

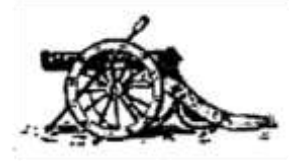
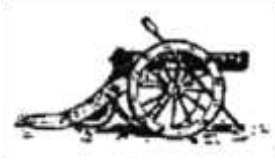
CASCABEL

Journal of the

ROYAL AUSTRALIAN ARTILLERY ASSOCIATION

(VICTORIA) INCORPORATED

ABN 22 850 898 908



81mm Mortar in action

| Article | Pages |
|---|-------|
| Assn Contacts, Conditions & Copyright | 3 |
| The President Writes | 4 |
| From The Colonel Commandant | 5 |
| Membership Report | 6 |
| Profile Lt Col Jason Cooke | 7 |
| Profile Regimental Sergeant Major 2nd/10th Field Regiment | 7 |
| ADF Reserve report inaccurate | 8 |
| Editor's Indulgence | 9 |
| Origins of the 25 Pdr Gun – Part 1 | 10 |
| Book review | 16 |
| Letter to the Editor | 17 |
| 'Shamed Soldier' saved 20 children | 20 |
| Vale Max Armstrong | 21 |
| You Bonnie Beauty | 22 |
| FO lessons in Afghanistan | 24 |
| 20 STA Regt | 26 |
| Big guns drive modern army | 27 |
| Peter Badcoe VC and 103 Bty | 28 |
| Hero's lost war medal | 30 |
| Celebrations in fine style | 31 |
| Wagon project revs up | 32 |
| 8/12's Mission on fire | 33 |
| 81mm Mortar | 34 |
| 16 AD Regt | 35 |
| Rising Sun badge | 37 |
| Improved Air Defence training | 38 |
| Keep the sand out of my beer | 39 |
| Editors Indulgence continued | 40 |
| Gunner Dinner 2010 | 41 |
| RAA Association (Vic) Inc Corp Shop | 42 |
| Parade Card/Changing your address? See cut-out proforma | 43 |

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The President Writes

On behalf of the Association and myself, I would like to congratulate LtCol Doug Caulfield on being awarded an OAM. It is very pleasing to see members of the Association being recognised for their contribution to the community.

The RAA Luncheon was held at the RACV Club on 9 March. The attendance was very good, 110, with a number of people from interstate and regional centres of Victoria. The opportunity to re-new old (or not so old) acquaintances made this a memorable occasion.

The driving force behind this function was Brig Doug Perry. He was ably assisted by SSgt Reg Morrell who appeared to do a good percentage of the work.

I am told that work is already underway for next year's luncheon.

We have still not been able to finalise a date for the Cerberus visit. With a bit of luck, we may know something in the near future.

As those of you on the email list will already know, the Committee decided at our last meeting not to support the Reserve Forces Day march. The decision was made after consideration of the lack of support from a number of organisations including the Army and the City Council.

I have received a number of responses from members supporting our decision.

Brig Keith Rossi, on behalf of the RSL pointed out that reservists who had served on full time duty were welcome to march on ANZAC Day. Other reservists could contribute to this day of commemoration by providing support, such as marshalling.

The Gunner Dinner is rapidly approaching. I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible at the Caulfield RSL on the 25th June. \$60 is a very reasonable cost for a three-course dinner and drinks.

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

Regards to all

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Neil Hamer". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Neil Hamer

MAJ (R)

From the Colonel Commandant

Greetings once again.

Since my last newsletter there have been two significant Gunner occasions:

In February we had the annual Church Parade at St Georges. It was followed by a most pleasant morning tea at the Regiment. If you did not attend this year, I would recommend that you put it in your diary for the second Sunday in February 2011.



Many thanks must go to Doug Perry for organizing the lunch at the RACV Club in March. Over 100 attended, which, compared to the numbers at recent Gunner Dinners, was a remarkably successful occasion. I trust that all who attended enjoyed it as much as I did. Given the popularity of a lunch time gathering, we will repeat the event next year. Doug has volunteered to continue to organize this occasion. I must also mention the efforts of Reg Morrell, who **was Doug's able assistant. Thanks to you both.**

We are approaching a busy period. ANZAC Day is this coming weekend, and the Regiment is organizing the usual Dawn Service. Last year it was held inside **because of the inclement weather, and this year's forecast does not look promising, either. The Regiment** has also invited Gunner groups back to Sargood Barracks for post march get togethers, so I hope many were able to take advantage of that offer.

In conjunction with a meeting of the RAA Historical Sub Committee, the Representative Colonel Commandant (Major General Tim Ford) has invited me as one of a group of selected "RAA Elders" to a conference at Puckapunyal on the 7th and 8th of May. The Elders meeting will address the RAA response to evolving Army Reviews, the further development of the RAA Heritage plan, the possible creation of a RAA National Association and issues evolving about the artillery collection at North Fort in Sydney. I will report on the outcomes in my next newsletter.

The decision by 2/10 Fd Regt to hold an Open Day in May was welcomed, and I hope that many of you took advantage of that opportunity to renew your knowledge of current developments and to practice your FO skills on the simulator.

It has been a good year to date. I look forward to your continuing support to keep it that way and hope to see you all at the Gunner Dinner at Caulfield RSL on Friday 25 June. This is a mixed function and all partners **are most welcome. If you haven't done so already, don't forget to send off your acceptance form for this function.**

Best wishes

Brig Neil Graham AM

Colonel Commandant, Southern Region
Royal Regiment of Australian Artillery.



Membership Report

June 2010

Current Membership as at 22 Apr 10

| | | |
|------------------------------|------------|--------------|
| Life Members | 201 | (204) |
| Annual Members | 47 | (46) |
| Senior Annual Members | 17 | (19) |
| Affiliates | 35 | (35) |
| Others (CO/CI, Messes, etc.) | 12 | (12) |
| Libraries | 5 | (5) |
| RSL's | 2 | (2) |
| <u>Total</u> | <u>319</u> | <u>(323)</u> |

New Members

No new members during this period.

Bdr David Michael English re-joined.

Resignations

No resignations during this period.

Vale

It is with regret that we note the passing of Gnr John Anderson, Gnr/Pte Joyce Hardinge, WO2 Archie William Hector Burton, Maj Maxwell Thomas Armstrong ED and Maj William Paul Glendenning.

Gnr Anderson joined the Association in 1996. He served with 2/3 Aust LAA Regt 1940 – 46.

Gnr/Pte Hardinge joined the Association in 1996. She joined the ATS in 1942, served in Antwerp in 1944 and Hamburg in 1945.

WO2 Burton joined the Association in 1988. He served in 4 Fd Bde RAA in 1936, 2/14 Fd Regt RAA from 1940 to 45, 41 Rly Sqn RAE (SR) from 1955 to 65 and 6 Const Gp RAE from 1965 to 68.

Maj Armstrong joined the Association in 1982. He served in 2/2 Fd Regt RAA, 13 Fd Regt RAA, Staff Capt RA, NT Force GSO Ops, Comd 4 Staff Group and GSO2 Army HQ Melb.

Maj Glendenning joined the Association in 1986. We have no other information recorded.

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

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

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

| | | | |
|-------------------------|----------|-----------------------|--------------|
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| Membership Co-ordinator | Email: | nhamer@bigpond.net.au | |



LIEUTENANT COLONEL JASON L. M. COOKE

Commanding Officer 2nd/10th Field Regiment

Lieutenant Colonel Jason Leonard Maxwell Cooke grew up in Clayton and spent most of his schooling life at Mentone Boys Grammar School. After completing his secondary education he commenced an arts/music degree at Monash University and joined Monash University Regiment 1982 as an infantry soldier.

He was promoted to corporal in 1985 and served as an instructor and later as an assault pioneer. In 1988 he graduated from Monash University Regiment and was awarded the sword of honour, being commissioned into the Australian Intelligence Corps. He undertook regimental training as a section commander with 23rd Field Battery.

In 1992 he was posted to 3rd Divisional Intelligence Company as an analyst until the unit was disbanded and returned to 2nd/10th Medium Regiment upon which he Corps transferred to RAA. Whilst serving at 22nd Field Battery, Dandenong he served as a forward observer and battery captain.

On promotion to major in 1999 he was posted back to 22nd Field Battery where he served as battery commander until the end of 2001, he also served as operation officer in 2003 for 2nd/10th Field Regiment on fulltime service. In 2004 and 2005, he was transferred to the Defence Material Organisation as Operations Officer for Battlespace Communications Operations Group, the Fleet Management organisation of all of the

communications equipment to the ADF.

Upon promotion to lieutenant colonel in 2006 and 2007, he served at Land Warfare Centre - Victoria as directing staff for the Grade 3 Officer Training later becoming the Chief Instructor. In 2008 and 2009, he served as the Chief of Staff Headquarters 4th Brigade and also served as the Chief of Staff, JTF662 Operation VIC FIRES ASSIST.

In October 2009, he assumed command in his current appointment as the Commanding Officer of the 2nd/10th Field Regiment.

In his civilian career Lieutenant Colonel Cooke spent 15 years in supply chain and project management assisting in the construction of many of the Melbourne icons such as the MCG Great Southern Stand, Telstra Dome and Tenix Dockyards supplying frigate class vessels to the Royal Australian Navy.

In 2006 Lieutenant Colonel Cooke joined DM0 as a public servant, currently the Deputy Director Project Support Services responsible for numerous acquisition projects of communications equipment across the ADF.

Lieutenant Colonel Cooke is married to Ailsa and they have two children Kate and Thomas. His general interests are golf, wine appreciation and family. He is a Western Bulldogs supporter and can not wait until they win a Premiership soon.

WARRANT OFFICER CLASS ONE PAUL G. HOLSTEIN

Regimental Sergeant Major 2nd/10th Field Regiment

Warrant Officer Class One Paul Holstein was born in Sydney, New South Wales on 30 January 1967. He enlisted into the Regular Australian Army on 27th June 1984. On completing recruit training, he was allocated to the Royal Regiment of Australian Artillery and completed initial employment training at the School of Artillery, North Head. He was then posted to A Field Battery, 8th/12th Medium Regiment, Holsworthy. During his posting to the 8th/12th Medium Regiment, he progressed through the ranks and was promoted to sergeant in late 1991.

In January 1992, he was posted to 108th Field Battery, 4th Field Regiment at Townsville as a sergeant detachment commander. In 1996, he was posted to the School of Artillery, as an instructor at the Regimental Training Wing. In June 1998, he deployed on Operation Mazurka as part of the Multinational Force and Observers, Sinai Egypt, as the Force Operations Sergeant.

On return from the Sinai in January 1999, he was posted to the 103rd Medium Battery, 8th/12th Medium Regiment. In August that year he was

(Continued on page 8)

promoted to warrant officer class two and posted to the 7th Field Battery, 3rd Field Regiment, Perth, as the Sergeant Major Instructor Gunnery.

In January 2002, he was posted to the Royal Military College - Duntroon as a company sergeant major and in 2004, the operations warrant officer. In 2005, he was posted to the Australian Defence Force Academy as a squadron sergeant major. In 2007, he was posted to the Directorate Personnel and Capability - Army, Employment Management Section as the Warrant Officer Employment Management.

In January 2008, he was posted to the 20th Surveillance and Target Acquisition Regiment at Enoggera as a battery sergeant major. While in this role, he deployed to Timor-Leste on Operation Astute in March 2009, to Headquarters JTF631 as the Company Sergeant Major. He was promoted to Warrant Officer Class One in December 2009 and took up his current appointment as the Regimental Sergeant Major, 2nd/10th Field Regiment in January 2010.

Warrant Officer Class One Holstein has a Bachelor of Administrative Leadership from the University of New England. His honours and awards include the Australian Service Medal with Clasp Sinai and Timor-Leste, the Defence Long Service Medal with Second Clasp, Australian Defence Medal, Multinational Force and Observers Medal and Timor-Leste Solidarity Medal. Warrant Officer Class One Holstein was awarded a Commander 2nd Division Commendation in 2002 for exemplary duty as the Sergeant Major Instructor Gunnery, 7th Field Battery and a Commander Australian Defence College Commendation in 2006, for his performance as the Squadron Sergeant Major of Army Alpha Squadron at the Australian Defence Force Academy.

Warrant Officer Class One Holstein is married to Kelly and has two children from a previous marriage. He is a very keen sportsman whose interests include rugby union, rugby league, playing squash and motorcycle riding.



CA labels reports inaccurate

CA LT-GEN Ken Gillespie has corrected the record on misleading media reporting on ADF reserves.

Lt-Gen Gillespie said media reports and correspondence from interest groups had focused on perceived reductions to ARes training days.

"This perception is not accurate. The number of days paraded on an annual basis by reservists has risen steadily," he said.

"Expenditure associated with this increase has, until this financial year, been accommodated within the flexibility afforded by the overall military work force budget."

He said this might have led to a perception that ARTS was less constrained by budget pressure, but that perception was not true.

"Further to this \$9.6 million of Defence supplementation: has covered the increased costs caused by the new graded pay scales," he said.

As a result of this funding boost, no reduction in the number of days paraded will be necessary to offset the new pay scales.

CA also said that cutbacks to reserve ammunition allocation also were untrue.

He said ammunition was managed to ensure forces were prepared for operations and deployments.

The training priority for the ARes was to provide support to, prepare for, and deploy on operations.

"Training and preparation for these will be funded first. Army is carefully managing its training days budget to ensure capability is delivered in the highest priority areas within the funding available," he said.

"Reservists are performing magnificently on operations because of the strong training conducted. Army will continue working hard to support these initiatives, but must operate within priorities and budget constraints."

EDITOR'S INDULGENCE.

Having read many “exoterics” from a previous editor, Ron Curtis, I have no intention of trying to emulate his excellent work. Rather, we’ll see how this page develops over time.



I wish to thank all who have encouraged me to continue my development of the content & layout of Cascabel. Your positive comments are much appreciated, while any criticisms were expressed in a positive way. (Hope that makes sense). Therefore, the font & line spacing remains the same, but the point size is now 11.5 in lieu of 10.5 & 11.

In the previous issue, I asked 2 questions. The first related to the history of the tradition of a VC recipient being saluted by the CDF. Unfortunately there was a nil response, so that one will have to be the subject of further research.

The second related to why the Bushmaster vehicle was withdrawn from contract negotiations with the US. I received & thank SSgt Barry Irons for his excellent response as follows:

“Your comment on the Bushmaster is answered in your column. The licensing agreement with Oshkosh Trucks is the key. The Yanks have never been able to accept that someone else can do it better, easier, more cost effective, and it works, first up. By signing the agreement, and withdrawing from the race as it were, that gave the Bushmaster free reign to market and export to other countries the Yanks were not too fussed about.

That means they are unfettered here in OZ to manufacture and supply to ourselves. Look at the totals so far, as well as to Holland as mentioned, and possible markets to the UK, South Africa, Republic of Ireland and other NATO countries, et.al. Of course I can’t prove any of this, but I don’t think that I am that far off the mark from what I have been able to conclude from various sources”.

Finally, this picture was taken in the Batman Ave Sgt’s Mess in the early 80’s (I think!). Can you name them all? Your editor is in the front row, 2nd from left.

Ubique



The following is a 4 part article brilliantly researched by SSgt Barry Irons. A comprehensive history for all, but especially those of us who “grew up” on this magnificent (in it’s time) weapon. Ed.

Origins of the 25 Pdr Gun – Part 1

Summary to start

One simple question that is sure to evoke a mixed, if not lively debate is this: What was the actual calibre or bore size of the 25 pdr gun? The answer that **invariably comes back is that, well, it’s the 25 pdr.** Yes it was and is, but what was the calibre.¹ To find out, read on.

In this day and age the 25 pdr has moved into almost legendary status, and rightly so as it was truly the weapon of its day, to only recede with the introduction of newer and what may be considered by some more modern versions of field artillery guns.

In the military jargon of names and descriptions of equipments of all types, none is probably more well known or recognized than the 25 pdr. Not forgetting the equally famous .303 SMLE Rifle, the 5.5 in Medium Gun, and the 3.7 in Bofors AA Gun. And to take that a step further, the 40 mm Bofors, 3 in and 81 mm Mortars, 106 mm Anti-Tank gun, 105 mm **M2A1 and A2, and not to overlook the L5, or “Pack Howitzer” 105 mm gun, and/or the 7.62 mm SLR.**

Notice one thing about most of the above, all are generally known and designated by the calibre or bore size, so why not the 25 pdr? Why indeed. Also note further on, the often reference to a 105 mm calibre gun.

Alright, I will include the 2 pdr and 6 pdr Anti-Tank guns, but these were in limited use for a specific purpose. Besides, what was the calibre² of these two **weapons anyway? If you want to get real ‘picky’** the equally famous Centurion Tank used a 20 pdr main armament gun. Again this was a special purpose weapon and not in general service. So, what was its calibre ³ ?? Read on.

It would be generally accepted that most, if not all of the weapons and equipment that we have used in one form or another did not just materialize over night. A process of ideas in design, trials, submissions from the field, redesign and more trials until a general acceptance, or sadly in a lot of cases, a compromise is made.

This acceptance included the financial cost effectiveness, coupled with the manufacturing process and the actual reliability and maintenance of the equipment in service. What must not be overlooked is the provision of appropriate tools and associated equipments that are to be supplied and carried by the equipment in question, to further enhance the performance and reliability of said item.

Also the availability of replacement parts or spares to ensure the equipment is maintained to the highest level of serviceability possible. And dare I say it, the efforts of the attached LAD or TST sections that always did their damndest to see that it was.

In the Beginning...

The 25 pdr had its origins in the bleak wastelands of the Western Front during the Great War of 1914-1918. In part, the very nature of the landscape of the Western Front battlefields was due the large scale employment of the field guns of the day.

As the infantry went underground in their trenches and dugouts, the artillery became master of the scene and proceeded for nearly four years to blaze away at the opposition on the other side. The bulk of the artillery so employed was the light field gun, a horse towed piece that fired in then a flat trajectory.

The shells that were fired were too light for their task, as the guns that fired them had been designed to fire shrapnel against open targets during the course of mobile warfare, generally on horseback or infantry attacks. For siege-work, for that was what the Western Front campaign had degenerated to, the flat trajectories and light shrapnel projectiles **were virtually useless. However, you still wouldn’t** want to get in the way of one.

What was needed was high explosive and plunging fire. The field gun could provide little enough of the former and none of the latter. The relatively light HE content of the field gun shells could only scrape away at the surface of the terrain, and produce the desert landscapes that haunt the thoughts of European society to this day. What plunging fire there was, were provided by the howitzers and the field howitzers in particular.

They alone could fire their offensive packages in high enough trajectories, to provide the plunging fire that could reach into the trenches and dugouts of the opposing forces, and they alone had the

explosive power to clear barbed wire and other obstacles.

Their main problem was a lack of range which was at best some two-thirds of the field guns, and they also tended to be heavier and less handy than the field gun. The Royal Artillery fought the Great War with **two main field artillery weapons; the 18 Pdr⁴ field guns** and the 4.5-inch howitzer. Both were excellent weapons of their type and they were produced and used in thousands.

With them the Royal Artillery (and Commonwealth) fought through the long and difficult years from 1914 to 1918 and with them they helped in no small way to win the momentous battles of the late summer and autumn of 1918.

After the smoke cleared after November 11th, 1918, the Royal Artillery (and the Commonwealth Forces) had good reason to be proud of its achievements. Using a citizen-militia⁵ **the Regiments at all levels**, had managed to form an artillery force that could produce all the many refinements of the Gunner's art to defeat the most powerful army in Europe, but being British, the Regiment had to watch quietly while the whole edifice was dismantled within the space of a few months. (Nothing seems to have **changed⁶ !**)

By mid-1919 the Royal Artillery had once more settled back to its normal peace-time procedures of training a small elite that spent much of its time devoted to the worship of the horse.

While many of the scientific advances of the war years were retained among the 'polo and huntin' fraternity, there remained a small core of gunner officers who were intent on retaining the supremacy of their chosen arm, and as early as 1919 the Royal Artillery Committee, an august body charged with the wellbeing and general policies and equipment of the Royal Regiment, sat to consider the lessons of the Great War and recommendations for the future.

One of their recommendations was for a piece of ordnance that would combine the qualities of the 18 pdr field gun and the 4.5-inch howitzer. The new weapon had to combine in some fashion the attributes of both the low and high trajectory, be handy enough to tackle moving targets (already the shadow of the tank was looming over the battlefield of the future), fire a projectile that could be easily handled by manpower alone, and yet the new design had to weigh no more than 30cwt, (1525 kg) which

was considered to be the maximum that a standard team of six horses could usefully pull. For the time, such a specification was a major task for any designer.

To add to the problem there were several other factors. One was that the funds for new equipment were virtually non-existent. The 'war to end all wars' had just been fought and it seemed unlikely, in the euphoria of the period, that new weapons would ever be required. Thus research and development funding was small and only grudgingly provided. Another aspect was that the Great War had left great mounds of weapons in the stock-piles and warehouses.

In November 1918 there were incredible stocks of no fewer than 3,144 18 pdrs with over 8,000,000 HE and shrapnel rounds to be fired. Of the 4.5-inch howitzer there were 984 with 2,000,000 projectiles to hand. After 1918 many of these were scrapped, sold or given to other nations, but that still left a large number in stock, all of them perfectly serviceable and ready to use. For the Royal Artillery, they were at best obsolescent but they had to be used, for the Treasury was not going to provide funds for new equipment with such piles of material still on the books.

The best that could happen was that the equipment could in some way be used on the proposed new design. The first attempt at a new gun came in 1924. As ever, the artillery designers had started with the design of the projectile, for the shell is the gunner's weapon. In modern terminology, for the artillery, the gun is but the warhead delivery system - it is the shell that is the weapon. Then, as now, the chosen projectile had to carry a useful destructive payload, and yet be light enough to have a useful range and at the same time it had to be man-handled by a gun detachment without any form of mechanical aid.

The then-established field artillery calibre of 75 mm bore was considered too small, while the increasingly fashionable (especially in Continental armies) 105 mm was felt to be rather too large. The 1924 'first attempt' solution was 99 mm (3.89 in) and a barrel of this calibre was mounted on an 18 pdr carriage. The results were far from encouraging but the trials did provide leads for the future. During 1924 the Ordnance Committee were asked to consider the design of a weapon with a range of 15,000 yards (with an increased super-charge) but

combining the gun and howitzer flexibility. Preliminary design efforts centered on a 3-inch gun firing a 16-pound shell, but this was deemed to be unsuitable and was soon discarded.

Then consideration was given to a 105 mm design and from then onwards the number of design projects and calibres increased in a complexity of traded options, design possibilities and operational requirements. By the late 1920s the need for some form of mechanized traction was being accepted, albeit grudgingly, and with no prospect of actually obtaining any useful quantities of suitable equipment for some years to come. A 100mm design was at one time the favoured prospect but that too went by the board in favour of a choice between a 105 mm howitzer and 3.3-inch gun.

The 105 mm howitzer had the advantage at the time that it was available. It could be mounted on an 18-pounder carriage with no great difficulty and it was actually in the hardware form. From 1924 to 1925 Vickers produced 48 for the Spanish Army and delivered them along with the drawings and some parts for the Spanish to produce a further 120. The main objection to this proposal was that the Vickers 105 mm howitzer had a barrel that limited the maximum range with HE to only 9,450 yards, which was well short of the required 15,000 yards.

Vickers then produced a version with a lengthened barrel to produce more range and mounted on a totally new carriage with a 'humped' box trail. This version was produced in 1931 and underwent firing trials with the Royal Artillery on Salisbury Plain.

The 3.3-inch (83.8 mm) gun had the same calibre as the old 18 pdr gun, but almost as it was undergoing active development the concept of a full 'gun howitzer' was given a greater degree of emphasis with the idea of a larger calibre weapon firing a compromise weight of shell.

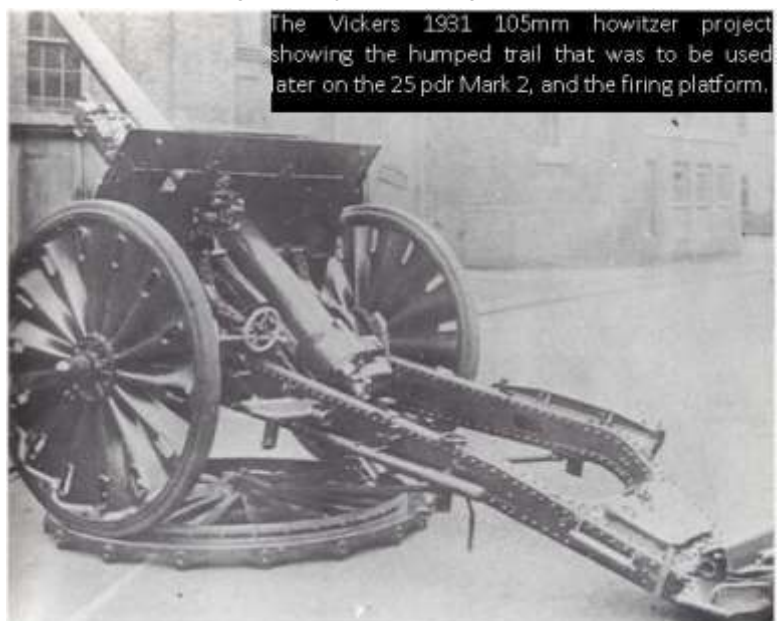
After a degree of further trading of options it was proposed that yet another design, this time with a calibre of 3.7-inches⁷ (94 mm), would be required and the projectile would be of the order of 25 pounds. Thus the 25 pdr was born, but it was born under a star that waned at a time of financial stringency. Despite the long-term portents for 1933, the Treasury was in no mood to start handing out large amounts of money for new artillery

pieces when large stocks of the old Great War residue were still cluttering the arsenals and munitions storage depots.

The old stocks had to be used up before any large-scale re equipment was to be forth-coming so they had to be utilized somehow. While the barrels would have to be replaced, the expensive carriages had to be used in some way. But try as they might, there was no way that the 18 pdr carriage could stand the stresses produced by firing the full charge of a 3.7-inch charge, so the designers had to think again.

As always there had to be a compromise somewhere, and the designers provided that somewhere by retaining the shell weight but reducing the calibre to a convenient (wait for it) 3.45 inches⁸ (87.6 mm) enabling the result to be mounted on the existing 18 pdr carriages. The 18 pdr carriages of the mid-1930s were a far cry from the 18 pdr carriages of the early years of the Great War. By the mid-1930s they had hydro- pneumatic recoil systems, revised breech mechanisms and new wheels.

The new wheels were the result of one of the major upheavals of the interwar years that affected the Royal Artillery, and that was the gradual replacement of the horse by the internal combustion engine. During the 1920s the cult of the horse grew to such proportions in the Royal Regiment that the gun was seemingly forgotten in many batteries - as long as the horse teams looked good, all was well. The intrusion of the petrol-engined tractor into such an introverted scene caused no end of fuss at the time, but gradually the change from the horse to the



(Gun) tractor inevitably took place.

By the end of the 1930s it was an accepted but much regretted fact that the horse was being pushed from the gun-parks by mechanised traction, and the guns had to change to accommodate the fact. The old spoked wooden wheels were replaced by steel discs fitted with pneumatic rubber tyres. In 1934 the authorization for a pilot model of a converted 18 pdr carriage mounting a 3.45 inch calibre barrel was given. The 25 pdr had arrived.

Early Days – the 18/25 pounder...

In artillery design, as in all other things in life, you get nothing without having to pay a price. For the converted 18 pdr carriage with the 25 pdr barrel the price was that the required range was not forthcoming. The 1920s specifications had called for 15,000 yards with super-charge but this had been reduced after a great deal of discussion to 13,500 yards as to attain the required 15,000 yards would have meant exceeding the 30 cwt weight limitation (even though mechanical traction was imminent it was still felt that anything heavier than 30 cwt (1525 kg) would be too cumbersome for field use).

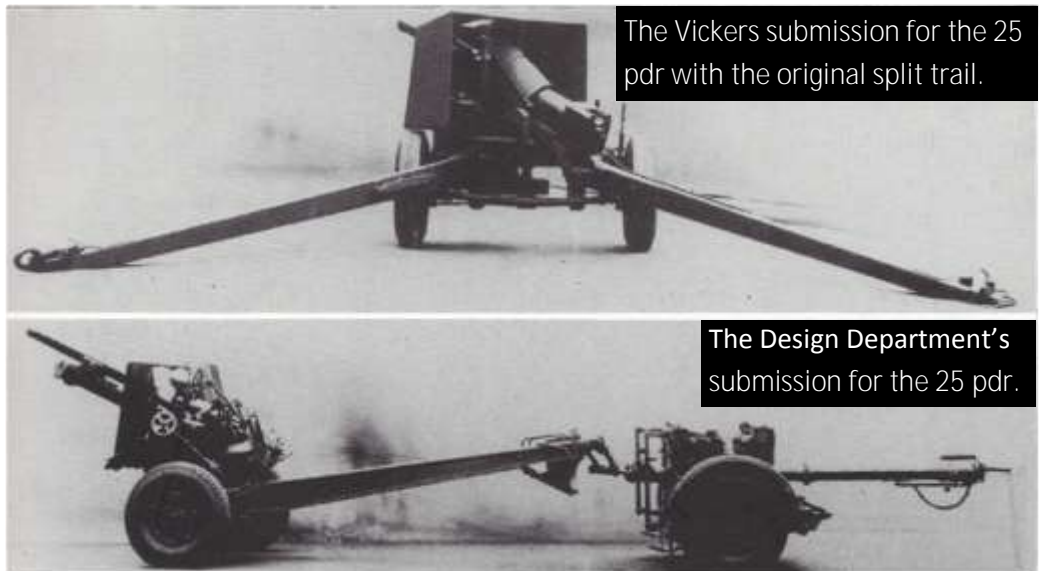
The improvised 25 Pdr on the 18 Pdr carriage could only manage 11,800 yards and it could not fire a supercharge. This range limitation rendered the converted 18 pdrs (soon to be generally known as the 18/25 pdr) was approved in August 1936. Almost at the same time it was decided to press ahead with the design of a weapon with something like the required range - in time this became known as the 25 pdr Mark 2 (the 18/25 Pdr became the 25 Pdr Mark 1) and we will return to it soon.

In the meantime there was considerable thought given to the type of carriage to be used for the 18/25 pdr. The first examples were the Vickers submission for the 25 pdr with the original split trail, placed onto converted 18 pdr Mark 3 and Mark 4 carriages.

The Mark 3 carriage had its elevation arc limited to a maximum of + 30 degrees which limited the possible

range and only a few of these were issued for service - most were used only for training. The Mark 4 had an elevation arc extended to + 37 ½ degrees and this was the usual service model in the early days. But, as always happens, things began to become complicated with the advent of the gun that was to become the 25 pdr proper.

At the same time the 18/25 pdr was entering service, design work on the proper 25 pdr was forging ahead to the point where detail design was under way. The carriage for this new gun was the subject of considerable study and experimentation, both at the Vickers design offices and in the Design



Department at Woolwich Arsenal. All manner of novel carriage designs were proposed and some of them deserve further mention.

Many of the carriages proposed were of very advanced design. One of them had the new 25 pdr barrel on a 360-degree carriage mounted on three outrigger legs that was raised on tow transport wheels for movement. This advanced design reached the mock-up stage but got no further as it turned out to be too heavy for the task. (A very similar design re-emerged later during the war when the Germans used the basic concept to mount the '43' series of 10.5 and 15 cm howitzers, and the same idea used to this day on the Soviet 122 mm 0-30 howitzer).

Then there was the Woods Carriage, a complicated design that used four road wheels, two each side. In action the wheels were towed, the front two inwards the rear two outwards. The result was a carriage with a full and rapid 360-degree traverse.

Although proposed for the 18/25 pdr it was not accepted by the British Army. Instead it was built in small numbers by the Morris Motors Company and sold to the Egyptian Army to mount some of their 18 pdrs.

In the end the general consensus of opinion came down in favour of a split-trail design and proposals were put forward by both Vickers and the Design Department. The split trail offered a high angle of elevation, more than could be obtained using a conventional box trail, a wide degree of traverse, and other attractions.

Some of these split trails were actually produced for the 18/25 pdr and designated the Mark 5. It was at this point that the story of the 25 pdr proper intrudes, for many field gunners pointed out, with what they felt was some justification, that if the split trail carriage was going to be used for the 25 pdr Mark 2, they felt it was too heavy and lacked the full traverse they required.

The weight problem was obvious as a split trail design weighed 5 cwt (254 kg) more than a box trail equivalent. The traverse problem was less obvious to the layman as the split trail offered an on-carriage slew of up to 50 degrees. For the box trail this was as little as 9 degrees. But, to quickly move the box trail required only the lifting of the trail and a quick shift to virtually any heading.

With the split trail a rapid change of traverse was much slower as each leg had to be lifted individually and then shifted and repositioned. The tactical philosophy of the day (the late 1930s) rightly assumed that fluid warfare was to be the norm in the future and targets were likely to appear from any angle of arc. For once the men in the field managed to get their voice heard and acted upon.

The designers swallowed their pride and started again, this time resurrecting an old idea from the Great War when two Royal Artillery officers (a Major Paul and Captain Hogg) had placed a pole trail carriage 18 pdr on a platform bed of planks and placed a carriage wheel flat between the gun carriage wheels. With the trail spade in a box the whole carriage could be easily and quickly traversed to any angle by one man.

The end of the Great War had killed the idea at the time, but it was once more taken up for the new 25 pdr. In place of the wooden platform the new carriage used a circular steel firing platform that

could be carried under the carriage, and the humped carriage of the 1931 Vickers design 105 mm howitzer project was revived to carry the platform. Thus did the carriage of the 25 Mark 2 come into being, but for the 18/25 pdr the concept was tried out in a series of comparative trials, split trail against box trail and platform held under the august gaze of nearly all the higher echelons of the Royal Artillery Staff during early 1938. The result was a definite decision in favour of the box trail and firing platform and from then onwards the die as they say was cast.

Not only would the future 25 pdr have a box trail and platform but the 18/25 pdr would use it as well. With that decision made full scale conversion of the old 18 pdr carriages could proceed. Although we have partially jumped ahead of the 18/25 pdr sequence, it is time to return. The conversions involved a new 3.45-inch (87.6 mm) autofrettaged loose barrel slipped into the jacket of the old 18 pdr gun. It should be noted that these barrels were new and were not re-lined 18 pdr components as has so often been stated in the past.

Much of the 18 pdr was retained including the basic recoil and recuperator mechanism and the breech. The carriage of the 25 pdr was largely unchanged other than the measures to 'pneumaticise' the wheels and brakes. About 1,000 conversions were made and three carriages were involved. The smallest number involved was the limited-elevation Mark 3P (the P denoted pneumatic tyres). The Mark 4P was the 'standard' version with a box trail and 37 degrees of elevation.

Then came the Mark 5P with the split trail. Only the latter two versions saw action. When war came in 1939 the 18/25 pdrs at least provided the Royal Artillery with something better than the old 18 pdr to face the German Army. When the little BEF contingent crossed to France it took with it the 18/25 pdr and they took up their places in the line. Then nothing happened, apart from the odd shoot, until May 1940, and from then onwards the 18/25 pdr batteries had a difficult and torrid time.

They were largely out-gunned and rendered ineffective still further by constant air attack, broken communications and lacking in planning, due to the tactical situation changing, virtually by the hour. As the BEF fell back, the Royal Artillery Batteries did their best to retain cohesion and managed on many occasions to provide an overeager enemy with many severe rebuffs, but the initiative was always with the

rapidly-advancing German columns that sped their way to the Channel Coast.

Dunkirk and its aftermath saw the knell of the 18/25 pdr for the guns could not be taken off the beaches. They were left, often spiked and with much of their precious ammunition deliberately destroyed, for the Germans to capture. The total losses for the 18/25 pdr at the end of May 1940 campaign was no fewer than 704 guns - 632 with the Field Regiments plus a further 72 that had been held in reserve. It was almost all the field artillery the British Army had. (What is not generally mentioned is that a great number of Batteries and their gunners were captured fighting a valiant, but by then a hopeless rearguard action, but their efforts did help with the overall evacuation and should not be overlooked, nor indeed, forgotten)

There were a few in the Middle East and elsewhere and numbers had been retained in the United Kingdom, but they were only a few and they had to be used not only to train a new generation of gunners, but also to provide some sort of coastal and beach defenses for the denuded defences of the Realm. It was a bitter time for the Royal Artillery.

They had few guns, little ammunition and too many men had been lost in France. To complete the 18/25 pdr story, mention must be made of their use by the German Army. The Germans found enough left behind in France in a serviceable state for them to be taken into the Wehrmacht inventory. The box trail mark became the 8.76 em *Feldkanone 281(e)* (8.76 em *FK 281(e)*), and the split trail mark became the 8.76 em *Feldkanone 282(e)* (8.76 em *FK 282(e)*)

Both types were used in a variety of roles from second-line and occupation force battery equipments to one-off pieces used for the local defenses of coastal batteries. They still appeared on equipment listings as late as August 1944. By then there must have been few left for ammunition supply was always a problem, to say nothing of the shortage of spare parts.

More to follow, over. Barry Irons Armament Artificer ®

Next the Real 25 Pdr

1. **If you couldn't wait, it is 3.45 in or in the pretend measurement 87.6 mm.**
2. The 2 Pdr was 40 mm (1.57 in) and the 6 Pdr 2.24 in (or 57 mm.)
3. The 20 Pdr Centurion main armament was a somewhat compromise 3.307 in (84 mm) bore. But some were fitted with the 105 mm version. Only in the UK as far as I can tell, for evaluation upgrade trials in the Centurion Mk 7 and then adopted in the Mk 7/2 to the Mk 13.
4. The 18 Pdr calibre was 3.3 in or for the purists 83.8 mm (note the 20 Pdr bore size?)
5. Then as now, the value of a Militia, or in our case the Reserves, cannot be understated.
6. Personal note by author, as was notation 5.
7. This calibre was adopted for the not quite as famous 3.7 in AA gun.
8. The calibre recorded again, just in case for you.

References;

As always, the Internet if you have it, and Wikipedia.

The History of the Holden since 1917 by Norm Darwin. Kind permission to use excerpts as required by Eddie Ford of E. L. Ford Publications P/L Newstead Vic 3462

25 pounder gun by Terry Gander Part 1 & 2 - Outline Publications Ltd. London SE1

"Gunners in the Jungle" The history of the 2/15th Field Regiment RAA. 8th Division AIF. By Cliff Whitelocke.

ISBN 0 9592123 0 2

Generous permission to use excerpts as required by Mr. David Richards, President - 2/15th Field Regiment Association, Westmead NSW 2145.

This book is a must read for general interest and historians alike, of a unit achieving its best under difficult, and later terrifying and trying conditions as POW's in Singapore, and give full meaning to the words, we must never forget)

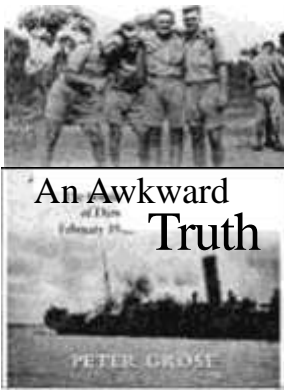
Book Review

An Awkward Truth: The bombing of Darwin February 1942

By Peter Grose

*Review by Major D. T. (Terry) Brennan
Editor RAA Liaison Letter*

ISBN 9781741756432 (PBK); PUBLISHED 2009; ALLEN & UNWIN AUSTRALIA; B&W PHOTOGRAPHS AND MAPS; 258 PAGES



This book places a spot light on the day war came to Australian soil and the aftermath of which little is really known by the Australian population, that is, the bombing of Darwin in 1942. Although the first attack lasted 42 minutes and the second only 20 minutes the ramifications immediately and

afterwards for years to come were significant including being the subject of a Royal Commission. To put this story in context it worth noting that more aircraft attacked Darwin in the first wave then the attack on Pearl Harbour.

Those with an air defence background or interest will find this book particularly relevant. The author devotes significant space to describing the exploits of the anti-aircraft gunners and their conduct before, during and after the attacks. The tactics, techniques and procedures used by the gunners are described in detail as well as the short comings of their training including they had not fired any live rounds before the attack.

The author describes an isolated frontier town which was not prepared for what was about to happen and a defence force which was still very much focused on operations elsewhere in the world and not on defending Australia especially its northern approaches. The book explains the petty politics of a small town and the rivalries between various parties including the military which contributed to the failure to prepare for the attack thoroughly and the confusion that occurred afterwards.

It was this frontier mentality that probably

The Darwin Post Office 1942 is shown in the background.

contributed to the poor leadership displayed by key civilian and military people after the bombing and the chaotic reaction of the population especially the mass exodus known as the 'Adelaide River Stakes'. A critical factor was the failure by the leadership to make rational decisions and to set priorities including the maintenance of law and orders and this is no more evident than with the looting which became prevalent and the fact that some of the ring leaders were military police. The author poses the question as to what is looting and what is appropriate behaviour with regard to taking items from vacated houses and premises.

*devotes significant space to
describing the exploits of the
anti-aircraft gunners.*

The author addresses the much debated size of the death toll and the decision by the government at the time not to disclose in any detail what happen to Darwin in the name of the 'national interest'.

The author takes the reader through the events from a Japanese perspective that lead up to the bombing. It is explained in a simple easy to understand manner which sets the scene and describes the rationale for what happened to Darwin. If the authors claim is correct I did not appreciate how close Australia came to being invaded by the Japanese. In the book it is stated that strategists in the Japanese Navy wanted to prevent the government of the United States of America using Australia as a launch point for a counter attack against Japan, however the Army disagreed as they saw the threat being Russia and Army won the day.

The day of the air raids and the events from both sides are explained in detail. The fall out and impact on the town of Darwin is detailed in a frank and open manner that only comes with the benefit of time and reflection on the events. It highlights the whole range of human strengths and weakness in times of extreme pressure and great stress that occurred during and after the raids.

The author highlights the town plan of Darwin especially its key civilian and military infrastructure which was very concentrated and located close to the coastline presented easy targets for the Japanese aircraft. The author implies it would have

been less vulnerable if they were more dispersed. It is interesting to note that not much has changed in the ensuing decades as the facilities are probably more concentrated than ever.

From a personal perspective this book has filled a gap in my knowledge of Australian military history and I am sure it will do the same for many readers. Unbeknown to me prior to reading this book was that the Japanese bombing of Darwin resulted in a number of 'firsts' in our military history. These included:

- Lieutenant Jack Peres a United States Army Air Corps Kittyhawk pilot shot down and killed over Gun Point was the first pilot to die in Australian skies as a result of enemy action.
- A Lewis gunner in 2nd Anti-Aircraft Battery, 'Darky' Hudson, brought down the first enemy aircraft ever destroyed on Australian soil, a Zero fighter (it crashed near HMAS Coonawarra).
- Lieutenant Robert Oestreicher a United States Army Air Corps Kittyhawk pilot shot down two Series 97 (Val) dive bombers. These were the first confirmed aerial victories in the skies over Australia.
- Wing Commander Archie Tindal was killed whilst firing a Lewis gun at the attacking aircraft from a machine gun post at the airfield. He was the first Australian airman to die in combat on Australian soil.

The book also highlights that all was not doom and gloom despite the failure of senior leadership in Darwin and events such as the mass unauthorised departure of air force personnel from the air base to the south with 278 men still missing four days after the raid. In the words of the author There had been no shortage of heroism during the attack. Apart from the Army, Navy and Air Force anti-aircraft gunners who stood their ground in the face of overwhelming odds, the rescue workers set a standard of selfless courage of which any nation might be proud.'

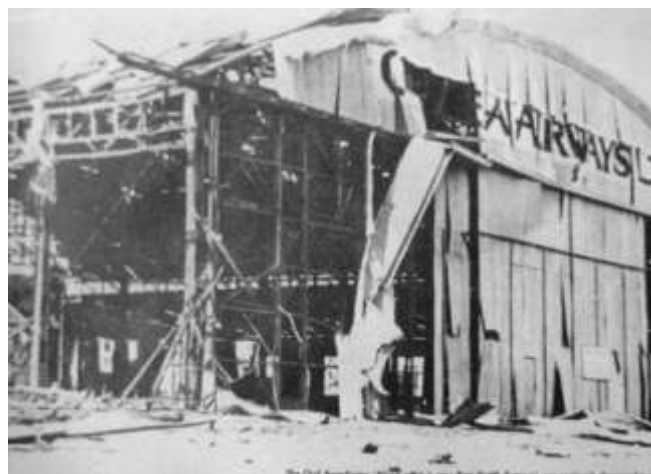
The book has been written for a general audience and therefore anybody who has an interest in Australian history will find it an informative and educational read. It is a well researched, easy to read book which places the spotlight on a little known part of our military as well as social Australian history. How many died? The consensus is somewhere around 300 - No one will really ever know for sure!



Remains of a P-40 Kittyhawk of 33 Pursuit Squadron



A sunken ship in the Darwin Harbour after the Japanese army launched 188 fighter planes against Darwin on February 19, 1942, the first of many bomb attacks that killed an estimated 900 - 1100 people and destroyed 77 Allied aircraft and several ships.



The Guinea Airways Civil Aerodrome hangar, (along what is now Ross Smith Avenue) as it stood after the Japanese Army demolished the hangar when they attacked Darwin.

Edward has been a member of this Association since 1985 & has contributed various articles over the years. This originally hand-typed article has been published as it was received by the editor. It was considered that as the article is a tribute to Alice Ingouville-Williams, no attempt would be made to edit the article in any way. Ed

I write this article as a tribute to my wife, Alice Elizabeth Ingouville-Williams.

How it all began,

The Wife and I had done all that we wanted to do, so we decided buy a caravan build a new house in the centre of Victoria, a place called Violet Town.

The first part of the plan went well, we built the house, got the van, then I said we will set it all out, so that we wont have jobs to come home to.

One day Alice said to me, there is something wrong with my eyes, right I said up to Benalla to the **Optician, he came out and saw me and said, "Can you go over to Shepparton straight away, there is an Eye Specialist up from Melbourne, I would like him to have a look at your wife.**

Bad news, my wife had Diabetes, and she was loosing her sight. Sent her to Melbourne to see a Dr Chan, nothing he could do, she would slowly loose her sight. We scrapped all our plans, and came back to Melbourne, to where we finally decided that a retirement village may be the best shot, so we came into Knox Retirement Village, to give Alice room to move around.

We had been here a while, and I said to my wife, I will go mad in here, she said Oh no you wont, I know this area rather well, and over on Lysterfield Road, there is an Avenue of Honour, that could do with a **bit of attention. I knew the A of H rather well and it's history, none of the RSL's would touch it. So we got one, the local MP's who I knew to have an on site discussion. The MP told us the bad news, the council wanted it bull dozed, I said I know that, You know it, but my wife refuses to accept it. Leave it to me I'll have a talk to her.**

My wife said, Ed I know you, and I know you can do it, I said look at it it's nothing but a heap of scrub on the side of the road. You will fix it even if I have to buy a second hand cattle prod, to get you moving. I had a good standing in the community, but how good. So I started, I was dealing with the City of Knox Council, Shire of Yarra Ranges, VicRoads, RACV to name a few, slowly the wheels began to move in my direction, Quarries gave a bigger stone, the other Quarry as many screenings as I wanted, Alice asked for donations and got them from the community, she had the missing trees planted, and all the scrub cleared away, it was starting to look like a memorial. A flagpole was donated, and flys 24 hrs of the day.

We got 2.3 Million Govt grant to help with the making of Lysterfield Road, and the restoration of the Avenue of Honour. We had a Dedication Day, Band and troops supplied by Vic Barracks, Victorian Light **Horse Regiment, commanded by Lt Col Lester O'Toole, led the march, we got Lysterfield Road closed off,** chairs on the road, 300 people turned up, Alice, my wife was delighted with the proceedings. What a day.

I should mention, that during this memorial stage in limbo and deterioration and the City of Knox, allowed Eastern Energy (SEC) to go straight through, the Avenue of Honour, it created havoc. First we had to approach the Auxilium College (Religious Order) could we put the poles on their property. After a lot of talk, and in consideration for the community, the answer was yes. Now to get them removed.

Eastern Energy(at the time was an American Organisation. I had worked with the Americans during the 1939 war, I knew how they reacted, especially the Texans.

I wrote to the head of the organisation, and explained, what we wanted, the poles taken out of the Avenue of Honour, and in the college grounds.

In due course I got a reply, 2 page letter, the first page didn't read so good, I thought I've blown it, but the second page was different. Eastern Energy stated, taking into consideration, of what we were doing for the community, and your Armed Services, our contribution to the cause, we will remove the poles gratis. Cost would have been \$20,000:00.

Next the awards, then I got a phone call from the Editor of the Berwick News, he wanted to speak to Ed Williams, and no one else, so I spoke to him, and asked what was so important, **'Someone was shooting the Wedgetailed Eagles (Protected Species). Another Editor rang the Berwick Editor, and told him, 'If anyone can fix it, it's Edmund Ingouville-Williams, contact him.** It appears some very influential people had decided to breed Rock Wallaby's in the area, so they put in a sanctuary. They did their work very well, except for one thing **'AIR ATTACK', the Eagles.** I went down and had a look at the situation first hand, I told them you can't shoot one protected species to save another protected species, further more, if it got known to the general public, it would cause a lot of embarrassment to the people concerned. I suggested the whole project be closed down immediately, and it was.

I learned one thing from the Wedgetailed Eagles, I thought it was rather odd, the male bird will go to collect the food, bring it back place at the feet of the hen bird, under no circumstances will he feed it to the young, thats the hen birds job.

O yes the awards, our lounge room walls are covered in them, Certificates of Appreciation awarded by Major General **'Digger' James, Major General Peter Philips, Bruce Ruxton, Peter Nugent Federal MP, Chris Pearce Federal MP, and so on, Breakfast at the Councils ETC, ETC.** It had taken Alice and I, 20 yrs to do all this, with all it's trials and tribulation, and there were plenty, to save this Avenue of Honour from the scrap heap. Almost forgot, we were invited to govt house.

Alice would stand and look at me with what sight she had left, I would turn and say **'Now what'** She would say I was just thinking, there is a big job waiting for you up there, pointing towards the sky, then she would laugh, and walk off.

When Alice first got the bad news about her eyes, she cried for 3 days, then she stopped and she came to me, and said **'Ed, what can't be cured must be endured' Lets get on with our life'.** Thats when the Avenue of Honour came into being, it was a godsend it was a diversion away from ourselves.

A 2.6 Million grant has just been approved, and is in operatio, this fits in with Lysterfield Road, and Wellington Roads, which includes Traffic Lights. So this corner is becoming a place of importance, and the Avenue of Honour is right in the middle of it all. Pity Alice is not here to see it all, or is she.

When we used to go up to the Murray River Which was fairly often, we would always call into Pucka and pay our respects. My name is on that one.

On the other side of Seymour was the old Army grounds, there were a small group of army houses with a sign up saying **'Prince of Wales Light Horse' We passed it many times. Then one time we went, the houses and the sign was gone, but the roads were still there, Alice said it would be nice if we stopped there for Morning Tea, so we did. Alice had her sight then and she said look, across the road was a set of gates, 'How nice' she said, we went over and had a look, so we had our morning tea there, the place being cleaned up, I did know people in Seymour and had mentioned the area in question, then a stone appeared then a plaque, Then the Raa Ass appeared with a plaque, but I was unable to attend the day. Many times we paid our respects on the way in and on the way out.**

Alice was passionate about getting those trees in the memorial growing, there was no water on tap so she carted it in milk bottles or whatever. There are only 14 trees there, 10 Silky oaks for the Men who returned, 4 English oaks for the men who remain forever in France. Alice used to say why should these men be forgotten, they left families behind, and Lysterfield was only a small hamlet in 1914, that was a lot of men to send.

Look at what they are doing in France today, digging up hundreds of bodies from the 1914-18 war and giving them a decent burial, we only have 14 to worry about, Give them our respects.

We still call Australia Home

The hand that rocks the cradle rules the world, especially in Canberra, obvious, if you know what to look for. I should know I've been there.

Lest we forget.

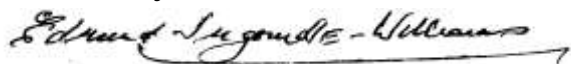
I make no excuses for my script, the typewriter, I think is older than me

And I'm pushing 94.

Alice died 12 months ago. God Bless

I remain

Yours sincerely



Dept of Defence

Dept of Supply and Development.

L/M RAA Assn, L/M 2/7th Inf Bn Assn

Friend of the Fort Queenscliff,

9801 6583

'Shamed' soldier saved 20 children



HONOURED: Robert Key

THE family of a disgraced Second World War soldier has discovered to their joy that he was in fact a hero who gave his life to save 20 children.

Bombardier Robert Key was killed when a hand grenade exploded in his face a day after he helped to liberate a French town.

His many relatives drew a quiet veil over his memory for 65 years after his service record cited the cause of his death as "showing off" and a military inquiry blamed his foolish behaviour.

The Army interpreted the explanation from locals at the time, partly conveyed through hand gestures, that Robert, from Coventry, had been toying with the grenade in front of the children when it blew up. However, he has remained a legend in Annezin, near Calais, where residents knew the truth.

He had snatched the grenade from a child who had been playing with it, and smothered it in his jacket to lessen the blast.

His relatives, many of them living in the Midlands, only discovered what happened when the Lord Mayor of Annezin traced them to ask their permission to name a road in his honour.

Now 15 surviving relatives are to fly to France next year for the ceremonial opening of the road which will form part of the town's annual Liberation Day celebrations.

The soldier's niece Gill Mills, 54, also from Coventry, said: "It was amazing to find out that the locals in Annezin class Robert as a hero.

"We thought he was to blame for his death. We're very proud of what he did but it's such a shame we hadn't known this earlier."

Former miner Robert joined the Army in 1934 aged 21 with his brother John, 23, and fought in various battles, including Dunkirk, before being sent to Annezin as a bombardier with the Royal Artillery.

On September 4, 1944, he spotted a group of 20 children crowded round a grenade in a farmer's field. He grabbed the grenade from a youngster and cradled it in his jacket. It then exploded and Robert, aged 31, died instantly.

Submitted by SSgt Ernie Paddon. Ed

VALE Max Armstrong. It is with deep regret that we mourn the passing of Max shortly after "scoring his century".

Gentlemen

Last Wednesday I accompanied Brig Graham, Lt Col Cooke, WO1 Holstein and a Bugler (all in uniform) to **represent The Regiment at Max Armstrong's funeral**. The RAA Assn was well represented as was 2/2nd Regt Assn and RSL.

The family was extremely appreciative of our attendance and have written to me acknowledging our contribution.

As there has been an overwhelming number of condolences, the family have asked me to respond to those that I originally contacted and I attach a copy of the Thank you note.

Ever the collectors, Ian brought in today his Fathers Cog Book from his psc at Duntroon in 1944. Not a lot different to the one I created during my promotion era and certainly in accordance with JSP.

On behalf of the Armstrong Family, I thank you for thoughts and expressions of condolence at this trying time.

UBIQUE

Doug Perry

100 Years



Maxwell Thomas Armstrong

17/1/1910 ~ 24/2/2010

Highlights of Max's Life

Scholarship to UHS, 1924

World Family Trip, 1928/9

Apex foundation Year, 1931

Army, 1930's

Married Jean, 1939 (70 years married)

War Service, 1939 - 1946 (VX108)

Egypt, North Africa,, Palestine,

Ceylon, New Guinea

Success in Retail Footwear Trade

22 Anzac Parades representing Light Horse

54 years in Rotary, Paul Harris Fellow

100 years old on 17th January 2010



Doug.

The Armstrong family thanks you
for your kind thoughts
at the recent passing
of our most senior member,
Maxwell Thomas Armstrong,
after a long life well lived.

Invictus Maneo.

We were all most impressed with
yourself & The Army contingent.
Please convey the family's sincere
Thanks for their involvement and
immaculate presentation
Sincerely Ian & Mary A

YOU

BONNIE

The Sydney Football Stadium was turned into a kaleidoscope of colour, sound, pomp and ceremony

As the pipes skirled, drums marked the beat and the brass added the traditional martial airs, the ADF could take pride that its bands and drill teams were equal to the world's best at the 2010 Sydney Military Tattoo,

Comprising more than 1500 performers, and billed as the largest tat-too ever staged, the star-studded spectacular, attended by 95,000 people, was held at the Sydney Football Stadium from February 4-7.

Spectators were transported in time and place as the stadium was converted to the esplanade of Edinburgh Castle by a \$1million back-drop replica of the castle facade.



Report: Andrew Starkpool Photos: LAC Casey Gaul



Maj Brendan Kellaway leads the AFG in a full dress rehearsal at the Sydney

The three services fielded a 140-member Defence band and a 130-strong contingent from Australia's Federation Guard (AFG) which kicked off proceedings with a bang - **a volley from their SLR'S and a salute** to guest of honour NSW Governor Marie Bashir.

Army Band principal drum major Sgt Jason Grimstead said he had performed in the previous tattoo in Sydney and to the 2006 Tattoo in Edinburgh. "With the castle there, this is similar to the real thing but it is much bigger" he said. In addition to participating with the massed bands, the skills of the ADF's professional and talented musicians were showcased with their own special performances at the climax of the program,

"Australia is the place where, after the UK, tattoos are the most popular," Tattoo master of ceremonies Col Alistair Hutton said.

From the Aboriginal welcome and opening fanfare to the stirring strains of *Scotland the Brave*, *We're Nae Awa'* and *The Black Bear* - the Jock's traditional air for the return to barracks at the finale, international military and pipe bands from the UK, USA, Switzerland, Russia, China, Norway, Trinidad and Tobago and New Zealand, as well as the bands from every state and the Australian Federal Police Pipes and Drums brought cheers from the spectators.

The AFG mounted a tri-service guard of honour and Royal Guard that saluted visiting dignitaries including the CDF and Governor-General as well as a 15-man joint parade with the UK Defence Force.

The Defence band opened with a lively performance of AC/DC's *Long Way to the Top*, led by a spirited bagpipe solo by Army Band piper LCpl Adam Cameron-Taylor, who had also entertained passengers on a Sydney ferry with the Air Force Low Brass group a few days earlier.

The three bands marched on as the Defence band, but then each marched as a single-service entity before reforming to the slow march *Ashokan Farewell* as the lights of the stadium darkened. Each member then produced a red light to symbolise the lives lost during the February 2009 bushfires in Victoria.

The ADF performance concluded with the singing of *I Called Australia Home*, which bought prolonged cheers and applause from the capacity crowds.

BEAUTY

A WORD FROM THE INSIDE

SGT JASON GRIMSTEAD
Drum Major Sgt Jason Grimstead has some experience of tattoos but said this was the biggest and that had brought the Defence Band together. "I did the Edinburgh Tattoo in 2006 while I was deployed on Ex Long Look and also did another one at the Sydney Entertainment Centre a few years ago" he said. "It's not very often we get to perform as a tri-service band and they came together well. The last time was in Melbourne for the opening of the Commonwealth games. "Having the castle and the way they organise the show, it was very similar to Edinburgh. Also, some of the acts are the same. For example, Top Secret, (the Swiss drummers) and the 'Kiwis' were there in 2006. However, this is much bigger than either Edinburgh or the one at the Sydney Entertainment Centre. It was great and I was really looking forward to it".



LCPL ADAM CAMERON-TAYLOR

PIPER LCpl Adam Cameron-Taylor gained some distinction at the tattoo as the only Army piper to appear and also for his spirited reproduction of AC/DC's piping in "It's a long Way to the Top" at the start of the ADF performance. He also performed for Sydney-Elders aboard Manly ferries a few days earlier. "They really enjoyed it," he said, "It was good for the public to get and idea of ADF musk.; it was good PR tor us and a lot of fun". He has been playing the pipes for 22 years - more than half of which has been spent in an Army uniform. He enlisted In the Reserves 13 years ago before transferring to the regular Army about four and a half years ago. I played as part of the Army pipe band at the 2005 tattoo (in Sydney), in Kapyong, Korea, Malaysia and all around the place," he said. "I thought the [2010] tattoo was a very good show and people should be proud of the ADF bands."



Football Stadium during the lead up to the tattoo.



← Entertainment at the tattoo



FO Lessons in Afghanistan

Captain Andrew Ludlow, 101st Medium Battery
8th/12th Medium Regiment

Introduction

I was deployed as the Joint Fires Team (JFT) commander for Combat Team (CT) Tusk as part of the Mentoring and Reconstruction Task Force from October 2008 to July 2009. CT Tusk's role was to provide force protection to the other components of the 7th Battalion Battle Group, being the Engineering Task Group and the Operational Mentoring and Liaison Team.

My JFT comprised of six personnel, split into three separate Splinter Teams. The initial composition had myself and a signaller forming the CJ-IO component and two separate Splinter Teams comprising a bombardier as commander and a signaller that were attached to the platoons as required for patrolling.

The following is a summation of some of the lessons learnt on my tour covering my duties as a forward observer (FO), employing the JFT to support CT Tusk's operations, other duties I had to fill and the implications that had and Fire Support Coordination Measures and deconfliction.

An FO is not Just an FO

One of the biggest issues that I had to come to terms with personally was the fact that as a JFT commander, I was not the one doing the job as an FO like we train. In effect, I was a mini battery commander at CT level. My signaller and I manned our Bushmaster observation post vehicle (OPV) as a command post (CP), providing overwatch to dismounted patrols, ensuring the smooth passage of information up and down, allocating resources as required for the Splinter Teams patrolling, whilst also providing advice to OC Tusk on what the various sensor systems detected.

*as a JFT commander, I was not
the one doing the job as an FO
like we train.*

This was quite a successful means of operating as it allowed me to be removed from the situation to analytically assess what was occurring and act

accordingly. This enabled the Splinter Teams to fight the fight and for me to coordinate the resources and requests required to enable them to do their job.

However, there was one significant issue with the JFT construct, manning. The six man JFT was not sufficient to fully support CT Tusk, especially on dispersed operations. Having a company headquarter (CHQ) element and two Splinter Teams does not offer the JFT commander the flexibility to support three separate platoons on patrol, as would often happen. I was fortunate that on occasion 1 could have another Splinter Team attached for an operation, or if the mortar section was attached to CT Tusk I could use the section commander as a mobile fire controller (MFC) otherwise I would have to patrol, leaving no gunner with the CHQ to conduct the required liaison and planning. Unfortunately, this still left occasions where I could not support a platoon. A nine man JFT is the solution as it would allow a three pers CHQ Splinter Team and three separate Splinter Teams to support each individual platoon.

Trust Your Bombardiers

At the end of the day, the bombardiers were the ones out on patrol with the infantry dispersed over a wide area. They are the ones doing the hard work as FOs, not the officer in charge of the party. Any training opportunity was taken and given to them, to ensure they were at the top of their game, any support while they were out patrolling was requested and pushed to them in a timely manner. While the JFT overall was still commanded by me, I had to become an enabler for the Splinter Teams, coordinating the overall offensive support effort while they provided the intimate support to the platoons.

*At the end of the day, the
bombardiers were the ones out on
patrol.*

Tied in with this, my Splinter Teams would sometimes be allocated independently to a BG element for an operation and I would not see them again for upwards of six weeks. This required the utmost of trust in my bombardiers as I had to give them their task, not always in person, and leave them to their own devices to achieve this, which they consistently achieved to a high standard.

Sound Knowledge of All Jobs and Equipment

As CT Tusk was not constantly patrolling or supporting other sub-units as a CT complete, there

were occasions where I found myself working in the joint Fires and Effects Coordination Cell (JFECC) or attached to other elements of the BG. This required my bombardiers and I to have an understanding of the procedures employed within the JFECC for conducting the required deconfliction with Task Force Uruzgan Headquarters. This relied on having a sound understanding of the procedures for establishing Fire Support Coordination Measures (FSCM) and understanding the battle rhythm of the BG CP, as we would all regularly be called upon to perform the duties of watch keeper in the JFECC.



Bombardier Thomas Grieve on patrol in Baluchi Valley with Lance Bombardier Justin Cowan, his signaller, in the background

I also had to have an understanding of the equipment employed by my Splinter Teams above what would normally be required, as I would also deploy independently on tasking as a Splinter Team, most of the time without my signaller as he was required elsewhere. This was made more apparent when I was deployed to a patrol base to command the Splinter Team while members were on leave. For the first week of this I was the only gunner at the patrol base. I became the communications guru by default, and took responsibility for all the crypto and signals equipment maintenance and upkeep, as well as the Splinter Teams equipment and performing the duties of an FO. This highlighted the fact that I needed to have as much an understanding of the employment of the different equipment that a Splinter Team utilises, as well as all other in service communications equipment, but must share the same understanding on how to use the equipment, conduct fault finding and even operator level maintenance to the same level as my soldiers.

The Basics Work

The basics that we all get taught at the various

training institutions throughout our career saved lives. Simple things such as the obstacle crossing drills for the dismounted soldiers to the defile drills carried out at CT level all had a positive effect on the battle space. Trigger men were displaced; wires and even improvised explosive devices (IEDs) were found often by these simple yet effective drills. The same held true for the gunners, basic map to ground appreciation and Area of Operations (AO) familiarisation allowed for quick and easy target indications and talk-ons to different elements. The solid understanding of radios, ancillaries and RAA communications procedures allowed for our signallers to constantly feed information higher, and ensured that we always had communications regardless of how dispersed our operations were. Our net was getting information to the CP 15 - 20 minutes before anything was received over other nets. This led to the key commanders listening to our net and making timely decisions to influence the battle.

*The basics that we all get taught
at the various training institutions
throughout our career saved lives.*

As JFT commander, all the basic skills I had learned throughout my career about battle tracking were invaluable. This ranged from assisting with the deconfliction of the platoons patrols to dealing with complex situations such as an IED find whilst a platoon was moving into a harbour, assisting CHQ with their movements but also dealing with the establishment of the ROZ for the engineers to destroy the IED, pushing the unmanned aerial vehicles (UAV) around to see if we could identify any suspicious activity, deconflicting with the Operational Mentor and Liaison Team (OMIT) Splinter Team as they moved with their supported elements through our AO with the Dutch and Afghan National Army (ANA) on a handover patrol and supervising the mortar section bedding-in into a safe area, but establishing the OC's intent by dispersing the group of fighting aged males that were congregating near our platoon patrol.

Fire Support Coordination Measures

Another significant issue that was encountered early in the tour was the fact that as gunners we have a sound knowledge of what FSCM are and what they are used for but never practice operating with them, or even following through the procedures to establish and implement them within an exercise environment. This provided many issues early on in our lead up training and we deployed with a

good base to build upon once we arrived in theatre. This also rang true for clear air/clear ground procedures, which are regularly overlooked in training and prove to be a war stopper on operations. Thankfully, the Reconstruction Task Force Four (RTF 4) gunners had established a simple and effective means for conducting this localised deconfliction, which we continued to utilise throughout our tour. Training at battery and regimental levels need to include these procedures and ensure that those responsible at all levels are confident on conducting the required deconfliction and drills to establish FSCM on the battle space, and also have the clear air/clear ground procedure firmly established within SOPs and regularly practiced at all levels.

Conclusion

In conclusion this is only a synopsis of some of the lessons learnt from a long and successful tour. The move to a six man JFT is a step in the right direction for supporting CT operations; however, only having two Splinter Teams capable of patrolling is a significant issue. The FO needs to remain with CHQ and provide the relevant advice to the OC, whilst being removed from the situation and being an enabler for his Splinter Teams.

The RAA as a whole needs to conduct training at all levels on the procedures of implementing FSCM and the conduct of deconfliction such as Clear Air/Clear Ground. This needs to be developed so that members at all levels have a solid base understanding and can conduct the deconfliction required with the right agencies in a timely manner so that when we deploy into a coalition environment we are not having to start from scratch.

While it was a long and sometimes trying tour, personally and professionally, there is a lot that has been taken away. The main theme that I took away from the tour was that our training sets our soldiers up well for operations, but we need to focus on the smaller things to ensure that they are not an issue, and further ready ourselves for future deployments.

Reference: RAA Liaison Letter 2009 - Spring Edition

20 STA Regt on target for future

By Tpr Michael Franchi

20 STA Regt received a boost in its operational capability after receiving two upgraded Weapon Locating Radars (WLR) under Project Land 58.

The AN/TPQ-36 WLRs are the first of seven to be delivered to the unit, which provides an interim operational capability. They incorporate the latest software upgrades for the unit's target acquisition systems.

Army will receive a remaining three WLR units by the end of the year providing a full WLR operational capability.

The handover ceremony at Gallipoli Barracks on June 25 was attended by Commander 1 Div Maj-Gen Michael Slater and members of the unit, who were on hand to demonstrate the functions of the new system.

WLR operator LBdr Jeromy Last said the upgrades can either provide counter- battery fire or send a UAV over the area and get a better idea of what is in the area."

The upgraded WLR provides a means of early warning for ground forces by being able to locate enemy artillery, mortars and rockets.

Up to 10 firing locations can be determined simultaneously by using the radar data gathered from the firing paths of enemy shells and rockets.

A WLR is run by a nine-person section including a three-man recon detachment led by a lieutenant and the six-person radar detachment led by a sergeant.

The WLR system was introduced into service in 1987, but under Land 58 Phase 3 its service life will be extended to 2015 from the original life of type of 2007.

Reference: RAA Liaison Letter 2009 - Spring Edition



On target: Comd 1 Div Maj-Gen Michael Slater is briefed on the WLR systems capabilities by Bdr Tyron Dansey and LBdr Jeromy Last, 131 STA Bty.

This article is included as a supplement to “Australia’s A\$450M-600M LAND 17 Artillery Replacement Gets Go-Ahead” in journal 102. Ed

Big guns drive modern army

PLANNED NEW SELF-PROPELLED ARTILLERY WILL PROVIDE MORE ACCURATE, LONGER RANGE CAPABILITIES:

WRITES GREGOR FERGUSON

The army has won an important battle in its campaign to modernise its fire support and command and control capabilities. The defence white paper announced that the army would replace its 105mm and 155mm towed field guns with a new force of towed and for the first time, self-propelled 155mm guns. This represents a victory over the hearts and minds of sceptics who doubt the cost-effectiveness of self-propelled guns, which are considerably more expensive than traditional towed field guns.

According to Raytheon Australia’s business development director Michael Ward, several factors have come together to make self-propelled guns a cost-effective proposition.

Precision munitions such as Raytheon’s GPS-guided Excalibur 155mm shell give extraordinary accuracy, even beyond 55km. Gunners normally expect 50 per cent of rounds to fall within 200m to 300m of a target, even at much shorter ranges; when used for the first time in Iraq in 2007, Excalibur rounds were reportedly landing within 5m of targets. Greater accuracy means you need fewer rounds and fewer guns.

The length of the barrels of the 155mm self-propelled guns being offered by Raytheon and its German rival, KMW, is 52 times their calibre. These are much heavier than their 39-calibre predecessors but bestow much greater range, so they can cover more of the surrounding area more economically than older guns.

There are other efficiency dividends, too, Ward says; a self-propelled gun typically has a four-person crew compared with the 10 or 11 tending a towed artillery piece.

The crew is protected from enemy fire inside an armoured hull, and it doesn’t matter nowadays whether the enemy is a Taliban fighter with a rocket-propelled grenade or a conventional foe deploying artillery and strike aircraft: there are some corners of the battlefield where gunners need protection.

Higher rates of fire mean fewer guns needed to deliver the same effect as older weapons.

Self-propelled guns also can keep up with nimble, armoured forces and be brought into action quickly, even when they’re on the move. Within 30 seconds of

getting a fire order they can pull over, load and fire.

The contenders to supply two batteries of self-propelled guns are Raytheon Australia, teamed with Samsung Techwin to offer the latter’s AS-9 ‘Aussie Thunder’, and KMW, teamed with BAE Systems Australia to offer the German army’s PzH2000.

Australian troops have seen the PzH2000 in action in Afghanistan, where the Dutch army has two. These are sited in separate camps near Tarin Kowt with overlapping arcs of fire to provide a seamless umbrella of fire support.

The AS-9 is derived from the South Korean army’s K-9, which also is in mass production for the Turkish army. Raytheon is providing the added value in the form of increased armour protection, the Excalibur round, which is already in the Australian armoury, and the Advanced Field Artillery Tactical Data System’s artillery fire control the army has mandated.

The company also is upgrading the army’s seven TPO-36 artillery locating radars, which are another Raytheon product.

Modern artillery is a key building block in Australia’s emerging hardened and networked army. Imagine a rocket or mortar attack; the right sensor and communications network enables an artillery locating radar to spot the incoming projectiles, calculate their source, transmit fire control data automatically to a self-propelled gun and initiate return fire before they are hit. This isn’t a pipedream; the Dutch are doing it already in Afghanistan, KMW says.

Australia’s new self-propelled guns will carry the communications and fire-control equipment to automate the process; towed guns can do the same things, but more slowly, with fire control and communications gear in separate vehicles and needing more manual processing. However, the towed gun favoured by the Australian Army has one key advantage. It is light enough to be slung below a Chinook helicopter.

The US Army’s M777 towed howitzer, built by BAE Systems in the US, uses titanium components and a shorter 39-calibre barrel to bring its weight below 4.5 tonnes. The Excalibur round also bestows a range of about 40km, means a traditional four-gun battery can cover nearly double the area previously possible and an even greater area than the old 105mm Hamel Gun.

Courtesy of RAA Liaison Letter 2009

Peter Badcoe VC & 103rd Battery

*Brigadier J. R. Salmon CBE (Retd)
Assisted by former W3rd Field Battery Officers*

Much has been written about Captain Peter Badcoe's infantry service and well-earned award of the Victoria Cross. Some of those writing have made me wonder how well their authors knew Peter; few mention his first class service in the Royal Australian Artillery in the 1950s and early 1960s, especially in 103rd Field Battery (and later command of 107th Field Battery), prior to his transfer to the Royal Australian Infantry in mid-1965. This article is an endeavour to help fill that gap.

I recall him as a rather diffident but competent and conscientious junior subaltern. He was short and stocky, wore non-trendy spectacles.

I first met Peter Badcock in 1956 at the School of Artillery, North head where I was a senior instructor (Major) and he was doing a junior officers gunnery course. I recall him as a rather diffident but competent and conscientious junior subaltern. He was short and stocky, wore non-trendy spectacles and, at that time, was the butt of some rather tasteless jokes. Hence the legal change of name to Badcoe.

In January 1961 I assumed command of a rather run-down 103rd Field Battery in 4th Field Regiment under Lieutenant Colonel Jack Studdert, an excellent commanding officer, at Wacol, Queensland. We had six months to get it ready for service in Malaysia. Captain Peter Badcoe was a troop commander (FOO) in a battery of two troops each of four 25 pounders.

Clearly some changes were necessary. One was the battery captain (the battery second-in-command) who looked after the gun area, battery administration and local defence. Although happy with the conscientious Peter Badcoe I had some reservations about his eyesight in controlling fire and proposed him for the position. Jack Studdert pointed out he was junior to his fellow troop commander, a very personable Captain who I doubted would enjoy the detail of the job; as he had no objections Peter became battery captain.

We were determined to beat the British batteries in gunnery, speed of deployment, living in the jungle, sports (except of boxing and even 'bullshit').

As I expected Peter undertook the task with gusto performing accurately and methodically all the detailed chores that go with the job as well as the broader ones of deployment and defence of the gun area. Determined not to repeat the disastrous mistakes of the French we developed our own ideas of how to achieve the best defence in a Counter (Mao and Giap's) Revolutionary War conflict. In this we were enthusiastically helped by some excellent officers, including an outstanding gun position officer, and both senior non commissioned officers and junior soldiers with bright ideas. Peter excelled in the siting of field gun and weapon pts, arranging clearing patrols etc.

By late September 1961, 103 was well established as a sub-unit of 26 Field Regiment, Royal Artillery commanded by Lieutenant Colonel Drew Bethell, a Royal Horse Artillery (RHA) gunner, in Camp Terendak, about 12 miles north of Malacca, Malaysia. We were determined to beat the British batteries in gunnery, speed of deployment, living in the jungle, sports (except of boxing) and even 'bullshit'. 103 converted to a six-gun battery which made local defence easier. We were the first battery to receive the 105 mm L5 Italian pack howitzer which facilitated air mobility. The battery gave gun drill and stripping demonstrations to the other batteries and the infantry units in 28 Infantry Brigade Group commanded by the then Brigadier Frank Hassett. As the Far East strategic reserve the Brigade was subject to numerous regimental and brigade testing and readiness exercises including Charity Angel, Trinity Angel and Trumpeter. Drew Bethell was impressed by 103's gun area defence philosophy and we conducted a deployment demonstration for all officers of the Regiment.

In developing the battery gun position routine, a great deal of emphasis was placed in ensuring local defence for not only the guns but also-sometimes beyond what could be considered our area of responsibility. Peter Badcoe was responsible to ensure that all approaches were covered, thus his sound knowledge of infantry minor tactics was invaluable. Liaison with adjacent units was crucial and often proved to be beneficial to these units in tying in the defence of a much greater area with

wider coverage than could have been expected. Properly sited, automatic weapons could do the job. Over time it became second nature for the gunners under Peter's tutelage to anticipate where they should dig weapon pits to ensure adequate protection of not only the perimeter but in depth positions as well.

had several minor 'run-ins with the UK regimental quartermaster who was reluctant to accept that Australian administrative regulations could differ from those of the Royal Artillery.

In mid 1962 I was about to go on a week's leave with my family to Si-Rusa, a west coast rest centre when the brigade commander at 0300 hours ordered a readiness call-out. As soon as 'Ready' each sub-unit was to assemble on the parade ground for inspection by brigade staff and a check of everything from vehicle inventories, to inoculations, identity discs, pay books and tyre pressures etc. By about 0800 hours, under Peter's command 103rd Field Battery reported 'Ready'¹, the first sub-unit in the brigade to do so much to the surprise of brigade headquarters. I watched the inspection in civvies from the sidelines with more than a little trepidation. But the battery passed faultlessly so my concerns were unjustified. After Brigadier Hassett congratulated Peter he strolled over and had some warm words to say to me.

Peter Badcoe continued to perform his battery captain duties efficiently but had several minor 'run-ins' with the UK regimental quartermaster who was reluctant to accept that Australian administrative regulations could differ from those of the Royal Artillery.

However while I was away at Si-Rusa Peter had a more serious altercation with the UK quartermaster. This dispute was taken for resolution to the Regimental second-in-command, Major John Lewendon, a fair and flexible officer in my opinion, who nevertheless found in his countryman's favour despite the correctness of Peter's case from the Australian viewpoint. On my return I made representations on Peter's behalf but to no avail.

Yet despite his competence Peter did not fit the image of a British gunner officer. He was too short and to them his glasses and stature made him seem somewhat incongruous. His annual confidential report by the RHA commanding officer rated him as 'below average' and was Damning

Soon thereafter the UK Commander Royal Artillery (CRA) of 17 Ghurkha Division, Brigadier John King-Martin, held his annual test exercise. This consisted of endurance and fire planning activities for battery and troop commanders' parties, gun deployment, realistic range practices and field firing exercises. Being alert to the key points of the CRA's orders I, inter alia, passed on to Peter the paramount need for the battery to be fully dug-in and camouflaged by first light.

Early next morning I received a radio order from the Brigade Major Royal Artillery (BMRA) that the CRA required me to leave my post at 'battalion headquarters' and report to my gun area immediately. Very concerned I arrived at the battery to be met by Brigadier King-Martin with his hand out. 'Congratulations', he said 'your battery would do credit to a demonstration battery at Larkhill' (UK School of Artillery); personally I hoped it would rate better! Walking me around 103 Battery area with Peter, he pointed out the salient features of the good work that the battery captain, his officers and non commissioned officers had achieved. There was not a gun or weapon pit to be seen. We were frequently challenged and all positions were immaculate. By contrast the two British batteries had hardly scraped the dirt and each gun and weapon pit was patently obvious. To the delight of the tired soldiers of 103 and the chagrin of the UK batteries the latter were marched around the Australian gun area and told, 'That is how it should be done'.

Yet despite his competence Peter did not fit the image of a British gunner officer. He was too short and to them his glasses and stature made him seem somewhat incongruous. His annual confidential report by the RHA commanding officer rated him as 'below average' and was damning. Peter declined to initial it and brought it to me. I considered it quite unjust and argued Peter's case with Lieutenant Colonel Bethell. He said he was comparing him with his RA captains and declined to alter a word citing Peter's differences with the UK quartermaster as an example of his alleged lack of tact and 'inability to get on with people'¹. In Peter's eyes the report would hinder his future in the Royal Australian Artillery.

This and his success in infantry type tactics in the gun area as well as his enthusiasm for small arms were significant factors, but not the only ones, in Peter Badcoe's decision to transfer from the Gunners to the Royal Australian Infantry Corps..

90 years on, hero's lost war medal turns up in a field

A GALLANTRY medal awarded to an Army Sergeant Major for his distinguished service on First World War battlefields has been returned to his family after being lost for nearly 90 years.

Sergeant Major George Humber served with 38 Brigade Royal Field Artillery in France during the heavy fighting of 1916, 1917 and 1918.

After the war, his proud wife Bessie took his Distinguished Conduct Medal from her home at Brighstone on the Isle of Wight to show her parents at Batchelor's Farm, near Oxted, Surrey.

To her dismay when she arrived the medal was missing. The chances of the devastated couple locating the precious medal, which could have been lost anywhere on the 100-mile journey that included a four-mile sea crossing, were so remote that they gave up hope of ever seeing it again.

Years later the Government agreed to issue a replica but it could not compensate for the solid silver original whose whereabouts have remained a mystery until now.

Amazingly, it was unearthed during a dig at Blackrobins Farm, a few hundred yards from Bessie's parents' old home. Metal detectorist Manuel Nicdao, 57, from Slough, Berkshire, received a strong signal and dug down to investigate. As he brushed away the soil, the silver medal appeared.

After extensive detective work by David Williams, finds liaison officer for Surrey, and his counterpart on the Isle of Wight, Frank Basford, the family of Sgt Major Humber was traced.

His son George, 88, was in a nursing home near the old family home and granddaughter Renella Phillips, also an islander, gave her father the news of the find. Mr Nicdao travelled to the Isle of Wight to hand the long-lost medal to Mrs Phillips and her husband, Alan, a local historian.

She said: "It is wonderful to have the medal back in the family and quite amazing to think it had been in the ground for all those years."

The citation of September 1919 reads: "Sgt Major Humber has been through all the heavy fighting in 1916-17 and 1918, always commanding his detachment in action with great courage and coolness, often under heavy hostile shell fire and great difficulties."

The hero died in 1985 in his mid-90s.

Mrs Phillips added: "The medal will remain in the family. At my father's suggestion I have given it to a cousin who is the only one of his descendants who still bears the Humber name."

Sgt Major Humber's other awards - the Victory Medal, British War Medal and 1914-15 Star - were stolen in a burglary and replaced by the War Office.



RE-DISCOVERED: Medal

Submitted by SSgt Ernie Paddon. Ed



Special occasion; CA addresses the gathering at the Australian War Memorial

Celebrations in fine style

By Sgt Andrew Hetherington

MORE than 300 personnel attended Army's 109th birthday celebrations, held for the first time at the Australian War Memorial, on March 1.

In changing the venue from the Blamey Square parade ground at Russell Offices, CA Lt-Gen Ken Gillespie said he thought the Memorial was a more appropriate location.

"I specifically wanted the celebration to be memorable while being at the same time low key," Lt-Gen Gillespie said.

"In terms of memorable, I wanted to achieve a balance between being solemn, being proud and being happy about, or content with, who we are."

During his speech he emphasized the importance of the service of past and current members.

"Nothing could be more poignant than to stand here, around the Pool of Reflection, surrounded by the over 102,000 names of those who have fallen for the many causes our nation has felt necessary to answer with arms over the past 11 decades," Lt-Gen Gillespie said.

"How special is it to stand in front of the tomb of our unknown soldier to recall the multitude of events and battles which have shaped the Australian

nation, our Army and us. To be able to say to the spirits of all of these fallen comrades, 'thank you digger, your sacrifice was not in vain'."

He said family was also important to the Army's success.

"I wanted today's celebration to be a family event, to signify that we in uniform achieve nothing without the support, love and understanding of our families," he said.

"It is often our families who bear the biggest burden when we deploy, and then return changed forever by our experiences."

After the parade, personnel and their families ate breakfast and the Army birthday cake in Anzac Hall.

The youngest member of AHQ, Pte Stephen King, said it was the second time he had cut an Army birthday cake.

"I was stabbed for the cake cutting last year," he said. "It was a welcome change to attend the parade at a different location. It was humbling to stand by the pool of reflection during the service."

Lt-Gen Gillespie intends to hold Army's 110th birthday celebrations at the Memorial next year.

Courtesy of The Soldiers Army, March 18th, 2010

Wagon project revs up

By Cpl Jane Ashby-Cliffe

MERCEDES-Benz delivered the first 11 prototypes of the O-Wagon off-road vehicles to the ADF at a ceremony in Graz, Austria, on October 29.

A total of 1200 new purpose-built cross-country vehicles will replace some of the ADI's existing Land Rover fleet as a part of Land 121 Project Overlander.

The \$4.6 million Project Overlander is the largest land project in the Defence Capability Plan. It will deliver a fleet of approximately 7000 vehicles, modules and trailers to significantly improve the ADF's operational capability, logistics and mobility.

Director General Land Vehicle Systems. Land 121, Brig David O'Brien said the handover was a significant milestone for the project and Army.

"It is good news for the soldiers who will receive a world-class capability which will be delivered with full Integrated logistic support," Brig O'Brien said.

"The vehicles will be delivered on time and on budget, which is an impressive achievement".

Six types of G-Wagons will be acquired with the majority rolled out for Army units. The range includes a 4x4 general-purpose station wagon, two 4x4 cargo variants, a 6x6 cab-chassis variant, a 6x6 dual-cab truck, and a specialist 6x6 surveillance and reconnaissance vehicle.

The O-Wagon will serve as a platform for a variety of interchangeable specialist modules to enable personnel carriage, cargo carriage, canine transport, ambulance operations and command and control functions.

Testing of the vehicles will begin in Australia in January 2010 and will include a two-week soldier trial at Puckapunyal Military Training area.

"For the first week we will run a series of activities to see how soldiers operate in the vehicles, before a one-week exercise testing all aspects the vehicles will be used for," Brig O'Brien said.

"Having the soldiers involved in the testing will ensure we receive constructive feedback and confirm we are getting a great product that meets their needs."

The main production of the G-Wagons will begin in Graz in October 2010, with delivery of the first 30 vehicles expected in February 2011.

Soldiers will start training at RAAF Base Amberley, Queensland, in March 2011, with vehicles rolled out to units beginning in July.



G-WAGON AT A GLANCE

Engine: Mercedes-Benz, 2.8-litres, 6-cyl-Inter V turbocharged Intercooled (diesel engine with high-pressure common rail injection system (CDI), with exhaust gas treatment compliant to Australian emission regulations (equivalent to Euro V) Fuel: Diesel Fuel tank capacity: Main tank - 96 litres; Reserve tank - 55 litres Range: 800km, approx 19 litres per 100km (fully laden 6x6 warrant towing fully laden trailer) Max speed: 120km/hr on-road. Gross vehicle weight: 4600kg (4x4 station wagon and carryall); 6,500kg (6x6 cab-chassis, dual-cab and surveillance)

G-whiz wagon: An overseas variant of the G-Wagon being put through all-terrain testing. The first 30 of Army's vehicles are expected to be delivered in February 2011.



8/12's mission on fire



What a blast: A 155mm high-explosive artillery round clears the gun line during the exercise at the Mt Bunday Training Area.

DEAFENING shock waves rocked the Bushmasters and APCs as high-explosive 155mm artillery rounds hit the ground near their dug-in positions.

Despite the proximity, forward observers seated in the armoured vehicles adjusted the incoming rounds progressively closer.

The fire support landing in the Mt Dundey Training Area was from 8/12 Mdm Regt as part of the second phase of Exercise Predator's Gallop.

It was an opportunity for the regiment to practise and experience danger-close fire missions along with a variety of other regimental fire missions, procedures and effects co-ordination.

The exercise provided the building blocks the regiment will build and consolidate next year ahead of deployments to Afghanistan as part of the mentoring task force.

Commander 101 Mdm Bty Maj Piero Bertocchi said the accuracy of artillery on the battlefield was paramount to the support of friendly forces on the ground, so practising such engagements was vital to the operational effectiveness.

"The danger-close fire missions conducted during the exercise have involved the forward observers mounted in Bushmasters, allowing us to call in fire missions as close as 175m from our position," Maj Bertocchi said.

The procedure involved the observers walking rounds up to an operationally safe distance and then requesting authority from the manoeuvre commander to drop rounds within that designated distance.

"Danger-close procedures are quite important as most engagements on operations occur in proximity to friendlies and in that case we need to have the experience of calling in close fire that is safe, on time and on target," he said

On the gun line, the gun numbers reacted with speed and precision to the fire orders relayed from the observers.

The opportunity for operational deployments available to gunners in their primary role has changed vastly in recent years.

The regiment's gunners have been manning British guns as part of Operation Herrick and joint-fire teams have been in high demand on operations abroad along with artillery command post operators and signallers.

With this wealth of operational experience through the ranks of the regiment and the successful completion of live-fire exercises, the unit has proven it is operationally ready to support the other arms and services on the battlefield when called on.



The Soldiers Army, October 29th 2009

81mm Mortar in use by 2/10 Fd Regt

The mortar 81 millimetre (mm) F2 is a crew-served, (3 man) indirect fire support (FS) weapon. It's main characteristics are:

Firepower. The mortar is distinguished from other indirect fire systems by its capability to sustain a high rate of fire using a variety of ammunition.

Mobility. The mortar is primarily a man-portable weapon system that can also be deployed using other agencies such as helicopters, wheeled vehicles or armoured personnel carrier mortar vehicles [APC(M)]. In the man-pack mode additional personnel are required to carry ammunition.

Vulnerability. The mortar is easily detectable by its distinctive noise and flash when firing. It is extremely vulnerable to detection by weapon locating radar because of the long time of flight, high trajectory and slow velocity of its ammunition. Mortar crews are generally not capable of defending themselves whilst simultaneously conducting missions.

Flexibility. The mortar can fire at ranges from 200 metres (m) to 4900 m depending upon the type of ammunition used. The barrel can be rotated and fired in any direction by moving the bipod. The principal components of the mortar are the:

- base plate,
- barrel, and
- bipod.

Weapon data

Arming Range 200m

Planning Range 4400m

Max range 4900m

Rates of Fire:

Slow 1 to 3 rounds per minute

Sustained 4 to 7 rounds per minute

Rapid 8 to 10 rounds per minute

Emergency 20 rounds in the first minute

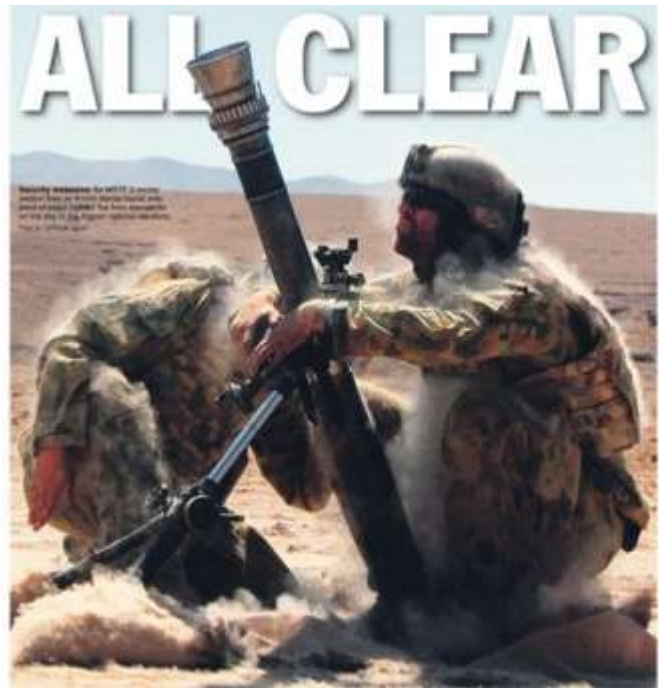
Ammunition

High Explosive (HE),

White Phosphorous (WP),

Illumination,

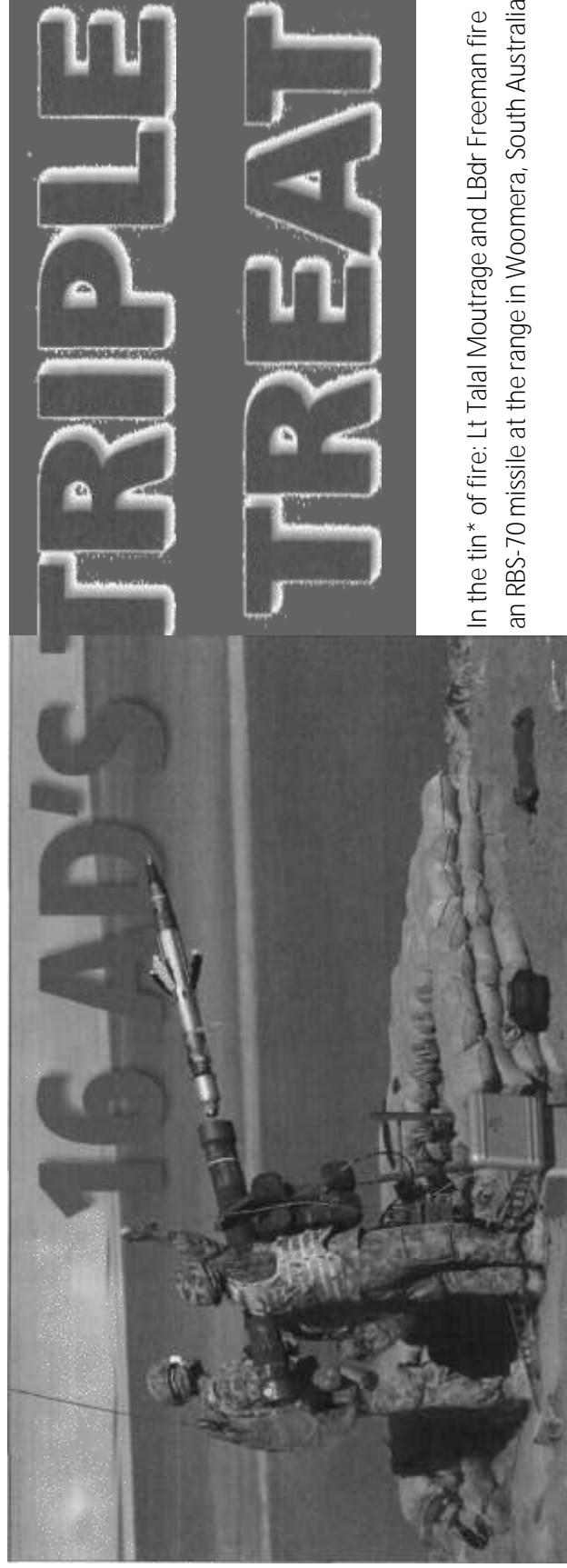
HE Multi Option Fuse



In action in Afghanistan

The mortar battery will consist of three mortar sections of two mortars commanded by a Bdr section commander and LBdr 2IC. One command post that can be broken down into two if required, Bty Recce party consisting of a Lt, WO2(BG), 2 mortar men and a Sig/Dvr. Mortar TP HQ consisting of a Lt, Tp Sgt and Sig/Dvr. The Observation group has the BC Party, a JOSCC; BK to command, 3 x JFTs and finally an Admin section consisting of the BSM, BQMS, QNCO, Medic, TPT NCO and a Q PTE.

Info courtesy of ARMY & SMIG 2/10



In the tin* of fire: Lt Talal Moutrage and LBdr Freeman fire an RBS-70 missile at the range in Woomera, South Australia.

WITHIN a two-week period during May-June, 16 AD Regt conducted a live-fire exercise, celebrated the homecoming of soldiers from East Timor and marked a 40th anniversary.

Exercise

The first part of Exercise Raptor's Sting focused on honing the unit's tactics, techniques and procedures, and confirmed the gunners ability to deploy at short notice.

The second was the day live fire of Mk2 and Bolide surface-to-air missiles from the RBS-70 launcher at towed aerial targets at the Woomera range.

Ten missiles were allotted to be fired and eight firers were selected for the task.

Leading up to the exercise a challenge was laid down to the gunners; only the best operators were the lucky ones to fire one of the \$150,000 projectiles.

This goal set the gunners into intense practice using the unit's simulators and thousands of simulated engagements to improve their skills, firing averages and chances of a missile live fire.

Of the 10 missiles fired at Woomera, six hit their targets, two missed and two missiles failed which signalled an overall increase in operator proficiency over previous firings. In the past, hit success rates were at 40 per cent.

CO 16 AD Regt Li-Col John McLean said the exercise allowed the unit to test the new Bolide missile, which was faster and had a better warhead than previous missiles and was a significant enhancement for unit capabilities.

"We were also able to test the new tactical firing procedures, allowing for increased realism and flexibility," Lt-Col McLean said.

"Gunnery were able to detect and hit a target half the size of a Tomahawk cruise missile moving at 125m per second. It was testament to their efforts and new capabilities."

Continued next page

Parade

The unit celebrated its 40th birthday in style by exercising its freedom of entry to the nearby town of Woodside on June 6.

Members of the regiment marched through the streets of the small town with swords drawn and bayonets fixed to the beat of Army Band Adelaide.

The parade was led by CO Lt-Col John McLean, RSM WO1 Glynn Potter and the Banner of Queen Elizabeth II.

Attendees included Col Commandant of RAA central regions and former CO Col Reg Foster (ret'd) acting as parade host officer, Comd I Div Maj-Gen Mick Slater as principal guest. Brig Gerard Fogarty (also a past CO) and Commandant ACSC Brig Wayne Goodman.

The reviewing officer was Deputy Mayor of the Adelaide Hills District Mr Bill Gale.

The parade was followed by an open day at the barracks with the unit hosting residents of Woodside and the Adelaide hills.

On display were past and present weapon systems, vehicles and equipment. In the evening, the inaugural Australian Air Defence Artillery Association reunion was held and attended by about 150 former and current members of the regiment.



On parade; RSM WO1 Glynn Potter at the freedom of entry parade in Woodside during the regiment's 40th birthday celebrations.

Homecoming

Members of 110 AD Bty returned from eight months of service in East Timor on May 28.

Performing as an infantry rifle company, the diggers of 16 AD Regt patrolled the western districts of East Timor

Platoon commander Lt Christopher Skinn and his gunners spent a month in Maliana, five months in Gleno and two months in Dili. He was pleased with the performance of his soldiers during the deployment.

"My diggers were excellent. I was very happy with the way they worked," Lt Skinn said.

"We were acting as a tier-three response to any situation if it erupted and did a lot of patrolling to identify any friction points."

He said he had found the deployment interesting and full of challenges.

"We were involved with missions ranging from apprehension operations with the East Timorese police through to training East Timorese border patrol units in navigation," he said.

"They were very enthusiastic and worked really well with the Australian soldiers."



Firepower: Bdr Robert Williams carries an encapsulated missile.

Photos by Sgt Errol Jones (RAAF)

History of the Rising Sun Badge

Proudly worn by soldiers of the 1st and 2nd Australian Imperial Forces in both World Wars, the 'Rising Sun' badge has become an integral part of Digger tradition.

The distinctive shape, worn on the upturned brim of a slouch hat, is readily identified with the spirit of ANZAC.

Yet despite the badge's historic significance, well researched theories as to its origin are more numerous than its seven points.

In 1902 a badge was urgently sought for the Australian contingents raised after Federation for service in South Africa during the Boer War

Probably the most widely-accepted version of the origin of this badge is that which attributes the selection of its design to a British officer, Major General Sir Edward Hutton, KCB, KCMG, the newly appointed Commander-in-chief of the Australian Forces.

He had earlier received as a gift from Brigadier General Joseph Gordon, a military acquaintance of long standing, a "Trophy of Arms" comprising mounted cut and thrust swords and triangular Martini Henri bayonets arranged in a semicircle around a brass crown. To Major General Hutton the shield was symbolic of the co-ordination of the Naval and Military Forces of the Commonwealth.

A refurbished replica of the shield is on display in the main foyer of Army Headquarters in Canberra. (Figure 1).

The original design, created and produced in haste for issue to the contingent departing to South Africa, was modified in 1904. This badge (Figure 2), was worn through both World Wars.

Since its inception the Basic form of the 1904 version has remained unchanged although modifications have been made to the wording on the scroll and to the style of crown.

In 1949, when Corps and Regimental Badges were reintroduced into service, the wording on the scroll of the "Rising Sun" Badge was changed to read "Australian Military Forces". (Figure 3).

Twenty years later, the badge was again modified to incorporate the Federation Star and Torse Wreath from the original 1902 version of the badge and the scroll wording changed to "Australia" (Figure 4).

In the 75th anniversary year of the ANZAC landings at Gallipoli there arose a desire to return to the traditional accoutrements worn by Australian soldiers during the World Wars and which clearly identify the Australian Army. (Figure 5). The recent change coincides with the 90th anniversary of the Army which was commemorated on 1st March 1991.



Fig 1 - Original



Fig 2 - 1904



Fig 3 - 1949



Fig 4 - 1969



Fig 5 - 1991

THE HON. GREG COMBET AM MP

Minister for Defence Personnel, Materiel and Science

IMPROVED AIR DEFENCE TRAINING

Greg Combet, Minister for Defence Personnel, Materiel and Science, today announced that the Australian Army's air defence simulators will be upgraded.

"This upgrade will provide Army with a more realistic controlled tactical environment for the training of close-in air defence as well as an ergonomically designed computer-aided environment for instructors to efficiently evaluate trainees," said Mr Combet

"The new upgrades include a dome display system. This unique system is comprised of an array of commercial video projectors that project multiple images into one panoramic view."

"The entire virtual world consisting of terrain, sky, aircraft and weather is displayed, providing a modern software-programmable training interface.

"The system is designed to allow for future upgrades as advances in video projection technology provide increased resolution at reduced cost," Mr Combet said.

The simulator is based at 16 Air Defence Regiment at Woodside Barracks, South Australia.

The Defence Materiel Organisation (DMO) and BAE Systems Australia recently signed a \$5m increase to the Advanced Air Defence Simulator Operations and Maintenance Support Contract to replace obsolete hardware and software. The work is scheduled for completion in February 2011.

DEFENCE MEDIA RELEASE

MSPA 415/09

TALIBAN WINTER OPERATIONS TARGETED IN AFGHAN-AUSTRALIAN OPERATIONS

Joint Afghan and Australian operations in Afghanistan are having a significant impact on the Taliban's weapons and ammunition reserves with the discovery of 44 caches in the past two months.

The most recent cache discovered included small arms ammunition, 55 high-explosive anti-tank rocket

propelled grenades and an 82mm recoilless rifle (anti-tank weapon) with four rounds. The cache was uncovered during a routine patrol by Australian soldiers from the 2nd Mentoring and Reconstruction Task Force (MRTF-2) and the Afghan National Army (ANA) around Mirabad, east of Tarin Kowt in Oruzgan Province.

Commanding Officer of the MRTF, Lieutenant Colonel Peter Connolly, believed the cache finds would have a strong impact on the insurgents' operational capability.

"To uncover one cache in a fortnight would be considered a good rate of find, so to find 44 in a small area within a space of two months is very significant," Lieutenant Colonel Connolly said.

"Through constant, aggressive and unpredictable patrolling in sections and small teams we have also discovered 11 Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs). "We're going into winter and it has become very cold out there and this is a time when they tend to rely on their stores, particularly for all the IED components they've been storing up, so they can continue to fight through the harsh winter months."

The patrol was part of Operation Baz Panje, which aims to clear Mirabad, a known insurgent safe-haven, and then dominate the region in order establish a permanent patrol base for the ANA 4th Brigade in eastern Oruzgan.

MRTF-2 has also successfully completed a dangerous resupply mission to and from Kandahar. Operation Tor Ghar involved ANA, Australian, Dutch and US soldiers collecting vital supplies that were essential to sustain soldiers of the ANA 4th Brigade through winter.

Lieutenant Colonel Connolly said the size of the convoy, combined with the ever present insurgent ambush threat along the route between Kandahar and Tarin Kowt made it an extremely significant and challenging operation for the ANA 4th Brigade and the mentoring and partnering elements from coalition partners and the MRTF-2.

"The successful achievement of the mission is testimony to the strong relationships the Australian soldiers have formed at all levels with our mentored 4th Kandak [Battalion] of the 4th Brigade, and ANA 4th Brigade counterparts," Lieutenant Colonel Connolly said.

Fighting to keep the sand out of my beer

by Richard Cutler

DARKNESS is falling.

High above the thick Vietnamese jungle a lone helicopter is punching its way home. Three thousand feet below, a Digger finishes his last cigarette before night and listens to the sound filtering through the trees. Enviously he thinks of the crew of the unseen 'chopper. He sees them sitting back comfortably, cracking jokes over the intercom as they speed at 75 knots-plus towards base. He can see them happy at the thought of a night on the town - in the messes and bars of the nearby cities of Vung Tau, Bien Hoa or Saigon.

He wonders what the night could bring for his infantry company, spread on the ground in an overnight position. Already the gloom under the canopy is thickening. The figures of others merge with the background of thick bushes and vines, as visibility decreases. The critical period is approaching.

A low whistle sounds and the company is called to stand-to. The slight rustle of 100 men moving to their perimeter posts seems to scream in the stillness. Each man lies in his shallow shell-scape and prepares to face the night. In the distance a flock of birds takes to the air, protesting. Have they been startled by men in black moving below them? Has there been a silent pyjama-clad spectator to our stopover? Is he even now leading his unit back to our camp to wait for dark before attacking? Will the VC presence be announced in a few minutes with a murderous burst of automatic fire and a hail of rockets? Or will it be another night when the only sounds are birds and animals and from sleepy sentries stumbling to their posts?

Nights are long in the Vietnamese jungle. The combination of tension and hard earth can make sleep difficult. Three weeks or more patrolling through the undergrowth, carrying a 60lb pack, takes its toll.

No wonder the Task Force base at Nui Dat is regarded as a haven by the infantry soldier. Here he can relax several degrees behind rows of barbed wire and deep fighting pits. It is far from his "other world" - the dank, still jungle.

At Nui Dat there is plentiful water for washing and

shaving, a can of beer at the company canteen, and a game of darts or even a movie. Not much by Australian standards, but a far cry from the bush life where entertainment is restricted to picking off leeches or killing scorpions. Life at Nui Dat comes second on the scale of living standards for Australian troops in Vietnam. The base, about two miles long and half a mile wide, is home to most of Australia's 7000-man contingent. The area draws its name from the small, scarred hill in its centre. It was established in 1966. It is the base for all Australian unit operations.

The skies above are crowded with helicopters, transport planes and artillery shells flung from nearby support batteries. Patrols daily snake across the broad swath of cleared ground surrounding the base, to be swallowed up in rubber plantations and patches of jungle at its border. Hours later they will be disgorged, sweating and dirty, thankful for the sight of the rows of sandbagged tents which are home.

Patrolling of the TAOR (tactical area of responsibility) is a routine task carried out with the minimum of fuss. There is no guarantee, though, of the area remaining free of guerrillas. This is one of the worst features of Vietnam service. At times it is hard to believe there is a war going on: at other times it is hard to believe there is anything else.

Operations in Phuoc Tuy Province are mostly clear-cut. Troops move into jungle areas where civilians are forbidden to live and where an innocent Vietnamese has no reason to go.

In the other phases of the Australian activities, the issues are involved. The areas to the south of Nui Dat are densely populated. It is here the VC are entrenched. The major towns like Baria, Long Dien, Dat Do and Hoa Long have guerrilla units drawn from their townspeople. These units are content largely to restrict their fighting to the ARVN (Army of the Republic of Viet Nam) whose small, fortress-like camps can be death-traps.

The Australian bid to reduce the strength of these guerrilla units centres mainly on snap village searches, ambushes and harassing artillery fire often directed by spotter planes. Village searches are frustrating and usually fruitless. It is hard to believe that a unit of, say, 150 is drawn from a quiet little town. Diggers move from a cordon position in line abreast, prodding, overturning and digging.

The villagers watch them blankly while their children rush among the soldiers, cadging cigarettes and food. Buffaloes, kept in flimsy pens, show the only overt hostility. They will break free of their restraint and charge thunderingly, even without provocation. The village search is the Nui Dat soldier's main source of contact with the Vietnamese. Apart from this he will spend only four days' leave in Vietnam, at the rest centre in Vung Tau.

For the 1000 or so Australians stationed at the logistic support base at Vung Tau, service in Vietnam is comparatively a Cook's tour. Their sprawling compound on the beachfront of the peninsula city is only two miles from the hundreds of bars and messes catering for servicemen. Vung Tau is neutral ground, apparently because of the VC share of the bar profits, and there is little risk of fighting. A narrow road built up from swamps is the only access. ARVN outposts guard the neck of the peninsula. US launches patrol the South China Sea coast.

For the Australians in Vung Tau and the small group at US headquarters in Saigon it is a good life. For the less fortunate Diggers at Nui Dat, about one-third of whom are combat troops, there is dull routine punctured by bursts of violence.

The "bush Digger" feels strongly about the difference in state of his counterpart.

A favourite joke in Nui Dat sums up the feeling.

"What did you do in the war, Daddy?"

"I was in Vung Tau, fighting to keep the sand out of my beer"

Published in the Newcastle Herald, December, 1968.

Winner of the AJA Prodi Award for Feature Writing, 1969.

Thanks to WO2 Max Murray for sending me the article. Ed



Editors Indulgence

Continued from page 9

I feel that I owe an apology to both Her Majesty & SSgt Ernie Paddon re the poor quality of the picture shown here that was in the background on p12 of the previous issue (102).

Hence the reproduction now.

Hard to spot Ernie, but he **assures me he's there.** 3rd row from the top, 3rd from the right.

My thanks to Lt Col John Morkham for his relevant comments. Ed



Royal Australian Artillery Association (Vic)



INVITATION Gunner Dinner 2010

The President and Committee of the RAA Association (Vic) extend to you, your partners and guests a warm invitation to attend the 2010 All Ranks Gunner Dinner.

The Dinner will be held at the **Caulfield RSL**, 4 St Georges Road, Elsternwick on Friday 25th June, 2010 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, if it is available to us on this date.

The Band of the 2/10 FD REGT will provide music.

Entrée is \$60 per person and includes pre-dinner drinks, hors d'oeuvres, three courses, table wines, port, coffee and cheese.

After dinner drinks will be available at bar prices.

Please return the form below, together with a cheque made payable to the RAA Assoc (Vic)

not later than Wednesday 1st June 2010.

The Association looks forward to your support for this year's Gunner Dinner.

Any member who requires assistance with transport should contact Lt Col Jason Cooke on

Home: 03 9705 1155. Work: 03 9282 6900. e-mail: jason.cooke@defence.gov.au

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

Enquires and return address: Ssgt Reg Morrell 6 Melissa Street, Mount Waverley 3149,

Phone: 9562 9552 Email: morrells@morrell.org



GUNNER DINNER 2010

Rank _____ Name _____

Address _____

I accept your invitation to attend the 2010 Gunner Dinner.

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

Rank _____ Name _____

Rank _____ Name _____

Special dietary requirements _____

If possible I wish to seated near _____

RAA Association (Victoria) Inc Corps Shop

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

PRICE LIST

| | | | |
|-------------------------------------|---------|--|----------------|
| Badges, etc | | ENQUIRIES: | |
| RAA Assn (Vic), members | \$5.00 | BRIAN CLEEMAN | (03) 9560 7116 |
| RAA badge cuff links | \$9.00 | REG MORRELL | (03) 9562 9552 |
| Key ring, RAA badge | \$4.00 | Stationery | |
| Key ring, RAA (Pewter) | \$4.00 | Stickers | |
| Ties | | Bumper: <i>Gunners do it with a bigger bang</i> | \$2.00 |
| Blue with single red gun | \$30.00 | Square: gold badge, red and blue background | \$2.00 |
| RAA Burgundy with gold gun | \$43.00 | | |
| RAA Navy with gold gun | \$43.00 | ORDERS: | |
| St Barbara Stripe | \$43.00 | 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. | |
| Books | | Cheques should be made payable to RAA Association (Victoria) Inc, and be crossed <i>Not Negotiable</i> . | |
| <i>Kookaburra's Cutthroats</i> | \$39.00 | Orders to: Mr B. Cleeman | |
| <i>Aust Military Equip Profiles</i> | \$13.50 | 28 Samada Street | |
| <i>AMEF Profile - Leopard Tank</i> | \$17.00 | Notting Hill VIC 3168 | |

Parade Card
(as at 24 Apr)

| | | |
|------------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Jan 2011 | May 2010 | September 2010 |
| | 17 Committee | 21 Committee |
| Feb 2011 | 31 Jun Issue Cascabel Posted | |
| 13 Church Parade | | October 2010 |
| 15 Committee | June 2010 | 19 Committee |
| 28 Mar Issue Cascabel Posted | 15 Committee | 31 Nov Issue Cascabel Posted |
| | 25 Gunner Dinner | |
| Mar 2011 | | November 2010 |
| 15 Committee | July 2010 | 05 AGM |
| | 20 Committee | 06 Golf Day |
| April 2011 | | 16 Committee |
| 19 Committee | August 2010 | |
| 25 Anzac Day | 15 Aug Issue Cascabel Posted | December 2010 |
| | 17 Committee | 04 St Barbara's Day |
| | | 10 Committee |

CHANGE OF ADDRESS AND DETAILS UP-DATE

| | | |
|--|-------------------|----------------|
| <p><i>Please forward to:</i> RAA Association (Vic) Inc. 8 Alfada Street Caulfield South Vic. 3167</p> | | |
| 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) _____ | | |
| _____ | | |

Please Use Additional Blank Sheets if Space Insufficient

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