

CASCABEL

Journal of the

ROYAL AUSTRALIAN ARTILLERY ASSOCIATION
(VICTORIA) INCORPORATED

ABN 22 850 898 908



Number 101

Published Quarterly in
Victoria Australia

November 2009



1939-11. SEYMOUR - ROYAL AUSTRALIAN ARTILLERY
BATTERY OBSERVATION POST. ARMY. MILITIA.

Courtesy Australian War Memorial

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ROYAL AUSTRALIAN ARTILLERY ASSOCIATION
(VICTORIA) INCORPORATED

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FOUNDED:

First AGM April 1978
First Cascabel July 1983

COL COMMANDANT:

BRIG N Graham

PATRONS and VICE PATRONS:

1978

Patron: LT GEN The Hon Sir Edmund Herring
KCMG, KBE, DSO, MC, ED

Vice Patron: BRIG Sir William Hall KBE,
DSO, ED

1982

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Vice Patron: MAJGEN N. A. Vickery CBE,
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1999

Patron: BRIG K. V. Rossi AM, OBE, RFD,
ED

Vice Patron: MAJ GEN J. D. Stevenson AO,
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1981 COL A. (Sandy) Mair ED

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1991 MAJ M. Taggart RFD, ED

2004 MAJ N Hamer RFD

JOURNAL NAME:

CASCABEL - Spanish - Origin as small bell or Campanilla (pro: Kaskebell), spherical bell, knob like projection.

CASCABLE - English spelling.

ARTILLERY USE:

After 1800 AD, it became adjustable. The breech is closed in large calibres by a CASCABEL(E) screw, which is a solid block of forged wrought iron, screwed into the breach coil until it pressed against the end of the steel tube. In the smaller calibres, the A bore tube is carried through to form the CASCABEL(E)

[Ref: "Text Book on Fortification Etc", Royal Military College, Sandhurst, by COL G. Philips, RE, 4th Ed, Ch-1, P9, para 28,1884].

[Source: COL Alan Mason, Vic, May 1993].

CASCABEL HISTORY:

The name was put forward by the first editor, LTCOL Rob Gaw, and accepted because of its unique and obvious Artillery connection.

ASSOC LOGO:

Our Assoc Logo is the 1800 AD 9 Pdr Waterloo Field Gun. Copy is taken from Device, Badge and Motto of the Royal Regiment of Artillery, as approved in 1833, by HM King William IV.

LAPEL BADGE:

Copy of the left arm brass gilded gun once worn by GUN SGTS above the chevrons on each arm. Brassards worn by IGs at North Head were embroidered with this insignia. Selected by MAJ Warren Barnard, 1984 Assoc Committee.

**RAA Association (VIC) Inc
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9702 2100

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9705 1155

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9587 1676

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(10 Mdm Regt Assn)

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9560 7116

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Dandenong South

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Myers St
Geelong

38 Fd Bty 5231 2056
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Colac

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Article style, clarity and conciseness remain the responsibility of the article owner or author.

Submissions for the **March 2010** issue are required no later than **15th January 2010** unless otherwise arranged with the Editor.

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The President Writes

The Gunner Dinner held at the Caulfield RSL was, in my opinion, a very good night. LtCol John Morkham was the Dining Mess President, and our guest speaker was Cpl John Harding from 38 Bty.

John Harding spoke of his experiences as a reserve soldier preparing for, and serving with, the Regional Assistance Mission to Solomon Islands (RAMSI). Combined Task Force 365 Rotation 13 (CTF 365, R 13). He presented a well prepared and very informative and entertaining account from a soldiers point of view.

Unfortunately, I was unable to attend the Welcome Home Parade for the most recent contingent of RAMSI held at the Shrine of Remembrance.

The year is rapidly drawing to a close with the AGM, St Barbara's Day and, most importantly, the Golf Day in the near future. Check the Parade Card at the end of *Cascabel* for the dates.

The required notice for the AGM and nomination forms for the Committee are also in this issue.

I look forward to seeing you at the next Association Function.

Regards to all

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Neil Hamer".

Neil Hamer
MAJ (R)



From the Colonel Commandant

Greetings,

The email to tell me that the next edition of Cascabel was due was a sobering reminder that much of this year has passed and I have not been able to address many of the things I intended to do. But much has happened.

ANZAC day this year was unique and special for me. Normally I march with the Vietnam veterans Artillery contingent. But this year the march at Marysville was to be led by Brigadier Nick Jans, who, together with his wife Judy, was one of the few from Marysville to successfully defend their home from the bushfires. Nick is an Artillery officer who served in Vietnam, and who continues to serve to this day.

The march in Marysville was intended to be a special event for the residents. It was one of the first opportunities for them to return to the town collectively. So, following the dawn service at the Regiment (held inside due to inclement weather), Maureen and I drove to Marysville for the march. As we arrived rain continued to fall. The town was cold, wet and misty, and the green sprouting grass and trees had started to hide the black of the bushfires. It was a surreal sight, the contrast to what had occurred was stark, but it was a magnificent occasion.

The demise of the Naval and Military Club was a sad event. One result was that it placed in jeopardy the future of a lot of memorabilia, some of which was relevant to Artillery. Fortunately an amount was released and Doug Perry and I had the opportunity to deliver an Artillery sword and publications for safekeeping at the School of Artillery. Thanks to Major General Jim Barry for his help.

The 2009 Gunner Dinner was held on Saturday 18th July at the Caulfield RSL. Despite some early concern over the numbers, it was up to its usual high standard and enjoyed by those attending. Let's see if we can improve the numbers next year. I will speak to a number of groups who traditionally have not attended.

The 'Welcome Home' Parade for the Victorian soldiers currently serving in the Solomon Islands, and Defence Reserves Support Day activity, was held on Wednesday 12 August at the Shrine of Remembrance to welcome home the contingent from operations in the Solomon Islands and to thank their families for their contribution. A number of members of the association attended to support the returning members of 2/10 Field Regiment. Congratulations to the returning soldiers on a job well done.

Best wishes
Brig Neil Graham
Colonel Commandant, Southern Region
Royal Regiment of Australian Artillery.



Membership Report

November 2009

Current Membership as at 24 Aug 09

Life Members	204	(205)
Annual Members	44	(46)
Senior Annual Members	20	(21)
Affiliates	35	(35)
Others (CO/CI, Messes, etc.)	12	(12)
Libraries	5	(5)
RSL's	<u>1</u>	<u>(1)</u>
<u>Total</u>	<u>321</u>	<u>(325)</u>

Vale

It is with regret that we note the passing of Sgt Leslie R Dunn OAM. We received notification with the return of the last *Cascabel*.

Sgt Dunn was born in 1921 and served in WW2. He joined the Association in April 1997.

The usual reminder about the proforma on the last page below the Parade Card.

If you have not already done so, it would be appreciated if you would provide the information requested so that our files can be kept up to date. This proforma should also be used to notify us of any changes in the future. It would also help if you could provide any information about your occupation, achievements and other service to the community.

Would you also please let me know if you have been awarded an ADM.



Neil Hamer
MAJ (R)
Membership Co-ordinator

Contact: Telephone: 9702 2100
0419 533 067
Email: nhamer@bigpond.net.au

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2009

The Annual General Meeting of the Royal Australian Artillery Association

Will be held on Thursday 5th November 2009 at 1930 hrs
at the Caulfield RSL
2 St Georges Road Elsternwick
(Melways 67 G.2 3.5)

The bistro will be open to RAA Assoc members at 1745 hrs
for a pre-meeting meal.

Bookings are essential and may be made by contacting
SSgt Brian Cleeman on 9560 7116 by 30th October 2009.

NOMINATION FORM

To reach the secretary, Mrs Rachel Decker 8 Alfada Street CAULFIELD SOUTH VIC 3167
Not later than Wednesday 28th October 2009

Nominate: _____ for the position of _____

Nominee Signature: _____

Proposer: _____ Signature: _____

Secunder: _____ Signature _____

Date: _____

SOCIAL GOLF DAY



To be held at the Berwick Montuna Golf Club
Beaconsfield-Emerald Road, Guy's Hill

(Melways 212 C4)

On Friday 6th November 2009

Tee Time 0830 Hrs

This will be our Eighth Annual Golf Day and we look forward to an even bigger and better field to compete for the coveted RAA Association Perpetual Trophy.

Golfers at ALL levels of expertise are invited to attend, including wives, husbands, partners, relatives and friends. Caddies, coaches observers and encouragers are most welcome to attend either, or both, the golf and the lunch.

Hire clubs, buggies and motorised carts are available from the Golf-Shop. These items should be booked directly with the Golf shop on 9707 5226 at least ten days prior. Photo ID and a deposit will be required for clubs and carts.

The cost for golfers is \$28.00 which covers green fees for 18 holes and trophies.

Lunch will be available in the Clubhouse at very reasonable prices.

The competition of the day will be a stableford competition. Players who do not have a handicap will be "allocated" a handicap on the day.

Trophies for the Winner, Runner Up and Nearest the Pin (3) will be awarded in the Clubhouse during lunch.

So that tee times and a number for lunch can be booked for this very busy time of the year, would you please indicate if you will be attending and the number of people in your group, by telephone, mail or e-mail to:

Maj Neil Hamer, 12 Marida Court, Berwick 3806;

Telephone, 9702 2100;

E-mail, nhamer@bigpond.net.au

Not later than 23rd October 2007.

Please include:

Your name and handicap, (if you have one).

The name and handicap of your guests.

The number of non-golfers who will be attending for lunch.

The name/s of your preferred group.

ED FREEMAN (Medal of Honour)

You're a 19 year old kid.

You're critically wounded, and dying in the jungle in the Ia Drang Valley , 11-14-1965, LZ X-ray , Vietnam.

Your infantry unit is outnumbered 8 - 1, and the enemy fire is so intense, from 100 or 200 yards away, that your own Infantry Commander has ordered the Medivac helicopters to stop coming in.

You're lying there, listening to the enemy machine guns, and you know you're not getting out.

Your family is 1/2 way around the world, 12,000 miles away, and you'll never see them again. As the world starts to fade in and out, you know this is the day.

Then, over the machine gun noise, you faintly hear that sound of a helicopter, and you look up to see an un-armed Huey, but it doesn't seem real, because no Medi-Vac markings are on it...

Ed Freeman is coming for you... He's not Medi-Vac, so it's not his job, but he's flying his Huey down into the machine gun fire, after the Medi-Vacs were ordered not to come.

He's coming anyway.

And he drops it in, and sits there in the machine gun fire, as they load 2 or 3 of you on board. Then he flies you up and out through the gunfire, to the Doctors and Nurses.

And he kept coming back... 13 more times..... and took about 30 of you and your buddies out, who would never have gotten out.

Medal of Honour Recipient, Ed Freeman, died last Wednesday at the age of 80, in Boise , ID

May God rest his soul.....



Ed W. Freeman
November 20, 1927 – August 20, 2008
(aged 80)

Ed Freeman (left) is congratulated by President George W. Bush after receiving his award.

Nickname	Too Tall
Place of birth	Neely, Mississippi
Place of death	Boise, Idaho
Place of burial	Idaho State Veterans Cemetery, Boise, Idaho
Allegiance	United States of America
Service/branch	United States Army
Rank	Major
Unit	229th Assault Helicopter Battalion, 1st Cavalry Division (Airmobile)
Battles/wars	World War II Korean War • Battle of Pork Chop Hill Vietnam War • Battle of Ia Drang
Awards	Medal of Honour

Ed W. "Too Tall" Freeman (November 20, 1927 - August 20, 2008) was a United States Army helicopter pilot who received the U.S. military's highest decoration, the Medal of Honor, for his actions in the Battle of Ia Drang during the Vietnam War. During the battle, he flew through gunfire numerous times, bringing supplies to a trapped American battalion and flying dozens of

wounded soldiers to safety. Freeman was a wingman for Major Bruce Crandall who also received the Medal of Honor for the same missions.

Biography

Freeman was born in Neely, Perry County, Mississippi, the sixth of nine children.^[1] He grew up in nearby McLain^[2] and graduated from Washington High School.^[1] He served in World War II^[2] and reached the rank of master sergeant by the time of the Korean War. Although he was in the Corps of Engineers, he fought as an infantry soldier in Korea. He participated in the Battle of Pork Chop Hill and received a battlefield commission. The commission made him eligible to become a pilot, a childhood dream of his. However, when he applied for pilot training he was told that, at six feet four inches, he was "too tall" for pilot duty. The phrase stuck, and he was known by the nickname of "Too Tall" for the rest of his career.^[3]

In 1955, the height limit for pilots was raised and Freeman was accepted into flying school. He first flew airplanes before switching to helicopters. By the time he was sent to Vietnam in 1965, he was an experienced helicopter pilot and was placed second-in-command of his sixteen-craft unit.^[3] He served as a captain in Company A, 229th Assault Helicopter Battalion, 1st Cavalry Division (Airmobile).^[4]

On November 14, 1965, Freeman and his unit transported a battalion of American soldiers to the Ia Drang Valley. Later, after arriving back at base, they learned that the soldiers had come under intense fire and had taken heavy casualties. Enemy fire around the landing zones was so heavy that the medical evacuation helicopters refused to enter the area. Freeman and his commander, Major Bruce Crandall, volunteered to fly their unarmed, lightly armored helicopters in support of the embattled troops. Freeman made a total of fourteen trips to the battlefield, bringing in water and ammunition and taking out wounded soldiers.^[3]

Freeman was sent home from Vietnam in 1966 and retired from the military the next year.^[3] He settled in the Treasure Valley area of Idaho, his wife Barbara's home state,^[2] and continued to work as a pilot. He used his helicopter to fight wildfires, perform animal censuses, and herd wild horses for the Department of the Interior^[3] until his final retirement in 1991.^[1]

Freeman's commanding officer nominated him for the Medal of Honor for his actions at Ia Drang, but not in time to meet a two-year deadline then in place.^[3] He was instead awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross.^[1] The Medal of Honor nomination was disregarded until 1995, when the two-year deadline was removed. He was formally presented with the medal on July 16, 2001, by President George W. Bush.^[3]

Freeman died on August 20, 2008 due to complications from Parkinson's disease.^[1] He was buried in the Idaho State Veterans Cemetery in Boise.^[2]

In the 2002 film *We Were Soldiers*, which depicted the Battle of Ia Drang, Freeman was portrayed by Mark McCracken.^[1] The post office in Freeman's hometown of McLain, Mississippi, was renamed the "Major Ed W. Freeman Post Office" in March 2009.^[2]



Army version of the Medal of Honor

Medal of Honor citation

Freeman's official Medal of Honor citation reads:

Captain Ed W. Freeman, United States Army, distinguished himself by numerous acts of conspicuous gallantry and extraordinary intrepidity on 14 November 1965 while serving with Company A, 229th Assault Helicopter Battalion, 1st Cavalry Division (Airmobile). As a flight leader and second in command of a 16-helicopter lift unit, he supported a heavily engaged American infantry battalion at Landing Zone X-Ray in the Ia Drang Valley, Republic of Vietnam. The unit was almost out of ammunition after taking some of the heaviest casualties of the war, fighting off a relentless attack from a highly motivated, heavily armed enemy force. When the infantry commander closed the helicopter landing zone due to intense direct enemy fire, Captain Freeman risked his own life by flying his unarmed helicopter through a gauntlet of enemy fire time after time, delivering critically needed ammunition, water and medical supplies to the besieged battalion. His flights had a direct impact on the battle's outcome by providing the engaged units with timely supplies of ammunition critical to their survival, without which they would almost surely have gone down, with much greater loss of life. After medical evacuation helicopters refused to fly into the area due to intense enemy fire, Captain Freeman flew 14 separate rescue missions, providing life-saving evacuation of an estimated 30 seriously wounded soldiers -- some of whom would not have survived had he not acted. All flights were made into a small emergency landing zone within 100 to 200 meters of the defensive perimeter where heavily committed units were perilously holding off the attacking elements. Captain Freeman's selfless acts of great valor, extraordinary perseverance and intrepidity were far above and beyond the call of duty or mission and set a superb example of leadership and courage for all of his peers. Captain Freeman's extraordinary heroism and devotion to duty are in keeping with the highest traditions of military service and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit and the United States Army.^[4]

References

 This article incorporates public domain material from websites or documents of the United States Army Center of Military History.

- ¹ ^a ^b ^c ^d ^e ^f Bonner, Jessie L. (August 20, 2008). "Medal of Honor veteran dies in Idaho". *The Seattle Times*. http://seattletimes.nwsourc.com/html/localnews/2008127946_apidobitfreeman1stldwritethru.html. Retrieved on 2009-03-19.
- ² ^a ^b ^c ^d ^e "Congress names post office for valley Medal of Honor recipient". *The Idaho Press-Tribune*. March 18, 2009. <http://www.idahopress.com/news/?id=21399>. Retrieved on 2009-03-19.
- ³ ^a ^b ^c ^d ^e ^f ^g "Medal of Honor: Ed W. Freeman". *The Daily Nightly*. July 11, 2007. <http://dailynightly.msnbc.msn.com/archive/2007/07/11/265756.aspx>. Retrieved on 2009-03-19.
- ⁴ ^a ^b "Medal of Honor Recipients - Vietnam (A-L)". United States Army Center of Military History. January 27, 2009. <http://www.history.army.mil/html/moh/vietnam-a-l.html>. Retrieved on 2009-03-19.

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopaedia

My thanks to WO2 Ed Redfern (Rtd) (Ed)

New Zealand Combat involvement 1965-66



South Vietnam, 1965-72: area of operations.

New Zealand combat involvement in Vietnam began with the arrival in Saigon of the 16¹st Battery, RNZA, equipped with L5 pack howitzers, in July 1965. The personnel and their equipment were conveyed to the theatre by RNZAF C130 aircraft - the first occasion a New Zealand unit had been deployed in a war zone with full equipment by air. The gunners were based at Bien Hoa air base, where they provided support to the American 173rd Airborne Brigade, under whose operational control they were placed. After preparing facilities for them, the engineer detachment was withdrawn to New Zealand.

The battery was involved in seventeen major operations, mainly around Bien Hoa but also including two sorties into Phuoc Tuy province to the south. During 1966 it was brought up to six-gun strength and, in June, passed to the

operational control of 1st Australian Task Force, which was established at Nui Dat in Phuoc Tuy province. In August 1966 the gunners played a key role in assisting Australian infantry of 6th Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment, during the important action at Xa Long Tan, in which 18 Australians were killed holding off a regimental sized enemy force.

ANZAC Battalion

Once 'Confrontation' ended and Australia decided, in December 1966, to expand 1st Australian Task Force to a brigade strength, New Zealand came under new pressure to increase its commitment. In April 1967 V Company was deployed from New Zealand's infantry battalion in West Malaysia, to be followed in December by W Company. From this time the battalion was almost exclusively focused on supporting the infantry involvement in Vietnam.

The New Zealand companies operated at first under the operational control of 2nd Battalion, RAR. From March 1968 they were integrated within 2RAR to form 2RAR/NZ (ANZAC) Battalion, with New Zealand personnel assuming various positions in the battalion, including that of second in command. A similar arrangement was made with 4RAR when it relieved 2RAR in May 1968, and then successively with 6RAR and 2RAR until the end of the two countries' combat commitment.

Although convenient for New Zealand, given the small size of its infantry contingent, and reasonably effective in practice, the integration meant that the New Zealand identity of the units, and the artillery, tended to be overshadowed by the Australians. For the New Zealand infantrymen, the operations were a constant round of patrols or cordon and search operations. Large-scale actions were uncommon. The objective, to seize the initiative in the province, was largely achieved, and the provincial enemy forces were rendered largely ineffective without outside support.

Gunfire at Long Tan: The FO's Story

Until March 1966 1RAR, 105 Bty RAA and my unit 161 Bty, RNZA were attached to the U.S. 173D Airborne Brigade at Bien Hoa. In May/June 1966 5RAR and 6RAR arrived in the theatre to establish the 1 Australian Task Force Area at NUI DAT in Phouc Tuy Province.

As 161 Bty was to be in direct support of 6RAR, I was assigned as FO to D Coy from the time 6RAR assembled on the beach at Vung Tau. The sojourn on the beach ended when we occupied the base at Nui Dat. From then on my two radio operators and I, the three Kiwi gunners, shared the heat and mud with D Coy. We had D Coy laundry numbers and were involved in all of their activities.

By August 1966 our party was virtually part of the establishment.

The circumstances preceding the battle of Long Tan, the course of it, and the outcome, are now fairly well known. Indeed, many of us know more about the battle now than we did at the time. This, then, is my recollection of experiences as D Coy's FO at Long Tan.

I can recall on the morning of the 18th of August, getting ready to go on a patrol with D Coy. We assembled near the perimeter of the Task Force and walked out into the tactical area. The mission was to relieve a much smaller patrol from B Coy which had been out for some time searching for a VC mortar base plate position from which an attack had been launched on the Task Force base. The movement to the rendezvous with the B Coy patrol was uneventful and simply done, as was the handover of information between the two patrols.

When we arrived at the rendezvous I spoke with the FO who was with the B Coy patrol, Captain Pat Murphy, another New Zealander. He briefed me on the situation as he understood it, he explained where we were, about the track system and the understanding of the next line of movement that might be followed and then we had a very comfortable lunch.

After that Maj Harry Smith, the Company Commander, decided on the method of advance with his platoons. It was my role to stay with the Company Commander all the time, no matter where he went I was to stay with him, so that I could provide any advice or support that he wanted. I needed to know how he was manoeuvring his platoons. I also needed to know our location, what direction the platoons were and how far away they were from me.

The initial contact began with the chatter of small arms fire. It was quite exciting and was regarded as something to be expected, although not something which D Coy had often come across. At that time Company Headquarters was not directly involved in the contact at the front from where the sound of rifle and machine gun fire was coming. I was keen and enthusiastic to apply gun fire into the area where I knew that it would be useful. However, at that time we received VC mortar fire from the south generally and into the area where Company Headquarters was waiting. Harry Smith decided that we would move away from that place very quickly. He did not need to emphasise any orders on that occasion; we simply moved. It was obvious to us that the enemy was not observing that fire because it became ineffective. After that, Harry Smith appreciated that 11 Platoon, which was in contact, was getting into trouble. I could hear the voices on the company command net and knew that Harry Smith was trying to have 10 Platoon assist 11 Platoon. That was not totally successful.

There came a time when neither Harry Smith nor I could perform our role while we were moving and, if we could not perform our functions, then the platoons would be in greater trouble. So it was decided to stop and establish some firm ground with one of

the platoons. It was in that place where the wounded and members of the other platoons were gathered to establish a company defended area. My most intense recollections are of that final position.

Soon after initial contact, Harry Smith and I agreed on the grid reference of our location and he requested fire support. Battery Fire Missions were fired at some distance from the known position of 11 Platoon. Later, I upgraded the fire to Regimental Fire Missions when the situation had deteriorated and there were obviously large numbers of VC confronting us. At the time my response was instinctive and not based on firm information about the size or location of the enemy force.

The rain started late in the day as usual, but soon developed into a tremendous storm. This deluge and the fact that our final position was on a slight reverse slope were two factors in our favour. Rain and the intense gunfire caused this area to be shrouded in smoke, steam and fog.

This helped me because my judgement of distance was assisted by the observation (or lack of it) of flash against this screen and the enemy were silhouetted, as were our own troops.

I realised how important it was that my communications remained effective and that the guns were able to maintain the constant and accurate fire that they were called upon to produce. I needed the comfort of knowing that my Battery Commander (Harry Honnor), an experienced gunner, was on the end of a radio, and could provide constant support for me. On one occasion I actually reported on that net that the situation was too confused to use the guns and it was Harry who suggested I engage another grid reference and adjust the fire from that position. That stabilised me at the time.

Fortunately my radio communications on the artillery net remained effective. Although we could not hear all messages, all our transmissions were heard at Nui Dat. My operator, Willie Walker, was able to keep the set operational under the most trying conditions until the battery collapsed at the end of the battle. He seemed to be concerned only with the radio and I with my map.

I wondered whether the fire which was called down was an over-violent reaction to the situation because there was no way of knowing the total size of the enemy force at the time. I had seen several groups 20 to 50 strong moving about between the rubber trees. I have since found out and now believe that the fire was justified. 108 men of D Coy had engaged about 1500 VC.

I have been asked how I was able to direct the fire. It was essential that I knew my location, and that I knew the direction of the platoons and roughly how far away they were. I tried to have my map oriented with the north point on the map facing north, then looked towards the noise of contact and small arm fire. That was the only way I had at that time of determining the grid reference at which to open fire. It was difficult to tell the distance the leading troops were from me, so the safety factor was that fire was opened some considerable distance, even up to 1,000 metres, away from where we were. Adjustments were made to move the gun fire closer. On one occasion I was told on the company net that it was too close. I actually screamed a number of times over the radio net the word "stop". This was because I could not hear many of the acknowledgements from the gun area when transmitting fire orders. Normally the artillery observers will give fire orders and will receive the acknowledgement. When I screamed "stop", the guns had to stop and they did. Another occasion when the guns had to stop and they were stopped for me, was when a helicopter was despatched to resupply small arms ammunition into the company area.

Sergeant Bob Buick took command of 11 Platoon after his platoon commander was killed. When he requested artillery fire on his own position I spoke with him directly on the company radio net. He had apparently assessed that with about 10 men left out of 28, they could not survive more than another 10-15 minutes.

Even though he insisted, I declined. He advised me later that the fall of shot continued to be 50-100 metres from him and amongst the VC.

Everyone in the company was running short of small arms ammunition. I had some for the Armalite and Willie had some, but we did not have a particular use for it. We were too busy. Jack Kirby, a very fine Company Sergeant-Major, came to me and said, "Excuse me, Sir, have you any spare ammunition?" I could not understand why he should act in such a polite way. I told him to help himself from my pack and he did that. He said, "I am leaving you one magazine". He also left Willie Walker with one.

In the later stages of the battle when we were all in this base of ours with the wounded, members of the platoons had joined us, and there were far more people around in the Company Headquarters area. But it was at that time there were two incidents, one which impressed, and one which worried me. Most of the men were young, of the age 20 or so. One man I heard saying "steady, aim, fire". I think that was an example of what makes a soldier tick. After thorough training and even under stress he knew what was required and that is how he did it. It was just at that time, in fact just after Jack Kirby had collected ammunition, that I was very concerned because the VC had started attacking from a different direction. I ordered the removal of one battery from the Regimental Fire Mission and applied it in that area. Jack Kirby saw it as well and we were very worried that we were going to be done. It did not deter Jack, he just went around collecting ammunition and distributing it.

The arrival of the relief force seemed to signal the end of the battle and, later Harry Honnor suggested that harassing fire in depth continue throughout the night.

When the battlefield was cleared the next morning an eerie silence pervaded a scene of utmost devastation. The men may have been mentally and physically exhausted after their ordeal but they continued their duties at Long Tan until it was time to return to the Task Force base at Nui Dat.

A Digger from D Coy later recalled:

"It got to the stage where we all thought that there was no way we could get out of there. The only help we seemed to get was from the artillery. Every time the enemy troops got close to us it seemed that a salvo of artillery would land amongst them, just in time. We didn't have all that much ammunition anyway, and we were using our fire properly and not wasting it. When they did build up and move in quickly it was always the artillery that kept them out of our way."

I am proud to have been with D Company 6RAR on that day.

Maj M.D. (Morrie) Stanley, M.B.E.

Article sourced from information provided by Maj Bill Cross (Rtd).

<http://riv.co.nz/rnza/index.htm>

New Zealand Artillery of the Vietnam War



161 Battery

In June 1964 the New Zealand Government sent a detachment of Royal New Zealand Engineers to assist the United States forces in defending the Republic of South Vietnam from invasion by the North. The Engineers were replaced in June 1965 by 161 Battery, RNZA. Other military units were to follow and 161 Bty served with Royal Australian Artillery field regiments, usually as part of the 1st Australian Task Force in support of Australian and New Zealand infantry units. The battery left Vietnam in May 1971 after providing virtually continuous fire support to 1 ATF components and other friendly forces for six years.

Approximately 750 members of 161 Bty served in Vietnam after training at **161 Battery Depot**. Tours of duty were 12 months with reinforcements being rotated through the battery each month.

Initially, the battery was equipped with four 105mm L5 pack howitzers, but this was later increased to six. These pieces were considered ideal for the current mobile type of operations because they could be lifted by the helicopters which were then available and were needed only for short periods in each fire base. Later operations required sustained fire for longer periods, and the L5s were replaced in 1967 with 105mm M2A2 howitzers which were lifted by the larger twin-rotor CH47 Chinook helicopter.

The Presidential Unit Citation 1st Class was presented to 161 Bty in 1977 for service during the Vietnam war and in 1995 the unit received the Meritorious Unit Commendation (MUC) in recognition of service with the United States 173D Airborne Brigade.



Vietnam ribbon

ORIGINAL STRENGTH:

9 officers, 101 other ranks

BATTERY COMMANDERS:

Maj DR Kenning	June 1965 - June 1966
Maj HB Honnor	June 1966 - May 1967
Maj TG Martin	May 1967 - April 1968
Maj GA Hitchings	April 1968 - March 1969
Maj JO'B Horsford	March 1969 - September 1969
Maj RJ Andrews	September 1969 - September 1970

Maj JM Masters September 1970 - May 1971

MAIN ENGAGEMENTS:

Long Tan

TODAY:

161 Battery exists today as part of **16 Field Regiment**.

<http://riv.co.nz/rnza/rf/postww2/vn.htm>



tac sign



Gunner Ron Agnew (161 Battery FO Party) stops to fill water bottles at a stream while on Operations in South Vietnam.



Maj Tom Martin (left) hands over command of 161 Battery to Maj Geoff Hitchings.



Forward observation party



To 161 Battery in Vietnam

Jungle Daydream

Murray Broomhall shares a day from hell, 34 years on from the Battle of Long Tan, where he, Willie Walker and Morrie Stanley served as the FO Party for Delta Company 6 RAR.

As I sit here at work thinking back I decided to jot down a few memories of that day. It began with a bit of a buzz over the mortaring the night before and the normal scuttle butt as information slowly emerged as to damage and casualties.

Willie and I were a bit hung over we had a party in our tent the night before when the mess closed, and had a few over the prescribed 2 cans per day (so did the company HQ radio ops who were with us).

When the word came though to move out it was a bit of a shambles, and as I was not packed I decided to use a pack that Chris Cooper had left behind when he went home. About one hour into the patrol I found out why he had left it behind as the straps were rotten and one broke and I spent the next hour or so, trying to fix it gave up and made a shoulder strap from my toggle rope (I have often wondered how I would have coped if the battle had not occurred and we had to patrol for two or three days).

First couple of hours were uneventful I used up about half my water as I was not fit and also hung over. Then a small VC patrol was sighted in a clearing heading up into the rubber plantation. We followed them, then the first shots were fired and the radios reported a contact...and shortly after there was an enormous burst of fire and it was all on.

The next three hours are still a blur with very few clear recollections of what happened ... to myself, Willy, or Morrie.

Memories

Harry Smith's batman and myself trying to dig a slit trench to act as coy HQ, and giving up as the rain water filled it faster than we could dig.

The tracer floating through the position like lazy fireflies that suddenly accelerated and crack past among the rubber trees.

Standing up to try and get a clear view to direct the fire from the HQ machine guns and sitting down again very quickly when the rubber tree I was standing next to suddenly shredded just above me.

Helping Buddy Lea back to the Aid post and realising that this was for real as the wounded lay in the shelter of the hollow just behind the HQ group.

The sight of a VC being lifted off the ground and standing out in the glow of a 105-mm explosion about 100 metres from our position.

Willie crouched against the base of a rubber tree relaying Morrie orders without any mistakes and writing the fire orders down with the rain pouring down throwing up a splash mist off the ground that almost hid him.

The roar of the APCs that seemed to go on forever; then they suddenly appeared slewing past the rubber trees.

The movement out of the Rubber then forming the hollow square of APCs to light the LZ for the dustoffs.

The slow realisation and shock that set in as we sat around like stunned mullet on the beach (excuse the pun from a fish merchant) ... realising that so very many had died during the battle and we were still alive.

Somebody offering me a cigarette which for the first and only time in my life I smoked.

Climbing into an APC to rest and dropping into a deep sleep for about four hours then waking with a jolt and wondering where the hell I was.

There are other memories that keep coming back as time goes by ...

Like not knowing up until about 10 years ago what day the battle actually took place, or realising very great historic significance that is now placed on it by historians.

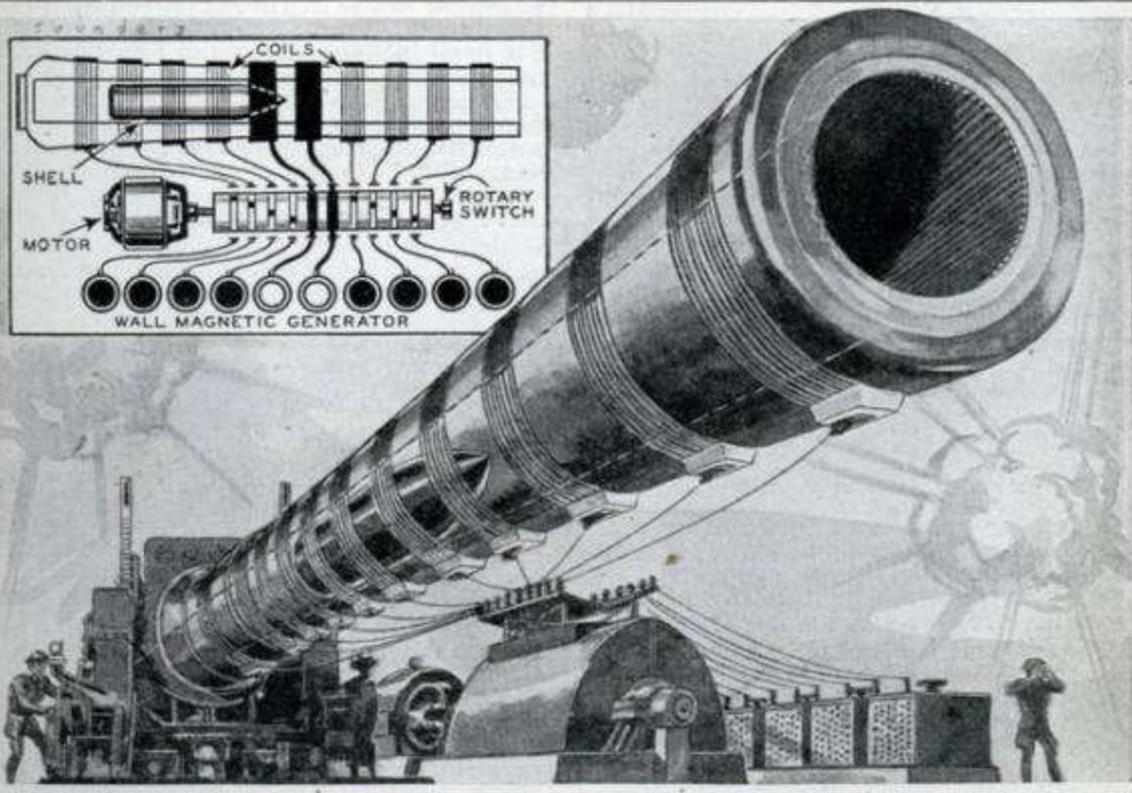
Cheers

Enough for me on this subject

Murray

<http://riv.co.nz/rnza/tales/longtan1.htm>

ELECTRIC Cannon Uses No Gunpowder



The magnetic gun, pictured on this month's cover, is foreshadowed by achievements of two English experimenters. Powerful currents working through coils around the gun barrel exert a magnetic effect on the steel shell, pulling it through the barrel at tremendous speed. Each coil has its own generator, and the shell advancing through the barrel will automatically energize the coil just ahead of it. A rotary switch could be employed to adapt the idea to machine guns.

SILENT guns sending their whistling messengers of death into the sky at speeds far beyond those now attained by powder-driven shells seem likely for the next war, using for propulsion magnetic fields so powerful that when they are short-circuited they produce miniature earthquakes.

Dr. Kapitza, F. R. S., working at the Cavendish laboratory of Cambridge University, England, in his attempts to disrupt the atom has produced magnetic fields so powerful that they "explode" the coils that produce them. This man has finally revealed the secret of the magnetic gun so long anticipated by ballistic experts. Dr. Kapitza accomplishes the electric firing of a shell by short-circuiting powerful dynamos for periods of one one-hundredth of a second.

Another English experimenter, Dr. Wall, seeking the same thing, produces ultra-magnetic fields with a more simple apparatus. Dr. Wall simply charges electrostatic condensers and permits them to discharge their powerful currents into specially made coils immersed in oil baths. Here also magnetic fields so powerful that they tear the coils to pieces have been produced. So great are these magnetic fields that they are capable of pulling iron nails out of shoes.

While the magnetic effects produced by

both of these experimenters are of very short duration, they could be employed to impart their terrible energy to steel shells. The time limit, which cannot exceed one one-hundredth of a second, is imposed because of the powerful currents used. If these currents were permitted to flow through wire for a greater period of time, the wire would melt and temperatures greater than those existing in some of the hottest stars would be produced.

To produce a magnetic gun—a silent Big-Bertha—it will only be necessary to arrange a series of powerful coils within the gun barrel. Each coil will have its own generator and the shell advancing through the barrel will automatically energize the coil just ahead of it. By the time the shell reaches the end of the barrel it will have attained a speed far in excess of the speeds now attainable with even the highest explosives known.

Owing to the entire absence of internal pressures these guns may be made of ordinary iron or even of purely non-magnetic materials. The "magnetic explosions" will be initiated by the simple closing of a switch which will energize the first coil and snatch the shell from the breech in the first leg of its journey of destruction.

War hero's medals saved from auction



Sonia Clereham (l) the daughter of a war hero, is pleased her father's medals will not be auctioned.

The daughter of a decorated war hero is relieved her father's war medals are destined for the Australian War Memorial, rather than being sold at auction to pay the debts of a Melbourne military club.

Sonia Clereham had sought an injunction in the Victorian Supreme Court on Monday to prevent the sale of a portrait of her late father, ace fighter pilot Air Vice-Marshal Adrian Cole, and 16 of his war medals.

The items were to be auctioned on Tuesday along with other memorabilia from the collection of The Naval and Military Club, to help raise funds for the 128-year-old elite Melbourne club which is now in administration and has closed its doors. However, the two parties agreed Ms Clereham, as the sole beneficiary of her mother's estate, would be given the medals and portrait to donate to the Australian War Memorial in Canberra.

Air Vice-Marshal Cole shot down 10 enemy aircraft in World War I, including nine over the Western Front between July and October 1918 at the age of 23. Two of those shot down were German fighters over the Lys Valley on August 19, when Air Vice-Marshal Cole himself came under attack from five Fokker triplanes.

Air Vice-Marshal Cole's efforts in France were recognised with a Distinguished Flying Cross, while he was also awarded a Military Cross for his role driving out six enemy aircraft over Palestine in April 1918. He also served in World War II and was a founding member of the Royal Australian Air Force.

His medals were expected to sell for between \$72,000 and \$104,000 and the portrait could have sold for \$2,000 to \$4,000, Ms Clereham's lawyer Brian Schied told the court. Mr Schied had argued there was no evidence the memorabilia was gifted, rather than loaned, to The Naval and Military Club, and therefore it belonged to Ms Clereham.

Outside court, Ms Clereham's daughter Esther said the family was thrilled with the outcome.

"All we wanted was to get the medals to Canberra, and get them to Canberra in my mother's name, so we're thrilled," she told reporters. "We were prepared to keep going for as long as it took to say they shouldn't be for sale; they should be held by the public in the war memorial. "They shouldn't be something used to pay off debt."

Esther Clereham said her mother told her "I've never felt angrier in my life" when she learnt the items were to be auctioned.

Sonia Clereham said she felt relieved. "It's what I wanted," she said. She tracked down her father's medals about seven years ago, as her late mother had left a note saying the items were missing and if they were found, to claim them.

But when she approached the club in 2006 and asked for the medals to be returned in exchange for replicas, she was told the medals belonged to the club.

The club was placed in voluntary administration in February, with debts of more than \$12 million, administrator Simon Nelson of Romanis Cant said.

The auction of its extensive military collection was expected to reap between \$983,000 and \$1.4 million, Mr Schied told the court.

From the proceeds, \$315,000 was to be paid to cover employees' benefits, Mr Nelson said.

Air Vice-Marshal Cole died in 1966 at the age of 70.

Adrian Cole (RAAF officer)

Adrian Lindley Trevor Cole

19 June 1895 – 14 February 1966 (aged 70)



Lieutenant Adrian Cole in Palestine, 1917

Nickname	"King" ^[1]
Place of birth	Glen Iris, Victoria
Place of death	Melbourne, Victoria
Allegiance	 Australia
Service/branch	 Royal Australian Air Force
Years of service	1914–1946
Rank	Air Vice Marshal
Unit	No. 1 Squadron AFC (1916–17) No. 2 Squadron AFC (1917–18)
Commands held	RAAF Station Laverton (1929–32) RAAF Station Richmond (1936–38) No. 2 Group (1939–40) Southern Area (1940–41) RAF Northern Ireland (1942–43) North-Western Area (1943–44)

Battles/wars

World War I

- Middle Eastern theatre
- Sinai and Palestine Campaign
- Western Front

World War II

- Middle Eastern theatre
- European theatre
- Dieppe Raid
- South West Pacific theatre
- North Western Area Campaign
- New Guinea campaign
- Operation Transom
- South East Asian theatre

Awards

Commander of the Order of the British Empire
Distinguished Service Order
Military Cross
Distinguished Flying Cross

Other work

Company director

Air Vice Marshal **Adrian Lindley Trevor Cole** CBE, DSO, MC, DFC (19 June 1895 – 14 February 1966) was a senior commander in the Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF). Joining the army at the outbreak of World War I, Cole transferred to the Australian Flying Corps in 1916 and flew with No. 1 Squadron in the Middle East and No. 2 Squadron on the Western Front. He became an ace, credited with victories over ten enemy aircraft, and earned the Military Cross and the Distinguished Flying Cross. In 1921, he was a founding member of the RAAF.

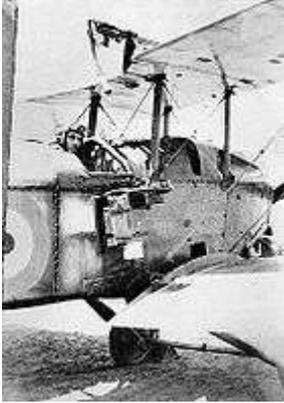
"King" Cole had risen to the position of Air Member for Supply by 1933 and gained promotion to Group Captain in 1935. The following year he was appointed the first Commanding Officer of Headquarters RAAF Station Richmond. During World War II, Cole led North-Western Area in Darwin and held a series of overseas posts in North Africa, England, Northern Ireland, and Ceylon. As Forward Air Controller during the Dieppe Raid in 1942, he was wounded in action and awarded the Distinguished Service Order. Cole served on corporate boards of directors following his retirement from the RAAF in 1946. He died in 1966 at the age of seventy.

Early life and World War I

Adrian Cole was born in Glen Iris, a suburb of Melbourne, to barrister and doctor Robert Cole and his wife Helen. He was educated at Geelong Grammar School and Melbourne Grammar School, where he was a member of the cadet corps.^{[2][3][4]} When World War I broke out in August 1914, Cole gained a commission in the Australian Military Forces, serving with the 55th (Collingwood) Infantry Regiment.^[5] He resigned his commission to join the Australian Imperial Force on 28 January 1916, intending to become a pilot in the Australian Flying Corps.^{[5][6]}

Middle East

Posted to No. 1 Squadron (also known until 1918 as No. 67 Squadron, Royal Flying Corps), Cole departed Melbourne aboard HMAT A67 *Orsova* on 16 March 1916, bound for Egypt.^{[6][7]} He was commissioned a Second Lieutenant in June and began his flying training in August.^[2] By the beginning of 1917, he was flying reconnaissance and scouting missions in Sinai and Palestine.^[8] He took part in an early example of Allied air-sea cooperation on 25 February, directing French naval fire against the coastal town of Jaffa by radio from his B.E.2 biplane.^{[9][10]} On 20 April, Cole and fellow squadron member Lieutenant Roy Maxwell Drummond attacked six enemy aircraft that were threatening to bomb Allied cavalry, scattering their formation and chasing them back to their own lines.^[11] Both airmen were awarded the Military Cross for their actions; Cole's citation was published in a supplement to the *London Gazette* on 16 August 1917, reading:



2nd Lt. Adrian Trevor Cole, Flying Corps.

For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty. With another officer he attacked and disorganised six enemy machines that were about to attack our cavalry with bombs. The engagement was continued until all six machines were forced to return to their lines. His skill and courage on all occasions have been worthy of the greatest praise.^[12]

Lieutenant Cole in a No.1 Squadron Martinsyde "Elephant" equipped with a camera for aerial reconnaissance in Palestine, 1917

The day after the action that earned him the Military Cross, Cole was flying a Martinsyde G.100 "Elephant" over Tel el Sheria when he was hit by ground fire and forced to crash land behind enemy lines; after setting his aircraft alight he was picked up and rescued by Captain Richard Williams. On 26 June, following an eight-plane raid on Turkish Fourth Army headquarters in Jerusalem, Cole and another pilot suffered engine seizures while undertaking a similar rescue of a downed comrade; all three airmen were forced to walk through no man's land before being picked up by an Australian Light Horse patrol.^[13]

Western Front



S.E.5 of No.2 Squadron AFC landing at Lille, November 1918

Promoted to Captain in August 1917,^[14] Cole was posted to France as a flight commander with No. 2 Squadron AFC (also known until 1918 as No. 68 Squadron RFC).^{[7][15]} Flying S.E.5 fighters on the Western Front, he was credited with destroying or sending out of control ten enemy aircraft between July and October 1918, making him an ace.^{[1][16][17]} In a single sortie over the Lys Valley on 19 August, Cole shot down two German fighters and narrowly avoided being shot down himself immediately afterwards, when he was attacked by five Fokker Triplanes that were being pursued by Allied Bristol Fighters.^[18] On 24 September, he led into battle a patrol of fifteen S.E.5s that destroyed or damaged eight German fighters over Haubourdin and Pérenchies, claiming one Pfalz D.III for himself.^[19]

Cole was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross for his actions on 7 October 1918, when he led No.2 Squadron through "a tornado of anti-aircraft fire" in a major assault on transport infrastructure in Lille.^{[2][20]} During the raid he successfully bombed a goods engine and a troop train, and put a number of anti-aircraft batteries out of action, before leading his formation back to base at low level.^[21] The announcement and accompanying citation for his decoration was gazetted on 8 February 1919, reading:

Capt. Adrian Trevor Cole, M.C. (Commonwealth Mil. forces and Australian F.C.).

(FRANCE)

On 7th October this officer carried out a most successful flying raid on enemy railway lines and stations. The success of the attack was largely owing to his cool and determined leadership, and our freedom from casualties was mainly due to the methodical manner in which he collected and reorganised the machines after the raid. He himself displayed marked initiative and courage in attacking troops and other objectives. Since May Capt. Cole has destroyed four hostile machines.^[22]

Between the wars



Poster for the 1934 MacRobertson Air Race, deputy chaired by Cole.

Returning to Australia in February 1919,^[6] Cole briefly spent time as a civilian before accepting a commission in the Australian Air Corps, the short-lived successor to the Australian Flying Corps, in January 1920.^{[3][5]} On 17 June, accompanied by Captain Hippolyte De La Rue, he flew a DH.9 to a height of 27,000 feet (8,200 m), setting an Australian altitude record that stood for more than ten years.^[23] He transferred to the Royal Australian Air Force as a Flight Lieutenant in March 1921, becoming one of its original twenty-one officers.^[24] On 30 November, he married his cousin Katherine Cole in St Peter's Chapel at

Melbourne Grammar School; the couple would have two sons and two daughters.^[2] Squadron Leader Cole was posted to England in 1923–24 to attend RAF Staff College, Andover,^{[3][25]} returning to become Director of Personnel and Training in 1925.^[26] Promoted to Wing Commander, he was in charge of No. 1 Flying Training School (1FTS) at RAAF Station Point Cook, Victoria, from 1926 to 1929.^{[5][27]} The first Citizens Air Force (reserve) pilots' course took place during Cole's tenure at 1FTS; although twenty-four accidents occurred, injuries were minor, leading him to remark at the graduation ceremony that the students were either made of India rubber or had learned how to crash "moderately safely".^{[28][29]}

Cole held command of RAAF Station Laverton from 1929 until his appointment as Air Member for Supply (AMS) in January 1933.^[3] The AMS occupied a seat on the Air Board, which was chaired by the Chief of the Air Staff and was collectively responsible for control and administration of the RAAF.^[30] In March 1932, Cole accepted an invitation from the Lord Mayor of Melbourne to serve as Deputy Chairman of the 1934 MacRobertson Air Race from England to Australia, to celebrate Melbourne's Centenary.^{[1][31]} Provision of the RAAF's radio facilities and technicians was considered a boon for contestants, though Cole later recorded that his role involved "twenty months' hard work, without pay ... with loads of scurrilous and other criticism".^[31] Promoted to Group Captain in January 1935,^[27] he became the inaugural Commanding Officer (CO) of Headquarters RAAF Station Richmond, New South Wales, on 20 April 1936. The new headquarters, which had been formed from elements of two of the base's lodger units, No. 3 Squadron and No. 2 Aircraft Depot, supplanted an earlier arrangement where the CO of No. 3 Squadron had doubled as the station commander.^[32] Cole was appointed a Commander of the Order of the British Empire in the Coronation Honours of 11 May 1937,^[33] and attended the Imperial Defence College in London the following year.^[5] He returned to RAAF Station Laverton as its CO in February 1939.^[34]

World War II

As part of the RAAF's reorganisation following the outbreak of World War II in September 1939, No. 2 Group was formed in Sydney on 20 November, with Cole in charge.^[35] He was raised to temporary Air Commodore in December, and took command of Southern Area when it was established in the new year.^{[2][36]} In September 1941, he was sent to North Africa as Officer Commanding No. 235 Wing RAF of the Desert Air Force, where he helped establish a new anti-submarine warfare unit, No. 459 Squadron RAAF.^[37] Posted to England with Headquarters No. 11 Group in May 1942, he served as Forward Air Controller of the Dieppe Raid on 19 August, responsible for co-ordinating Allied air cover off the French coast aboard HMS *Calpe*.^{[37][38]} In doing so, he was seriously wounded in the jaw and upper body when German fighters strafed the ship; he required plastic surgery and spent a number of weeks recuperating.^{[2][38]} His gallantry during the action earned him the Distinguished Service Order,^[39] the announcement being published in a supplement to the *London Gazette* on 2 October 1942.^[40] The same month, he was made Air Officer Commanding (AOC) RAF Northern Ireland, with the acting rank of Air Vice Marshal,^[2] though the command was described in the official history of Australia in the war as a "backwater".^[41]



Air Vice Marshal Cole (left) as Air Officer Commanding North-Western Area at Adelaide River, Northern Territory, 1943

In May 1943, Cole returned to Australia, taking over as AOC North-Western Area from Air Commodore Frank Bladin in July.^{[5][42]} Based in Darwin, he was responsible for regional air defence, reconnaissance, protection of Allied shipping and, later, offensive operations in the New Guinea campaign.^[43] Cole found the command in "good shape" but considered its air defence capability inadequate, recommending augmentation by long-range fighters such as the P-38 Lightning. In the event, he had to make do with the three squadrons of Spitfires already on his strength, and the possibility of calling on the USAAF's Fifth Air Force for reinforcements as necessary.^[42] During August through September, he reduced regular reconnaissance missions to "increase bombing activity to the limit", following a request from General Douglas Macarthur to provide all available support for Allied assaults on Lae–Nadzab. North-Western Area B-24 Liberators, Hudsons, Beaufighters and Catalinas carried out raids to destroy Japanese bases and aircraft, and divert enemy forces from Allied columns.^[43] Through March and April 1944, Cole had thirteen squadrons under his control, and was supporting amphibious operations against Hollandia and Aitape.^[44] In May, he directed bombing from North-Western Area on Surabaya as part of Operation Transom.^[45]

Cole handed over North-Western Area to Air Commodore Alan Charlesworth in September 1944.^[46] He took up an appointment as Air Member for Personnel (AMP) in October,^[5] but was removed soon afterwards following an incident at RAAF Headquarters, Melbourne. The Chief of the Air Staff, Air Vice Marshal George Jones, received an anonymous letter alleging that Cole had been drunk and lost control at a mess meeting on 8 November. Investigating the matter, Jones was unable to establish whether or not Cole had been drunk but was satisfied that he had not behaved appropriately, and issued him a warning without charging or otherwise disciplining him.^[47] Under pressure from the government, Jones dismissed Cole from the position of AMP and posted him to Ceylon in January 1945 as RAAF Liaison Officer to South East Asia Command.^{[5][47]} Cole served in this role until the end of the war, taking part in negotiations for the Japanese capitulation and acting as Australia's senior representative at the formal surrender ceremony in Singapore on 12 September 1945.^[2]

Retirement and legacy



Cole (far left) as RAAF Liaison Officer to SEAC, with Air Chief Marshal Sir Keith Park (centre) and Air Marshal Sir Hugh Saunders (far right), near Penang, c. August 1945

Cole was summarily retired from the RAAF in 1946, along with a number of other senior commanders and veterans of World War I, primarily to make way for the advancement of younger and equally capable officers. In an earlier minute to the Minister for Air, Arthur Drakeford, regarding post-war command prospects, Air Vice Marshal Jones had assessed Cole as having failed to display "certain of those qualities expected to be possessed by senior officers of such rank". In any case, his role overseas was redundant.^{[48][49]} Cole, for his part, later wrote to the Melbourne *Herald* that he considered the RAAF's administration during World War II to be "weak", and that as a consequence he felt "a lot happier to serve most of the War with the Royal Air Force".^[50]

Ranked substantive Air Commodore and honorary Air Vice Marshal,^[2] Cole was officially discharged from the RAAF on 17 April 1946.^[51] He resented being forcibly retired, and stood for election as the Liberal Party candidate for Drakeford's seat, the Victorian Division of Maribyrnong, in the federal election that year. Cole stated that his candidacy was "an endeavour to bring some sense and stability to Government administration", but was unsuccessful, with Drakeford retaining the seat.^[52] Cole subsequently served as a director with Pacific Insurance and Guinea Airways. Survived by his wife and four children, he died in Melbourne of chronic respiratory disease on 14 February 1966, and was buried in Camperdown Cemetery, Victoria, following a funeral at RAAF Base Laverton.^[2]

Cole Street and the Cole Street Conservation Precinct at Point Cook Base, RAAF Williams, are named for Adrian Cole.^[53] His decorations were held by the Naval and Military Club, Melbourne, where he had been a long-standing member.^{[3][54]} In July 2009, following the club's dissolution, the medals were to be auctioned along with other memorabilia. This action was challenged by Cole's family, who argued that his decorations were only on loan to the club, and should be donated to the Australian War Memorial.^[54]

Military offices		
Preceded by John Cole-Hamilton	Air Officer Commanding RAF in Northern Ireland 1942–1943	Succeeded by Donald Stevenson
Preceded by Air Commodore Frank Bladin	Air Officer Commanding North-Western Area 1943–1944	Succeeded by Air Commodore Alan Charlesworth

Notes

- ^{a b c} Newton, *Australian Air Aces*, p.29
- ^{a b c d e f g h i j} Eaton, *Australian Dictionary of Biography*, pp.459–460
- ^{a b c d e} Knox, *Who's Who in Australia 1935*, p.123
- ^a Malvern, a neighbouring suburb of Glen Iris, has also been given as Cole's birthplace, for example in Cutlack, *The Australian Flying Corps*, p.466
- ^{a b c d e f g h} Dennis et al, *The Oxford Companion to Australian Military History*, p.136
- ^{a b c} Adrian Trevor Cole at The AIF Project. Retrieved on 24 March 2009.
- ^{a b} Stephens, *The Royal Australian Air Force*, p.9
- ^a Cutlack, *The Australian Flying Corps*, pp.52–54
- ^a Australian Naval Aviation - Part 1 at Naval Historical Society of Australia. Retrieved on 14 July 2009.
- ^a Cutlack, *The Australian Flying Corps*, p.56
- ^a Recommendation for Adrian Trevor Cole to be awarded a Military Cross at Australian War Memorial. Retrieved on 6 April 2009.
- ^a *London Gazette*: (Supplement) no. 30234, p. 8389, 14 August 1917. Retrieved on 27 March 2009.
- ^a Cutlack, *The Australian Flying Corps*, pp.63,66–67
- ^a AWM Collection Record: P01034.050 at Australian War Memorial. Retrieved on 24 March 2009.
- ^a Cutlack, *The Australian Flying Corps*, p.69
- ^a Shores et al., *Above the Trenches*, p.112
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[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Adrian_Cole_\(RAAF_officer\)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Adrian_Cole_(RAAF_officer))

This letter reproduced in full as I trust there may be members who can assist Lt. Richardson. (Ed)

Dear Alan, Welcome to the role of Editor and my thanks to your predecessor, Lindsay Pritchard. Cascabel continues to provide interesting reading.

I have been researching the service history of several relatives who served in WW1 in preparation for a family history book. The first member of interest served from July 1916 to April 1919 before returning to Australia, fortunately surviving without any serious disability.

His unit was the 60th Battalion until it was disbanded in 1918, and then the 59th Battalion until it was also disbanded in 1919. It became apparent to me once I had started reviewing his personal service records and the unit war diaries, that his periods of active duty involved movement to many sites in rear areas as well as the reserve and front lines, the Somme being a notable example, and that maps to trace his movements were not readily available. This conclusion led me to search for maps that would allow one to show where all the sites, some 100 in number, were located. It became apparent early on that despite the many Internet sites accessible, available maps were very limited in their coverage and scale, particularly in rear areas and forward areas.

We tried the AWM in Canberra and the staff were very helpful in providing a number of maps that essentially covered sectors of battle areas. These only partially met my needs. In the course of my search using Google, I came upon a site titled " Report on Survey on the Western Front 1914-1918. The details provided under this title state: "Section III deals with the whole subject of map supply, both from England to France, and in France from GHQ to Armies, and from Armies to troops. The site address follows:

<http://www.defencesurveyors.org.uk/archives/world-war-1/survey-on-the-westernfront/Report%2520on%2520survey%2520on%2520western%2520front%2520draft%252020.doc>

While this report, comprising 133 pages not including appendices, may be known to many Cascabel readers, particularly those who have had experience in military survey, I can recommend a revisit to its contents as it contains many explanations for the absence of reliable detailed small scale maps prior to and during hostilities in that period of history. It is a story of its own! In a historical context, my present need is the same of that presented to the officers and NCOs of WW1 units of all Corps.

Despite the advent of better roads, communications, automobile associations in France and Belgium, small-scale maps seem almost unobtainable even today. Priority was clearly given for maps of existing and likely future battle areas. For the remaining areas, troops had to make do with whatever could be obtained or created by each unit. (I have found some quite detailed battle maps in the unit war diaries prepared by 2 Fd Coy Engineers in the course of my research for another relative who served in this unit). One would hope that the lessons learnt and recommendations in the report were passed forward to ensure suitable maps are available when a future need arises.

If you have not seen the report, it is worth reading being both concise and comprehensive. If nothing else it will exercise your survey brain cells.

I am still searching and if by chance a reader has any useful information on the availability of maps (1/25000 scale or better) covering the whole area occupied by A.I.F. units at various times, it would be welcomed. My email address is philar@netspace.net.au.

A last suggestion. Now that many more unit war diaries have been digitised and made available by the AWM, these could provide a valuable source for an interesting story. I should mention however that not all the war diaries are as detailed as the 60th Bn. They do provide facts about the service role of a family member's unit that is not contained in their service record.

Kind regards,

Phillip Richardson LT

Here's to the heroes. Especially for all of the young ones we have recently lost .

The average age of the military man is 19 years. He is a short haired, tight-muscled kid who, under normal circumstances is considered by society as half man, half boy. Not yet dry behind the ears, just old enough to buy a beer, but old enough to die for his country. He never really cared much for work and he would rather wax his own car than wash his father's, but he has never collected unemployment either.



He's a recent school graduate; he was probably an average student, pursued some form of sport activities, drives a ten year old bomb, and has a steady girlfriend that either broke up with him when he left, or swears to be waiting when he returns from half a world away He listens to rock and roll or hip-hop or rap or jazz or swing and a 155mm howitzer.

He is 5 or 10 kilos lighter now than when he was at home because he is working or fighting from before dawn to well after dusk. He has trouble spelling,

thus letter writing is a pain for him, but he can field strip a rifle in 30 seconds and reassemble it in less time in the dark. He can recite to you the nomenclature of a machine gun or grenade launcher and use either one effectively if he must.

He digs foxholes and latrines and can apply first aid like a professional.

He can march until he is told to stop, or stop until he is told to march.

He obeys orders instantly and without hesitation, but he is not without spirit or individual dignity. He is self-sufficient.

He has two sets of fatigues: he washes one and wears the other. He keeps his canteens full and his feet dry.

He sometimes forgets to brush his teeth, but never to clean his rifle. He can cook his own meals, mend his own clothes, and fix his own hurts.

If you're thirsty, he'll share his water with you; if you are hungry, his food. He'll even split his ammunition with you in the midst of battle when you run low.

He has learned to use his hands like weapons and weapons like they were his hands.

He can save your life - or take it, because that is his job.

He will often do twice the work of a civilian, draw half the pay, and still find ironic humour in it all.

He has seen more suffering and death than he should have in his short lifetime.



He has wept in public and in private, for friends who have fallen in combat and is unashamed.

He feels every note of the National Anthem vibrate through his body while at rigid attention, while tempering the burning desire to 'sort out' those around him who haven't bothered to stand, remove their hat, or even stop talking.

In an odd twist, day in and day out, far from home, he defends their right to be disrespectful.

Just as did his Father, Grandfather, and Great-grandfather, he is paying the price for our freedom.

Beardless or not, he is not a boy. He is the Aussie Fighting Man that has kept this country free for over 200 years.

He has asked nothing in return, except our friendship and understanding.

Remember him, always, for he has earned our respect and admiration with his blood.

And now we even have women over there in danger, doing their part in this tradition of going to War when our nation calls us to do so.



As you go to bed tonight, remember this shot.



A short lull, a little shade and a picture of loved ones in their helmets.

Prayer Wheel

'Lord, hold our troops in your loving hands.
Protect them as they protect us.
Bless them and their families for the selfless acts
they perform for us in our time of need. Amen.'

Contributed by WO2 Max Murray (Rtd)



SOME OTHER MILITARY REFLECTIONS

By COL Graham Farley, OAM, RFD, ED (Retd)

5. Uniforms

1954

Whether it was the Gilbert and Sullivan operettas or the lavish photographs and prints of traditional soldiery in their “gorgeous” uniforms, it was all a bit of “a come down” in those early national service days to wear “KWD’s” – Khaki Working Dress. Somehow on a back shelf in the Q store they had found a set to fit me although I was “not a pretty sight.” Also known as “boiler suits”!

The official uniform was either KDs (shirt and trousers of khaki drill) with boots, webbing belt and short guitars or khaki shirt, tie, battle dress jacket and trousers; again with webbing belt. On our heads we wore the Australian slouch hat with its Rising Sun badge. “Hats, khaki fir felt” had long been the distinguishing mark of “diggers” through two world wars. We were also issued with berets.

For field dress, we were issued with 37 pattern webbing, which came complete with shoulder straps, ammunition pouches, haversack and water bottle. With the rifle came the bayonet and scabbard. The rifle sling would also need cleaning regularly. There were plenty of bits of our uniform to “blanco” or polish with “brasso.” It all seemed designed to fill up our spare time.

High marks were awarded the QM who issued us our boots. The soles of the boots would need to be studded with brads. While some of my colleagues got black boots, I was inevitably issued with brown ones. These needed Raven Oil to change their colour to black. The leather of the boots had to be kept polished and it was essential to get the toe parts shining. The back of a tooth brush with a mixture of wetted (saliva) boot polish was generally the answer.

At the clothing issue at Dysart Siding on detraining on the first day of National Service, I was given KD pants that I decided that night were far too small for me. A fortnight later when our company or platoon came off fatigue duties, I fronted up at the Q store with my pants. I then found on putting them on that the army had more than adequately reduced my waist line through the energy (and fat) consuming work that we had been doing in the kitchens

I nearly forgot the great coat. This substantial woollen garment certainly kept a person warm in the field. I believe that it was designed to keep a soldier warm on bivouac if no tentage was available. But like everything else at that stage, size and weight seemed to take priority over convenience and usefulness.

I am sure in national service we wore “titles embroidered,” on our battle dress jacket shoulders but now we were issued with “signs formation.” The army had a precise name for everything. But of course this meant more sewing and our mothers were offered the privilege of doing it.

Dressed like an officer

The mark of the officer was the badge of rank – the “pips” and crowns worn on epaulettes. The “pips” were miniatures of the Order of the Bath. In their centre were three acorns, worn with two of them uppermost.

While the navy and the air forces of the world have traditionally displayed rank with “bars” or “rings,” armies have followed the British pattern, although their “pips” and crowns are replaced with appropriate national symbols.

The cap

Warrant Officers and above wore caps. Caps, whether on police or customs officers, have always denoted authority. That the slouch hat is now worn by all army ranks, from the Chief of Army down, is perhaps a matter for psychological study. Furthermore the badge of rank in battle has come off the shoulder to be hung singly on a strap on the chest.

I had marched into the 1956 camp unaware that my First Appointment of 12 Dec 55 had been gazetted. The first thing I had to do was to get issued with a cap. Then I had to find a piece of fencing wire to give the cap a “worn” shape. Rank sleeves were readily available.

While there was an Australian manufacturer for caps, “one up-manship” was to have a Herbert Johnson cap from London. I got mine there in 1966. I have previously related how my head measurement was taken; the cap fitted and the badge placed on the peak. The Herbert Johnson cap served me well until my colonelcy warranted an upgrade, with the red band – a “red hat.”¹

Safari jacket

I always felt that this was one of the most useful garments that the army ever issued me with. Made of a material with a capacity to breathe, the safari jacket did not require a shirt. It came with capacious pockets and a cloth belt.

Blues and patrols

In the post-war period the Army Board introduced a “walking out” uniform for all ranks. This consisted of a white shirt, black tie, a black jacket and trousers. Down the side of the trousers ran a generous thick red stripe denoting regiment or corps..

For the head there was a cap in the same black colour as the jacket. Around it was a red stripe of cloth. It became known universally as a “Caps, red ridiculous”! Officers were issued with gold shoulder boards for more formal occasions. As an alternative to mess dress, these “blues” uniforms were ubiquitous.

A cynic might suggest that when AHQ does not know what to do they change the uniform in some way. So it was with the blues jacket. The shirt and tie were done away with and the jacket pattern reverted to the patrol collar – a very sensible decision.

Having had a proposal in marriage accepted in 1971; I decided that if I was going into the married ranks I might as well go with drums beating and swords flashing. Permission was granted for a military wedding, but I had not yet got my new blues patrol jacket.

The solution was to borrow a fellow lieutenant-colonel’s uniform to wear. Mike Vincent kindly agreed and in due course, with a bit of taking in with safety pins, I was ready for the ceremony.. At the wedding Mike’s uniform was in effect closer to my wife than I was! This had a sequel when Mike next came to wear his uniform. Had it shrunk or had he swelled? When the safety pins came out, all was explained and the story ended happily!

Mess dress

Mess dress is probably the only item of the “gorgeous” side of uniforms to survive. Each corps and regiment has its own distinctive pattern. In addition to the basic stiff white shirt and black tie, the kit consists of waist coat, jacket and trousers. For summer wear, a white jacket without waist coat is permitted.

Officers who could afford it would consider acquiring mess kit, service dress and possibly a sword. The penalty for having this range of uniform was often to be placed at the top table at mess functions. This may initially sound as promotion or recognition, but when one has sat at the end of the top table and been unable to speak to anyone down the side wings, the situation has its drawbacks.

Service dress

There were both summer and winter weights for service dress. The winter cloth was barathea. Having got this style, then a Sam Browne belt was necessary. When I needed one, sources in Pakistan were both reliable and prompt in fulfilling my order.

Commonwealth Government Clothing Factory

This was a most efficient establishment. Presumably it went back to the World War II days. It specialised in military uniforms and had a team of competent tailors who had ready access to the styles, patterns and idiosyncrasies of each corps or regiment. Then it was closed down. The contracts were let to civilian

¹ I have seen nothing to suggest that anyone has thought about adding a red puggaree to field and above rank officers, although the red georgette patches live on.

tailoring companies, who may have been able to do the tailoring to the same standard but not to have the knowledge of the various quirks of uniform for each regiment or corps.

I ordered my service dress and mess jacket from the CGCF when I was parading at Warragul. I had the initial fitting, but could not get the time off for a second fitting. Consequently, while the mess waist coat and jacket fitted me tolerably well, there was always a problem with the shoulders of my service jacket.

I did not make the same mistake with my colonel's service dress or with my white mess jacket. I was prepared to go back and back to get fittings to get them just right.

But the body changes

One excuse given as one ages is that a uniform is liable to shrink when hung up in its cupboard. That is a furphy. It is the human body that varies. Over the years I have swelled, slimmed and swelled again – and sometimes in different places! My winter mess jacket reflects this and it is almost past saving. In that wonderful wartime colour film, *Henry V* by William Shakespeare, the French cavalry are inserted into their armour and then winched on to their horses. I feel like that when I struggle into my winter mess kit jacket!

Greens

At some stage in the post-war period higher command realised we might be fighting in the jungles and no longer in the desert. In World War II in New Guinea, the soldiers were eventually kitted out in green KDs. Now it was to happen again in the CMF. But instead of pensioning off the khaki uniforms, someone decided that it would be cost effective to dye our khaki KDs green. I am sure that in the long run it wasn't a good idea. However, it was persevered with. It resulted in varying hues of green from emerald to light green – anything but uniform.

GP boots

For years the army wore boots with gaiters. Then the army introduced boots that had rubber soles and long sides making gaiters unnecessary and giving instant protection to the feet and ankles. It was now a matter of pride to obtain a pair. Naturally, the fighting units had priority but it was interesting to see how many of the new boots came on parade in the CMF and Army Reserve units.

Being conservative, I was content to wait until issued and in the meantime valiantly cleaned and wore my black gaiters with pride. Eventually, certain members in HQ FF Gp decided that the colonel had to be updated. I was frog-marched to a uniform store in Puckapunyal and duly issued. They have served me well. The greatcoat went out of service to be replaced with a very warm "trench" jacket.

I was "time expired" before the disruptive or camouflage uniform was adopted.



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