

Returned And Services League Australia



ANGELES CITY SUB BRANCH PHILIPPINES

www.rslangelescity.com

'LEST WE FORGET'

PRESIDENT	<i>James Curtis-Smith</i>	EMAIL ADDRESS':	CLUBHOUSE: PONDEROSA HOTEL president@rslangelescity.com
VICE PRESIDENTS	<i>Noel Roach</i> <i>Vic Meller</i>		
SECRETARY	<i>Dallas Drake</i>		secretary@rslangelescity.com
TREASURER	<i>Bob Young</i>		treasurer@rslangelescity.com
EDITOR	<i>Larry Smith</i>		editor@rslangelescity.com

NEWSLETTER NUMBER # 25 * APRIL 2009



PRESIDENTS REPORT – APRIL 2009

The month of April has started a very busy time for us at the Sub Branch.

Our first Medical Mission was held on Saturday 18th April at Mabalacat and was very successful. Vice President Noel Roach as Chairman of the Charities Committee with Vice President Vic Mellor did a power of work in preparation, getting the medicines and vitamins direct from wholesale suppliers in Manila at huge discount prices, coordinating with the Barangay Captain and other local officials. It was a great day.

A total of 520 children were registered from the under privileged population of this Barangay and photos of the mission are on the website. A big thanks to those fella's who turned up and acted as the Pharmacy dispensers, and also particularly to those doctors and nurses who gave of their time. To the wives partners and girl friends who did the big job of penciling and checking prescriptions also a big thank you.

As I have stated before the involvement of RSL in their distinctive RSL shirts, not only gives us a satisfying purpose but endears us to the community in which we now live. The money spent is of course raised principally by the Sub Branch through Australia Day Fiesta activities and our weekly Shano's raffle, and to our expat community and foreigners who visit here and support our fund raising activities a big thanks and I hope you also get a kick out of giving. Similarly to our sponsors, who provide so willingly and regularly, the prizes for the raffles.

As this Newsletter goes to print we are planning (have planned) our annual ANZAC Day commemoration which is next Saturday (April 25) and we are assured of a big roll up. Our Remembrance Service starts at 7.00am at Clark War Cemetery followed by a gunfire breakfast and other traditional ANZAC day activity at Swagman Hotel. It will be a good day.

JAMES E CURTIS-SMITH
President

EDITORIAL

April of course is the month that we commemorate ANZAC Day on the 25th. Angeles City RSL will follow previous years with our service and refreshments.

Our Minister for Veteran's Affairs, Alan Griffin has been busy and in this newsletter I have reproduced FOUR of his media releases. For editorial space, I have edited them a small bit without losing their meaning.

Also, in accordance with the Minister's release about the battle of Binh Ba, I have reproduced an article by Captain Mike Battle, of 5 RAR about the battle. I downloaded his article after a Google search, and I thank him putting it up for general viewing.

As editor, my view of the newsletter content is to give it a mixture of RSL, Military and Veteran's Affairs matters and then liven it up with a little bit of humour. When we got the webpage up and running, the need for brevity became somewhat relaxed and my efforts to keep content down to about six pages due to the cost of photo-copying became moot. I do not want the newsletter to become too cumbersome for our members to read. I also like to put in some advertisements for our sponsors and supporters free of charge. These are included on a 'space available' arrangement.

It will be good to see Reg Tulip from Sydney back again in August to conduct some more TIP training for our Sub branch.

A MESSAGE FROM SECRETARY DALLAS DRAKE

Dallas has run into a few problems when emailing to some members. The emails are either returned as 'cannot deliver' or there is no response.

He feels that this could be either of two things, the member has changed email address without notifying him, or your SPAM filter is too tight and your computer thinks the email is Spam.

SO, *Dallas* asks that if you have recently changed your email address then please notify him so he can make the appropriate changes. He also would like members who have not received any email for awhile to check their Spam file and if his emails are in there, to adjust the filter to allow them into your 'in box'.

The Sub branch relies on emails to keep those members not residing in Angeles City informed of what is occurring and to forward newsletter notifications. Ed

PLUS

NEW NATIONAL RSL MEMBER CARDS

We now have the NEW National RSL Member Cards for all financial members. This is a hard Plastic card that members sign on the reverse side. Card also has a National Membership Number as well as Sub Branch name and Branch name. Please contact *Dallas Drake* for your card.

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Reading our newsletter on the web

Our Webmaster, *Gerald Slide* publishes our newsletter on our webpage in two formats, Word and PDF.

By far the better presentation is in the PDF format. When read in the Word format, the webpage spreads the content out and it is sometimes a bit scatty and not presented in the manner that I, as editor would prefer.

For those unable to read in the PDF format, there is an easy solution. Adobe Acrobat has a free download of the PDF format and I encourage all readers to access this service. Go to: <http://www.pdf-deluxe.com/> and look for the download icon. It will ask you whether you want to RUN or SAVE. Click save, and the download will commence. Once download has been completed, click on the icon and press RUN. That will enable the computer to install it permanently so that all you have to do in future to read the newsletter is click on the 'Downlaod PDF format'. You will be pleased that you have done this. Ed.

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NEW MEMBERS

*Our Sub branch would like to welcome on board the following new members: Craig Swanson * Darryl Whitby * Russell Peters * Bob King * Conchita Caslaucan * Allan Johnstone **

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PASSING PARADE

For those who knew him, Angeles City RSL member from 1996 till 2003 and again 2006 till present, B.K. (Hub) Hubbard passed away on 28 March in Pattaya Thailand, where he has apparently resided for many years.

According to Dallas Drake, Hub wrote the history of our Sub branch from Incorporation until 2003. Further details are not known. RIP Hub

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TIP Training Visit AUGUST 2009

Details are yet to be firmed up, but arrangements are being made for our friend from Sydney, TIP trainer, Reg Tulip to visit us again and conduct some more Welfare and Pensions Officer training. It is being co-ordinated to tie in with Vietnam Veteran's Day on 18th August.

We will be canvassing for members who wish to attend this training to enhance the members already trained and doing work for the Sub Branch. More later.



Left is the Australian Coat of Arms with two of our most recognizable animals facing each other, the Kangaroo and the Emu. Do you know why those two animals were chosen for our coat of arms. Was it because:

- Aboriginals said they were good eating.
- There are plenty of them.
- Neither of them can go backwards.
- They were the first thing that came to mind, or
- None of the above.

Of course the proper answer is C, because they cannot go backwards, and Australia is the same, it cannot go backwards. We must never forget that!!!! Ed

The Barfly

Bar Fly has been buzzing around and has learnt Roy's Bar has been sold again !! Walls have fallen and windows installed to open things a little and the bar will become bigger. The three new bars being built by Gerard (of ABC fame) next door to Walk About are progressing well and should open by August. Two new bars are close to ready next door to Sunshine Bar, say another two months.

Electric Blue Bar next door to Happy Rock is proving popular already and maybe one of the few places to consider a matching theme name to the dancers outfits. The Girls are dressed in Electric Blue outfits. Well done Darryl.

Steve of Emotions has been away for a well earned holiday giving Vidar (Eruptions) Ozzie (Fire & Ice) Jimbo (Stampede) and Rune (Dr.Holms) a bit of a rest from the Bar Owners drinking team, however Dr De Guzman will still be injecting Vitamin B into all of them.

Owner of Eager Beavers and Honey Pot, Ray is away on Holidays to the wonderful land of OZ and it's rumored he may be retiring.

Shano's new owners are well into renovating and changing the style of the Irish Pub to something else, still be a sports bar, more screens to view, plus some card tables. Rio's is up for sale at some ridiculous price, so I guess nothing will change until someone stupid comes along. Blue Book advertisement advises potential buyers beware of Crazy Horse being on the market as litigation is still in process.

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NEW LOCATION
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*MINIMUM DELIVERY ORDER \$300 TO DESIGNATED AREAS (1 & 2 HRS), WEATHER PERMITTING.

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Minister for Veterans' Affairs Mailing List. VA016
Monday 30 March 2009

\$50,000 to commemorate 40th anniversary of Binh ba

The 40th anniversary of one of the most significant Australian battles of the Vietnam War will be commemorated this year with the assistance of a \$50,000 grant from the Australian Government, Minister for Veterans' Affairs **Alan Griffin** announced today.

Mr Griffin said the Battle of Binh Ba, which occurred 6-8 June 1969, involved more than 330 Australians in close quarter fighting, yet miraculously only one Australian was killed in action and 11 wounded.

“It is a battle not widely known outside military and historical circles, yet it is a testament to the superb fighting qualities of Australian forces,” **Mr Griffin** said.

On 6 June the 1st Australian Task Force Ready Reaction Force assaulted Binh Ba from the west and heavy fighting followed as they encountered fierce North Vietnamese opposition. The fighting was of an intensity rarely matched in any other period of Australia’s involvement in the Vietnam War.

“Like the Battles of Long Tan and Coral/Balmoral, the Battle of Binh Ba resulted in Battle Honours being awarded to Australian units involved in the action,” **Mr Griffin** said.

“I am pleased the Government can assist these veterans in commemorating this important milestone and help draw attention to the story of the Battle of Binh Ba.”

The Battle of Binh Ba Commemorative Planning Committee, established by representatives of the units involved, are planning a number of activities during June this year including a commemorative service and a combined Association dinner.



For more information on Anniversary activities, contact the Planning Committee Chairman Roger Wainwright on 0409 588 935 or roger.w@netspeed.com.au or Committee Secretariat Jan Properjohn on 0410 488 729 or jproperjohn@internode.on.net

TWO

**Minister for Veterans' Affairs Mailing List VA014
Thursday, 19 March 2009**

2009 ANZAC DAY IMAGE UNVEILED

Australia’s efforts in restoring peace to East Timor have been immortalised in this year’s Anzac Day commemorative poster.

Unveiled by the Minister for Veterans’ Affairs, **Alan Griffin**, the poster features a striking image of Australian soldiers patrolling in the streets of Dili, on 2 October 1999.

One of the soldiers featured in the poster, former Private **Paul Everett**, joined **Mr Griffin** at the Australian War Memorial today.

“This year marks ten years since Australia led the INTERFET operation in East Timor - restoring peace to a territory torn apart by political violence,” **Mr Griffin** said.

“East Timor was a milestone in Australia’s military history.

“It is there that the work of people like Paul Everett made a real difference to the lives of our near neighbours.

“I am pleased that this poster will draw attention to the service of our younger veterans.

“These young Australians may not yet see themselves as veterans, but with more than 25,000 troops having deployed overseas since 1999, the number of younger veterans is growing.

“It is clear that our proud Anzac traditions are in good hands.”

Mr Griffin also noted that tomorrow marks 93 years since the first Anzacs arrived on the Western Front from Gallipoli.

This year the Government will again hold an official Anzac Day Dawn Service on the Western Front. This now annual service will join those also organised in Gallipoli, Hellfire Pass, Sandakan and Isurava.

“I encourage all Australians to attend a local Anzac Day service or march. If they are travelling abroad, I ask them to consider attending a service in the country they are visiting,” *Mr Griffin* said.

More than 85,000 copies of the poster will be distributed around Australia and overseas.

For more information on INTERFET and to download a copy of the 2009 Anzac Day poster, visit

www.dva.gov.au/media/mainme.htm. For information about Anzac Day services in Australia and overseas visit www.dva.gov.au/commemorations/

Sorry, I had to close up the punctuation of this letter to conserve space. It is still readable. Ed

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THREE

TUESDAY, 7 APRIL 2009

CUTTING RED TAPE FOR VETERANS AND ADF PERSONNEL

Delivering on a key election promise, the Rudd Government has cut red tape and delays facing veterans and ex-service personnel trying to access their entitlements. The Minister for

Veterans' Affairs, Alan Griffin, and the Minister for Defence Science and Personnel, Warren Snowdon, said today the Interdepartmental Working Group had been established and was already reducing the bureaucracy involved in making claims.

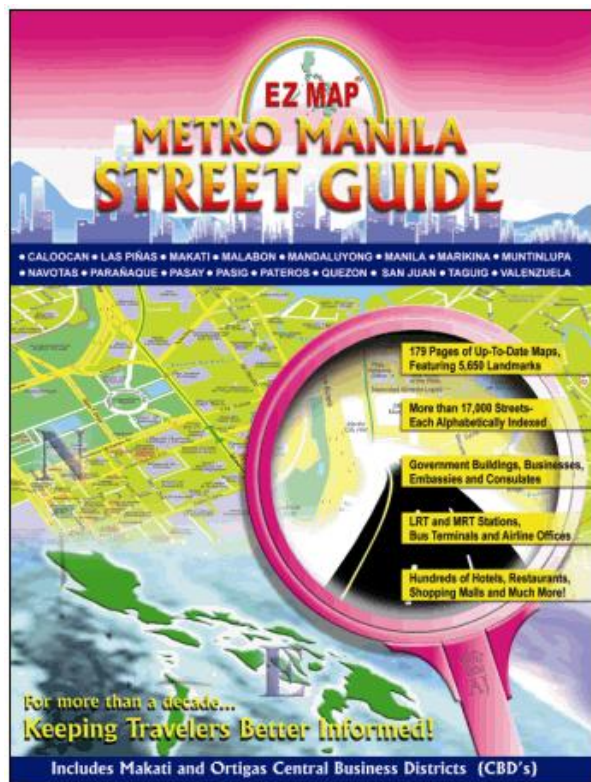
“Prior to the election I was approached by many veterans and ex-service personnel frustrated by the administrative burden created by dealing with multiple Government agencies. I promised to establish an Interdepartmental Working Group to address this issue and am pleased to report it is already having a positive effect,” Mr Griffin said.

The Interdepartmental Working Group has already:

- Reduced the medical reviews veterans must undertake;
- Commenced information sharing across DVA, Centrelink and ComSuper - resulting in around 250 DVA disability pensioners already being exempted from further ComSuper reviews;
- Published a practical transition handbook on accessing interdepartmental entitlements;
- Listed the ADF Identification Card as an acceptable Proof of Identity document across Government; and
- Commenced a trial to expand the final Defence medical examination to cover the requirements of a liability claim to DVA or ComSuper, and eliminate the need for further medical examinations in most cases.

Delivering on another election promise, the establishment of a Special Claims Unit at DVA has reduced average times taken to process claims. A comparison of the two financial years 2006-2007 and 2007-2008, shows processing time reductions of 15.7 per cent in VEA claims, 7.8 per cent for SRCA initial liability claims and 30.9 per cent for MRCA initial liability claims.

“The process of accessing entitlements should place minimal additional stress upon veterans and ex-service personnel, particularly as many of the people claiming are older veterans who were injured during their service,” Mr Griffin said.



“Reducing the burden of government bureaucracy on these people is an important objective.”

Mr Snowden said he welcomed efforts to end the duplicate – even triplicate – medical examinations that separating personnel need to undergo to access entitlements.

“A successful trial to expand the role of the final Defence medical examination will reduce the complexity and delays facing some of the personnel leaving the ADF each year,” Mr Snowden said.

Mr Snowden added while some initiatives are about simplification, like listing the ADF Identification Card as a Government Proof of Identity document, others highlight the critical importance of inter-agency co-operation. “The protocol developed by Defence and DVA to follow in the event of a death in service or serious injury on deployment has been expanded to include Centrelink and ComSuper, ensuring senior level case management across all agencies. This means that relevant agencies are able to co-ordinate the full range of Government assistance that is available in these circumstances,” Mr Snowden said.

The working group brings together representatives from the Department of Veterans’ Affairs, the Department of Defence, Centrelink, the Department of Human Services and Comsuper. Representatives from the ex-service community have also been consulted by the working group.

Mr Griffin said: “There are still issues to address, but I’m pleased we’ve already started to get results from this process.”

FOUR

**Minister for Veterans' Affairs Mailing List VA019
Wednesday, 8 February 2009**

GOVERNMENT MOVES TO REVIEW MILITARY COMPENSATION

The Rudd Government is acting on another of its election commitments by commencing its promised review of

military compensation arrangements.

The Minister for Veterans’ Affairs, **Alan Griffin**, emphasised the importance of the review in ensuring the Government is providing appropriate support and compensation to Australia’s veterans and ex-service personnel.

“This review is a significant step by the Government towards addressing long standing issues with military compensation, including disparities and perceived inequities between systems and difficulties encountered by those transitioning out of the services or making claims,” **Mr Griffin** said.

“The Government has already moved to address some of these issues, but this review is critical in identifying solutions for wider problems relating to military compensation and support.”

The review will examine the operation of the current military compensation schemes, with specific reference to the Military Rehabilitation and Compensation Act 2004.

“The review is especially timely as the Military Rehabilitation and Compensation Act 2004 – intended to incorporate the best elements of the two earlier systems – has not been examined since its creation in 2004.

“This work is in response to numerous concerns expressed by the veteran and ex-service community about the operation of, and support provided by, the current military compensation system.”

The Minister today released the Terms of Reference for the review and called for interested members of the

Like many Australians, *Miriam* had "never heard of *Legacy*".

But she recalls: "They contacted me and just knew that I needed help, not just financially but socially. "I just would have locked myself away and thrown away the key. I didn't want to see or talk to anyone."

Miriam, 32, is just one of the 120,000 people *Legacy* supports around Australia.

The organisation helps families of defence service men and women who have died during or after their service. It will be there for *Miriam and Isaac* for years to come.

Yesterday, a unique fundraising campaign was launched to ensure the support continues.

The Raise A Glass Appeal - announced by *General Peter Cosgrove* - was developed by the *RSL* and *Legacy* in partnership with *VB*.

The Daily Telegraph is a proud supporter of the appeal, which aims to contribute more than \$1 million to support serving and ex-service men and women, fallen veterans and their families.

"I urge all Australians to show support," *General Cosgrove* said.

"The *RSL and Legacy* continue to be relevant and important welfare providers to the community."

As *Miriam* can testify.

After *Peter* died she met monthly with her group of *Legacy* widows and readily admits it "was a life saver". That support will continue through *Miriam's* and *Isaac's* life.

The Raise A Glass Appeal, which will also tell stories of Diggers and mates to whom they would love to "raise a glass", starts on April 1.

You can find out more - including telling your story of a lost mate - at www.raiseaglass.com.au

I have had a look at the webpage above and it is great. Listen to the stories of people reflecting back about their mates and partners. Read their stories. I highly recommend you do have a look at it. Take their hint and raise a glass to the memories of past mates no longer here. Editor

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INCREASE TO PENSIONS

Everyone receiving a Veteran's and Aged pension would have noticed an increase in their pensions, paid over two paydays, as a result of indexation increases. The indexation was effective from March 20th but only a few days of the increase was payable on payday 26th March. The full flow-on was paid on payday 9 April 2009. A condensed list is shown below. For a complete list of all pensions levels, go to www.dva.gov.au

VETERANS' AND WAR WIDOWS' PENSIONS INCREASED

Indexation will deliver Veteran and War Widow pensioner's up to an extra \$14.10 a fortnight, Minister for Veterans' Affairs Alan Griffin announced today. Some 365,000 veterans, their partners and war widows will benefit.

Minister Griffin said pensions will increase from 20 March, paid from pension day 26 March.

"For the first time, the Special Rate (TPI) Pension is more than \$1,000 a fortnight at \$1,011.90," Mr Griffin said.

The increases are based on a movement of 0.9 per cent in the Consumer Price Index (CPI) and a top-up of \$2.60 per fortnight to bring the single Service Pension rate to 25 per cent of Male Total Average Weekly Earnings (MTAWE). All disability pensions are indexed by reference to both CPI and MTAWE. This resulted in a 1.4 per cent increase.



OPERATION HAMMER

Battle of Binh Ba 6 - 8 June 1969

Captain Mike Battle

Back at [Nui Dat](#), between ready reaction tasks, company operations, convoy protection and other operational tasks, 5 RAR were enjoying their 'break'. A Company was in 'Vungers' (Vung Tau) making sure their break was not wasted resting, C and B Companies were involved with training, and D company was Ready Reaction Company on the morning of 6 June.

1 ATF Ready Reaction Company was part of a force which included a [Centurion Tank](#) troop and an [APC](#) troop. This force was always at thirty minutes notice to react against any major enemy threat to the population centres of Phuoc Tuy province.

Binh Ba village some three miles north of [Nui Dat](#) base is on Route 2. Its population of one thousand is made up mainly of farmers and rubber workers of the surrounding Gallia Plantation. Most of the houses of the village are sturdy structures of concrete and tiles.

At 0810 hours (8.10.am) a tank and an armoured recovery vehicle moving through to the 6 RAR Fire Support Base further north, were fired on by an [RPG](#) (Rocket Propelled Grenade) from one of the houses. Initial intelligence said that there were two enemy platoons in the village and consequently the commander 1 ATF decided to deploy the Ready Reaction Force. After briefing, the force was assembled by 1030 hours (10.30.am) just south of Binh Ba. Although the District Chief of the Duc Thanh District had requested 1 ATF assistance, he had not given his clearance as he wanted to satisfy himself that all civilians had been evacuated from the town. Since Binh Ba was in 6 RAR's area of Operations, command of the Ready Reaction Force was initially invested in the CO of 6 RAR.

At 1120 hours (11.20.am), when D Company came under heavy [RPG](#) fire it was evident that there was more than two platoons in the village and the District Chief did not hesitate in telling the force to "do what you have to do" and stated that he would take responsibility for any damage to the village that might result from the action.

At 1200 hours (midday), the CO 5 RAR deployed his tactical headquarters comprising himself, the intelligence officer and two signallers, forward to the district post of Duc Thanh, north of Binh Ba. C Company reacted against another enemy attack against Hoa Long on the south of the [Nui Dat](#) perimeter. B Company was also reacted to Binh Ba. The CO 5 RAR was given control of the Binh Ba Battle and placed B Company in a block on the east of the village.

D Company had, by this time, fought their way to the centre of the village. The tanks drew heavy RPG and small arms fire and the enemy were concentrating the efforts against them. The fighting was so fierce and confused for two hours that a detailed description is impossible. The

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enemy was indeed much stronger than the estimated two platoons. (Captured documents later revealed that the enemy force was the 1st Battalion 33 NVA Regiment, guided by the Binh Ba Guerilla Unit).

A light fire team (RAAF Bushrangers) reported enemy movement south and west of the village. After an hour one tank was forced to withdraw west with the other two tanks immobilised by crew casualties.

D Company Commander, [Major Murray Blake](#), decided to move the two tanks and APC protection out of the village and move around to the west to conduct another sweep. This was made possible by the [Bushrangers](#) containing most of the enemy movement. The tank troop was relieved by another troop. All crew commanders had been wounded and their ammunition had been spent.

By 1400 hours (2.00.pm) the force had formed up west of the village and started their second sweep with infantry leading and the tanks close behind flanked by the APC's. The village was ominously quiet. Contact was made again as the detailed house clearing commenced. The enemy in the houses fired through the doorways and then jumped into underground bunkers built by the inhabitants for use in time of attack. Fortunately these usually had only one entrance. A pattern developed. When the enemy fired on the infantry, the 'Diggers' returned fire until a tank could get into position. The tanks then blew a hole in the concrete wall, put a canister round through the hole then sprayed the area with machine guns. The infantry then cleared the house room by room and then threw grenades into the tunnels. Many face to face confrontations with the enemy occurred inside the houses

Throughout the operation the soldiers showed remarkable courage and control. On several occasions they held their fire and exposed themselves to their front as some civilians were still in the village unable to escape. When fire was directed at them the identity of the occupants of the house was determined. The raw leadership of the soldiers was outstanding. Of the twenty one rifle sections involved, twelve were commanded by private soldiers. Two platoons were led by sergeants and one by a corporal. Some of the civilians being evacuated were found to be enemy soldiers dressed in civilian clothes taken from deserted houses. This sweep stopped at last light with the whole force exhausted after eight hours of continual contact. That night the village was still not secure. C Company killed two enemy trying to break out of the village. (cont page 13)



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At 0600 hours (6.00.am) 7 June, some of B Company blocking in the rubber to the south, noticed a force of company strength moving towards them from the south. Thinking they were friendly PF (Provincial Forces) soldiers, the Australians waved to them upon which the force, in fact NVA, waved back. They

probably thought they were rejoining their comrades at Binh Ba. Realisation dawned on both groups at the same time, causing a hasty enemy withdrawal under a torrent of fire from our troops.

Action on 7 June was mainly in Duc Trung, a rubber factory some five hundred yards north of Binh Ba. An APC was fired on and a reconnaissance helicopter observed up to eighty enemy were moving between the buildings. The 5RAR Assault Pioneer Platoon was sent from Nui Dat as the PF platoon in Duc Trung held its ground. an RF (Vietnamese Regional Force) Reaction Company from Baria was sent in to clear this village as our Pioneer Platoon blocked to the south. However, the enemy had already departed.

Meanwhile at 0950 hours (9.50.am) D Company with a platoon from C Company swept through the western half of Binh Ba from the west. PF forces were blocking enemy escape to the north, B Company and armour were blocking to the south and east. Three prisoners were taken and evacuated. Spasmodic contact only was made with small groups of NVA still in the village.

At approximately 1300 hours (1.00.pm) heavy firing again broke out in Duc Trung. The District Chief reported that the PF platoon had been overrun by an estimated one hundred enemy resulting in four PF killed and seven wounded. Artillery was effectively employed to the north-west of Duc Trung and was observed by an air observer to fall in the midst of the enemy and within twenty yards of the houses. Again a Light Fire Team was most effectively employed around this village.

B Company with a tank troop were ordered to sweep Duc Trung. After crossing their start point, the District Chief received word that a number of civilians were still intermingled with the enemy, and the force was halted. As a PF force moved in to do the sweep, the enemy withdrew to the north-east and north-west continually harassed by artillery and Light Fire Teams.

At 1500 hours (3.00.pm) D Company continued to clear Binh Ba. That night the companies blocked around both villages. Next morning, 8 June, the action at Binh Ba concluded at 0900hours (9.00.am), the Australian Civil Affairs arrived at Binh Ba to assist in the resettlement of the villagers.

In this vicious battle, a large enemy force was defeated by rapid reaction, skill, courage and fire power. The 'Battle of Binh Ba' ranks as one of the major military victories of the Australian Force in Vietnam.

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7.62 mm L1A1 SLR (Self Loading Rifle)



The soldier pictured here can be seen carrying two bandoliers each of 100 linked 7.62 mm rounds for his section's machine gun, encased in plastic sleeves.



The L1A1 is the Australian version of the Belgian FN FAL rifle. It entered into service with the Australian Army in 1959. The L1A1 was a reliable, hard-hitting, gas-operated, magazine-fed semi-automatic rifle, with a maximum battle range of 300 metres and a practical rate of fire of 20 rounds per minute. In Vietnam the L1A1 was the standard personal weapon of the Australian soldier. With a full 20 round magazine it weighed 4.96Kg. The standard issue was 5 magazines per rifleman but almost all carried as many filled magazines that they could get their hands on, often dispensing with food rations in order to find room for the extra ammunition. The rationale to this was that the extra 7.62 mm rounds fired from an SLR rifle would do more damage than throwing a can of Ham and Lima Beans.

Type: Battle rifle

Place of origin: Belgium

Wars: Cold War, Vietnam War, Falklands War

Designed: 1951

Manufacturer: Fabrique Nationale (FN)

Produced: 1953—

Number built: Over 1 million

Weight: 4.0–4.96 kg (8.8–10.2 lb)

Length: 1,090 mm (43 in)

Barrel length: 533 mm (21 in)

Cartridge: 7.62 × 51 mm NATO

Calibre: 7.62 mm (.308 in)

Action: Gas-operated, tilting block

Rate of fire: 20 rounds/min semi auto

Muzzle velocity: 823 m/s (2,700 ft/s)

Effective range: 600 m (656 yd)

Feed system: 20-round detachable box magazine

Sights: Aperture rear sight, hooded post front sight

For those of our members who were in the Royal Australian Infantry Corps, all would agree that the SLR gave terrific service to us. It had a great hitting power. It also provided Platoon Sergeants with a ready supply of piquet's when he inspected a rifle and found some sort of offending material in its many slits, grooves and hard to get at places after it had been cleaned. A very reliable rifle. Ed

FOR ANYONE SURVIVING ANZAC DAY AT THE SWAGMAN NARRA

Jimbo at Stampede Bar is offering an ANZAC Day Special. Commencing at 3.00 p.m. (that's 1500 hrs to us military types) Local Drinks at 50 peso, Ladies Drinks at 100peso and IF enough people, will put on a show .



Corps Insignia of the Australian Army (Final)



Australian Army Psychology Corps



Royal Australian Army Nursing Corps



Royal Australian Army Dental Corps



Royal Australian Army Ordnance Corps



Royal Australian Electrical & Mechanical Engineers



Royal Australian Corps of Military Police



Royal Australian Army Pay Corps



Australian Army Legal Corps



Royal Australian Army Education Corps



Royal Australian Army Chaplains Department (Christian)



Royal Australian Army Chaplains Department (Jewish)



Australian Army Public Relations Service

GOLD CARD PENSIONS - ADDITIONS TO ACCEPTED DISABILITIES.

BY COURTESY OF NOEL McLAUGHLIN

Posted on 26/7/2007 at 18:41:50 by Noel McLaughlin

Over the past 18 months or so I have been asked for advice from a number of quarters including the National President of the RSL, on a developing but unusual and very worrying trend - that of veterans lodging claims for a new disability under the Veterans' Entitlements Act 1986. This may not of itself sound unusual.

However, my concerns which have prompted me to post this message stem from the fact that the lodgement of claims for a new disability are being lodged by veterans who are in receipt of a General Rate Disability paid at 100% of the General Rate (Gold Card). It has also featured in some veterans attempting to have a previously rejected disability accepted again even when receiving 100%.

Additionally I have had cause to provide advice in respect of veterans who although in receipt of the Special Rate (TPI) Pension also have commenced action to lodge a fresh claim for a new disability or one that has been previously rejected.

The risks to 100% veterans or Above General Rate (Intermediate or TPI) Pension Veterans doing this are manifest; viz

1. They will be subject to a complete review of every accepted disability as part of the assessment process.
2. If currently receiving 100% they run a real risk of having their Medical Impairment and Lifestyle ratings readjusted to the extent that their current entitlement may very well end up being de-rated to less than 100% with its attendant effect on the veteran.
3. If Intermediate or TPI, they run the risk of having their capacity to undertake remunerative work re-assessed also.
4. Should a pension at Intermediate/TPI levels - in particular TPI - be de-rated, bang goes the automatic War Widow's entitlement - not to mention a possible diminution in Service Pension and a potential loss of entitlement to funeral benefits and bereavement payments.

As you can see, such a course of action is fraught with risk and the potential for damage is significant. This will result in the usual stress on a veteran and his family and force him into the appeals system in what is becoming an increasingly adversarial process. There is nothing the Repatriation Commission likes better than to review a veteran's situation and this is grist for their mill.

Gold Cards entitle a veteran to coverage for all medical matters other than accepted disabilities. There is no requirement for a veteran who has a Gold card to lodge a claim for another disability regardless of whether it is a new condition or one previously rejected. The Gold card redresses that imbalance. That balance runs a great risk of being very badly disturbed and can create a very dangerous precedent that can have a terrible blow-back effect on all Gold card recipients or potential applicants.

The simple advice: DO NOT GO THERE.

If you need to talk this over I urge all members to discuss with their respective Advocates. If members know of anyone in our family who is a Gold card recipient and is considering this action, please ensure he is aware of the risks.

Regards,
Noel Mc Laughlin
Advocate

NB. Being a Pensions Officer for many years I fully support Noel's comments above. Ed

“THE PRICE OF LIBERTY IS ETERNAL VIGILANCE”