

# THE EXHIBITOR

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE  
ARMY MUSEUM OF SOUTH  
Australia



**AMOSA**

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## Our ADF Touched by Fire ....



The bushfires that ravaged Australia in the 2019-2020 summer left a legacy of death and destruction across the nation. It started before Christmas, but by December and January was a conflagration that touched one third of all Australians, blackened swathes of our country and killed an estimated billion animals. While voluntary fire firefighters buckled from days fighting the flames and the long burn continued, Prime Minister Scott Morrison on January 4 mobilised the military and 3000 reservists were called up to relieve the agony. South Australia, reeling from runaway fires in the Adelaide Hills and on Kangaroo Island, became one of the focal points for local command and control through its 9<sup>th</sup> Brigade HQ based at Keswick Barracks.



Within days ASLAVs armoured vehicles, Bushmasters, trucks and heavy machinery was on its way with Reservist men and women, towards the fire grounds, towns and regional centres facing states of emergency. It was the first time our Reserve Force had been compulsorily called up for national disaster relief. While Keswick was a frenetic hub of activities, which saw

international specialist units transit the barracks, those on the front line were getting their first taste of wildfire and its result. Many soldiers admitted they were distraught and challenged by the experience.



*Sean Pratt and Brenton Williams arranging the display*

Our Reservists brought special skills and just hard labour and sweat to the mission, but many faced the appalling spectacle of thousands of dying and dead wild and domestic animals. Direct care of injured and palliative care for dying animals was given and fodder was flown in for sheep and cattle. And the can-do attitude of the Army was personified by one commander who asked what he would do if confronted by wildfire. "Go 'round it, under it, over it or straight through it," he said. Easy said in a \$2million 13 tonne ASLAV. AMOSA this month is presenting a special exhibition of photos taken by the ADF men and women who relieved SA's agony. It is situated in the Museum Foyer One of the most moving pictures is that of Reservist Lt Kynan Lang kneeling at the site where his uncle Dick Lang and cousin Clayton Lang, perished in the KI blaze. For the record SA's ADF involvement saw:

- \* **Up to 1500 military** involved with 600 in fire zones at any given time.
- \* **About 1000kms** of road cleared, fences repaired, firebreaks graded
- \* **About 330 vehicles** used
- \* **Up to 28 ADF** and other nations' helicopters and heavy lift aircraft used
- \* **Not forgetting** 60kg of coffee was consumed by soldiers at Keswick Café per day.

*By Peter Haran*

## Inside this issue

<i>From the Manager</i>	2
<i>Korean War Veterans</i>	2
<i>Harry's Corner</i>	2
<i>Mimi Ewens</i>	3
<i>Rene Jarrett</i>	3
<i>Maria Vallis</i>	3
<i>Museum Closure</i>	3
<i>Dikko</i>	3
<i>Corona virus</i>	4
<i>The RSAR Collection Team</i>	4
<i>The Nuclear Tank</i>	4
<i>Pictures of War</i>	5
<i>Curators Report</i>	6
<i>The Light Horsemen</i>	7
<i>My Dad and I</i>	7
<i>Forbes Family</i>	7
<i>Behind the Scenes</i>	8
<i>Museum Visitors</i>	8

### **VALE Michael Roger BURZACOTT**

*It is with much sadness that we are advising you that our friend Roger passed away peacefully on the 19th March in the company of his wife Chis, their daughters Simone and Sarah and their families.*

**Visit our website to find our news for our volunteers and current activities within the Museum**

[www.amosa.org.au](http://www.amosa.org.au)

**Contact Joy Souter to add material & information**

## From the Manager ....

We are now well into another year at the Museum, my seventh as Manager, and for some reason 2020 – I think it just sounds important – promises to be another very busy year. Already the shape of a standard Museum year is emerging with many requests for functions and visits on base, but also our assistance in promoting, supporting and speaking at a variety of events away from Keswick Barracks.



Major  
Christopher Roe

Where this year will differ is in regard the major project that we are now working on. As we have grown larger and larger in terms of volunteer numbers – a trend showing no immediate signs of slowing and, usually, a good thing – the amount and range of work being conducted by volunteer groups has grown accordingly. It is fair to say that the military has lost full visibility of these tasks and so we have suffered some degrading of our WHS standards and some procedural carelessness.

I am entirely responsible for this occurring but, equally, I am now just as responsible for the full remediation of

our facilities. We have drawn the metaphorical line in the sand and will start again with some internal moves, a more closely supervised process of allocating tasks, an aggressive stance in regard to waste disposal, and the creation of newly equipped, minimalist and WHS compliant spaces as best we can manage in facilities that are not purpose-designed. The projects to relocate uniforms and, later, to refurbish all of Archives Building to provide a conference facility and a streamlined library have been great successes and shown what we can achieve. I'm sure this will be no different. Unfortunately we have had to cancel our Planning and execution of the Anzac Day activities at Keswick Barracks due to the virus restrictions. We will also postpone our Annual History lunch and hopefully run it later in the year. It has been pleasing to see a number of new faces in our volunteer community, and to welcome Warrant Officer Class one Maria Vallis, and Private Renee Jarrett to the unit, both of whom have settled in very well and are making excellent contributions in a number of ways.

Thank you

**Christopher Roe**  
**Manager**

## Korean War Veterans ....

AMOSa has, of late, put much effort into better representation of the Korean War. This fierce conflict tends to be forgotten coming, as it did, close behind the end of the Second World War with a population yearning for peace and some time before the invasive television and media coverage from Vietnam a decade or so later. Our 'Hero and Healer' display contrasts the story of the late Major Leonard Opie, DCM, a legendary and ruthless veteran of the last days of the South-West Pacific Campaign, through distinguished service with 3 RAR in Korea, and service with Montagnard irregulars in Vietnam, with Colonel Don Beard, AM, the Regimental Medical Officer of the same battalion in Korea. Don is a very well-known South Australian, perhaps best known – after his military career ended – as the doctor of the South Australian Cricket Association, often seen striding on to Adelaide Oval to tend to an afflicted cricketer! In this image Don (left) stands in front of the display with his close friend Colonel Peter Scott (right), the Intelligence Officer of 3 RAR in their later years in Korea

and the Commanding Officer of the same battalion on their second tour of Vietnam. These two outstanding officers (and Len Opie himself) could certainly tell some fascinating, and frightening, stories about Korea and all three men have been, and hopefully will continue to be in the case of Don and Peter, honored guests of the battalion at any time, but especially on 24<sup>th</sup> April: Kapyong Day.

I knew Len Opie well before his death, and have known Don and Peter for many years. Now, at the Museum, it was an honour to continue to develop a relationship commenced many years ago at Holsworthy on the battalion parade ground!



*The Korean War display at the Museum. Colonel Peter Scott DSO [Retd] and Colonel Don Beard AM RFD [Retd]*

**MAJ Christopher Roe**

## Harry's Corner ....



Gee wiz! What an interesting and unexpected start to 2020! We have a virus on our doorstep and in our community. Massive shutdowns and closures including our Museum. No more tours or lunches for a while. Harriet and I along with our loyal volunteers will need to find another lunch spot for our Wednesday workday at the Museum. I guess it will encourage some of our volunteers to tackle the Internet to conduct their research and development and perhaps add material to our wonderful website. Some of us will undertake some family research using the excellent facilities offered by the Virtual War Memorial, State Library online and the huge National repository of TROVE. We are keen to protect our visiting school

children and aging tour groups from the potential of infection in our Museum. I notice that my favourite sporting team will be hanging up their boots for a while. The 'Hash House Hamsters' are a local favourite with my family and I will miss the crowds at our local sports grounds. My main concern is the health of our volunteers. I hope they practise some social isolation and make contact with us through the phone, Facebook and website connections. Using Messenger means we can talk to each other and we can initiate 'conference calls' between individuals and small groups. I guess the airwaves will be very busy when folks seek refuge in their own homes? Stay safe and we look forward to your safe return to the Museum. (PS Hamsters are immune to this virus so feel free to say hello to us!) Cheers and best wishes  
**Harriet & Harry**



## SGT Mimi Ewens ....

I enlisted into the CMF as a WRAAC (Women's Royal Australian Army Corps), and later transferred to RAAOC (Royal Australian Army Ordnance Corps) Units. I was trained as a Signaler, worked in Intelligence Section, as a Company Clerk and the Battalion Orderly Room Sergeant, in Recruiting Cell and a compliance team member auditing Units.

I was posted to:

- 10 RSAR (10<sup>th</sup> Battalion Royal South Australian Regiment)



- 4 RNSWR (4<sup>th</sup> Battalion Royal New South Wales Regiment)
- AUR (Adelaide Universities Regiment)
- APA-A (Army Personnel Agency – Adelaide)
- AFSU (Army Financial Services Unit)
- ACAU (Army Compliance Assurance Agency Unit)



My interests are travelling, going to the movies and military history. I am looking forward to my time posted to AMOSA working with you all and learning new skills.

## PTE Rene Jarrett ....



PTE Renee Jarrett enlisted in the ARA on 25 Oct 2011 and undertook Initial Employment Training as an Operator Mover. PTE Jarrett has had postings to JMCO Townsville from 2012 – 2014 and JMCO Adelaide from 2014 – 2018. In 2018 she transferred to the ARES and

paraded with JMCO Melbourne and was subsequently posted to AAHU in July 2018 parading with the Army Heritage Repository. PTE Jarrett has been deployed on Op Slipper in 2012, on exercise to PNG in 2012 and RCB – Malaysia in 2017. PTE Jarrett is married to SGT Ashley Jarrett and has two daughters, Mia and Eva.

## WO1 Maria Vallis ....



Warrant Officer Class One Maria Vallis enlisted into the Australian Regular Army in August of 1995 and was allocated to the Royal Australian Army Ordnance Corps (Clerk Admin). After a variety of postings in NSW, VIC, ACT and SA, the highlight being posted to the Office of the Chief of Defence Force in

2006-2007 she transferred to the Army Reserve in August of 2011. Since then Maria has been posted to a number of SA units (Headquarters 9<sup>th</sup> Brigade, 3<sup>rd</sup> Health Support Battalion, Army Personnel Support Centre and Command Support Branch - Australian Defence Force Headquarters).

During this time Maria also completed a number of periods of Continuous Fulltime Service totalling over four years. Maria has had three overseas deployments (OP WARDEN/TANAGER East Timor 1999/2002 and OP MAZURKA Sinai Egypt 2010. Maria took up the position of Assistant Manager of AMOSA in January 2020. She is looking forward to getting to know the volunteers, learning more about Army's History and the rewards and challenges that come with working at an Army Museum. Maria enjoys travelling, gardening, outdoor activities and volunteering at church activities.

## Museum Closure ....

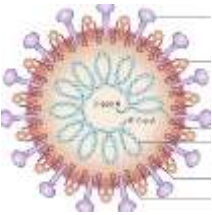
**"Due to the current health alert, unfortunately we have had to close the Museum until, at least, the 15<sup>th</sup> April. Enquiries about visits, in anticipation of us being open again, can still be directed to 0438 875 900. All other enquiries should be directed to the Museum Manager on 0431 381 513. Thank you"**



## Dikko ....



# Corona Virus (COVID -19) Update ....



The impact of the Coronavirus (COVID-19) on our community, and the world, is one of the most significant health challenges to have faced us in recent years. With a rapidly changing dynamic in regard to rates of infection, 'social distancing,' voluntary home quarantine conditions and self-isolation the Museum, as a part of society, faces challenges in protecting our staff from potential hazard, and the South Australian public from transmission of the virus through group activity visiting the Museum. We have acted on unequivocal instruction from the Australian Army History Unit (AAHU) to minimize risk and infection of our visitors. As a result the Museum has

closed for a month with effect 16 March 2020, the situation to be reviewed in mid-April. While the volunteers take a break we can still continue our research, conduct virtual planning and use our website to communicate with our volunteers and patrons. To keep in touch with future developments please view our website <https://www.amosa.org.au/> or join us as a 'friend' on the Museum's Facebook page. Military staff will gladly provide updates to volunteers on request and through network messaging as the situation unfolds. Health precautions are important, and please implement them, but there is no need to worry: we will be back very soon!



## The RSAR Historical Collection Team ....

Since joining the team some 2-3 ago now, volunteers Bob Cotton and Jim Thomson have spent nearly every Wednesday working in our secure bay in Building 8. It's become their second home with limited creature comforts – hot in summer and an icebox in winter. Thanks to them the work area has been significantly cleaned up, the installation of the old compactus from the Archives Building has allowed for better storage of our Historical Collection. We still have a large number of RSAR artefacts that are spread throughout the Museum on display and at some stage with the assistance of Jeff Ayles, we will get around to identifying, labelling, photographing all the items before adding them onto a database. We will become involved in the audit and stocktake of the Gray Collection which also forms part of the Historical Collection. Bob & Jim continue to do the writing up, Martin Forsyth is printing off the photos & I am doing the data entry. With approx. 6000 items making up this Collection, even if we were able to write up 40 ODR's (Object Data Records) each Wednesday, that still equates to 150 weeks and will take almost 3 years to complete the Audit/Stocktake.

Once we have completed this task we can start on the

several hundred books. training pams etc. held in the Collections Room that also need to be recorded. I think we will all be long retired before this is all completed!



*The RSAR Team on a break – Martin Forsyth, Des Hawkins, Bob Cotton, Jim Thomson & Jeff Ayles*

So in the meantime there's no rest for the 'old and bold'.  
**by Des Hawkins – RSARHC Curator**

## The 'Nuclear' Tank ....



A Centurion Tank was used in a nuclear test at Emu Field Woomera in 1953. After the blast the tank was cleaned

and some minor repairs were effected. It was positioned 320 yards from the epicenter of the blast. This experiment was to test the viability of a tank in a nuclear explosion. This very tank was on operations in South Vietnam in 1969. She currently sits just inside the gates at the new home of 1<sup>st</sup> Armoured Regiment in Edinburgh SA. Whilst in SVN she was named "Sweet Fanny" call sign 24 C ( B Squadron, 4 Troop Charlie Tank) in the troop which I served in in 1969. She was hit by an RPG which penetrated the turret and wounded one of the crew.

After Vietnam she returned to 1 AR in April 1970. Her last duty as a restored AFV was to carry the retiring Chief of General Staff, Lt Gen H.J. Coates. AC MBE during his farewell parade in April 1992. It is a unique history that I doubt could be matched by any other tank of any kind.

**By Bob Bob Ferrari OAM JP**



# Pictures of War and the “Money Shot” ....



They are called the “Money Shot” – a single photograph that will endure forever. The Money Shot is a unique picture and in today’s media is often snapped by a member of the paparazzi and ‘on sold’ for many thousands of dollars. The photo is a one-off; a result of opportunity and luck and freeze-frames an image that will last for decades. In war the Money Shot is a one-time picture from any of

Australia’s conflicts that is immediately identifiable. It is lauded because it tells a story from a time, an event and includes a human image which evokes a flood of emotions. Today’s war reporting is largely digital moving pictures for instant TV consumption. The images are fleeting, maybe compelling, and then gone. The still picture is still favoured by press and magazines because of their potential impact to express a thousand words. And, like studying a painting in a gallery, the audience can dwell and contemplate all aspects of a great photograph.



The war photo also immediately tells of the time and event: WW I soldiers meandering over a wooden walkway, their reflections in a water-filled crater amid desolation of the Western Front, soldiers led by an officer launching a

charge in North Africa, a young girl, burned by napalm fleeing towards the photographer in the Vietnam. We all instantly recognise them. At AMOSA we are as a matter of policy introducing more well-known war pictures into our exhibits to both inform and enhance. We already have done that in the North Africa and Vietnam exhibits, and New Guinea/ Kokoda is next. For this we have selected three pictures, all of which our volunteers and many of the public will recognise. They are jaw-droppers, one-offs and emotionally moving. They will be displayed soon. But have you ever thought who took those pictures, and why were they are the Money Shot? Two of these photos were the result of being in the right place and tremendous luck. And, maybe more to the point, they had long-term impacts on the public back home. Photographer George Silk worked for *Life* magazine and became an Australian cameraman early in WW II.



He was captured and escaped from the Germans in the Middle East, was also wounded in action and much later found himself wandering down a bush track near Buna in northern New Guinea “looking for an interesting picture.” It was Christmas Day, 1943 when a parade of wounded Diggers

came limping by. He said he stepped aside and took a unique photo of a Digger with a native Papua New Guinean. The soldier was Pte George “Dick” Whittington from South Australia’s 2/10 Battalion wounded by a Japanese sniper. The native was Raphael Oimbari. The photo was censored as “not in the national interest” by the Australian Government but later surfaced in *Life* magazine. It is considered one of most poignant pictures of the war – it evoked sympathy, compassion above the brutality of combat and also introduced us to the empathy shown by a native tribesman for another wounded human being. So was born the legend of the “Fuzzy Wuzzy Angels.” Many years later Oimbari was awarded the OAM. Sadly, Pte Whittington died from scrub typhus a few months later. Former Melbourne *Herald* photographer Gordon Short had heard about the man described as a “human Simpson Donkey” shortly before the end of July, 1943 and set out for Mount Tambu, north New Guinea coast to photograph Leslie “Bull” Allen. By sheer luck and, again, timing, on July 30 he caught up with the 2/5 Battalion stretcher bearer just as he was rescuing the last of 12 wounded American soldiers that day, carrying them pack mule style from the fighting to an aid station.



The American forces were being smashed by the Japanese in the last phase of the New Guinea campaign and Bull Allen, who already had been awarded an MM, was now on his way to being awarded the US

Silver Star for courage. Praise for the Goliath of a man even came from First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt. The picture is arguably the greatest of Australian war photos – a moment in time that tells everything about Aussie mateship, courage and compassion. It is transfixing. It was also a newspaper editor’s dream. Again, the story does not have a happy ending: Bull Allen was devastated by war neurosis, court-martialed and



medically discharged for assaulting an officer and later lost his power of speech while recuperating on his uncle’s farm. He recovered and later married. The hero, who was abandoned as a child, died aged

65. Although Ballarat-born he is celebrated and commemorated at the RSL which “adopted” him at Mt Gambier. Photographers Gordon Short and George Silk are just two of thousands of war cameramen who risked their lives, went up the sharp end and got the Money Shot. Many of them were shot doing it.

By Peter Haran

# From the Curator ....

## **New Working Arrangement for AMOSA Volunteers**

Most volunteers will be aware of the new working arrangements that have been implemented as a result of the COVID-19. The Museum has now been closed for visitors for thirty days and volunteers up until Wednesday the 1 April 20. On this day a limited number of volunteers will be allowed to commence work on essential tasks as directed by Chris Roe. This will be ongoing unless any other changes to Government policy occur. In consultation with Chris, I have worked on a volunteer roster to allow this work to occur. This roster has been sent out to all volunteers by email and every Section Head has been briefed as to the way it will work. Volunteers will be rostered by Sections and will be allowed to come in every three weeks. Mondays will not be worked and the roster is for Wednesdays only. The main focus is to remediate Work, Health and Safety concerns.

**Work Health and Safety** I need to inform all volunteers of the new 2 person working policy. As a result of a recent WHS incident all volunteers are now required to work in pairs when undertaking activities in any part of the Museum. A new heat policy for volunteers has also been implemented. Uniform Staff will be using a wet bulb device to tell volunteers of the work to rest periods they must adhere to when working in hot weather. This information will generally be given to volunteers during the Monday or Wednesday morning break. Signs advising of these new policies will be placed on notice boards and all work areas. The policies will be formalised at the next Museum WHS meeting. After a recent WHS inspection a number of areas were closed due to safety concerns. These included Conservation and Restoration, Edged Weapons and the Studebaker Restoration Project. Although these were closed AAHU commented that a significant amount of work had been done in the Archives area. Chris Roe has instructed that all of the bays in Building 80 be cleared of all equipment and materials. The Army has supplied skips and this work is progressing well, with one skip filled and taken away. The plan will be implemented when this has been completed and the area will have upgraded power and lighting fitted. Then new equipment will be supplied by AAHU which will include a lathe, pedestal drills and bench grinders to name some of the items. The Milling Machine and Pantograph will be retained. The Welding area will be relocated from Bay 8 Building 80 to the compound of Building 8. Edged weapons will relocate to Bay 1 of Building 80 and the old Edged Weapons area will become an office area for Conservation and Restoration Work Team.

**Interior Displays** The Curatorial Team of Peter Haran, Brenton Williams and Henry Jolly have been quite busy over several months and have now completed the following displays: The Survey Corps Display and the Middle East Display, please take some time to look at these displays when you come back to the Museum. As usual they are of a high standard,

informative and interesting. Projects to be completed in the next few months include an updated Kokoda display featuring a collection of significant photos from the campaign. A new Signal Corps display, will show a selection of radio equipment used by the Australian Army over the last 50 years. A number of firearms have been requested from the AAHU Repository to complement our displays; these include an 40 mm M79 Grenade Launcher, a 9 mm L9A1 Browning Pistol, a 7.62mm X 39mm SKS Rifle and a .303 Rifle No 5 MK 1 commonly called a Jungle Carbine. These should arrive over the next two months. AAHU has offered the Museum a 1989 Suzuki GR 650 which was used by the Military Police. I have accepted this offer and it will become the focus of a display showing the history of the Military Police. I have tasked Heather Simms from Uniforms and Textiles to research and undertake a project to update all of the mannequins in the Museum. This will take several years and a significant amount of money. A number of our mannequins are well over 30 years old and do not conform to Museum best practise.

**Exterior Displays** The Survey Squadron display has now been completed and the bronze Survey Corp Badge has now been fitted to the northern end of building 76. This building was used by 4 Field Survey Squadron to produce maps for the Australian Defence Force. The bronze badge was originally affixed to the HQ building of 4 Field Survey Squadron at Keswick Barracks. A Wiles field catering cooker will arrive soon from the Bandiana Repository. This will be placed opposite the Austin Champ on the western veranda of Building 76. It will form part of an Australian Army Catering Corps (AACC) display. The remainder of the display which will include a comprehensive history of the AACC will be housed in the Special Exhibit Gallery. The M113 A1 APC display is nearing completion and it is hoped to have it fully operating by June this year. When operational Museum Guides will be given training on the start-up procedures of the display that will be required prior to the Museum.

**Exterior Maintenance** The outside veranda floor of Building 76 where the Austin Champ is located will be repainted as the existing paint is flaking and cracking. The seats around the flag pole opposite building 136 will be sanded down and repainted/stained.

**Grant Applications: Studebaker Truck** The grant application submitted by Geoff Laurie to DVA has been successful and \$3600 has been paid into our account.

**Port Wakefield Proof & Experimental Establishment** I have submitted a Grant Application to DVA for the relocation of the Port Wakefield Proof & Experimental Establishment Unit Collection. This will involve considerable expense for the Museum and I have applied for a grant of \$20,000. I am being assisted in this project by Ken Scott who will become the Curator of this Collection when it has been acquired.

**Gatling Gun** I will be submitting a Grant Application to DVA for the restoration of the Gatling gun. This will involve constructing a wooden carriage, axle and spoked wheels to mount the gun on. The grant applied for is \$3500. The restoration/construction work will be carried out by Peter Foster. As soon as the gun is completed it will be displayed in the World War 1 Gallery. *By Wayne Birch Curator*

## The Light Horseman and the First “Selfie” ....

Few if any Light Horsemen carried a camera to take “selfies” Farrier Sgt Harold Mertin from Mt Pleasant did. The former blacksmith served with the 9<sup>th</sup> Light Horse from Sinai to Palestine and was one of only 38 original veterans to return from a complement of 400. AMOSA has come into possession of the camera carried by Harold during the war. Considered very rare, the Autographic Kodak Jnr made between 1914-1927 was given to Harold before embarkation, by his future wife Jessie, who worked at a Rundle St camera store. Harold’s collection of memorabilia and his life story was donated to us by grandson Ron Mertin AM. And the display - being prepared by our Brenton Williams – shows camera, Jessie and two of Harold’s selfies – one *chiacking* before he got on the boat, the other taking a break next to his horse. ....

*By Peter Haran*



*Brenton Williams and the camera*

## My Dad and I....

Johnny “Stuka” Collins is the famous face of an original Rat. The Rat of Tobruk was with the 2/10 Anti- Tank platoon during the dark days of the siege and his larrikin-look and unshaven face now forms part of AMOSA’s North African exhibit. Born in the Copper Triangle, Stuka went on from North Africa to fight in Milne Bay. Our unofficial quartermaster from Building 8, Peter Collins, was aware of war pictures of his father – “there were a few in general circulation,” Peter said. “I did get a surprise to see one in our museum.” Johnny Collins was a general hand doing any job he could get during the lean pre-war years, and became a trained poultry farmer post-war. He met wife Caralie Biley through a pair of socks; she knitted socks as part of the war program. John got a pair from her, came home and married her in 1944. Peter, born in 1945, was one of two children. He said the moniker “Stuka” related to legend when his father brought down – with his rifle - a Stuka bomber strafing the trenches.



“I have no way knowing how true that was, but that was the story,” Peter said.

John Collins died in 1976.



*Peter Collins and the display honoring his father.*

*By Peter Haran*

## The Forbes Family ....

“Dad was sent to England in 1937/38 for courses and then to organise the opening of the V-B War Memorial by KG 6. Hence the MVO. At the end of 1938 Dad was posted to Adelaide as G1. We arrived in December and were just in time for the hideous January heat wave. Dad was medically unfit for overseas service in WW2 due to the nasties he picked up in Gallipoli/France but served right through WW2 in Australia. At the end of 1939 we were moved back to Sydney and my two elder brothers stayed on as boarders at SPSC until they joined the forces. Dad was the first sword of honour winner at Duntroon having entered in 1911. There are four Duntroon graduates in the photograph. Dad died in January 1961 and left the sword to brother Jim, who in turn presented it back to RMC that year being the 50th anniversary. It was decreed that it would in turn be worn each year by the senior cadet. It still is. There is a block at the end of the parade ground at RMC

called the AM Forbes block. Dad’s medals and other memorabilia are in the entrance way to the block.”

*By Lieutenant Colonel Patrick Forbes MC*



*Seated second from the left—Lieutenant Colonel AM Forbes MVO MC. (His sons Jim and Patrick were also awarded a Military Cross.)*



## Behind the Scenes of a Museum Display ....

Mannequins play a huge part in the Museum displays and while the trend now is for faceless torsos these are only used where the display is about a particular jacket. A wire halo can be attached for display of headdress and trousers can be suspended from the torso – no legs required. However several of our displays are in the form of dioramas which require the mannequin to be placed sitting or standing or even kneeling in a particular way which is relevant to the story. Since I have been involved with the Museum I have been asked to source many mannequins and because most are made for the purpose of showing fashion items of clothing many of the poses have been unsuitable. Wayne Birch recently tasked me with finding Asian featured models which despite much ‘Googling’ only led me to some very questionable web sites. A further problem is that the uniforms from WW1 and WW2 eras are very small due to the fact that people were much smaller bone structure than they are today. The female uniforms show that the women in the services were usually very petite. Now while the female mannequins today are normally manufactured for unrealistically slim ladies the male mannequin are usually over 6 foot tall and very muscular in build. Our latest project has been providing soldiers to crew the APC. We needed a soldier to be seated on the bench seats and due to the space limitations he had to be seated with his knees

bent at a very acute angle. We found a company in Victoria who are able to make models in very specific poses but the cost was over \$3000 which is way above our allocated budget. So the decision was made to doctor an existing

mannequin and Malcolm volunteered his services. Drastic hip, knee and elbow surgery was required.

Even though the original may have been standing upright usually one leg was thrust out at a slightly different angle and often longer than the other so there was lots of trial and error and some bad language involved. Sports Medicine surgeons never had it like this! Malcolm has become very innovative with his limb surgery. He must have been a plumber in a previous life as the gunner on the 18 pounder actually has legs made up of pipe fittings. He’s very proud of his soldiers but I did once have occasion to remind him that the “bumps” on the female mannequins go at the front! It was a headless one just in case you were wondering.



***Our APC soldier riding through the barracks on his milk crate.***

***By Heather Simms - Uniforms & Textiles Curator***

## Adelaide’s Living Legend visits the Army Museum ....

92 year old Col Donald Beard (retired) recently visited the Army Museum of SA to view an exhibition of his incredible military career, serving in 3 conflicts. Donald Beard, was born in the Adelaide suburb of Ashford, virtually across the road from Keswick Barracks. Educated at Richmond High School and Adelaide High School, he began his medical training at Adelaide University during World War II. He joined the Army and was sent to Japan as part of the occupation force where he stayed for 18 months. The day before he was due to come home, the Korean Conflict began and he was ‘invited’ to volunteer with 3 Battalion. 18 months later he finally returned home and began surgical studies. In 1957 he was appointed Senior Surgical Registrar at Adelaide Hospital. Now happily married he worked as an honorary surgeon at Adelaide Hospital, Queen Elizabeth Hospital and was appointed Head of Surgical Services at Modbury Hospital. During this time he continued his Army career in the Reserve and in 1967 was appointed as the Army Consultant Surgeon. The Korean Conflict again interfered and he ‘volunteered’ to go to Korea to care for Australian casualties. Hitching a ride in a tank to go forward and collect wounded Australian soldiers, they attracted fire from Chinese soldiers. Upon collecting the casualties he attached 2 wounded soldiers to each side of the tank and the Chinese held their fire and let the vehicle pass. He then used this action to retrieve more wounded and again the Chinese held their fire. A show of respect and sportsmanship in a hellish

situation: the Battle of Kapyong. He was heard to say “I’m not a brave man by any means but somehow I wasn’t frightened at all ... I was too busy doing my work ... I didn’t believe any of the bullets would hit me ... Throughout the night, and the next day, I dealt with casualties as best I could.” January 1968 again saw him ‘volunteering’ to take a surgical team to be attached to the 8<sup>th</sup> Field Ambulance in Vietnam. He saved many lives in Vietnam and became known as “the digger’s doctor”. In 1986 he was appointed as Korea’s Honorary Surgeon, his proudest day as well as being appointed as Chief Surgeon to Queen Elizabeth during her tour of Australia in that year. Still sprightly at 92, one regret is that he doesn’t play cricket any more, although he played for 50 years. He kindly gave his surgical instruments to the Museum which is now a focal point of the display.



***Don Beard and Peter Scott inspect ‘The Healer and The Hero’ display***



***Don Beard’s surgical equipment***

***By Joy Souter—Marketing***