

THE EXHIBITOR

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE
ARMY MUSEUM OF SOUTH
Australia



AMOSA

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North African & Home Front Exhibits ...

Museum curatorial staff have for the past month or more been refurbishing the World War Two North Africa and Home Front exhibits. It is proving a difficult and exacting task; it is both a learning and practical experience. Ray Saunders has been quietly beavering away at the SA Home Front cabinets and has developed an entertaining and informative display which tells us a lot about the way we were during the darker days of the war. Home front is very much, as the exhibits and pictures show, a mobilization of those in Adelaide coming to terms with the possibility of invasion – yes, even in SA. They were days of searchlights, blackouts and home guard. The photos are the real grabbers here. Take time to study the “uniforms” on the men and the dresses on the women (check the lass left of photo on the Onkaparinga River ferry build!). If every picture tells a hundred stories, the artefacts do the same. Two cabinets are complete and a third is under consideration. North Africa will eventually comprise two glass cabinets, a display case and a wall display. Brenton Williams and Henry



Jolly are enthused about these displays which are challenging because of the length and breadth of the Desert War. We have the names of Tobruk, Bardia and El Alamein along with titans of leadership – Rommel, Morshead, Monty and Blamey. And, of course our own Kibby with another Victoria Cross recipient, Edmondson (the first Aussie VC of WW II). The North African exhibits must tell the story of our people and

units at war but also how the conflict unfolded. Henry and Brenton are selecting both photos and memorabilia, aiming to give a final impressive presentation for the public. Brenton has completed the German display,



the *Afrika Korps* along with a look at the Desert Fox himself, Erwin Rommel. Henry is part way through the Australian section which will seamlessly adjoin the current Tobruk display. (At this stage we should start to plan the national Tobruk Descendants' Commemoration in 2021 as a major event for our Museum)

Out of The Mouths of Babes

At the recent Edinburgh Air Show scores of children lined up with Mum and Dad to have their picture taken “firing” the Gatling and Vickers Guns.

While Peter Haran struggled to explain the mechanics of water cooling the Vickers, one seven-something-year old chirped up: “My dad said soldiers made tea from the hot water and peed on the gun to make it cool” Ah, ain't REAL history grand! *By Peter Haran*



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Dates 2020

- *Christmas Dinner 11 Dec 2019*
- *Anzac Day 25 April 2020*
- *History Lunch 20 May 2019*

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

www.amosa.org.au

Contact Joy Souter to add material & information

From the Manager

As we approach the end of another busy and successful year at The Army Museum of South Australia I extend my thanks to all those volunteers and military members who have contributed so much and demonstrated admirable patience and application throughout the year. There are many events and achievements to report on for this edition so I won't detract from other authors, apart from acknowledging our ever increasing capacity to 'do stuff' both within our precinct here at Keswick Barracks and, crucially, away from here and amongst one of our key target audiences, the public of South Australia.



Major
Christopher Roe

Our involvement in the RAAF Edinburgh Air Show demonstrated some very good military planning protocols at unit level, but activities such as Museum Field Days, Veterans' Health Week, a book launch involving the former Governor-General of Australia and the visit of a military reenactment group, to name just some examples, are examples of capability generation from which we can measure visitor attendance numbers and the extent of their goodwill towards us.

In this message, though, I'd just like to touch on those many hard, grinding, lower-profile activities that we have not lost sight of in recent times. These include a very thorough EO audit, the continued development of our weapon rendering programme, the development of our Archives and Research Centre into a capable, modern facility, continued work on displays within the galleries and external to the Museum.

We are grateful to those volunteers who man the Museum front office on days when we are open through, sometimes, extended periods of quiet, and many other least ostentatious support roles. These activities often go unnoticed and do not, usually, attract attention or photographic opportunities but they are critical to the compliances we live by and the internal unit development plans that underpin our longer term aims.

In conclusion I'd like to thank all of those people who work so hard for the betterment of the Unit and help to make this an enjoyable place to serve, indeed one that attracts new volunteers on a regular basis. I think 2019 was, in many ways, the year when we really came of age in the Museum world. Our reputation within our own Museum network is sound but we are now building networks everywhere throughout the State and a reputation as a forward thinking organisation with a 'can do' and customer focused attitude, as evidenced by the Scout Jamboree and the Air Show; two activities that neatly bookmarked the start and finish of the year.

I am confident that we will push on well in 2020 and I especially look forward to meeting and working with three new military members to the unit, another development that will improve our options and flexibility. At the time of reading this it will nearly be time for the famous Museum Christmas Party and, in case I forget on the night, my very best wishes to you and your family for a safe and enjoyable festive season.

Thank you
Christopher Roe
Manager

Blood Sweat and Fears III Launch



Congratulations to our Health Services Research Group for a successful launch of their third book by General The Honorable Sir Peter Cosgrove AK CVC MC [Retd] , his wife Lynne and the Governor of South Australia, Hieu Van Le, AC

Sir Peter Cosgrove AK CVO MC and his wife Lynne visit the Museum before the launch of the book Blood Sweat and Fears III

Harry's Corner



2019—What a marvellous year for the Museum. Some great work from the staff and volunteers to fit it in with such success!

My list of activities includes:

- Christmas Party – 2018
- Jamboree support at Wellington – Jan 2019
- Private Weir dedication – April 2019
- History Lunch – May 2019
- Film Danger Close – July 2019
- 'Blood, Sweat and Fears 3' Book Launch
- Museum Field Day: visit to Parliament House,

- Visit by Lower Eyre Peninsula Light Horse Re-enactment Group,
- AMOSA at the 2019 Edinburgh Air Show,
- Veterans' Health Day
- Simpson Trophy support
- Christmas Party 2019

VALE—we lost some valued friends:

Terry Natt	Trevor Phillips
Ted Kaminski	Julie Wesley
Michael jelly	Don Field
Denise Ayles	Brian Thomas
Adrian Horan	Graham Growden

Cheers and best wishes Harriet & Harry

AMOSA Visit to Parliament House

On 18 September it was time for another Museum Field Day; an activity where we arrange for a visit by our volunteers to interesting attractions and like-minded organisations around the city.



Andrew addressing Museum staff in the Red chamber of Parliament House

On this occasion we visited the South Australian Parliament at the invitation of the Honorable Andrew McLachlan, CSC, the President of the Legislative Assembly; the upper house within the parliament. Andrew is a long-time supporter of the Museum and, earlier in the year, attended and spoke at



Viewing artefacts in the Parliamentary Library

the rededication of the Private Weir cross, here in the galleries of The Army Museum of South Australia. He extended an invitation to us to visit the Parliament for morning tea and a guided tour, which we were keen to accept.

Some forty or so volunteers and military staff caught the bus in to the city for the tour. After a fine morning tea Andrew gave us an excellent and informative tour of both chambers of the parliament and we also received a most enthusiastic brief from the Parliamentary Librarian, who is responsible for a fascinating and diverse collection. Quite apart from the fact that it was something different to our usual Wednesday duties this was a most enjoyable activity and many of us will now view parliamentary footage on television with a rather different perspective, having sat in those plush chairs themselves. Andrew McLachlan also presented the Museum with a South Australian State Flag



Our tour group with Andrew in the Red Chamber

which flew over Parliament House earlier in the year. We extend our thanks to those who facilitated the visit, in particular Andrew McLachlan and his staff members Zachariah and Charlotte, and to all of those Museum volunteers who attended and, I think, greatly enjoyed this opportunity.

By Christopher Roe Manager

Dikko



AMOSA at the Edinburgh Air Show 2019....

I have to confess, I am an *aerophile* (one who has an interest in flying). So when Wayne mentioned that AMOSA was going to be involved in the 2019 Edinburgh Air Show – of course I took off at the opportunity. The Air Show theme



Wayne Birch drives the 106mm RCL Gun Tractor onto the transporter on its way to the Edinburgh Air Show.

this year was the 100th anniversary of the Epic flight by pilot Ross Smith, navigator Keith Smith and mechanics and Wally Shiers and Jim Bennett, from England to Australia in their Vickers Vimy biplane. The flight took 27 days and 20 hours – so next time you complain about a long flight remember these pioneers of the sky. The AMOSA display was set up on the Friday before the air show and was in the marquee dedicated to the historic flight. Although mostly in place we had an early start on the Saturday to unload the boxes of sale items and collect the three guns from the RAAF armoury. Thank goodness for the big burly RAAF security who helped us load and unload the very heavy weapons. Those of us not involved in that side of things were able to watch the RAAF Belgian Malinois security dogs go through their paces. (note – do not run in front of

these dogs!) We shared the space within the marquee with of course the historic flight memorabilia as well as the Aviation Museum. The AMOSA display had a cabinet dedicated to Sir Ross Smith including his .38 Colt Revolver. We had two somewhat larger guns on display a Gatling gun – which tested many a person’s arm strength at hand cranking as well as a Vickers Gun which proved popular with young attendees who wore a tin helmet while proud parents took photographs. Peter Haran spent most of the day holding the hat steady on little heads. Wayne, Danny and Gary engaged people around the weapons while Joy, Debbie and I offered souvenirs of the museum including mugs, stubby holders and books. A surprisingly good



1 CSST Vehicle Transporter

seller was the carry bags – very handy for purchases and brochures. Outside the marquee we had the Vietnam era Land Rover with 106mm Recoilless Rifle, another popular prop for photographs. In addition to duties inside the display we walked around in the crowds and handed out AMOSA brochures. The flying was of course

spectacular, with WW II aircraft in the early part of the day including a Hudson and the beautiful sounding tones of the Spitfire. The jets then took over with displays by the Roulettes Aerobatic Team, the Hornet and the F-35A Lightning.

At the end of the day the display was tidied, but the guns had to be returned to the RAAF armoury for the night, before we could join the traffic and leave the base.



Curators Report

I would like to wish all volunteers, military staff and their families a very merry Christmas and prosperous and Happy New Year. I would like to acknowledge the hard work and effort that all of the volunteers have contributed over the last year. Without the volunteers we would not have a Museum. I believe our Museum is the best Regional Museum in the Army History Unit network. It is professionally run and has displays equal to the best in Australia.

Gallery Entrance ... The entrance display cabinet has been updated. The WW1 typewriter has been replaced with the WW2 Aussie Rules football. A new merchandising cabinet has been purchased and has been placed next to the counter in the front office. The Marketing section has purchased a number of new items for sale which now includes AMOSA caps, pewter rising sun badges and AMOSA tote bags.

World War 1 Gallery ... All of the Tashco cabinet halogen lights in the WW1 gallery have now been replaced with LED lights. These LED lights produce a brilliant light, have a small heat signature and zero UV. This means that the artefacts being illuminated will be better protected. It is planned to upgrade the Gallipoli diorama with an interactive display similar to the Beersheba diorama. Neil Wilson, Stefan Landherr and Robert Fraser will be responsible for this upgrade. The 18 pounder gun restoration will be completed when Conservation and Restoration manufacture and fit the top and bottom shields for the gun. Work will commence as soon as plans of the original metal work have been received from COL Brook. The Gatling gun which has languished in Building 8 for a number of years will move into the Colonial display in the New Year. When we have used this for exterior displays we have found that it attracts a lot of interest. Our recently rendered Broom Handle Mauser pistol will soon be placed into the Boer War cabinet and will complement the other period firearms on display.

World War 2 Gallery ... The new Afrika Korps display has now been completed and a complimentary display and upgrade of the El Alamein and Tobruk campaigns is now underway. These displays are being carried out by Henry Jolly, Peter Haran and Brenton Williams. A significant acquisition for this display was a replica German KAR 98 bolt action rifle. This was purchased by the Foundation at a cost of \$600. Ray Saunders is completely refurbishing the WW2 home front and VDC displays. These displays feature some striking pictures of Adelaide and the home front during those tumultuous times. The Survey Squadron display has now been completed and the only outstanding work will be to affix a bronze Survey Corp Badge to the front 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.

Outside Exhibits ... APC ... interactive display for the M113A1 Armoured Personnel Carrier is currently being worked on by Neil Wilson, Stefan Landherr and Robert Fraser. Steve Rogers has installed the power required to run the electronics and lighting. When the rear metal door is opened visitors can view inside the carrier through a wire screen. The interior is lit and when an exterior button is pressed an audio program will start. This will have the sounds of the carrier's engine/tracks and radio traffic being received. The interior will have three mannequins, depicting an infantry soldier, the driver and the crew commander. The

work on the mannequins has been done by Heather and Malcolm Simms.

Jack Stands ... Army History Unit has directed that all of our exterior wheeled vehicles will be fitted with Defence approved jack stands. This is so we can comply with current WHS standards. All of our existing stands will be progressively replaced over the next 12 months.

Wiles Cooker ... After a request by AMOSA to AAHU for items pertaining to the Catering Corps we have been given a Wiles cooker. Delivery of the item should be by May next year. It will be placed under the exterior veranda next to the Austin Champ.

Archives Building 136 ... Thanks to Peter Clark, Ernie Reichstein and Ray Saunders the Mosaic database program has been installed on the Archives computers and the first books have been catalogued. It has been a long journey and Archives acknowledges the good advice given to them by the volunteer staff at the Aviation Museum. The compactus has now been removed and relocated to Bay 2 Building 8. All of the library shelves now conform to WHS standards and the side door in the Peter Badcoe Library can now be used. Two sliding doors will be fitted to the Diver Derrick room before Christmas. This will give greater privacy for those using the Diver Derrick Room for school lectures. It also offers this area as a Museum Annex for temporary displays.

Archives Building 9 ... As a result of a lot of hard work by Ray Saunders and Ernie Reichstein a large number of reference books have been placed into Building 9. Shelves had to be custom made and installed in a tight space; most of this work was carried out by Ray Saunders who was assisted by Conservation and Restoration Section.

Future Works ... Restoration and Conservation Room ...

A proposal for the construction of a Restoration and Conservation facility in bay 1 of Building 80 has been forwarded to AAHU for consideration and approval. This facility will provide the Museum with a properly equipped and air conditioned area to conduct conservation and restoration that will conform to current WHS standards. Quotes for the electrical and building work have been obtained and the Project Manager for this work is Graham Janz.

P&EE Port Wakefield Collection ... I can announce that Ken Scott has now joined AMOSAF and I have appointed him to be in charge of the Proof & Experimental Establishment Port Wakefield, (P&EE.) Unit Collection. Ken has just retired from his position at Port Wakefield after 20 years' service and comes to us with a wealth of knowledge. A number of displays are planned over the next year about P&EE. The transfer of the Port Wakefield Proof and Experimental Establishment Collection been on and off for the last three years. I can now announce that this transfer is imminent and along with the collection we are to receive the M3 gun carriage for the 155mm gun barrel. AMOSA will also receive three RAEME repair modules which will be placed outside, next to the Bofor Gun. The interiors will be used as display area and will show the history of the Port Wakefield Proof and Experimental Establishment from 1922 to the present day.

Studebaker Restoration ... Work on the Studebaker truck is continuing and the tray and cab have been taken off and

From the Curator (Cont)

are being repaired and restored. A grant application for this project has been submitted by Geoff Laurie to History SA and it is hoped that this will be successful. The restored Studebaker will also feature a canvas canopy and it will be painted in its original Australian Army colours and TAC plates. It is hoped that this restoration will be completed by mid to late 2020.

The Australian Army History Unit 5 Year Plan ... AAHU have directed Chris Roe to implement a five year plan for the Museum. In order to achieve this Chris Roe and I will formulate a comprehensive five year strategic plan for the Museum. I will be consulting with all volunteers on what should be included in this plan. The AMOSAF Board will have the ultimate decision. This plan should enable AMOSA to have direct input to AAHU as to where the Museum should be over the next five years. I will be asking AAHU to fund the Restoration and Conservation building, additional display space (Band Building), additional covered space for our exterior vehicles, LED lighting for the Museum and to create a Museum precinct around buildings 76, 136 and the Band Building. Now that all of the WW1 centenary celebrations have been completed AAHU have asked that the focus of future displays be on local reserve units. I have asked our display team to prepare ideas so that we can achieve this. The first display should be ready in the New Year. The Port Wakefield display will fit neatly into this project.

Achievements ... August ... A group of AMOSAF volunteers travelled to the RSL at Crystal Brook to

celebrate its 100th Anniversary and the dedication of a new commemorative stone.

September ... AMOSA had a stall at the Arms Fair at Angle Park to publicise the Museum and sell merchandise. This was manned by AMOSA volunteers.

A large group of AMOSA volunteers visited Parliament House. This visit was facilitated by Andrew McLachlan who is the President of the Legislative Council. At the end of the visit he presented a Legislative Council Presidents Flag to AMOSA

Lee Clayton launched his second book about the Watherston family at the Museum (Rising Sons)

The Port Lincoln Light Horse Re-enactment Group visited the Museum after conducting a ceremony for DVA at the Dardanelles Memorial. This group included horses and riders dressed in WW1 Light Horse uniforms. They were accompanied by two ladies dressed in WW1 nurses uniforms.

October ... A DVA grant was used by AMOSA to provide a Mental Wellness and Nutrition presentation for Veterans as part of Mental Health Week. Two guest speakers gave advice on these issues. A highlight was one of our volunteers who shared the problems he had with PTSD. A healthy meal was provided to all participants. A representative from DVA who was in attendance commented that it was one of the best presentations she had been to.

November ... AMOSA volunteers attended the Remembrance Day Service at West Terrace Cemetery and laid a wreath on behalf of the Museum. A number of volunteers spent long days preparing and running an AMOSA display at the RAAF Air Show at Edinburgh. Over 2000 AMOSA flyers were handed out and we took in nearly \$1400 in merchandise sales.

By Wayne Birch Curator

Veterans' Health Day 30 October ...

The Army Museum of SA held a Veterans' Health Day on 30th October 2019, featuring the theme of Mental Wellness, during Veterans Health Week. Presenters included Dr. Kristin Roe who spoke about Mental Wellness, and Nutritionist Helen Morris from the University of Adelaide who provided helpful advice on healthy eating to maintain mental wellbeing. Peter Haran, a Vietnam Veteran and Museum volunteer, spoke about his experiences in Vietnam and problems he suffered as a consequence of his service. Peter's presentation was a brave, 'warts and all', exposé of the horrors of war and their lasting and life-changing effects on veterans



and those present will remember his words for a long time. Attendees enjoyed a very healthy lunch provided by the Museum's Catering Section and commented that the day was an interesting and worthwhile event.

By Joy Souter



Our New Milling Machine

We have recently received a milling machine from the Army Museum of Tasmania, which enables metal to be machined very accurately. For example shaped, slotted or other holes in very precise areas on projects that need them can now conform with a plan, or in order to replicate an object. It will be used on the Armoured Personnel Carrier's door and seats in the rear section, which is under construction at this time, with an interactive station being installed before being opened for the public to view and engage with. The Conservation section has been asked to assist 9 CSSB armourers with the use of the milling machine. Photos show the milling machine in preparation prior to RAEME trade staff using it for rendering our weapons. With regard to the Conservation and Restoration Team, if there are any tradesmen out there with milling and or lathe experience, and a couple of hours to spare, please contact the Museum through the Curator, Wayne Birch.

By Graham Janz



Remembrance Day 11 November 2019 ...

Remembrance Day Ceremony, West Terrace Cemetery

Together with my colleague John Claxton, we represented the Army Museum of SA at the Remembrance Day Ceremony at West Terrace Cemetery on Monday, 11 November. It was a moving ceremony with a large patronage of dignitaries, ex-Defence Force personnel, the Brighton Secondary School Choir and members of the general public who came to pay their respects to those who sacrificed so much for this country. As a mark of respect it was a privilege for John and myself to place a wreath on behalf of the Museum. By **Joy Souter, Marketing Section**



Kildare College Students Project ...

In late 2018 a group of Year Nine girls from Kildare College (a girls' Catholic independent school in Adelaide north-eastern suburbs) spent quite some time at the Army Museum of South Australia working on their IT project. In conjunction with the University of South Australia, and IT



Students from Kildare College displaying their prizes.

company Augment Space, the girls created a Virtual Reality 3D tour of the museum galleries which will, soon, be linked to our website in order for visitors to get a unique look at our facility. All of the girls, and their accompanying staff members were most appreciative of the support provided by Museum staff and they spent some time in all of the various internal galleries, these images later appearing in the final 'tour' product. After assessment of a variety of entries from all over the state into a



competition promoted by the Department of Veterans' Affairs, the Kildare College entry was awarded the First Prize in South Australia and also a Special Categories Prize for the Best Use of Technology. Major Roe attended the school's muster on Tuesday 12th November along with University and Augment Space staff where the girls involved in the project received a number of prizes and framed awards in recognition of their achievements.

The Museum congratulates all of the girls and Kildare College staff on their outstanding achievement; we were honoured to be a part of what was eventually achieved.

By Christopher Roe Manager



Light Horse Re-enactment ...

The Lower Eyre Peninsula Light Horse Re-enactment Group visited the Museum on the afternoon of Sunday 8 September. As their name implies they are based in the Port Lincoln area but are always keen to travel around the state and support military and affiliated activities. On this date they supported the Dardanelles Cross event (recently removed from South Terrace to Kintore Avenue in the City) in the morning and then moved on to the Museum in the afternoon and they had also been involved, a short time earlier, in the Sullivan, VC commemorative event in Crystal Brook, several hours north of Adelaide.



On a warm and pleasant afternoon they attracted the interest of many visitors to the Museum and also units and staff from around the base. The group featured Light

Horse costumes from the Great War era, as well as nurses and stretcher bearers and, of course, some very well-behaved horses. The accuracy and attention to detail of their uniforms was most commendable



(meeting the exacting standards of reenactor, SSGT Danee Davis) and they carried with them a full history and colour patch recognition for documentation for

their uniforms.. We are most grateful that they chose to visit us on this occasion and we are hopeful of securing their support for several activities next year. The group are to be commended for their generous and philanthropic approach to their tasks, noting especially the major logistic demands that come with moving horses and ancillary equipment hundreds of kilometres around the broad expanses of South Australia.



By Christopher Roe

Studebaker Update

The project team has continued to make steady progress since the last newsletter was published, and our objective is still to complete the restoration by mid 2020. Only minimal expense has been incurred to date, but recently AMOSA applied to History SA for a grant to help fund the remaining project, and we await the result of our application in mid-December. With occasional assistance from 'Pete the welder', our panel-beating guru, Richard Sutherland, has recently aligned and re-attached the repaired roof panel to the cabin shell, and is currently repairing a few other small rusted sections. We have managed to obtain the 2 rubber extrusions necessary to re-fit the windscreen, and work will commence soon on re-assembling the windscreen itself, then re-fitting it to the cabin. Meanwhile, Pete Jarret has managed to move the steering wheel & column from the right side of the vehicle to its original position on the left side and, together with Gary Robinson, David Williams and myself, to remove the exhaust / inlet manifold and make a good start on cleaning the engine block and gearbox assembly. We were seriously worried that, in trying to remove the very rusty manifold nuts, we may sheer off the manifold studs (serious problems would result!), however, with Pete's deft application of the spanners, they separated easily. In early November, with assistance from Dennis Shipp (previously Shipp Bros Towing), we removed the tray from the truck, thus giving us much easier access to the chassis, which was in great need of TLC. Good progress has just been made on cleaning the top and outside surfaces of the chassis prior to application of a rust preventive coating; tackling the underneath and inner surfaces will be a bigger challenge for the near future.

Watch this space for further progress in the New Year.



The restored roof now fitted, with doors & windscreen temporarily in place to help with alignment.

Preparing for removal of the tray.



The chassis & 'running gear' exposed for restoration.

Moment of separation - weight of tray is approx 1.5 tonne.



by Geoff Laurie