

CASCABEL

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18 Pdrs of 11th Fd Bty 4th Fd Regt firing at Table top near Holbrook NSW late 1941 or early 1942
Photo courtesy of Frank Noble ex 4 Fd Regt

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The President Writes

Anzac Day has once again come and gone. The Association was invited by 2/10 FD REGT to lay a wreath during the dawn service on the recently dedicated memorial at the Chapel Street depot. This we did. We hope this will be start of a new tradition for the Association. It may also encourage a few more members of the Association to attend this service.

Whilst I am on the subject of Anzac Day, The question has been raised by the Committee as to the value of continuing the Association's attendance at the Chapel Street depot after the march. The matter was raised because of the very small attendance by Association members. Perhaps attendance at the dawn service only is the best way to go. Your thoughts on this matter would be appreciated. We will discuss it further at the AGM.

And talking about the Annual General Meeting: because of the small numbers who attended, you were asked if you had any preferences regarding when and where the AGM should be held. A nil response was received. Therefore the Committee has decided that the AGM this year will be held on the evening of Thursday 28th October at the Oakleigh RSL. There is more detailed information elsewhere in this magazine.

The OC, MAJ Leo Monkivitch, and the Master Gunner, WO1 Terry Nolan, at P&EE Graytown, invited the Association to visit the Establishment on Monday 17th May. The invitation was at fairly short notice. This is due to the scheduling of activities at Graytown. All the members we were able to contact were notified, and there were eighteen attended. The weather was kind and we were given the grand tour. This included the proof firing of 105mm tank canister rounds. A great day was enjoyed by all.

I attended the 3 DIV Reunion Luncheon at the Naval and Military Club. It was a very successful day, with over 90 people enjoying a delightful lunch served with reminiscences. This luncheon next year will be on the 7th June and I would recommend you consider attending. Remember, this is an all ranks function.

You may have noticed that your *Cascabel* now comes to you sealed in a plastic envelope. We are obliged to do this because of changes to the Printpost (it is one word) Service made by Australia Post. This creates a problem if loose-leaf flyers are to be inserted into the magazine. We are, therefore, trying to discontinue this practice. When reply slips are required, such as for the Gunner Dinner, they can either be cut from the magazine, or a photocopy made to be returned.

The change in packaging has also led to a slight increase in the cost of handling. This increase, along with other increases, has meant that a small rise in membership fees is necessary. The increase in fees will apply from 1st July this year.

For all our intrepid golfers, The Annual Mixed Golf Day will again be conducted in October this year. More information is provided in this magazine.

My regards to you and your family



A MESSAGE FROM THE COLONEL COMMANDANT

The Colonel Commandant's role is the maintenance of tradition within the Regiment and further to assist the Regiment and its members in any way that will enhance the public and military perception of the Regiment and its members. This is achieved in a number of ways. By the attendance at Regimental Functions, both training and social, and generally by maintaining contact with past serving members and encouraging their continued interest in their Regiment.

Although I am a member of the Artillery Association my position is not an extension of the Association and whilst I take a great interest in the activities of the Association I see my role in the wider military community.

By the time this issue of Cascabel is on the stands, the 2004 Gunner Dinner would have been held. I am confident that it will be a success. In an effort to rouse support for the function I have written over 400 personal letters to Gunners of all ranks, ages and callings. I have been most impressed by the overwhelming enthusiasm for an all ranks functions. Letters and emails come to me from far and wide, often expressing a desire to be there, however with age and distance often preventing attendance.

Unfortunately there was a smattering of "left address" and also advice on the passing of member, often an old friend.

In regard to deceased Gunners I have been trying to prepare a list of all Gunners who have died in recent years for subsequent publication in the RAA Newsletter. I am firmly of the view that every member of the Regiment has played or will play a part in its achievements and whilst the passing of high profile Gunners is invariably recorded I consider that every Gunner should receive some recognition of his service. In an effort to produce even the simplest list I have found that the Associations records are not up to date and I find it quite sad that the Association has so little available on many of its members. I have asked your President if the Association could once again try to expand its data base and indeed to include information on every Gunner that passes whether he be a member of the Association or not.

When I was first appointed as Colonel Commandant I was approached by Major General Whitelaw to participate in the provision of information for the Australian Gunner Project. This project aims to prepare a list of significant Australian Gunners and gather a short biography on each of them. I have taken some steps towards assisting with this project and have asked many Senior Gunners to provide names and information to add to the list already prepared by General Whitelaw. This is a slow process, however I do hope to collate the information that I have in hand and forward it to General Whitelaw.

Again my views are that every Gunner is a significant Gunner and I would welcome any contribution to this project.

Brig (R) D I PERRY

Colonel Commandant (SR)

Membership Report

3 Jun 2004

Current Membership

Life Members	218
Annual Members	82
Affiliates	46
Others (CO/CI, Messes, etc.)	11
Libraries	4
Total	<u>361</u>

Five Annual Members have been archived. Four are unfinancial and one has resigned. Life Member CAPT J Traill has also been archived. His last *Cascabel* was returned : not at this address.

Applications for membership have been approved for:

SGT Eddy R J Evans, GNR D I MacDonald, GNR R.K Bartlett, GNR N Linnell, SSGT B J Irons and GNR T Dunlap.

We welcome the new Members and look forward to their active participation in the Association.

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.

Neil Hamer
MAJ
Membership Co-ordinator

Contact: Telephone: 9702 2100
E-mail: nhamer@lexicon.net



Australian Gunner Project

Wanted,

Biographies of any Gunner of note for the Australian Gunner Project. If you have or are able to write a story about the military exploits of any Gunner past or present, can you forward it to the Association C/-

The Secretary
RAA Association (Vic) Inc.
101 Warralong Avenue
Greensborough Vic. 3088

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> Bumper: <i>Gunners do it</i> <i>with a bigger bang</i> \$2.00</p> <p> Square: gold badge, red and blue background \$2.00</p> <p>ORDERS: 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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Definition of a Borneo Design Battery - RNZA nomenclature for a form of artillery battery using only four guns instead of the normal six. Specifically, it meant four, L-5 (105mm) pack howitzers served by 89 gunners, 13 reinforcements and a 17 man logistical Det. 161 Bty RNZA was also allowed a 5th tube when it deployed to VN which was supposed to be a spare, however it was used as part of the Bty makeup almost from the start and without the permission of the NZ Govt, as the extra firepower was needed and prudent. The Borneo configuration was standard for the 161 Bty RNZA from 1965 until 2Jul66, when a six gun battery was finally authorized. Later, the US M2A2 105MM Howitzer replaced the lighter, shorter-ranged and less durable L-5s. Until the arrival of Chinook helicopters in large numbers, the New Zealander L-5 was the only howitzer deployable by UH-1.

This Month in Australian Military History August

Date	Year	Title	Event
1 August	1917	Third battle of Ypres begins	Known as the battle of Paschendaele, the third battle of Ypres was the collective name given to campaign that lasted until November 1917 aimed at capturing the Gheluvelt Plateau in southern Belgium. The actions in which Australians took part were Menin Road, Polygon Wood, Broodseinde, Poelcappelle and Paschendaele.
2 August	1941	Last major action involving Australians at Tobruk.	After its capture Tobruk was garrisoned by the 9th Division , elements of the 7th Division and other Allied units. The town was surrounded on three sides by the German Afrika Korps in April and remained besieged, but able to be re-supplied by sea, until December. Most Australian, however, left Tobruk between August and October.
2 August	1990	Iraq invades Kuwait	The invasion began the series of events that led to the Gulf War of 1991.
3 August	1860	Second Maori War begins	British troops in Australia were sent to fight the Maoris and the campaign was controlled by the commander of imperial forces in Australia until the New Zealand Command was separated from Australia in 1861. The colony of Victoria sent its ship Victoria and about 2,500 Australians joined either the Waikato Militia Regiment or the Company of Forest Rangers in the fighting around Waikato.
3 August	1914	Australia offers assistance to Great Britain in the event of war.	Australian Government offers to place vessels of the Royal Australian Navy under control of the British Admiralty and to raise a force of 20,000 troops in the event of war in Europe.
3 August	1916	Battle of Romani	Australian Light Horse involved in the battle of Romani, Egypt. The battle signalled the end of the defence of the Suez canal and the beginning of a bolder offensive strategy against the Turks in the Middle East.
4 August	1900	Battle Elands River	Bushmen from 5 Australian colonies and other British Empire troops became involved in the defence of a staging post in Western Transvaal against a force of between 2-3,000 Boers. The siege lasted two weeks before the Boers withdrew in the face of overwhelming British reinforcements. .
4 August	1914	Great Britain declares war on Germany	Australia pledged a force of 20,000 to be placed at Britain's disposal but by the end of the war over 400,000 Australians were in uniform.
5 August	1944	Mass break out of Japanese prisoners at Cowra POW camp, NSW	This was the largest ever mass escape from a prisoner of war camp. 378 Japanese prisoner succeeded in escaping the camp and 231 were killed or died of wounds during the mass escape. Three Australian guards died in the fighting immediately following the escape and another was killed during attempts to round up escapees in the surrounding countryside.
6 August	1915	Battle for Lone Pine begins on Gallipoli.	The Lone Pine operation was planned as a diversion to draw Turkish reserves away from a major British attack to be launched at the northern end of the Australian and New Zealand position on Gallipoli. The Australians suffered more than 2,200 casualties at Lone Pine and the Turks over 5,000. Seven Australians were awarded the Victoria Cross.
6 August	1945	First atomic bomb dropped on Hiroshima.	Hiroshima was chosen as the target for the dropping of the first atomic bomb as it had been, to that point, untouched by United States air raids. It was believed that attacking a hitherto untouched city would demonstrate the awesome power of atomic weapons. The bomb was dropped by a United States B29 bomber nicknamed Enola Gay and was estimated to have killed some 140,000 people by August 1946.
7 August	1915	Australians charge at the Nek.	Charge of the Australian Light Horse Brigade against Turkish position at the Nek, Gallipoli, with horrific results.

8 August	1900	New South Wales and Victorian contingent sail for China to assist in quelling the Boxer Rebellion.	With many Australian soldiers fighting in South Africa, Australia's commitment to the Boxer Rebellion in China was a naval one.
8 August	1915	Lance Corporal L. Keysor, VC.	Lance Corporal L. Keysor, 1st Battalion, originally from London, wins the Victoria Cross at Lone Pine, Gallipoli.
8 August	1916	Battle for Moquet Farm.	Moquet Farm, near Pozieres, was the focus of nine separate attacks by Australian troops between 8 August and 3 September 1916. Some 11,000 Australians were killed or wounded in the fighting around Moquet Farm.
8 August	1918	Battle for Amiens begins.	The fighting that included the Battle for Amiens succeeded to the extent that the German high command referred to 8 August as the black day of the German Army. After 8 August the Germans believed that they would inevitably lose the war.
8 August	1918	Lieutenant A.E. Gaby, VC.	Lieutenant A.E. Gaby, 28th Battalion, originally from Springfield, Tasmania, wins the Victoria Cross at Villers Bretonneux. (Posthumous Award)
8-9 August	1915	Lieutenant W.J. Symons, VC.	Lieutenant W.J. Symons, 7th Battalion, originally from Bendigo, Victoria, wins the Victoria Cross at Lone Pine, Gallipoli.
9 August	1915	Corporal A.S. Burton, VC.	Corporal A.S. Burton, 7th Battalion AIF, originally from Kyneton, Victoria, wins the Victoria Cross at Lone Pine, Gallipoli.
9 August	1915	Corporal W. Dunstan, VC.	Corporal W. Dunstan, 7th Battalion, originally from Ballarat, Victoria, wins the Victoria Cross at Lone Pine, Gallipoli.
9 August	1915	Private J. Hamilton, VC	Private J. Hamilton, 3rd Battalion, originally from Orange, New South Wales, wins the Victoria Cross at Lone Pine, Gallipoli.
9 August	1915	Captain A.J. Shout, VC.	Captain A.J. Shout, 1st Battalion, originally from New Zealand, wins the Victoria Cross at Lone Pine, Gallipoli. (Posthumous award).
9 August	1915	Captain F.H. Tubb, VC.	Captain F.H. Tubb, 7th Battalion, originally from Longwood, Victoria, wins the Victoria Cross at Lone Pine, Gallipoli.
9 August	1918	Private R.M. Beatham, VC.	Private R.M. Beatham, 8th Battalion, originally from Cumberland, United Kingdom, wins the Victoria Cross at Rosi east of Amiens. (Posthumous award).
9 August	1942	HMAS Canberra sunk	HMAS Canberra sunk in Battle of Savo Island. The Canberra was among a fleet of United States and Australian warships supporting the United States Marines' landings on Guadalcanal.
9 August	1945	Nagasaki bombed	Nagasaki was the second Japanese city to suffer a nuclear attack. Japan surrendered shortly afterwards.
9-12 August	1916	Private M. O'Meara, VC.	Private M. O'Meara, 16th Battalion, originally from County Tipperary, Ireland, wins the Victoria Cross at Pozieres.
10 August	1914	Voluntary recruitment for the 1st AIF begins.	Despite two conscription referenda in 1916 and 1917 Australia's army remained a volunteer force throughout the war.
10 August	1919	Corporal A. Sullivan, VC.	Corporal A. Sullivan, 45th Battalion Royal Fusiliers (ex AIF), originally from Crystal Brook, South Australia, wins the Victoria Cross at Dvina River, North Russia.

11 August	1900	Protector leaves Sydney for China.	The Protector was the flagship of South Australia's naval force. She played a limited role in suppressing the Boxer Rebellion but went on to become the longest-serving ship in Australia.
12 August	1918	Sergeant P.C. Statton, VC.	Sergeant P.C. Statton, 40th Battalion, originally from Beaconsfield, Tasmania, wins the Victoria Cross at Proyard, France.
13 August	1914	Establishment of the Australian Red Cross	Establishment of the Australian Red Cross to raise funds to purchase comfort supplies for Australian service personnel overseas. The Australian Red Cross was established by Lady Helen Munro-Ferguson.
13 August	1940	Air Crash in Canberra	The crash killed three United Australia Party ministers and the Chief of General Staff.
13 August	1941	Australian Women's Army Service formed.	The Australian Women's Army Service was established to release men from certain military duties for service with fighting units. Members of the Australian Women's Army Service served in a variety of roles including clerks, typists, cooks and drivers. In 1945 a contingent was sent to Lae and another group was sent to Holland.
14 August	1900	Boxer rebellion in China ends	Some 460 Australians served in China and six were killed.
15 August	1945	VP (Victory in the Pacific) Day.	Emperor Hirohito announces Japan's unconditional surrender.
16-17 August	1900	Imperial Bushmen in action at Buffels Hoek, South Africa.	Five Australians were killed and 11 wounded in this action during a British advance from Mafeking to Zeerust.
18 August	1966	Battle of Long Tan.	Battle of Long Tan. D Company, 6RAR, supported by artillery beats off attacks by a combined enemy main force regiment and provincial battalion.
18 August	1971	Australian Government announces withdrawal from Vietnam.	Australian Government announces that 1ATF will be withdrawn before Christmas 1971 and logistic support force shortly thereafter.
19 August	1914	Expeditionary force sails from Australia to capture German possessions in the Pacific.	Expeditionary force sails from Australia to capture German possessions in the Pacific.
20 August	1943	Brock's Creek bombed by Japanese aircraft.	Brock's Creek was bombed by 8 times by Japanese aircraft during 1943..
21 August	1915	Last major fighting on Gallipoli takes place at Hill 60.	The fighting at Hill 60 on 21 and 27 August was the last major action of the Gallipoli campaign. The operations at Hill 60 were intended to widen and strengthen the corridor that connected the newly landed British force at Suvla Bay with the beach-head at ANZAC.
21 August	1950	K Force recruiting campaign begins in Australia.	The raising of K Force was the last time that a volunteer force was raised in Australia to serve in a particular conflict.

22 August	1942	18th Australian Brigade land at Milne Bay, New Guinea.	With the arrival of the 18th Brigade Allied troops in the Milne Bay area now numbered more than 8,800. The fighting at Milne Bay resulted in the first defeat of a Japanese land force in the Second World War.
23 August	1918	Lieutenant W.D. Joynt, VC.	Lieutenant W.D. Joynt, 8th Battalion, originally from Elsternwick, Victoria, wins the Victoria Cross at Herleville Wood, France.
23 August	1918	Lieutenant L.D. McCarthy	Lieutenant L.D. McCarthy, 16th Battalion, originally from York, Western Australia, wins the Victoria Cross at Madame Wood, France.
24 August	1916	Official inauguration of the Australian Comforts Fund (ACF).	The ACF coordinated the activities of the various state 'patriotic funds' set up in 1914 to collect money to send comforts parcels to service personnel overseas.
25 August	1942	Battle of Milne Bay begins.	The fighting at Milne Bay resulted in the first defeat of the Japanese on land in the Second World War.
26 August	1916	6th Australian Brigade attacks Moquet Farm on the Somme.	Moquet Farm, near Pozieres, was the focus of nine separate attacks by Australian troops between 8 August and 3 September 1916. Some 11,000 Australians were killed or wounded in the fighting around Moquet Farm.
27 August	1918	Lance Corporal B.S. Gordon	Lance Corporal B.S. Gordon, 41st Battalion, originally from Launceston, Tasmania, wins the Victoria Cross near Bray, France.
28 August	1945	Australian destroyers enter Tokyo Bay.	Ships of the Royal Australian Navy joined Royal Navy and United States Navy ships in Tokyo Bay to receive the main Japanese surrender on 2 September.
29 August	1919	Sergeant S.G. Pearse	Sergeant S.G. Pearse, 45th Battalion Royal Fusiliers (ex-AIF), originally from Glamorganshire, United Kingdom, wins the Victoria Cross at north of Emsta, North Russia. (Posthumous award).
29 August	1942	Private B. Kingsbury, VC	Private B. Kingsbury, 2/14th Battalion, originally from Melbourne, Victoria, wins the Victoria Cross at Isurava, New Guinea. (Posthumous award).
29 - 30 August	1915	2nd Lieutenant H.V. Throssell, VC.	2nd Lieutenant H.V. Throssell, 10th Light Horse Regiment, originally from Northam, Western Australia, wins the Victoria Cross at Hill 60, Gallipoli.
30 August	1968	Death of C.E.W. Bean.	Bean did more than any other individual to establish the Australian War Memorial. He was also responsible for writing six volumes of the Official History of Australia in the war of 1914-1918 and editing the remaining volumes.
31 August	1918	Battle of Mont St. Quentin begins.	Mont St. Quentin, overlooking the town of Peronne was the scene of a famous Australian action under the leadership of Lieutenant General Sir John Monash. The depleted Australian divisions won an impressive victory against the German defenders, capturing some 2,600 prisoners. This battle was considered by many to have been the crowning achievement of the Australian Imperial Force in the First World War.
31 August	1918	Private G. Cartwright, VC.	Private G. Cartwright, 33rd Battalion, originally from London, wins the Victoria Cross at Rood Wood near Peronne.

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Australians at War This Month In History <http://www.awm.gov.au/atwar/thismonth/aug.htm>



The United States WW2 Americal Division



The above plaque was presented to the 4th Aust Field Regt. In November 1944 by the United States 221 Field Artillery Battalion at Tolabina Bouganville. The 221 FA Bn (Americal Division) had been serving on the island for some time when the 4th Aust. Fd Regt (3rd Australian Division) took over from them.

Photo Courtesy of Rob Allison

Task Force 6814 & the Americal Division

TASK Force 6814 was activated on January 14, 1942. Under the command of the then Brigadier General Alexander M. Patch.

Arriving at Melbourne Feb. 27, 1942, the command was met on board ship by Australian Liaison Officers. The disembarkation order was received from Southern Command, Australian military Forces. Debarkation was completed Feb. 28. The troops were dispersed in five major areas: Ballarat, Bendigo, Darley, Royal Park and Melbourne.

The Australians took the soldiers not only to their houses but to their hearts. Wherever possible and in Ballarat and Bendigo the troops were billeted with the townspeople and the latter outdid themselves as hosts. Hundreds of lasting friendships were started. Nine months later when Christmas came for these men in the Guadalcanal jungles, hundreds of mail bags from Australia showed the warmth of that fleeting week of close American-Australian collaboration.

The artillery units had left the United States without their guns. In Australia British 18-pounders and 25-pounders were loaded. Two Australian officers and a crew of expert NCOs went along to instruct the Americans in the operation and nomenclature of the new weapons. This work was carried on intensively on the way to New Caledonia and for a period after the landing.

On March 12, the convoy and naval escort arrived in the harbor of Noumea, New Caledonia and the troops debarked. The mission of the Task Force was to hold New Caledonia against enemy attack.

Request was wired March 25, 1942, for one additional regiment of infantry, one regiment of Cavalry and one Signal Intelligence Company. The 97th F.A. Battalion, Pack Howitzers joined the force April 3, 1942. The 164th Infantry Regiment, April 19, and the 72nd F.A. April 23, 1942.

The constitution and organization of the Americal Division, without numerical designation, was authorized May 27. The name AMERICAL, was proposed by Pfc David Fonseca of the 26th Signal Company. He explained his suggestion by saying the first part of the name would suggest AMERICA and the last part CALEDONIA, the division's birthplace.

The story of the artillery of the division is a somewhat confusing one. In the force as constituted at New Caledonia, there were two battalions of medium artillery and one regiment of light artillery. From these troops, because of defence requirements, a third battalion of light artillery was organized provisionally, for the Bourail Sector. A Division Artillery Headquarters and Headquarters Battery (Prov.) were authorized August 15. At this time the artillery units were redesignated and activated as three light battalions; 245th, 246th, and 247th F.A. Battalions, and two medium battalions 221st and 223rd F.A. Battalions. (When the movement into combat began, the 223rd F.A. Battalions. was transferred to the Island Command).

Having carried out its original mission, the Americal left New Caledonia in the fall of 1942, turning over the garrisoning of the island to other immobile units of Task Force 6814 which remained there under the island command.

The 164th Infantry Regiment of the Americal Division went into action on Guadalcanal on October 13, 1942, as the first United States Army unit to conduct an offensive operation against the enemy in any theater.

Units of the Americal Division saw their first full scale battle with the enemy on October 26.

On March 1, 1943, the first echelon of the Americal Division sailed from Guadalcanal, bound for Viti Levu Island in the Fiji group.

The Americal was given the mission of defending the Fiji Islands, a vital communications link between the United States and the Pacific theatre. The division used the time to train its replacements for the fighting ahead.

The remainder of 1943 was spent manning observation posts, running continuous reconnaissance patrols, and training.

By the end of the year, the Americal had been alerted for movement to Bougainville Island. Although the rugged days of Guadalcanal were gone, the year ahead would offer combat under some of the most difficult conditions yet encountered in the Pacific. The Americal Division was now stepping back into the fight.

By early January 1944, all combat troops on the Americal were on Bougainville Island relieving the 3rd Marine Division. The unit secured a command post on the beachhead of Empress Augusta Bay, with the mission of holding the position at all costs. Veteran reconnaissance teams began running extensive long range patrols outside the perimeter.

As January gave way to February, patrols from all three of the Americal's regiments probed ever deeper into enemy held territory outside the perimeter, aggressively engaging large and small groups of enemy in fire fights. Reconnaissance units ranged far to the east of Torokina River, scouting enemy positions, gathering vitally needed bits of information concerning strength and disposition.

In the early morning of March 8, the enemy began shelling the Americal defensive perimeter with artillery fire. This was the opening of a battle that lasted nearly a month. The heaviest fighting centered around a small observation outpost on Hill 260.

Hill 260 is a piece of strategically located high ground near the Torokina River. After a heavy siege, the small American force was unable to stand fast, and a grim battle was underway to regain the high ground.

The intensity of the fighting was shown on March 10, when Company F beat off the advancing enemy in a close-in-bayonet attack. After about two hours of hand-to-hand combat, the enemy withdrew, and Company F's perimeter was still intact.

While the fury of the battle for Hill 260 continued in the jungle, the enemy artillery continued to pound at targets within the main division perimeter. Wave upon wave of enemy soldiers advanced on the perimeter, only to be driven back. The intense fighting lasted for several days.

Hill 260 was recaptured on March 28, after a long period of bitter fighting. All three regiments participated in the battle. Intense shelling and close-in fighting left the hill almost barren, with the remaining trees bullet-riddled and charred.

By May, control was extended as far inland as Mount Bagana, the island's active volcano. A strong outpost line of resistance was formed in the hills near Mount Bagana.

With this area secure, units began moving up the Numa Numa Trail. Combat operations entered a new phase with the establishing of blocking positions along the trail. The object was to funnel the enemy toward the sea. Gaining confidence in themselves in this unusual type of warfare, the infantrymen of the Americal were fast becoming men to be feared in the dense, dark jungles.

By November, the Australian 3rd Division was moving into Bougainville to replace the Americal.

In early January, 1945, the first units of the Americal Division left Bougainville, heading for the Philippine Islands. Americans had already established strong points in the Philippines in the campaign to recapture the islands, and the Americal Division was now being attached to X Corps on the island of Leyte.

On January 21, the first echelon of the Americal Division-the 164th Infantry Regimental Combat Team-arrived on Leyte. The soldiers, seasoned in combat on Bougainville, would now continue the thankless mission of locating and destroying elements of the once-potent enemy forces remaining in the islands.

The mission assigned to the Americal was to relieve units of XXIV Corps of tactical missions on Leyte northwest of a line from Jaro through Valencia to Palompon and to conduct extensive mopping-up operations throughout the area.

Operations of all three battalions began in earnest on February 12 as the 1st and 2nd Battalions began sweeping their sectors and the 3rd Battalion dispatched intensive patrols. In sharp clashes throughout the entire zone up to the evening of February 14, a total of 288 enemy killed was reported.

By the end of February, after a rash of heavy fighting in all corners of the Americal Division's sector, the top pocket around the enemy had been closed.

During operations in north western Leyte, units of the Americal Division killed an estimated 3,500 enemy and captured 68 others. A new type of fighting developed during the campaign when the battalions were reported attacking in many different directions throughout the sector. This, however, was necessary in order to overcome the many large and small pockets of resistance discovered.

From February 12 to March 6, the Division cleared the Balicuatro Islands including Biri, Capul, and Nornajo Islands, and secured those areas to permit passage of naval forces through the San Bernardino Strait.

The Camotes Islands were cleared of stragglers by March 4. The combat actions had varied from intense, bitter fire fights to boring, uneventful patrols. Hot sticky weather and heavy tropical rains plagued the men as they strove to complete their assignments quickly and efficiently.

The final phase of Victor II was to secure the island of Negros Oriental. The 1st and 2nd Battalions of the 164th Infantry were chosen for the job. This arduous phase of the operation lasted 60 days and resulted in over 500 enemy killed. By June 24th the 164th Infantry had completed its mission on Negros Island and returned to the island of Cebu to join the other units of the Americal.

The period from the end of June until mid-August was spent maintaining the security of Cebu Island and in training exercises.

On August 14 word spread over the island that the war was over, and on August 15 all offensive operations against the enemy were halted.

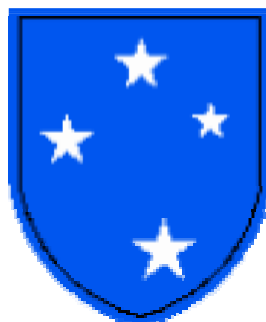
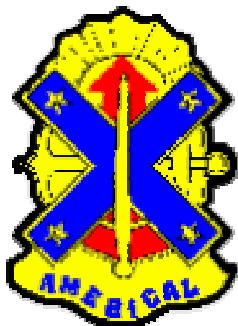
By the end of August some 7200 enemy prisoners were collected and disarmed.

On September 1 the Americal Division left the island of Cebu, heading for Japan and occupation duty.

The Americal Division landed in Japan on September 10, 1945, and took part in the occupation of the Yokohama-Kawasaki-Yokosuka area. The division occupied the area until the end of October when the unit was relieved by the 1st Cavalry Division, and the Americal began preparing for the long-awaited trip home.

The first echelon of the Americal arrived at Seattle, Washington on November 19, and received a hero's welcome. The fourth and final echelon of Americal troops arrived by the end of the first week in December, and on December 12, 1945, the war-born Americal was officially inactivated.

Summarised from
The Americal Division History - published in 1971.
Americal Division Veterans Association





Report on Locating Artillery happenings.

27-May-04

I have just received the LOCREP newsletter of the Locating Artillery Association which covers the latest happenings in Surveillance and Target Acquisition.. Mar 2004

Firstly the report of the up coming Locators reunion at Coffs Harbour over the Queens birthday long weekend which will be over by the time this report is published. I had asked if anyone from Victoria intended to travel up there but to date I have not heard from any other locators. A pity as we probably are a bit outnumbered by the "northern locators" at these activities.

In LOCREP it also reports on arrangements for ANZAC day march in Sydney and Brisbane, but no details were supplied about Melbourne.

The long awaited book "The tracks of the Dragon has been held up by the publishers and is now twelve months overdue. Was to be released last year at the 50th birthday of 132 STA Bty at Enoggerra. Hopefully it will be available at the reunion. I am certainly looking forward to receiving my copy in the very near future and any one wishing to get their copy, the Association is still offering a prerelease price of \$39 by contacting Keith Ayliffe on 07 5443 7102 or John Posener on 02 9982 4471. A copy of the order form can be downloaded from the website at WWW.locatingartillery.org

The RAA Historical Company has allocated \$1000 to the Locating Association for continued work on the display at North Fort museum. Also the Army History Unit has approved funds for the construction of two mannequins to be used in uniform display there. The RAA museum [including the Locating displays] is open in Sydney on weekends and Wednesday along with public holidays between 1100hrs and 1600hrs. Guided tours are provided.

Report from the STA Wing, School of Artillery.

Extracted from report by Maj Russell Hamsey SI, STA Wing.

Postings have taken members away and a bit of good luck the staff at Pucka has been increased in the OR area. This helps the support roles provided by the school. In the acquisition area the Thermal Surveillance System, Ground Surveillance Radar and the Unattended Ground Sensor are going through their final "tweaks" before introduction into service in the new year.

The AN/TPQ36 weapons locating radar is slowly being extended although progress is slow in the extension update.

The Tactical Unmanned Aerial Vehicle project [JP129] see previous report, is ongoing in the training of staff and understanding of its capabilities.

Soon the role of the Artillery surveyer will not exist. With the GAK gyro soon to be replaced by a black box as a back up to the GPS, this trade will disappear.!

The new system is to be called AOS {Artillery Orientation System} This device will be a black box [aren't they all?] which will provide accurate orientation and fixation to a point very quickly. It will NOT rely on the GPS and will still provide accurate orientation., It will be the back up to the GPS should it fail. There is not date yet for this phase just yet. No more tapes, theodolites, Tellurometers and beacon banderoles sets.

Finally the wing can now apply simulation using computers to almost any tactical training situation. The wing is the first group in the army to employ the Brigade/battalion simulation into its training.

Finally there are eight soldiers attending the Advanced Weapon Locating Radar course while the wing is gearing up to run the Operators AMS and the WLR courses through the year.

From 131st STA Bty.

By the time this report is out the battery has been conducting a drivers course, Bty CPX [Ex Ballistic Intercept], individual troop training and support to the DJFHQ [CPX Vital series] Activities for the future year is Coadarra CX-1 Mini UAV. Unattended Ground Sensor, AMSTAR GSR [Ground Surveillance Radar], AN/TPQ-36 [Life of Type activities, TSS Type 2/3, TUAV.

On the 4th Mar the 1st Wpn Loc Tp deployed to Wide Bay trg area for Ex "Lone Pine" where they practiced in deployments within a FSB and conducted IMT. Along with Engineer assistance they dug in the AN/TPQ36 and other pits and conducted patrolling as part of their defence plan. The Surveillance Tp were deployed as the enemy to observe the developing FSB while sending in sitreps/imagery reports.

The 2nd Wpn Loc Tp HQ deployed to Darwin as part of the 1 Bde CPX with elements of the Tp deploying a week later after the military appreciation process was conducted. The Surveillance Tp also conducted a GSR trial on the AMSTAR which will continue through to April.

The next few months will see the Bty support both 1 Fd and 4 Fd Regt in their series of exercises.

Finally congratulations to Bdr Phil Grieve for his being awarded the Australia Day medallion.

I hope that report keeps the old locators up to date with the current service life in 131 STA Bty and at the School.

Craig Cook
WO2 retd
132 Bty

03 53422448
craigc@melbpc.org.au

RAA ASSOCIATION (VIC) INC MIXED SOCIAL GOLF DAY



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

(Melways 212 C4)

On the Friday 29th Oct 2004

Tee Time 0830 Hrs

This will be our third 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 \$25.00 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 for handicap golfers, and a stroke competition for non-handicap golfers. This means that you count all your strokes. Some **Special Local Rules** may be made for non-handicap golfers.

A separate competition for handicap and non-handicap golfers will be held if there are sufficient numbers in each field. If not, the non-handicap golfers will be given a stableford score calculated by the Match Committee.

Non-handicap golfers will be given a handicap at the end of the competition (by a very complicated and involved system called the Calloway System) so that all golfers have a fair chance of winning their competition. This Calloway handicap will be used to calculate the stableford points (if required). Stableford competition allocates points per hole according to handicap. This will be calculated by the Match Committee.

Trophies for the Best Score and Nearest the Pin (2) in both competitions will be given. Trophies 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 would like to attend, 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@lexicon.net
Not later than 20th October 2004.

Please include your handicap, if you have one, and the number of non-golfers who will be attending for lunch.

Additional Information

Markers: AGU players, WHITE. WGA players, RED. Non-handicap players, RED.

Please replace and fill all divots, and repair all plug marks on the greens.

Special Local Rules for non-handicap players:

1. "Fresh Air" strokes will not be counted.
2. A maximum of 10 strokes per hole is allowed. The ball is then picked up and the card marked 10+.
3. If a ball is hit into any water hazard, the next stroke may be played from the other side of the water hazard in line with the point of entry. A penalty stroke is counted.
4. If a ball in a bunker is not hit out after 2 attempts, the ball may be placed outside the bunker not nearer the hole. The strokes made in the bunker are counted (Total 3).

Dress Code. Berwick Montuna Golf Club is a private club and may have slightly different rules about dress. The following information is to avoid any misunderstanding and applies to everybody whether they are players or spectators on the course, or just attending the lunch.

YES

- All dress must be neat and clean.
- Shirt with collar and sleeves (short or long).
- Long pants (slacks) or shorts to just above the knee.
- Long socks or short sports socks (predominately white) must be worn with shorts.
- Golf shoes (not in the clubhouse) or ordinary flat shoes.

NO

- Tracksuit tops or bottoms.
- Singlets or shirts without collar or sleeves.
- Clothing with offensive pictures, slogans or comments. If in doubt don't wear it.
- Football shorts, board shorts or other "short" shorts.
- Sandals, thongs or bare feet.
- Hats must not be worn in the clubhouse.



Royal Australian Artillery Association
(Victoria) Inc.

Annual General Meeting

Thursday the 28th October 7.30 pm

*Oakleigh RSL
Drummond Street Oakleigh*

Bistro opens 6 pm

Light supper provided after the meeting

Advertisement late 1800's English newspaper

THE HON. ARTILLERY COMPANY of London, the most ancient Corps of Volunteers in England, is open for the admission of Gentlemen residing in the metropolis and its environs, who are willing to give a portion of time to military services.

The Company is empowered by Royal Patents and Warrants from her present most gracious Majesty, and her Majesty's Royal predecessors to train persons to the use of arms and to the practice of military evolutions and exercises.

The Company possesses an extensive drilling ground, a Rifle gallery 330 feet long, an armoury house, arms, and every facility for efficient military training.

The Officers are selected from the Company, and hold her Majesty's commissions.

Gentlemen under twenty one years of age are admitted as cadets, but must produce consent of their parents or guardians.

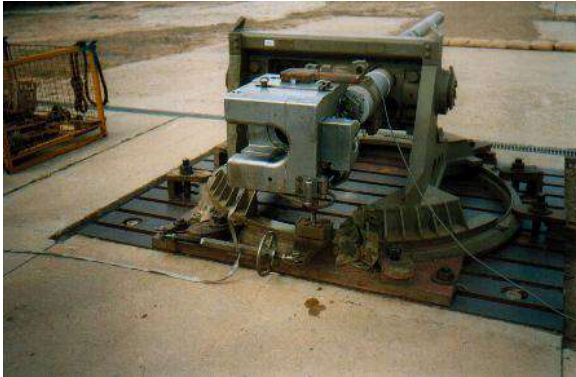
Members have to pay an annual subscription of One Guinea, an entrance fee, and to provide themselves a dress and undress uniform.

The expenses of the Band, Arms, Ammunition, &c., are defrayed out of the funds of the Company.

Gentlemen desirous of joining can obtain further information on application, by letter, to the Adjutant, Armoury house, Finsbury.

Submitted by Dave Edwards from a late 1800 s English newspaper

RAA Association visit to P & EE Graytown
Photos courtesy COL Graham Farley, OAM, RFD, ED (Rtd)
(No captions have been supplied with the photos)



MY SERVICE CAREER By COL Graham Farley, OAM, RFD, ED (Rtd)

Part 16 -- CO, 10 Medium Regiment, RAA, the third year, 1973

The interstate camp with the regular army 8th Medium Regiment, RAA, at Tianjara, marked the third year of my command in New South Wales. In retrospect it was an incredible experience, not only to have been invited by LTCOL Pat Gowans, their CO, to provide a battery alongside a full-time unit, but to have the chance to operate on completely new ground. At Puckapunyal, nearly knew the locations of grid references, when given at Orders Groups, by heart! The only challenge in this sphere was when the six-figure references changed from imperial to metric numbering.

On the other hand there would be significant changes in both the home and to my professional life. Shirley's period of confinement was almost up. Teaching promotions had been promulgated and I was to be the principal at Birchip High School from the 1974 school year. To add to "adventure" of the year, I was about to write a dissertation in satisfaction of the Diploma of Educational Administration through the University of New England in New South Wales. Further, Shirley and I had decided to take long service leave in 1974. We would spend it in the UK, where I had considerable family on both sides.

There was quite a strong link with the Staff College at Queenscliff. I would receive invitations to functions in their mess. Overseas officer students would in turn hold a night in honour of their country. My diary records that I attended the Canadian night. In like manner, the Staff College commandant was always a guest at our regimental dinners. Often we would both attend the United Services Institute functions.

Within the unit, it was important that all ranks could be assured that we could achieve the aim of providing a battery at the proposed interstate camp and do so with honour. Perhaps I did not include all the gunners, but memory recalls a large meeting of personnel in the officers' mess to decide whether we could do this. As with the previous camps, it required that the cadre staff would see themselves as integral parts of the unit. The regular army RSM would be the RSM for the camp. After a lot of open discussion, it was agreed that if we pooled our resources and engaged in modern management styles of making suggestions and accepting roles then it could be done. The "tenth" could be quite "democratic".



LTCOL Pat Gowans and his 2ic with 8 Medium Regiment cups

On the weekend of 16/17 March, LTCOL Pat Gowans, (later a brigadier), came down with his 2ic from Sydney to a conference in Geelong to discuss the camp. The conference was chaired by MAJ Len Cooper, the SORA 2 (Ops), the role that would once have been styled the "brigade major" in the divisional artillery headquarters. That night, the visiting officers were guests at a regimental dinner. The visitors wore their white jackets, at a time when most CMF officers wore

their "blues" or winter mess kit. "Whites" had been the vogue when I became a gunner in 1956. Whites become standard in more recent years, partly through the withdrawal of the "blues" service dress and the greater expense of winter mess kit.

At the dinner, two or three silver cups were presented to 8 Medium Regiment, for it had been found that these items in the 10ths mess "8" clearly inscribed on them. The numbers, "8" and "10" had been used several times before for the Geelong units, that town having had both the 8 LAA and 8 HAA regiments at one time. Anyway it was a good way to show gratitude for the invitation to share their forthcoming exercise, which was to be known as Exercise "Crackers Persuader".

My diary does not give full details, but there is a heading, "disaster bivouac"! Perhaps the seriousness of what we might be undertaking was starting to impinge on all our thinking. The "turn up" of troops had been poor. Could we guarantee that in camp we would have sufficient numbers to man the guns that LTCOL Pat Gowans and his regiment would expect?

I clearly recall the Adjutant, CAPT Peter Lynch, all but pleading with me to reconsider what the unit was about to undertake. He could promise as an alternative a first class camp at Puckapunyal. He wanted to assure me that this would be the best situation for all. I did not press him that far, but I wonder in hindsight whether he feared a "disaster camp" which might be a reflection on his career. But let me be more positive and suggest that he feared the effects of a bad camp on the unit and the morale of its members. If we were going to try "for the high jump," then we had better clear the bar and win!

Supported by my officers, I stuck to the collective decision. From the point when that direction was clear, all sorts of wonderful things started to happen in the "real" army as we logically and realistically thought of the full-time regular force. Suddenly, brand new five-ton trucks arrived at the depot. Earlier we were to get new tyres for our existing ones, but now all that was forgotten. Webbing, similar to that worn by field troops, also arrived. New radio sets became available. It was fairly clear that we would be equipped so that we would not stand out alongside our regulars on grounds of dress or equipment. Our skills, or lack of them, might do it all for us! Accordingly the morale, excitement and expectations of the men rose as well.



WO1 Ford attaches brake assembly to new 5-ton truck and 5.5" gun

The 5-ton trucks were not fully adequate for towing 5.5" guns unless special electric brakes were fitted to the gun wheels and operated from the towing vehicle. These sets also arrived and WO2 Ford of RAEME had the challenge of fitting and demonstrating how they worked.

The Department of Supply, as it was then, would move our guns to the RAN station at Nowra in NSW, in much the same way as

they had shipped them to Tasmania, two years previously. There would be an advance party of vehicles that would travel in convoy. The personnel would travel by RAAF Hercules operating from RAAF Laverton (or RAAF Williams as it is known today). It is now little used.

The Anzac Day parade took place again with the unit marching in column. The following weekend was the parade at which the vehicles would be loaded. I noticed that a tyre was changed on one of the “Q” vehicles. That vehicle and what was to occur on the convoy would .dog. the camp from then on. MAJ Graham Allinson continued to be our 2ic and a heavy responsibility fell on him for the administrative side of the camp.

Then the first day of the fortnight’s camp arrived. On Saturday, 5th May, buses took us to Laverton. We were some time on the tarmac before the promised Hercules arrived. Of course, it was then all panic to get loaded and away on time. The nomenclature of for a person in the cargo hold was sufficient to give the operation its own sort of colour. When I arrived I found that someone had decided to load the planes alphabetically. I wanted them in tactical groups. Fortunately “the word of the CO was (still) law”. Reloaded, the planes took off. In due course, with plenty of noise (and no windows to see where we were going or how high we were flying) we landed at RAN Nowra.

Here our guns and trucks were lined up, but one of the latter looked to have been damaged. Apparently it had “rolled” on the way up. Of course, it was the Q vehicle and for some reason it had been carrying jerry cans of fuel. The spilt fuel permeated everything, such as blankets and towels. The filing cabinets did not look rectangular any longer. (I would have expected that anything lost on the camp would have been attributed to a loss at the time of the accident.) The matter was serious enough, but it was exacerbated with tales of the convoy leader setting too hard a pace on the way up. It had the makings of a CMF versus regular army dust-up, but fortunately it was pinned down to the personality of the individual in command.

The unit moved to the Tianjara Training Area (now no longer available for live firing) in perhaps “muck order”. But the first week permitted the unit to settle down and get organised into operational groups. As already stated, we were all on new soil. No longer could the RHQ sit back at Site 6, or vehicles find their way up to Clowes Hill without maps! Orders had to be prepared and passed down in country that was totally different to Puckapunyal with Tehan’s sheep! My diary notes that we used Round Hill and Kangaroo Hill as OP’s. As far as possible, the unit rehearsed the types of manoeuvres that would occur the following week when 8 Medium Regiment would join us. Inevitably there was a night occupation.



The bath unit

A “bath unit” was in camp with us. This was set up on the river bank and was highly acceptable to all ranks. After all, most of us had read about these divisional or corps troop facilities now we had one in real life.

CAPT Reg Wheller did some effective liaison with the RAN. During the first week, there was the delightful sight of navy helicopters taking our range sentries to their spots around the camp’s

boundaries. Before the week was out, hospitality was enjoyed at the RAN base, but our scratch football team was no match for the hosts, who probably would have preferred rugby any way.

The RMO was LTCOL Jolly. He was joined by the RC Padre, Father J. O'Keefe. Once again, it was a matter of the Protestants being encouraged to stay on the church parade! During the week, the adjutant informed me that Reg Wheller's majority had come through. It was kept very quiet until the Sunday morning parade. When the parade was handed over to me, I used my best "school teacher" voice to demand to know why one of the soldiers had come on parade improperly dressed. When that occurs, nearly everyone starts to check their attire and to feel guilty as a result. Then Reg was fallen out and paraded to me. Majors Knight, James and Allinson assisted in putting "major's" slides on to his epaulettes. It all added to the good feeling in the ranks.

LTCOL Pat Gowans arrived that afternoon, his unit close behind him. Over the next two or three days, the battery of 10th Medium Regiment came under command of 8th and my role was to ride shot gun with Pat most of the time by helicopter. I must assume they were the light Bell helicopters for there was only room for the two of us (plus pilot!) and it was cramped. The helicopter pilots could land in the tightest of places, but always had to be careful as to where their rear rotors were placed in relation to trees, rocks and undergrowth. I am not normally sea, car or air sick, but I came close to it, when our helicopter flew out from a plateau and "dropped" the other side until the rotors compensated for the down draught!

Generally, Gowans gave the Geelong battery the deployment area that was closest, much to the irritation of his own BC's. Apart from that, the CMF battery kept up much the same pace as its hosts. Unfortunately on at least two occasions, gunners had eye damage through walking into bushes when deploying at night or in poor lighting. All casualties were treated tactically but if they had been really serious, then the RAN base was nearby – "cas-evac".

The camp was quite close to Canberra. The wicked thought passed through certain minds, that a quick march on the city and a coup could have been effected. After all, we had guns and ammunition, communications and movement. Fortunately, the thought passed as soon as it came. One quickly understood why the civil power keeps such a tight control over ammunition in a democracy.



Officers' Mess in the field

Quite a few visitors arrived. These included the unit's former CO, Derrick Austin. The CRA, BRIG Keith Rossi also came. Despite the efforts to air them out, he did not appreciate the petrol-tainted blankets with which he was issued. I never did work out why the Q staff could not have borrowed some for the night. MAJGEN Murchison, the CMF member on the Army Board, came, as did BRIG Geddes, COMD 1 Task Force.



Gunners clean the bore of the gun at Tianjara

All too soon, the camp was over and the exercise concluded. Thanks and congratulations were expressed on all sides and the moves back to Melbourne and Geelong were commenced. Throughout the camp, I had been awaiting news from Belmont as to the health of my wife Shirley, and the expected birth of our child. Shirley sent

letters daily. Peter Lynch made sure that radio communications were always open for news to come through. But there was nothing to report before we flew back to Laverton.

At the Geelong depot the return of stores and a pay parade took place. MAJ Graham Allinson ordered me to go home to Belmont despite my traditional military obligation to remain until the last soldier had departed for his home. I arrived at my home just in time to take Shirley to Baxter House. I came back to the unit for my pay and was again ordered away. In the hospital that night, attired in camp greens, I found myself at the bedside, where the nurse thrust something into my hands to make me feel useful. And there and then, Roger John Farley cried his way into the world. I used to wonder whether if he had been a girl, whether I would have attempted to fit "Tianjara" into her set of first names!

As suggested, the last six months of my command were something of an anti-climax. The Gunner Dinner came and went. COL Tripp's inspection trip was greeted with much hospitality. We dreaded to hear of the further downgrade of the CMF and the reorganisation of regular army commands. Bivouacs -- one for small arms -- still took place. MAJ Graeme Standish qualified his Tac 5 and was nominated to succeed me as CO in 1974.

A firing bivouac, aptly named Ex Last Chance, took place on the weekend of 5/7 October. Why did one of the units leave their obturator pads behind in their depot? CAPT McGregor Dowsett came for the weekend and assisted at the OP. Stable belts were the order of the day. The unit visited the 3 Div holiday camp at Eppalock one weekend. I attended an OCTU parade where MAJ Ross Peterken graduated.

My "end of posting" dinner took place on 17 November. MAJGEN Jock McNeill, BRIG Dick Eason and COL Peter Turner attended it. BRIG Athol Brown, who had been in charge of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission, was now a Geelong resident and was also invited. Just to keep up the tradition, the inevitable muddle this time was that the keys to the Sergeant's Mess (where we would have pre-dinner drinks) were mislaid for some time. Eventually they were found in time! Other "final" nights took place at Colac and the USI. Geelong citizens, at the goading of McGregor Dowsett, presented Shirley and me with candlesticks in memory of our period in Geelong.



MAJ Brian Lord supervises the Dept. of Supply loading the guns for return to the Geelong depot

On 17 Dec 73, I duly signed an AAF F51, Handing and Taking Over Certificate, which MAJ Graeme Standish signed in turn on 21 Dec 73. My regimental days as a gunner were over. But there would still be reasons (excuses?) to wear the Queen's uniform. My first career professional duty now was to report to Birchip where I would be the high school principal in 1974. As one friend suggested, "Was the town ready for it?"

Parade Card
as at 8 June 2004

JUL 2004

04 Res Forces Day
15 Committee

AUG 2004

19 Committee
7 RAA Ball

SEP 2004

16 Committee

OCT 2004

21 Committee
29 Golf Day

NOV 2004

18 Committee
7 AGM

DEC 2004

04 St Barbara's Day
09 Committee

JAN 2005

FEB 2005

06 Church Parade
19 Committee

MAR 2005

18 Committee

APR 2005

21 Committee
25 ANZAC Day

MAY 2005

19 Committee

JUN 2005

?? **3 DIV lunch** (all ranks)
16 Committee
24 Gunner Dinner

CHANGE OF ADDRESS AND DETAILS UP-DATE

Please forward to:
RAA Association (Vic) Inc.
101 Warralong Ave
GREENSBOROUGH VIC 3088

Rank _____ First Names _____ DOB _____

Surname and Post Nominals _____

Address _____

_____ Postcode _____

Phone (Home, Mobile, Work) _____

Fax and/or E-mail _____

Do you wish to receive Association information by E-mail Y/N _____

Serving Y/N _____ If so, Unit _____

Awards, Decorations, Medals, Etc. _____

Brief Service History _____

Additional Information (Committee, Unit Rep, Etc) _____
