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**Force Protection is:**

All measures and means to minimise the vulnerability of personnel, facilities, equipment and operations to any threat and in all situations, to preserve freedom of action and the operational effectiveness of the force.

**Pozieres, France**

The RDHA donated 115 crocheted purple poppies to make up this horse rug which will be donated to the Australian War Museum, Canberra.
Members Social Update

MICHELLE HALLIDAY

In July 2017, our very own RDHA Secretary Michelle Halliday married Kevin Hardy. Now Mr and Mrs Hardy. The members from the RDHA would like to wish you both a long and happy marriage and may all your troubles be little ones.

STEVE ‘CHIRPY’ PALMER

On Friday, 11th August, Steve ‘Chirpy’ Palmer has finally retired from the workforce for the second time. The members from the RDHA would like to wish Chirpy a long retirement. I am sure that Chirpy will have his fingers in some pie somewhere.

TED TOOTH

I have been informed that Ted Tooth is not well and has been in hospital four times so far this year. He is suffering from his ongoing Chronic Pain, Depressions and Chronic Anxiety. We wish him well and a speedy recovery.

Also we would like to congratulate Ted and Mike on their up-coming anniversary of being together for 20 years in October 2017.

JOHN ‘BAGS’ BAGULEY

On the 24th August 2017 and after 35 years, 4 months and 11 days working for the Department of Defence, Bags has resigned to commence retirement and the rest of his life with his wife and school yard sweetheart Liz.


Bags is off to Yeppoon, QLD for about two years, then in no particular order a year in Tasmania, a year at South Bank in Brisbane, a year in Barcelona before settling down in one of our properties on the Sunshine Coast QLD.

All the members from the RDHA would like to wish Bags and his lovely wife Liz all the very best for the future and safe travel to wherever they may venture.
The Canine Operational Service Medal Launch and Presentation Ceremony in Canberra on the 8th June 2017 was a big success. There were several high ranking ADF personal present and lots of spectators. The Canine Operational Service Medal is an internal recognition scheme that recognises the contribution made by Military Working Dogs on operations.

Doggies that turned up were Geoff Dove from NSW and Peter Scott from WA.

The dedication and unveiling of the Australian War Animal Memorial at Pozieres, France was also a very big success. The feeling of being there on the very ground where so many of our Australian Servicemen fought and died was very emotional. We can all now be proud that our very own RDHA Plaque is a permanent fixture at the site. Keith and I handed out RDHA gifts to the 1st Military Working Dog Company that were present at the dedication along with one of our RDHA Plaques to hang on the wall of their new section in the UK. I would like to thank Keith Pearce, Heather Kent, Peter and Linda Scott for making the long journey to Pozieres, France for the Dedication.

Events still to come.

- 21st October 2017, Toowoomba War Animal Rose Garden opening.
- 29th October 2017, Digger the War Dog memorial, South Australia.
- The Dog Lovers Show and Military Working Dog Tribute to be held on Saturday & Sunday 4th and 5th November 2017 at the Brisbane Convention Centre, Show Grounds. Come along and enjoy the day. There will be pups from the RAAFSFS Breeding Program in attendance.

Ray Thomas
President

Pozieres, France

Pavers laid at the Australian War Animal Memorial Dedication

Ray Thomas
RAAF PD483 Chan

Fsgt Keith Pearce
RAAF PD316 Massa
The Australian War Animal Memorial Organisation (AWAMO) is a not for profit charity that raises awareness of the deeds and sacrifices that animals have made in warfare. On the 21st July 2017 AWAMO in cooperation with the people of Pozieres, AWAMO proudly opened the first war animal memorial on the Western Front. This memorial recognised all animals from all Nations that were involved in the Great War.

Pozieres was the scene of some of the most bitter and costly fighting for Australian troops in WWI. The battle was also the place of untold losses in animal life. It is estimated that over 9 million serving animals perished or were wounded in the Great War. We should never forget that not only two legged but four legged diggers served this nation and still continue to do so today. These animals have demonstrated true valour and an enduring partnership with humans and they will now be honoured with this beautiful new memorial and rose.

The memorial concept was designed by Nigel Allsopp. The concept and lay out is as follows: Upon approaching the memorial site to the right is a wooden sign denoting the memorial. The sign reading WWI War Animal Memorial denotes it is for all animals regardless of side they served on. To the left of this entrance is a statue of St Francis- Patron Saint of all animals. Beneath this sculpture is a stone of remembrance for the Australian Army Veterinary Corps who saved and cared for thousands of war animals. Either side of Saint Francis are two standard roses- one called Rosie the other Sniff. These were named on behalf of Dr Harry Cooper and Dr Brendan Nelsons favourite dogs.

Proceeding towards the main centre monument to the left and right are the first of four cast iron seats. The first two seats are called “Autumn Leaves” - the winter of war.

Next on the left is the New Zealand war animal memorial. So often have the ANZAC fought alongside, AWAMO could not have imagined a war animal memorial without our close allies being represented.

Directly opposite this then was the appropriate place for the war animal memorial for all Nations. No matter what side they served they did so with no malice.

The second two seats along the walk way are called the “Tree of Life”. These latter two seats lead to the main monument dedicated to Australian War animals and called “Emerging Spirit”. Within this wonderful horses mane can be seen a mule, donkey, pigeon and dog- all part of the war animal story. The internationally renowned Artist Susan Bahary produced the two main sculptures; I want to thank her for bringing the story and life into the memorial that the war animals deserve.

Finally to the right and left of this are two more rose standards called “Bernard and Barry”. One to honour the Mayor of Pozieres Bernard Delattre and the second to honour Barry Garcey whom without both these men’s support and generosity the memorial would not have had a home.

Main Australian memorial & New Zealand war animal memorial
The three plinths are surrounded by purple war animal roses (The Charles de Gaulle rose). Duplicates of these roses can be brought in Australia from Treloar Roses.

Several hundred people attended including VIPs, locals and Australian tourists that were lucky enough to encounter the opening whilst on a tour of the Somme battlefields.

The ceremony commenced at 1000 hrs on a beautiful clear day with a Bagpiper playing several melody’s as people took their seats. The MC for the event Major who did an outstanding job, commenced with an opening address and welcome followed by the Mayor of Pozieres welcome in French. VIP speakers Dr Brendan Nelson and Dr Harry Cooper told touching stories of war victims both human and animal which brought may a tear to the crowd’s eyes. The ADF Veterinarian Major Kendall Crocker talked of the people who cared and looked after the war animals- the various Veterinary Corps who saved many thousands of especially horses lives. Then came my turn to talk, thanking all I could that made history this day and remembered the war animals via this monument for generations to come.

National Anthems were sung then all four memorials were unveiled separately, then blessed by the Padres. This was followed by the reading of the war animal Poem reading Wreaths were then formally laid by VIPs from Australia, New Zealand, United Kingdom, France, Belgium, India, the United States and Canada. Remaining wreaths were then laid, these came from dozens of societies that support AWAMO such as the Qld and National Donkey, Percheron, Clydesdale, RAAF MWDs, Light Horse and pigeon associations. So numerous were the local and Australian schools that made wreaths and sent them it is not possible to list them all, but I thank each and everyone. These wreaths were all spectacular and filmed around the world by TV crews present. Then finally the Ode was read out for war animals followed by the trumpet sound of the last post with a minute’s silence. Again the British Army supplied the Trumpeter.

A war animal memorial could not have been opened without animals being present. I would like to thank the Royal Army Veterinary Corps (RAVC) who supplied 20 Military Working Dog (MWD) handlers to the event. They also loaned Cpl Young the ADF dog handler present an MWD for the day. Ian Grey Vice President of Redland RSL had made several contacts which resulted in local Horses and Donkeys being on parade. And of course many re-enactors and visitors brought their pets along.
The beautiful purple poppy horse rug, each poppy was handmade by individuals from across the world. AWAMO was sent poppies from schools, widow and ladies clubs, individuals and groups. All of these were hand sewn onto the rug by Wendy Harrison an AWAMO Director. An Australian school made four poppy neck bands that we hung around the donkeys and heavy horse.

President of AWAMO Nigel Allsopp with WWI local French army re-enactor with his pigeons. Right: Dr Nelson with Cpl Young and Major Crocker.

Some of the dog handlers from the RAVC and USA Re-enactors

In the foreground is St Francis patron saint of Animals, he looks over the memorial to the Veterinary members who looked after the war animals. Wreaths came from far and wide 75 in total. At the end of the ceremony all wreaths will be displayed at Tommy’s Museum at Pozieres. On the right Major Kendall Crocker Veterinary Officer ADF and Major Ann Jacob Veterinary Officer Belgium Defence Force, open the memorial to Veterinary staff who saved the lives of thousands of war animals on the Western Front.
All four memorials were blessed by Brigadier (Rtd) Monsignor John Butler- Principal Chaplin OAM ADF and NZDF Padre, Rev Denise Ferguson and assisted by Vice President of Redland RSL Mr Ian Grey holding the holy water in an original WWI helmet.

At the end of the ceremony a spectacular display of 100 pigeons were let loose from a WWI French pigeon service re-enactor team complete with heavy horses.

There are many people that make such an event possible. I humbly thank you all for your time, passion and commitment. Together we have made a lasting memorial to honour the winged and four legged soldiers of WWI.

NIGEL ALLSOPP
ANZAC OF THE YEAR 2017
If you’re getting older and finding it harder to do the things you used to, you might need a bit of extra support at home.

Depending on your needs, there are different types of aged care services to support you, such as personal or nursing care, help getting dressed or with household chores like vacuuming, and the installation of handrails and ramps.

If you are a veteran or war widow/er, you may be eligible for DVA services or programs. DVA provides a variety of in-home and community support programs focused on helping you to continue living independently by supporting your health, wellbeing and community connections. These programs include:

- Veterans’ Home Care
- DVA Community Nursing
- Rehabilitation Appliances Program.

For further information about DVA’s aged care programs, please call 133 254 or 1800 555 254 (for regional callers) or visit the Home and Care page on the DVA website.

In addition to services offered by DVA, the Department of Health provides assistance both in the home and in residential aged care through the My Aged Care phone line and website.

With My Aged Care, you can find information on the different types of aged care services available, your eligibility, your contribution to the cost of your aged care, and providers that can meet your needs.

The first step is to phone My Aged Care. You will be asked questions over the phone to help work out your care needs and eligibility to access services.

My Aged Care may then arrange for a trained assessor to come to your home. With your consent they will further assess your care needs and eligibility for services and work with you to develop a support plan that addresses your needs, goals and preferences.

You can then find services with help from either the service finder on the My Aged Care website, your assessor or the My Aged Care contact centre.

My Aged Care and service providers can give you information about costs and will tell you whether you need a financial assessment. For more information, go to the My Aged Care website or call 1800 00 422 weekdays 8.00 am to 8.00 pm and 10.00 am to 2.00 pm on Saturdays.
Indexation rates 1st July 2017

From 1 July 2017, the Income Free Areas and Assets Value Limits used to calculate rates of income support pensions have risen.

| The amount of income (per fortnightly) that an income support pensioner may receive before their pension is reduced under the income test: |
|-------------------------------------------------|-----------------|
| Service or Age Pension                          | Couples rate (fortnightly) |
| Single rate (fortnightly)                       | $168.00          | $300.00          |
| Income Support Supplement (War Widow(er)'s Pension is included in these amounts) *different limits apply if assessed under transitional rules | $1,383.20        | $1,869.60        |

| The maximum value of assets a person can have before their pension is affected: |
|-------------------------------------------------|-----------------|
| Service or Age Pension                          | Couples rate - combined |
| Homeowner                                        | $253,750        | $380,500        |
| Non-homeowner                                    | $456,750        | $583,500        |
| Income Support Supplement *different limits apply if assessed under transitional rules | $456,500        | $642,500        |
| Homeowner                                        | $456,500        | $642,500        |
| Non-homeowner                                    | $659,500        | $845,500        |

The deeming thresholds have also increased. This means that the value of financial assets deemed to be earning the lower rate of 1.75 per cent has risen. The higher deeming rate of 3.25 per cent is applied to the balance of financial assets over these thresholds.

| Deeming Thresholds |
|-------------------|------------------|
| Deeming threshold  | $50,200          | $83,400          |

Some payments under the Military Rehabilitation and Compensation Act 2004 (MRCA) also increased, including:

<table>
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<th>New rate (weekly)</th>
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<tr>
<td>Maximum Permanent Impairment amount</td>
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<tr>
<td>Maximum rate of Household Services</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maximum rate of Attendant Care Services</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dependent eligible young person</td>
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A full list of the new rates is available from DVA’s CLIK tool. For further information contact DVA on 133 254 or from regional Australia free call 1800 555 254 or visit the DVA website.
Changes to Age Pension and incapacity payments cut-off ages

Age Pension

From 1 July 2017, the Age Pension age is increasing. This change applies to anyone born on or after 1 July 1952.

This does not affect the age at which you qualify for Age Service Pension, which will remain at 60 years of age.

Incapacity payments cut-off age extension

Due to the increase in the Age Pension age, the age at which incapacity payments cease will also increase to align with the Age Pension age.

By increasing the incapacity payment cut-off age, clients will receive incapacity payments up until their eligible Age Pension age.

This change ensures clients are able to access the Age Pension (subject to other eligibility criteria) when their incapacity payments cease.

This table shows how both of these changes will affect people of different ages

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>If your date of birth is:</th>
<th>Then your incapacity payment cut-off age/Age Pension age is:</th>
<th>Date Age Pension age increases</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Before 1 July 1952</td>
<td>65 years</td>
<td>Nil</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 July 1952 to 31 December 1953</td>
<td>65 years and 6 months</td>
<td>1 July 2017</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 January 1954 to 30 June 1955</td>
<td>66 years</td>
<td>1 July 2019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 July 1955 to 31 December 1956</td>
<td>66 years and 6 months</td>
<td>1 July 2021</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>On or after 1 January 1957</td>
<td>67 years</td>
<td>1 July 2023</td>
</tr>
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DV A Travel

Assistance with getting to a medical appointment

There are a few misconceptions regarding eligibility for transport provided by DVA.

What is DV A-arranged transport under the Repatriation Transport Scheme?

The Repatriation Transport Scheme (RTS) allows DVA to provide a pre-booked taxi or hire car service under the Booked Car Scheme (BCS) for travel to approved treatment locations from your permanent residence. If you are travelling away from home and require medical treatment, DVA can also provide this service to and from your temporary residence. BCS is an additional service provided under the RTS that assists more aged and frail entitled persons with assistance to travel to their treatment.

To be eligible for any transport assistance under the RTS you must hold a:

- DVA Health Card – For All Conditions (Gold), which entitles you to assistance with transport for the treatment of all health conditions; or
- DVA Health Card – For Specific Conditions (White), which entitles you to assistance with transport for the treatment of your DVA-accepted disabilities.

Am I eligible for a DVA-arranged taxi or hire car under the BCS?

- If you are aged 80 years of age or over, you are entitled to a DVA-arranged car with driver to attend all approved treatment locations.
- If you are suffering from dementia, or are legally blind, you are entitled to a DVA-arranged car with driver to attend all approved treatment locations.
- If you are aged 79 years or younger you can declare your eligibility for a DVA-arranged car with driver if you have specific medical conditions, to attend specialty treatment and to attend hospital. Further details of accepted medical conditions and approved treatment locations can be found in Factsheet HSV03 on DVA’s website.

Are there travel limitations?

DVA will arrange transport to your Closest Practical Provider (CPP). If your preference is to attend a health provider who is not your CPP and who is more than 50 kilometres from your residence, you may need to arrange your own transport and seek reimbursement for appropriate costs.

Travel reimbursement

As an alternative to booking a DVA-arranged car, you can choose to arrange your own transport and seek reimbursement. DVA pays a contribution towards travelling expenses in the form of an allowance when you attend DVA-approved medical appointments within Australia. More information is available in Factsheet HSV02 on DVA’s website.

Note that travel allowances have increased as of 1 July 2017.

How do I book a car?

You can book a car through DVA’s MyAccount website or call 1300 550 455 (metropolitan areas) or 1800 550 455 (regional areas).
These were the real-life Wonder Women who fought in the world's bitterest wars

The American Revolution

Records for female soldiers who fought in the Revolution are scarce. That many women, usually disguised as men, did fight is beyond question. Most of their names and deeds are lost to us thanks to their enforced anonymity, but a few records survive. The most common theme for the service of these women is that they followed their husbands to war, passing themselves as teenage boys, which were not uncommon in the ranks. Some women volunteered for the bounty paid to enlistees or just in the hope of steady meals. Some didn’t like sitting at home and wanted to fight for their country, like the first soldier on our list.

Deborah Samson enlisted on 20 May, 1782, at age 22, in Captain George Webb’s company of the 4th Massachusetts Regiment of Foot, a light infantry unit. She gave her name as Robert Shurtliff. Rising to the rank of corporal, she fought with the Continental Army in several engagements, including the Battle of White Plains.

Samson was wounded several times. In a skirmish near Tarrytown, she took a saber cut to the head. When her unit was ambushed by Loyalists near East Chester, Samson was hit by two musket balls in the thigh. Probably afraid of discovery if she sought medical aid, Samson crawled into the woods and removed one ball herself. The other was left in the leg while she soldiered on.
Samson was finally revealed as a female while serving as a clerk for General John Patterson in Philadelphia. She became sick and was treated by Dr. Barnabas Binney. Dr. Binney outed her to General Patterson, who recommended to General George Washington that Samson be discharged due to being a female. Deborah Samson was honorably discharged in October, 1783. In 1792, along with other veterans, Samson received back pay due her for her service. In 1805, Samson was awarded a veteran’s pension by the Massachusetts legislature, which stated “that the Said Deborah exhibited an extraordinary instance of female heroism by discharging the duties of a faithful, gallant soldier.” She received that pension until she died in 1827.

The legend of Molly Pitcher is hard to pin down. According to the story, she was carrying pitchers of water to the soldiers, one of whom was her husband, serving a cannon at the 1778 Battle of Monmouth. When her husband collapsed, Molly immediately took his place, swabbing the barrel and helping reload the gun.

It appears that “Molly Pitcher” is a composite figure built on the stories of Mary Ludwig Hays McCauley and Margaret Corbin. Mary Hays (as she was known at the time) was present at Monmouth and a witness claimed that a British cannonball bounced right between her legs while she was serving the American gun, ripping away part of her petticoat. She supposedly quipped that it was lucky the ball wasn’t aimed a little higher and went on with her work.

Hays remained with the Continental Army until the end of the war, though it seems that she served in a support role, as many women did. After her husband’s death, she married a former Continental soldier named John McCauley. She died in Carlisle, Pennsylvania in 1832, where a monument commemorates her valiant service.

Margaret Corbin’s story is similar to the better-known Mary Ludwig Hays. At the 1776 Battle of Fort Washington, Corbin was carrying water to her husband’s gun crew when he fell. She stepped into his place and helped keep the cannon operational by swabbing and helping to reload. During the battle, Margaret was hit by grapeshot in the arm and chest, disabling her for life.

Corbin was one of the first members of the Invalid Corps, created by Congress in 1777 to care for wounded and disabled soldiers. She was granted a pension in 1779, the first American woman to receive a disabled veteran’s pension.
The American Civil War

The story of female soldiers in the Civil War is akin to those who fought in the Revolution. Women disguised themselves as men and marched off to war for pretty much the same reasons as their forebears. Women served in both the Union and Confederate armies, and most seem to have gone undetected, but we do know the stories of a few.

Sarah Emma Edmonds was a Canadian by birth. To escape an abusive father and an arranged marriage, she disguised herself as a man and fled to the US, where she found work in Hartford, Connecticut as a travelling Bible salesman. When the war broke out in 1861, Edmonds was in Michigan and promptly volunteered for the 2nd Michigan Infantry Regiment on a three-year enlistment. She used the name Franklin Thompson, which had been her assumed name for the previous couple of years.

Edmonds was nearly captured at First Manassas when she stayed behind to care for the wounded when the Union Army retreated. In 1862, Edmonds served in the Peninsula Campaign, the Battle of Second Manassas, and the Battle of Fredericksburg as a courier, often braving long solo rides through contested territory. Her horse was shot from under her at Second Manassas, forcing her to ride a mule, which subsequently threw her, breaking her leg.

Edmonds’ memoirs claim that she performed espionage missions behind Confederate lines, disguised as a male Irish peddler, though there is no official record of those missions.

The 2nd Michigan was sent to Kentucky in the spring of 1863, where Edmonds came down with malaria. Afraid of discovery, she requested convalescent leave as opposed to seeing a military doctor. Her leave request was denied. Feeling she had no choice, Edmonds deserted and never returned. “Franklin Thompson” was charged with desertion, though no further action was taken. Following her recovery, Edmonds served as a female nurse until the end of the war.

Edmonds, now known as Sarah Edmonds Seelye, attended a reunion of the 2nd Michigan in 1876, where she was welcomed by her former comrades. They helped her have the charge of desertion expunged from her records and supported her pension application, which was approved in 1884. Seelye was the only female to receive a soldier’s pension from the Civil War. In 1897, a year before her death, she became the only female member of the Grand Army of the Republic. In 1901, she was reburied with full military honors in Houston’s Washington Cemetery.
**Jennie Hodgers** (a.k.a. Albert D.J. Cashier) is remarkable not only for her wartime service, but for the fact that she continued to live as a man for the rest of her life. Hodgers was born on Christmas Day, 1843, in Ireland. Little is known about her life from then until she enlisted in the 95th Illinois Infantry under the name Albert D.J. Cashier.

Jennie-Hodgers AKA Albert-D.J. Cashier. Photo from Breach Bang Clear.

Hodgers fought in over forty engagements, including the Vicksburg Campaign, the Battle of Nashville, the Red River Campaign, and the Battles of Kennesaw Mountain and Jonesborough. An account exists of her escaping capture by overpowering a Confederate guard. She mustered out on 17 August, 1865.

Living as a man apparently agreed with Hodgers, and “Albert Cashier” worked several jobs, voted in elections, and drew a soldier’s pension. Hit by a car in 1910, “Cashier’s” true gender was discovered by the local hospital, which, remarkably, agreed not to give away her secret. She was sent to the Soldiers and Sailors Home in Quincy, Illinois to recover. It was here, in 1913, that dementia finally caused her to be revealed as a woman. Sadly, she was sent to an insane asylum where she was forced to wear a dress.

On the plus side, when the story was published in the local newspapers, Hodgers’ former comrades protested her treatment and defended her service. Upon her death in 1915, Hodgers was buried in full uniform and her grave was marked with the name Albert D.J. Cashier and her service dates. A second marker with the name Jennie Hodgers was placed beside the original in the 1970s.

**Sarah Rosetta Wakeman** is another whose story is well-known, thanks to her family’s preservation of her letters. With her father in debt and no prospects of marriage, the nineteen-year old Wakeman left home in 1862 to seek work as a man. While working as a laborer, she met recruiters from the 153rd New York Infantry Regiment, who offered a $152.00 enlistment bounty. Wakeman accepted and enlisted on 30 August, 1862 under the name Lyons Wakeman.

The 153rd New York saw action during the Red River Campaign of 1864 and Wakeman stood on the firing line at the Battles of Pleasant Hill and Monett’s Bluff. The Red River Campaign featured marches of hundreds of miles through muggy heat and disease-ridden swamps, which Wakeman endured as well as her male counterparts.
Before the campaign, Wakeman had written home, “I don’t know how long before I shall have to go into the field of battle. For my part, I don’t care. I don’t feel afraid to go.” Wakeman finally succumbed to disease in May, 1864 and died on 19 June. She is buried in Chalmette National Cemetery in New Orleans. The grave marker bears the name “Lyons Wakeman.” No record exists of her sex ever being discovered.

Mollie Bean is a bit more elusive than Sarah Edmonds and Jennie Hodgers, and, in her anonymity, is likely more representative of the majority of female Civil War soldiers. In fact, Mollie Bean may not have been her name at all.

Mollie was arrested on 20 February, 1865 while hitching a ride on a railroad car near Danville, Virginia. Riding a military rail car required permission from the provost marshal so, when she was discovered, the guard demanded her papers. Mollie replied, “I’ve got no papers and damn if I want any.” She was arrested and, shortly thereafter, discovered to be a female dressed as a soldier. Mollie claimed to have enlisted in the 47th North Carolina Infantry Regiment in 1863 and to have been twice-wounded in battle. She was sent back to Richmond and imprisoned in Castle Thunder. The story was picked up by newspapers in Richmond and Charlotte. Mollie was portrayed sensationally and her claims of service were discounted, with at least one paper describing her as “manifestly crazy.” The general opinion was that she could not have served for over two years without her true sex being discovered. Upon her imprisonment, Mollie vanishes from history. There are no records of her incarceration and examinations of the 47th North Carolina’s muster rolls reveal nothing. The census records of females with the surname “Bean” provide no real evidence. “Mollie Bean” may well have been a made-up name given to the authorities upon her arrest.

Mollie Bean is a bit more elusive than Sarah Edmonds and Jennie Hodgers, and, in her anonymity, is likely more representative of the majority of female Civil War soldiers. In fact, Mollie Bean may not have been her name at all.

Mollie was arrested on 20 February, 1865 while hitching a ride on a railroad car near Danville, Virginia. Riding a military rail car required permission from the provost marshal so, when she was discovered, the guard demanded her papers. Mollie replied, “I’ve got no papers and damn if I want any.” She was arrested and, shortly thereafter, discovered to be a female dressed as a soldier. Mollie claimed to have enlisted in the 47th North Carolina Infantry Regiment in 1863 and to have been twice-wounded in battle. She was sent back to Richmond and imprisoned in Castle Thunder.
The story was picked up by newspapers in Richmond and Charlotte. Mollie was portrayed sensational-ly and her claims of service were discounted, with at least one paper describing her as “manifestly cra-zy.” The general opinion was that she could not have served for over two years without her true sex being discovered. Upon her imprisonment, Mollie vanishes from history. There are no records of her incarceration and examinations of the 47th North Carolina’s muster rolls reveal nothing. The census records of females with the surname “Bean” provide no real evidence. “Mollie Bean” may well have been a made-up name given to the authorities upon her arrest.

She does, however, make a fanciful reappearance in the alternate history novel *The Guns of the South* by Harry Turtledove. If you haven’t read it, and you’re into that sort of thing, it’s very well-done. The premise is built around South African time-travelers who provide Robert E. Lee’s army with AK-47s in the winter of 1864. Don’t be deterred by the fantastical scenario; Turtledove is a serious his-torian. The book is outstanding and thought-provoking.

Two more female soldiers from the Civil War merit our attention, though we don’t, and likely never will, know their identities. The remains of a Confederate private were discovered on the Gettysburg battlefield on 17 July, 1863 by a burial detail from the Union II Corps. The private was female. She was likely killed while taking part in Pickett’s Charge on 3 July. Finally, a 1934 excavation of a mass grave on the Shiloh battlefield revealed the remains of a female with a minie ball lodged in her pelvis, likely her death wound. Plainly, females not only served in the Civil War, they were in the thick of batt-le and some were killed. Due to the nature of their service, we’ll never know how many.

These badass historical women cross-dressed so they could fight with the boys

PART 2 NEXT ISSUE

This is what a silencer for howitzers looks like

These suppressors can cut the noise by up to 20 decibels, which is the difference between listening to your television and listening to your blender.
Watchful eyes target enemy at the gates

FLGOFF Kym Morritt Air Force and Royal Air Force security personnel undertake scenario-based training during Exercise Mobility Guardian at Yakima, Washington. Photo: CPL David Gibbs

THE SUCCESS of an air mobility mission is only guaranteed when aircraft can be secured at frontline airfields. This was a key element during Exercise Mobility Guardian, with a heavy emphasis on airfield security at major Forward Operating Bases.

Just as international partners brought their air mobility crews to the exercise, several nations also brought airfield security teams – including Air Force’s Combat Support Group.

CSG drew on capabilities from each of its Wings, and integrated its forces at Moses Lake, US – a key Forward Operating Base for Mobility Guardian.

They were embedded with a Joint Force Protection Element consisting of Royal Air Force and Belgium Air Force personnel.

FLTLT Zacari Smit led the RAAF security forces contingent, comprising of 2SECFOR personnel and augmented by a sniper team from 1SECFOR.

“The 98-person security element was responsible for securing, detecting, defending, and deterring ground threats around the airfield – this ensured the sustainment of coalition air operations,” FLTLT Smit said.

Just as air mobility aircraft had to use tactics to overcome simulated threats in the battlespace, the security forces used their full suite of capabilities to secure airfields in a hostile environment.

Explosive Detection Dogs and Military Working Dogs were also deployed within an air mobile protection role, providing effective detection and non-lethal capabilities in what was a complex battlespace.

“The exercise demonstrated precisely how a capable and agile security force can enable the forward projection of air mobility aircraft in a contingency situation,” FLTLT Smit said.

“This provided us with an opportunity to learn, understand and integrate security capabilities of other forces.”

The Contingency Response Element enabled the RAAF to demonstrate expeditionary capability to international partners and gain valuable appreciation of respective techniques, tactics and procedures.

SQNLDR Todd Goldsmith, Task Unit Headquarters Commander for the exercise, said training in such environments was rare but valuable.

“Our expeditionary airbase operations are unlikely to be conducted in isolated environments,” he said.

“Gaining an appreciation of operating foreign airfields, receiving and supporting foreign aircraft and providing airfield management were key learning outcomes.”
The first six new Air Force Pilatus PC-21 training aircraft were welcomed at RAAF Base East Sale on Friday, 11 August.

From early 2019, the new fleet of PC-21 aircraft will replace the PC-9/A training system, which has been in service since 1987.

Minister for Defence Marise Payne and Member for Gippsland Darren Chester officially welcomed the aircraft at their new base.

“The new pilot training system is a significant leap forward and will train more of our people faster, and to a higher standard than our current system,” Minister Payne said.

“Our future generations of Joint Strike Fighter, Wedgetail and Growler pilots will begin their training on these aircraft, ensuring we have a pipeline of highly skilled trainees.

“This will provide the Australian Defence Force with a tailored pilot training system to meet the needs of our pilots for the next 30 years.”

Minister Payne congratulated industry partners Lockheed Martin Australia, Pilatus and Hawker Pacific, and Defence’s Capability and Sustainment Group for its on-time delivery of this project stage.

She also congratulated Laing O’Rourke Australia and Defence’s Estate and Infrastructure Group for its delivery of facilities for this project stage in highly challenged timelines.

“Over $300 million is being invested in new state-of-the-art training facilities, which incorporates seven new PC-21 flight simulators, both here at RAAF Base East Sale and at RAAF Base Pearce in Perth.

“The government’s investment in the new pilot training system and relocation of Basic Flying Training School to RAAF Base East Sale is part of our commitment to continue producing highly skilled and talented personnel across Air Force, Navy and Army.

“Overall, this is a $1.5 billion investment that will ensure young pilots looking to serve in the Australian Defence Force have access to the latest facilities and training methods.

“The ADF will now have an intake of up to 165 trainee pilots each year at RAAF Base East Sale, leading to an increase in the number of successful graduates,” she said.

The new facilities in Sale are expected to be complete by September next year.

The Royal Australian Air Force is planning to commence PC-21-based training of undergraduate students in piloting and flying instructor courses in early 2019.
The after effects of being a Military Working Dog Handler.
Sig Vs Glock

This is why the Army selected Sig over Glock for its new handgun

The dust has finally settled in the battle between firearms giants Sig Sauer and Glock over the Army’s program to replace more than half a million M9 Beretta handguns after government investigators sided with Sig over a protest that claimed the company was selected unfairly.

In a June 5 report, the Government Accountability Office denied the protest by Glock of the January award of a massive contract to replace nearly 550,000 handguns in the Army and other services with a militarized version of the Sig P320 striker-fired pistol.

While the GAO said each was very close in performance and other factors that evaluators looked into, Sig came in with a program price nearly $130 million less than Glock.

“Based upon the technical evaluation and my comparative analysis of the proposals, the Sig Sauer proposal has a slight technical advantage over the Glock proposal,” the GAO said in its final report. “The advantage of the Sig Sauer proposal is increased when the license rights and production manufacturing factors are brought into consideration … making the Sig Sauer proposal overall the best value to the government.”

The evaluators said the Sig and Glock basically ran neck in neck when it came to reliability, accuracy, and ergonomics. But the Army hit Glock on its safety during the “warfighter evaluation” phase of testing, giving Sig an edge and prompting Glock to factor that into its protest.

Sig Sauer says its Model P320 is the first modular pistol with interchangeable grip modules that can also be adjusted in frame size and caliber by the operator. (Photo Sig Sauer)

The report is unclear on how the Glock safety negatively impacted the Army’s decision, but most commercial versions of both candidate handguns do not have a thumb safety, so each company had to design that into their submissions.

According to the report, Glock submitted one full-sized handgun (presumably the G17 or G19) and Sig submitted two, a full-sized and compact version of the P320. Sig is the only company of the two that manufactures a fully-modular handgun — one that can convert from a full-sized handgun into a sub-compact for concealed carry by changing out a few parts.
Sergeant Neville Kleidon with Boots at the RAAF base, Fairbairn, yesterday.

Boots makes history for his breed An RAAF sergeant based at Fairbairn began training a dingo yesterday for drug detection and tracking work.

Sergeant Neville Kleidon brought the dingo to Canberra on Wednesday from Bargo, NSW, for a private venture to evaluate the breed. He will report on the evaluation to his Air Force superiors, who will consider enlisting the dog, or others of the same breed, for service work.

Sergeant Kleidon obtained approval yesterday from the RAAF to train the dog, Wellington or "Boots", at his house in the married quarters on the base, in his own time.

He has Commonwealth Government permission to "keep and train" a dingo, which he understands is the first such approval granted in Australia. Dingoes are classed as noxious vermin in all States. Sergeant Kleidon has been a dog trainer for the service for the past 16 years.

"In some kinds of work like drug detection, dingoes might by better than German Shepherds because they can squeeze into places where bigger dogs are unable to go", Sergeant Kleidon said yesterday.

"This one is an exceptional dog, which is why we chose him. Most of his breed are very wary but he is quite friendly.

"The dingo sense of smell is acute which will be very useful in his training. "His mother and father were both born in the wild, but he was bred in captivity. He is one of the best of his litter for my purposes.

"He will be given the standard Air Force training, with allowances for his personality which we make for all dogs in training".

Boots is 14 months old.
RAAF joins massive air-lift exercise

The Royal Australian Air Force dispatched two of its largest aircraft — C-17A Globemaster III transport and KC-30A Multi-Role Tanker Transport — to the United States for Exercise Mobility Guardian 17.

Held in Washington State from 30 July to 12 August 2017, Mobility Guardian 17 was conducted by the US Air Force and involved the rehearsal of key air-mobility roles, including air-to-air refuelling from the KC-30A and aerial delivery of cargo to a drop zone by the C-17A.

RAAF Base Amberley in Queensland provided most of the 120 personnel who were deployed, joining 1700 USAF members and 330 personnel from Brazil, Canada, New Zealand and the UK. Commanding Officer No. 36 Squadron Wing Commander Peter Thompson, who is leading the Australian element, said RAAF had never practiced air-mobility missions on the scale as Mobility Guardian 17.

“Mobility Guardian 17 involved participants delivering a ‘first stage’ response to a contingency event within a contested environment,” Wing Commander Thompson said.

“Our role was to work with international partners to deliver that first-stage response, and then sustain the forces within that environment, responding to their needs as the scenario developed.

“Air mobility is a critical part of how modern defence forces maintain logistical links.

“While it is often used operationally, it is seldom exercised on a large scale.”

Working alongside RAAF’s KC-30A and C-17A were the USAF’s colossal C-5M Galaxy transport, its KC-135 and KC-10 tankers, and the Royal Air Force’s A400M Atlas transport.

Wing Commander Thompson said Mobility Guardian 17 allowed the RAAF to leverage training opportunities developed by the USAF’s Air Mobility Command, which were unmatched in their scale or complexity.

“At the same time, we were able to demonstrate what our crews are capable of delivering, so we can better work with international partners in future situations.”

The RAAF contingent was integrated into a group of 57 airlift and air-to-air refuelling aircraft during the exercise, the majority of which flew two missions per day.
Veterans Exercise Programs

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I hate
Mondays,
Tuesdays,
Wednesdays,
Thursdays,
and half of
Fridays
Guam
Following an email-blitz within the veteran community, which was also targeted at all members of parliament, over the past week/weekend, the government has today issued a formal statement to allay fears – that DVA might be moving to Centrelink.

Quoting an unnamed insider/whistleblower, the email blitz accused the government of an imminent (tomorrow) plan to merge the Department of Veterans’ Affairs with the Department of Human Services.

Evidence of the merger was said to be in the fact that DVA computer infrastructure was already owned by the Department of Human Services.

There was also accusations that DVA was deliberately hiring muslims who don’t care about veterans.

Minister for Veterans’ Affairs Dan Tehan today released a statement refuting the accusations.

“The Australian government is committed to a stand-alone Department of Veterans’ Affairs (DVA),” Mr Tehan said.

“This has been an election commitment by the Coalition over successive elections and remains government policy.

“There are no plans to merge DVA with the Department of Human Services (DHS).

“There is no meeting planned for this week and there is no agreement to be signed in the near future to subsume DVA into DHS.

“DHS manages DVA’s ICT infrastructure under a Memorandum of Understanding that was signed in 2011.

“Prior to this agreement DVA’s ICT infrastructure was outsourced to IBM.

“There has been no change to DVA’s recruitment policy.

“DVA continues to recruit in-line with Australian Public Service policy, with a priority on hiring staff who are passionate about supporting veterans.”
The castle of Saint Gratien in the Somme during the first war was headquarter Australians

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Canine - Human Child Development Comparison</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Canine</strong></td>
<td><strong>Human Child</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Birth</td>
<td>Begins walking</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 weeks</td>
<td>Can be taught to defecate outside</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 months</td>
<td>Recognizes own name</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Knows several tricks</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Can clearly communicate needs to it's owner</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 Years</td>
<td>The human and dog have learned to co-exist in a mutually beneficial manner. The dog provides a positive impact on the human's blood pressure.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13 Years</td>
<td>Knows it is a loved member of the human's family</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Just the opposite</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Knows...everything</td>
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Because all big things started in small packages

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"You can tune a piano, but you can't tuna fish".
## Up-Coming Birthdays

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Last Name</th>
<th>Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sean</td>
<td>Payne</td>
<td>Sep</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ty</td>
<td>Trost</td>
<td>8-Sep</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rob</td>
<td>Emes</td>
<td>9-Sep</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kol</td>
<td>Kajanto</td>
<td>11-Sep</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tanya</td>
<td>Eddy</td>
<td>14-Sep</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Geoff</td>
<td>Dove</td>
<td>15-Sep</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jeff</td>
<td>Klaebe</td>
<td>16-Sep</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alex</td>
<td>Crows</td>
<td>19-Sep</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Barry</td>
<td>Ireland</td>
<td>25-Sep</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Terry</td>
<td>McMullan</td>
<td>27-Sep</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bryan</td>
<td>Murdock</td>
<td>4-Oct</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brad</td>
<td>Lucke</td>
<td>4-Oct</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Don</td>
<td>Bates</td>
<td>4-Oct</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Robert</td>
<td>Bradley</td>
<td>9-Oct</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stephen</td>
<td>McNaughton</td>
<td>9-Oct</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jodie</td>
<td>Dell</td>
<td>14-Oct</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Robert</td>
<td>Reece</td>
<td>18-Oct</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rob</td>
<td>McMaster</td>
<td>23-Oct</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Denzil</td>
<td>Potter</td>
<td>24-Oct</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Greg</td>
<td>Barker</td>
<td>25-Oct</td>
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<tr>
<td>Guy</td>
<td>Burton</td>
<td>29-Oct</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mal</td>
<td>Holland</td>
<td>4-Nov</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jon</td>
<td>Hemp</td>
<td>14-Nov</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tony</td>
<td>Preston</td>
<td>14-Nov</td>
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<tr>
<td>Akio</td>
<td>Lambert</td>
<td>15-Nov</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tony</td>
<td>Aldrich</td>
<td>18-Nov</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Laurie</td>
<td>Lord</td>
<td>19-Nov</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Robert</td>
<td>Seamons</td>
<td>30-Nov</td>
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