



RTFV-35SQN Newsletter

06 December 2009

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Hi All,

Back on deck after Townsville. We should do a tee-shirt "I survived Townsville". More on Townsville later.

Hangar 7.

Type in "Hangar 7" on the internet and the site will come up giving you more details about Hangar 7's involvement in World War 11. In Brisbane at Eagle Farm the Americans had an igloo where they rebuilt captured Japanese planes and tested them to see how they functioned and the best way to combat them. Brisbane also was the H/Q for General Macarthur.

I remember reading stories about the Battle of Brisbane. It was supposed to have started as troop trains were passing each other with the Aussies heading north and when their trains were opposite each other the Yanks allegedly said "don't worry Aussie. We will look after your girlfriends." True or not?

Yank M.P. bashed an Aussie soldier. A Yank PX was near on the corner of Adelaide and Creek Streets. A big blue started. The only way that it was stopped was they rolled kegs of beer into the street and the fight stopped. Even if this is not true it makes a good story.

Brisbane was a big staging area where Macarthur had his H/Q. Each

year they honour the Battle of the Coral Seas. I have attended a memorial service for the Coral Sea Battle at Newstead. There is a plaque for every ship that passed that point. It has Battles that were fought and enemy ship sunk. If it was sunk, loss of life etc.

Phillip Island

as stated in previous emails I presented a plaque on behalf of our Association. It was well received even though I was late. It is well worth a visit to see the Museum. They have a Huey out in front. They are endeavoring to procure a Caribou as well. I bought a few items whilst I was there – a short sleeve jacket. It had a chopper on the embroidered logo.

I asked the chap in charge of the Museum why a chopper was always on Vietnam merchandise. I pointed out we were "first in last out". He agreed that the Caribou should symbolize Vietnam but nothing will change.

Whilst on Phillip Island we saw the fairy penguins returning to nest. It is a must see. Take a ground sheet. They have seats but, because of the sea spray, the seats are wet. It depends on what time of the year but it gets cold as well so wet weather gear is advisable.

From Phillip Island we stayed overnight in Melbourne. I upset the lo-

calls when I did a right hand turn. I stayed in the right hand lane not knowing about the hook turn. A lot of Victorians raised their middle finger plus a lot of Australian expletives. We visited the Melbourne goal – very interesting. We saw the beam that Ned Kelly was hung from. We stayed at the Ibis. They don't have car parking facilities at their Hotel so I had to pay and walk about 2 klms from the Hotel. Lucky it wasn't raining.

It was good to catch up with David Taffe in Kilmore, John Smith in Geelong and Lee Scully, John Sharley, Rick Holmes, Dave Milligan and Wally Jolley in Phillip Island. We overnighted in Bendigo and caught up with Brian Patten and gave him his plaque. Had dinner at the Bendigo R.S.L. Great place – they sell XXXX Gold. Certainly plenty of history in Bendigo. We did the talking tram ride; saw some museums, old buildings etc. Something very interesting about the sandstone. The convicts learned early that if you lay them against the grain, they deteriorate quicker than normal.

Ballarat also reeks of history as well as the four seasons all in one day, hail, rain, sunshine, wind. We attended Sovereign Hill. You could easily spend 2 days here. There are many tours - you can pan for gold etc. The shops are working museums with lolly making Brown's Confectionery est. 1857. Wheel wrights



demonstrating their skills on the original machines. The hub and spokes for the wheels have to air cool for several years so coach manufacturers had to have stock for several years so those who thought the car was only a fad would have been caught with a lot of stock.

Blacksmith demo, police had weapons of the day demo. The police used blunt sabres so that when they chased the miners on horseback they wouldn't wound them or cut them as a miner who was injured could not work his claim therefore not paying mining licence fees (of which the police received some of the fine money). So it was in the interest of the police to keep the miners working their claims. Most of the police were ticket-of-leave men. One of the big attractions of the Eureka Stockade is the Light and Sound show held at night which is a re-enactment of the Battle of the Eureka Stockade. We also visited the Geelong goal. Very drafty. Prisoners had up to 6 blankets in winter.

Caloundra Air Museum

Les Auger stayed with me after Townsville. On Tuesday we visited the Caloundra Air Museum. I have some photos of 173. It still has the Yankee wing on it. The pictures show this. We also attended the RAAF Base Amberley Museum. They have a fully restored Mirage, a Yankee Boston Bomber, Canberra Bomber and a F111, a partially restored Caribou and a Dakota.

I believe they will be getting the Caribou that crashed on the hill in Townsville and they have a door from the old Caribou which they are going to get members of RTFV-35 Squadron to sign. As soon as I have the date for this I will forward this to as many people as I can. I will try to have the door of the Caribou at the Port Office Hotel so we can sign it on Anzac Day. You can contact Dave Newsome on 07-3892 2876 to visit

the Amberley Air Museum. They are also looking for volunteers to assemble the aircraft – all musterings are required. If you are interested please contact Dave as well.

Model Caribou

When I was at the Caloundra Air Museum I saw a very good model of a Caribou. They are trying to source the name of the supplier for me. I also checked with the woodcraft shop. He is seeing if he can make a model.

I refuelled the car in Bendigo. I had a N.S.W. number plate on the hire car in Victoria. The attendant at the servo was from N.S.W. He said to me "I see that you are from God's country." I replied "How did you know that I'm from Q'ld?" Not much conversation after that.

I am enclosing a list of non-subscription items that are available through Veteran's Affairs. I will be linking to their health website so you can keep abreast of what's available.

Website

I heard some great stories in Townsville. If only you guys would put pen to paper so that we can put them on our website.

Merchandise

I have completely sold out of everything in Townsville. I possibly will order another 10 plaques as 3 have already been sold. There is a slight increase in price but they will sell for \$100 plus postage. I am looking at getting some Bisley business/casual shirts made up with different logos. I am looking at several logos now. The Caribou with 45 years service on it looks good. I am also getting some stubby holders that will sell for \$8 - \$10 plus postage and packaging.

If you order the stubby holder with a shirt I don't think there will be any increase in postage with the shirt.

I won't be ordering more RAAF Vietnam Veterans caps. I have one left for Brian Dyer. I will also be getting caps with the same logo that is on the shirts and the stubby holder. The caps will sell for \$20. I think I can get a cap and a shirt in the one postpack therefore saving on postage.

I still have 5 RTFV-35Sqn rings. They are no cost to us so if they don't sell I will have them melted down. I have heard members say they won't buy them because they have seen some bad accidents with people working while wearing rings. They are a dress ring not to be worn while working. The iron-ons are still available. Ron Glew is looking at an embroidered tie but more on that down the track.

The Veterans Affairs Grant

At the time of writing, I have had no reply. The donation from the Townsville RSL went towards the cost of the bus to and from the RAAF base in Townsville.

Townsville Colours Parade/Hangar Bash.

W O W This is the only word that can describe it. I reckon I started many conversations but was called away and started more but it was great to put faces to names. If you have any photos you wish to add to our Townsville Gallery on our website please send them to me or our webmaster.

We signed up 10 new members in Townsville with a lot of enquiries from the younger people who were in 35 Squadron after Vietnam. I told them that they are more than welcome to join our Association as the Caribou is the common link.

I think we should look at having a reunion in 2012. 40 years since we left Vietnam. I think we should have it in Brisbane for a couple of reasons. It will save on a lot of interstate members having to catch 2 planes. Our Association will back off if any-



one else is planning a reunion around the same time. We should all join together as it was said to me "It's not about the Associations". I couldn't agree more but it is about communication. It is no good one section doing their thing. We would need to form a working party to work out a venue, timetable etc. but I would envisage something similar to Townsville. I don't think we should wait 5 years for a reunion as some of us may fall off the tree and some through ill health may not be able to make it. Brisbane would suit me as it's my home turf and I would be able to check and follow up issues as they arise. I will discuss this further with John MacDougall (Have-a-Chat) and Phil Koy.

Back to Townsville

Nigel Murray in Townsville. He is one of our new members and a member of the "A" Team. "Nidge" was caught breaking curfew and arrested by an American MP. He was handed over to the Australian Military Police. "Nidge" was handcuffed by the M.P. But already having a pair of handcuffs as you do (a bit kinky) "Nidge" was an expert at getting out of them. He escaped and ran up the only blind alley in VungTau. (as if). He was run over by the M.P.s in their vehicle. They took him to the hospital. After running repairs he was off to jail. When he was fronted up by the C.O. who was reading out the charges, he commented that he could be shot for these offences. Nigel replied "Gee Sir. Mum wouldn't like that." I can't print the C.O.s reply.

There are many we need to thank for their efforts in making Townsville a success including all of those people who attended. Some of our members who were of great assistance – Graeme Schubert, Captain Dandruff (Al Shaw), Phil Koy, Have-a-Chat McDougall. Thanks, guys. Another person who has a long overdue thank you due to him is John Webster for laying the platform for our Association to succeed. Also a special thanks to Andrea who does all my typing and offers plenty of free advice whether I need it or not.

We presented the C.O. Tony Thorpe with one of our caps as well as Natalie and Amanda.

Nigger Brown also presented Natalie with pins of a Caribou over Vietnam and an Ettamogah badge. Thanks, Nig, very much appreciated.

Suggested Reunion 2012 – I have informally made a request that we lead the Anzac Day Parade in Brisbane in 2012. I think this would be a good time to hold the reunion - therefore giving all of our members the opportunity to march in Brisbane. I can arrange many venues in Brisbane including Kedron Wavell Services Club, trips to Amberley etc. Trevor Benneworth is setting up a questionnaire to ascertain what sort of interest there will be in having a reunion in 2012 incorporating Anzac Day.

38 Squadron Memorabilia

I am not interested in any of 38 Squadron's memorabilia but I do have permission from Glenn Perry from 38 Squadron if anyone wishes to purchase any items. They can contact Glenda Gallican, Ipswich Embroidery, 07-32817551.

VOLUNTARY WELFARE WORK IN NOT UNDER THREAT

The Minister for Veterans' Affairs, Alan Griffin, has sought to reassure the Veteran community that voluntary work with welfare organisations is not under any threat.

A number of people have expressed concerns about how the Department of Veterans' Affairs treats voluntary work with community and welfare organisations under the Veterans' Entitlements Act 1986, the Safety, Rehabilitation and Compensation Act 1988 and the Military Rehabilitation and Compensation Act 2004.

On February 12 the Minister said "There appears to be a belief that voluntary

work is treated differently under SRCA and MRCA than it is under the VEA. Some people are concerned that undertaking voluntary work will trigger a review of incapacity payments. This is not the case". "I would urge any veteran or veterans' representative to refer to this statement should they have any issues with the way such matters are being interpreted".

To clarify the issue and reassure veterans wanting to do voluntary work, the Repatriation Commissioner, Brigadier Bill Rolfe AO (Retd), has written to a number of ex-service organisations and the Training and Information Program (TIP) Committee chairmen to state that:

- DVA is supportive of veterans undertaking voluntary work;
- voluntary work is treated the same under all three Acts; and
- undertaking voluntary work will not trigger a review of pension or incapacity payments.

If you have an email address or change of email address, please let me know. Don't forget our website www.rtfv-35sqn.org.

I would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a prosperous, healthy, happy New Year.

Cheers

Sambo



REPATRIATION BENEFITS LIST

You could be paying full price for these items without realising it.

The following is a list of products that are available on a Doctor's prescription, for Repatriation patients:

Skin Care

QV Bath Oil, Hamilton's Body Wash, Sorbolene and Glycerine Cream, Calmurid Cream, Pinetarsol Solution.

Hair Care

Sebitar Shampoo, Sebi Rinse Conditioner, Nizoral Shampoo, Selsun.

Sun Care

Hamilton's 15+ Cream, Lotion, and Solarstick, Ego Sun Sense 30+, Aquasun.

Oral Hygiene

Savacol Mouth Wash, Aquae Spray for Dry mouth.

Cough Mixtures

Senagar & Ammonia, Durotoss.

Allergies

Telfast, Claratyne, Zyrtec, Phenergan, Drixine Nasal Spray, Beconase Nasal Spray, Rhincort Nasal Spray, Sudafed, Demazin Tablets.

Fibre Supplements & Laxatives

Nucolox, Normacol, Metamucil, Coloxyl with Senna, Senokot, Glycerine, Suppositories.

Dressings

Micropore Tape, Cutifilm Plus Waterproof Dressings, Handy Bandages, Cotton Wool, Betadine Antiseptic, Solugels, Barrier Creams, Disposable Gloves, Prantal Powder.

Anitfungal Agents

Lamasil Cream, Cansten Cream, Loceryl Nail Paint.

Haemorrhoidal Treatments

Proctocedyl Ointment & Suppositories, Anusol

Ear Preparations

Ear Clear for Wax, Waxsol, Ceremol Ear Drops.

Vitamins & Minerals

Calcium (Cal sup tablets, Caltrate), Vitamin B1 (Betamin), Magnesium Tablets (Mag Min), Accomin Liquid Tonic.

Joint Pain & Arthritis

Metsal Cream or Liniment

Sexual Health

Viagra, Cilais, Caverject.

Pain

Aspirins Cartia, Astrix Capsules, Cardiprin, Paracetamol, Ibuprofen.

Weight Loss

Optifast, Xenical.

Various

Nicorette Patches (Quit Smoking), Vermox (Worms), Ural Sachets (Urinary Alkalinizer).

Always check with your GP, as this list changes from time to time.

You could have been paying full price for any of these items without realising you *could have them on prescription. Remember, after your 56 prescriptions p.a., your prescriptions are free.*

Latest news

2012 Reunion

Judging by the amount of replies I have had (in excess of 50) it looks as though the reunion is a goer. Whilst the reunion is a while away, I am getting a price on accommodation so we can get an indication of what the cost may be.

As time gets closer, I will fine tune as to what I can organise i.e. golf, ladies shopping trip etc plus sponsors.

If I said I was going to do something for you in Townsville and it has not been done by now, I have forgotten so please give me a gentle reminder.

Sambo

Latest merchandise on hand

I have "End of an Era" shirts, stubby holders and caps. I don't hold stock of shirts but within a week I can have the shirt embroidered. The shirts sell for \$50.00 including post & packaging, the caps sell for \$20.00 plus \$6.00 post and packaging, stubby holders sell for \$10.00 including post & packaging.

Package deals:

1. Get a shirt, cap & stubby holder in one pack for a total of \$80.00 including post & packaging.
2. A cap and 2— 4 stubby holders (cap + 2 stubby holders \$42.00), (cap + 3 stubby holders \$50.00), (cap + 4 stubby holders \$58.00)



Merry Christmas

&

Happy New Year