hi Everyone

We are now able to join and pay online. The membership form is on our website making it easier for new members to join. Our first application online was Ian Jacobsen (Jake). Ian was in Vietnam 1968/69. He was a G.D. pilot. He was a sumpy before going on to be a pilot. Hopefully there will be many more applications online.

Our webmaster is looking at software that will allow us to play audios/dvds on our website. He is also looking at a counter to record the number of visits we receive. We have all the statistics that can show how many people visit our website. Until the counter becomes active, a link will be provided to files that contain the statistics from the start of the site.

We are still looking for written articles for the web. Do you have an amusing tale to tell ?

ANZAC Day 2009

The assembly point for the Anzac Day march is Elizabeth Street, heading George Street (Casino side) the same as last year.

I had a meeting with the Port Office Hotel people for the after march function on Anzac Day. Local beer i.e. Gold, Mid, Heavy pots \$2 each, stubbies \$5 each, basic spirits \$5 each, Jimmy cans etc \$7.50 each, wine \$5 per glass, bottle wine \$21, soft drinks \$2, food/entry cost \$13. This is excellent, no increase on last year. Don't forget if you don't/can't march, you are more than welcome to join us at the Port Office – 11:00 a.m. opening. The Port Office has been renovated. It now caters for 400 so there should be plenty of room.

A copy of the order of march can be found on page 4 of this newsletter or on the web.

Caribou for the War Memorial

I have been in contact with Senator Hogg (President of the Senate) about having a Caribou placed in the War Memorial. I have also spoken to Allan Griffiths (the Minister for D.V.A.). He will support any submissions to have a Caribou placed in the War Memorial. I am also in contact with Joel Fitzgibbons (the Minister for Defence) about this issue as well as any functions that may be held in

honour of the Caribou. I will be contacting the R.A.A.F. Department as well as 38 Squadron to find out if there are any functions. At this stage I have had no confirmation of any official functions in honour of the Caribou. As soon as I hear anything I will forward all the information on to all members.

I also spoke to Andrew M. Stackpool, senior journalist with the Defence Directorate re the possibility of getting the Caribou at the War Memorial and also the demob of the Caribou.

Latest information from Andrew:

In follow-up to our earlier communications, you may have seen the announcement by Fitzgibbon and Gillard at Point Cook regarding A4-140 and A4-152.

A4-140 is being gifted to the AWM after it pays off either late this year or early next; 152 if going to the RAAF Museum about the same time.

We have nothing yet on the decommissioning process this year of all airframes, but 140 and 152 will be among the last (if not the last) to go.

Fitting as my research indicates they were in the initial batch handed over in Canada.

That's all I have at the moment. Apart from the announcement, there has been no information coming from ALG (I guess they are still nutting through the fine print), or across the Lake.

However, it is announced that 28SQN will receive the Army's three King Airs and those, with RAAF's and the C-130s, will perform all the Caribou tasks until a decision on the replacement is announced and obtained.

I think (and the key word here is think; this is a personal, unofficial observation) that the Italian **may** be the preferred frontrunner but don't quote me; speculation, like an oral contract, ain't worth the paper it's written on!

I have heard nothing official and I think a decision may still be a little way off; post White Paper?

Anyway, we have now run two items on the announcements.

Andrew M. Stackpool

Senior Journalist
Defence News Directorate

Model Caribou 171

My dear partner bought me a model Caribou. She purchased it from Collectors Aircraft Model Ltd. England telephone 0208 754 7281 fax 0208 759 5393 or online at: www.collectorsaircraft.com.

The model I have is of A4-171. I have its history. She went swimming at An thoi. The pilot was Flg. Off. Alan Aitken co-pilot was the C.O. Sqn. Ldr. Tony Fookes. The model Caribou cost 149.95 English Pounds which converts to approx. \$330 Aussie dollars plus 4.50 English Pounds handling and postage. If we can get enough interest I will get a price on 10 of them. John Griffith purchased one in the Philippines but that was

some time ago. You can order any number that you want on the models as well as camo or plain markings.

Some photos of the model can be found on the following page.

Who owns the cap?

I also spoke to Andrew Stackpool, about finding the owner of a ball cap He was chasing us re a . The cap has embroidered on it "RAAF Transport Flight, Vietnam, Vung Tau". It has corporal stripes and the name "Jerry" on the back. If you know who owned it, please let me know and I will pass on the info to Andrew. We also spoke about finding out the deceased members of RTFV/35Sqn. Andrew is looking into this for us.

I have done a bit of research on RTFV/35Sqn. There were approx. 660 who served with about 70 of those have passed away. I will continue to update my data base on those who have passed. If you know someone who has served and has passed away, could you please let me know.

Australian History

24.08.08 Wednesday Tommy Burns defeats local Bill Squires in first World Title Fight held in Australia.

27.08.08 Saturday — Don Bradman born.

10.09.25 Saturday—Moreton Bay settlement called Brisbane

3.09.39 Saturday — Australia declares war on Germany.

1.09.51 Thursday — ANZUS pact signed by Australia, New Zealand and U.S.A.

16.09.56 Friday — First regular T.V. service launched in Sydney.

More events to follow in future newsletters.

Passing Parade

VALE

FATHER JOHN GRANNAL MBE. Father John passed away 28.12.08. His funeral was held 6.01.09 at Wallerawang. Father John served 1969/70

Alf Boyd, possibly our oldest member, passed away on 20.11.08. Alf has a story on our website.

Mick Gwin also passed away 12.12.08 (cancer). There was no funeral for Mick. There will be a Memorial Service for Mick at the Currumbin R.S.L. Cenotaph, Currumbin Creek Rd, Currumbin Thursday, 2.04.09 at 11:30 a.m. followed by a celebration of his life at the adjacent function rooms.

Our deepest sympathy goes out to all those who have lost loved ones.

Sick Parade

Charlie Kranenburg is recovering after a series of operations. Barry Sharman is recovering from heart surgery.

Wallaby Airlines

I have just read Jeff Pedrina's book, "Wallaby Airlines". It is very good. It mentions names and places I have never heard of. Copies are available through the Australian War Memorial in Canberra. It will be available in the Aviation bookshops in the U.K.

Congratulations to all of those who received the air medal.

John Sambrooks

The Caribou model



2009 ANZAC Day
Order of March—Air Force

AREA `B' - AIR FORCE

LEADER AIR FORCE

69. RAAF AMBERLEY
 70. COMBAT SUPPORT (RAAF) ASSN
 71. 23 SQN CITY OF BRISBANE (WITH COLOURS)
 72. 23 SQN ASSN
 73. 2 AIRFIELD DEFENCE SQN
 74. AIR FORCE GAP YEAR
 75. AIRFIELD DEFENCE ASSN
 76. 36 SQN
 77. 2 SQN (RAAF) ASSN QLD
 78. 3 SQN RAAF
 79. 450 SQUADRON
 80. 456 SQUADRON
 81. 458 SQUADRON
 82. 460 SQN RAAF ASSN
 83. 467/463 SQUADRON
 84. AIR CREW ASSN
 85. PATHFINDERS ASSN
 86. RAAF POLICE ASSN
 87. RAAF S.W.PACIFIC
 88. SUNDERLANDERS ASSN
 89. WAAAF ASSN
 90. RTFV/35 SQN ASSN
 91. NO 9 SQN (RAAF) VIETNAM
 92. WRAAF BRANCH RAAF (A)
 93. RAAF NATIONAL SERVICEMEN'S BRANCH
- AIRFORCE CADET 212 SQUADRON DRUM BAND
94. RAAF ASSOC PINE RIVERS

Friday, January 16, 2009

Hi fellow members,

John Sambrooks has kindly invited me to contribute a few words on my five years experience as the former Everyman's ADF/Veterans advocate at Gallipoli Barracks.

I guess the most significant thing that kept recurring during these five years was the reluctance of serving personnel to declare their injuries or to ask questions at the medical discharge seminars. There were a number of reasons for this, primarily the fear of not being promoted, the fear that they would miss out on an operational posting, thereby forgoing their opportunity of the benefits that go with this type of posting (tax breaks & gongs) and of course 'peer' pressure.

Let me elaborate on 'peer pressure'; there was no way that a 'short term' soldier would ask a question at medical discharge seminars in the presence of senior NCOs or Officers. It took me a long time to gain the confidence of these ADF personnel as I was available to 'all ranks' and it was most important to keep a low profile. Nobody wanted to be seen walking into my office, in case their mates or in some cases, their Commanding Officer saw them.

Now you may be asking how the above relates to you. Well let me tell you that the same situation is quite common among ex-service personnel. Although ex service personnel may not be as concerned about their career as serving members, many are reluctant to discuss their situation with anyone, especially the one closest to them and often adopt an attitude of "I'm all right mate".

Many ex-servicemen or women lodge claims for benefits from DVA without first seeking qualified assistance or discussing it with their loved ones and when the claim fails, guess who they take it out on, that's right, anyone but themselves. That's primarily because they were not aware of the requirements of the relevant legislation. Many former servicemen and women believe that because they 'never went anywhere' that they are not entitled to compensation. I would like a dollar for the number of former ADF personnel who upon enquiring were amazed to find that war service/operational service was not the sole qualifying criteria to receiving benefits from DVA.

The same situation exists among widows or widowers of former serving members, who mistakenly believe that they are not entitled to DVA benefits, especially if they have discussed the situation with friends, relatives and neighbors. I have lost count of the number of claims I successfully processed on behalf of these people, once they had seen the light and sought qualified advice.

As you have probably observed by now, my message is to all who may be in the above situations, please, do yourself a favor, obtain advice from your ex-service organization before attempting to lodge a claim with DVA. All Welfare/Pension Officers/Advocates these days are required to undergo specialized training in all aspects of the relevant legislation and are accredited by their ESO.

These wonderful people are available to you at no cost.

My message to the troops at Gallipoli Barracks and to you is;

"Don't die wondering"

"Don't leave money on the table"

Regards to all,

Kevin Erwin

For those of you who may be in NSW on ANZAC Day:

**R.A.A.F. VIETNAM (NSW)
ANZAC DAY MARCH AND LUNCHEON 25th APRIL 2009**

We will form up for the march at our usual start point, which is in Elizabeth St just south of St James Station, **no later than 11.00 AM.**

The RSL still refuses to comply with requests to advertise our form up position in Elizabeth St. They have us in Bent St, where we haven't been for at least ten years. But, no worries we know where we are.

Our venue is the same as previous years the **ROYAL AUTOMOBILE CLUB OF AUSTRALIA** in Macquarie St and the cost this year is \$45.00.

The dress code of the club is coat and tie and I will **need your payment by the 18th of April.**

Please adhere to this payment date as it makes my job a lot easier to not have to collect many payments at the entrance to the dining room.

Please make your remittance out to RAAF Vietnam, Stew Bonett, fill in all the details on the return slip and send it to me at PO Box 160 GLENORIE, NSW 2157. My Phone number is (02) 9652-1653 and e mail stew.b@bigpond.net.au

I look forward to seeing you on the day.

TEAR OFF HERE AND RETURN WITH PAYMENT TO PO BOX 160 GLENORIE, 2157

NAME _____ UNIT _____ MUSTERING _____

ADDRESS _____

PHONE _____ MOBILE _____

CURRENT EMAIL _____

- YES** I will be attending please find enclosed my payment of \$45.00
- NO** Sorry I can't make it this year but keep me on the mailing list.