



AIRFIELD DEFENCE ASSOCIATION AUSTRALIA Inc

Issue 06

Special Extra Edition

Summer 2025

THE BLUE BERET JOURNAL SUMMER 2026



New
Defenders
Graduate

1982
Falklands
Airfield Raid

2025
Reunion
Hobart

Carbs tribute
article WWII

Contents

1. Presidents Report

2. Organisational Help

3. Recent Events

4. Reunion Hobart 2025

5. World War Two Guard 100 years old

6. Project - Ground Defence Memorial

7. Socials

8. Our Own
9. The Battle of Pelambang 1942

10. Our Affiliated Association

11. Farewells

12. Falklands SAS Raid 1982

12. Around the Units

13. We Will Remember Them

14. Remembering Ben Hall

15. Merchandise / Next Edition

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Cover: Pacific Defender Outreach 2015. 1SECFOR Demo. Airman move, shoot and communicate, Amberley



Presidents Report



With winter well and truly behind us, we say welcome to the summer edition.

We have had a surge of new membership applications applications as well as Members for Life. Last edition we welcomed twelve new memberships, across ex-serving and current serving. In this edition we welcome to the ranks another ten. Fantastic news.

As such I would like to welcome our most recent **Members For Life** Bob Coopes (ACT), Wally Tennick (TAS) in addition I welcome the following people as **Membership Reactivation** Colin Mears (Tas) and Col Speedie (WA), and **New Memberships** Troy 'Havoc06' Knight (QLD), Paul Barker (VIC), Stephen Medcalf (QLD), Jeffrey Maguire (QLD), Peter Cox (QLD). Bill Zeller (QLD).

The biggest outing since the last Journal was our reunion in Tasmania. The Entertainment committee member Ron Kunde excelled himself with a very successful gathering in beautiful Tasmania. There is better coverage in this edition with some great photos that go along with it.

While in Tasmania we held a regular committee meeting in Hobart. This gave an opportunity for those at the reunion to sit in.

It is not very well known that you don't need to be a financial member to come along to meetings. I felt it was well received by those present and gave a better understanding of the kind of work the Association does.

At that meeting a motion was put forward to support ex-ADG entries for the Cancer Council car rally 2026 from Ballarat to Townsville. We've donated to two teams - Bryan George and Chris Gould are entered as '**Minions on a Mission**' and Michael 'Tas' Ramsay representing **Altona RSL**. Both teams have received \$500 to help them on their way. There will be a Blue Beret article submitted later this year from Bryan.

In November there was a large turnout in Bundaberg for the funeral of Ben Hall. It was a moving tribute to Ben by his family and mates. Merv Reid presided over the poppy service which was held after the Church service. More in this edition.

The Blue Beret section on "**Our Own**" is gaining momentum with readers with edition an article from Greg Jenkins with more in store for future editions with a focus on how our people have redefined their purpose after discharge.

On the farewell front we have Lee Green who was discharged August this year.

Yours in mateship
Glenn
Nat Pres



Organisational help, to help get organised....



GO2 Health

Military Support Coordinators (MSCOs) at RAAF Amberley refer people transitioning out to these services.

GO2 started out as 'GO2 Human Performance' in 2009. They have a diverse range of **ADF/DVA** and Private patients, across a number of niches.

GO2 health is a multi-modality health clinic and these integrate fully with doctors. We believe the key to good health and health care is to form a relationship with our patients, ensuring they receive the treatment they need, with the minimum of fuss. Our allied health services are the backbone, and these integrate fully with our doctors.

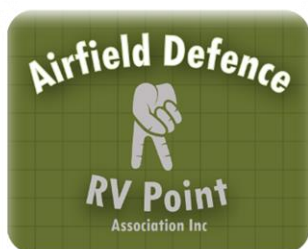
They will help you find what you need, and aim to wrap you up in a one stop shop.

Contact Email: ask@go2health.com.au

Phone: (07) 3355 5540

Website: <https://www.go2health.com.au/content/contact>

ADAA



adgblueberet.org

Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF), Airfield Defence has a long and proud history (in various forms) as early as 1929.

The Airfield Defence Association of Australia ("the Association"), was initially formed in 1987 by a group of ex/serving ground defence personnel, after the Vietnam Veterans Welcome in Sydney. However, it wasn't until 1991, that the Association was formally created and Incorporated.

Our Association webpage is undergoing an overhaul. A new addition will be the RV Point, where a range of veteran information and links sourced and supported by the ADAA will be available. Take a look and see the framework of the site which will be driven by your input.

<https://adgblueberet.org/>



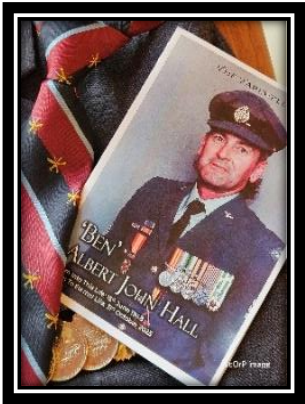
Events

October

2025 Reunion Hobart



Bundaberg Funeral Ben Hall



Coming up

December

Victoria - WWII Guard 100th Birthday 14 December

Amberley Memorial Project



Anzac Day 2026

Write to us if you're planning a gathering on no matter where you are and we'll put in the next edition. Email us at: [Editor Blue Beret Journal](#)

- Perth
- Adelaide
- Darwin
- Melbourne
- Hobart
- Sydney
- Brisbane
- Canberra
- Townsville



REUNION 2025 HOBART



The Salamanca Whiskey Lounge. Vanessa, Lloyd, Julie and Brett.

The long-awaited reunion in Tasmania finally arrived this year. Last year we postponed it for an event held in Melbourne and we didn't want a clash of events, given the distances people would need to travel. It was a popular event for the year with many people arriving early or staying a while longer for a bit of a holiday in the process.

Thursday was a meet & greet at the Hobart Workers Club in Hobart. There was a myriad of newer faces older and younger catching-up. There were forty plus people who rolled in. Our group was so larger than the normal number of locals, so much so that another room had to be opened up for us.

With a quick welcome from President Glenn to all assembled, the night was but young. Among the furthest travelled was **Alan & Lorraine Dare** from Townsville, **Lynette Biggs** from Atherton Tablelands. Amazingly **Alan and Pamela Lamb** flew in from Perth.

The next morning, we jumped a bus and went out to historic Richmond. While some walked down to the convict-built Richmond bridge, others soaked up the local chocolate or a couple of us did a Whiskey tasting. From there it was off to lunch at 'Every Man and his Dog' winery and sumptuous wine tasting for the afternoon.



Kel Dukes (QLD) and Colin Mears (TAS) at the meet & greet.

Saturday was a free day to head to the famous Salamanca Markets or to grab those last-minute items (like boots) to wear to dinner. No names, no pack drill.

The dinner started with the ode and a little bit of Dorothea McKeller. The lucky door prize was drawn which went to Liz Kunde. What a great night it was and great meals which were prepared by the catering staff of the Workers Club. Don Scott from No 1 ADG Course read a speech penned for the funeral of his course mate Tony Cooper. Don then presented it to the Association. Don's speech will be scanned and appear in the next edition of the Blue Beret.

From there we raffled off Warfighter Coffee prizes and people moved around from table to table sharing stories as they went.

Our appreciation goes out to the Entertainments committee and to all who attended for making it such a memorable occasion.





The loaded bus for Richmond & Every Man and his Dog winery tour, with lunch.



Steve Crosling (VIC) on the winery tour.



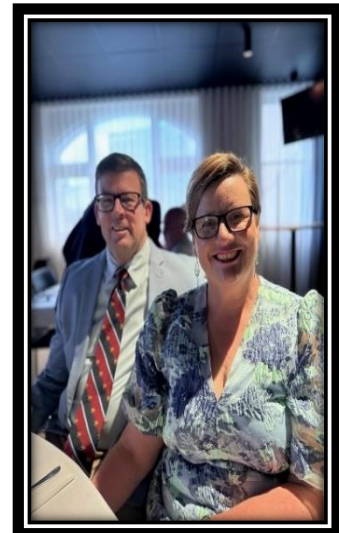
Chris Fisher, Bill Zeller, Tanya, Jim Simons, Ron Sherriff.



Dinner: Eden & Gayle Woolan. Brett Rogers and Michael Boucher.



Luke & Jane Donnelly



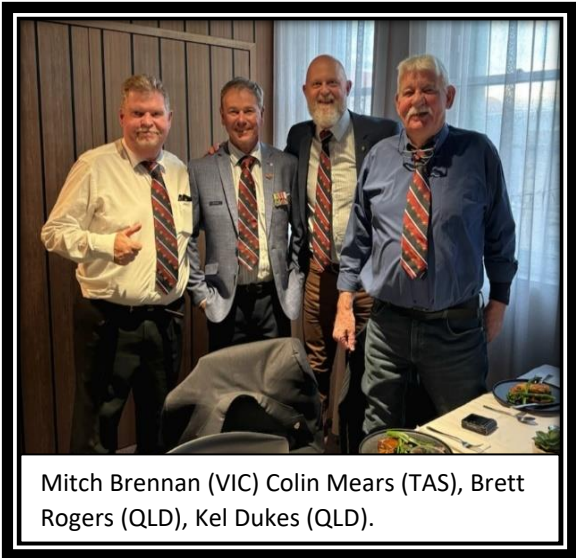
ADAA Secretary Lloyd and Vanessa Schneider.



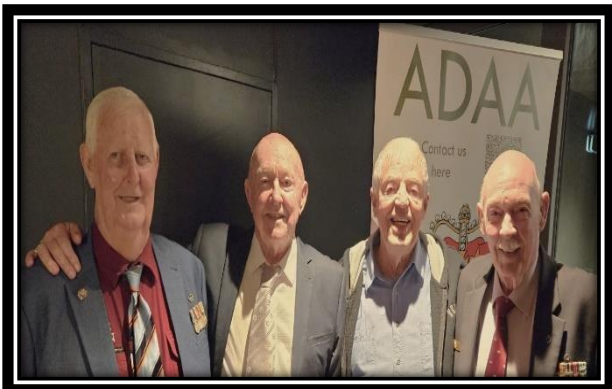
Brett and Julie Rogers.



Pre-dinner chatter as people take their seats.



Mitch Brennan (VIC) Colin Mears (TAS), Brett Rogers (QLD), Kel Dukes (QLD).



L to R: Barry Aisthorpe, Bob Kinnane, Arthur Todd, Peter Harrold.



Saturday night dinner group.



Carol Dwyer & Harvey Nichol



After dinner: All the Ladies.

Trevor Scott WWII Guard turns 100

Dr Sean Carwardine

A quick overview.

Five months ago, during further research of RAAF Airfield Defence I found a living legend. I came across an image of a WWII RAAF Guard doing a memorial tribute to a WWII digger at the AWM. I was able to contact this person through his RSL at Inverloch Victoria.

I organised a trip to interview this aviator and spent the day, and then the evening with him at the RSL. During this interview I found out that he will be turning 100 years old on 15th December 2025.

In conversations with contacts at Inverloch RSL, the RSL will be having a dinner for his birthday on the 14th December. I would like the Air Force to contribute some form of presentation for this event. I have seen many images through RAAF News and Air Force Images of other aviators celebrating their 100th.

The alternate President of Inverloch RSL, together with RSL coordinator, has been informed of this planning, of which they fully support.

It would be great to see if we could get some of the Security Force personnel down for the dinner.



I have also spoken to the President of the Airfield Defence Association, who is supportive of a celebration of the event.

Service details :

Trevor John Scott
Service Number 146460
DOB 15 Dec 1925
Enlistment 13 Jan 1944

Trevor served with many units; his last wartime unit was No 10 Communications Unit in Bougainville Island from March 1945 until Feb 1946. Then serving for another four months at Northern Area Command.

Sean

Ground Defence Memorial



For those who have either not seen, or not aware of our Ground Defence Memorial, these images show what it looks like. It was put in place at Amberley circa 2010. The photos show the memorial adjacent to No 2 Security Forces Headquarters, Amberley.

The memorial currently records the known names from WWII to the present day. The current criteria is the person named must have been a serving Ground Defence Officer or Airfield Defence Guard at the time of death.

Now is the time. The recent change in name of **Ground Defence Officer & Airfield Defence Guard** to Security Forces Officer and Security Forces (enlisted) respectively requires an evolution of the criteria. This presents an opportunity to incorporate our origins and point the way forward for future generations.

Over the years the security requirements for entry to the Base have made it more difficult to access. As such we are raising a project to have the memorial relocated so that it is more accessible by all. Some of the considerations at the moment are:

- Accessibility for regular calendar events.
- A geographical location not within the confines of a military base,
- New design incorporating the evolution of the capability from 1929 to present day,
- Raising the funds for the construction, and
- Defined criteria for entry of names onto the memorial.

The executive committee **urge members** to get involved in the discussion as the project takes shape. How do our members do that? By attending meetings in person or via Zoom, to ask questions of clarification and have a say. Members are also able to email us at:

airfielddefence762@gmail.com

Ed



Socials



Gary Penney recognised

Kawana Waters Sub-branch wellbeing advocate Gary Penney was awarded QLD RSL ANZAC of the year award. What a fantastic achievement. Gary served as the Commanding Officer of 2 Airfield Defence Squadron during the 1990s. **RSL NEWS Edition 03 of 2025.**

ADAA Committee offers congratulations to Gary.

Recruit Instructor catch-up



June: Simon Lovelock (green shirt), of recruit course 1668 travelled to Tin Can Bay via Maryborough to catch up with 'Mooka' Cowley (purple shirt) his old recruit Instructor from 1982. Also in attendance were Jim Soanes and Peter Gear.



October: ADGie Girls in Richmond, Tasmania. Kelly, Liz & Lynette.



November: Tim and Rachel Ciesiolka were in Brisbane and an impromptu catch up ensued. Among those who came along were Chris Obrien, Steven Voll, Eden Woolan, Brett & Julie Rogers and Col Weekes.

Ed

Socials

Janowen Hills 4WD Park.



Col Weekes, Obie & Goose

Another great few days camping out with mates. The weather really was great and our thanks goes to the park owners as our host. Tony Bell scared the owners whilst exploring wearing his skulls bandanna and carrying an axe. *'Yes he's our friend, so nothing to worry about'*. Greg Maxted travelled down from Townsville, and it was great to see him. As always, there were loads of laughs and stories over the few days.

Goose Rogers



Tony Bell, Maxi, Obie



Greg Maxted (TVL)

The principles remain the same : Bring your own kit, muck in where needed, come and or go as you need and share stories and laughs.

Ed



I wish you and everyone @ the Association and their respective families a very Merry Christmas, Happy New year and successful season.

Gillie & Jack



In this section we run articles on former serving members and provide some insights into what they are doing now.

Outpost Advocacy

By Greg Jenkins – Former ADG



My journey to becoming one of the directors of Outpost Advocacy is one shaped by multiple factors and life changing events. After

serving 26 years in the Defence Force, I witnessed every dimension of the veteran experience when transitioning out of uniform. Military life teaches people discipline, teamwork, and strength, but it doesn't prepare you for how complex life can become.

For me, that complexity was compounded by a tragedy that changed the course of my life. When my mother, Anna Jenkins, was kidnapped and murdered in Malaysia, it broke something inside me. Mum (and Dad) were the embodiment of compassion and helped others wherever possible including the homeless, refugees and anyone in need of help. In the aftermath of losing them, I made a personal commitment to carry on their legacy of kindness and service. Helping people wasn't just something they believed in; it was fundamental to who they were. Honouring that to help others has become a guiding force in my life.

My own DVA claims process was an incredibly difficult experience. At the time, I was struggling with my own demons whilst trying to navigate a complex and overwhelming DVA system. However, I found an advocate who genuinely cared, listened, and did everything they could to help me. Unfortunately, the company they worked for overcharged,



undervalued, and treated the client like a transaction rather than a veteran seeking support. The lack of genuine care from that organisation opened my eyes to a harsh reality: many businesses operating in the advocacy space were focused on profit, not on the wellbeing of veterans.

That became a turning point for me. I realised veterans deserved more than inconsistent support. They deserved empathy, respect, honesty, and an advocate who stands beside them and their family. If I found it hard, I could only imagine how others were feeling too!

The idea for Outpost Advocacy started forming not long after. We formed a business plan that was simple but effective.

"A service that puts veterans first, not our profit. No unnecessary fees. No hidden motives. Just genuine support, delivered by people who understand the system and who care about the individual and their family."



Comoro Airfield East Timor 1999
- 2000



I shared the plan to some trusted friends who knew why this mattered so much. They read it and believed in it, including ex-ADG Troy Claydon at Panoptic Solutions who gave, and continues to give me solid advice. With their support, Outpost Advocacy was born.

From the beginning, we built the organisation on three core values: transparency, compassion, and respect. These are the foundation of how we approach every veteran. I know what it feels like to be overwhelmed, to feel lost in the system, and to struggle with the emotional and psychological weight that many veterans carry. My experiences helps shape the way our team supports others: with patience, understanding, and genuine care. We offer transparency with fees and one of the only Advocacy companies that cap our fees at \$15,000 excl. GST we not only offer veteran support, but family support as well and one of the only Advocacy companies that offer a Lifetime membership. After their journey with the DVA process has come to a completion, whatever it is, if they ever feel lost or alone, they can call us for a chat or to access one of our many allied health support services. For Life!

For me personally, Outpost Advocacy is far more than a business. It's also the living continuation of my parents' legacy. It's a response to the challenges I've faced personally. It is the close bond and friendship I share with the other director and our entire Outpost team. It's also our way of ensuring that no veteran goes through the DVA process alone or unsupported.

Every time we help a veteran understand their claim or stand beside someone during a difficult moment, I feel Mum and Dad's legacy being honoured. Soon we will also evolve the business to include support and advocacy for first responders, FIFO, Teachers and Farmer's; to give them the support that defence members get through their complex systems. My journey hasn't been an easy one. It has been shaped by loss, service, and the struggle to find my footing after leaving the Defence Force and in life. We hope that Outpost Advocacy can save or change someone's life for the better. That's why Outpost Advocacy exists and we will continue to stand with veterans through their darkest hours.

Jenks



THE BATTLE OF PALEMBANG 14-16 FEBRUARY 1942

A Lesson in Ground Defence for Two Air Forces

By The late - Dr Nigel Warwick – Corps Historian RAF Regiment & Dr Sean Carwardine – RAAF Airfield Defence Association Historian

Prologue

At the conclusion of my PhD and the formal peer-reviewed assessments by academic Doctors in RAAF history, strategy, military thinking, and RAF history, I was instructed by a well-known RAAF Historian that a few ADGs/Guards could not hold an airfield under such attacks as the invasion of Palembang. He stated that we could not defend an airfield with 80 ADG/Guards against well-trained infantrymen. This historian advised me to revise my thesis stating that the 80 Guards in 1941, when the RAAF deployed to Singapore, could have done their job and provided the airfield defence they were tasked to deliver.

This historian was an ex-RAAF member and, from the comments, did not understand our training and confidence in ourselves. This article, co-authored by Dr Nigel Warwick and I, demonstrates that the RAAF did not consider

the policy, which CAS G Jones would later implement, of arming everyone without providing training, does not work. However, this article illustrates how a few individuals, who believed in themselves and were trained for a specific job, achieved even more.

Dr Nigel Warwick lost his battle with cancer this year. To all, 'Through Adversity and Defend the Nest'. To all this article is a tribute to him.

The Malayan Campaign – The Beginning The Crete debacle in May 1941, where the capture of a strategic airfield had been a key factor in the loss of the Island, led directly to the establishment of the Royal Air Force Regiment. What is not commonly known is that, only a few days after the Regiment's formation and nine months after Crete, Air Force ground defence personnel were desperately fighting for possession of forward airfields threatened by airborne assault.

Just after midnight on 7-8 December 1941, Japan launched seven simultaneous attacks on British, American and Thai territories and possessions in South East Asia and the Pacific. As a consequence of peacetime neglect and the heavy demands on RAF resources in European and Middle East theatres, the RAF in the Far East did not possess the resources to fulfil its responsibility as the primary means of resisting Japanese aggression.



taking Guards to Singapore and that the chaotic manner in which the RAAF was conducting airfield defence could not provide adequate protection. It also demonstrates that

The aircraft were limited in number, possessing only 158 out of the required 582, by the time of the Japanese attack. Many were obsolete or of poor performance, and there

was a lack of experienced pilots. The development and location of airfields were the result of geographical and administrative compromises, as well as some disagreements between the Army and the Air Force. As a result, most were in tactically weak positions. Ground defence was to be based on locally raised troops or Indian State forces, and there was a paucity of anti-aircraft guns and equipment.

Air attacks were launched by the Japanese against northern Malaya, and, supported by naval bombardment, troops were landed on



Feb 1942, RAF and RAAF airmen on their way to Sumatra

the beaches only half a mile from the northernmost airfield at Kota Bahru. The primary focus of the first air attacks was on the airfields of the RAF, not the defensive positions of the Army. This severely weakened the RAF's capacity to support the Army. Within 24 hours, there were only 50 serviceable aircraft; the Japanese had destroyed many on the ground and denied use of the northern airfields to the RAF. More Japanese troops were landed unopposed, and the Japanese air forces were soon operating from captured airfields. On 10 December, the crushing blow to British prestige occurred with the sinking of the battleships HMS's *Prince of Wales* and *Repulse* under an onslaught of high altitude bombing and aerial torpedoes. In combination with the losses to the US Pacific Fleet at Pearl Harbour, the Japanese now had undisputed command of the Malayan waters.

The Island Fortress of Singapore Over the next few weeks, the Japanese moved faster than anticipated, employing a combination of rapid movements through the jungle and

mountains, as well as a succession of outflanking landings, to sweep down the Malayan Peninsula. As the Army had withdrawn, the RAF had seen the number of airfields on the mainland from which it could operate gradually whittled away. By 31 January 1942, the British, Indian and Australian ground forces had withdrawn in good order across the causeway into the island Fortress of Singapore. Of the four airfields on Singapore Island, only one, Kallang, was out of enemy artillery range, but it was soon spotted with bomb craters. A few RAF fighters remained, but the bomber force had departed to the south to continue the air war.

The RAF and RAAF redeploy to the Netherlands East Indies

As the situation had deteriorated, reinforcements were rushed from the United Kingdom and the Middle East. It had become clear to Air HQ Far East that Singapore was no longer a sound base for operations, and aircraft were redeployed to the Netherlands East Indies (NEI) (present-day Indonesia), particularly to the two large islands of Java and Sumatra. On 16 January, as part of ABDA Commandⁱ, the air forces under ABDAIR West Group (under the command of Air Vice-Marshal Paul Maltby) ordered No 225 (Bomber) Group HQ to establish an air base on the northern-most NEI island of Sumatra. The aircraft were flown from Singapore, while most ground personnel were transported by sea. Many airmen became separated from their units in the chaos and confusion caused by the bombing of the Singapore docks, and much of the air stores, equipment and MT vehicles that were urgently required were not loaded, lost, or went astray.

Sumatra is an island nearly 1000 miles long and lies west of and parallel to the coast of Malaya. Communications were poor, with few roads and a limited railway system.

The island features a large mountain chain running down its western side, accompanied by extensive lowland plains that are crossed by numerous rivers. These plains are also interspersed with areas of low-lying jungle and swamp to the east. The key economic features were an oilfield and two refineries located at Palembang in the south-east, and a port at Oosthaven in the south.

The airfields: P.1 and P.2 The two key Sumatran airfields were at Talangbetoetoe and Karangendah, more easily referred to as P.1 and P.2, respectively. P.1, the civil airfield, was a large L-shaped aerodrome with two hard runways. Although Dutch engineers had well developed it, it had no accommodation and RAF personnel had to be billeted in the town, some 8 miles away to the south-east. This would be the base for the Hurricanes of No. 226 (Fighter) Group.

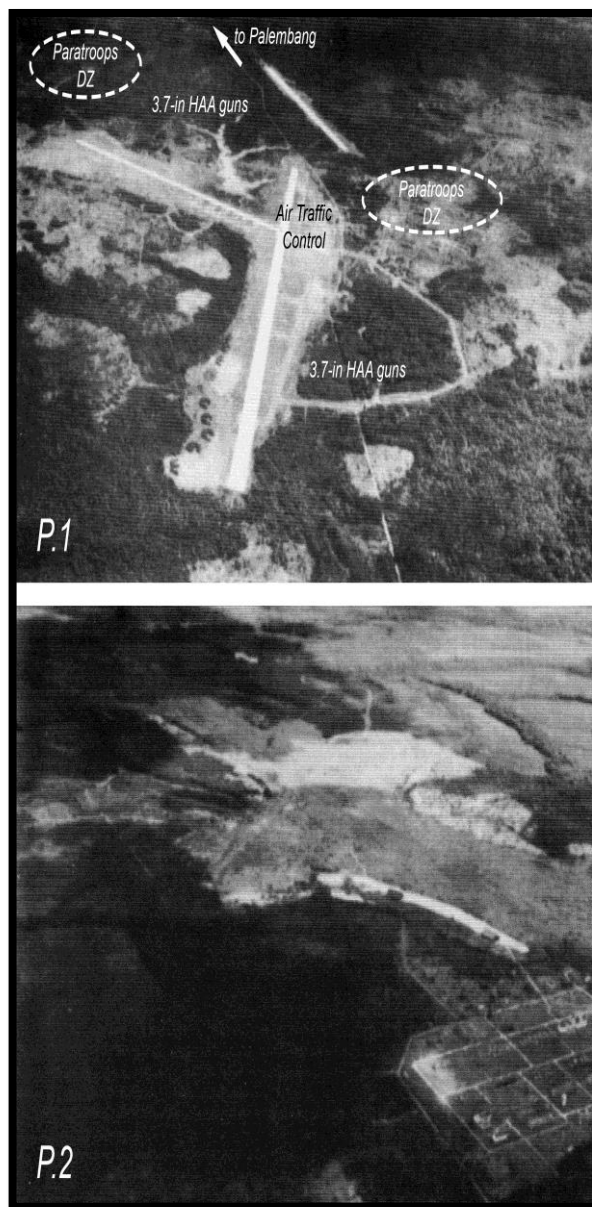
P.2 was a secret military aerodrome located 40 miles to the south-east and would host the Blenheim's and Hudson's of No 225 (B) Group. It was formed from a natural clearing with a 10-mile perimeter, surrounded by swamp and jungle, and was invisible from the road. In constructing the airfield, nothing was done to interfere with the natural jungle apart from draining some land. The dispersal areas, located in squadron bays, were cut into the jungle and well hidden, causing minimal damage to the surrounding vegetation.ⁱⁱ John Wright, a Supply Officer No. 1 Squadron RAAF, described the journey to P.2:

"Most of 1 Squadron arrived by boat from Singapore to the wharf of Palembang. Travelled by train and then ferry to P.2 at night and found some huts on the aerodrome to sleep in. Next day the aircraft started arriving. It did not look like an aerodrome."

Despite frequent night and day overflights by Japanese reconnaissance aircraft, P.2 was never discovered until the Japanese ground forces pushed forward a few weeks later. Communications between Palembang town and P.2 were handicapped by the intervening Moesi River, with only a small ferry that could transport only 4-6 vehicles at a time.

Telephone lines linked each aerodrome and Group HQ, but they were insecure. With no spare wire or equipment, there was no internal telephone system.

There was no radar for early warning for the two airfields. The Dutch authorities established a primitive observer system, but the observers were enthusiastic but amateur civilians, and warnings were often erratic and unreliable. The monsoon was also in progress over Sumatra, adding a layer of risk and uncertainty to air operations. Several violent thunderstorms delivering torrential rain were *de rigueur* for each sortie, severely limiting visibility for both pilots and navigators.

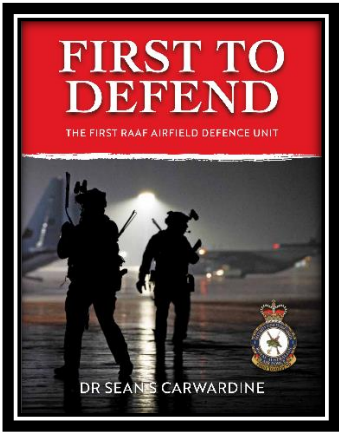
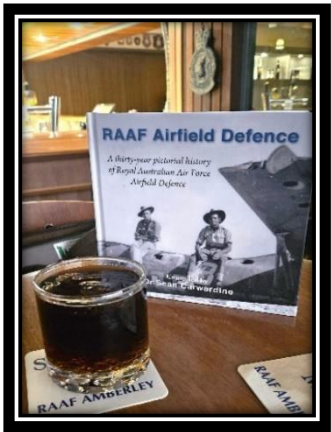


By 22 January, there was some semblance of order as the first aircraft began to arrive at P.1 and P.2. No 225 (B) Group at P.2 was formed of elements of Nos 27 (Night Fighter), 34 (B) and 62 (B) Squadrons RAF with Blenheim Is and IVs, and Hudson's of Nos 1 and 8 (GR) Squadrons of the Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF), which had all flown from Singapore. Aircraft reinforcements were arriving, with Blenheim IVs of Nos 84 and 211 (B) Squadrons RAF flying

in from the Middle East, and forty-eight Hurricanes were to be delivered from the aircraft carrier HMS *Indomitable*. The latter to equip Nos 232 and 258 (F) Squadrons RAF of No. 266 (F) Wing at P.1.ⁱⁱⁱ The bombers and fighter squadrons were tasked to provide air cover over shipping movements to and from Singapore and would later be called on for anti-shipping strikes on the Japanese invasion convoys.

Dr Carbs will be back with more of the Battle of Pelambang in the next edition of the Blue Beret.

Two other books published by Dr Carwardine.



- RAAF Airfield Defence Coffee table book
- First To Defend

To order email: carbs99@bigpond.com



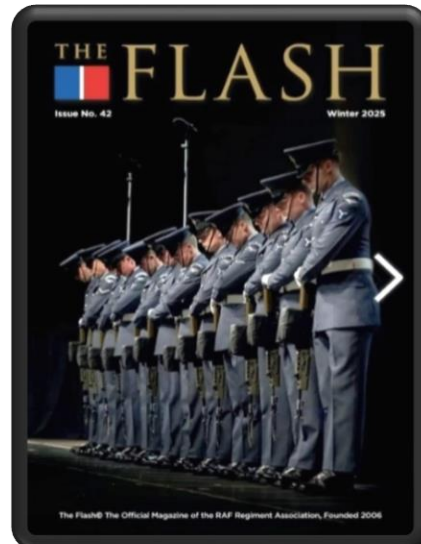
Our Affiliated Association



Our connection with our counterpart Association continues to grow. As we approach the new year there will be new dialogue between our respective committees with view to exchange ideas and share the common ground of membership and modern relevancy to newer veterans.

Currently, this is being done by our sharing of Blue Beret Journal and Flash Magazine.

IMPORTANT: As a current financial member, if you have not been receiving your electronic Blue Beret Journal, it may be going into your spam/junk email folder. Outlook does not know what is spam/junk mail and what isn't. Check regularly before clearing it.



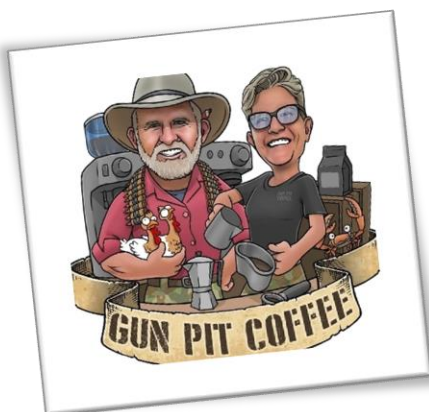
Hi Glenn,

Hope this email finds you all well. Here is the link for the latest issue of the Flash magazine to share with your members.

Sean Linard (editor Flash Magazine)

If you are not up to date with membership you may miss out. Please check your current status and contact details with the Secretary ADAA by emailing us at [ADAA SEC](#).

[Flash Magazine for Association members here.](#)



Gun Pit Coffee Stop

Rachel & Tim Ciesiolka of Bouldercombe provide a great coffee stop. Stockist of Warfighter Coffe

Check them out on Facebook for opening times.



[GunPit Coffee](#)

Farewells

8165163 - FLTLT Lee Green ADG/GRDEF



Lee joined the Royal Australian Air Force in 1999 as an Airfield Defence Guard. After recruit course he proceeded to Amberley for

Basic ADG training at RAAFSFS.

Lee worked his way through the enlisted ranks across a numerous unit postings. He was fortunate to have served in all three of the operational Squadrons throughout his career. A feat which only a select few achieve. - 1SECFOR, 2SECFOR, 3SECFOR. Notably, he served prior to the changeover to Security Forces at 3 Airfield Defence Squadron and 2 Airfield Defence Squadron.

Having reached Flight Sergeant, Lee went on to commission into the Ground Defence Officer category, later transitioning under the new structure to Security Forces Officer.

His career spans over 25 years and during that time he served on deployments to Afghanistan, Middle East, Papua New Guinea and Soloman Islands.

Lee was well known as a go-getter - he is trusted and well respected with those he served with. His achievements speak for themselves and from 2015 to 2022 received three commendations A silver Air Force Commendation, CO's Commendation and an Australian Defence Force bronze commendation.

Lee discharged on the 12th of August 2025 and a whole bunch of mates attended his farewell at Club Services Ipswich. Lee has a great circle



of mates which is important in the years that follow discharge from the military.

Among those to farewell Lee;

Todd Goldsmith, Davin 'DJ' Carlile, 'Nudge' McHugh, 'Tac' MacDonald, Lloyd 'Snauz' Schneider, Chucky Kearnan, Simon Sauer, Michael 'Pom' McDonnell, Chris O'Brien, Peter 'Bucky' Weaver, Col Weekes, Richie 'Dinger' Bell, Brett 'Goose' Rogers. Steve Voll, Chris Eastgate.



Cheers Lee

Our congratulations to you on your career and what lays ahead mate.

Ed

SAS Airfield Raid Falklands - 1982

Defender Series

Multi-part series. Part 1

Dateline: Pebble-March 1982

The origins of the SAS were forged in WWII with the raiding of German airfields in the Western Desert 1941. Thirty-nine years later, circumstances in the Falkland Islands would require the very same type of raid.

However, there was a problem... The SAS had not done it since WWII and the scale of the mission would require a Squadron level attack!

On the world stage, the Cold War reached a crescendo in 1982 under Brezhnev(USSR) and Regan(USA). The Soviets were facing economic stagnation and USA were continuing the place in a less colonial influenced world. Britain and France had been on the decline since the 1956 Suez Canal incident. Neither were considered as having major influence in world affairs.

The Soviets believed that Britain would not fight for sovereignty in the Falklands. Adding fuel to the fire, the Argentinean "ruling junta" of the time believed their unpopularity with the people meant they must force the British out to gain favour with their people.

So, what was it about the Falkland Islands that the British felt was so important to send a task force 13000 km to the edge of the Antarctic circle? In itself thus creating an unprecedented logistical supply line.

What is it that we can learn from the Pebble Island raid and how can we apply that to the



The Falkland Islands. Located off the bottom of South America. Photo: Open source

Security Forces context? Were the SAS lucky and were the Argentinian defensive measures inadequate? Was it both?

Warfare can be divided into two areas. The nature of war and the character of war. The nature of war remains constant and has done so going back to the **Peloponnesian Wars of 431-404 BCE**. The nature of war is 'why' we go to war. The character of war is 'how' war is waged. Character constantly evolves and is influenced by increasing technology.

It will be good to know that certain conditions need to be present for conflict to occur. Particular aspects played out on both sides which set the scene for failure and success in attack and defence.

The Falkland Islands are located in the South Atlantic Ocean on the edge of the Antarctic circle. The weather conditions of Autumn were volatile and cooling down with the onset of winter imminent.

Argentina is 500km to the west, making logistical support better than Britain but response time for major air support lengthy. The claim of sovereignty is British however

Argentina had a long-standing desire to lay claim to the Islands. The military ruling junta of Argentina were unpopular and generally not politically savvy. The British Government lead by Maragret Thatcher as PM was popular and were very politically experienced on the world stage.

Opposing forces were quite different with much of the Argentinean conscripts facing off against the professional regular British forces. Included in the UK task force was an element of Special Forces who were expected to provide close reconnaissance and intel in addition to destruction of specified targets.

In the years that followed WWII the SAS had developed standalone skills second to none. In 1980 a siege in London at the Iranian Embassy required anti-terrorist skilled forces to break the siege. Enter the SAS who had honed their skills in this area. During this Cold War period the SAS were being utilised to test security breeches for the RAF in **Tactical Evaluation Exercises** (TACEVAL). This was the closest to an airbase the SAS had operated in and generally in small teams.

The RAF opened the war with SAS seizing control of Georgia 21st of April, followed by air strikes from Vulcan bombers on Port Stanley airfields. Reducing the ability to launch aircraft was priority. Although the damage was negligible at Stanley the Argentinean ground attack squadrons were moved to Goose Green. When Goose Green was bombed, they were moved again to Pebble Island, a forward operating base. The chess pieces were in place and the stage was now set.

At the end of April, the Argentinean forces moved a company from Stanley into Pebble Island to establish and defend the runway as a potential forward operating base. It would be a Company minus with a strength of seventy-four. The first priority was to secure the

nearest suitable building for sleeping and messing then build defences. The commander had been promised he would be reinforced as soon as practicable.

A major threat to the planned landing forces (2 Parachute Regiment) was assessed as ground attack aircraft. The destruction of these very capable aircraft became a priority prior to the landings, as close as six days away. D Squadron was selected and preparations began that night to insert a reconnaissance patrol. They would remain in location until the main raiding party arrived.

As preparations began the remaining troops realised they were ill-prepared for such a raid to destroy multiple aircraft dispersed across an airfield. There were no fused explosives to plant in key positions to render the aircraft inoperable. The best that could be mustered were 40mm grenade launchers and short-range anti-armour rocket launchers. Both were designed to be used at distance.

With 17-Troop on their way for their insertion on the night of 11 May it would be a good six to eight hours before there was a clear picture of what was waiting for them. The possibility of enemy ground-based approach radar would cancel plans of a helicopter insert.



SAS route to the airfield 6.5 km

The possibility of a high sea state would also make a water insertion too dangerous to attempt.

17-Troop recce party report confirmed 10 to 12 aircraft in location with little to no visibility of radar around the airfield. The terrain was undulating, open to weather and very little concealment with sparse vegetation. Enemy field defences were evident with barb wire and sand-bagged fighting pits. All defences were within hand grenade throwing distance to the runway and parked aircraft.

17-Troop, sitting in observation of the airfield, noted the lack of routine in defence. There were no regular sentry changes or patrolling internally externally of the perimeter. There were four guard posts however.

The Argentinean principles of land defence was to be statically deep in defence and rely on close air support for British landings around the coastal landing sites. Their forces concentration was focussed on Port Stanley and Goose Green. Both had a functioning airstrip, although the one at Goose Green was a grass undulating strip not suitable for fighters or heavy transport aircraft.

The British naval task force could be attacked from the mainland and enemy aircraft with Exocet missiles were the main threat. As the war played out, weather and getting aircraft over their targets was difficult.



Artist rendition D Squadron in action Pebble Island

Time was compressing as planning and preparations of the main body of the Squadron. There was no time for rehearsals, as devising a way to get the required supporting arms to the airfield was priority. The imminent problem was availability of helicopters for insertion. In addition, qualified pilots who could fly with night vision equipment were also in shorth supply.

The British landings were designed to 'seize and control a forward operating base (FOB) to support landings. Could Pebble Island be that FOB?

Continued next edition



Around the Units

No. 1 Security Forces Squadron - Williamtown



1 SECFOR remains heavily committed for deployed Aircraft Security Operational tasking across the region and beyond. Likewise, the 1SECFOR Amberley detachment is regularly supporting units based in that location. Their focus is Aircraft Security Operations (ASO).

No. 2 Security Forces Squadron - Amberley

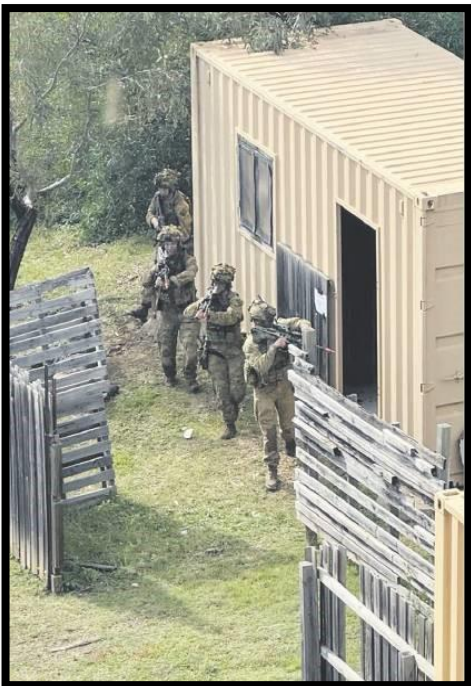


Ex Nomad Walk – Blank fire urban activity rehearsing a quick reaction force, where the Control tower had been seized by enemy forces. The section wrestled back control of, but also had to clear the surrounding area. Enter the Sky Ranger R-70 UAS (Unmanned Aerial Surveillance) and Black Hornet UAS for layered ISR.

CPL Dillon Walker, who had recently been promoted to section commander, referred to the training facility as an urban complex. He described how they deployed the R-70 “It flew through the numerous buildings, with the R-70 UAS observing at a higher altitude, and gave us a cursory picture of the enemy footprint in the complex we were about to clear,” CPL Walker said. It made the drills much more fluid for the assaulting party, because they were able to punch through the areas they deemed low threat – still with security, but they could then move to where they last saw the enemy.”

“The Military Working Dog (MWD) would walk into a courtyard with multiple rooms, sniff a

door and sit – and straight away you knew there was something he wanted you to see,” CPL Walker said.



2SECFOR during an urban operations training as part of **Exercise Nomad Walk**

“Rather than kicking down every door and having the potential for anything to happen, whether it be booby traps or contacts, we had this asset that was so handy and efficient.”

As well as **Nomad Walk**, 2SECFOR conducted the integrated live fire exercise **Crack Thump** from 3 May. “This type of training is critical to our unit’s preparedness and ability to employ various use-of-force options that contribute to the sustained projection of air power,” **SQNLDR Haynes** said.

“Our training progression is scaled across the threat spectrum, from employing our capabilities in permissive through to uncertain and hostile environments, with each stage assured in blank and live fire environments.”



An Air Force military working dog & handler during a live-fire section attack.

CPL Walker said that if they train for scenarios made as complex as possible, they would be ready for anything. The most enjoyable part of the training for him was witnessing his team improve with each run through. “If the section succeeds, then the squadron succeeds and it’s very rewarding,” he said.

SQNLDR Haynes said seeing the aviators thrive in a challenging training environment – and enjoy it – was a rewarding experience as a commander. “I’ve been at the unit for three years, and in that time I’ve watched the unit become far more capable, resilient, and prepared to provide the Air Force with a well-rounded and skilled capability.”



Skydrone R70 Unmanned Aerial Surveillance.
Photo : Open source

Information received through the No 2 Security Forces Squadron

WOFF Russell Durre

SQN WOFF

RAAF Security & Fire School - Amberley



The Blue Beret headed out to Amberley November and December to attend the Graduation of 39 and 40 Basic courses. These two courses have been since the last edition. We joined forces with Josh Rogers and President Glenn in November for 39 Course and then Troy Knight and President Glenn for 40 Course.

Ed

The primary role of all SECFOR is to deny access to designated assets, personnel and infrastructure required to sustain air operations. The new SECFOR Basic course is 18 weeks of intense Initial Employment Training (IET). Each graduate is able to employ less-than-lethal up to lethal levels of force aligned with Rules of Engagement. They deter, detect and respond to breeches of security. SECFOR employ a range of detection, surveillance, search, remote response and access control technologies.

WGCDR Brett MacDonald, CO RAAF SFS



Josh Rogers and Glenn went along to the most recent SECFOR Basic course graduations. They said each time we go along to SFS it is educational.

Learning, they say, never ceases and it keeps us young to witness the graduates right at the start of their Air Force journey. This year has been no different. We've had to keep up with the transitional journey. From when we joined and knew no different, to what we

now witness as we mingle with the graduates as they know no different.

The trade names may have changed and the integration of females into the role is well underway. The delivery of capability has shifted with Air Force policy. However, what we see each time is sharp and focussed people at the start of their professional career, and how well they are united in identity and purpose as Security Forces.

So focussed are they that it seems an impossible task to get them to relate to who we are, as the Association. We are coming in from a perspective that generally doesn't happen until the end of their Air Force career. That's a big ask ... but we're committed to place a younger generation of representation in front of them.

What was an eyebrow raiser this time is that one of the graduates on 0039 course was the nephew of Matthew Martin. AC Matthew Sullivan was named after his uncle's tragic death while serving as an ADG. On the same course was the son of 'Flash' Gordon, AC Thomas Gordon.

On 0040 course, the daughter of Adam 'Fletch' Fletcher graduated into Security Forces. The wheel turns as they begin their journey. All follow in the footsteps of their respective families.

Ed

Basic Course Graduation



Left: 0039 Course
14 Jul-14 Nov.

Awards

Marksmanship
ACW Taylor-Mason

Personal Qualities
AC Matthew Sullivan

Physical Fitness
ACW Penry

Dux
AC T Sutton:

Names: M. Adam, L. Brennan, G. Campbell, E. Carter, J. Cedmon, J. Christofides, T. Constatine, A. Cookson, W. Crabb, C. Daley, H. Dumiter, H. Fischer, T. Gordon, C. Graham, G. Hall, B. Hutcheson, P. Johnson, S. Karkee, I. King, R. Knight, M. Kregor, C. Lawrence, S. Lieu, B. Locke, J. Marches, P. McGrorey, B. McKay, D. Mikulic, S. Neaum, A. Penry, K. Pulsford, A. Redzic, C. J Richardson, A. Sellers, M. Sullivan, T. Sutton.



Left: 0040 Course
11 Aug – 11 Dec.

Awards

Marksmanship
AC B Tanner

Personal Qualities
ACW M Donaghy

Physical fitness
AC Bruinsma

Dux
AC J Osborne

Names: S. Ashton, D. Baikovs, B. Bennett, B. Beveridge, D. Bol Malek, W. Bruinsma, C. Campling, C. Chen, Z. Coker, D. de Marte, D Debnam, M. Donaghy, M. Eagles, S. Erneste, L. Fletcher, J. Fuller, A. Georgeopoulos, A. Gladigau, L. Grace, J. Granada, E. Hall, C. Hallam, B Harvey-Palmer, D. Higgerson, J. Holley, E. Honey, K. Hourigan, J. James, C. Kirby, G. MacNair, T. Mancini, T. Martin, A. McDonald, L. McRae, N. Milne, C. Montey, A. Murphy, V. Nicholson, J. Osborne, H. Perkins, A. Pietersz, R. Pointer, A. Polley, H. Storey, H. Sykes, A. Tai, B. Tanner, B. Vagg, C Witenden.

Note: Apologies. The 0040-course photo was taken a second late after the official RAAF photographer to theirs. Hence the candid appearance of the photo.





We Will Remember Them

How lucky are we that our friendships make saying
goodbye so difficult.

Earnest James GRIMSHAW	Guard 1953 Korea	
John William Henry KING	Guard	
John MATHEWS	DI/Ground Defence Officer	2024
Tony ‘block’ MOORE	ADG	2025
Anthony Raymond ‘TT’ TURNER	ADG	22 September 2025
Peter Stanley ‘Hawkeye’ HAWKINS	ADG / PTI / WOD	26 September 2025
Albert John ‘Ben’ HALL	ADG	31 October 2025
Kathryn GABLE	ADGie Girl	11 November 2025
Clint DAVEY	ADG	24 November 2025
Ted ZELLER	ADG	28 November 2025
Peter Bruce HALL	ADG	November 2025



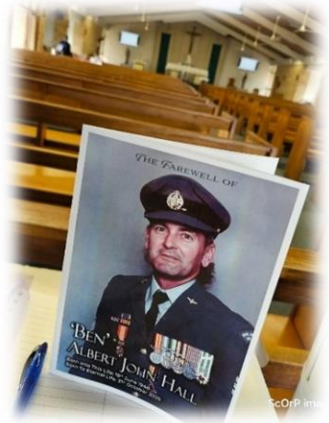
Merchandise / Next Edition

Remembering 'Ben' Hall

In 1966 in response to Australia's commitment to the breakout of war in Vietnam, the Royal Australian Air Force re-established the role of ground personnel to defend the perimeter of military aviation. The core of personnel was known as Airfield Defence Guards and they were led by Ground Defence Officers.

Almost everyone gets a nickname shortly after they join. For Ben that's exactly what happened. We all knew him as 'Ben', named after the notorious 1860's Australian bushranger Ben Hall. So A117321 Albert John Hall became 'Ben' to his mates. Ben joined the Royal Australian Air Force on the 22nd of March 1967 as an Airfield Defence Guard. He did recruit training at Edinburgh South Australia and then went on to complete Basic ADG training at Amberley in Queensland. Before embarking for a tour in Vietnam, a Flight was established at Williamstown in NSW for additional patrolling and field operations experience.

Ben's 12-month tour in Vietnam began in February 1968 at Phan Rang Airbase with No 2 Squadron. There were two primary locations within Vietnam where our people served. Phan Rang (a United States base) and Vung Tau, 300 Km to the south west of Saigon. On return to Australia Ben went on to serve as an ADG, before leaving the Air Force in 1987 as a Flight Sergeant.



On the day of Ben's funeral all kinds of families came together. His paternal family, Air Force family, Veterans Motorcycle Club family and his church going family. How much can you learn about someone in a few short hours? All kinds of things about the different facets of people's lives. We take it for granted that we know all there is to know about someone. Indeed, it is the members of the other families who show us more about the person we feel that we know.

After the main service Ben was escorted by 30 Veterans MC members back to his house for a combined military eulogy and wake. It was a moving tribute to Ben as his Air Force and motorcycle family remembered him together. Katie was presented an Australian flag in recognition

of his service. All who attended were invited by the chapter president to toast to Ben (known as Bushranger to Veterans MC) with Stones Green Ginger wine.



Lest we forget





Frogs Hollow 2024

For those who remember Ground Defence Flight at Amberley, the building still exists and is still that awful greenish colour.

Visit : Maryborough (Qld) Military & Colonial Museum

Guided Tours, which include the Gallipoli to Armistice Memorial, can be arranged.

10000 items of historically significant military and colonial memorabilia are on display, and all of exceptional quality. The museum is custodian to a VC awarded to Lieutenant (later Major) Herbert James, 4th Battalion, Worcestershire

The museum is open from:

Monday to Friday 9am – 3pm.

Saturday and Sunday 9am – 2pm.

***Last paid admission one hour before closing time.**

***Closed on Christmas Day, Boxing Day, Good Friday and New Years**



Regiment, for gallantry at Gully Ravine, Cape Helles, Gallipoli on 28th June and 3rd July 1915. It is one of only 39 VC's awarded for the Gallipoli campaign and the only one in Australia outside the Australian War Memorial.

Display items range through the full spectrum of our military and colonial roots.

The museum has four of the most historically significant medal groups for the Battle of Long Tan (18th August 1966) to Australian soldiers for the Vietnam War – 1964 to 1973.

[Maryborough Museum click here](#)

Here at the Blue Beret, we wish all of our Airfield Defence Family the very best for Christmas and the coming New Year.

It has been a significant year of loss of loved ones and renewal of old friendships. It is with a great sense of fulfillment that we here at the Blue Beret continue to stay in contact with others and share that here. We have also seen a great year of steady growth which inspires us to organise more events at a national level.



Ed

Next Edition

Our Own... Special two part series The Col Speedie story.



- Col Speedie the guy who went from ADG to Australian Federal Police (PM CPP & more).
- US Security Forces and their Association. They have been around for a long time. It's an interesting read, given the model we followed to re-shape us in theirs.



Membership

Invoices for membership will be issued by the end of March 2026 with payment due by Anzac Day 25 April 2026.

Annual Subscription remains at \$25 per general member. Life Members, Members For Life, (MFL), Associate and Honorary members, do not pay annual subscriptions.

For clarity, **Membership For Life (MFL)** is a one off payment in accordance with the scale below, where one payment secures Membership For Life (MFL). Applications for MFL are available from the Secretary and must be approved by the Committee.

AGE IN YEARS	AMOUNT PAYABLE
18 - 39	\$360.00
40 - 44	\$315.00
45 - 49	\$265.00
50 - 54	\$215.00
55 - 59	\$170.00
60 -64	\$145.00
65+ YEARS	\$125.00

Subscribers over 80 years General Members over the age of 80 years will no longer pay annual subscriptions. The rationale for this being that members in this age group have by that venerable age, made sufficient financial contribution to the Association, over many years, and that commitment should be recognised by their membership of this special category. This proposal, which mirrors National RSL policy, is yet to be ratified by the Association committee, but without getting ahead of the game, I believe it is already strongly supported

Subscription Payments. The preferred method of payment of Subs is by direct transfer into the Association bank account. Account details are:

Name of Account: Airfield Defence Association Inc.

BSB: 064417

Acct No: 11112272

Ensure the direct deposit is annotated: ADA Subs (your name)

Notwithstanding the above payment preference, Cheques will still be welcome, using the replied paid envelope which will be sent out with invoices.

For any subscription enquiries, please do not hesitate to contact me directly at secretary.adaa@gmail.com

Snauz

If you have an event coming up, are seeking information on something you would like to advertise your business or want to pass on some general information, please contact us with the details for inclusion in the Journal. Send to airfielddefence762@gmail.com

IMPORTANT The Blue Beret website is open for viewing and we recommend everyone to visit and then email content suggestions through.

Note: While we will send hard copies out to those who wish one or those who do not use computers, our main focus will be the electronic version.

Articles of interest or submissions are greatly appreciated and welcomed for the March and September publications. Additionally if you have skills or ideas you would like to share, you can contact us.

The website will become a more stable 'Go To' place for the next level repository of helpful long term information, that is considered constant in our lives as current and ex-serving Airfield Defence personnel.

<https://adgblueberet.org/>

QL Proofreading services utilised.

Ed

Page 33

End Notes

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4. 2025, Linard, Sean, Editor, The Flash Official Magazine of the RAF Regiment Association.
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15. 2025, Speedie, Col, My Story, Image supplied by author for ADAA use.
16. USAF Security Forces, open source images.

End Notes Pelambang 1942:

- American British Dutch Australian Command.
- RAAF Office of Air Force History, *Principle Lessons Learned in the Malaya-Sumatra Campaign (Air)*, 1942.
- There were also elements of No 605 (F) Squadron RAF. As with all RAF squadrons during the Second World War, there was a blend of pilots from all parts of the Commonwealth, and also a few from the USA; along with English, Scots, Welsh and Irish, there were Australians, New Zealanders, Canadians, South Africans and Rhodesians. Most of the pilots arriving as reinforcements were inexperienced having only just completed training at OTUs.