



THURUNKA

APRIL 2024

Newsletter of the
Royal Australian Signals Association (NSW) Inc.
Remembering
Aust. Lines of Communication Signals Association



President and Secretary
MAJGEN R P (Paul) Irving (Ret'd)

Treasurer:
Mr Keith Roberts

Editor:
Mr C D (Chris) Johnson

Mobile: 0412 284 550
Paul.kaaren@gmail.com

Mobile:

Mobile: 0417 262 984
cdjohnson@mac.com

Association website: <http://www.rasigsassociationnsw.org>

ROYAL AUSTRALIAN SIGNALS ASSOCIATION (NSW) Inc.

Association Matters

NEXT ISSUE

Copy for the next edition of THURUNKA must be in the hands of the Editor, Chris Johnson by 15 June 2024

All submissions to be via email at thurunkarasigs@gmail.com

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

ANZAC DAY MARCH 2024

Yes, the NSW Signals Association will be marching in the **Sydney Anzac March on Thursday 25th April 2024.**

We will be marching behind the NSW Signals Association Banner carried by soldiers from 142 Sig Sqn.

We will form up at the usual place on the **corner of Loftus and Bent Streets** in the Sydney CBD – look for the NSW Signals Association banner – see map on last page of this newsletter.

We need to **form up by 0930h**, with expected 'march off' by 1000h.

The march will take the normal route - up Bent Street and then right into Elizabeth Street. The march officially starts when Elizabeth Street crosses Martin Place. We march down Elizabeth street, do an "eyes left" at the Anzac Memorial and then fall out in Liverpool Street.

All Sigs who have had any period of service in the ADF are strongly encouraged to march in the Sydney Anzac Day march. You do not have to have had operational service to be able to march.

Why is it important to march? The Sydney Anzac Day march allows all the families and citizens who line the route of the march, as well as a much larger television audience, to thank all the veterans who march for their service to the ADF and to Australia. You should be proud of your ADF service.

So, we look forward at seeing you at the march.

POST MARCH CELEBRATIONS – Kent St. Hotel

Our post march celebrations will be held in the Kent St. Hotel, **349 Kent Street** Sydney, on the intersection with King Street on the western side of Kent Street and a moderate walk from the end of the march in Liverpool Street.

Thanks to the very generous sponsorship of the reunion provided by Mercury Information Security Services, we will be providing finger food to all Sigs attending the post march celebrations.

And as a special incentive, **for all Sigs renewing their membership of the NSW RA Sigs Association or joining the Association, which is only \$15 per annum, we will provide one voucher for a half price house beer.**

Why join the Association? We exist for you – for all Sigs, whether currently serving or retired. We seek to promote the *spirit-de-corps* amongst all Sigs, to maintain contact through our newsletter and social events, to keep you abreast of developments in the Corps and to promote the history and traditions of the Corps.

Note, for those Sigs who are unable to march, the Kent St. Hotel will be open from 0900h.

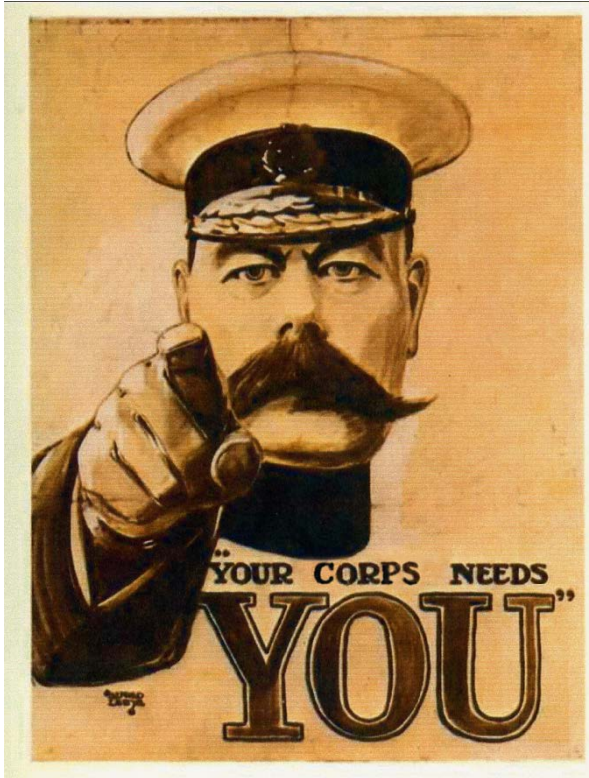
I look forward to seeing you at the march and afterwards at the reunion at the Kent St. Hotel.

Kind regards

Paul Irving
President

MEMBERSHIP!

Team,



The time has come again.....

To allow the Association to continue to function, a nominal annual membership fee is asked of members. This provides funds for publishing *Thurunka*, sponsorship of ANZAC Day and the Annual Memorial Service, support to Sigs units within NSW and other Association activities.

As such, it is time to pay your Annual Subscription Fee.

The fee is only \$15.00 per year. You can pay for multiple years in advance.

You can pay your Annual Subscription Fee in several ways.

The simplest way is to come to the march on ANZAC Day in Sydney then join everyone at the Reunion at the Kent St Hotel (ex-Mr Tippleys).

Pay by card or NFC (phone) at the



membership table near the entrance.

You can also renew or join the Association by pointing your camera at the QR code below. You can also click on the QR code in a desktop application. Both will take you to the membership portal.

You will be asked to fill in a google form with your contact details. Once you have filled in the form you will be shown the details needed to make a direct bank transfer. If you choose to pay using this method then you **MUST** ensure to include your name and initials in the transaction reference so we can record your payment.



Corps Matters

Corps Personalities

Head of Corps



Brigadier Deane Limmer
Commander of 6th Brigade

Deputy Head of Corps



Lieutenant Colonel Simmone Reynolds
Commander DFSS

Corps Regimental Sergeant Major



**Warrant Officer Class One
Benn James Goulter**

Honorary Appointments

- BRIG Alison Creagh, AM, CSC – Representative Colonel Commandant
- COL Christopher Rule – Colonel Commandant VIC/TAS
- COL Mike Brennan – Colonel Commandant WA
- COL Kirk Johnstone – Colonel Commandant NSW/ACT
- COL Martin Faulkner – Colonel Commandant SA
- COL Dan Bennet, CSC – Colonel Commandant Nth QLD and NT
- COL James Roche – Colonel Commandant Sth QLD

RASigs Personnel awarded Australia Day Honours 2024 for Distinguished Service and Outstanding Devotion to Duty:

Colonel **King** Michael James 26-1-2024 CAG S CSC

[For outstanding devotion to duty as the Commanding Officer of 7th Combat Signal Regiment.](#)
Colonel Michael King demonstrated exceptional leadership in command of 7th Combat Signal Regiment. Through vision and drive, he has fostered extraordinary advancement in education, innovation and concept development for the Combat Brigade, and his critical thinking and agile personnel management has generated operational flexibility and strategic responsiveness which brought great credit on the Australian Defence Force.



WO1 **Cheung** Damien Mark 26-1-2024 CAG S CSM



[For meritorious achievements as Career Manager Electronic Warfare Operator.](#)
Warrant Officer Cheung demonstrated exceptional professionalism and unwavering dedication in the delivery of career management for Electronic Warfare soldiers. His efforts as a Career Manager in providing close management of soldiers within a critical trade with significant workforce pressures has enabled improved personnel capability in tactical and strategic electronic warfare organisations. His efforts confirm the ongoing priority of personnel management within critical trades to optimise the delivery of strategic staffing priorities to achieve vital capability effects.

WO1 **Dobson** Nigel Roy 26-1-2024 CAG S CSM

[For meritorious achievement in the field of signals planning, and the development and implementation of survivable telecommunication networks.](#)
Warrant Officer Class One Dobson has made a significant contribution to the field of signals planning during his appointment as the 1st Division Telecommunications Network Engineer. He has consistently demonstrated outstanding technical acumen and self-sacrifice through the development of innovative methods to employ signals capabilities to enhance the survivability of the land and joint forces. His meritorious achievements have brought great credit on himself and are in keeping with the finest traditions of the Australian Defence Force.



Sig **Grayham** Thomas Anthony 26-1-2024 CAG S CSM



[For meritorious achievement as the Information Systems Technician for capability development on Joint Task Force 629 on Operation COVID-19 ASSIST from July to November 2021 and Operation FLOOD ASSIST 2022 from April to November 2022.](#)
Signaller Grayham displayed exceptional innovation and dedication as the Information Systems Technician at Joint Task Force 629 by developing Joint Domestic Operations situational awareness and Command and Control tools. He developed a system which enables strategic integration for deployed Australian Defence Force units allowing Commanders to track and task deployed personnel. His innovation will have an enduring impact and enhance the domestic and regional Australian Defence Force operations.

Going above and beyond

Service men & women recognised with a Soldier’s Medallion for Exemplary Service in 2023:

HOC/HOR.

Sig Tamara Madzika, 1st CSR, RASigs.

Special Operations Command.

Sig A. P. P, 1st Commando Reg.

Forces Command.

Sig Benjamin Liu, 17th Sust Bde.

Sig Charles Liu, 6th Bde.

Sig Alistair Tolond, 9th Bde

1st Division.

Sig Bodhi Power, 3rd CSR.

Cpl Luke Gallagher, 3rd CSR.

Cpl Conar McLoughlin, 1st Sig Regt.

Sig Jordan O’Sullivan, 1st Sig Regt.

Cpl Benjamin Abram, 7th CSR.

Cpl Rebecca Canfield, 7th CSR.

Sig Aaron Edwards, 7th CSR.

Sig Lindsay Miller, 1st CSR.

2nd Division

Sig Connor Cruikshank, NorForce.

Cpl Vicke Drew, 8th Sig Regt.

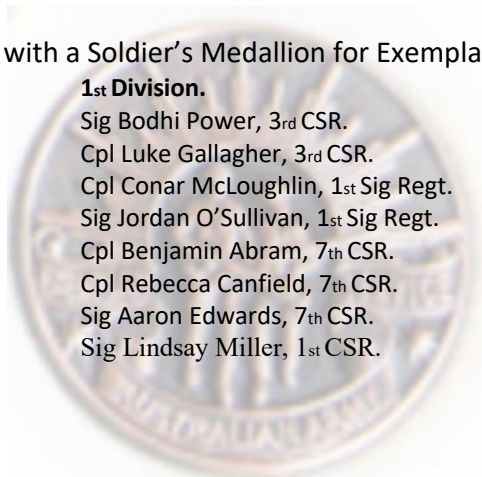
Cpl Cameron Ong, 8th Sig Regt.

Cpl Daniela Placek, 8th Sig Regt.

Cpl Liam Mendiolea, 8th Sig Regt.

Sig Damian Christakis, 8th Sig Regt.

Sig Hannah Harris, 8th Sig Regt.





ROYAL AUSTRALIAN CORPS OF SIGNALS
OFFICE OF THE HEAD OF CORPS
Lloyd Street, Gallipoli Barracks, QLD 4051, Australia

A message from the Head of Corps to serving members.

Welcome to 2024. I hope you enjoyed the break and had some time to relax and recharge with friends and family. For those who worked through the Christmas period due to operational or urgent tasks, I thank you for your commitment. For some, the posting cycle would have created challenges that would have affected families. I thank you all for your service and thank your families for supporting you.

The year has started in earnest and the current preparedness focus will ensure change is our companion for the foreseeable future. It is evident across the Corps we are building on the excellent work completed from 2023, especially the many achievements on Talisman Sabre 2023, and support to domestic and overseas operations. The Corps continues to make a significant contribution wherever our people serve.

Ongoing conflict in Ukraine and the Middle East, and great power competition in the Indo-Pacific remind us of the need to adapt to new challenges. Our Corps has always been at the forefront of adaption, and I call on you all to embrace the change required of our Army and our Corps as outlined in *National Defence: Defence Strategic Review 2023*.

Many of the challenges we face today, our Corps has encountered before. I commend to you the value of learning from history. As we prepare to mark our Corps' centenary in 2025, we have an opportunity to celebrate the Corps' achievements while fostering our community. The contributions made to the Corps by all have served over almost a century are important to recognise. The Certa Cito Foundation and the RASigs Associations are fantastic avenues for connection and I encourage everyone to engage with our wider Signals community. I also encourage your contribution to our Corps Funds and the Certa Cito Foundation to support our people as we mark our centenary and beyond.

Plans for national centenary events are well advanced and regional and unit activities are progressing. Concepts for a Corps sculpture and painting are well developed, and the refurbishment of the Corps Museum and associated displays are progressing well thanks to many volunteers and the support of the Army History Unit. We continue to seek photographs, stories and artefacts to capture our contemporary history. I call on anyone interested in supporting this work to let me know. I look forward to working with you all in preparation for Certa Cito 100!

It is appropriate that we continue to focus on preparedness outcomes and adapting to new and emerging challenges and threats. While our business is about providing options to Government, it is also appropriate at this significant time in our history that we also recognise the importance of celebrating our Corps' contribution over the last 100 years.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Deane Limmer'.

Deane Limmer, CSM
Brigadier
Head of Corps

29 February 2024



ROYAL AUSTRALIAN CORPS OF SIGNALS
OFFICE OF THE HEAD OF CORPS
Lloyd Street, Gallipoli Barracks, QLD 4051, Australia

A message from the Head of Corps to former serving members.

I write to former serving members of the Corps at an important time in our history. Ongoing conflict in Ukraine and the Middle-East, and great power competition in the Indo-Pacific are reminders of the need for our serving members to adapt to new challenges.

Many of you would be aware of the significant change outlined in *National Defence: Defence Strategic Review 2023*. The shift from a balanced force to a focused force is driving significant change in the Department, Army and our Corps. I recently wrote to our serving personnel reminding them that our people have always been embracers of change.

Our success will be measured by how well we can adapt to meet future requirements. I asked our serving personnel to remember the importance of learning from history and encouraged engagement with the broader Signals community, especially those who have served before us. We have an opportunity to learn from your experiences.

As we prepare to mark the Corps' centenary in 2025, we have an opportunity to celebrate the Corps' achievements while fostering our community. Plans for national centenary events are well advanced and regional and unit activities are progressing. Concepts for a Corps sculpture and painting are well developed, and the refurbishment of the Corps Museum and associated displays are progressing well thanks to many volunteers and the support of the Army History Unit. We continue to seek photographs, stories and artefacts to capture our contemporary history. I call on anyone interested in supporting this work to engage through local units, the Corps Museum, RASigs Associations and the Certa Cito Foundation.

While the year ahead for serving personnel will be focused on preparedness and implementing the Defence Strategic Review changes, it is also a year where we will all work together to prepare for our centenary. The contributions made to the Corps by all who have served over almost a century are important to recognise. I seek your involvement in any capacity in the preparation for our 100th year. Wherever you may live, there is an opportunity for you to contribute.

I look forward to working with you all in preparation for Certa Cito 100!

Certa Cito

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Deane Limmer'.

Deane Limmer, CSM
Brigadier
Head of Corps

/ March 2024

Corps Website:- The Signaller.

For those members who have not yet discovered it the Official Corps Website can be found at the following address.

<https://rasigs.org/>

It is brim full of up-to-date information about the Corps, Interesting articles and information about CERTA CITO 100, the Corps fund, Corps Shop and the Certa Cito Foundation. Why not go have a look?

Cyber warfare exercise held at classified level for first time

Army Newspaper 9 Nov 23

FltLt Marina Power

IN the first classified level cyber exercise of its kind, Australian and US military cyber experts joined forces to battle simulated network attacks in Canberra last month.

The ADF hosted Exercise Cyber Sentinels, a tactical cyberspace operations mission rehearsal exercise, spearheaded innovation in the integrated force training continuum and strengthened partnerships with international allies and partners. Participants battled, strategised and defended cyber assets in an environment that simulated real world attacks in the cyber domain.

This year was the first time the exercise was planned and held at the classified level and was hosted on the Persistent Cyber Training Environment. More than 90 ADF personnel and 60 personnel from

US Fleet Cyber Command and Marine Corps Forces Cyberspace Command participated in the 12-day exercise. Observers from Canada, New Zealand and the United Kingdom also attended.

Head Cyber Warfare MajGen Ana Duncan said hosting this year's exercise was one of Defence's initiatives for achieving greater coherence and resilience in cyber operations.

"The Defence Strategic Review identified the need for Defence to enhance its cyber capabilities to deliver the responsiveness and breadth of capability to support ADF operations," MajGen Duncan said.

"This exercise is a perfect example of our efforts in ensuring Australia's cyber and information operations capabilities are being scaled up and optimised."

She said opportunities to collaborate with partners were critical to Defence's preparedness.

"Together, we sought to increase cyber resilience domestically and in the near region through networking, collaboration and development," she said.

Commander US Fleet Cyber Command/US 10th Fleet VAdm Craig Clapperton said the historic partnership with Australia was critical to Fleet Cyber Command's enduring advantage in the Pacific.

"Through exercises like Cyber Sentinels, we enhance our readiness and strengthen our vital partnership, working toward our common goal of a safe and secure Indo-Pacific region," he said.



Army personnel participate in Exercise Cyber Sentinel in Canberra.
Photo: Lauren Larking - digital editing by Jason Johnson.

Signallers heed call of Indigenous culture

Army Newspaper 23 Nov 23



Signallers from 144 and 108 Sig Sqns with their local aboriginal guides at the 30m-high water tower during their community engagement in Haywood, Victoria. Photo: Sgt Peng Zhang

Capt Katy Manning

AS a part of the recent Exercise Hermes Run in Mount Gambier, signallers from 108 and 144 Sig Sqns immersed themselves with local Gunditjmara Aboriginal people in an Indigenous cultural engagement activity.

The activity was facilitated by Indigenous elder Laura Bell and a fellow member of the Gunditjmara clan, John Bell. Sig Paul Egan, of 108 Sig Sqn, recently discovered a family connection with the Gunditjmara clan and said the highlight of the day was meeting a relative for the first time.

"It was only over the past two years that I became aware of my Indigenous family heritage with the Gunditjmara clan," Sig Egan said.

"Meeting John Bell for the first time was a special moment for me, as we are related but have never met.

"This experience has hit close to home. I have enjoyed learning more about my culture and I hope to connect more with family moving forward."

OC 108 Sig Sqn Maj Leon Holt said the activity was an informative experience.

"The interaction with the Gunditjmara people, especially with Indigenous elder Aunty Laura Bell, has provided our members with great insight," Maj Holt said.

"We have learned about Gunditjmara Country, including the Budj Bim World Heritage Area, deepening our understanding of Indigenous culture and their connection to country."

Maj Holt said the connection between the Gunditjmara clan and the Army dated back to World War I.

"During our visit to Heywood, we were shown an extraordinary tribute to the Aboriginal Anzacs, painted on a 30m high water tower," he said.

"This mural really shows how deep the connection is between the Gunditjmara clan and the Australian Army."

New career opportunities in space and cyber

Army Newspaper December 7 2023

ARMY personnel will have the opportunity to opt in for a range of space and cyber pathways for Career Management Cycle 2025.

Roles are available in a range of areas including operational, training and instructional, intelligence, capability management and personnel.

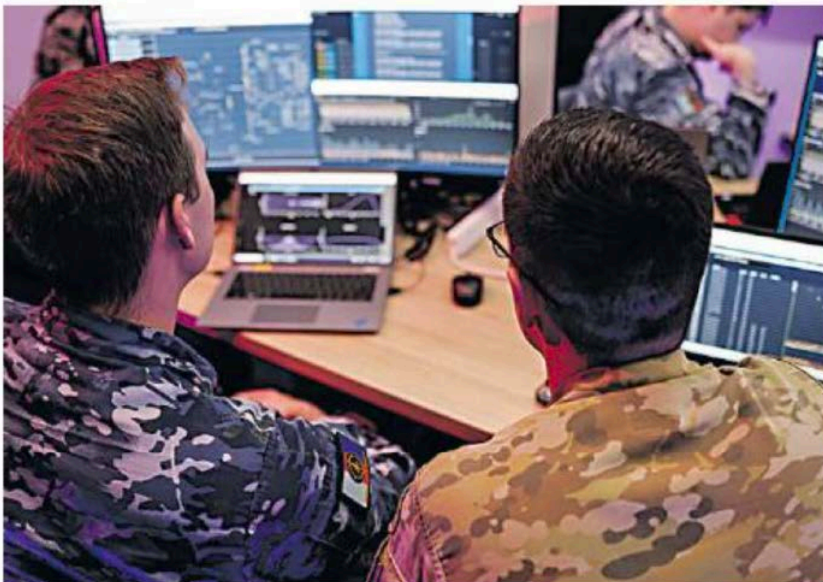
These roles will use skills in fields such as engineering, robotics, information technology, computing, project management, physics and more.

A Space and Cyber Career Management Directorate, part of the Military Personnel Division within Defence People Group, began operation on November 1 to provide dedicated support to space and cyber personnel.

The aim of the initiative is for space and cyber to achieve 'service like' parity with the other domains of pathways to develop new skills or change to a career pathway within the space and cyber domains.

Director of Space and Cyber Career Management, GpCapt Darren Dolan, believes the innovative and integrated approach will result in a better outcome for space and cyber personnel.

"Individuals working across space and cyber require technical and general skills," GpCapt Dolan said.



Personnel working at the commercial operations cell of Defence Space Command in Adelaide.
Photo: Tim Standing

"While they normally wear uniforms of the three Services, they serve in a unique and integrated environment at the leading edge of new technologies. "Our goal is to provide the best support available to ensure they have a fulfilling and successful career." Chief of Joint Capabilities, LtGen John Frewen, said people in the directorate would

build deep professional mastery in their chosen field through education, experience and exposure.

"The ADF is moving toward a career management system that ensures our people have choices within all domains," LtGen Frewen said.

"Space and cyber professionals have a home in Defence and their career pathways are valued."

The Military Personnel Division, led by MajGen Wade Stothart, was established on July 1 under LtGen Natasha Fox to support the growth of the ADF.

"The Australian Defence Force is operating in a rapidly changing environment, so as a result we need to change how we manage our people to align with the priorities," MajGen Stothart said.

"Space and cyber will be critical in the future battlespace and skilled, talented and trained people are required to enable these capabilities and deliver affects.

"Our people working in the space and cyber domains deserve the same level of attention to their careers.

"It's vital we give them nuanced and dedicated support."

Personnel can now choose space and cyber roles in Career Management Cycle 2025.

Enquiries can be made with the Space and Cyber Directorate.

'Pretty chuffed' with medal for comms work during floods

Army News February 1, 2023

JUST days after life-saving surgery, as flood waters inundated Sydney, Cpl Thomas Grayham was back at work.

The 145 Sig Sqn detachment commander had a tumour removed from behind his nose.

"In 90 per cent of cases of chondrosarcoma, it starts in your leg, but mine was smack bang in the middle of my face," Cpl Grayham said.

"They took out my fibula to rebuild my jaw."

He went into hospital as the Northern Rivers disappeared underwater and came home to see parts of Sydney suffering a similar fate.

What happened next would earn the then digger a Conspicuous Service Medal, as part of this year's Australia Day awards. With his leg in a boot and eager to get back to work, the information systems technician was assigned to the flood task force and set about fixing a troubled mobile communications system, called

Cpl Jacob Joseph



MCON (Mobile Cloud Operations Network), first introduced in 2018 when Defence supported the Gold Coast Commonwealth Games.

With no connection to the Defence Protected Network, MCON was quickly replaced by the user-friendly encrypted messaging app Signal.

"It was kind of a failure in the early days of COVID-19 Assist," Cpl Grayham said.

First working from home and then from Randwick Barracks, the self-learner was asked to improve the system.

"They gave me freedom to work on it by myself," he said.

He turned a project consigned to the back shelf into a valuable tool.

Through a Defence issued iPhone, personnel on tasks like Flood Assist can upload and share data, such as photos of damaged property and their location, in real time to the protected network. Commanders can log onto the MCON portal to view information, track and dispatch personnel. They can even see a 72-hour footprint. He said it was designed for use on low security tasks where classified radios hindered communication with civilian agencies.

"Because our radios are protected, we had no way to communicate with them before at a lower classification level," Cpl Grayham said.

Using MCON, Defence, SES and police personnel can now share location data, maps and reports.

"If you lose a secret radio, it's a big deal - drop an MCON phone and you can wipe it remotely," Cpl Grayham said.

Shortly after it was introduced, the requests for MCON iPads, iPhones and laptops doubled. Cpl Grayham even spoke to professors at Griffith University about the innovation.

Now back at 145 Sig Sqn and one year in remission, he looked back at the experience working with the floods task force as one of the most positive of his career.

"I was just trying to be a good digger at the time," Cpl Grayham said.

"I knew [MCON] had a good impact on Defence, but I never thought I'd get nominated for an award that comes with post nominals. I was pretty chuffed about that."

Signaller puts his training to the test

Cpl Madhur Chitnis



Soldiers from 5RAR survey a section of the remote coastline in the Kimberley Marine Park for illegal fishing activities aboard a Zodiac, and (inset) Sig William Horvath sets up communication equipment on board the *Bandicoot* landing craft.

Photos: Cpl Madhur Chitnis

Army News February 29 2024 DEPLOYING on his first operation so early in his military career was a welcome surprise for Sig William Horvath.

Having qualified as a battlespace communication specialist last September, the rapid transition from training to deployment marked a significant and unexpected opportunity.

After 14 months' IET at the School of Signals, Sig Horvath posted to I CSR last year. With four days' notice, he deployed to support Operation Resolute in the Kimberley Marine Park region of Western Australia, attached to 5RAR, in December.

Operation Resolute is the ADF contribution to the security of Australia's borders and offshore maritime interests.

"First operation, first ever field or anything outside of initial employment training. It's extremely exciting to sort of cut your teeth straight away on the tools," Sig Horvath said.

"Being a signaller offers a perfect balance between technical trade skills and thriving in a field operational environment. Operating independently has been a robust challenge, allowing me to apply and refine the trade skills I worked hard to acquire during training."

During his deployment, Sig Horvath provided

a detached, dismounted radio system for beyond line-of-sight communications for the ADF contingent stationed in the park, linking back to the Joint Operations Room located 600km away at Robertson Barracks, Darwin. He collaborated with the Australian Border Force crew, conducting reconnaissance of their vessels to assess communications suitability.

"I've been ensuring 24/7 communications for the task unit commander, enabling seamless connectivity with both higher headquarters and our lower command elements. It's been a dedicated effort to maintain effective communication across the board," Sig Horvath said.

Born in Wonthaggi, Southern Victoria, the 25-year-old grew up in the Victorian town of Leongatha. Always harbouring a desire to join the Army, the road to enlistment proved challenging.

His first attempt during high school in 2015 faced a setback because of medical issues. He embarked on a plumbing apprenticeship, eventually becoming a plumber and running his own business for seven years.

In 2022, he finally realised his dream, enlisting as a battlefield communications specialist

"Mum, Dad and my family are immensely supportive of my endeavours," Sig Horvath said.

For the first time, the young signaller spent Christmas away from home while deployed on Operation Resolute.

"The current deployment has been over Christmas and naturally I had to cancel my leave to see my parents, but they're well and truly understanding," he said.

Sig Horvath treated the challenges during the deployment as an opportunity to enhance his confidence with the various communications set-ups he built during the operation.

"I took this as a strong opportunity to sort of sink or swim, quite literally, being on the ocean. Our Army communication suites aren't necessarily designed for operating on ships. Working in the littoral environment has presented a formidable challenge, and I've been learning something new almost every second," he said. While operating on the ocean provides favourable conditions for the propagation of radio signals, thanks to the conductivity of saltwater, it also presents a challenge. This is particularly true for vessels like Bandicoot. Metal is an ultra-conductive material that can impact radio frequencies. When vessels constantly change direction, it poses a challenge for battlespace communication, as radio antennas are directional.

"I must be conscious of the radio hazard being emitted from the radios and consider the safety of both the military and Australian Border Force embarked crew, as well as the civilian crew aboard the vessel," Sig Horvath said. He said with new waveforms and capabilities continually being discovered, and technology advancing, it was an exciting time for signallers.

"I take immense pride in performing this job. Following Operation Resolute, I aim to make use of the knowledge I have gained to contribute to 1st Combat Brigade's transition to its increased operations within a littoral environment. I want to share my insights and continue to build relationships in my new unit," Sig Horvath said.



Soldiers on one of the night-time patrols. This image has been digitally altered.

Photo: Capt Annie Richardson

Signaller connects while in California

Lt-Col Carrie Robards

Army Newspaper 28 March 2024

CPL Chloe Loftus's job has taken her all the way to California.

Posted to 16 Regt, RAA, her job is to enable air defence operations through the provision of battlespace communications.

16 Regt, RAA is Australia's only ground-based air and missile defence unit providing protection to the joint force and key infra-structure.

Cpl Loftus's role is as a battlespace communications specialist - ensuring the required information is reaching the commander and that the equipment and people are passing information successfully.

She has found joy in working with new capabilities, such as tactical data links, an opportunity not afforded most signallers.

She also recently deployed to the US to apply her skills on the newest technologies available to the coalition as a part of Project Convergence Capstone Four.

"During this exercise our team maintained the link between the FDC [fires distribution centre] and other coalition units," Cpl Loftus said.

"I learnt a lot throughout this activity. I was able to work with NASAMS [national advanced surface-to-air missile system], which was live fired for the first time by the Australian Army in November last year, but now we are connecting in with the coalition."

NASAMS is already being used by the US military, and it is being used in the Ukraine conflict.

"As the United States has experience with using NASAMS, it was great to

be able to tap into that and provide my unit an array of new knowledge, experience and data," she said.

From growing up in Bendigo, to now deploying overseas, Cpl Loftus said a highlight was working with other militaries.

"The best thing was networking and making connections with people from all over the world," she said.

"It was an amazing opportunity to integrate with the US and I'm glad I got the experience."

16 Regt, RAA's focus on air and missile defence and location within South Australia affords the soldiers and officers of the regiment opportunities to work with the Royal Australian Air Force and Royal Australian Navy on a regular basis, as well as working with members of the US Armed Forces.



Cpl Chloe Loftus at Project Convergence Capstone 4 at Camp Pendleton, California.

Vale

Sadly, we have lost more valuable servants of the Corps and Country...[Information provided by Adam West. sigsdb@netspace.net.au](mailto:sigsdb@netspace.net.au)

Soldier lost in jump incident

Acting CA Chris Smith

Army Newspaper March 14, 2024



A 2 Cdo Regt soldier, LCpl Jack Fitzgibbon (pictured), died following injuries he sustained during a parachuting incident on March 6.

LCpl Fitzgibbon was a dedicated professional, respected by his mates and committed to his country.

Service within the Special Forces is among the most demanding and coveted callings in our profession of arms. LCpl Fitzgibbon attained his dream by serving with 2 Cdo Regt. He loved our Army, and Australia. He lived our values.

His death is a tragedy for him and his family. We send them our sincere condolences.

No words can truly comfort them. But we can assure them he died living the life he loved, among mates who loved him back.

The Australian Army family stands ready to support his family in this time of grief. This is a commitment that has no expiry date.

To LCpl Fitzgibbon's mates, be assured the Army knows you are hurting, and we have your back. We will all reflect on the sacrifice of a young soldier who embraced challenge to serve this nation.

He accepted these challenges willingly, as do all who serve. Our promise in return is that we never forget those who make the ultimate sacrifice.

I want to also recognise those who helped LCpl Fitzgibbon on the day. You made a difference.

Today we mourn his passing, but we must also capture his spirit. Let us draw renewed inspiration from his life to live as he lived. As a professional soldier. As a patriot. As a mate.

Do not hesitate to seek help at this time. We are all here for each other, as one family.

LCPL Fitzgibbon was a member of the Corps.

VALE

QX5329 Ernest George (Ernie) BLACKWELL

102 Corps of Signals – WWII

VALE

1735996 Lindsay James (Emu) KENNEDY

Switchboard Operator

110 Sig Sqn Vietnam 30/04/1970 -
05/05/1971

VALE

38061 William Hugh (Bill) DEMPSTER OAM

103 Sig Sqn Vietnam 05 May 1966 - 30 Apr
1967

VALE

630124 Raymond Albert (Ray) WOOLLEY

Korea

406 Sig Sqn

124 Sig Tp

6 FF Gp

146 Sig Sqn

VALE

521882 John Cecil Rhodes (Sam) SAVAGE

110 Sig Sqn Vietnam 30 Jun 1971 - 18 Mar
1972

April 2024
VALE

3791230 Allan Maxwell TREZISE

104 Sig Sqn Vietnam 25 Mar 1968 - 19 Mar 1969

VALE

41940 Trevor Graham FRANKLIN

110 Sig Sqn Vietnam 23 Apr 1969 - 07 May 1970

VALE

2785004 Phillip John (Phil) RAYNER

110 Sig Sqn Vietnam 20 Aug 1970 - 05 Aug 1971

VALE

1201080 Allan (Allan/ Bloody Toddy) TODD

AAS Balcombe
School of Sigs - Balcombe
School of Sigs - Watsonia
28 ANZUK Brigade
5 Sig Regt
140 Sig Sqn
104 Sig Sqn
2 Sig Regt
4 Div HQ & Sig Regt - Herford, BRG - BAOR
Mat Branch - Canberra
2 Sig Regt - Det from SOS
6 Sig Regt - Det from SOS
5 Sig Regt - Det from SOS

VALE

44317 Grant Kim (Noddy) KNUCKEY

110 Sig Sqn Vietnam 04/03/1969 -
08/10/1970
9 ANZUK Sig Regt

THURUNKA
VALE

368333 Keith Leslie (Shady) LANE

110 Sig Sqn Vietnam 15 Oct 1970 - 06 Sep 1971

VALE

LT COL James (Jim) MESSINI AM

VALE

52434 Clarence James (Clarrie) DAY

2 RAR Korea 21 Jul 1953 - 31 Mar 1954
1 RAR Korea 31 Mar 1954 - 24 Jul 1954
Detachment 547 Sig Tp Vietnam 24 May 1966 - 23 May 1967
Japan
Singapore
Malaya
PNG
Hong Kong

VALE

15257 Ronald Charles (Ron) STEFFAN

104 Sig Sqn Vietnam 07 Jan 1971 - 30 Jun 1971
104 Sig Sqn Vietnam 04 Aug 1971 - 15 Nov 1971

VALE

William (Bill) HAWKER

OP SIG

VALE

Lester Lovell

Military History

This article from Certa Cito the paper of the Victorian Branch of the RASIGs association.



A young Francis Patrick Boyce at Broadmeadows Army Camp

Patrick Francis Boyce was the sixth child of nine to Mr. John & Mrs. Catherine Alice (nee Creamer) Boyce of Yackandandah and later Tallangatta, Victoria. Patrick was educated at Yackandandah State School along with his brothers and sisters, and on leaving school he was employed by the Victorian Railways Commission as a clerk and porter. Patrick was the second of the four Boyce boys that enlisted into the A.I.F. Of the four only two would return to Tallangatta, Victoria. Patrick enlisted on 29th July 1915 as part of the 11th reinforcements to the 6th battalion. His enlistment papers state that he was born on 10 October 1893, Yackandandah, Victoria, he was 21 years and 10 months, he was 5' 8 ¾" tall, brown eyes, dark brown hair, and a fair complexion and his religion was Roman Catholic.

From 13 August till 15 September 1915, he was part of "A" Company, No 20. Castlemaine training battalion, and he embarked onboard HMAT A71 Nestor at Melbourne on 11 October 1915. On the 22 February 1916 he was taken on strength of the 6th Battalion at Serapeum, Egypt. He then proceeded to join the British Expeditionary Force from Alexandria per 'Ballarat' on 23 March and disembarked at Marseilles, France on 2 April 1916.

His service record does not state whether he saw any active service with the 6th battalion, however, on 3 August 1916 he was transferred as a Private to the 1st Australian Division Signalling Company, Engineers in France. He

was then taken on the strength of the 1st Army Wireless from 1st Division Signal Company in France. Sapper Patrick Boyce was promoted to Lance-Corporal on 17 May, and again was promoted to 2nd Corporal on 3 June 1917 to complete establishment, this was most likely due to loss of men in the unit as well as his prowess with signalling equipment.

Within two week 'Frank' as he became known, was transferred back to the 1st Division Signal Company and promoted to full Corporal on 14 September 1917. It was within a week that he had performed his act of gallantry that he had been informed of the award the Military Medal on 14 October 1917 (Authority – 1st Anzac Corps R.O. 84/435). Citation below.

He was sent on leave to Paris, France on 5 December and returned eight days on 13 December 1917. This was his first leave from the front line since his enlistment. Four months on 9 March 1918 Corporal Frank Boyce was promoted to 2nd Lieutenant within 1st Division Signalling Company (A.I.F. List 306) in the field France. He was again on leave, this time to the U.K. FROM 12 June and returned to unit on 27 June 1918. He was finally promoted to Lieutenant on 17 November 1918, six days after the Armistice and was again on leave from 26 December 1918 until 9 January 1919, however his records do not state if this was just to Paris or U.K.

He marched out from the 1st Division Signal Company on 29 January 1919 for England and return to Australia. He boarded the transport ship 'Plassy' on 17 March and his appointment as Lieutenant in A.I.F. was terminated in



Lieutenant Frank Boyce at the end of the War

Melbourne on 22 June 1919. He was appointed 2nd Lieutenant on the Reserve of Officers list on 1 January 1920, and removed from the list on 20 October 1926.

‘Frank’ was entitled to the Military Medal, 1914-15 Star, British War Medal and Victory Medal all of which were posted to his mother’s address during the early years of the 1920’s.

I have been unable to ascertain whether he returned to the Victorian Railways as a clerk, however, this would seem most likely. He never married and died at the relatively young age of 57 years and is buried at Fawkner Cemetery in the Roman Catholic section.

3240 Cpl/Lt Boyce Francis Patrick 12-12-1917 Pg 13024 MM

(Born: 10-10-1893 Yackandandah Vic. Victorian Railway clerk. Died: 18-8-1951 Toorak, Victoria, Buried; Fawkner Cemetery, Melbourne.)

Citation for the award of the Military Medal.

On 20 September 1917, during the attack on POLYGON WOOD, Cpl BOYCE was in charge of 1st Australian Wireless and Power Buzzer Station. He erected the aerial cable under barrage fire and after much trouble and dangerous work (being buried by shellfire and much shaken) he got into communication with the Corps directing station. He set out earths and power buzzer and obtained communications and constantly repaired same under constant shellfire.

Having established his station, he went through barrage to the Brigade Forward Stations and set them in working order. It was largely due to the conspicuous gallantry on the part of this NCO that Amplifier and Power Buzzer communication was such a success.

This article from Certa Cito the paper of the Victorian Branch of the RASIGs association.

To understand a Military Veteran, you must know:

1. We left home as teenagers or in our early twenties for an unknown adventure,
2. We loved our country enough to defend it and protect it with our own lives,
3. We said goodbye to friends and family and everything we knew,
4. We learned the basics and then we scattered in the wind to the far corners of the Earth,
5. We found new friends and new family,
6. We became brothers and sisters regardless of colour, race or creed,
7. We had plenty of good times, and plenty of bad times,
8. We didn’t get enough sleep,
9. We smoked and drank way too much,
10. We picked up both good and bad habits,
11. We worked hard and played harder,
12. We didn’t earn a great wage,
13. We experienced the happiness of mail call and the sadness of missing important events,
14. We didn’t know when, or even if, we were going to see home again,
15. We grew up fast, and yet somehow, we never grew up at all,
16. We fought for our freedom, as well as the freedom of others,
17. Some of us saw actual combat, and some of us didn’t,
18. Some of us saw the world, and some of us didn’t,
19. Some of us dealt with physical warfare, most of us dealt with psychological warfare,
20. We have seen and experienced and dealt with things that we can’t fully describe or explain, as not all of our sacrifices were physical,
21. We participated in time honoured ceremonies and rituals with each other, strengthening our bonds and camaraderie,
22. We counted on each other to get our job done and sometimes survive it at all,
23. We have dealt with victory and tragedy,
24. We have celebrated and mourned,
25. We lost a few along the way,
26. When our adventure was over, some of us went back home, some of us started somewhere new and some of us never came home at all,
27. We have told amazing and hilarious stories of our exploits and adventures,
28. We share an unspoken bond with each other, that most people don’t experience and few will understand,
29. We speak highly of our own branch of service, and poke fun at the other branches,
30. We know however, that, if needed, we will be there for our brothers and sisters and stand together as one, in a heartbeat.

Just for the laughs!

Ever since I was a child I've always had a fear of someone under my bed at night. So I went to a shrink and told him, "I've got problems, every time I go to bed I think there's somebody under it. I'm scared. I think I'm going crazy."

"Just put yourself in my hands for one year," said the shrink.

"Come talk to me three times a week and we should be able to get rid of those fears."

"How much do you charge?"

"One hundred fifty dollars per visit," replied the doctor.

"I'll sleep on it," I said.

Six months later the doctor met me on the street, he asked, "Why didn't you come to see me about those fears you were having?"

"Well, \$150 a visit, three times a week for a year, is \$23,400.00. A bartender cured me for \$10.00. I was so happy to have saved all that money that I went and bought a new pickup truck."

With a bit of an attitude he said, "Is that so? And how, may I ask, did a bartender cure you?"

"He told me to cut the legs off the bed. Ain't nobody there now."

It's always better to get a second opinion

A young doctor had moved out to a small community to replace the retiring country doctor. The older doctor suggested the young one accompany him on his rounds so the community could become used to a new doctor.

At the first house a woman complained, "I've been a little sick to my stomach."

The older doctor said, "Well, you've probably been overdoing the fresh fruit. Why not cut back on the amount you've been eating and see if that does the trick?"

As they left the younger man said, "You didn't even examine that woman. How did you arrive at your diagnosis so quickly?"

"I didn't have to. You noticed I dropped my stethoscope on the floor in there? When I bent over to pick it up, I noticed a half- dozen banana peels in the trash. That was what probably was making her sick."

"Huh," the younger doctor said, "pretty clever. I think I'll try that at the next house."

Arriving at the next house, they spent several minutes talking with a younger woman. She complained that she just didn't have the energy she once did. "I'm feeling terribly run down lately."

"You've probably been doing too much work for the church," the younger doctor told her.

"Perhaps you should cut back a bit and see if that helps."

As they left, the elder doc said, "Your diagnosis is almost certainly correct, but how did you arrive at it?"

"Well, just as you did at the last house, I dropped my stethoscope and when I bent down to retrieve it, I saw the preacher under the bed."

G'Day All- The Aim of what is said in the series is to promote laughter, advice and recall. My source of jokes is currently limited due to people dying. It was an analogue world for comms that used noisy electron guns in glass tubes called valves in wireless equipment.

Issue 2 - Will cover events at 1 Sig Regt Ingleburn, Issue 3 - 8 Sig Regt and thereafter.

Speaking of "a virile young soldier enticed a buxom female into his car and drove from Dundas to Mt Ku-ring-gai to a lovers spot across the railway line, surrounded by bush but with a view of the sparkling lights of Sydney that promoted Oohs and admiration.

"Why are we here she asked." He replied, "for the view". "Q. Do you believe in God and the here after. OK! but if I cannot get my hereafter, you will be hereafter".

I must confess I did the 1/1955 NS intake, after was posted as a Sapper to 9 Fd Park Sqn E Comd. My NS obligation was 90 Days full time Trg with an obligation for 5 years to attend obligatory parades and a 14-day annual camp. 1956. LtCol George Parker was CO of 2 Div Sig Regt - he was of WW 2 fame in Timor. He interviewed me to confirm my suitability to become an officer, found so and ordered me to sit for exams. "Sir" I said "I have no wish to become an officer. I work based at Kempsey NSW." This he ignored, His need for officers overcame objection.

Next came the shout of "RSM", Sir! What rank does Myers require to sit for First appointment exams. Cpl Sir, Then make him one. This he did but as a T/Cpl showing his displeasure of NCO promotion without any course of instruction. Later this was corrected to a substantive Cpl.

Passed all the requirements for appointment except Drill & Weapons. When LtCol Parker heard of my failure, he ordered the RSM to pass me and commented "I want officers, not drill Sgt's. No one disputed LtCol Parker. Transfer him from RAE to Nan Tp, the Engineer support Sig Tp.

The Hunter Valley 1956 to 1958 - Three years of drought, high temperatures and the Hunter River at Singleton reduced to pools of water. Same for the dry ground giving no earth for antenna current to load the Tx to the aerial. There was no comms to 8 Bde at Mt Royal some 40 miles distant from Singleton Camp.

In 1958 I was promoted to T/Sgt and attached for experience to 4 Fd Sqn RAE for Annual Camp at Singleton. I had a surprise visit from Maj Gordon Maitland (later MajGen Comd 2 Div) seeking advice on how to establish radio comms to Mt Royal for safety. This I had done in the prior year with 5 Bde.

Always the Joker I said " you need an earth mat, a 3M wire grid of Don cable put 6 inch deep in the ground below the dipole. Trenches to be pissed on by 100 soldiers as urine makes a good earth. He thanked me for the advice. Yes, it worked there was aerial current, comms were established but no one would tell me how many soldiers pissed on the trenches. The WS62 was HF AM modulated using valves giving 6-Watt power output.

1957- Lt Tony Ballantine. At an officers' TEWT, LtCol Parker was giving him a hard time. Later he said to me, him being a Radio Ham " You know what we need here at Moore Park is two 100-foot windmill towers". We are too low down. I thought he was nuts but 4 weeks later the stub legs for two towers were set in concrete. How did you do it I asked? " I spoke with Metters to provide the Towers; the Engineers are always looking for projects that fall within budget. Signals will erect the

Towers". 4 weeks later it had been done. Call me Tony he said. He got things done. More to say about him in issue 3.

1958 - As a T/Sgt I was directed to raise the Radio Relay Tp at 2 Div Sig Regt Moore Park, currently the Sydney Football Stadium. Where I asked... "in a garage next to Line Troop". I found nobody there only wooden packing cases. I sought out my Sqn Comd and he said, "you have to find your soldiers, meantime unpack the first delivery and commission the WS B70s", which I had never heard off.

As the Tp Officer Radio Relay, I requested an allocation of frequencies only to be told by the Adjt that "it's my job". The B70 had a 300 MHz adjustable frequency band starting at 4580 - 4860 MHz. The Tx output was 0.25 W with a Rx IF of 40 MHz 24 Ch bandwidth. The selection of frequencies was challenging as any combination of frequencies resulting in 40 MHz swamped the receiver input signal making the bearer useless.

At the time the only available carrier equipment was ex WW2 not made for use over radio due to high carrier leak. It was 1960 before 12 Ch multiplex became available at 1 Sig Regt. For those used to digital comm systems this must be incomprehensible. The Corps had no money and lived on promises to provide however the VHF radio AN/PRC 25 was in use with 100-foot tubular masts which it was said could be erected by one person pulling three cords at once. A senior Sgt gave a demo and bent a mast in half causing much laughter. He believed the instructions. With practice it was possible.

Mid 1958 Jimmy Trick is posted as CO 2 Div Sig Regt. He became tired of my procrastination to apply for a commission and contacted the Chief Engineer PMG Dept NSW to seek my return to Sydney. Little did I know that Ray Bostock, the CE, was a prior LtCol of the Regt in 1950 and had preceded George Parker. I was given 5 days to hand over my work at Macksville and return to Sydney.

PMG - Some call it Pigs Must Grunt, however it is the Post Master General's Department, at the time responsible for Postal and technical staffing of the ABC Studios, AM & TV Transmitters, Telephone Exchanges. The development of the Trunk network linking Capital cities and towns within Australia and together with the Overseas Telecommunication Commission provided overseas communications to subscribers. It was similar to Telstra but more diverse and comprehensive.

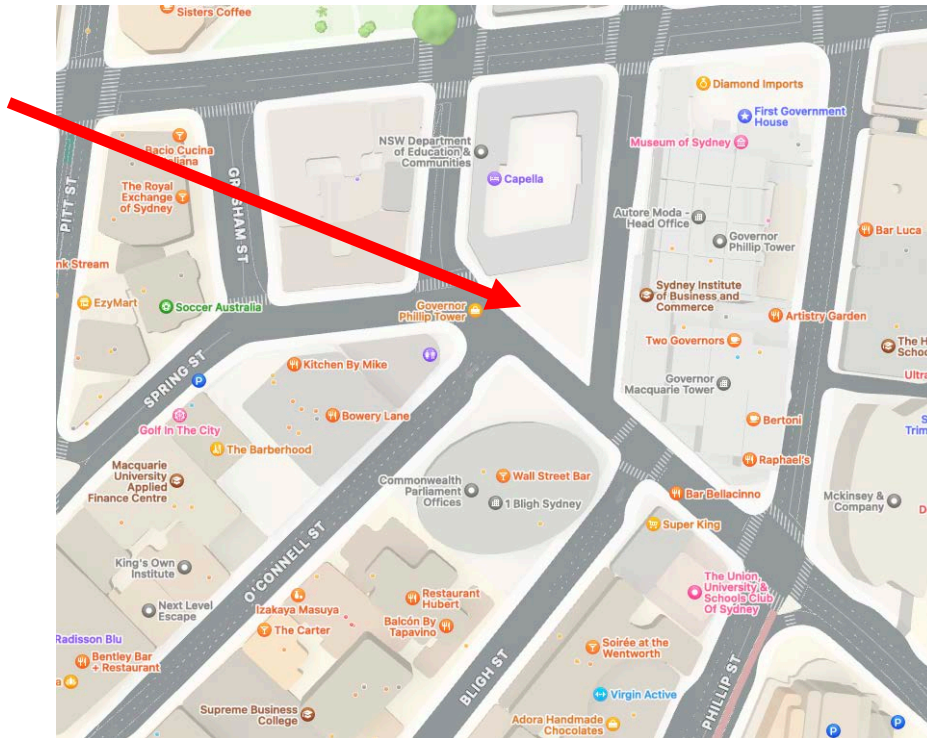
1959 - An ARA Maj Wilf Cox arrives at Moore Park posted as 2IC of the Regt. He was Ex British Army on the Rhine and spoke of an anytime step up of HQ's maintaining comms on the move, B70s were fixed to the rear of vehicles to maintain line comms. As Ripley said, "believe it or not". Little did we know that he was to be promoted LtCol and raise 1 Signal Regt at Ingleburn as an ARA/CMF fully integrated unit. National Service was to cease at 1 Jul 1960. Those who wished to serve on were required to re-enlist, given another regimental number and were transferred to 1 Sig Regt. The CO's nick name was Wolf and he was a very competitive single-minded CO. This you will read about in issue 2.

Roger Out - The Joker 21 Jan 2024.

ANZAC DAY 2024

April 25

Corner of Bent and O'Connell as per usual. Look for the Association Banner.
Start forming up from 0930 ready to march.



Location for Reunion

Kent Street Hotel.

Corner of King and Kent St Sydney. Association members will be on site from 0900h till late afternoon.

All marchers and Sigs are most welcome. All new and existing members welcome.

Reminder to renew your membership on the day if you haven't done so for a year or two or Join the Association if you haven't already done so.

This year's Reunion is sponsored by the Royal Australian Signals Association (NSW Branch) and Mercury Information Security Services.

