

# Your say!



## Included without comment.

*The Australian Army Training Team – Vietnam, was the most highly decorated Australian unit in that war. It fought some hard battles and was filled with hard men. One of them was Ian Felton. He served 20 years as a soldier in the Australian Army, rising through the ranks to become one of its senior soldiers – a Warrant Officer Class 2. Ian has recently written to the Chief of the Australian Defence Force to express his disgust at military involvement in the Mardi Gras. It is a very strong letter, and is republished with slight edits below.*

“Dear General Hurley,

My name is Ian Felton. I am an ex-serviceman, having served 20 years and 17 days in the Australian Army from 1968 to 1988. I served in many capacities and was proud of the uniform I wore. I am ashamed and disgusted with the overall administration of the Defence Department since my retirement; ashamed and disgusted with the decisions and policies of the hierarchy who hold the complete security of Australia in their jurisdiction and portfolios. I have never seen a more blatant abuse of the Defence Force, than finding that our head of the Australian Defence Force, in conjunction with the politicians, has committed the ultimate crime and insult to those who wear the ADF uniform.



General David Hurley you have bought shame on the Australian Defence Force. You have now permitted ADF members to wear uniform and participate in the Sydney Mardi Gras, and this has been permitted for two years now. This is not one member of the ADF we are talking about parading now, but platoons of service men and women. General Hurley, by your prolonged support of service men and women wearing uniform and participating in the Sydney Mardi Gras, you have paid the ultimate insult to all service men and women who have donned the Australian uniform, from the days of the Boer War to the First and Second World Wars, Korea and Vietnam, and all conflicts since.

When one enlists into the Defence Force, they are obliged to swear allegiance to the Queen, and the Commonwealth. By that allegiance they swear also to uphold the respect of the Australian Army uniform, and what it stands for and represents. You, General Hurley, have allowed homosexuality in the Defence Force to be openly paraded for the public to see by condoning participation in the Sydney Mardi Gras. By condoning their participation whilst wearing the sacred uniform of the Australian Defence Force, you have not only insulted all ex-

servicemen and woman, but exposed the vulnerability and mindset of those who have the security of our country in their hands.

The service personnel marching have one thought in mind: that is recognition of their sexuality. You have allowed the use of the uniform on an unauthorised parade. The uniform is only to be worn on military parades, commemoration parades and other parades that are in accordance with military protocol, and that uphold the good order of military discipline and procedure.

These questions need to be addressed.

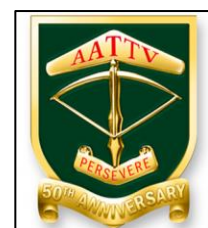
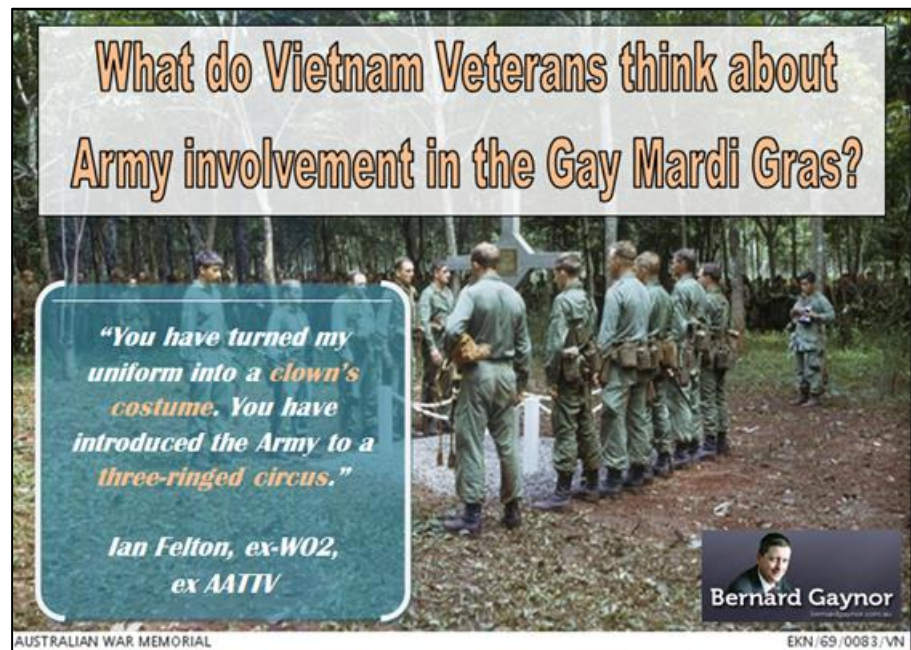
By allowing military personnel to attend the Mardi Gras in uniform, are they deigned to be on official duty? Are they covered by compensation, both going to and from the parade? Are they covered under military or civilian law for any injuries suffered by attending the parade, ie riots, civil disturbance etc? How much compensation will the Australian taxpayer be held for in case of personal injury and subsequent medical requirements?

General Hurley, you have broken all protocol of military impartiality. By allowing the use of the military uniform on a parade such as the Mardi Gras, you have turned my uniform, and every other proud soldier's uniform, into a clown's costume. Not only that, but by allowing the uniform to be worn in a Mardi Gras, you have introduced the military into a three ring circus.

There is homosexuality in the Army, Navy and Air Force. There is homosexuality in all walks of life, be it the church, the police, school teachers and every trade or profession. Homosexuality is a very personal matter; one between the person and God. Allowing service people to flaunt their sexuality in uniform is

demonstrating their allegiance to their sexuality and persona, as opposed to the real purpose of being a member of the Australian Defence Force. If you have any credibility, General Hurley, you and your staff might advise the Minister for Defence to cease forthwith with this blatant support of service people in uniform marching in any parade that is unmilitary, let alone a ridiculous pantomime/circus called a Mardi Gras. I came up through the ranks in my twenty years' service. I learnt through experience and, hence, wisdom. I was not streamlined through Officer Cadet School.

As a member of AATTV, the most highly decorated unit to come out of Vietnam, I was taught two things. One was to keep your head down; the second was to watch your mate's back. I have checked my military records and find I did serve



under a Major General Michael Jeffery who, as you are no doubt aware, became our Governor General. He is a great military man. Thankfully, I find I did not serve under you. “

Ian Felton  
Ex WO2, (Twenty years service)  
Ex AATTV

### **Bob Elworthy (Major retired)**

Bob wrote, he said, “Looking for a contact for RAAFUHK Association or similar. Doing some work on medal awards and pursuing possible claim for RAAFUHK pers, including Army Signals pers attached there. Served with/attached to RAAFUHK 1977-1980, as an Army Lt.”



If anyone can help, contact Bob [HERE](#)

### **Vietnam KIA's Web Site**

Laurie Drinkwater got in touch, he says “The web site will be placed inside our Helicopter Museum when it is finished. We are having a wall with dog-tags from all those killed in Vietnam hanging in chronological order. I have two reasons for asking members to check the site. First, to ensure the details I have are correct and secondly, if they have better photo's than the ones I am using.



The web site is here <http://www.vietnamveteranshonourroll.com/>

If anyone can help, please email Laurie direct [HERE](#)

### **Ken Hunt**

Ken wrote, “Thanks again for a very interesting issue. I enjoy them all , even though little seems to ever cover the 'Nashos'. Even though, at times, there would be about 40 Nashos at Radschool, more than apprentices. So. . .

It was mentioned in the current issue, that (paraphrasing) "smoking was considered normal in (I think 1967)".

Our flight of twelve, later Radio Mechanics, did not smoke. It was a quite a put down for a new instructor to try to 'bum' a cigarette from the course. Most unusual in 1955 and sometimes hard to convince others.

Thanks again for your efforts”.

*Thanks Ken – we'd be glad to print material relating to the Nashos but unfortunately mate, we don't get a lot, I think in the 15 years we've been going, you are the only one who has written in. Thanks for doing so!! - tb.*

## Our ABC.

We received the letter below from numerous sources. It was supposedly written by a senior RAN officer and the original did include a name and rank of the supposed writer - but that fact can't be confirmed. We have serious doubts that any senior ADF Officer would publicly pen such an article so we've removed his/her name. What we can tell you is a similar story did appear in the Australian on the 23<sup>rd</sup> January, 2014 – see [HERE](#).

Here's the story as sent to us. What we have noticed is that recently the ABC seems to have moderated their reporting considerably as it now appears to be more balanced.

Make up your own mind!!!

*THE ABC's coverage of the border protection issue has become increasingly tendentious and divorced from reality. After more than a decade of campaigning on the issue, it now seems determined to deny reality in a desperate attempt to justify its long-standing unofficial line- that Australia ought to allow its borders and immigration system to be overridden by asylum seekers who arrive on people smugglers' boats. Day in and day out, the national broadcaster's news and current affairs programs run unsubstantiated allegations against our defence forces and government over the implementation of Operation Sovereign Borders or repeat unfair criticism from international agencies and domestic human rights activists.*

*Even worse, the ABC then damages our national reputation by rebroadcasting these reports into our region on the Australia Network. And all the while the ABC doesn't seem capable of mentioning the obvious fact, that the operation seems to be working, with no boats arriving into Australian custody for more than four weeks. The Australian wonders how long Tony Abbott can sit back and watch ABC managing director Mark Scott continue with his hands -off approach, allowing the Green /Left activism of his journalists to override the charter obligations of the national broadcaster.*



*His reporter in Jakarta - surely one of the most important postings for the organisation - is the inexperienced George Roberts, who constantly finds and files criticism of Australia and allegations against its service personnel, seemingly without countenancing the veracity of the claims or the domestic political considerations of Indonesian authorities. Yesterday, Roberts reported unproven claims that Australian navy personnel mistreated asylum -seekers by forcing them to grasp a hot engine in a boat turnback operation, causing "severe" burns. An "exclusively" supplied video showed minor hand damage.*



*Immigration Minister Scott Morrison categorically denied the claims and later reports suggest the burns occurred before the vessel was intercepted, possibly as the vessel was sabotaged. Our navy personnel have, after all, saved the lives of hundreds of asylum-seekers. ABC bulletins also ran strongly with strident criticism from New York based Human Rights Watch, labelling Australia's measures "abusive" and accusing the government of "demonising" asylum-seekers.*

*The national broadcaster continues to provide uncritical amplification of this predictable venting, setting itself as the moral conscience of a nation with a brutal government and insensitive populace. Again, throughout these self-loathing reports, the government's apparent success in breaking the people smuggling trade seems lost. Mr Scott, who frequently takes to Twitter to praise his staff, doesn't seem to demand they resort to some straightforward reporting of the salient facts.*

*Perhaps the ABC might even consider the issue from the perspective of Australia's national interest. If it can concern itself daily with the sensitivities and objectives of the Indonesian government, then taxpayers are entitled to expect a national broadcaster can also comprehend and recognise our own nation's interests and objectives. The ABC is not alone in this juvenile pursuit. Fairfax newspapers and much of the Canberra press gallery follow suit. Antipathy towards strong border control has become a self-identifier for those who wish to be seen as worldly, compassionate and progressive. They have invested much of their own credibility in repeating Labor Party and Greens claims that it would not be possible to turn back people-smugglers' boats.*

*Now that the difficult and dangerous work of our Service personnel suggests the Coalition's policies can work, just as they did more than a decade ago, the media and political critics face the choice of either admitting their prognostications were wrong or working to undermine the policy and create a sense of disorder. Perhaps we shouldn't be surprised they prefer the latter. Perversely, the more they protest and decry the Abbott regime as brutal and unfair, the more it will help to dissuade potential customers. We can only hope so. Because if the current trends can be entrenched so that the trade stops and the people smugglers are put out of business, lives will not be put at risk, thousands will be spared the trauma of detention, billions will be saved and Indonesian relations will be put back on to an even keel.*

*Oh, and Australia can continue to accept its generous quota of refugees based on need rather than price, through orderly processes.*

## Block 100 Laverton.

Nev Williams wrote, “I would like to know if anyone has any photos of the memorial Plaque that was located near one of the front entrances to Block 100 or in the Lounge/recreation area. This plaque would have the names of the Donors of the building which I believe was a donation to the RAAF in memory of their son who was killed in an accident pre 1938.



As the building was a donation it had a stipulation that it was for the housing of AIRMEN from 1AD. So it is thought that the son was an airman in 1AD.

I believe that underneath one of the large mats at the entrance was a date believed to be date of completion of the building.

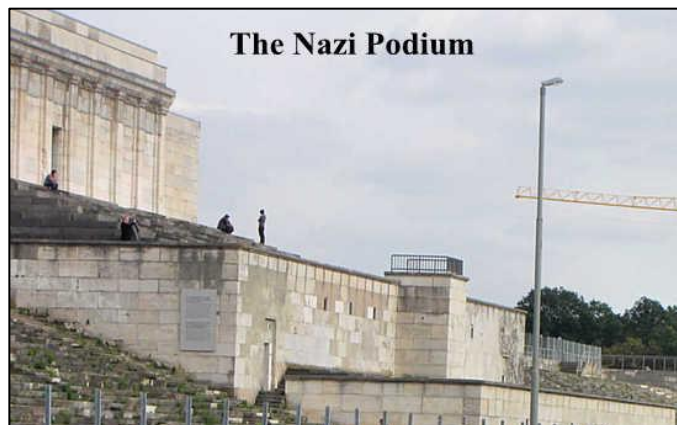
If you can help Nev, please email him direct [HERE](#)

## The F35.

Peter Roberts wrote “Thanks for the article on the F-35 ([Vol 44, Page 12](#)) I could never understand why we even considered such a short range limited fighter in such a large country. Maybe Defence should now look towards the 4.5 generation Mig-29K that India is building. It would be much cheaper and obviously a lot more combat worthy for Australia.

## Germany.

Laurie Lindsay wrote, he says, I recently went on a tour of Europe and the UK and part of the organised tour was a trip to Nuremburg and the site of the Nazi rallies. We had a young lady in her late twenties in charge of the bus. When we arrived at the rally site we were handed over to a young man of a similar age, who proceeded explain the history of the area. The German people have decided to keep it, in order to remind the world of the atrocities of the Nazi regime.



The young man told us that he once asked his grandparents how they could have let the Nazi regime happen. His grandmother went to her room and did not return. The young lady had a similar tale and when she questioned her grandparents, her father slapped her face. Both of them had tears in their eyes when they were relating their stories.



Of course, if the grandparents had complained they would have ended up in a concentration camp themselves. Their mea culpa for their country was real and they were both truly sorry for the events of the thirties and forties. If these two young people are an example of the German people today, then Deutschland's future is in good hands.

### **Morse**

Dennis Graham says, Re [Vol 43, Page 19](#), Morse speeds. In 1970-71 the TELEG graduation standard, at Radschool for morse was: Receive - 22wpm for plain language (ie longhand/running writing), 25wpm for 5-unit code (ie codress), 25wpm for Morse on type and Transmit - 25wpm. A couple of years later, the graduation speed, for TELEGs, was reduced to 18wpm. From memory, SIGSOPS were required to do 2 or 3 wpm faster than TELEGs.

**George Robert Trevellyan Jarmaine**

We heard from Derek who says, I am researching my grandfather (George Robert Trevellyan Jarmaine) who served in the RAAF during WW2, and come across your association. I was wondering how I go about placing something in your magazine chasing anyone who may have any information on him. I do know he served with 6 Wireless Unit at the end of the war. Besides his name his Service Number was 64822 and retired as a LAC. This is WW2 history

<b>Service Record</b>	
<u>Name</u>	JARMAINE, GEORGE ROBERT TREVELLYAN
<u>Service</u>	Royal Australian Air Force
<u>Service Number</u>	64822
<u>Date of Birth</u>	25 Mar 1914
<u>Place of Birth</u>	GUNNEDAH, NSW
<u>Date of Enlistment</u>	18 May 1942
<u>Locality on Enlistment</u>	GUNNEDAH, NSW
<u>Place of Enlistment</u>	SYDNEY, NSW
<u>Next of Kin</u>	JARMAINE, CATHERINE
<u>Date of Discharge</u>	3 Jun 1946
<u>Rank</u>	Leading Aircraftman
<u>Posting at Discharge</u>	6 WIRELESS UNIT
<u>WW2 Honours and Gallantry</u>	<u>None for display</u>
<u>Prisoner of War</u>	No

If you can help Derek, please email him [HERE](#)