

CONTACT !



*Blue Mountains Vietnam Veterans
and Associated Forces Inc.
Newsletter*

February 2010

CONTACT !

Patron: Major General CMI (Sandy) Pearson AO DSO OBE MC (Rtd)
Office address: Allied Services Centre, 108 Macquarie Road , Springwood NSW 2748 Australia
(next to Springwood Civic Centre)

© JOURNAL OF BLUE MOUNTAINS VIETNAM VETERANS & ASSOCIATED FORCES INC.
 incorporating

RAAF VIETNAM ASSOCIATION and the QANTAS "SKIPPY SQUADRON" ASSOCIATION

ABN 74 645 329 198

CFN 17276

THE ASSOCIATION FOR THOSE WHO SERVED IN ALL POST WORLD WAR II CONFLICTS

Your Committee

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PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Greetings to all of our members and a special greeting to our new members, I trust you and your families had an enjoyable Festive Season and are ready to jump into 2010.

A reminder that the AGM will be held on 14th March commencing at 10:00am in the Legacy Building at Springwood, please note that the Proxy Forms & Nominations Forms are at the back of this issue of Contact. If you are interested in helping as a Committee member please submit your nomination to the Secretary within the required time frame.

Our Lawn Mowing Service continues within the Mountains area but Peter & his team continue to seek able volunteers for this very important service to our ageing veterans & war widows.

Welfare Services continue to be provided not only in the Sydney basin but also within the areas covered by our Regional Welfare Officers. It is likely that this very important service will, unfortunately, increase in the foreseeable future.

Don't forget to mark your calendar for the Memorial Day march & service in Springwood on Sunday 15th August 2010. It is the 25th Anniversary of your Association so mark the day now.

Jack Lake
President

WELFARE WAFFLES

Welcome to 2010, we are back and available for your support and wellbeing. Please contact our Officers if you have a personal or family problem, worry or query, we are here for you.

There have been a steady number of our members seeking Welfare advice during the reporting period. It is important that members obtain their Service Medical and Administrative documents from Defence via Freedom Of Information (FOI) request forms; this action greatly assists the claim process and if practicable should be finalised prior to making an appointment with one of our Welfare Volunteers,

Ray Westwell
Welfare Coordinator

Brian Day continues his series on Australian and other VC recipients and Conspicuous Gallantry Awards presented to members of Australian and Allied Forces. We start 2010 with another story of bravery with an odd twist

Pte Henry Tandey VC, DCM, MM, MID** Part 1**

Henry Tandey was born in Leamington, Warwickshire, on the 30th August 1891, after a difficult childhood, part of which was spent in an orphanage, he became a boiler attendant at a hotel in Leamington before enlisting in the British Army. Tandey enlisted into the Green Howards' Regiment on 12th August 1910 and after basic training he was posted to their 2nd Battalion on 23rd January 1911. Serving with them in Guernsey and South Africa prior to the outbreak of World War I, Tandey took part in the battle of Ypres in October 1914 and was wounded at the Battle of the Somme on 24th October 1916. On discharge from hospital he was posted to the 3rd Battalion on 5th May 1917, before moving to the 9th Battalion on 11th June 1917. He was wounded a second time on 27th November 1917, during the Battle of Passchendaele.

After his 2nd period in hospital he returned to the 3rd Battalion, on 23rd January 1918, before being posted back to the Green Howards' 12th Battalion on 15th March 1918, where he remained until the 26th July 1917. On 26th July 1918 Tandey transferred from the Green Howards to the Duke of Wellington's West Riding Regiment. He was posted to their 5th battalion on 27th July 1918. On 28th August 1918, during the 2nd Battle of Cambrai the 5th Battalion was in action to the west of the Canal du Nord. Tandey was in charge of one of several bombing parties on the German trenches. As the forward parties were being held up Tandey took two men and dashed across open ground (No Man's Land) under fire and bombed a trench. He returned with twenty prisoners. This action led to the capture of the German positions and Tandey was awarded the Distinguished Conduct Medal (DCM), the citation read:

"N^o. 34506 Pte. H. Tandey, 5th Bn., W. Rid. R. (T.F.) (Leamington). He was in charge of a reserve bombing party in action, and finding the advance temporarily held up, he called on two other men of his party, and working across the open in rear of the enemy, he rushed a post, returning with twenty prisoners, having killed several of the enemy. He was an example of daring courage throughout the whole of the operation."

A short time later, on 12th September the 5th Battalion was involved in an attack at Haverincourt, where Tandey again distinguished himself by rescuing several wounded men under fire the previous day, Tandey again led a bombing party into the German trenches, returning with more prisoners. For this action Tandey was awarded the Military Medal (MM) on 13th March 1919. Sixteen days later, on 28th September 1918 during a counter-attack following the capture of Marcoing, France, his Platoon was stopped by machine gun fire. Tandey crawled forward, located the gun position and with a Lewis Gun team, silenced it.

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**CRITICAL INFORMATION
FOR DFRB / DFR&DB SUPERANNUANTS
PLEASE READ**

DFRB/DFR&DB Superannuants are very aware of the inequality of the scheme whereby payments are linked to CPI whereas Centrelink payments are linked to CPI or MTAW (Male Total Average Weekly Earnings) which ever is the greater. **Remember that the CPI is not a measure of the cost of living.** It is however, remarkable that Pre 2004 MPs payments are linked to the salaries of serving MPs **not the CPI.**

Brigadier Neil Weekes (Retired) recently made the point that many DFRB/DFR&DB recipients are e-mailing MPs about the inequality but are using less than temperate language, e-mails are often deleted and are not registered by the MPs staff, whereas letters must be registered upon receipt.

The BMVV Association **encourage all** DFRB/DFR&DB Superannuants, including widows, to contact the Secretary, John Fenton for a copy of Brig. Weekes' letter.

For those who do not have access to a PC and/or, are not PC / E-mail / Attachments savvy please advise the Secretary with: the name of your local **Federal Member and Postal Address.** Our Secretary and fabulous Office Staff will produce Brig. Weekes' letter and return it to you for you to: peruse, sign and post (keep a copy for your own information). The letter was drafted by Brigadier Neil Weekes (Rtd) and your Committee believe the letter to be very balanced in tone and level. This is a rare chance for the effected members to make a difference by mass mailing to the Government.

John Fenton
Hon Secretary

Spot Light on  Our Office Manager

In this issue we would like to introduce and belatedly profile Wendy our office Manager. Wendy has been with us now for 12 months and in such a short time has really made the Office an "on top of it all" place. The current team cannot keep up with Wendy but they do not complain as they did before and they really like the great service they get from Wendy (How does she do it!!); and now a small profile on our Wendy:-

"Happily married, mother of three boys. Avid book reader, movie goer, enjoys listening to music, dancing and singing (not well) and loves a good laugh. Thoroughly enjoying working with the Veterans and listening to the great stories they have. Previously employed in the Finance Sector, Communications Industry and Government Agencies. Well versed in IT, Accounts and all aspects of Office Management. "

**2010 MEMBERSHIP
VERY IMPORTANT NOTICE FOR ALL MEMBERS**

IF ANY MEMBER HAS PAID THEIR MEMBERSHIP VIA DIRECT DEPOSIT AND HAS NOT RECEIVED THEIR 2010 MEMBERSHIP CARD, **PLEASE CONTACT THE OFFICE ON (02) 4751 8528 or E-MAIL secretary@bmvets.com.au**

(SEE PAGE 10 FOR EFT (Direct Deposit) INFORMATION. WE NEED TO IDENTIFY YOU AND ENSURE THAT YOUR BANK AND OUR BANK REQUIREMENTS ARE MET)

PADRE'S CORNER

Khong Hee Fat Choy! - Happy New Year - Chinese Style. Translated: "May you be happy; May you be wealthy" In the Chinese calendar this is the Year of the Tiger, symbolizing protection, strength and stubbornness as well as sensitivity.

Perhaps these are appropriate characteristics needed for the athletes competing in the Winter Olympics in Vancouver. They need strength, perseverance and sensitivity for themselves and other athletes in order to achieve their goals. The same can be said for us in the activities and progress of our daily lives. Here I lump together physical, psychological and spiritual aspects which go to making us up as individual men and women. Saint Paul, in several of his letters in the New Testament used the metaphor of life being like a race. Particularly in one passage he reminds us that all who run in a race do so to get the prize, so, he says, we should all run the race of life to get the prize. What is that prize? Let me quote: "Everyone who competes in the games goes into strict training. They do it to get a crown that will not last; but we do it to get a crown that will last forever..." (1 Corinthians 9:25)

Still confused? Our lives can be likened to a race. To compete and complete the race successfully we have to put some time and effort into training and the 'crown' or the 'prize' at the end of our race is a place with The Lord in Heaven. Now, all training has to have a programme and to be effective it needs a coach. Our training programme to gain the prize includes a good relationship with our Creator and this can only be developed by regular contact through prayer and reading the Scriptures. Of course we have a coach, none other than The Creator's Son, Jesus. He has left us with the promise that He will be at our side always and that He will show us the way to successfully gain the prize of eternal life in the presence of The Almighty.

Trust the coach, put your faith in Him and with His help follow His way. Have a great year, and as our Oriental friends would say, "we wish you health, wealth, happiness and longevity.

Bill Wheeler
02 4754 4575

Reaching the river crossing, he restored the plank bridge under heavy fire but that evening he and eight comrades were surrounded by an overwhelming number of the enemy. With the day still not over he successfully led a bayonet charge against an overwhelming number of enemy troops which helped bring hostilities to an end. As the ferocious battle wound down and enemy troops surrendered, or retreated, a wounded German soldier limped out of the maelstrom and into Private Tandey's line of fire; the battle weary German never raised his rifle and just stared at Tandey resigned to his inevitable fate. **"I took aim but I couldn't shoot a wounded man," said Tandey, "so I let him go."** The young German soldier nodded in thanks and the two men took diverging paths that day, and in history. Tandey back to hospital, the young German soldier retreated with the remnants of German troops and ended up in Germany, where they languished in the humiliation of defeat at wars end. Tandey put that encounter out of his mind although he would think of it a lot in later life. Although twice wounded during this action Tandey refused to leave until the fight was won; eventually going into Hospital for the 3rd time on 4th October 1918. An eye witness, Private H Lister, recounted the episode:

"...On 28th September 1918 during the taking of the crossing over the Canal de St. Quentin at Marcoing I was No.1 of the Lewis gun team of my platoon. I witnessed the whole of the gallantry of Private Tandey throughout the day. Under intensely heavy fire he crawled forward in the village when we were held up by the enemy MG and found where it was, and then led myself and comrades with the gun into a house from where we were able to bring Lewis gun fire on the MG and knock it out of action. Later when we got to the crossings and the bridge was down, Pte Tandey, under the fiercest aimed MG fire went forward and replaced planks over the bad part of the bridge to enable us all to cross without delay. On the same evening when we made another attack we were completely surrounded by Germans, and we thought the position might be lost. Pte Tandey, without hesitation, though he was twice wounded very nastily, took the leading part in our bayonet charge on the enemy, to get clear. Though absolutely faint he refused to leave us until we had completely finished our job, collected our prisoners and restored the line..."

Soon after rejoining his regiment Tandey found out that he had been awarded the Victoria Cross. It was also around this time that Private Tandey became aware that he had also been mentioned five times in dispatches. Tandey's actions were recognized and his award of the VC was gazetted on 14th December 1918. Tandey was personally decorated by King George V at Buckingham Palace on the 17th December 1919. The citation read:

"N^o. 34506 Pte. Henry Tandey, D.C.M., M.M., 5th Bn., W. Rid. R. (T.F.) (Leamington). For most conspicuous bravery and initiative during the capture of the village and the crossings at Marcoing, and the subsequent counter-attack on 28th September 1918. When, during the advance on Marcoing, his platoon was held up by machine-gun fire, he at once crawled forward, located the machine gun, and, with a Lewis gun team, knocked it out. On arrival at the crossings he restored the plank bridge under a hail of bullets, thus enabling the first crossing to be made at this vital spot. Later in the evening, during an attack, he, with eight comrades, was surrounded by an overwhelming number of Germans, and though the position was apparently hopeless, he led a bayonet charge through them, fighting so fiercely that 37 of the enemy were driven into the hands of the remainder of his company. Although twice wounded, he refused to leave till the fight was won. "

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A newspaper reported and published a picture of Tandey carrying a wounded soldier, considered to be taken after the Battle of Ypres. This dramatic image symbolized a war which was supposed to have put an end to all wars and was later immortalized on canvas by the Italian artist Fortunino Matania.

After the Great War he was posted to the 2nd Duke of Wellington Regiment in Gibraltar, Turkey and Egypt on 4th February 1921. He was discharged from the army on 5th January 1926 at the rank of Sergeant. Leaving as the highest decorated private soldier in the British Army during the Great War, had he been a member of the officer class there is little doubt a knighthood would also have been one of his rewards. The 35 year old settled in Leamington where he married and spent the next 38 years as Commissionaire, or plant security chief, at Triumph, then called the Standard Motor Company. He lived a quiet life and although regarded as a hero by all and sundry wasn't one to brag or boast, wouldn't mention the war unless asked about it.

What a compassionate and humble hero Henry Tandey was, another unassuming soldier who selfishly placed others before himself and among the brutality of war he was also compassionate to others, even the enemy.

So, a great story but not without a sting in the tail, Hmmm **what if** I hope the story of this Pommy version of chivalry and bravery similar to that shown by our own Medic, Pte Ernest Albert Corrie, has been enjoyed. Next issue we will look deeper into the '... what if ...' ---- consider the options, how this dramatic set of events might have changed history.



WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

The President, Committee and Members of the BMVV&AF would like to Welcome the following New Members into the Association.

Michael William **BUCHANAN** ex SSgt RAS served in Cambodia UNTAC

Local Associate Members:

Anthony Lawrence **HOAD** from Woodford NSW

Arthur George **SHORT** from Springwood NSW

We hope that we are able to be of mutual help and benefit to each other and that we can compliment each other, feel free to see the Secretary if you have a penchant to hop into some volunteer tasks.

WW2 The Battle of the Atlantic

Did you know that the Battle of the Atlantic was the longest continuous military campaign of World War II, (some would argue it was a series of naval military campaigns and offensives) running from 1939 through to the defeat of Nazi Germany 1945, and was at its height from mid-1940 through to the end of 1943. The Battle of the Atlantic pitted U-boats and other warships of the German Navy (Krieg Marine) against Allied convoys. The convoys of merchant ships, coming mainly from North America and the South Atlantic and going to the United Kingdom and the Soviet Union, were protected for the most part by the British and Canadian navies and air forces. These forces were aided by ships and aircraft of the United States from 13 September 1941. The Germans were joined by submarines of the Italian Royal Navy (Regia Marina) after Italy entered the war on June 10, 1940

The name "Battle of the Atlantic", coined by Winston Churchill in 1941, that began on the first day of the European war and lasted for six years, involving thousands of ships and stretched over hundreds of miles of the vast ocean and seas in a succession of more than 100 convoy battles and perhaps 1,000 single-ship encounters. Tactical advantage switched back and forth over the six years as new weapons, tactics and counter-measures were developed by both sides. The British and their allies gradually gained the upper hand, driving the German surface raiders from the ocean by the end of 1942 and decisively defeating the U-boats in a series of convoy battles between March and May 1943. New German submarines arrived in 1945, but they were too late to affect the course of the war.

Another Touch of Trivia

The youngest US serviceman was 12 year old Calvin Graham, USN. He was wounded and given a Dishonourable Discharge for lying about his age. His benefits were later restored by act of Congress.

At the time of Pearl Harbor, the top US Navy command was called CINCUS (pronounced 'sink us'), the shoulder patch of the US Army's 45th Infantry division was the Swastika, and Hitler's private train was named 'Amerika.' All three were soon changed for PR purposes!

German submarine U-120 was sunk by a malfunctioning toilet.

INTERESTED IN HELPING LEGACY?

Legacy was founded in 1926 by returned servicemen to care for the dependants of deceased comrades who served Australia in any operational area; those who were killed in action or who have since died. Show you care, contact your local branch and see if you can help somehow, your help is appreciated. Come on you fellas, Legacy do a wonderful job for those who have served and marched on — let's pitch in and give them some help. For the Blue Mountains area contact the Springwood Legacy (02) 4752 3600. Monday to Thursday only. Thank you for your help.

*** **SPECIAL REMINDER TO ALL MEMBERS** ***

You will remember last in the Christmas Edition of ***CONTACT!*** we mentioned that cash (notes and coins) for: raffles, membership renewals etc. was '*mysteriously*' disappearing somewhere between Members and the Office. We would appreciate your help by sending any monies to the Association by cheque, money order or by Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT) directly to the Association account. Please make all Cheques out to: Blue Mountains Vietnam Veterans and Associated Forces Inc. (in full please fellas, as I mentioned last time the bank gets a little petty with abbreviations).

Your bank will need to know the following information about the Association Account to use EFT; that is:

- **BSB:** **032 - 837**
- **Account No:** **138817**
- **Acct Name:** **Blue Mountains Vietnam Veterans & Associated Forces Inc.**
- **EFT Reference:** **This is "your name" this is required so that we know who paid the money into the Association account by this method.**

John Fenton
Hon. Secretary

Dear Colleagues, Friends and members
BEWARE
They walk Amongst Us

While working at a pizza parlour I observed a man ordering a small pizza to go. He appeared to be alone and the cook asked him if he would like it cut into 4 pieces or 6. He thought about it for some time then said 'Just cut it into 4 pieces; I don't think I'm hungry enough to eat 6 pieces.

I couldn't find my luggage at the airport baggage area and went to the lost luggage office and reported the loss. The woman there smiled and told me not to worry because she was a trained professional and said I was in good hands. 'Now,' she asked me, 'Has your plane arrived yet?'... (I work with professionals like this.) So Have I !!

Anonymous

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(This form must be returned to the secretary 14 days prior to the AGM)

BLUE MOUNTAINS VIETNAM VETERANS & ASSOCIATED FORCES INC.

(ABN 74 645 329 198

CFN 17276)

Postal Address: Post Office Box 55, Springwood NSW 2777

FORM OF APPOINTMENT OF PROXY

I,
(Name and signature)

of :
(address)

hereby appoint:

.....
(Name and membership number)

as my proxy to vote for me at the Annual General Meeting of the Association and at any adjournment of the meeting.

My proxy is authorised to vote *as he/she chooses or *as follows.

.....
.....
(signature)

* (delete as required)

Office Use Only

Date Received by Secretary -

Membership status verified—

Proxy recorded in minutes of meeting—, :

(This form must be returned to the secretary 14 days prior to the AGM)

BLUE MOUNTAINS VIETNAM VETERANS & ASSOCIATED FORCES INC.
(ABN 74 645 329 198) CFN 17276

Postal Address: Post Office Box 55, Springwood NSW 2777

NOMINATION AS OFFICE-BEARER OR ORDINARY MEMBER OF COMMITTEE

I,
(name and signature of proposer)

Nominate

.....
(name of nominee)

for the position of,

.....

I,
(name and signature of seconder)

Hereby second the above nomination:

I,
(full name and signature of nominee)

Hereby accept nomination for the position of

.....

Date,

Office Use Only

Date received by Secretary,

Memberships status verified,

Nomination recorded in minutes of meeting,