

# CASCABEL

Journal of the

ROYAL AUSTRALIAN ARTILLERY ASSOCIATION  
(VICTORIA) INCORPORATED

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The Cenotaph at Clunes

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# CASCABEL

Journal of the

----- ROYAL AU STRALIAN ARTILLERY ASSOCIATION (VIC) INC -----



## FOUNDED:

First AGM April 1978  
First Cascabel July 1983

## COL COMMANDANT:

BRIG D.I.Perry RFD, ED

## PATRONS and VICE PATRONS:

1978

**Patron:** LT GEN The Hon Sir Edmund  
Herring

KCMG, KBE, DSO, MC, ED

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

1982

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

**Vice Patron:** MAJGEN N. A. Vickery CBE,  
MC, ED

1999

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

**Vice Patron:** MAJ GEN J. D. Stevenson AO,  
CBE

## PRESIDENTS:

1978 MAJGEN N. A. Vickery CBE, MC, ED

1979 MAJGEN J. M. McNeill OA, OBE, ED

1981 COL A. (Sandy) Mair ED

1984 MAJ P. S. (Norman) Whitelaw ED

1988 BRIG K. V. Rossi AM, OBE, RFD, ED

1991 MAJ M. Taggart RFD, ED

2004 MAJ N Hamer RFD

## JOURNAL NAME:

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

**CASCABLE** - English spelling.

## ARTILLERY USE:

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

[Ref:

Royal Military College, Sandhurst, by COL  
G. Philips, RE, 4th Ed, Ch-1, P9, para  
28,1884].

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

## CASCABEL HISTORY:

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

## ASSOC LOGO:

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

## LAPEL BADGE:

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

**RAA Association (VIC) Inc  
Committee**

**President:** MAJ N. Hamer RFD  
9702 2100  
**Vice President:** MAJ J Cooke  
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**Immediate Past President:**  
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GNR D. F. C. Edwards

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(10 Mdm Regt Assn)

**Honorary  
Auditor:**

**MUSEUM TRUST**

**President:** Vacant.  
Phone:  
**Secretary:** SSGT B. Cleeman  
Phone: 9560 7116  
**Members:**

**VIC REGT CONTACTS**

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65 Princes Hwy  
Dandenong South  
  
38 Mdm Bty 5221 7666  
Myers St  
Geelong  
  
38 Mdm Bty 5231 2056  
Queen St  
Colac

**CONTENTS AND SUBMISSIONS**

The contents of CASCABEL Journal are determined by the editor. Articles or opinions of authors & contributors are their own, and do not necessarily represent or reflect the official position of the RAA Assn (Vic) Inc, Australian Army, the committee, the editor, staff or agents.

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

Submissions for the **July 2006** issue are required no later than **1<sup>st</sup> June 2006** unless otherwise arranged with the Editor.

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# The President Writes

Church Parade was once again held at St Bartholomew's in Burnley. Approximately forty of our members and families attended. The Regimental Band was in attendance and up to their usual high standard. At the conclusion of the service, the ladies of the parish provided a lunch which was very well received.

MAJ Merv Taggart has attended the dedication for our paver at North Fort on behalf of the Association.

There are a number of activities scheduled this year, so I would encourage you to read the Parade Card at the end of the magazine. Also more details and reply slips are available on flyers at the centre of the magazine.

- ❖ ANZAC Day on Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> April will commence with a dawn service at the Chapel St Depot where a wreath will be laid by the Association. There will be no breakfast at the Depot this year as 2/10 FD REGT will be marching in Geelong. After the March, the Depot will be open to any interested members and their friends.
- ❖ The commemoration plaque which the Association has had produced for the old Site 17 area is to be dedicated on Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> May at 1100 hrs. We will then move to Puckapunyal where we have been invited by the CO of 2/10 FD REGT, LTCOL Ashton, to visit the gun line during a field firing exercise.
- ❖ The Gunner Dinner will be held on Friday 30<sup>th</sup> June this year at the same venue as last year. It is anticipated that the 2007 Dinner will be held at the School of Artillery.
- ❖ 2/10 FD REGT will be conducting the Regimental Ball again this year on Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> August. It is to be held at the same venue as last year.

I hope to see as many of you as possible at these functions.

Regards to all

Neil Hamer  
MAJ (R)

## April 2006

	Current Membership
Life Members	215
Annual Members	84
Affiliates	44
Others (CO/CI, Messes, etc.)	11
Libraries	<u>5</u>
<u>Total</u>	<u>359</u>

### Comparison of Membership by Rank

	April 2006	July 2005
Officers	133	131
WO/SGTs	110	110
BDR/CPL/GNR/PTE	51	53
Civilians	4	6

### New members:

We have four new Annual Members. They are LTCOL D Ashton, WO1 D Lehr and PTE T Richardson who are currently serving with 2/10 FD REGT; and LBDR P Dealy who is no longer serving.

### Vale

It is with regret that we note the passing of SGT J F Fairbrother and GNR L B Swinden AM.

SGT Fairbrother joined the Association as an Annual Member in October 1986. He was 64 years of age. I have no other information about SGT Fairbrother recorded.

GNR Len Swinden was an Annual Member of the Association. I have no record of a joining date, however he was 81 years of age.

His post nominals are AM FCPA FCHSE FAIM.

GNR Swinden was awarded the 1939/45 Star, Pacific Star, 1939/45 Australian Service Medal 1945/75 Dutch Cross.

He was conscripted into the AMF at age 18 in 1942 and transferred to the AIF in July 1943.

He trained on 6 inch howitzers and 25 pdr field guns and was posted to 2/7 AUST FD REGT 9<sup>th</sup> DIV.

GNR Swinden's civilian career was in public hospital administration as CEO at the Royal Melbourne Hospital.

Lest We Forget

### 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 (R)  
Membership Co-ordinator

Contact: Telephone: 9702 2100  
0419 533 067  
E-mail: nhamer@bigpond.net.au



RAA Association (Victoria) Inc  
Corps Shop

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

**PRICE LIST**

<p><b>Badges, etc</b></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><b>Ties</b></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><b>Books</b></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><b>ENQUIRIES:</b></p> <p>BRIAN CLEEMAN                   (03) 9560 7116  REG MORRELL                       (03) 9562 9552</p>	<p><b>Stationery</b></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  with a bigger bang</i>                 \$2.00</p> <p>Square: gold badge, red  and blue background               \$2.00</p> <p><b>ORDERS:</b>  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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**LIEUTENANT COLONEL D.J.R. ASHTON**  
**COMMANDING OFFICER 2ND/10TH FIELD REGIMENT**



Lieutenant Colonel Dean Ashton graduated from the Royal Military College, Duntroon in June 1987. On graduation Lieutenant Colonel Ashton was posted to the Royal Australian Artillery and took up his first Regimental appointment at 8th/12th Medium Regiment where he served in a variety of appointments until 1991. He then served at the Royal Military College Duntroon and was subsequently posted to the 1st Field Regiment as a Battery Captain and the Adjutant. Lieutenant Colonel Ashton was posted to Headquarters 1st Division / Deployable Joint Force Headquarters in 1994 where he filled the appointments of Staff Officer Grade Three Personnel and Staff Officer Grade Three Operations, for which he was awarded a Commander 1st Division Commendation.

Lieutenant Colonel Ashton was promoted to Major in November 1996 and assumed the appointment as Operations Officer / Battery Commander Headquarters Battery of 8th/12th Medium Regiment in January 1997. In addition, he concurrently fulfilled the responsibilities of the Executive Officer / Second-in-Command of the Regiment. Lieutenant Colonel Ashton was then posted to Land Headquarters in 1999 as the Staff Officer Grade Two Offensive Support where he served as the Acting Colonel Artillery for the duration of the appointment.

Lieutenant Colonel Ashton is a graduate of the 2001 Australian Command and Staff Course where he was awarded the Commander Australian Defence College Prize.

Lieutenant Colonel Ashton was posted to Army Headquarters in 2002 as the Staff Officer Grade One Personnel Liability / Force Structure (Plans). He was promoted to Lieutenant Colonel in July 2003 and remained as the Staff Officer Grade One Force Structure (Plans). Lieutenant Colonel Ashton was deployed to southern Iraq in March 2005 as the Staff Officer Grade One Civil-Military Cooperation on the Headquarters of the United Kingdom led Multi-National Division (South East).

Lieutenant Colonel Ashton assumed command of the 2nd/10th Field Regiment, Royal Australian Artillery, in January 2006. He is a member of the Tattersall's Club Brisbane, The Returned Services League of Australia, and Royal Australian Artillery Association (Victoria).

Lieutenant Colonel Ashton is single and he enjoys an active sporting and social life.



**WARRANT OFFICER CLASS ONE D.R. LEHR**  
**REGIMENTAL SERGEANT MAJOR**  
**2nd/10th FIELD REGIMENT**



Warrant Officer Class One David Lehr was born in Wollongong on 1st November 1964. He was educated at The Illawarra Grammar School and matriculated in 1982. He enlisted into the Australian Regular Army and commenced Recruit Training on 19th January 1983 and was allocated to the Royal Regiment of Australian Artillery.

He has been employed as a Gun Number, Operator Command Post (Field) and Battery Commander's Assistant at 4th Field Regiment and 1st Field Regiment. He deployed for six months to 7th Royal Horse Artillery, United Kingdom in 1991 and in 1992 he was detached as an Instructor at the then Junior Leader Training Centre - Brisbane. In 1996 he was posted to the School of Artillery, North Head as an Instructor at Regimental Training Wing. Warrant Officer Lehr was promoted to Warrant Officer Class Two in 1998 and took up his first appointment as the Sergeant Major Instructor Gunnery at 23rd Field Regiment.

In 2002 he was posted to 'A' Field Battery, Holsworthy as the Battery Guide. During this period he deployed to East Timor with the 3rd Battalion Group. He returned to 4th Field Regiment in January 2003 and took up the appointment of Battery Sergeant Major, 107th Field Battery. Warrant Officer Lehr was posted to Defence Force Recruiting Centre North Queensland as a Defence Interviewer in January 2005.

Warrant Officer Lehr has played a number of team sports that include Rugby Union, Rugby League and Cricket. He represented the Army playing Rugby Union. His interests are Golf and Surfing as well as Australian muscle cars. He is married to Janelle and they have six children.

Warrant Officer Lehr was promoted to Warrant Officer Class One in December 2005 and was appointed as the Regimental Sergeant Major of 2nd/10th Field Regiment on 16th January 2006.





## LIGHT HORSE MEMORIAL PARK - SITE 17

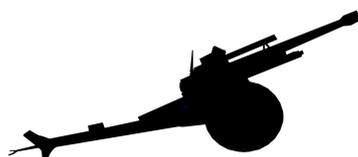
Previous issues of the magazine have discussed the plaque to be placed at the Memorial Park adjacent to the old Site 17 camp near Seymour. That plaque is now ready to be placed and it is proposed to hold an **Unveiling ceremony** including **BYO picnic lunch on Saturday 6 May 2006**.

The CO 2/10 Field Regiment Lieutenant Colonel Dean Ashton has invited members to view the regiments **live firing exercises** on the afternoon of that day following the ceremony.

The outline program will be:	10.30 am	Arrive Memorial Park
	11.00 am	Unveiling ceremony
	11.30 am	Picnic lunch, BYO
	1.00 pm	Report to 2/10 Fd Regt at Puckapunyal Range Camp
	4.00 pm approx	Depart Puckapunyal

All members of the Association together with their family and friends are welcome to attend. In particular those that attended training camps at Site 17 are especially welcome.

In order to gain some idea of numbers it will be appreciated if you will notify Merv Taggart either by phone or email (9598 8452 or [mervnmina@ozemail.com.au](mailto:mervnmina@ozemail.com.au)). Your own transport is to be used. More detailed arrangements will be sent out later.





The President,

Lt Marcus Elgin

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 6<sup>th</sup> June 2006**

12.30 for 1.00pm

\$ 45. per person

**Dress:** Jacket and Tie

**RSVP:** Friday 26<sup>th</sup> May 2006

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Please detach and return the following to :

**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 No ..  **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) \_\_\_\_\_

From: MAJ N Hamer RFD  
For Convening Committee  
Gunner Dinner 2006



## INVITATION

### ***Gunner Dinner 2006***

You and your gunner guests are extended a warm invitation to attend the  
2006 All Ranks Gunner Dinner  
to be held at the Prahran Town Hall, corner of Chapel and Greville Streets, Prahran  
on Friday 30<sup>th</sup> June, 2006 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.

Entr \_\_\_\_\_ -dinner drinks, hors d  
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 9<sup>th</sup> June 2006.

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 Lt Col 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 entr

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



### **GUNNER DINNER 2006**

Rank \_\_\_\_\_ Name \_\_\_\_\_

I accept your invitation to attend the 2006 Gunner Dinner.

Enclosed is a cheque for \$ \_\_\_\_\_ which includes entr

Rank \_\_\_\_\_ Name \_\_\_\_\_

Rank \_\_\_\_\_ Name \_\_\_\_\_

Special dietary requirements \_\_\_\_\_

If possible I wish to seated near \_\_\_\_\_

## **Major General Sir William Throsby Bridges**

***18 February 1861 - 18 May 1915***

William Throsby Bridges was born at Greenock, Scotland, on 18 February 1861, the son of a English Royal Navy captain stationed there at the time. He was educated at Ryde on the Isle of Wight, at the Royal Navy School at New Cross, London and at Trinity College, Port Hope, Ontario, Canada. In 1877 he entered the Royal Military College at Kingston but dropped out in 1879 and rejoined his family who had settled in his mother's home town of Moss Vale, New South Wales. There he took a job with the Department of Roads and Bridges.

In 1886, Bridges applied for and obtained a commission in the New South Wales Permanent Artillery and was stationed at Middle Head, part of the harbour defences of Sydney. In 1891 he was sent to England for training at Royal Military Academy at Woolwich and the Royal School of Gunnery at Shoeburyness. On his return in 1893, he became Chief Instructor at the School of Gunnery at Middle Head.

Bridges volunteered for service in South Africa in 1899, and from December 1899 to May 1900 he served on secondment as a major of artillery with Major General John French's cavalry division. He participated in the cavalry sweep to relieve Kimberley that began on 13 February 1900 and the last major battle of the war, the Battle of Paardeberg on 18 February 1900. In May he was evacuated to England with typhoid, and then returned to Australia in September 1900, where he resumed his duties as Chief Instructor at Middle Head.

In 1903, Bridges moved to headquarters in Melbourne as Assistant Quartermaster-General. He became Chief of Military Intelligence in 1904 and then the first Chief of the General Staff on 1 January 1909. His work in Melbourne was mostly concerned with the new Universal Service Scheme, and with Imperial Cooperation. He travelled to Europe for discussions with the Imperial Committee on Defence. On 25 April 1909 he relinquished the post of CGS and travelled to England to become the Australian representative on the Imperial General Staff.

Bridges returned to Australia in May 1910 to become the first Commandant of the Royal Military College at Duntroon, with the rank of brigadier general, the first Australian to reach that rank. He personally chose the site, the old Campbell homestead of "Duntroon", at the foot of Mount Pleasant, surrounded by countryside that would one day become the new capital city of Canberra. In line with the recommendations of Lord Kitchener, Bridges modelled Duntroon on the US Military Academy at West Point, rather than its counterparts in Europe, as Bridges felt that the West Point model was far better adapted to the democratic native of Australian society. The first class of 41 cadets, 31 from Australia and 10 from New Zealand, moved in and the college was officially opened on 27 June 1911.

In May 1914, Bridges was appointed Inspector General, the Army's top post. He was in Queensland when the war crisis began, but arrived in Melbourne on 5 August 1914. Bridges met with cabinet and was charged with the creation of an expeditionary force for overseas service of 20,000 men. Bridges determined that the force -- which Bridges named the Australian Imperial Force because of its dual Australian and Imperial mission -- should be organised as an infantry division and a light horse brigade, and should be composed of men from all states. Bridges was

chosen to command the 1st Division, becoming the first Australian (and the first attendee of Kingston) to be promoted to major general, and the first to command a division. Bridges' service at the War Office came in handy here; the British Army Council accepted his appointment without demur.

Bridges had a fairly free hand to choose his own subordinates and his choices had far reaching effects. He drew heavily on the few available staff college graduates for his staff, choosing Majors C. B. B. White, D. J. Glasfurd and C. H. Foott and Captains T. A. Blamey and J. Gellibrand. Colonel V. C. M. Sellheim was his choice for his AA & QMG. For his brigade commanders, he chose Lieutenant Colonel E. G. Sinclair MacLagan, a British officer on exchange at Duntroon, whom he knew from his experience there, Colonel J. W. McCay, with whom he had dealt while McCay was Minister of Defence in 1904-5, and Lieutenant Colonel H. N. MacLaurin. For his artillery commander, he chose Colonel J. J. T. Hobbs, whom he had met in England in 1907, and for the light horse brigade, Colonel H. G. Chauvel.

Bridges determined to take a number of Duntroon graduates with him. The first class and second classes were graduated early and, curiously, posted to regimental rather than staff positions, where many of them were killed. Bridges believed that cadets could learn best about the Army from serving in such positions. Ironically, Bridges himself had never served in a regimental position; his own career was entirely staff oriented.

Having his troops scattered around Australia made training difficult, and Bridges protested the Prime Minister's September decision to delay sailing for a month due to the activity of German warships. Bridges saw his command together for the first time when it sailed from Albany, Western Australia, on 26 October 1914. En route, the destination was changed from England to Egypt at the instigation of Chauvel, and Bridges arrived there on 30 November 1914.

Once in Egypt, Bridges took steps to divest himself of the administrative side of his responsibilities, creating an Australian Intermediate Base Depot under Sellheim, with whom he had quarrelled. His concentration on commanding the 1st Division rather than on administering the AIF had many unfortunate consequences, especially in the area of medical administration. Bridges not only neglected Sellheim's command, starving it of the officers he needed to staff it, he gave him no support whatsoever in turf battles against the British, he used it as a dumping ground for men he disliked.

Bridges landed at Anzac Cove at around 7:30am on 25 April 1915 and immediately conducted a two-hour reconnaissance before setting up his headquarters at a spot not far from the beach chosen by the 1st Signal Company, who provided him with telephone links to McCay and MacLagan. A furious day of battle followed against the counterattacking Turks. Bridges was forced to commit his units piecemeal as they arrived on the beach, in response to one crisis after another.

Given that nowhere had the day's objectives been achieved, there was practically no chance of capturing them with the troops available, no substantial reinforcements could be expected and a major Turkish counterattack was probable, Bridges recommended a withdrawal to Hamilton. Considering a number of factors, Hamilton ordered Bridges to hold his Anzac beachhead, which Bridges and his men managed to do.

Bridges found the situation at Anzac, particularly the ineffectiveness of his own arm, the artillery, extremely frustrating, and he clashed with Hobbs over the proper employment of the guns. This was made all the more galling when the Turks managed to shell his headquarters on 6 May 1915, ultimately forcing it to be moved from the beach to Headquarters Gully.

Bridges was not a man to get the best out of his subordinates. He was known for kicking stragglers and men found asleep at their posts. He was disliked by most of his staff. His aide de camp requested a transfer back to his regiment. Bridges expected his Deputy assistant quartermaster General (DAQMG), Major J. Gellibrand, to organise a proper officers' mess at Gallipoli and was annoyed at the poor quality of what Gellibrand had scrounged from ships' canteen supplies. Yet he did share the hardships of his men, and made a point of daily excursions about the position on which he routinely ignored enemy fire and constantly exposed himself to danger.

On the morning of 15 May 1915, he was on such an excursion in Monash Valley when he was shot by a sniper, severing his femoral artery. A stretcher bearer dragged him to safety and he received medical attention from the medical officer of the 1st Battalion, Captain Clive Thompson. On 18 May 1915 he was evacuated to hospital ship *Gascon*. Unfortunately, infection set in. Amputation of his leg was considered out of the question as Bridges had lost a great deal of blood. In those days before blood transfusion, little could be done and he died on 18 May 1915.

Bridges was made a Knight Companion of the Bath (KCB) by the King the day before he died, becoming the first Australian general to earn a knighthood. His body was returned to Australia, one of only two dead Australian soldiers to return home. He was given a state funeral at St Paul's Cathedral in Melbourne and buried on 3 September 1915 on the slopes of Mount Pleasant, in a grave designed by the architect of Canberra, Walter Burley Griffin.

Bridges' legacy was enormous. The effects of his creation of the AIF and his founding of Duntroon would be felt for decades to come. An aloof man that many found difficult to like, he nonetheless won widespread respect.

Sources: Sessional Papers of the Government of Canada and British Parliamentary Papers; C.C. Coulthard-Clark: *A Heritage of Spirit: A Biography of Major General Sir William Throsby Bridges*; Bean, C. E. W., *The Official History of Australia in the War of 1914-1918. Volume I: The Story of Anzac*, pp. 485, *Volume II: The Story of Anzac*, pp. 129-130

Reprinted from University of NSW ADFA website <http://www.unsw.adfa.edu.au/~rmallett>



## **ANZAC DAY ADDRESS - WASHINGTON RSL - 1990**

### **BRIG B. WADE, AM**

"WHAT GONE! THE AUSTRALIANS GONE! FROM ANZAC GONE?  
THE LURID CRATER WHERE FOR EIGHT LONG MONTHS  
THEY LIVED WITH DEATH, DINED WITH DISEASE,  
TILL ONE IN EVERY TWO FELL ILL AND ONE  
IN EVERY FOUR WAS SHOT AND ONE  
IN EVERY EIGHT LAY DEAD.  
YES, GONE! FROM ANZAC GONE!  
AND LEFT BEHIND EIGHT THOUSAND GRAVES"

Those words were written by Sapper J C Hackett in 1915. I don't know whether Sapper Hackett survived the war nor whether he is still alive. But if he is, I certainly hope that he was one of the 47 Gallipoli veterans who four years ago were reunited with their place in history on the 75th anniversary of the momentous events of April 25, 1915.

The contingent which visited ANZAC Cove in 1990 included 47 Gallipoli veterans, 11 other WW1 veterans, 1 WW1 nurse, 8 war widows and, most appropriately I think, 8 school children. There are 26 medical support staff to make sure that the diggers who survived the terrible events of 1915, also survive the return to their historic battlefield.

It is probably just a coincidence that 47 Gallipoli veterans were included in the party, because exactly that number survived one of the major battles of the Gallipoli campaign as was recorded by 2lt Pinnock of the 57th Battalion. In a letter written in 1915, he said:

"You can't imagine what it was like. Really too awful to write about. All your pals that had been with you for months and months blown and shot out of all recognition. There was no chance whatsoever of us gaining our point, but the roll call after was the saddest, just fancy only 47 answered their names out of close on 550 men. When I heard what the result was I simply cried like a child"

Pinnock was subsequently killed in action on 19 August 1916, but I wonder if any other of the 47 survivors of that battle are amongst the 47 who returned to Gallipoli?

If any are, I wonder what were their emotions, their feelings and their memories as they looked down on ANZAC Cove and recalled the confusion that surrounded their initial landings.

As they looked at the forbidding slopes which they fought so hard to conquer.

As they walked through the areas where, time and time again, assaults were made from the trenches into a withering hail of Turkish fire,

Where sometimes the assault progressed to the stage of hand to hand fighting, of the most ferocious kind, occurring in the opposing trenches,

But where, all too often, the assault was broken up, with terrible casualties, well before it even reached the objective.

What were the feelings of these veterans as they walked through the lines and lines of gravestones which mark the final resting place of some 8000 of their buddies. I think we can all guess the answer to that.

For us to put the events of April 1915 into proper perspective, it is appropriate to consider briefly the effect that the superb performance during the great war of the first Australian imperial force, or first AIF, had on the development of Australian nationhood.

At the time of outbreak of war, Australia was a very young nation - only 14 years old. Certainly federation had been achieved, a document signed, and a parliament assembled. But there had been no selfless act of valour, and no unifying event to bring the nation together. The young men of the day had had drilled into them by history, legend, verse, story and song that real nationhood is forged in battle. Within eight months of the outbreak of the Great War, this forging had been done, and done with a vengeance, on the shores of Gallipoli commencing on 25 Apr 1915.

The British General Sir Ian Hamilton wrote that day "before the war, who had ever heard of ANZAC? Hereafter who will ever forget it?"

The achievements of the Australians who fought at Gallipoli, and in France, during the great war has become a legend, a heritage that every Australian since that day has been born with, like it or not. A heritage that has, of course, been enriched in many subsequent campaigns in many lands.

Something of the impact of what this heritage means can be judged from the remarks of a young reporter of the Melbourne age newspaper on visiting the Australian war cemetery at Villers Brettoneux in France. He said:

"I never felt so Australian before. I doubt that I even felt I was Australian until I walked through these cemeteries where every man was my age and had come from where I came."

A few years ago, one of my daughters, then aged 22, visited the Gallipoli peninsula. She sat on the side of the hill overlooking ANZAC Cove where her great grandfather had fought. She also had noted that most of those who had died there were younger than she. And she sat there, and she cried.

What sort of men were these creators of our heritage? We can say of the first AIF, that of all the allied armies who fought in the Great War:

- They suffered the greatest number of casualties, per man in the field,
- They travelled further from home and were away the longest,
- They were the only all volunteer force, and
- They came from a newer land and a younger race than any other.

They were mainly young, very young. They weren't angels by any means, and certainly not the delicate aesthetic visionaries as they are sometimes portrayed. They were tough, very tough men who endured and fought for longer periods than virtually all of the allied nations.

They were probably moved by a patriotism which might well be different from the beliefs held by some of the youth of today. Those who returned had been enriched by the strongest of all bonds of comradeship, those which were born in adversity and which flourished through the experience of armed conflict.

In 1920 the French Marshall Foch said of these men:

"...the passionate valour of the Australians served as an example to the whole world. That wonderful attack of yours at Villers Brettoneux was the final proof, if any were needed, that the real task of the high command was to show itself equal to its soldiers. You saved Amiens, you saved France. Our gratitude will remain ever and always to Australia."

And so, mindful of the makeup and achievements of those Australians who fought in the great war, it is appropriate to reflect on the significance of ANZAC day.

Of why it is that April 25 - the anniversary of what was, after all, a military defeat and not a great victory, has since 1916, been the day on which Australians and New Zealanders remember, and pay homage to, those who have made the supreme sacrifice for their countries.

ANZAC day has a significance far beyond the recognition of the heroic deeds of the Australian forces at ANZAC Cove, because it represents what might be considered our real independence day. For the Gallipoli campaign was the first time we had fought as Australians from one distinct nation, rather than as individuals, or as contingents from separate colonies.

Because it was the first time we had fought for Australia, for the sort of world we wished to live in and be part of.

Because it was the first time we had fought alongside another - New Zealand - rather than simply under another - Great Britain.

And because it was the first time we had fought as an integrated formation, fighting our own distinctive and more or less independent battle even though within a larger whole. Fighting, moreover, as a British chronicler writing some 20 years later put it, with "such a sum of bravery that there must forever reside in the name of ANZAC a magic and a splendour to uplift all hearts".

Now all these things made us realise, in the words of the archbishop of Sydney, on that first ANZAC Day in 1916, that "the 25th of April was the date on which Australia suddenly found herself lifted to a place among the peoples of the world"

Made us realise that we had grown up, and now had interests of our own to protect and advance and that we could not leave it to others to look after those interests.

Made us realise that nationhood meant the state's taking on a full measure of the burden of national responsibility.

And made us realise that individuals must respond to the nation's need for a people imbued with a sense of duty, commitment, patriotism and sacrifice.

Those notions are absolutely central to ANZAC Day - the notions of a duty of service to others within the nation, of commitment to a cause higher than the individual, of a patriotism that finds expression in sacrifice - risking one's life, and if necessary laying it down, that others may live, and live in freedom.

Were some of these thoughts be in the minds of the Gallipoli and other world war one veterans during their 1990 visit to the site that has since become known as the birthplace of a nation? Perhaps ex Sapper Hackett was there to recall the events which caused him to write those emotive words with which I commenced these remarks.

Yes, Sapper Hackett, the Australians have gone from ANZAC Cove, but 47 of them returned to be reunited briefly with the 8000 whose sacrifice meant that they would never leave.

As we gather together this morning, it is appropriate that we reflect for a moment on the emotions that must have been in the hearts and minds of those original ANZACs during that 1990 visit.

They, more than anyone present at ANZAC Cove, must have reflected, as they looked at the gravestones of so many of their comrades in arms of so long ago, as they saw again the fields of battle where they survived, but so many did not, and as they listened to the eulogies from many great world leaders, they must have asked themselves whether or not the sacrifice of the 8000 was in vain.

And I believe that we all should be asking ourselves the same question and resolving to play our part, no matter how small, in ensuring that the answer is an unqualified yes.

Reprinted from the RSL Website

<http://www.rsl.org.au/info/speech/a1990bw.html>

## **ANZAC DAY ADDRESS 1999**

### **NUDGENE COLLEGE KEITH PAYNE VC, DSC (US)**

Principal, teachers, ladies and gentlemen and in that statement I include the students who surely are young gentlemen

I thank you for the honour of being invited to address you today. As we commence to commemorate that tragic day in our history now known as Anzac day and we pay homage to all Australian men and women who laid down their lives for our national freedom.

As you are all no doubt aware, our last link with the original Anzacs passed away December 9th, 1997.

Today, I would like to tell you about another Australian soldier who served in that bitter war. His name was Pte James (Jim) Charles martin. When news of the first Anzac landings were spread across the Australian papers, the recruiting depots were swamped with eager men ready to stand side by side with those already in action.

A father arrived home and sadly announced to his family that he had attempted to enlist in the A.I.F. Only to be turned down as medically unfit. As he sat with his head in his hands he felt his son's hand on his shoulder and heard the words

Never mind dad, I'll go

His mother pleaded with him that he was too young. Jim said that if they did not let him go he would join under another name.

Armed with a letter of consent from his parents young Jim Martin was the fittest man seen by the recruiting officer on the day he enlisted in April, 1915 at Seymour in Victoria.

Jim Martin was allocated to the 1st reinforcement of the newly formed 21 bn who went into extensive training at Broadmeadows and Seymour camps in Victoria.

On embarkation day, June 27,1915, they went by train to the docks at Port Melbourne and boarded the troop ship Berrima.

As the Berrima glided silently down the still waters of Port Phillip Bay, Jim Martin had time to reflect on his family, glancing occasionally at the streamer in his hand, the one he had caught from his mother as the ship pulled away from the quay.

For many of the soldiers on board, the fading lights of Melbourne were to be their last sight of Australia.

The reinforcements landed in Egypt in late august and were immediately absorbed by the battalion.

In the shadows of the pyramids the young soldier honed his fighting skills as 21 bn's day of reckoning approached.

On August 29, the battalion entrained for Alexandria. Awaiting them was their transport - the 12000 ton ship, Southland.

The men of 21 bn were joined by their mates of HQ 2 div, HQ 6 bde and one company of 23 bn, in all about 1600 men.

At 9.50 am on September 2, as the troops were mustering for the 10 am parade a torpedo struck just forward of the ship's bridge, tearing a hole 10 metres by 4 metres in the side.

As there were insufficient lifeboats, many, including Jim Martin were forced to jump overboard. He was to spend the next four hours in the choppy sea.

On their pickup by the attending boats, young Jim Martin was dragged on deck but shunned away attention with the cry of, "I'm all right." of those on board, casualties were relatively light -33 in total.

So as not to miss his landing at Anzac, Jim Martin never reported sick but his exposure to the dunking in the sea was taking its toll.

Just before midnight on September 8, 1915, 21 bn set foot on the stony beach known as Anzac Cove.

The next day the battalion occupied the line from Courtney's Post to Wire Gully, a distance of around 400 metres; young Jim Martin settles into life in the trenches.

In a letter home on October 4, Jim wrote, "don't worry about me, I am doing ok over here."

These were brave words as the effect of the Southland incident, poor food and stress of Gallipoli was running rife through young Jim's body.

On October 25, Jim Martin reported sick and was evacuated to the hospital ship, Glenart Castle, lying off Gallipoli, where he arrived about 5 pm.

He settled down to get some sleep but died suddenly of heart failure at 6.40 pm. The next day, October 26, 1915, the body of Pte James Charles Martin slid from the platform beneath his country's flag as his body was buried at sea.

In a letter to Jim's mother, a member of his platoon wrote, "I am writing to you to express our great sorrow at your late bereavement. Jim was in the firing line with us and stuck to his post till the last, like the brave lad that he was, and made the greatest and noblest of sacrifices for his country."

"Sergeant Coates speaks very highly of him and says he never had a man in his platoon who paid more attention to his duty."

In February, 1916, Amelia Martin opened a box sent by general headquarters. It contained her son's personal effects - his id disc, bible, notebook, letters, belt and the torn and battered streamer she threw to him on his departure.

So why was Jim Martin so special and why does his story deserve to be told?

The fact is - Jim Martin was only 14 years of age when he died. He was our youngest Anzac, and that is one of the reasons we are here this morning and as Australians we must feel sad for the loss of young Jim Martin who by his example he not only showed great bravery, but the acceptance of those principles of life we in today's society should strive to emulate

1. Love of family
2. Pride of family and nation
3. Understand your responsibilities to your family, your school and your country

Young Jim died being loved by his family and highly respected by those with whom he served and by us here today. When you offer a prayer for those killed in war, remember young Jim Martin who was the same age as many of you here today when he died fighting for his country ..... your country.

Reprinted from the RSL Website

<http://www.rsl.org.au/info/speech/a1999%20kp.html>



# MELBOURNE TANK MUSEUM



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*Director: John W. BELFIELD*

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6th March 2006

Letter to the Editor

Dear Sir,

This is to inform you that we have decided to Auction off the contents of the above Museum on Sunday 23rd April 2006.

This is a difficult decision after a lifetimes work to assemble and establish this museum. We have tried to find a suitable and permanent home in Australia over the last 7 years. We have spent over \$20,000 in advertising and with a full time agent. We tried state governments in all states RSL's and Government museum's. Four different locations were tried and nothing happened.

Hopefully most of them will stay here in Australia. It will be a sad day for us.

Yours Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to be "John Belfield". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above the printed name.

John Belfield

## ***Brass Monkey Myth and Mystery***

In the "Cascabel" issue No 79 a short article appeared about the term and reference to "Brass Monkeys".

As the following later on will explain in some detail of how it (not) came to be, other aspects are not as well known. All of us have seen in the cinema or on TV those rousing action dramas of men and ships during the so called "Golden Age" of sail. Golden age I would question, for life on board in these times can only be described as harsh at best, to horrendous at worst.

Living and working conditions were far from the standard we expect today. Anyone who has been fortunate to visit such a ship, either real or replica would understand. In particular the gun decks as depicted in some of the films. You could not stand upright; you had to move about in a permanent crouch or stooped position, in very crowded areas which would do little for your spine or back problems.

On top of this most would have had to sleep or be quartered in the near vicinity of the guns, if not over them in those quaint things the Navy calls "Hammocks" and let's not dwell too much on the sanitation of the times. Or perhaps the quality or quantity of the rations that was made (sometimes) available.

Manning the guns during these times must have been difficult, as guns almost touching side by side along the gun decks. Reloading either in practice or under fire, must have been a challenge, relying on the many skills and teamwork of the crews during these actions. Just as vital today as it was then.

Imagine manning such guns that had no recoil system we take for granted today, only the basic method of the "run out" ropes and tackle. At least it was moved back far enough to service and reload by the somewhat fierce recoil on firing, and then hauled back in the firing or ready position.

Those of you who have served on the "big" guns know full well the necessity of swabbing and drying the bore before reloading, essential with the black, or gun powder at the time. The luxury of charge or "powder" bags was still some time away. And this with the convenience of the breech loaders, not the muzzle loaders of the day.

The thought of manning these guns in these conditions, with open supplies of gun powder nearby, with chances of muzzle flash, miss fire, or lighted tapers dropped in the heat of the moment, would do little for the nerves.

Traversing was just about non-existent with elevation limited with the cannon lying on the wooden cradle or rest. A common method was to use wedges at the front of the cradle under the barrel, to raise the cannon to allow some degree of elevation. Another method was to remove the rear wheels from the cradle to increase elevation to a limited sense.

But this was used only as a last resort to demast, and therefore disable the opposing ship from maneuvering to a gun firing position. Also the range and velocity of shot was limited to the ballistics of the day. You don't sink wooden ships by peppering them with holes above the waterline. You get alongside and take over, no doubt with varying degrees of difficulty. During these times any "prize" taken was shared amongst the crew, and on some occasions, refitted, renamed and used against its former owners.

Another aspect of life in the gun decks is mentioned, but rarely given much detail, is that of the "powder monkeys" Young boys aged (I think) about 10 to 13 years, how would conditions be for them. Did they enlist, perhaps sold off by impoverished families, orphans of the times or just simply "press ganged" A not so pleasant memory of conditions of Naval service during these times.

Irrespective of how they were there, they carried out a vital role in supplying the gun crews with powder, and I suspect additional cannon balls as well as water, during any lull in action and should not be overlooked. As their duties were as hazardous as any on board, I wonder about their superannuation or pension rights, if they survived any length of service that we now take for granted. For a long time, service performed before the age of 18 was not counted, and disallowed.

So enough of the preamble, on with it;

The word "monkey" is of uncertain origin; its first known usage was in 1498 when it was used in the literary work *Reynard the Fox* as the name of the son of Martin the Ape. "Monkey" has numerous nautical meanings, such as a small coastal trading vessel, single masted with a square sail of the 16th and 17th centuries; a small wooden cask in which grog was carried after issue from a grog-tub to the seamen's messes in the Royal Navy; a type of marine steam reciprocating engine where two engines were used together in tandem on the same propeller shaft; and a sailor whose job involved climbing and moving swiftly on deck and amongst the myriad of rigging, common to all ships of this type.(usage dating to 1858).

A "monkey boat" was a narrow vessel used on canals (usage dating to 1858); a "monkey gaff" is a small gaff on large merchant vessels; a "monkey jacket" is a close fitting jacket worn by sailors; "monkey spars"

are small masts and yards on vessels used for the "instruction and exercise of boys;" and a "monkey pump" is a straw used to suck the liquid from a small hole in a cask; a "monkey block" was used in the rigging of sailing ships; "monkey island" is a ship's upper bridge; "monkey drill" was calisthenics by naval personnel (usage dating to 1895); and "monkey march" is close order march by US Marine Corps personnel (usage dating to 1952).

"Monkey" has also been used within an ordnance context. A "monkey" was a kind of gun or cannon (usage dating to 1650). "Monkey tail" was a short hand spike, a lever for aiming a carronade [short-sight iron cannon]. A "powder monkey" was a boy who carried gun powder from the magazine to cannons and performed other ordnance duties on a warship (usage dating to 1682). (It has been suggested that other parts of their duties was ordnance related, but exactly what is unclear.)

Particularly diligent gunners, (not "masters" who were in charge of navigation, sailing and pilotage, not ordnance) would have their crews chip away at the imperfections on the surface of cannonballs to make them as smooth as possible, in the hopes that would cause them to fly truer. They did not leave shot on deck, exposed to the elements where it would rust.

Perhaps it would be a little fool hardy to suggest that the terms of "Chipper; Chip of the old block, or the more common name of "Chippy" which is generally reserved for the ships carpenter over time came from this practice.

The first recorded use of the term "brass monkey" appears to dates to 1857 when it was used in an apparently vulgar context by C.A. Abbey in his book *\*Before the Mast*, where on page 108 it says "It would freeze the tail off a brass monkey." [Source: Lighter, J.E. ed. *Random House Historical Dictionary of American Slang*. (New York: Random House, 1994): 262.]

It has often been claimed that the "brass monkey" was a holder or storage rack in which cannon balls (or shot) were stacked on a ship. Supposedly when the "monkey" with its stack of cannon ball became cold, the contraction of iron cannon balls led to the balls falling through or off of the "monkey." This explanation appears to be a legend of the sea without historical justification.

In actuality, ready service shot was kept on the gun or spar decks in shot racks (also known as shot garlands in the Royal Navy) which consisted of longitudinal wooden planks with holes bored into them, into which round shot (cannon balls) were inserted for ready use by the gun crew.

These shot racks or garlands are discussed in: Longridge, C. Nepean. *The Anatomy of Nelson's Ships*. (Annapolis MD: Naval Institute Press, 1981): 64. A top view of shot garlands on the upper deck of a ship-of-the-line is depicted in *The Visual Dictionary of Ships and Sailing*. New York: Dorling Kindersley, 1991): 17.

Warships didn't store cannonballs (or "round shot") on the deck around the clock, day after day on the slight chance that they may go into action. Space was a precious commodity on sailing ships, and decks were kept as clear as possible in order to allow the hundreds of men to perform all the tasks necessary for ordinary ships functions.(Remember, ships of the line carried a compliment of Marines as well as crew, possibly company sized)

Stacking round shot on deck would also create the danger of them breaking free, and rolling around loose on deck whenever the ship encountered rough seas. Not forgetting the fact that the rates of contraction, (freezing) on a mass like a cannonball would be marginal at best.

What is not generally known is that "Brass monkey" is also the nickname for the Cunard Line's house flag which depicts a gold lion rampant on a red field. [Source: Rogers, John. *Origins of Sea Terms*. (Mystic CT: Mystic Seaport Museum, 1984): 23.]

Other sources reveal the following;

The full expansion of the phrase is *cold enough to freeze the balls off a brass monkey* and is common throughout the English-speaking world, though much better known now in Australia and New Zealand than elsewhere. This is perhaps surprising, since we know it was first recorded in the USA, in the 1850s. It is often reduced to the elliptical form that in deference to polite society for the same reason; it has been modified in the US into *freeze the tail off a brass monkey*).

There is a story, often repeated, that the phrase originated in the British navy at the time of the Napoleonic wars or thereabouts. It is said that the stack of cannon balls alongside each gun were arranged in a pyramid on a brass plate to save space, the plate being called a *monkey*. In very cold weather, the story goes, the cannon balls would shrink and they would fall off the stack.

There's no evidence that such brass plates existed. Although the boys bringing charges to the guns from the magazine were known as *powder monkeys* and there is evidence that a type of cannon was called a *monkey* in the mid seventeenth century, there's no evidence that the word was ever applied to a plate under a pile of cannon shot.

What the written evidence shows is that the term *brass monkey* was quite widely distributed in the US from about the middle of the nineteenth century and was applied in all sorts of situations, not just weather. For example: from *The Story of Waitstill Baxter*, by Kate Douglas Wiggin (1913): "The little feller, now, is smart's a whip, an' could talk the tail off a brass monkey"; and from *The Ivory Trail*, by Talbot Mundy (1919): "He has the gall of a brass monkey".

Even when weather was involved, it was often heat rather than cold that was meant, as in the oldest example known, from Herman Melville's *Omoo* (1850): "It was so excessively hot in this still, brooding valley, shut out from the Trades, and only open toward the leeward side of the island, that labor in the sun was out of the question. To use a hyperbolic phrase of Shorty's, .It was not enough to melt the nose h'off a brass monkey".

It seems much more likely that the image here is of a real brass monkey, or more probably still a set of them. Do you remember those sculptured groups of three wise monkeys, "Hear no evil, See no evil, Speak no evil"? Though the term *three wise monkeys* isn't recorded earlier than the start of the twentieth century, the images themselves were known much earlier. It's more than likely the term came from them, as an image of something solid and inert that could only be affected by extremes of temperature.

So there you have it, Truth may just be stranger than Fiction.

Barry Irons

Armament Artificer (R)

References;

The internet, for those who have it; many and varied, but try

US Naval Historical Society. Royal Naval Historical Society.

Collins English Dictionary (I don't have an Oxford one) No mention of Brass Monkey's is listed. Cassidy, Frederick G. and Joan Houston Hall eds. *Dictionary of American Regional English*. vol.3

(Cambridge MA: Harvard University Press, 1996): 642; Wilfred Granville. *A Dictionary of Sailors' Slang* (London: Andre Deutch, 1962): 77; Peter Kemp ed. *Oxford Companion to Ships & the Sea*. (New York: Oxford University Press, 1976): 556; *The Oxford English Dictionary*. New York: Oxford University Press, 1933; J.E. Lighter ed. *Random House Historical Dictionary of American Slang*. (New York: Random House, 1994): 580; and Eric Partridge *A Dictionary of Slang and Unconventional English*. 8th ed. (New York: Macmillan Publishing Company): 1917.]

\* Two Years before the Mast was a film made in 1946 starring among other notables, Alan Ladd. Although made by the Americans, it was a stand out film for its time, depicting the harshness of life aboard such a ship of the line, and the efforts to make service more humane. If you can get a copy of it somewhere, it is well worth a look.



## Correction

Cascabel Edition 86

Darwin Raids 1942-1943

Raids No. 1 & 2 February 19 1942

There were 188 Japanese planes in the raids on that day not 81 as stated.

The source of the article Quarantine Anti-Aircraft Battery Site is from the Northern Territory Government Natural Resources, Environment and the Arts Website

<http://www.nt.gov.au/nreta/heritage/ntregister/declared/display.html?qackack>

# MY SERVICE CAREER

## By COL Graham Farley, OAM, RFD, ED (Rtd)

### Part 23 Colonel Artillery, Jan Aug 1980

1980 turned out to be “my year” in artillery. At the suggestion of the CO’s and artillery staff officers, the annual artillery TEWT was to be held at the school where I was headmaster, namely Braemar College, Woodend. That weekend lives on in the memory of those who attended. For me its supreme moment was the proposing of the Loyal Toast at the formal dinner in Jackson Hall, when well over a hundred officers simultaneously raised their glasses in salute to the Queen, our Captain-General. But the account of that TEWT must await the July edition of *Cascabel*. There was a lot to take place in gunner circles before September.

BRIG Neale Bavington was commanding the 3 Div FF Gp. On 1 Feb 80, MAJGEN Kevin Cooke, Assistant Commander, Logistics Command<sup>1</sup>, convened a dinner of senior officers at the Naval and Military Club. He sought, in the short run, to promote greater cooperation between the FF and Trg groups and also to both brief us and to seek our support for his attempts to have the Third Infantry Division re-raised. My diary records this evening as “The Red Hats Dinner”.

MAJGEN Jock McNeill replaced MAJGEN His Honour Judge Norman Vickery as Colonel Commandant on 16 Feb 80. At Vickery’s request, this was observed with a quiet function at his regimental home, the Batman Avenue artillery depot. Meanwhile LTCOL Mike Vincent had returned to Australia after his stint with his bank in Singapore.

The first weekend of March saw the field and medium regiments in camp. I visited them. There was the inevitable night occupation to view under a cloudless moonlit night. The moon must have been of great benefit and reassurance to those “white-towelled” gunners loyally plodding along ahead of the Mack tractors. My diary suggests that the artillery planning meeting on the Sunday afternoon was to be one of destiny. Was it here with enthusiasm that the idea of the TEWT being at Braemar College was mooted? A week later I was back at Puckapunyal for a dinner night in the field. Stable belts were now “in” for wear.

The ‘red hats’ dinner was followed up by a mass briefing in the Albert Park signals depot by our three senior army reserve officers, namely MAJGEN K. Cooke, and Brigadiers Barry and Bavington. My diary indicates that I was back a week or two later at Puckapunyal, but whose regiment was in camp I do not know. I recall watching an illumination shoot on a cold night. Our new colonel commandant visited the camp. This was also during the period that the Puckapunyal range almost doubled in size to accommodate the high velocity trajectories of the guns of the new Leopard tank.

By now WO1 Bob Millett, MBE, had taken me under his wing, Bob having joined the FF Gp arty team. Both he and MAJ Duncan McInness had despaired of me, as I was still wearing the old style boots with the long black gaiters, while everyone who was someone had either been issued or had obtained a pair of the Vietnam-issue GP boots. Hence, I was frog-marched to the Puckapunyal clothing store and issued with my new boots<sup>2</sup> and any other item for which my pay book and service record indicated I was entitled. It was like Christmas and birthday rolled into one. Looked after at home by Shirley, I now had Bob to “mother” me in the army again as only an experienced sergeant-major can do<sup>3</sup>.

During the year I issued two planning and policy documents, of which copies are in my files. It was easier for these to be typed by Braemar’s secretary, but of course, staff duties were not always followed. Equally, the lady who did this typing was rather fond of one and a half line-spacing, but

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<sup>1</sup> And Senior A Res officer, 3 MD

<sup>2</sup> Still in good condition and on stand-by for my bushfire fighting rig

<sup>3</sup> Bob had been my WO2 when I was a BC in Geelong and later still as a WO1 when I was CO of that unit

4the documents, namely *Review of 3 MD together with Strategy for Expansion and Development* and *RAA 3 MD Guidelines from 1 Jul 80* were given a wide circulation. If the hoped-for expansion in recruiting and the raised status of the army reserve had taken place, the plans and structure for the artillery were now clearly available, albeit in the writer's inimitable style!

My third and last Gunner Dinner as Col Arty came along in its usual June slot. I invited as my guest, Mr. Buck Brooksbank, the chairman of the Board of Governors of Braemar College. This was both sensible and tactful, if we were thinking of using the College premises later on in the year. My father was also able to attend.<sup>4</sup>

The top table almost creaked with generals, they being MAJGEN Peter C. Gration<sup>5</sup>, MAJGEN His Honour Judge Norman Vickery<sup>6</sup>, MAJGEN Kevin Cooke<sup>7</sup> and MAJGEN Jock McNeill<sup>8</sup>. The evening ran smoothly, the conversation flowed, and I again delivered a "speech night" report in reply to the toast to the regiment. Unfortunately one of the guest speakers also seized his last opportunity to speak and for too long, encouraging a number of officers to check and wind their watches!

At one of the gunner dinners during my period as Colonel (Artillery,) MAJ Carl Wood was required during a "Kangaroo Court" sequence (when the senior officers had left to enjoy coffee and cheese in the ante room) to ascend onto the tables. It was alleged that the fine polished surface had been so scratched, that a repolishing at the corps expense was necessary. The to-ing and fro-ing of the claims for indemnifying the MD mess were to go on for some time. Logically, in view of who held which appointments, the 1980 dinner had to be when this "dancing sequence" took place!

It was practice at the FF Gp HQ, *Grosvenor*, for a light supper to be served prior to parade. Until about this time, carafes of wine had been placed on the tables, the cost presumably covered by mess profits. This policy now changed on grounds of economy. Officers may now buy bottles if they wish to dine with dignity! The Reverence John Leaver<sup>9</sup>, by now one of the senior chaplains, was regular at these parades. He and I had been close friends for some years, the commencement of which has always been debated between us<sup>10</sup>. He was the consultant at the time Braemar College was established and I have always suspected his hand in my appointment. We got into the habit of buying a bottle turn about. As waste to both of us was a sin, it also meant that not only the business for the night could on some occasions have passed in a dreamy haze. It also necessitated a good knowledge of back roads home to Woodend!

I visited regularly the three units. Landcox Street, with the 132 Div Loc Bty, was always a nostalgic one for me as it was the HQ of my first artillery unit, the 22 (SP) Fd Regt, RAA. This was back in 1956, when I was parading with R Bty at Korumburra. It was similar to some extent with Dandenong. Here I had been a battery commander for some years following the conversion of Warragul to RAEME. It was very useful that the "system" provided for commonwealth or army cars for such visits, even though it did give Braemar College staff and students a bit of a fillip to see the vehicle arrive in the school grounds and a smart salute offered to their headmaster. Normally I would have been in service dress, but when I was arrayed in mess kit, the reception was even more dramatic. No, I would assure some of them, I was not a member of the Salvation Army!

LTCOL George James had been the CO of 10 Medium Regiment from the previous year. Prior to this appointment he had been part of the 3 Div FF Gp Arty staff. George was a geologist and it was impossible to find a site for a TEWT without him giving us a learned treatise about profile of the rock and soil on which we were standing. It came as a shock to us all, when some years later he died while still a young man.

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<sup>4</sup> It was his last gunner dinner. He died on 20 Nov 80, but more about that in later chapter

<sup>5</sup> Comd, Log Comd. Later Chief of Defence Force, full general and AC

<sup>6</sup> CBE, MC, ED

<sup>7</sup> Assistant Commander, Logistics Command, and later Comd 3 Div and AO

<sup>8</sup> Col Comdt, AO, OBE, ED

<sup>9</sup> AO, RFD, ED, retired wearing the chaplain's rank of LTCOL

<sup>10</sup> John claims that it was when he was chaplain with MUR. My guess is that the gunner regiment with which I was serving at the time was also in camp at Puckapunyal

The Artillery Ball was held on Fri 8 Aug 80 at Canterbury, which was a change from No. 9 Darling Street. Financially, the ball was a success several weeks before the event. Despite this, attendance was reflecting the changing times and the gradual run down of the number of potential attendees in the artillery side of the army reserve. Today's democratic or all-ranks functions are the result of this situation.

A command post exercise was held at Watsonia on the weekend of 15 - 17 Aug 80. These were the days when our two (Farley) family cars were starting to reach "use by" date. On this occasion, I limped into the Watsonia camp in Shirley's Capri, the alternator hanging by one bolt. Once again, Bob Millett rose to the occasion - "dresser of the colonel" and mechanic for his cars! My application to attend the CGS exercise lapsed when it was discovered that I had not been security cleared since marriage<sup>11</sup>. However, I was permitted to attend an army office exercise in Canberra, a sort of Second XI. While in Canberra I caught up with the Director of Artillery, COL Don Quinn. This was to prove very useful. I was also able to admire the RAA memorial on the hill behind Duntroon on one of my late afternoon walks.

Wed 3 Sep was not just the anniversary of the commencement of the Second World War, but one of those nights in a headquarters when careers could be made or terminated. One needed to keep head and eyes to the front and a low profile on such occasions. I was now into my fourth year in my "Col Arty" posting. When would I hear footsteps? Meanwhile there were four gunner officers on the Tactics 5 course, which I visited, namely majors John Morkham, Keith Bunnet, Bob Freeland and Ian George.

But the Corps was in a strong position. When the Tac 5 course was empanelled for the previous year, I was able to offer the last minute nomination of MAJ John Henry. He qualified. Then all the gunners on the course held later in 1980 were similarly successful. MAJ Keith Bunnett rang me to say that the sun was shining at Canungra as they had all passed. This was very good news. This meant that the corps now had seven majors eligible for command roles. It was "to get up the nose" of the other corps. Every time an out of corps posting became vacant, there were seven gunners ready to snap it up. The last minute "starter" John Henry would be the first cab off the rank. He was to be CO of MUR in May 81. The seven qualified officers were MAJs Keith Bunnet, Bob Freeland, Ian George, John Henry, Jim Killender, John Morkham and Dennis Murphy<sup>12</sup>

This artillery link with MUR had always been a strong one. LTGEN Sir Edmund Herring, MAJGEN Norman Vickery, MAJGEN John Stephenson, MAJGEN Jim Barry, LTCOL Bill Myers and I had been directly involved either as the honorary colonel or as the CO. Following John Henry's period of command, LTCOL Bernie Pearson was another gunner who became an MUR CO. One could also claim BRIG Graeme Standish's name to be in the list, as he commanded Mon UR earlier in his career.

By now all the approvals had been given for the 1980 3MD RAA TEWT to be held at Braemar College, Woodend. Readers, who did not attend the TEWT, will need a little background information. In 1890 a group of Scottish businessmen built a "coffee palace" (guest house) some seven kilometres east of Woodend on the northern slopes of the forested Mount Macedon. Access was by horse drawn vehicle from the railway station at Woodend. The gravel road wound its way up the forested mountainside.

Braemar Coffee Palace was a two-storey wooden building, similar in construction to the guest houses that covered Marysville, Warburton and Healesville in those days. The freehold was later

<sup>11</sup> However, I had attended the 1977 CGS exercise, so someone could not have done the necessary security check!

<sup>12</sup> Bunnett change corps to armour, Freeland became CO of 10 Mdm in 1981, as did George of 2/15. Henry's appointment has already been referred to. Killender continued as OC 132 Div Loc Bty. Morkham had to wait until 1985 to succeed Dennis Murphy as 2/15.s CO in 1983.

purchased by the Clyde School, who moved up from St. Kilda in 1919. Clyde was a boarding school, able to use the kitchens, dining hall and bedrooms of the former guest house. Since 1919, a hall and classrooms had been added. In 1975 Clyde School advised parents that it would merge with Geelong Grammar School from the start of 1976. From the time of that announcement, members of the "Macedon Ranges" community began to undertake the establishment of a low-fee ecumenical co-educational day school in its place. Braemar College was the result, opening in February, 1976

In 1976 and 1977 the boarding facilities had been "kept warm" when the National Emergency Services College<sup>13</sup> leased them. Most of them were still intact in 1980. This then was the physical setting for the RAA TEWT that would be held in September later that year. Most of the next instalment in this series is devoted to that weekend.

Corrigendum: *Cascabel*, Number 86, January 2006, p. 31,-second last paragraph. The direct shoot that was interrupted by the civilian vehicle was two years later, namely 20 Mar 81.



Photograph: 1980 Gunner Dinner top table

<sup>13</sup> Now Emergency Management, Australia

