

CASCABEL

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ROYAL AUSTRALIAN ARTILLERY ASSOCIATION
(VICTORIA) INCORPORATED

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LTCOL Graham Farley as DS at the CRA's 3 Div TEWT at the Police Paddocks, Lysterfield, 18 June 1972
CAPT Reg Wheller is seated at left. COL Howard Taylor is standing at right. MAJ Noel Denton is presenting
his solution to the current problem. (Photograph courtesy of LTCOL Bob Sealey)

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The President Writes

Not a lot has happened for me to report on since the last *Cascabel*. This does not mean that nothing is happening; it means that most of the interesting items appear elsewhere in the Magazine.

We have not yet had any comments from the Membership about the Annual General Meeting.

Although the next one seems a long way away, we need to start planning, and so we would really appreciate your thoughts on things such as day, time and format. For example, maybe the meeting could be conducted in conjunction with some other Association activity. Please let us have your thoughts on this matter by contacting any of the Association Committee Members.

A number of Association activities are being planned for this year. Our biggest problem is contacting the Membership at fairly short notice. For example, a trip to P & EE Graytown is being planned, but we have to fit in with their schedule that is arranged by them at relatively short notice. To overcome this problem we wish to make the best use of e-mail for those who have access to this system. Please ensure that we have your address.

The time for the Gunner Dinner is rapidly approaching. As you know, the venue this year will change and the invitation to attend is being extended to Gunners of all ranks. The invitation to all Members is included in this issue of *Cascabel*. Some thoughts from the COL COMDT, BRIG Perry about the Dinner are included in this Magazine.

We would really appreciate a good response from all Members, and the WO, SNCO and OR Members in particular.

I wish you all good health and happiness for the future.



Membership Report

3 March 2004

Current Membership

Life Members	221
Annual Members	75
Affiliates	46
Others (CO/CI, Messes, etc.)	11
Libraries	4
Total	<u>357</u>

At this date our records show that five of our Annual Members have not paid their subscriptions for 2003-2004.

There still seems to be some difference of ideas about the membership and formal raising of an RAA Vietnam Association. I have therefore temporarily removed it from our affiliate records.

We regret the passing of LT Athol Leslie Relph and MAJ Frank Henry Wood MBE ED
Lt Relph joined the Association as an Annual Member on 29/04/88. He was a Member of
2 AUST FD REGT (AIF).

MAJ Wood joined the Association as an Annual Member on 01/07/82. He was a Member
of 2/2 FD REGT Association.

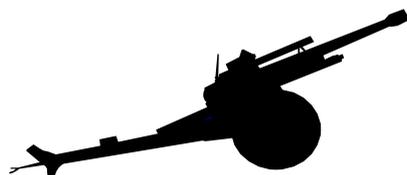
ANOTHER REMINDER about the **new proforma** on the **last page below the Parade Card**.

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 future changes.

Neil Hamer Contact: Telephone: 9702 2100

MAJ E-mail: nhamer@lexicon.net

Membership Co-ordinator



RAA Association (Victoria) Inc Corps Shop

The following items may be purchased by mail, or at selected Association activities.

PRICE LIST

<p>Badges, etc</p> <p>RAA Assn (Vic), members \$5.00 RAA badge cuff links \$9.00 Key ring, RAA badge \$4.00 Key ring, RAA (Pewter) \$4.00</p> <p>Ties</p> <p>Blue with single red gun \$30.00 RAA Burgundy with gold gun \$43.00 RAA Navy with gold gun \$43.00 St Barbara Stripe \$43.00</p> <p>Books</p> <p><i>Kookaburra s Cutthroats</i> \$39.00 <i>Aust Military Equip Profiles</i> \$13.50 <i>AMEF Profile Leopard Tank</i> \$17-00</p> <p>ENQUIRIES:</p> <p>BRIAN CLEEMAN (03) 9560 7116 REG MORRELL (03) 9562 9552</p>	<p>Stationery</p> <p>Card, RAA badge, with envelope Christmas message \$0.20 blank inside \$0.20</p> <p>Stickers</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">Bumper: <i>Gunners do it with a bigger bang</i> \$2.00</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">Square: gold badge, red and blue background \$2.00</p> <p>ORDERS:</p> <p>Most orders will require an additional FIVE DOLLARS packing and postage, which will cover one to several small items. If in any doubt concerning this, or availability, please contact one of the enquiries numbers above.</p> <p>Cheques should be made payable to RAA Association (Victoria) Inc, and be crossed <i>Not Negotiable</i>.</p> <p>Orders to: Mr B. Cleeman 28 Samada Street Notting Hill VIC 3168</p>
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AN AUSTRALIAN GUNNER

**Major General and Inspector General of Australia's Army Reserve
JOHN MALCOM (JOCK) McNEILL AO, OBE, ED (Retd)**



It was my privilege and honour to have served with Major General McNeill, known as Jock to his friends.

A World War II Gunner who enlisted in the 2nd A.I.F. in 1940, as a Gunner in the 2/2nd Heavy Anti-aircraft Regiment. Served with various units in Egypt, Palestine, Syria and Lebanon as well as New Guinea and Borneo, held the rank of Sergeant on discharge 1945. Often joked of returning home on a hospital ship with a broken hand from playing cricket on the beach at war's end.

My association with Major General McNeill began in 1948 as recruits with the Citizen Military Forces / Army Reserve. Jock was promoted to Gunnery Sergeant for our first Annual Camp at Flinders Naval Depot at Crib Point, after which a number of us attended the School of Artillery at Manly New South Wales. Jock was commissioned later that year, 1949. During my service of Reserve and National Service at Puckapunyal, Port Fairy and other campsites Jock was my Battery Captain, Battery Commander and Commanding Officer. His knowledge and wartime experience as a Gunner, and his adaptability to be calm and in control in any given situation, particularly with 3.7 anti-aircraft gunnery, was always outstanding.

LT McNeill was selected to attend the Queen's Coronation. A series of promotions during the 1950s saw him take command of 2nd Field Regiment RAA in Melbourne in 1960. LT COL McNeill returned to Geelong as Commander 8th Medium Regiment from 1961 to 1965, and in succession, Staff Training Unit and then Officer Training Group, before being promoted to Brigadier as Commander Royal Artillery (CRA), 4th Task Force in 1971.

Promoted to Major General commanding 3rd Division in Victoria from 1973-1976, when he was appointed Assistant Commander of the Australia-wide Logistics Command in 1976 and finally Inspector General of the Army Reserve in 1977, retiring the following year. In recognition of his military service MAJ GEN McNeill was awarded the Efficiency Decoration in 1965, an OBE in 1965 and an AO in 1997.

He was Association Patron of the 10th Medium Regiment RAA Association at the time of his death, 15th November 2003.

WOII L.R.J.Foster (retired)

Major General Timothy Frederick Cape, CB, CBE, DSO
5/8/1915 - 20/12/2003

Timothy Frederick Cape, the son of Charles Scarvell Cape solicitor of Sydney, and Maude Want Cape was born at Vaucluse. He was the youngest of three children and in a line of colonists who first came to New South Wales from the United Kingdom in 1821.

He became a well-known figure during his long service in the Australian Army, in his subsequent role as a business consultant, and through his association with many organisations and clubs. He was a very pleasant, gregarious and agreeable character who easily made friends and readily contributed to discussion whether it be one relating to some problem of the moment or merely social.

Tim's interest in the Army stemmed from his father, a member of the volunteer movement in New South Wales, who had served in the war in South Africa 1901 - 1902 and was awarded the Distinguished Service Order. At Cranbrook School he was an enthusiastic member of the cadet corps becoming a cadet lieutenant. Possibly this interest in matters military was reinforced by the then headmaster, Iven Mackay (later Lieutenant General Sir Iven, a highly respected AIF leader in World War 2), a keen citizen soldier who had recognized Capes potential and appointed him head prefect. This caused more than a little stir at the time as Cape was a Roman Catholic and the School of Anglican persuasion. The circumstances of this appointment would have assisted in the further development of Capes already strong character. Mackay encouraged him to apply for entry to the Royal Military College. It was accepted.

Together with ten other Australians and four New Zealand cadets, Tim marched in to RMC on 1 March 1934. Of this small class, twelve graduated on 14 December 1937. Cape was commissioned in the Australian Staff Corps and allotted to Artillery. Despite only a short service with the guns he retained a great interest in the Regiment until his death.

His first gunner posting was Regimental duty with 1st Heavy Brigade at Georges Heights, Sydney, where he gained experience with 6-inch Marks 7 and 11 coast-defence guns and the newly installed 9.2 inch battery on North Head. Ahead lay some practical and Battery, from March 1939. They faced the task of installing two 6-inch guns on Paga Hill for the defence of the port and manning them on a limited basis. The isolation of this coast defence „outpost“ was somewhat ameliorated when international tension led to a finer focus on the defence of Papua and New Guinea and the formation of HQ 8th Military District in Port Moresby to organise defence preparations in the region. Cape for a short while was much involved in this endeavour as the administrative staff officer of the district before his return to Australia in March 1941.

Cape was hoping to be allotted to an AIF unit for active service in the Middle East like so many of his staff contemporaries, but this was not to be. He was given the challenge of establishing the Anti-Tank Wing of the School of Artillery at Puckapunyal, Victoria. This he tackled with enthusiasm and drive in the face of extremely limited expertise, doctrine, guns, ammunition and every type of equipment. Quite some time later, this outstanding and meritorious service coupled with his earlier activities in New Guinea were recognised when he became a Member of the Order of the British Empire. In the meantime the demands of the moment kept him very busy until his desire for an AIF appointment was granted in a rush.

He was posted as Brigade Major 23rd Infantry Brigade on 5 February 1942, told to pack his bag and get to Darwin without delay. As it turned out his appointment was to HQ Sparrow Force charged with the defence of Koepang and the nearby Penfui airfield in Dutch Timor. He arrived on the island with his commander, Brigadier WCD Veale, on 12th February a few days before the Japanese landed and in fierce fighting overwhelmed the major part of the sole infantry element, the 2/40th infantry Battalion. Cape and his commander evaded capture and linked with the 2/2nd Independent Company, which was operating in Portuguese Timor. He then endured the hardships and adventures of guerrilla warfare including being adrift in a canoe for a day while evading capture. He was recalled to Australia in August and mentioned in despatches for exceptional services in the field.

By October 1942, Cape was back in Port Moresby at HQ New Guinea Force as a Lieutenant Colonel where he gained a signal reputation, in the face of enormous difficulties, for putting the arrangements for offensive air support and air supply in that theatre on a sound basis. There is no doubt that Cape's charm and gift for getting on with people, coupled with his determination and drive as a major factor in overcoming communication problems, the paucity of resources, lack of common doctrine and understanding of basics of inter service and allied co-operation. He made a major contribution to overcoming the chaotic army / air situation which obtained in the early days of the New Guinea campaign.

Attendance at the Staff School and a posting to Land HQ was followed by a further stint in the air support business for the final campaigns involving Australian forces in Borneo. In recognition of both his contributions in the field of air support addition he was made a Companion of the Distinguished Service Order and awarded the US Bronze Star in recognition of his sterling wartime contributions.

The cessation of hostilities saw Cape posted to the Occupation Force in Japan as the senior operations staff officer. Two years at Army HQ followed until his talents in joint operations were put to good use as an instructor at the UK School of Combined Operations from November 1949 and then attended the Staff College, Camberley. Before returning to Australia at the end of 1953 he attended the UK Joint Services Staff College. These four years were the start of a love affair with the UK which could fairly classify Cape as an anglophile.

Back in Australia he was headed for higher things, being promoted to Colonel as Commandant of the Officer Cadet School, an appointment which he averred as the most rewarding of his career. Then for a short while he was Commandant of the Australian Staff College and promoted to Brigadier followed by duty as Deputy Master General of the Ordnance in April 1957.

Cape wrapped up his already extensive military education by attending the Imperial Defence College, London 1960 course. On return, he was Chief of Staff Northern Command throughout 1961, during this time he picked up the soubriquet "Marco Polo" in recognition of his penchant for frequent travel to the far reaches of the command, which besides Queensland included Papua New Guinea and reaching to the equator. He married Elizabeth Rabett the daughter of Colonel RLR Rabett of Sydney on 31 August 1961. They had been friends since schooldays and on occasions he remarked with regret that he had not asked much earlier!

Short stints in Melbourne at Army HQ and as Commander Central Command preceded promotion to Major General in February 1965 as General Officer Commanding Northern Command for three years before his final Army duty as Master General of the Ordnance. He retired in August 1972 as a Companion of the Order of the Bath, awarded in 1972 and Commander of the Order of the British Empire in 1966. He often remarked on what a satisfying career he had enjoyed but with regret that the resonant title of Master General of the Ordnance had been changed to the prosaic Chief of Material - Army.

Retirement brought activity in new fields, with connections to his experience in the materiel area. As a consultant he advised a number of enterprises in relation to their contacts with governments in the provision of defence equipment. Much to his satisfaction this involved frequent overseas visits. Notable were those to the biennial air shows at Farnborough, UK and Le Bourget, France, conveniently arranged on alternate years. For the most part visits were extended to allow contact with relatives and many friends in the UK, Canada and USA. His desire to keep up contacts and travel seemed unquenchable.

His circle of friendship was wide. He was a member of many clubs, societies and associations, often in an official position. Some were the Royal United Services Institution, where he was both the ACT and National President, the National Council of the Red Cross, where he was both a Councillor and Chairman of the National Disaster Relief Committee, the Australian Britain Society, trustee of the RAA Historical Society, the RAA Association ACT and others. He was particularly proud of his Gunner connections. He actively pursued such activities until he died on 20th December 2003. He is survived by his only child Lizette, her husband Stephen Amorsen and grandchildren Ingrid, Greta and Elsa. Our sympathy goes out to them.

Vale General Tim/Marco Polo Ubique

John Whitelaw, January 2004



ANZAC Day 2004

Members and their families and friends are invited to join the 2/10th Field Regiment for the Dawn Service held at the Chapel Street Depot. Messes at the Chapel Street depot will be open after the main march.

(No further details were available at the time of printing)



From: MAJ N Hamer RFD
For Convening Committee
Gunner Dinner 2004

INVITATION

Gunner Dinner 2004

You and your gunner guests are extended a warm invitation to attend the
2004 All Ranks Gunner Dinner
to be held at the Prahran Town Hall, corner of Chapel and Greville Streets, Prahran
on Friday 25th June, 2004 at 1900 for 1930 hrs.

Dress is Mess Dress, Black Tie with Miniatures, Lounge Suit, or Jacket and Tie.
Serving members may wear polyesters.

The Banner of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II will be paraded.
The Band of the 2/10 FD REGT will provide music.

Entrée is \$65 per person and includes pre-dinner drinks, hors d'oeuvres, three courses
table wines, port, coffee and cheese.

After dinner drinks will be available at reasonable prices.

Please return the form below, together with a cheque made payable to the RAA Assoc
(Vic)
not later than Friday 4th June 2004.

The Association looks forward to your support for this Dinner at the new venue at Prahran Town Hall.

The Commanding Officer and the Presidents of the Mess Committees have kindly made available
the Chapel Street Depot and Messes at the conclusion of the Dinner.

Any member who requires assistance with transport should contact MAJ Jason Cooke on
Home: 03 9705 1155. Work: 03 9282 4937. e-mail: jason.cooke@defence.gov.au

Carers are also welcome to attend, but the entrée must be paid

Enquires and return address: 6 Melissa Street Mount Waverley 3149, Phone 9702 2100,
e-mail: nhamer@lexicon.net



GUNNER DINNER 2004

Rank _____ Name _____

I accept your invitation to attend the 2004 Gunner Dinner.

Enclosed is a cheque for \$ _____ which includes entrée for my guests

Rank _____ Name _____

Rank _____ Name _____

Special dietary requirements _____

If possible I wish to seated near _____

2004 RESERVE FORCES DAY MARCH



Under the patronage of Mr John Landy AC MBE
Governor of Victoria,
Honorary Colonel Royal Victoria Regiment



SUNDAY 4th JULY 2004

COME ALONG & CELEBRATE RESERVE FORCES DAY WITH YOUR MATES!!
PAST & PRESENT MEMBERS OF NAVY, ARMY & AIRFORCE

- MILITIA
- CITIZEN MILITARY FORCE
- NATIONAL SERVICE
- RESERVE

*Assembly/Forming Up Point: Queen Victoria Gardens, South of Princes Bridge (Melways Map 2F Ref. H7)
Assemble at: 1100HRS to step off at 1130HRS for the march to the Shrine of Remembrance forecourt
where a short Service and Wreath laying ceremony will be conducted.*



Officer, Victorian Volunteer Rifles
circa 1860

SESQUICENTENARY
(150th Anniversary)
**MELBOURNE
VOLUNTEER RIFLE
REGIMENT**
'The Australian ARMY in Victoria - 150 years of History'



Today's Soldier,
5th/6th Battalion
The Royal Victoria Regiment

NAVY



RESERVE

ARMY



RESERVE

AIR FORCE



RESERVE

For more information on...
Reserve Forces Day
Call: (03) 9284 6614 or (03) 9650 1444
or visit our WEB SITE at
www.intergon.net/rifles/frdmarch.htm

Cannon Balls

A little cannon ball historical information!

In the heyday of sailing ships, all war ships and many freighters carried iron cannons. Those cannons fired round iron cannon balls. It was necessary to keep a good supply near the cannon.

But how to prevent them from rolling about the deck?

The best storage method devised was a square based pyramid with one ball on top, resting on four resting on nine which rested on sixteen. Thus, a supply of 30 cannon balls could be stacked in a small area right next to the cannon.

There was only one problem -- how to prevent the bottom layer from sliding/rolling from under the others. The solution was a metal plate called a "Monkey" with 16 round indentations. But if this plate was made of iron, the iron balls would quickly rust to it. The solution to the rusting problem was to make "Brass Monkeys."

Few landlubbers realize that brass contracts much more and much faster than iron when chilled. Consequently, when the temperature dropped too far, the brass indentations would shrink so much that the iron cannon balls would come right off the monkey. Thus, it was quite literally, "Cold enough to freeze the balls off a brass monkey"! (And all this time, you thought that was an improper expression, didn't you?)

Submitted by John Barrie Ries

CHURCH PARADE 2004

The Association was once again given a warm welcome by the members of St Bartholomew Anglican Church at Burnley, when we attended our annual Church Parade on the first Sunday in February.

We had a very good attendance this year, with some new faces helping to swell the numbers.

The service was conducted by Father David Patterson. LTCOL Peter Rowley, Commanding Officer of 2/10 Field Regiment, and MAJ Neil Hamer, Association President, did the readings.

The Regimental Band was in attendance to provide the music, and performed to their usual high standard. It was good to see several members have the opportunity to conduct individual pieces. Our band leader, WO1 David Farrell, is to be congratulated for his continuing efforts to challenge and develop his players.

The service was followed by a traditional light lunch in the church hall, with a variety of finger foods to sustain the conversation flow. We were able to meet and welcome the new Operations Officer, MAJ Steve Bennett, Adjutant CAPT Peter Meakin, and RSM WO1 Michael Johnson.

The Members of the Association would like to thank Father David for his continuing support, and we hope to be invited again next year. In anticipation we have already marked it on the Association Parade Card.



15 Field Regiment Get Together Dinner

On Sunday the 8th February last, the Officers and Senior NCO's with their wives and partners of the original 31 Med. Regt., 15 Lt. Regt. RAA & 22nd Fd. Regt.(SP) had a get together dinner at the Dandenong RSL. These members formed the Gippsland Regiments Own 15 Fd. Regt. RAA. and was the only Victorian Artillery unit ever to be granted the "Freedom of the City" being Dandenong. And what a day it was. Many at the dinner had not seen one another for nearly 40 years and there were some great yarns discussed over a few wines and ales.

We were very privileged to have with us Mrs. Elaine Hobson the widow of a loveable character Lt. Kelvin (Doc) Hobson and Mrs. Bev Cathie the Widow of Maj. Norm Cathie who was a much respected member and recently passed away. Norm and I worked on updating the nominal roll of members he had compiled and sadly would have helped me in the arrangements but that was not to be.

Two virgin soldiers who never seem to age were there namely, George Buttergeig and George (Piggy Piggy) Beale. It would not be a gathering without the two George's.

There were numerous members there and I would hate to try to name them all for the fear of missing one. But it is fair to say we covered all generation of the Regiment before the slash burning of 15 Fd. Regt RAA to 2/15 Fd. Regt RAA. When I look back over the years of my involvement as a Gunner & Tiffy, Artillery Units have been treated poorly in Victoria by the hierarchy in Canberra and Defence HQ's. But the esprit de corps is still there. Those attending with their wives and partners had a great time too reminiscing on old times in by gone days which are just as vivid now as ever. The only difference it the hair gets greyer or departs.

I had the pleasant task of welcoming everyone and then the sad part to conduct the Silent Tribute to passed members who have left our ranks. The list was a long one and again the memories flooded back. Lest We Forget.

Maj. Jim Killender gave an overview of the history of the Artillery Units in 3 Division up until the present time and this is when one really noticed the slash burn that went on with every re-organisation by the bean counters. Some great history was rendered to us by Jim and he is trying to put into operation the printing of this, but he needs ex members to order this book he is endeavouring to print which should be great. The last edition of Cascabel had all the contact details and order slips for Jim's book.

We had the privilege of Maj. Gen. Jim Barry to respond to the toasts of the Regiments. As one would expect he did it with great sense of feeling for us all present. I had the privilege to be Jim's BSM when he was BC P Bty and later when he came back to us a 2IC. We trained him well. There is to be a further dinner in August of 2005 as voted on and those hopefully to be run annually at Dandenong RSL. I hope to have a short newsletter out towards the end of this year as a reminder of the dinner and I would ask that if anyone changes their telephone, fax, mobile phone numbers or email address please let me know on email: malbugg@morwellrsl.com.au or ring 0351 337582.

Thank you to all those who attended as Moira and I had a great time meeting you all as many did recap the old times where the gunfire gets quicker and faster and the time fuses extended.

God bless to you all

*Mal Bugg
Morwell*



Letter to the Editor

My name is John "Dinga" Belfield and I joined 15 Field in 1962 & John Boothroyd was my boss in the LAD. Later I transferred to 4/19 PWLH LAD & stayed with them working as a recovery mechanic for 26 years (it was damn good fun). I have been a member of the Artillery Association since the 70's.

Over the last 45 years I have managed to put together the largest privately owned collection of Artillery, Armour & Transport in Aust. This was officially opened by Bruce Ruxton in 1993 as the Melb. Tank Museum.

To use Bruce's expression I am "well into my last quarter" and it is time to find a new permanent home for this unique collection. This is a wonderful opportunity to save a large piece of Military history & National heritage for future generations to see & appreciate. Too much historic military equipment has gone to the smelters. We have tried unsuccessfully over the last two years to get a state government Vic. NSW. QLD. SA & NT. or the RSL interested in purchasing the collection and housing it in an appropriate location. So this is there anybody in our 300 odd members with any enthusiasm to suggest how I might achieve this.
Hoping for some interest.

Yours Sincerely

John Belfield

As a follow up letter for information John has the following artillery pieces at the Melbourne Tank Museum.

1 x 2 PDR AT on wheels 1 x 2 PDR AT on Bren gun 1 x 2 Pdr on Portee 41 Ford carrier 4x4

1 x 6 PDR AT on wheels 1 x 17 PDR AT on wheels 3 X 25 PDR Gun Howitzer on wheels

1 X 25 PDR on Yeramba SP 1 x 120mm BAT on wheels 1 X 20mm oerlikon on trailer

(Grant Chassis) mounting

1 X 20mm oerlikon on 2 x 4.2inch mortars 1 on 1 x 3 inch mortar

amphibious LVT wheels

1 x 2 inch Mortar 1 x 40mm Bofor AA on wheels 1 x 40mm Twin naval mount AA

1 x 40mm naval mount AA 1 x 76mm WW1 German 1 x 150mm German howitzer

1 x 37mm American Forge AT 1 x 6 inch howitzer 1 x 6 inch howitzer traversing

on wheels platform

1 x 5.5 inch gun 1 x Mk 2 18 PDR 1 x Mk 4 18 PDR

1 x 18/25 PDR 1 x twin 4 inch naval mounting 1 x 6 inch naval barrel only

1 x 25 PDR Ammunition limber 1 x 18 PDR Ammunition limber 1 x 4.5 inch howitzer gun limber

1 x 4.5 inch howitzer on wheels 1 x 3.7 inch AA gun complete 1 x 105mm pack howitzer on wheels

Two large ammunition display cases

1 display of 8 barrels 37mm to 105mm

Approx 12 barrels mounted in tanks 37mm, 40mm, 75mm, 76mm, 84mm



MELBOURNE TANK MUSEUM

It's all real at the Melbourne Tank Museum!!

456 Belgrave Hallam Road,
Narre Warren North,
VIC 3804

Melway Ref. Map 108 G2

Opening Hours:- 11:00 am to 5:00 pm every Sunday

Closed June July August

Devonshire teas and coffee shop for mum to enjoy

Bring your camera. Photograph the kids having fun.

Buses and School groups etc catered for by appointment

Ph. 03-9796 8216 or
03-9796 8188

The Gunners of Victoria 1948 2000 Book

Correction

At the 15 Field Regiment lunch held at Dandenong recently a number of reply forms that were handed out had two typo errors and the correct details are listed below. If your letter was returned please reply to the one below. All of the replies to date have been for the \$70 version and I expect to make final arrangements with the printer in mid March to allow for any late expressions arrive. Thank you. Jim K.

Expression of Interest Survey

Name

Address **Suburb**

Post code **Telephone**

I am interested in :

...copies in book form 309 pages (9 in colour) with 203 figures @ \$70 Yes / No

...copies in book form 264 pages with 189 (4 in colour) figures @ \$40 Yes / No

...copies in precis form 137 pages with 5 figures (black & white) @ Yes / No

I am interested in purchasing a CD ROM, not yet costed Yes / No

The book is either plastic or wire bound.

Please send your expression of interest to:

Jim Killender 31 Longacres Road Yallambie Vic 3085

Tel: 9459 1563 (Phone & Fax) Email: jimkillender@tryyouth.org.au



Defence Reserves Association Victorian Branch

News

Now in keeping you and your Association up-to-date about Defence Reserves matters -

1. The **Minutes** of our last meeting (which was also the DRA Annual General Meeting)
2. **Dates** for the 2004 Calendar include -
 - a. 3 Division Reunion Lunch
When: Tuesday 1 June at 1230 until 1500
Cost: \$41-00.
Location: Naval and Military Club
Further details: The N&MC will be sending info to members on file, but the Club can be approached directly. Alternatively, contact can be through the DRA. Would your members consider forming a table?
 - b. Reserve Forces Day on Sunday 4 July:
Details are being circulated by that Committee. If you are not on their list, etc. let me know and I'll pass on your request to be kept informed.
 - c. Meeting of DRA Committee with Associations:
This is planned for some time in March. Will let you know details as soon as possible, once we start back again.
3. **News Items** include -
 - a. Leave for Defence Reservists: the Commonwealth Government Public Sector Leave Policy (for its employees) has been announced by the Minister Assisting the Minister of Defence. It is very similar to that for Victorian Government employees.
 - b. Private Sector Leave Policy for Defence Reservists and for Government Authority employees: the Defence Reserves Support Committee is working on this currently.
 - c. Honours and Awards: the current policy is that overlapping service for two awards means that the service counts for both. Thus members may be eligible for the National Medal as well as their existing awards.
 - d. New Service Medal? A service medal for minimum 2 years service has been proposed and has significant support. Government has yet to make and publish a decision on it.
 - e. Military Compensation Bill. This is currently before Parliament. There has been little if any information circulating on changes or progress. DRA will keep you informed of anything we hear.
 - f. Swords. As many will know there was a proposal to require owners to pay fees, etc. Currently, it is thought that this proposal may not go ahead. However await any announcements. It appears there have been many submissions highlighting problems and difficulties. DRA will keep you informed on what we hear, although the media may get the information out first!

g. Gold Card entitlements: some members may be entitled to these entitlements. Such members may need to check up on whether their service (even for a short period overseas) gives them that entitlement.

h. Australian Light Horse Memorial Park in Seymour. This is about 1 km along the Goulburn Valley Highway, south-east of Seymour towards Yea. Some Unit Associations have chosen to have memorial plaques appropriately mounted there. (Further details through me)

i. Military Heritage Trail (107 kms). This stretches from Puckapunyal to Murchison and Tatura. It incorporates museums, wineries and old camps. Suggested time to allow is half-a-day.

j. DRA membership. At the DRA AGM it was suggested that Associations be asked to pass on to members our existence and our need for members. This need for members is particularly for those with recent or current service experience, who can keep us current on Defence Reserve service, concerns, etc. This is what helps maintain our credibility in discussions with Defence. Thus a copy of the Membership Application form is attached.

4. **Defence Reservists "bumped" from Courses or Activities**: if/when this occurs, DRA will be most interested and take follow-up action. However we need to know about instances promptly. Please contact us asap.

5. **Death of LTCOL Brian Condon**: Brian died in December after a long battle with cancer. As we felt in the DRA: he was a most effective officer, tireless worker, well-loved comrade and most faithful servant of the ADF and its Reserves. He had been Treasurer of the DRA for some years and a long-term Committee member.

6. **New Treasurer for DRA**: MAJ Elizabeth Bedggood has accepted this role.

David Hardacre

Secretary DRA

PS. Additional Date for Calendar: **DRA National Conference in Melbourne**, probably late August or thereabouts (depends on Courses and availability of facilities in Watsonia, etc.)

The Victorian Committee of the DRA advises that some members have received a letter requesting they resign their commissions, and if they do not their commissions may be terminated.

The Victorian Committee advises that it would be better not to sign any document, and to refer matters to the DRA Secretary. (I can be contacted on 9432-7792 or by email). DRA Committee will follow up issues. Copies of relevant documents would be appreciated. Please advise DRA Secretary if such letters are received.

The letter would appear to apply to Inactive Officers who have not yet reached the Retiring Age of 65.

This information may be circulated as necessary.

David Hardacre

Secretary

Victorian Branch, Defence Reserves Association.

The Origin of Our Name:

DEFENCE RESERVES ASSOCIATION
The Defence Reserves Association was founded in 1969 as the Citizen Military Forces Association. The name was changed in 1987 to the Army Reserve Association. When it became Tri-Service in 1992, the name was changed to its current form of:

Defence Reserves Association (DRA).

In Victoria

Current Committee members (2003-2004)

include

BRIG A.J. McGilliard RFD ED President
CMDR M.J. Hedges RFD RANR Vice Pres. - Navy
LTCOL P. Riley AM RFD Vice-President - Army
COL W.M. Vincent RFD ED Immed.Past President
WO2 R.D. Hardacre Secretary
LTCOL B.T. Condon Treasurer and DRSC Rep
MAJ E.D. Bedgood RFD Assistant Secretary
LTCOL D.M. Arden RFD
MAJGEN J.E. Barry AM MBE RFE ED
SQNLDR M. Dance
LTCOL I.D. George RFD ED
CMDR P. Hicks RFD RANR
MAJ I.S.A. Rainford OAM ED National Secretary
LTCOL G.J. Sharkey RFD
LTCOL R.N. Taylor RFD
CAPT P.W. Wertheimer RFD Reserve Forces Day
Committee Representative

The Committee is actively supported by a group of advisors and counsellors, together with members who provide political liaison.

Should you be able to suggest other names for membership, please advise the Secretary or any Committee members of their names and/or

Membership Application Forms are available from the Secretary and other Committee members.

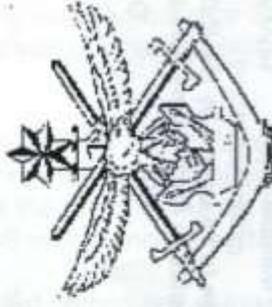
**PLEASE DETACH AND RETURN
REPLY SLIP ON REVERSE**

To

**The Secretary,
DRA - Victorian Branch
P.O. Box 88
Briar Hill
VIC 3088**

The Defence Reserves Association

VICTORIAN BRANCH



Serving the Reservist

What is the Defence Reserves Association
The DRA is a tri-service organisation with the aim of supporting the ADF and, in particular, promoting the interests and safeguarding the concerns of its Defence Reserves component We are committed to the well-being of the Defence Reserves.

TO ACHIEVE THIS, THE ASSOCIATION NEEDS A STRONG MEMBERSHIP.

Who can become members?

Membership of the Defence Reserves Association (DRA) is open to all individuals and organisations with an interest in defence. Many regimental and corps associations are affiliated with the DRA. Reservists, both retired and presently serving members, are most welcome to join the DRA regardless of their membership of other associations.

What is the DRA structure?

DRA branches are established in each state. The federal executive (presently located in NSW) co-ordinates national policy and carries out liaison on defence matters directly with both Government and Opposition members of Parliament.

How does the DRA operate at National level?

Meetings are held frequently with senior uniformed and civilian officers within the Department of Defence to discuss a wide range of issues particularly those affecting Reserves. Meetings on policy matters are often held between State committees and federal parliamentarians to present the DRA perspective on defence planning intentions and to discuss likely implications for Defence Reservists.

National Conference and AGM

The federal executive arranges a national conference annually, to provide the opportunity for politicians and senior serving officers to address the association on defence policy matters. Any member can attend the national conference.

The national **Annual General Meeting**, which follows the conference, is attended by executive and (State) branch committee representatives. It provides the opportunity for DRA policy to be debated and for the ensuing year's strategic plan to be decided. Matters arising from the National Conference are reported to members by a national publication "The Reservist" and through a State newsletter distributed by the Victorian committee.

The **Victorian AGM** is usually held in October or November. All current and potential members are encouraged to attend to:

- review and discuss progress during the past 12 months,
- identify issues of concern to Reservists and ex-Reservists
- discuss policy implementation, and
- participate in committee elections.

The DRA Needs You

Our membership needs ongoing revitalisation. You are urged to think seriously about joining. Your support will be most welcome, and your modest membership contribution greatly appreciated.

Do you need the DRA?

How to join?

Complete and forward the attached Application Form to:
The Secretary,
DRA Victorian Branch
PO Box 88,
BRIAR HILL, VIC 3088

Please detach, complete the details & return to the Secretary

Application for Membership

**DEFENCE RESERVES ASSOCIATION
VICTORIAN BRANCH**

I apply for membership of the Defence Reserves Association (Victorian Branch) for the year 2003-2004, and enclose payment for:

Annual Subscription: \$20.00

OR

Life Membership: \$200.00

(please select one)

I agree to be bound by the Rules of the Association for the time being in force.

Signed: _____ Date: _____

Surname: _____ First Names: _____

Rank/Mr./Mrs/Ms: _____ Decorations/Awards and Post Nominals _____

Address: _____

Postcode _____

Phone No.: Home _____

Work _____

Email address: _____

Inhalation of Helium Gas.

I have just been reading of a report from the Rural Ambulance Service of Victoria by Tony Walker who has attempted to impart the danger of inhaling Helium gases from either a balloon or from the cylinder.

Remembering back to my days in the Met section at 132Bty and when attached to 131Bty some soldiers liked to provide some lighter moments by gulping mouthfuls of gas to make their vocal chords relax and give their voice the effect of talking like Donald Duck. It seemed funny at the time but reading OH&S articles now it certainly could have proved fatal to the operators concerned.

In the past the public seems to have accepted comedians using Helium gas as a means to produce "funny" voice effects and of course we believed that it was not detrimental to our health. This could not be further from the truth as there are documented cases where people have actually died from this action. Mr Walker says "the inhalation of helium cuts off a person's oxygen supply, which can lead to dizziness, unconsciousness and possibly even death. It is particularly deadly when it is mixed with other volatile substances such as alcohol".

We have had access to helium in the public domain for some time and we are probably a bit careless in its handling. In balloon filling we do not need to take special precautions with it like we did for Hydrogen as it is an inert and none explosive gas, unlike hydrogen when its mixed with Oxygen.

Walker cites a recent case in Victoria where a young child nearly died after inhaling helium from a party balloon then collapsing to the floor. Others have not been so lucky. "Inhaling a single breath of helium directly from a cylinder is even worse as it can cause a stroke like condition due to bubbles entering the brain resulting in coma, blindness, lung damage or stroke", Mr. Walker stated.

Presented in the light of keeping gunners informed.

Craig Cook WO2 [retd]



Third Division Reunion Luncheon

This year the lunch will be held at the Naval & Military Club on Tuesday 1st June at a cost of \$41 per head which includes wine and/or soft drinks with the meal, the bar being open before and after. Last year's lunch was attended by ninety people and was most successful, again this year the emphasis will be on "reunion with old mates" with very limited 'speechifying, the M.C., MAJGEN Jim Barry will ensure this occurs. I would stress that this is an ALL RANKS function and I would hope that members of the RAA Association will make up a table(s).



The
Naval and 
Military Club
Melbourne

The President,

LTCOL Ewen Cameron

And

The Defence Reserves Association (Victorian Branch)

*request the pleasure of your company at the Third Division Reunion Luncheon to be held in the
Streeton Room*

Tuesday 1st.^d June 2004

12.30 for 1.00pm

\$ 41 per person

*Dress: Jacket and Tie
2004*

RSVP: Thursday 20th May

Please detach and return the following to :

Derren, The Naval & Military Club, 27 Little Collins Street, Melbourne, Vic 3000

Tel: (03) 9650 4741 Fax: (03) 9650 6529 Email:house@nmclub.com.au

Name:.....

Member Associate Member Non Member

Please charge to my House Account Club NoOR Please charge my Credit Card.

Amount \$ Credit card type: Amex / Diners/ Visa/ Mastercard/ Bankcard

Card number: _____ Expiry date: _____ / _____

Name on card: _____ Signature: _____

Contact Telephone Number: _____

I would like to be seated with (person/unit/Association) _____

MY SERVICE CAREER
By COL Graham Farley, OAM, RFD, ED (Rtd)
Part 15 -- CO, 10 Medium Regiment, RAA, the second year, 1972

The highlight of the year was the group camp, but before that was held, there were a number of military activities. I visited both the Melbourne University Regiment and the Officer Cadet Training Unit. The previous system whereby units could coach and prepare their NCOs for first appointment had been superseded by centralization at units such as these. There were arguments for both approaches, but the new one was tougher on units parading well away from Melbourne, a characteristic suffered by the "country" in many areas of life.

CAPT Peter Lynch had been appointed adjutant towards the end of the previous year and CAPT Brian Lord returned to the unit as QM. A home training parade had to be cancelled owing to a strike by employees of the then government electricity commission, the SEC. The nineteen-seventies were still the days when the Governor held garden parties at Government House and it was not uncommon to sign the visitors' book and then be invited to one of these functions, for which ceremonial dress was appropriate.

When Shirley and I were married, it had been suggested by some of the officers' wives that it was the CO's wife's privilege to clean the silver in the cabinets in the Officers' Mess. Granted the previous CO's wife, Judy Austin had done this, but that was because their residence at Mortlake made other social participation very difficult. Shirley was not going to take the bait. Instead she organised morning tea parties for the wives and their children at the depot. While the children played on their scooters and other games in the training depot's hall, the ladies found themselves busy with "silvo" and "brasso" cleaning the silver on a joint basis. It was both popular and successful. The cadre staff may have had other ideas.

On Sat 8 Apr 72, annual camp commenced at Puckapunyal. It was to be a group camp with the three artillery regiments in camp at the same time. The CRA was still COL Keith Rossi (shortly to be promoted to brigadier later in the year) and the HQ RAA staff was led by majors Norm Uniake and John Harvey, both regular army officers.

My memory is that our 5.5" guns were not available for firing due to the expiration of the shelf life of the obturator pads, but my diary indicates that both equipments (5.5 and 25 prs) were fired in the first week. Be that as it may, the "obturator pad" restrictions became part of our folklore. I was led to believe that the pad was a crucial factor in taking up the force of the charge detonation against the breech block. With both of these vital parts and with ammunition, there were always stories going around that armies in India, Pakistan and Malaysia all had surplus Second World War stocks that they would have been glad to sell. But in the time that I was CO, we had just sufficient ammunition considering the number of guns that could be manned and the firing opportunities that we had.



LT Peter Wertheimer

I then figured in two "incidents" that some say should best be forgotten. I cannot recall the type of helicopter that was allocated for officer training, but this was in the days when the RAAF "owned" them and supported the army. As the most senior officer, I was, I suppose in charge and responsible for the flight direction and behaviour. But I had not been in a helicopter of this size before and it is all very well to say that you have voice communication with the pilots. Memory suggests that it was a Chinook helicopter.

Hanging on for dear life and trying to orientate oneself, with the ground flashing by underneath, were big challenges. Having decided we were lost, I thought the best thing was to put down and take bearings on the ground. By then we were over Greytown and down we went, almost alongside a test gun that was pointing upwards. Peter Lynch certainly found out where we were and also found out that we were not at all popular as the test gun was about to be fired!

Back at the range camp, I stood mute as CAPT Maurie Bennet, the range officer, railed against the stupidity of the officer in charge of the helicopter that had nearly created a number one incident. I professed ignorance of whom the poor and misguided man could be. Later that day, BRIG Jock McNeill, (COMD 4 TF) visited the camp. He also mused as to who the "idiot" was. Fortunately, the brotherhood of commanding officers took priority, and the CO of 15 Field Regiment, LTCOL Mike Vincent held his peace. But his memory was always to be too good in later years!

The second incident concerned my map reading. The CO gets a good driver and vehicle, together with a functioning radio set. The CO of a firing regiment is not above the law but he is granted a good deal of latitude. On the middle Saturday, I was moving by vehicle about the range with a view to finding the OP. The more I looked at my map and the surrounding terrain, the less did the two fit. It then dawned on me that I was directing my driver to take us both into the impact area!

I asked the driver to slow down and stop. In a most gentle voice I requested that he carefully turn the vehicle and trailer. When he had done so, I instructed him to "drive like hell out of here"! No one ever knew about that *faux pas*. But shortly after, when outside the impact area, mortar rounds began to crunch some four hundred yards/metres away. This time I could with all justification grab the microphone on the radio set and shout, "STOP, STOP, STOP"¹ I could even look Maurie in the face and receive accolades for my quick reaction in stopping the firing and saving egg on many faces.

Prior to the camp, the regiment knew that there would be a competition in the second week between the three units. We would all be using the same equipments. As a regiment we decided that we would pool our resources and allocate them in the best way. The unit was required to supply a number of judges. The unit would have to put into the field a six-gun battery of 25 pdrs, FOO teams and other elements. In addition to the relatively unfamiliar equipments, it was a joint decision of our gunners and their leaders that deployment would include "kneeling" gun drill, even when firing the real thing.

There was a mess dinner on the Saturday night and CHAP (Fourth Class) John Leaver was in camp to celebrate Holy Communion and the parade service the following day. Monday morning saw the start of the competition exercise. I am not sure that either of the other two units had their CO's in camp that week. 2 Field Regiment started the day well and 10 Medium had an atrocious one. But then it was found that 2 Field was in the wrong grid square and their vehicles had all gone back to the wagon lines!



At the end of the camp with the McNeill Trophy

For 10 Medium the day started to improve and the next few days saw a similar standard maintained.

I always felt this was more effective than "check Firing"

At the end of the third day, the acting CO's and I were called to a conference at which the various envelopes from the judges were to be opened and the points counted. As this proceeded it was clear that the medium regiment (with its 25 pr guns) was going to win. I then recall a distinct effort of the other judges to weight the scores to see whether one of the other units could be "dragged" into first place, but this ploy also failed!

Elated, I went back to the gun position with the news. Padre Leaver was on his way out with his tea and coffee wagon, but he realised he might as well turn back or join in the festivities as other drinks were the order of the night! Next day, BRIG Jock McNeill presented the McNeill trophy to my regiment. This presentation followed the morning's live firing. I felt it a pity that some of this ammunition had not been made available to us earlier in the camp. CAPT Bill Spriggins, who always seemed to have his bag pipes in his knapsack, piped the brigadier onto parade. I am sure the brigadier was pleased that it was his former unit that had won his trophy, but my memory recalls that he referred to us as "enthusiastic bushmen" or *words to that effect*. I think he was right. But our morale was sky-high. We had beaten the "city slickers" at their own game (or rather "equipments"). I also think the kneeling gun drill got up some of their noses! Naturally, the Geelong newspapers were provided with ample copy and photographs.



MAJ George James, CAPT Bill Spriggins and LT Bob Albeiz

The Shire of Bellarine presented the mess with a silver rose bowl at the first public relations dinner for the year. BRIG Dick Eason was the speaker at the Anzac Day service in Johnston Park. This was followed by morning tea in the mayor's rooms, and then lunch at the Geelong RSL. Personnel from the Staff College at Queenscliff also took part.

Quite a party of us went to the Southern Command Ball. At a levee at Parliament House, CAPT McGregor-Dowsett and COL Howard Taylor received their OBE's. Catering facilities at the unit were very good and conferences began with a meal, it being an "exercise" for the catering staff. As a result of submissions, the "garrison engineer" agreed that the kitchen facilities should be upgraded. For the period of construction, the catering to which we had become accustomed had to cease. This included the third PR dinner for the year.

I found myself regularly responding to invitations to attend functions in Melbourne and elsewhere where the existence and achievements of the regiment were regularly promoted. These included the Gunner Ball and the City of Geelong dinner. I was president for a Subject C examination board. I also had to attend "Number Four Committee" meetings. A prime responsibility of a CO is to encourage his personnel to try for promotion. There were "slots" to be filled, and a "medium gunner" might as well fill them than someone else (may I even suggest, "less qualified"?). Maj Graeme Standish was accepted as a student for the next Tac 5 course.

The Geelong United Services Institute was a very active body with monthly dinners in the units' officer's mess. Prior to marriage, they provided another night when I did not have to prepare a meal for myself! The speakers were first class. BRIG Brown of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission was resident in Geelong. Another member from the 8th Division had been a POW in Changi.

A CO should never miss a firing bivouac of his unit, but I succumbed to a virulent strain of influenza and MAJ Graham Allinson, who had become second in command vice Graeme Standish, acted as the IG for the weekend. I had rarely in my CMF career missed such a Weekend's firing. But all was well.

My diary records various functions but little detail. There was the RAA TEWT, the visit by the GOC Southern Command, MAJGEN Fraser to Colac, the OCTU graduating parade at the Ripponlea (McWhae Avenue) depot, and the GOC's exercise at Watsonia Barracks. Before the year was out there was a shooting bivouac for other units to observe and direct the fire. 10 Medium provided the guns for this weekend. As such, ammunition came out of a "reserve pool". One volunteered for such a "privilege" as it meant both pay and more firing opportunities for the soldiers. LTCOL Graham Lockwood, CO of Monash University Regiment, was present at this bivouac.



CAPT Bob Muirhead

One might be tempted to think that the run of camps (Tasmania in 1971, the successful group camp in 1972) could not be expected to continue. The 1973 camp could well have been a reversion to the traditional one where the unit camped at Puckapunyal by itself, its program being first week training and then second week firing.

But throughout 1972, there were continual rumours that perhaps the regular army's 8 Medium Regiment might invite the CMF 10 Medium Regiment to camp in tandem with them in 1973. Such a camp might be at the New South Wales training ground of Tianjara.

Towards the end of the year a new Director of Royal Artillery had been appointed. He came with the news that the interstate camp was "on". The next step was an invitation by the CO of 8 Medium Regiment, LTCOL Pat Gowans, to go to Sydney for a camp planning conference and for a reconnaissance of the Tianjara training area. This took place on the weekend of 11/12 Nov 72 and gave meaning to the whole ideal that was unlikely that, barring accidents and international events, the combined camp would not proceed.

Our party included the Adjutant, the QM, CAPT Laurie Haby, and the BK of 132 Div Loc Bty. In Sydney, we met 8's QM CAPT Ray Wilson, who had been a 10 Medium RQMS. In addition, Peter Lynch was to discover that the incoming 8 Medium adjutant was one of his best friends. The unit's IG was CAPT David Gilday. At the conference we were treated as equals, although we knew that we had a steep learning curve before we could hold ourselves alongside the regular unit. We were to learn that 10 Medium would be asked to provide a full gun battery with observers.

On the Sunday, an Iroquois helicopter ferried us from the Sydney barracks to the Tianjara training area on the south-east coast of NSW. I took as many slides as I could to help other members of the unit, who could not attend the reconnaissance to get some idea of the new terrain over which we would be exercising.

With the election of the Whitlam Labour government, national service ceased. This meant that all those men who had accepted the six-year CMF alternative to two years full-time training could now cease with the CMF if they so choose. The 1973 CMF would be a truly all-volunteer force. That year I did not forget the Unit's children's Christmas party at Anakie.