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Dalwallinu WA 30°17'S 116°40'E

The town site of Dalwallinu is located 251 kilometres NNE of Perth in the northern wheat belt. It was gazetted in 1914, although the name was in use as a railway station on the "Wongan Hills - Mullewa Line" in 1913. The meaning of this Aboriginal word is given as "a place to wait a while", although this meaning is disputed by some early residents of the district. Another source suggests the meaning is "good lands", referring to the open grass lands closer to Pithara.

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Current Postal Addresses

All mail for the Association, except matters concerning Cascabel, should be addressed to:
The Secretary : RAA Association (Vic) Inc. 8 Alfada Street, Caulfield South Vic. 3167

All mail for the Editor of Cascabel, including articles and letters submitted for publication, should be sent direct to:

Alan Halbish, 115 Kearney Drive Aspendale Gardens Vic 3195
(H) 9587 1676
ahalbish@netspace.net.au

RAA Association (VIC) Inc Committee

President:	MAJ Neil Hamer RFD 9702 2100
Vice President:	Lt Col. Jason Cooke 9705 1155
Immediate Past President:	MAJ Merv Taggart RFD, ED 9773 3730
Secretary:	Rachel Decker 9578 5205
Assistant Secretary:	MAJ Robin Smith RFD 9435 6352
Treasurer:	SSGT Reg Morrell 9562 9552
Members:	CAPT. Peter Wertheimer OAM, RFD LT. Tom Mc Lean WO2 Lionel Foster SSGT Brian Cleeman SSGT Ernie Paddon
Cascabel Editor:	WO2 Alan Halbish 9587 1676
Representatives:	WO2 Lionel Foster (10 Mdm Regt Assn)
Honorary Auditor:	Major David J Osborne Shepard Webster & O'Neill Pty Ltd

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Curator:	SSGT Brian Cleeman 9560 7116
-----------------	---------------------------------

VIC REGT CONTACTS

2/10 Fd Regt 8 Chapel St St Kilda	9526 4222
22 Fd Bty 65 Princes Hwy Dandenong South	8710 2407
38 Fd Bty Myers St Geelong	5221 7666

CONTENTS AND SUBMISSIONS

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The President Writes

 The time over the Christmas-New Year holiday period is usually very quiet from an Association point of view, and this year was no exception. At the time of writing we have had only one Committee meeting with generally only the usual “housekeeping” items being discussed.

The exceptions were ANZAC Day and the Gunner Dinner.

A notice about ANZAC Day appears elsewhere in this magazine.

The Gunner Dinner was discussed at some length. As I am sure that you are all aware, we were forced to cancel the 2011 Dinner due to lack of attendance.

The Committee decided that the tradition of the Victorian RAA Association should not be left to die.

We determined that the Dinner would continue with any necessary changes to the format to accommodate as many members as possible.

A more central and/or suitable venue is being considered. If you wish to have any input about this matter – good or bad, praise or criticism, time of year and time of day, formal, less formal or not formal, or any other comment – please tell me about it by telephone, snail mail, or email. If you would like to attend a Committee meeting to discuss the Dinner you are more than welcome.

(Of course, members of the Association are welcome at any Committee meeting.)

Please notify the Secretary if you wish to attend and the subject, if any, you would like to discuss.

Please do not forget to notify me if you change your email address so that I can keep you informed about the Association.

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

Regards to all

Karl Hamer

Neil Hamer
MAJ (Retd)

Membership Report

Current Membership as at 5 Mar 12

Life Members	194	(195)
Annual Members	44	(43)
Senior Annual Members	12	(13)
Affiliates	31	(31)
Others (CO/CI, Messes,etc.)	12	(12)
Libraries	5	(5)
RSL's	4	(4)
<u>Total</u>	<u>302</u>	<u>(303)</u>

New Members

There have been no new members since the last issue of Cascabel.

Vale

It is with regret that we note the passing of Col Lancelot Cutcliffe ED (joined 25 Jul 78) and WO1 James Hodgson (joined 18 Jun 98).

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

Karl Hamer

Neil Hamer Contact: Telephone: 9702 2100
MAJ (Retd) 0419 533 067
Membership Co-ordinator
Email: nhamer@bigpond.net.au

ANZAC DAY 2012

A Dawn Service will be held on Anzac Day, Wednesday 25th April, at Sargood Barracks, Chapel Street, East St Kilda commencing at 0545 hrs.

The service will be preceded by the traditional Gun-fire Breakfast. Breakfast will be served in the drill hall after the service. All members of the Association, relatives and friends are welcome to attend. A small charge for the breakfast after the service may be required.



**MESSAGE FROM
COMMANDING OFFICER
2nd/10th Field Regiment RAA**



To all Gunners

I am very pleased to report that the Regt has **commenced 2012 with the expected "bang"**, morale is high and there is excited anticipation for up and coming activities. It all started at HMAS Cerberus on the Regimental weekend where David Sabben addressed the soldiers with a fantastic 90 minute presentation on his experiences. Wonderful opportunity for the soldiers to hear his exploits and exchange stories / concerns which seem to be ageless. Outstanding with very positive feedback from all.

Let's also acknowledge that 4 BDE has just deployed the next contingent to Timor Leste for eight months and deployed soldiers into the flood affected parts of Victoria. To all those involved our thoughts and prayers are with them and also to those affected. Please be assured that your Reserve Brigade is alive and strong, providing real capability to the nation across a number of fronts.

Two significant structural changes have occurred since my last report; the introduction of the centralised approach to career management now much more aligned with the ARA and a direction for the 4th and 9th Brigades to plan for combined activities in the future. This last one is a direct result of Plan BEERSHEBA. It is very early days and I would expect that in 2013 our Brigades conduct a combined activity based upon the 4 BDE model of EX JACKA. This is yet another excellent opportunity for us gunners to demonstrate the mortar capability.

You will also be pleased to hear that the momentum for all 2 DIV RAA Units to convert to mortars has really intensified with the tasking by AHQ to convert the two independent btys normally linked to 1 Fd Regt (now called 1 Regt) in Jun this year. Additionally there is a BPT task to convert the two NSW Regiments in Oct this year. This is both exciting and daunting as 2/10 has a vital role to play in the conversion, noting

we are the 2 DIV lead and centre of excellence for this new trade. This will take a significant amount of effort not only across the Regiment but every qualified instructor throughout 2 DIV, both ARA and ARES.

As you can image, there is an enormous amount and volume of questions, requesting of information, planning and advice being given by my staff to a variety of project teams and higher HQs at extremely short notice in order to meet the June deadline. I am again immensely proud of the ARA staff within 2/10 as they have taken it on with real passion and endeavour. The next challenge is for the instructor base within the ARES to step up to the plate, like they did last year for this absolutely vital instructional role.

In order to ensure success, 2/10 will be hosting all of the RAA SMIGs across the 2 DIV in March at RHQ undergoing a week long review / workshop to: amend training packages, resolve trade structure and promotion issues (including courses for junior officers) and the creation of a SMIG Conversion training package vital for the immediate courses in Jun and Oct but also the future ARA RAA posting cycle into 2 DIV units. If that is not enough, all 2 DIV RAA Units will undergo a Unit Entitlement Review earmarked for May with AHQ. This again is a significant body of work.

The unit has just received two new officers recently graduated from Melbourne University Regiment, whom are a welcomed addition to the Regiment, growing my RAA junior officer numbers to 5. In fact, 2/10 has been given our full allocation and considering other units received none I am extremely pleased. The significance of their posting does not stop there as 2/10 will be the first RAA unit to have received female RAA badge officers across the Division. So like our fulltime counterparts, 2/10 will have female badge RAA officers in combat roles. I am fully supportive and delighted to have LT

Stephanie Hogan and LT Saba Aleyomah aboard and wish them well on their future career as an RAA Officer. Both are extremely excited and keen to be given the opportunity and fully appreciate the challenges that await them. I encourage you all to make them welcome, as I know you will, and I have no doubt that those of you that attended the RAA Luncheon, you took the time to welcome them into the RAA family. I recently heard from Matt (MAJ Bibby OPSO) and Paul (WO1 Holstein RSM), both are enjoying their deployment and would like to pass on their best regards to the wider Regimental family.

If you missed attending the first of the **“professional development” session in early March**, please come and join us at the 2/10 Officer Mess, Chapel Street East St Kilda for the next one. The PMC of the Officers Mess, MAJ Garry Rolfe will send out a schedule when these will be conducted as I personally invite any of you to attend. The purpose of these sessions are to provide a regular occasion where fellow gunners of all and any brand can gather, discuss, exchange, argue, tell waries and generally mingle in a semi formal environment. As I hope you have gleaned from my report, we are extremely busy and do not get the chance for professional development nor interact with fellow gunners as often as we should. These sessions I hope can address this shortfall and is beneficial to all.

Good news about the Band, I am going to grow them with support from 4/19 PWLH Regiment. Both Commanding Officers have spoken and are very eager to stop the rot which has seen both of our Regimental bands dwindle over the past couple of years. Again they provide to Army a very useful and necessary capability and therefore should be developed like any other trade. Exciting times ahead for both bands.

Now for some quick public announcements. There is an open invitation to any member of our Gunner family to visit the collection of memorabilia at the Regiment. We would also love to see you all at any one of our Regimental or Association activities **including the “Development Sessions”, Gunner Lunch or Dinner and the Annual Golf Day in Nov.** As I have previously stated, it is always an excellent opportunity to discuss all things Artillery amongst friends and fellow gunners.

ANZAC Day will again see the Regiment conduct a Dawn Service at Chapel Street, details to follow but

it will be along the same lines as previous years. Please be aware that the Regiment has been tasked to march with the rest of 4 Brigade as a Brigade in the Melbourne ANZAC Commemorative March commencing at 0930. As such, Chapel Street will remain open but with a reduced number of support staff.

Feedback and views from anyone is always welcome so please contact me on jason.cooke4@defence.gov.au if you wish to discuss anything. Again I extend all the best for the first half of 2012 and hope to see you at as many functions as possible.

Ubique

Jason Cooke

Lieutenant Colonel

Commanding Officer

2nd/10th Field Regiment



Army opens the doors to a new era of soldier care

The Minister for Defence Science and Personnel, Warren Snowdon, officially opened the Lone Pine Soldier Recovery Centre at Robertson Barracks, in Darwin today.

Mr Snowdon said the 1st Brigade Soldier Recovery Centre, named after the historic Battle of Lone Pine, will provide seriously wounded, injured and ill soldiers with a dedicated venue to support them on the road of recovery.

“The Soldier Recovery Centre will provide critical support through the often difficult process of recovery, ensuring our soldiers care and rehabilitation is expertly managed.”

Brigadier McLachlan said the centre presents an enormous leap forward for the way Army can provide care for soldiers.

“Soldiers face many challenges on the road to rehabilitation, in the past accessing all the expertise and services in their normal place of work presented difficulties.

“Recognising the constant demands on Army with units on deployment or exercise, the centre gathers all that expertise under one roof.”

Courtesy Defence Media Centre

EDITORS INDULGENCE

You have probably already noted that this issue has more content than usual. (52 vs 44 pages) . These extra pages have been made possible by sufficient members electing to receive their copy via email and my having sufficient articles to include. Future editions will vary in length. Any comments would be appreciated



My indulgence knows no bounds. You may remember I reported (journal 108, p5) that a number of wives received recognition for their support given to retired members of the CMF/ARES. Photos were taken and my better half, Barbara was proud to eventually receive her copy.

This journal, being our Anzac Day edition, contains a number of pages/links devoted to this significant time. Please take the time to read/view the various items which I trust will be of interest.

The following link lists - with photos - many of our fallen heroes in Afghanistan. At its conclusion, many other links to tributes for Our Diggers will be found.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=fwp&NR=1&v=EPdb3ZfsBz8> Lest We Forget

Our Col Comdt, Brig Neil Graham AO has been in hospital & will not be contributing to this edition. I spoke with Neil at the RACV Luncheon and he has fully recovered from the ten days he was forced to spend flat on his back.

I sent the next link to Lt Col Jason Cook, explaining that this may help to solve his ammunition shortages: He replied: *Classic. Thanks. I wonder what the system would do if I put a requisition in for one of those and 400 bowling balls??*

<http://www.military.com/video/guns/gunfire/sw-pistols-sniper-rifles-and-mortars/1197864083001/>

Bowling ball mortar. Ensure you view this video to the end.

Excellent luncheon at the RACV Club. Details on page [38](#).

I have had quite a few emails of support for Cascabel. The following is the latest to come in.

Dear Alan

I know I am one of the members who never contact you, but I feel I must offer my praise to you for **your great effort in bringing such interest back to the journal. It's a delight to receive it now and** your way of incorporating stories from allied forces and history make it better. Congratulations

WO2 J D O'Brien 352336 *Thankyou John*

HMAS Manoora and the Royal Australian Navy's other amphibious support ships (HMAS Kanimbla and HMAS Tobruk) will be replaced by two Canberra Class LHDs, the largest Ships ever operated by the Royal Australian Navy

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ruiY-RUXtWM&feature=related>

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WG48Ftsr3OI>

The Band Played Waltzing Matilda - Eric Bogle

I urge you to view this moving rendition.

Focus on exposing life

ABIS; Jo D Lorenzo spent six months last year in Afghanistan capturing images. MAJ Lachlan Simond reflects on her achievements.



MAKING A DIFFERENCE: Female engagement team members, left to right, CPL Katie Lee, SGT Sam Lund, SGT Bernadette Serong and interpreter Terri seek some shade during a m Karmisan Valley (above) as CAPT Lauren Brooke patrols in Tarin Kot (right). Photos: ABIS Jo D Lorenzo

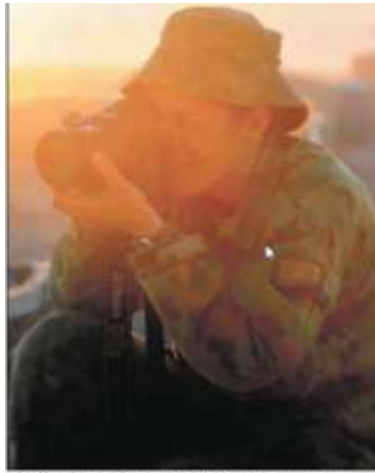
IN AN operational theatre, where the majority of Navy personnel are clearance divers, ABIS (*Advanced Battlespace Information System*) Jo D Lorenzo served in a far more publicly exposed role in Afghanistan.

ABIS D Lorenzo is a military photographer from the Canberra-based 1 Joint Public Affairs Unit. She deployed to Afghanistan in May last year as the single Australian imagery specialist attached to Combined Team -Uruzgan (CT-U) and returned to Australia in time for Christmas.

"Working in CT-U was both challenging and rewarding" ABIS D Lorenzo said.

"It was a unique opportunity for me as an ADF photographer because I got to work with not only Australian personnel, but also American military and a number of other government agencies such as AusAID and Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade."

CT-U HQ is the unit responsible for commanding and coordinating coalition operations in Uruzgan province, which meant ABIS D Lorenzo deployed on missions in support of Australian forces, the US Army and Afghan National Security Forces, and recorded other government agency development and governmental missions.



ON THE JOB: ABIS Jo D Lorenzo takes some photos as the sun sets at Multinational Base Tarin Kot, Afghanistan. Photo: FOIS Damien Pavlenko



"I had the chance to record imagery of American soldiers mentoring the Afghan National Police as well as our mentors and their Afghan National Army partners," she said.

"I also had the chance to cover schoolchildren, development projects and women's shuras that we've never recorded before because of the gender of the majority of deployed photographers."

ABIS D Lorenzo's imagery appeared in Defence publications and in Australian and International media. She was also instrumental in developing and enhancing CT-U's Facebook page where much of her work was showcased.

As well as her photographic and other public affairs duties, ABIS D Lorenzo become an important participant in the Female Engagement Team(FET) mission.

ABIS D Lorenzo and a number of other females from CT-U attended shuras with women from across Uruzgan and Daykundi provinces. These forums are designed to enable Afghan women to raise their concerns and ideas so that they can be included in the process of stabilising their country.

"The FET missions were amazing, ABIS D Lorenzo said.

"As well as photographing these unique meetings. I got to meet and talk with Afghan women and share their aspirations and their frustrations. I may have been wearing a uniform and they, the burqa, but the connection was something I will never forget."

ABIS D Lorenzo began life in the Navy as a communicator before finding her passion in photography. Her change to the Imagery Specialist trade, and her deployment to

Afghanistan, meant she often operated outside the wire with Mentoring Task Force soldiers as they conducted missions to enhance the skills of the Afghan National Army and to disrupt the insurgency within the province.

"The infantry and other Army personnel were incredibly friendly and supportive," she said

"They realised how important it was to record the images of what they were doing and release them to the Australian and wider audiences. I just hope the images communicated to the public the great job the guys are doing and the real success they are achieving."

ABIS Dilozenzo's photos speak for themselves and in many ways her images informed people back home of what war was happening in Afghanistan and what operations looked like on the ground.

Her images ranged from the curious, intense stares of young girls attending school for the first time to the sad and poignant imagery of flag-draped caskets of soldiers going home for the last time.

In a largely Army-led environment, ABIS Dilozenzo became an essential and respected member of the CT-U and an operator that every unit seeks to include on their missions

Her reputation in the CT-U was best summed up by the Commander CT-U, US Army COL Bob Akam: "Give me 100 Jo Dilozenzos and I could solve any problem in the world, on any scale, in less than 24 hours."



HAPPY DAYS: A photo of a young girl from the Malalai Girls School in Tarin Kot. Photo: ABIS Jo Dilozenzo

How the border between India and Pakistan is closed every evening!!
This is not a Monty Python comedy skit, but it sure does resemble one .

<http://www.wimp.com/indiapakistan>

Whether you love him or hate him, he hits a raw nerve! Bob Katter .. Saying it as it is:

My great, great, great grandfather watched as his friends died in the Boer War. My grandfather watched and bled as his friends died in World Wars 1&2. My grandfather watched as his friends & brothers died in the Depression of 32. My father watched as his friends died in Korea . I watched as my friends died in Vietnam, East Timor & Desert Storm. Our sons and daughters watched & bled as their friends died in Afghanistan and Iraq . None of them died for the Afghanistan and Iraq Flag. Every Australian died for the Australian flag.

At a Victorian high school foreign students raised a Middle East flag on a school flag pole. Australian students took it down. Guess who was expelled...the students who took it down.

West Australian high school students were sent home, because they wore T-shirts with the Australian flag printed on them. Enough is enough.

This message needs to be viewed by every Australian; and every Australian needs to stand up for Australia . We've bent over to appease the Aussie-haters long enough. I'm taking a stand.

I'm standing up because of the hundreds of thousands who died fighting in wars for this country, and for the Australian flag.

And shame on anyone who tries to make this a racist message. AUSTRALIANS, stop giving away Your RIGHTS! THIS IS OUR COUNTRY!

This statement DOES NOT mean I'm against immigration! YOU ARE WELCOME HERE, IN MY COUNTRY, welcome to come legally:

1. Get a sponsor!
2. Learn the LANGUAGE, as immigrants have in the past!
3. Live by OUR rules! Dress as we Australians Do
4. Get a job!
5. Pay YOUR Taxes!
6. No Social Security until you have earned it and paid for it!
7. NOW find a place to lay your head!

If you don't want to forward this for fear of offending someone, then YOU'RE PART OF THE PROBLEM! We've gone so far the other way...bent over backwards not to offend anyone. Only AUSTRALIANS seem to care when Australian Citizens are being offended! WAKE UP AUSTRALIA!!! If you do not pass this on, may your fingers cramp! Made in AUSTRALIA & DAMN PROUD OF IT!!!!!!" AMEN

Written by Bob Katter (House of Reps, Australia)

Courtesy WO2 Max Murray

As Australians and New Zealanders around the world paused to remember, *Cfn Max Bree* captured the sentiments of some of our most prominent Anzac Day, 2011 services.



Villers-Bretonneux, France



Tarin Kot, Afghanistan



Hellfire Pass, Thailand



Dili, East Timor



Remembrance: The Special Operations Task Group holds an Anzac Day dawn service at its purpose-built training compound in Tarin Kot.

In the cold morning darkness, thousands of people around the world turned out to honour those who paid the ultimate price for Australia.

From the forests of PNG to the sands of Tarin Kot and the grassy fields of France, bugles broke the silence as the sun rose around the globe on the 96th anniversary of the Anzac landing at Gallipoli.

ADF personnel proudly marched with war veterans along the streets of Australian cities and towns to honour the sacrifices of all Australians in uniform.

At a dawn service in Tarin Kot, CDF ACM Angus Houston said the soldiers at Gallipoli forged a national identity and a spirit that continued with Australian soldiers today.



Soldiers rush to help the stricken horse as celebrations in Hyde Park went tragically wrong

Royal ceremony cancelled after Army horse is killed

A ROYAL Gun Salute marking the Queen's coronation was cancelled on Thursday after an Army horse taking part died in an accident.



Nothing can be done to save Murphy

Members of the public watched in horror as the animal called Murphy became entangled with a gun

carriage during the historic annual event in Hyde Park, London.

He suffered a complex leg fracture and vets were unable to save him.

The tragedy happened as soldiers from the Kings Troop were lining up during the Royal Salute, which is held on June 2 every year to mark the Queen's Coronation.

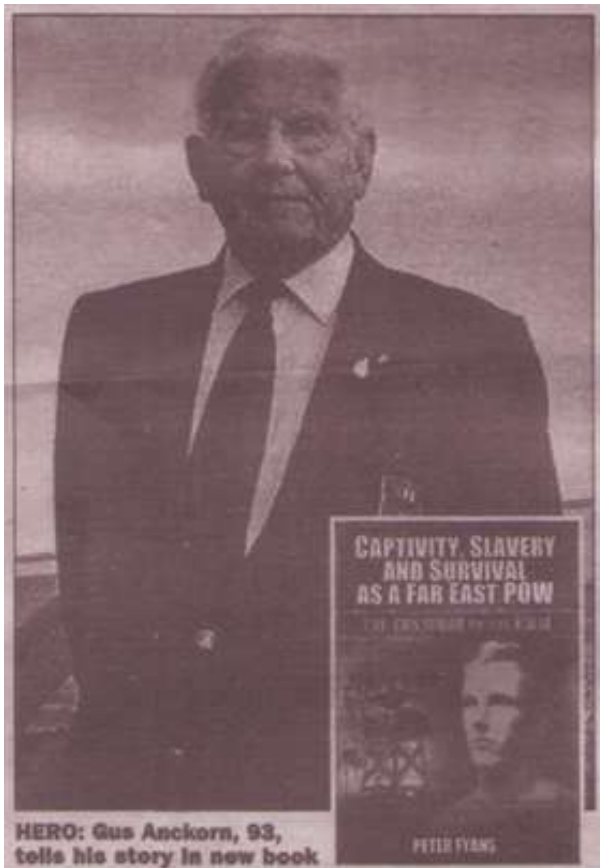
Murphy became trapped in the wheels and ended up being dragged across the grass. Soldiers ran to try to save him but a vet decided the stricken horse was too badly injured and a green tent was erected while he was put to sleep.

An MOD spokesman said: "At the Coronation Salute today in Hyde Park a horse broke a leg coming into position after becoming entangled with a gun.

"The veterinary officer was there almost immediately and administered pain relief, however, sadly the horse was unable to be saved and had to be put to sleep. As a mark of respect, the Coronation Salute did not take place."

Gun salutes are the firing of cannons as a military honour and originated in the 17th century.

My survival trick by PoW conjurer by the River Kwai soldier



A BRITISH PoW who survived the horrors of slave labour on the River Kwai railway under the Japanese has finally told his remarkable story.

Gus Anckorn has revealed how he cheated death after being bombed twice, buried alive and lined up before a firing squad.

He was the only one of his working party on the infamous railway immortalised in the 1957 film *Bridge On The River Kwai*, starring Alec Guinness, to come home alive - thanks in part to his conjuring skills.

The Royal Artillery gunner was an expert conjurer and Magic Circle member who often used his skills to get one over his captors. Mr Anckorn kept his harrowing experiences during the Second World War to himself until he enthralled a guest at a black-tie dinner.

Author Peter Fyans was so taken with his story he turned it into a book, which has been published almost 70 years to the day the soldier was taken prisoner.

Mr Anckorn, now 93 and living in Sevenoaks, Kent, was posted to Singapore in 1942 but within days the British colony fell to the Japanese on February 15.

Soon after his arrival a bomb landed 10ft from an Army lorry he was driving. He recalled: "There was a deafening blast and I was engulfed in what sounded like metal hailstones. I prayed that something would get me in the head and make it quick." The bloody, seriously injured soldier was taken to Alexandra Military Hospital where 24 hours later some 100 Japanese soldiers invaded the hospital and killed more than 200 wounded soldiers. Mr Anckorn was spared because the Japanese apparently thought the blood soaked Briton was dead already. He was then put to work on the Burma Railway at Wang Pho, along the banks of the Kwai, where 16,000 Allied PoWs died from cholera, dysentery or exhaustion. Once, Mr Anckorn had hot tar poured over his back by a guard. He was in agony and sent to a hospital camp. The remainder of his working party were all dead within weeks.



Captivity, Slavery And Survival As A Far East PoW: The Conjurer At the Kwai, by Peter Fyans (Pen and Sword).

Courtesy SSgt Ernie Paddon.

Cuts spell the death of the British Army

BRITAIN will no longer be able to say it has an Army when planned military cuts bite, an expert has warned.

In a savage blow to morale, our soldiers face fighting for a downgraded "Home Defence Force".

Defence analysts said that proposals for the number of full-time troops to fall below 100,000 would mean our brave fighting men and women could not technically be classed as an army.

Prime Minister David Cameron was urged to rethink the current planned cuts, which would slash troops from 101,300 to just 82,000 by 2020. The UK National Defence Association said Britain's proud 370-year-old Army would fall below the internationally recognised indicator that separates an army from a militia or other type of defence force.

Commander John Muxworthy, founder and director of the defence association, said: "According to all international military definitions, and the generals I have spoken with, it will be too small to technically be called an army if all the proposed cuts go through - it should be a home defence force instead."

There are precedents for the 100,000 cut-off. Under the 1919 Treaty of Versailles after the First World War, Allied powers forced Germany to limit troop numbers to 100,000 in an attempt to prevent it from waging war again.

France, Europe's strongest military power besides the UK, has 125,000 regular troops while Italy can muster 108,000. These figures do not include reservists.

Under the 2010 Strategic Defence and Security Review, the Ministry of Defence must shed 7,000 troops by 2015 to find £4.7billion in extra savings and plug a £38billion black hole. Other planned cuts will see the numbers drop even further by 2020, reducing the Army to its smallest since the Crimean War in 1853.

Lord Ashcroft recently warned that cutting troops risked tarnishing "the country's strongest

brand". "We should not underestimate the value of that kind of reputation," he said.

Senior military figures fear the reductions will have a harmful effect. "As well as direct military implications, this has potential to undermine our political and economic standing," warned Col Richard Kemp, former commander of British forces in Afghanistan, recently.

So few soldiers left after cuts they must be called a 'Home Defence force'

The cuts are expected to target 500 infantrymen, mainly Gurkhas, 800 soldiers in the Royal Logistic Corps, 125 specially trained junior non-commissioned officers in the Royal Signals, eight brigadiers and 60 Lieutenant Colonels.

In the first tranche of redundancies last September, the Army lost 920 posts.

Cmdr Muxworthy said: "The tragic thing is that these cuts will not actually save money.

"The MoD axed a virtually new Nimrod aircraft at the cost to the taxpayer of £4billion - that's not a saving."

Patrick Mercer MP said: "The fact the cuts are causing analysts to consider the prospect of our Army being called a Home Defence Force, even if it is a matter of semantics, should give the Government pause for thought."

An MoD spokesman said: "The UK will retain an Army of around 120,000 regular and reserve soldiers and officers to meet the challenges of 2020 and beyond."

Courtesy of SSgt Ernie Paddon. Taken from the International Express - Australian Edition, Feb '12

I omitted to include the following photo in the previous journal (110). Apologies to SSgt Barry Irons. ed

A rare picture of a “production” line at the Oldbury Engineering factory in the West Midlands England, founded 1861. Date uncertain but probably early 1917. This gives some insight on how they were made and assembled. A lot of interesting information can be gleaned from this illustration, notably the rear driving track cogs and track beds with rollers. Also note the openings in the hull, top and sides. The top



for dropping in the engine, transmission assemblies, and the sides for access to the internal fittings and then the armament sponsons? The over head crane, centre of picture would most likely allow this. Count the number in this picture; this is a serious effort of manufacturing. It would be interesting to know if all assembly was done where they stood, and then driven or towed away when finished, and how many survived to this day. This company still provides to the Military even now.

Origins of the Tank Part 4

So It Begins

A first offensive using 31 Mark I tanks took place on 15 September 1916, during the Battle of the Somme, under Field Marshall Sir Douglas Haig, with limited success. Not until 20 November 1917, at Cambrai, did the British Tank Corps get the conditions it needed for success. Around 400 tanks penetrated almost six miles on a 7-mile front.



A British Mark 11 tank in action? on 26 September 1916. Note the armaments sticking out from the sponson. (Bugger)

This was their first large-scale deployment in combat. Unfortunately, success was not complete because the infantry failed to exploit and secure

the tanks' gains. The British scored another victory the following year, on 8 August 1918, with 600 tanks in the Amiens salient. General Erich Ludendorff referred to that date as the "Black Day" of the German Army.

Battle of Cambrai

The first really successful use of tanks came in the Battle of Cambrai in 1917. British Colonel J.F.C. Fuller, chief of staff of the Tank Corps, planned the battle. The tanks made an unprecedented breakthrough but, as ever on the Western front, the opportunity was not exploited. Ironically, it was the soon-to-be-supplanted horse cavalry that had been assigned the task of following up the motorised tank attack.

Fuller's Plan 1919 involving massive use of tanks for an offensive, was never used because the blockade of Germany and the entry of the US brought an end to the war. The plan itself would become the inspiration for German blitzkrieg tactics in World War II. As a military planner and later journalist, Fuller continued to develop his doctrine of using tanks supported by infantry to break through enemy lines to attack communications in the rear.

Lessons Learnt

Tanks became more effective as the lesson of the early tanks was absorbed. The British produced the

Mark IV in 1917. Similar to the early Marks in appearance, its construction was considered to produce a more reliable machine, the long-barrelled naval guns were shortened (the barrels of the earlier, longer, guns, being prone to digging in the mud when negotiating obstacles) and armour was increased just enough to defeat the standard German armour-piercing bullet.



A picture of a rare Mk 111, which eventually made way for the Mk 1V and Mk V. Note the armaments' in the sponsons, overhead "unditching" spar also the track tensioning plates. (Little Willies ?)

The continued need for five men to drive the tank was solved with the Mark V which used Wilson's epicyclic gearing in 1918. Also in 1918 the French produced the Renault FT-17, the result of a co-operation between Estienne and Louis Renault.

As mentioned before, it had the innovative turret position, and was operated by two men. At just 8 tons it was half the weight of the Medium A Whippet, but the version with the cannon had more firepower. It was conceived for mass production, and the FT would become the most produced tank of World War I by a wide margin with over 4,500 made, being also used and produced by the Americans.

In July 1918, the French used 480 tanks (mostly FT's) in 1918 at the Battle of Soissons, and there were even larger assaults planned for 1919. The Entente had hoped to commit over 30,000¹ tanks to battle in that year.

¹*A massive total, even by today's standards.*

Numerous mechanical failures and the inability of the British and French to mount any sustained drives in the early tank actions cast doubt on their usefulness—and by 1918, tanks were extremely vulnerable unless accompanied by infantry and ground-attack aircraft, both of which worked to locate and suppress anti-tank defenses.

Finally, in a preview of later developments, the British developed the Whippet. This tank was specifically designed to exploit breaches in the enemy front. The Whippet was faster than most other tanks, although it carried only machinegun armament. Postwar tank designs would reflect this trend towards greater tactical mobility.²

²*By 1940, the Germans had refined this approach with their Panzer divisions.*

Villers-Bretonneux: Tank against Tank

The first tank-versus-tank battles took place 24 April 1918. It was an unexpected engagement between three German 7Vs and three British Mk. IVs at Villers-Bretonneux.

The German General Staff did not have enthusiasm for the tank, but allowed the development of anti-tank weapons. Regardless, development of a German tank was underway. The only project to be produced and fielded was the A7V, although only fifteen A7Vs were built. The majority of the roughly hundred or so tanks fielded by Germany were captured British and French vehicles. A7Vs were captured by the Allies, but they were not used, and most ended up being scrapped.



An A7V tank at Roye on March 21, 1918.

The German Reaction

The German response to the Cambrai assault was to develop its own armoured program. Soon the massive A7V appeared. The A7V was a clumsy monster, weighing 30 tons with a crew of eighteen. By the end of the war, only fifteen had been built.

Although other tanks were on the drawing board, material shortages limited the German tank corps to these A7Vs and some captured Mark IVs. The A7V would be involved in the first tank vs. tank battle of the war on April 24, 1918 at Villers-

Bretonneux a battle in which there was to be no decisive or clear winner.

America in the War

Gen. John J. Pershing, Commander in Chief, American Expeditionary Forces (AEF), requested in September 1917 that 600 heavy and 1,200 light tanks be produced in the United States. When General Pershing assumed command of the American Expeditionary Force and went to France, he took with him Lt. Col. George Patton. Patton soon became interested in tanks.



A rare picture of General Pershing followed by a young Captain George Patton pre 1st war.

They were then unwieldy, unreliable, and unproved instruments of warfare, and there was much doubt among the high command, whether they had any function and value at all on the battlefield. Against the advice of most of his friends, Patton chose to go into the newly formed US Tank Corps. He was the first officer so assigned.

The first American-produced heavy tank was the 43.5-ton Mark VIII, a US-British development of the successful British heavy tank design. Armed with two 6-pounder and five .30-caliber machine guns, it was operated by an 11-man crew, had a maximum speed of 6.5 miles per hour, and a range of 50 miles. The American-built 6.5-ton M1917 light tank was a copy of the French Renault FT-17. It had a maximum speed of 5.5 miles per hour and could travel 30 miles on its 30-gallon fuel capacity.³

³*Efficiency with economics was beginning to be considered.*

The US program was augmented in the summer of 1918 by the development of a 3-ton, 2-man tank, (Ford 3-Ton M1918) originated by the Ford Motor Company. This third tank to be mass-produced

during 1918 was powered by two Ford Model T, 4-cylinder engines, armed with a .30-caliber machine gun, and had a maximum speed of 8 miles per hour.



Renault FT-17 tanks being operated by the US Army in France. Light tanks with a crew of only two, these were mass-produced during World War I.

American tank units first entered combat on 12 September 1918 against the St. Mihiel salient with the First Army. They belonged to the 344th and 345th Light Tank Battalions, elements of the 304th Tank Brigade, commanded by Lt. Col. Patton, under whom they had trained at the tank centre in Bourges, France.

Although mud, lack of fuel, and mechanical failure caused many tanks to stall in the German trenches, the attack succeeded and much valuable experience was gained. By the armistice of 11 November 1918, the AEF was critically short of tanks, as no American-made ones were completed in time for use in combat.

Barry Irons

Armament Artificer (R)

The Internet if you have it, and Wikipedia

The History, and sometimes the Discovery Channel

Cambrai 1917 – Trial of the Tanks on DVD
Cromwell Productions Dist by MAGNA PACIFIC
2001 (46) mins

Concise Oxford English Dictionary – Online. (You can't always rely on the spell checker)



IN MEMORY OF SGT LIONEL STANLEY (MICK) BAUM 14/5/37 - 1/6/75 R.I.P.

When I joined the CMF in '65, Mick was the Sig Sgt at 3 Bty. Unfortunately, I was never able to enjoy his company in the Sgt's Mess as he had been transferred to HQ Bty at Batman Ave. We were all shattered when told of his tragic passing . ed.

Time passes so quickly but the memories do not fade.

Lest we forget.



Mick was born in Bunbury, WA; later moving to Victoria around 1950.

He completed his 7th year at Seaford Primary and his first year at Caulfield Tech.

Various employment opportunities followed, including 16 months with the Dept of Navy in Darwin. (Rover Sea Scouts).

On 8/5/56, Mick signed up for National Service for a period of 5 yrs and his date of enlistment was 7/8/56. He indicated he wished to be enlisted into the Navy as he had a brother **serving, but the "powers that be" saw fit to send him to 10 Med Regt. RAA.**

Despite being naughty and found guilty of being **"out of bounds" and "carrying intoxicating liquor"** - fined £5 - Mick successfully completed his 98 days full time trg.

Prior to becoming a member of the Victorian Police Force on 12/1/59, he married Maxine Elizabeth and lived in Carnegie. They were blessed with 4 children - Jenny 31/5/60, Karen (dec), Leonie 29/10/65 and Michael 27/1/67.

Transferring to R Bty, 10 Med Regt from 14 NS Trg Bn on 13/11/56, Mick graduated through the ranks and was promoted Sgt on 10/2/59.

On 30/9/61 he transferred to Q Bty, 2 Fd Regt. Mick remained at the Bty until transferring to HQ Bty on 30/1/68. He took **"discharge at own request"** on 28/6/68.

WO1 Darby O'Toole recollects.

I knew Mick fairly well, but only in the Reserve. Some of the members socialised but we lived at Blackburn, not by the seaside.

We rode together in the K vehicle, BK Merv Taggart, BSM Don Malcolm, Sig Sgt Mick & I as BG for several camps. We did many of them at

Site 17 Seymour.

Once he was out somewhere along the Northwood Road laying line and the vehicle broke down. He climbed up a pole and hooked the K phone into the PMG line, and somehow was connected to the RHQ orderly room phone to get assistance.

On another occasion Mick and Don were in a pie-cart Sig Vehicle carrying 5.5 ammo on the range. They had a flat tyre. It had overheated and was smoking, I came along in another vehicle to see Don and Mick busy tossing the rounds out the back door to relieve the hazardous situation.

I thought I had photos of that incident but I can't find them.

Somewhere about the same time there was a detachment from Victoria went to New Zealand for a combined exercise with the Kiwis, Mick went as the Sig NCO. from here.

I remember Mick at a formal dinner we had, I think it was at Williamstown Rifle Range during a Small Arms Weekend, He, like a few others had a little too much, or a crook prawn and was ill into the sleeve of his Blues. Better not include that.

Sometime later Don Malcolm collapsed and died suddenly on the football field, I think Mick died almost exactly 12 months later, their funeral services were in the same Chapel at Springvale, Merv and I said " We must stop meeting like this."

I hope some of this is useful, it is now a long time ago.

Sgt Brian Joyce remembers.

Mick was a man with a great sense of humour. His trip to NZ was more a scenic tour for most of the time. *(More from Brian later). ed*

POLICE LIFE

OCTOBER 1975



OFFICIAL NEWS MAGAZINE OF THE VICTORIA POLICE



Residents in the tiny township of Cann River in East Gippsland have **dedicated a children's** playground to a local policeman who was, accidentally shot dead in June.

The playground, carved out of scrub land at Cann River, 450 metres east of Melbourne, is to be named after Sgt. Lionel Stanley (Mick) Baum, 38 who was a policeman there for 2 ½ years.

Until he was killed, Sgt. Baum was president of a group of local men known as the Cann River Active Men in Community Service – who built the playground in their spare time.

It was Sgt. Baum's idea to build the playground as a community project and have it opened in August.

The playground will be known as the CRAMICS – Mick Baum Memorial Park and will be officially opened on August 16 by the "Police Services **Commissioner**", **Mr. John O'Connor.**

The playground has been fitted with electric barbecues, a wishing well **and children's** amusements including swings and slide.

Sgt. Baum was killed when a shotgun discharged on the front seat of his car on June 1.

At the time he was relieving another policeman at a roadblock on the Princess Highway near Cann River, as part of a search for a man who abducted an 11 year old Balwyn schoolgirl.

The Police Commissioner, Mr Jackson said **today that the naming of the park "was a genuine gesture by the local community and would perpetuate the name of a great man, a great policeman and a great community leader."**



Dedication of Park at Cann River to the memory of Sergeant Mick Baum on Saturday, the 16th August, 1975.

The dedication of the Park was attended by Mrs. Maxine Baum and her three children, Mr. N. Cox, President of Cramics Community Club, members of the Cramics Community Club, Mr. Bruce Evans, M.P., and Mrs. Evans, Reverend David Pentecost, Assistant Commissioner (Services) J. O'Connor, members of the Victoria Police and New South Wales Police forces, members of a number of services groups in the Cann River area, local municipal authorities, Scouts, Cubs, Guides, and Brownie groups from the Cann River area, the Orbost Brass Band, press, radio and television, and the residents of Cann Valley and neighbouring communities.

Mr. Cox, the President of Cramics, in making the opening speech, said that the name 'Cramics' was derived from the Cann River Active Men In Community Service and that was what his organization was, a community service club.

"Formed in 1972 with five members, the present membership is now thirty-five. Setting out the activities of Cramics he said that during the 1974/75 year members of Cramics had spent a thousand hours on building the park which was to be dedicated to the memory of Mick Baum.

"When Mick Baum was elected President in August 1974/75, he set as his main target for his year of office, the erection of this park. Although adverse weather conditions held up some of the work during the early part of this period, rapid advances in creating the park were made early in 1975.

"The whole community were shocked when our President, Mick Baum, who was also our Police Sergeant, was killed in the course of his duty.

"The Cramics Club decided that this park which was his idea and of which he was the main driving

force, would be built and named in his honour and we would fulfil his aim and have it completed before the expiration of his term of office as President which would have been at the end of August, 1975. This has been achieved. The park is now a reality; and it is with a great deal of pride that this park will honour a man who was our Club President, our Policeman, and an outstanding member of our community."

Mr. Bruce Evans, M.P., who officially opened the Mick Baum Memorial Park, said that he congratulated the Cramics Club on their year's work. He said he was honoured to officially open the park but said that "the person who should have had the honour and glory of declaring this park open is unfortunately not here with us today. It is a tragic situation that Mick Baum was unable to see the fulfilment of this magnificent park" and that "nobody can put into words our feelings that this park today should be dedicated as a memorial to Mick Baum."

"The events which led to Mick's death should not have happened. It makes us feel so much more sorrowful on this day at losing such a wonderful police officer and a wonderful citizen.

We hear a great deal of criticism about our police force. However, on the credit side we have policemen like Mick Baum who, in common with many other members of the police force, are carrying out a tremendous job for their local community.

We can only have a better society if we have a police force that is able to maintain the law and order which we expect to be maintained in our society. In our Victoria police force we have a magnificent force of men who carry out their duties to many communities scattered throughout this State.

"It now gives me great pleasure to unveil the plaque and declare the park duly open."



Police Parade at the ceremony.



Memorial service

A MEMORIAL service will be held at 2 p.m. today at Cann River Church of England for Sgt. Lionel Stanley (Mick) Baum, who was killed on Sunday.

Sgt. Baum, 38, was killed when his shotgun accidentally discharged

He was at a roadblock on the Prince's Highway at Cann River bridge.

A funeral service with police honours for Sgt. Baum will be held at Frankston Methodist Church at 2.30 p.m. tomorrow.

Sgt. Baum, who had been in charge of the Cann River Station for 2^{1/2} years, leaves a wife, Maxine, and three children

June 1, 1975



Sgt Baum

*Cann River Progress
& Tourism Association Inc*

Re - Naming of Baum Park

At the monthly meeting held on Thursday 27th May, it was decided to seek public opinion on the changing of the name of Baum Park.

It was suggested that, because small rural communities like Cann River rely so much on volunteers and private monies to support all our emergency services and sporting bodies, that these persons who are no longer with us should all be remembered.

One suggested new name is Cann River Community Memorial Park. For any comment on this matter please write to:

The Secretary,
Cann River Progress and Tourism
Association Inc
Cann River Vic 3890

Before our next meeting on 24th June 1999

The Secretary
Cann River P & T Assoc.
Cann River,
Dear Sir,

We wish to lodge a protest regarding the suggested renaming of Baum Park. How sad it would be to have the name changed. Perhaps plaques of other people could be placed in the Park, but please let Mick's name of the park remain.

We have been close friends of Mick and Maxine since 1958 and have remained in close contact with his family since his untimely death.

When the park was named after Mick in 1975, we felt it would be named in his memory forever and as it was his idea to build the playground, it seems unthinkable to change the name of the park, more so as his anniversary has just passed.

Whenever we pass through Cann River we always stop at the park and reminisce the memories and good times with Mick.

For your information we are enclosing a newspaper cutting from the Herald dated 13/08/75 regarding the Mick Baum Memorial Park.

Yours Sincerely, Brian & Maureen Joyce.

Thankfully, the council voted to NOT make any changes to the name of the park. Ed.

AT THE GOING DOWN OF THE SUN



Thanks to WO2 Craig Cook for this Anzac Day article.



I crouched in a shallow trench on that hell of exposed beaches - steeply rising foothills bare of cover - a landscape pockmarked with war's inevitable litter - piles of stores - equipment - ammunition - and weird contortions of death sculptured in Australian flesh.

I saw the going down of the sun on that first ANZAC Day - the chaotic maelstrom of Australia's bleeding.

I fought in the frozen mud of the Somme - in the blazing destroyer exploding on the North sea.

I fought on the perimeter at Tobruk - crashed in the

flaming wreckage of a fighter in New Guinea - lived with the damned in a place cursed with the name Changi.

I was your mate - the kid across the street - the med student at graduation - the mechanic at the corner garage - the baker who brought you bread - the gardener who cut your lawn - the clerk who sent your phone bill.

I was an Army private - a Naval Commander - an Air Force bombardier - no man knows me - no name marks my tomb, for I am every Australian serviceman.

I am the Unknown soldier.

I died for a cause I held just in the service of my land - that you and yours may stay in freedom.

I am proud to be an Australian.



Remember our
Diggers



25th April

Tying air and land together

Sgt Andrew Hetherington headed south for the launch of a new regiment aimed at bridging the gap between the ground and the sky.



Range of roles: The soldiers of the newly created 16 AL Regt present arms on a parade ground defended by an RBS-70 air defence detachment.

Photos by Sgt Andrew Hetherington

The birth of Army's newest regiment took place at Woodside Barracks, South Australia on December 9. CA Lt-Gen David Morrison officially welcomed 16 Air Land Regiment (16 AL Regt) to Army.

CO 16 AL Regt Lt-Col Richard Vagg said the unit, consisting of 314 personnel, was an amalgamation of two units and many skill sets.

"Both 16 AD Regt and 1 GL GP have come together to form the new regiment and it will provide three core capabilities - a light air defence role, a counter rocket artillery and mortar (C-RAM) sensor and warning function and air-land integration cells," Lt-Col Vagg said.

"The air-land integration function will have elements working at battle group, brigade, division and component headquarters, the continuing of Army's joint terminal

attack control (JTAC) troop and a number of Army ground liaison officers located at RAAF Force Element Groups."

The main role of the regiment will be to provide force protection for land forces against air and indirect fire threats through ground-based air defence, C-RAM and command and control for air-land integration.

The regiment headquarters, air defence battery, C-RAM battery, most of the air ground operations battery and the combat service support battery will be located at Woodside Barracks.

The JTAC troop will continue to be based at RAAF Base Williamtown and ground liaison detachments will be located at all major Air Force bases around Australia.

"Accommodation for three C-RAM Giraffe multi-beam radars and 18 Bushmasters will be constructed at Woodside," Lt-Col Vagg said.

"The first Bushmaster is due to arrive at the end of the first quarter of this year and each one was purpose built to carry an air defence detachment with-in it.



"At any one time we have a third of the regiment's personnel deployed, or preparing to deploy, in both C-RAM and JTAC roles supporting MTF and SOTG in Afghanistan," Lt-Col Vagg said.

16 AL Regt will deploy as a regiment for the first time during Exercise Hamel in June and July.

Edited version courtesy Army News.

I recently received the following email from Switzerland. ed

Hello Alan

You may be interested in a new book just published on the development and use of the folboat during the Pacific war.

It includes their use during the NADZAB operation in New Guinea, when the RAA were also deployed by parachute for the first time.

A full description of the book is displayed on the AAA website under books and can be purchased at a discount by members of the RAA directly from the distributor, Frank Isbister at 20% off the normal price of \$36.00, that is \$28.80 plus \$7.00 pp.

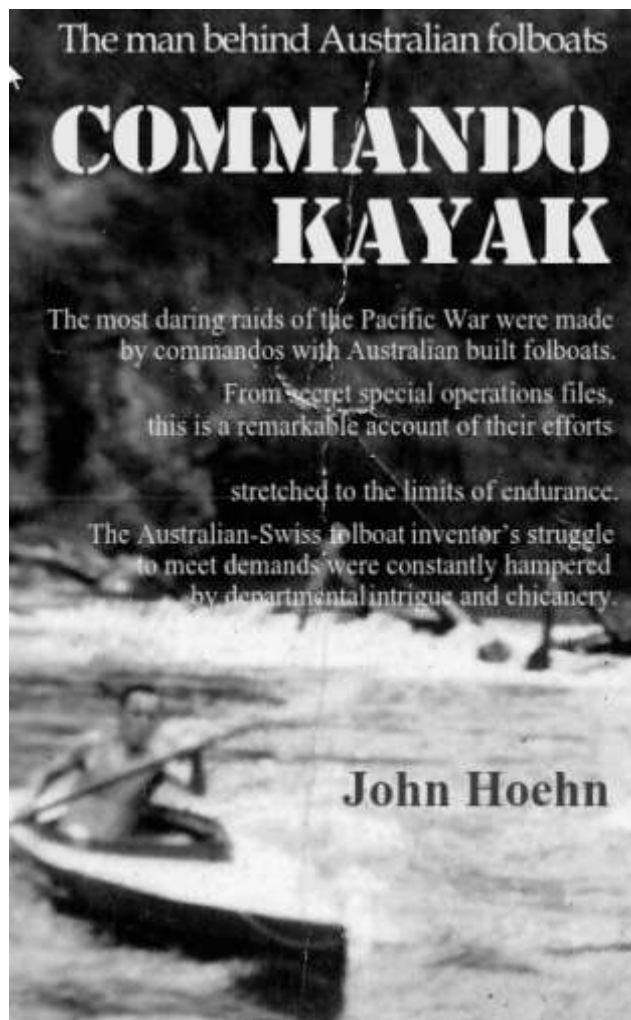
If paying by cheque or money order, make it out to Frank Isbister and send it to his address 54 Volitans Avenue, Mt Eliza 3930, together with your postal address and quote 'AA'. The book will be posted to you in 2-3 days. If you wish to purchase by another means, please contact me.

Regards and best wishes for the season,

John Hoehn

RAA 2nd Fld Rgt Batman Ave. 1950-51. Member AAA.

Ex-pat Oz in Switzerland.



For further info on John, please visit

<http://www.writers.net/writers/40553>



About the author

John Hoehn of Swiss parents was educated in Melbourne and Zurich. Taking up a technical career, he eventually founded and ran several engineering companies in Australia and one in Switzerland. Some achievements include 20 patents, articles in magazines, journals, photography awards & painting.

He has lectured to industry, interest groups and management. A keen kayaker, having experienced his first ride in one of his father's at the age of three. Later he competed in Olympic class Flying Dutchman yachting events.

p.s. I would like to join the Association, but do not have a proposer or seconder, as I live overseas and have lost contact with other members (who, like me must also be pretty old!).

Joining info sent to John. ed

BLOOD, SWEAT AND COURAGE



The year Australia nearly went out

IT WAS because their first attack on Australia had failed that the Japanese struck against Darwin in 1942.

It was also because of their grand strategy that they kept coming back across the north of Australia, raiding Queensland, the Northern Territory, and Western Australia throughout 1942 and 1943.

Their strikes both there and through-out south-east Asia were nearly success-ful - 1942 was the year Australia nearly went out.

The idea was simple: secure the southern borders of the new-found Japanese empire in what is now Indonesia.

The presence of a large Allied deep-water port a short sea voyage, or mere hours in aircraft away, was a nagging thorn in the Japanese security fence.

Four 80-man submarines were sent south where they laid mines and lurked submerged for targets outside Darwin harbour.

On January 20, 1942, they engaged by torpedo an American convoy and missed. Enraged local warships surged out to destroy the threat and corvette HMAS Deloraine evaded a torpedo by three metres due to teamwork and split-second skill.

The corvette charged down the track of the underwater weapon and depth-charged the I-124 to the seabed. The other three boats fled, and the Japanese High Command brooded over their defeat.

A month later they attacked again, this time with four aircraft carriers and 188 aircraft. The high-level bombers hit the town, dive bombers struck at the

shipping in the crowded harbour, and the Zero fighters escorted them all successfully - only three Japanese machines fell to the anti-aircraft guns and defending US Kittyhawk fighters.

On February 19, 246 people were killed, every capable aircraft destroyed and 10 ships sunk. The Japanese had avenged their submarine and achieved the first part of their aim: to prevent the northern Australian land mass becoming a base for harassing the Japanese invasion of New Guinea.

If New Guinea fell, this would allow the empire to control, through warship and aircraft deployment, the eastern coast of the Australian seaboard. And therefore the US would be stymied, stuck in San Diego, and unable to prosecute the war as World War II ships and aircraft did not have the range to travel to the Japanese possessions and attack.

So the Japanese forces attacked all across northern Australia. In WA's Broome, nine single-seat fighters killed about 86 people ready to depart the harbour in flying boats.

Marauding aircraft raided as far south as Katherine in the NT, and to coastal settlements such as Mililingimbi, attacked three times in 1943.

Townsville in Queensland was struck four times by raiders. But the spoiling strategy was in vain.

The Allies were strengthening their defence with radar and fighter aircraft, and then the bomber fleets began gathering and venturing north. Soon they were raiding slowly but successfully around the Pacific, and the Japanese were pushed back to eventual defeat in 1945.

The centre piece of 70th anniversary commemorations for the bombing of Darwin was a fast-paced re-enactment of the first Japanese air raid, Lt Andrew Ragless and Cpl Nick Wiseman explain.

Photos by Cpl Andrew Eddie

FOUR Vietnam-era howitzers roared to life in a 200-second salvo to re-enact the Army's defence of Darwin during the 70th anniversary of the Japanese attack.

The M2A2 105mm ceremonial howitzers were used in place of the anti-aircraft weapons that would have been fired on the morning of February 19, 1942.

The air raid by 242 Japanese fighters, bombers and dive bombers was the first and largest enemy attack on Australian soil.

Seventy years on, the soldiers of 8/12 Mdm Regt trained their guns on an Air Force Orion representing a Japanese bomber as it flew fast and low over a crowd of more than 7000 onlookers.

Commanding the gun troop was Lt Matthew Seabrook, who initiated his team's engagement by locating the incoming aircraft with binoculars and issuing fire discipline orders to his troops.



Supporting the re-enactment were two female members of the unit dressed in period nurse uniforms to represent the medical staff who tended to the wound-ed.

LCpl Maria Mowbray said they had researched the outfits and chose them to make the event a little more authentic.

"We completed the look by carrying first-aid bags with us," she said.

"The re-enactment went really well, with the public commenting on how good the costumes looked."

Dressed up and walking through the public on the Friday for photo opportunities, the two "nurses" found themselves being serenaded by a group of World War II veterans.

LCpl Mowbray said she felt honoured to bring back the memories and see the mateship they



Star attraction: Prime Minister Julia Gillard has her photo taken with the re-enactors from 8/12 Mdm Regt.

displayed.

"After all these years they still have great memories singing and laughing together," she said.

"It was nice to be sung to like that, it showed they still had their mischievous side despite the tragic events."

The main commemoration at Darwin's Cenotaph was led by Governor-General Quentin Bryce, Prime Minister Julia Gillard and VCDF Air-Mshl Mark Binskin alongside international dignitaries.

Air-Mshl Binskin said he was impressed with the ceremonial displays and ADF support to help mark the anniversary.

"The Navy, Army and Air Force are proud to support the anniversary of the bombing of Darwin commemorations and we honour the veterans who made the long trip to Darwin and will ensure their efforts are not forgotten," he said.

"These commemorations are a time for the community to reflect on the largely untold story of the attack on Darwin and remember the sacrifice of around 250 people who were killed and 400 wounded during the Japanese air attack."

The bombing of Darwin anniversary was officially recognised as a National Day of Observance by the Prime Minister on November 18 last year.



Ready for action: A machinegun crew stands to on anti-aircraft duty near Darwin in 1942. Historical photos provided by the Australian War Memorial

Courtesy Army News

70th Anniversary of the Loss of HMAS Yarra II

Members of the Royal Australian Navy paused this weekend to mark the 70th anniversary of one of Australia's most tragic naval losses of World War II.



On 4 March 1942, HMAS Yarra II was escorting a small convoy from Java to Australia when a superior force of Japanese warships came into view. The Australian sloop bravely turned towards the enemy to defend her charges, but was mortally out gunned. 138 Australian sailors died making a final stand under the command of Lieutenant Commander Robert W. Rankin. This act of courage has since drawn national admiration and praise.

Yarra had a crew of 151 men of whom only 13 survived. They spent five days in a life raft before being rescued by a Dutch submarine.

On Sunday, members of the current HMAS Yarra (IV) attended a solemn ceremony in Newport, Melbourne, to remember those who lost their lives. Chief of Navy, Vice Admiral Ray Griggs, AM, CSC, RAN also attended along with the sole surviving witness to that day, Mr Bernard Higgins. Now 88, Mr. Higgins was serving on TS Anking which was part of the convoy being escorted by Yarra. His vessel was also sunk that day.

Vice Admiral Griggs said the anniversary of HMAS Yarra's loss underlined the importance of the protection of shipping and the importance of our sea laws.

"Last week Navy celebrated its 111th birthday and it is appropriate that we remember our journey to this point. On this important day, we acknowledge the lives lost, the sacrifices made and the selfless service given by tens of thousands of fellow Australians.



HMAS Yarra
Association

"The story of Yarra is a special one. The ship had seen action in the Mediterranean, the Middle East and the Indian Ocean. This commemoration also reminds all of us in this uniform what can be asked of us as part of a combat force."

HMAS Yarra (IV) is the sixth of six Huon Class minehunters built in Newcastle. She was commissioned on 1 March 2003. Like her sister ships, Yarra's unique hull design is shock resistant with a low magnetic and acoustic signature. This allows the ship to operate in hostile mine environments.



ABSTD Kate Dennis, Honorary HMAS Yarra Memorial Co-ordinator Mr Angus Walsh and ABSTD Victoria Best at the Yarra Memorial.

The Weekend Visit to Gippsland

My Idea of a Good Weekend by Neil Hamer

In my President Writes column in the last Cascabel I said, **"The weekend visit to Paynesville/Bairnsdale/Geoff Rebbechi's Cave: I could just about fill this magazine with my description of the weekend. If you missed it you missed a great weekend. Thanks to Peter Wertheimer for his planning and hospitality."**

Alan Halbish suggested that I write an article expanding on those few lines; so here it is!

So that you will know who I am referring to when I mention names, the participants were, in no particular order, Neil Hamer and Dione, Doug Perry and Deb, Ron Ortenburg and Margaret, Lionel Foster and Marion, Merv Taggart and Mina, Rachel Decker and John, Peter Wertheimer and Chris, Reg Morrell, Brian Cleeman, Darby O'Toole, Geoff Rebbechi and George Wilson.

At a Committee meeting held back about the middle of the year Peter Wertheimer told us about a museum at Paynesville owned and run by a gentleman by the name of Rick Cove, and perhaps we should pay him a visit.

We, the Committee, thought this was a good idea and Peter was tasked to make enquiries and to draw up an itinerary for a week end.

The result of Peter's endeavours was as follows:

The visit would be held on the weekend 19/20 November.

Arrangements would be made at the Paynesville Caravan Park to take telephone bookings from people for cabins or caravan sites.

Incidentally Peter and Chris have a house next door to the park.

RV at the Bairnsdale RSL at 1200hrs for Saturday lunch.

After lunch we would move in "a sort of convoy" to meet with Geoff Rebbechi at his palatial establishment just past Buchan for further movement to his cave.

After the guided tour of the privately owned cave we would return to Paynesville and gather **at Rick Cove's Military and Vehicle Museum for a tour and a barbecue.**

Sunday morning we would return to Melbourne, stopping at the Gippsland Armed Forces Museum at the airfield on the Melbourne side of Sale.

These arrangements were agreed by the Committee and the membership was notified by me of the intended visit. I was not exactly overwhelmed by the response, but finally we had about 20 attendees.

A number of us decided to move down on the Friday instead of the Saturday, and I took my caravan as Dione and I had decided we would stay until the following Friday.

After tea at the local hotel, Peter and Chris invited us in (next door) for coffee and port. And a couple or three chocolates as well.

Saturday we had lunch at the Bairnsdale RSL, as planned, where the Saturday travellers joined us.

Lunch was from the menu and was very nice and reasonable.

The "convoy" to Geoff's Cave could only be described as a convoy in the broadest possible terms, but nevertheless we all eventually arrived at the RV.

We were met by Geoff and George Wilson who was already with Geoff, ready to help with the **guided tour of "Spook's Cave". Incidentally the cave is not haunted. Spook is Geoff's nickname** because of his ability to appear quietly in unexpected places; so I am told?

We moved into the cave after the usual safety briefing: **"Mind Your Head."**

Rather than try and describe the magnificence of the natural formations, I have included just three of many photographs.

Remembering that this is a privately owned cave the normal restrictions regarding photographs and touching do not apply.

Prior to leaving the main chamber of the cave Geoff provided us with a glass of port. Very nice.



These photos really need to be viewed in colour. ed



on 03 5156 6237. He is also interested in any other items you may wish to dispose of.

The weather on Saturday night was a little wet, but as we were inside the sheds it was nevertheless a very enjoyable evening. The museum is well worth a visit. It is a private museum, so appointments must be made.

Sunday morning the other members of the group visited

A minor problem arose at Buchan on the way from the cave to Rick Cove's Vehicle and Military Museum. One of the cars decided that it did not want to go any further. *It was not my car.* Dione and I volunteered to wait until the RACV arrived - three hours later. We then transported the driver and his passenger to the museum.

We arrived at the museum a little late, and so we missed the official conducted tour. However, we did catch the last of the barbecue and salad provided by the Association.

We were then able to wander through the enormous array of vehicles, equipment and other items, both military and civilian. There are two large sheds full of the various items.

Rick is presently restoring a short 25 pounder. If any readers know of any parts available would they please contact Rick Cove at 365 Lake Victoria Road, Newlands Arm Vic 3875, ring him

the Paynesville Coast Guard and then set off for home. The visit to the Gippsland Armed Forces Museum at Sale was also a worthwhile excursion, but as Dione and I stayed in Paynesville for the rest of the week, we did not visit either the Coast Guard or the Sale museum.

The weekend was, in my opinion, a very successful outing from both a social and interest points of view.

When we organise future activities of a similar nature I would urge you to give the matter your serious consideration.

For the engineers amongst you. Incredible workmanship.

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=B9zt3SF_Flc&feature=related

Worlds smallest running V8

EX RAR RSM SAYS I'M BLOODY ANGRY

Ken (Rocket) Rundell, OAM

DEFENCE ISSUES AND DEFENCE ORGANISATIONS

Introduction

I am not a Notable nor am I an Attention Seeker, my concern is only for Australian Soldiers and their well-being. I perceive they are not being well led and poor decisions are being made in regards as to their welfare. As a retired (2002) Vietnam Veteran and Regimental Sergeant Major with 35 years service, there are a number of Issues that I see are currently affecting the Defence Force. I have no influence and can change nothing, but where are the people who do have influence and can speak up? In that regard I want to know where are the **"Critics" within the Current Defence Department**, the Ex Defence Senior Officers and Defence Organisations? I want them to wake up, make a statement, to remember the Soldiers who have worked tirelessly for them, who have given them respect and shown them loyalty and return it!

The Defence issues that concern me and should be out in the Defence arena being discussed for me are as follows:

1. Employment of women within the Royal Australian Infantry.
2. Movement of Defence assets to the North and West of Australia.
3. Australian Soldier Deaths in Afghanistan.
4. Current and Ex Senior Defence Members and Defence Organisations.

DEFENCE ISSUES

1. Employment of Women within the Royal Australian Infantry.

There is no Army in the world that actively employs women as Infantry Assault Troops or has mixed sex **Infantry Combat Forces**, it just doesn't work for a number of reasons including but not limited to physical, cultural, emotional, medical and social interaction and expectation. I feel there is no logical or adequate justification for the Australian Army to be doing this except as a socio-political vote winning exercise, for some portions of the Federal Governments feminine lobby to feel good over an issue that soldiers know is not practical.

The issue has little to do with passing a physical

barrier test as a qualifier, if this was the case we should have elite women athletes playing and **competing in the AFL, NRL, Rugby Union, Men's Basketball, Men's Swimming; but we do not!** The Defence Force is all for women not being discriminated against, having equal employment opportunities and being in combat roles; however in this situation there is no ethical, moral or justifiable reason for women to be employed as front line infantry assault troops. Are our recruitment targets that low? Ask yourself why then is only the Defence Force being singled out in one tiny element of its employment parameters?

Anyone who agrees with 'this' concept of 'Women in Infantry Sections' has never really been a soldier in prolonged Active Infantry Combat or seen how destructive and degenerative this type of Warfare is to the actual participants. I am not going to elaborate any further, you either know it or you **don't enough said! If there is ANY Infantry Veteran** out there who desires to see and agrees with the concept of Australian Women in extended line advancing on an enemy defensive position, just so we can get a tick in some Feminist Federal Government box, that says Equal Employment **Opportunity, then you have 'rocks in your head'!**

2. Movement of Defence Assets to the North and West of Australia.

We have been told by Senior Defence Officers and Analysts that we need to move more Defence Assets and Personnel to the North and West of Australia just in case China or India decides they need our Coal and Iron Ore fields. That China and India own most of these assets and if they require any more they can just buy them, must have escaped the attention of these Defence personnel! We already have enough Defence assets in the North and West that if either of these countries wanted to invade it would require a major undertaking and a large fleet, with large reserves and a huge supply line; (remember D Day?). A situation that would take many years to build up and would undoubtedly be detected by USA surveillance, who would more than likely ask them what are you doing? So WHY would they do it, when they can legally buy it?

The threat to Australia is not from China or India but from Fundamentalist Islamic Extremists living in Melbourne and Sydney, who are conducting open meetings and conferences demanding sharia

law, demanding that they should not have to be part of any democracy including Australia, not be subject to Australian law, the open rejoicing and support for the killing of Australian Defence personnel, supporting and recruiting of suicide bombers, wanting us to live like they do in Iran and Saudi Arabia; all condoned by and under the approval of the Australian Government.

No! We need Southern bases and Southern military forces, China and or India are not going to invade Australia but radical Islamists are going to try to be as disruptive to the law and government as they can; **that is Australia's problem as it is in every other country.** What our military should be training for is **Aid to the Civil Power within Australia's major cities.** A home domiciling policy that allows/ **capture and retains the "Hearts and Minds" of our Soldiers, Sailors and Airmen and their immediate and extended families,** not just some quasi Defence barrier system to the North.

3. Australian Soldier Deaths in Afghanistan.

In regards to Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) Technicians, I am proud that the Australian defence Department has such courageous and highly trained soldiers as the EOD Technicians in Afghanistan. However that is not the point, the point is this; we have been observing the number of Engineer EOD Technician deaths in Afghanistan and have read the REVEILLE magazine of May-June **2011 article 'A Bomb Disposal Expert' after reading this article it would have become clear to all of us who know that what we thought is happening in Afghanistan is in fact true!** That these EOD personnel are dying in some vain exercise to **disarm IED's that are lying in the middle of** nowhere in the hope of maybe being able to glean some forensic or origin type evidence, a reason that is hard to ascertain, justify or act on, as most of the bomb makers are not on any personnel database and the materials are quite often recycled munitions from the coalition or abandoned Russian munitions. Why these IED are not just destroyed by whatever is in location without having to go near these IED is hard to fathom?

In Afghanistan there is no justification not to blow them up where they are found! No IED is worth the loss of 1 Australian Digger. Have these Diggers families been told there is no justifiable reason that their son has died, we sent him to dismantle

an IED when we could have just blown it up! Who is instigating this disarming of IED policy? Why **aren't there Commanders saying this is a B/S policy and the policy of disarming IED's must cease?** I have some background being a Demolition Supervisor and a Mine Warfare and Booby Trap Operator qualified and trained at SME and Pioneer Wing the School of Infantry and Instructing on these fields. This does not make me an EOD Technician but it does mean I have some insight into the Subject.

In regard to the Infantry Soldiers at Platoon and Section level, they are completely outgunned and outranged by the Small Arms in use by the Taliban. **The Australian Army's choice of weapons to fight an Infantry War in Afghanistan and earlier in Iraq is sub-standard.** I took part in previous Trials to purchase new Infantry Small Arms for the Australian Army and at that stage the Army was advised and informed that the current issue Steyr and Minimi weapons were not the preferred or recommended weapons as they would have **shortfalls in just this type of 'open' warfare.** The 7.62mm machine gun that is currently in use within the Infantry Sections and is demonstrating its superiority (and is saving their hide) was not purchased for that role and in fact Senior Infantry **Officer's had demanded its removal from the Regular Infantry Battalions in the 1990's preferring** not to listen to the advice of their own Warrant Officers because as we all know, only Senior Officers are smart enough to make sound and well informed decisions on such matters as Infantry Tactics, Weapons and Equipment.

4. Current and Ex Senior Defence Members and Defence Organisations.

Current Serving Senior Officers. In regard to the above Issues, I find it impossible to believe that ALL Current serving Senior Officers agree with the implementation of these policies, if this is the case then their job has become more important than speaking out, defending their principles and the soldiers they are entrusted to protect? Where is **their backbone?** **Where do the RSM's stand on these issues?** The very men who are supposed to put their life on the line for their soldiers? Where is their backbone?

Today's Defence Force appears to be run by Political 'YES' personnel who will agree with anything just to maintain their employment.

Where are the articles against these proposals, **where are the soldiers willing to speak out? That's all I ask!**

Ex Defence Force Senior Officers. What is even worse, where are all the Ex Defence Senior Officers in all this that disagree with these policies? Excuse me if I am slightly cynical for a moment. Could it be that these Ex Senior Officers are ensconced within cushy Government jobs, or boards or Committees, or in employment that depends on Government **contracts or maybe it's more important to be on the 'gravy train' so as to be invited to visit past Battlefields or go on Ocean Cruises to Commemorate the sinking of HMAS SYDNEY, than to defend soldiers? I don't know but it would appear that if the Serving and Ex Rank and File Members of the Defence Force are waiting for any Ex Senior Officer to speak up, we will be waiting a damn long time!**

RSL. I thought the RSL was formed to represent Ex and Current members of the Defence Force on issues of Defence and keep the Government **'honest'! But, when I read the current issue of REVEILLE what important 'Motions' do I see that the RSL Branches are discussing at the NSW State Congress, with regard to timely and topical matters of Defence and Foreign Affairs? 2 items = Recognition of Australian Defence Force (ADF) Volunteers and Ribbon bars to be put on medals to represent 'Multiple overseas deployments'. Hardly matters of National importance I would have thought!**

RAR COUNCIL. The esteemed RAR Council of all **matters Infantry, (don't get me wrong I want them to have a voice).** But do we see them demanding and making accountable Senior Infantry officers, The Director of Infantry, Battalion Commanding **Officers or Infantry RSM's over the above issues.** If the RAR Council is limited to only discuss topics such as the Duke of Gloucester Cup or Berets or Stable Belts and not problems or issues effecting the Royal Australian Infantry Corps and its members, then what is the point of this Council?

IN SUMMARY

I am bloody angry and any caring Australian soldier should be bloody angry, that we can pick up any magazine (Duty First, Reveille), National Newspapers; listen to Television Current Affair programs or Talkback radio programs and there is no visible voice of contradiction from people who

have the 'power' invested in them to do so, Current and Ex Senior Defence Officers! Where is the leadership and loyalty that these Officers demanded of us, that which they are supposed to display, in return for the loyalty shown to them by the Rank and File during their service and after service life?

Ken (Rocket) Rundell, OAM

Mr K.E. Rundell

18 Reservoir Rd

Mt Pritchard NSW

Courtesy of Capt Peter Wertheimer

Balls

And Brass Monkeys

It was necessary to keep a good supply of cannon balls near the cannon on old war ships. But how to prevent them from rolling about the deck was the problem. The storage method devised was to stack them as a square based pyramid, with one ball on top resting on four, resting on nine, which rested on sixteen.

Thus, a supply of 30 cannon balls could be stacked in a small area right next to the cannon. There was only one problem — how to prevent the bottom layer from sliding/rolling from under the others.

The solution was a metal plate with 16 round indentations, called, for reasons unknown, a Monkey. But if this plate were made of iron, the iron balls would quickly rust to it. The solution to the rusting problem was to make them of brass— hence, Brass Monkeys.

Few landlubbers realise that brass contracts much more and much faster than iron when chilled. Consequently, when the temperature dropped too far, the brass indentations would shrink so much that the iron cannon balls would come right off the monkey.

Thus, it was quite literally, cold enough to freeze the balls off a brass monkey. And all this time, folks thought that was just a vulgar expression?

Fabulous bit of historical knowledge for you.

Courtesy SSgt Ernie Paddon

Hi Alan

You may recall a conversation we had some months ago about the possibility of publishing Keith Batiste's diary in Cascabel.

It's been a bit of a struggle to get the document into digital format - hence the delay, but here it is.

The RUSI is pleased to provide the opportunity to have the diary published especially in our prestigious magazine.

Also, the RUSI - Vic is always seeking new members and extend to all members of the RAA Association the opportunity to join and thus gain access to the extensive military history library (over 10,000 out of print, rare, and current editions - including many unit histories) at Victoria Barracks - Melbourne.

Thanks for your ready acceptance of the idea to use the diary and it is trusted that you judge it of interest to RAA Association members.

Appropriate acknowledgement of RUSI - Vic would be appreciated.

Regards

Ian George



Royal United Services Institute of Victoria



THE DIARY OF LIEUTENANT KEITH BATISTE, 2/8TH FIELD REGIMENT 2ND AIF

27 JUNE 1942 TO
16 DECEMBER 1942

K eith Charles Batiste was born on 30th December 1918 at Flemington Victoria. He joined the Militia in May 1935 (being allocated Regimental Number 297746) to serve with 15th Field Brigade, Royal Australian Artillery (RAA). He enlisted under war conditions at Caulfield on 3rd May 1940. On 5th May 1940, as a gun sergeant, he transferred from 112th Howitzer Battery to enlist in the 2nd Australian Imperial Force and was allotted to 2/8th Field Regiment¹, RAA. He was commissioned on 21st August 1940. He embarked from Australia on 16th November 1940 for the Middle East and was on active service with A Troop, 15th Battery (equipped with 25 -pounder guns) until embarkation on 31st January 1943 for return to Australia. He continued to serve with his unit on the Atherton Tablelands until transferring to the Reserve of Officers on 11th February 1944. He was placed on the Retired List in 1967. He was awarded the 1939-45 Star; the Africa Star (with the 8th Army clasp); the Defence Medal; the War Medal 1939-45; and the Australian Service Medal 1939-45 for his wartime service. He died on 18th March 2000.



Lieutenant Keith Batiste,
Alexandria, 1941

¹ *There is a published history of the regiment (Charles & Mary Morton, 2/8 Australian Field Regiment Remembers World War II 1939-1945, 1992): there is a copy in the RUSI Library, presented by Keith Batiste in 1992. His widow has also given the library a copy of Ivan S. C. Blazley's Boots and All. Blazley was a gunner in A Troop, 15th Battery of 2/8th Field Regiment and his quite rare book gives a soldier's view of the campaign.*

Mrs G.A. Batiste has donated her husband's diary of a six-month period in 1942 to the RUSIV in his memory. It is in a small green cloth covered 6¾" x 4½" limp notebook from the 'Egypt' Series, and was

perhaps purchased in Alexandria. The diary is handwritten in ink, with some earlier entries perhaps transcribed from another book.

The diary is especially valuable today as the security regulations at the time discouraged the keeping of such personal accounts. The RUSIV is proud to be the custodian of this valuable document.

THE 2/8TH FIELD REGIMENT, ROYAL AUSTRALIAN ARTILLERY WAS RAISED ON THE 1ST MAY 1940 IN VICTORIA AND 13TH MAY 1940 IN TASMANIA. THE UNIT TOOK PART IN CAMPAIGNS IN THE MIDDLE EAST AND BORNEO. THE REGIMENT WAS DISBANDED AT PUCKAPUNYAL ON 30TH JANUARY 1946. ITS HONOUR ROLL SHOWS THAT 34 MEMBERS OF THE REGIMENT WERE KILLED IN ACTION OR DIED OF WOUNDS.

27TH JUNE 42. Syria. Rumours of a move great anticipation amongst the lads; will it be home to Aust or down to Egypt? The excitement is fairly high & the lads are betting each other as to where we shall end up – I think it will be Egypt – Rommel has broken through and is only 60 miles from Alex, the 8th Division is retreating; Tobruk and Sollum have fallen.

28TH JUNE 42. **More bad news; aren't they ever going to stop him?** We receive orders for a secret **move; we move out of J'daidi at dawn; the whole village turns out to see us off; many of the Arab girls are weeping the Australians made many good friends in Syria. Dawn – and we are on the way down, Tripoli we see for the last time; speed is essential; we travel all day and night, down into Palestine; around the shores of the Sea of Galilee; thence Tiberias, Nazareth; it's a beautiful day and the was seems so far away.**

30TH JUNE 42. Haifa – and we entrain for Egypt the temperature is 105 degrees in the shade; we are dressed in full Battle kit we sit on top of our equipment for four hours & swelter; we are off! The Suez Canal – Cairo; anticipation still runs high; are we going to Tufik to embark for home – I think not!

1ST JULY 42. Still travelling – the German radio says that the Australians are on the way to the Egyptian **front; but claim that we won't be there in time – we will – we must be.**

2ND JULY 42. 4am. Egypt! We detrain at Amariya and sit for 5 hours in the sand awaiting orders – Bully Biscuit and water has been the order of the day

since we left Syria; we are hungry so we "tuck in". We get our orders – hear that Jerry is only 50 miles from Alex now; we march 5 miles in the boiling sun carrying camels of water and boxes of bully & **biscuit. The men are tired; they haven't slept for three nights; a few of them fall out. We take up a position at A – and commence to dig in. A mobile canteen passed; we manage to buy a case of ale – we drink it and all feel better – no sleep that night – we expect an attack to dawn; the roads are jammed with English tanks and guns all coming back the Tommies look all in – they sing out. Give him hell choom – but I notice they don't stop – Crikey what a retreat! The attack doesn't eventuate; enemy planes fly over and I hear the sound of machine-gun fire; a few odd bullets hit the ground nearby; it reminds me of Matruh – wait for the sound of bombs coming down but nothing happens. Dawn. Up at the O.P.². (Observation Post) we search the horizon for the first signs of the advancing Panzers but cannot see them. Orders to move. Guns are limbered up and we move up into the Central sector of the front; the notorious Ruweisat Ridge (Ruin Ridge). Enemy planes machine-gun us but no one is hit; there are aircraft everywhere; some of ours fly over & we cheer them.**

3RD JULY 42. As we move forward we can hear the roll of heavy gunfire & see clouds of smoke from bursting bombs. We receive orders to fight the guns to the last man & last round – things are pretty desperate. The troops are itching to get into it. One of our aircraft shoot down a German Messerschmitt which nearly lands on top of Fred Rowlands³ – under cover of darkness we move further forward. Major Stephens is our first casualty – shrapnel in the arm.

³VX14429 Captain Frederick Walter Rowlands, born 24th January 1911 in South Yarra, Victoria, enlisted 7th May 1940, 2/8th Field Regiment, discharged 21st August 1945.

4th July 42. Our guns are now laid out; their muzzles facing the enemy; we impatiently wait for him to come within range. General Auchinleck has just been up to see us & had a chat with me; tells me that we will get all the action we want! German Stukas, bomb us!

6th July 42. **Jerry's advance** has slowed up somewhat; the South Africans are holding him on the Coastal Sector; more bombing but not very close; our O.P. is shelled. A British Artillery regt. passes – only one gun left out of 24! The Tommies took a terrific pasting.

7th July 42. Spend the day out on a ridge waiting to direct fire – he **doesn't attack, cannot see any** worthwhile target.

8th July 42. Rumours of a big attack; we are ordered to move over to the Northern sector (Coastal). Spend the day moving.

9TH JULY 42. We are to be used as shock troops for a big attack – good show our fellows are well trained – look out Jerry. We attack at dawn. We are to take Hills 26, 23, 33; the Tel-el-Elisa station & Hill 22; the famous "**Hill of Jesus**". **We sit near our guns** chewing biscuits & making a last minute check of our gear. One of the Batmen makes a cup of tea; we drink it while waiting for Zero hour; we talk about anything but the war; ours is to be the job of moving forward with the Infantry – should be **rather a "Sticky" job.** Lt (Snow) Steer⁴ is going out as F.O.O.⁵ (Forward Observer Officer).

⁴TX525 Lieutenant John Leslie Steer, born 30th January 1919 in Franklin Tasmania, enlisted 8th November 1939, discharged 8th October 1945.

An hour to Zero and the tension has increased; you **don't feel frightened but terribly calm; though** there is a little tightness in your stomach which you **can't quite explain.** My machine gunner gives his gun a final check. Zero hour—& we move slowly

forward; the whole sky is a blaze of flame as our guns open up on the enemy positions – we wish **each other "good luck"**. **Now we move out through** the gap in our wire – now into the minefield; our machine-gun carrier is blown up – one killed, one wounded; we go around it; shells are dropping fast now; and shrapnel is splashing along the roadway. I



25 pdr in full recoil supporting attack by 26th Brigade against Tel Eliza 10 July 1942. El Alamein. "C" Troop. Collection of K.C. Batiste VX14004. From the unit history "No 1. Gun 'C' Tp. 16 Bty. shortly after going into action A.M. 10 July 1942 No time to dig in before firing commenced and shell fire had caused casualties. Gun Crew Sgt. I. Hay MM M.I.D. Gnrs. G. Gabriel (Floppy Hat) H. Buckney (Loading) G. Clasham (Artificer) Bdr J. Prouse (Layer obscured)"

look at my driver; he grins and puts his thumbs up. Distress rockets are blazing up from the enemy positions as he calls for still more artillery support; some of the shells are very large & sound like an express train going through a tunnel; his fire is becoming more accurate now; tanks rumble past us & we can hear heavy machine- gun fire in front; day is just breaking. Two white Verrey light blaze up – good show, Hill 26 is ours – the first objective has fallen. We go into action & commence pumping shells into him as fast as we can load & fire.

There are several Italians laying near me; one has his back all shot away; poor devil, give him a **cigarette & he murmurs "Gracios"**. I send for the Medical Corporal who gives him Morphia. The prisoners are streaming back now; there must be 2,000 of them; their own Artillery mistake them for us & open fire; some of them are blown up; they panic and scatter. Hear aircraft engines; look up –

“Stukas – I can count 30 of them; and they are diving; they have seen our guns; now they are screaming down; we go to ground there comes a series of piercing screams as their bombs come down; our machine-guns open fire but it’s futile; there is a terrific detonation; the whole world seems to fall apart; you cannot see for 20 feet for the dust & smoke – they miss us – only by a matter of yards but still it’s a miss!

Now they are machine-gunning; we grovel in the sand and hope for the best; several burst horribly close. The smoke clears away; two men scratched by shrapnel otherwise all O.K. – seems like a miracle. We open fire again. Ammunition getting low; call for more & up it comes; nice shiny new shells for Jerry. **More bombers; again “Stukas”** Jerry is throwing all he has into knocking our guns out – again the bombers miss us; our ack-ack guns fill the air With shells but miss them. Our guns are fast becoming red-hot & the paint is peeling off them from the incessant firing. Two more Verrey lights go up. The second objective has fallen (Hill 23). More prisoners; this time quite a few Germans amongst them; Ambulances roar past full of our wounded. **These Italians are good; they’ll fight alright. Notice there are bullet holes in my slit trench; funny didn’t notice them before; guess it must be the excitement.**

Then come the “Jerry” bombers again; they scream down on us machine-gunning & dropping H.E. The earth trembles & part of my trench caves in – now they are gone again. Here comes some of our fighters; right on their tails. Good show R.A.F. Give it to ‘em; one “Stuka” bursts into flames, we cheer & wave our helmets. Jerry must be able to see us quite clearly; his shellfire is right on top of us. Move – four tanks move through. Counter attack! Enemy tanks have broken through; our O.P opens fire on them; we tear down our camouflage nets & get out the armour-piercing shells-let ‘em come!

Already we have fired over 1,000 shells from our troop; the gunners are stripped to the waist & sweating profusely. More prisoners. Our Infantry **are in trouble & call for more support; give ‘em all we have got.** Prisoners wander in; our guns knocked their tanks out; notice they are from a Panzer division; these two are only lads of about 22 & rather frightened of us; one is shell-shocked; **these certainly ain’t the tough looking Germans** Hitler would lead us to believe; our fellow could eat ‘em alive.

Somehow I don’t feel any hate towards them; guess I am soft or something. Endeavour to ask them a few questions by signology & a few odd German words I know; but they shake their heads. They are both all in; give them a drink of water which they gratefully accept; you can see the look of wonder in their eyes when one of the boys offers them a cigarette; they are the sole survivors of 5 tank crews. These fellows are told that the Australians will do all sorts of things to them if they are taken prisoner.

The attack has progressed & so we move further **forward. The CO’s batman is killed; Mountjoy⁶ killed; Moore⁷ wounded.**

⁶VX18576 Gunner Reginald Mountjoy, born 20th August 1917 in Woodstock Victoria, killed in action 10th July 1942.

⁷Probably VX13982 Sergeant Arthur Stanley Moore, born 22nd September 1919 in Kew, Victoria, enlisted 3rd May 1940, discharged 25th October 1945.

To be continued in journal 112. ed

Spare a thought for these British Artillerymen who were part of a detachment firing a salute for the celebration of the 60th anniversary of Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth’s succession to the throne.



Kneeling Gun Drill in the snow.



More new vehicles

Two major Land 121 vehicle projects continue to next phase

Brent Hannah and Drew McKeekin

STATE-of-the-art battlefield mobility is on the way with two vital sub elements of Project Overland progressed by Government.

Defence Minister Stephen Smith announced Rheinmetall MAN Military Vehicles Australia was selected to enter negotiations for the Project Overlander Land 121 Phase 3B Medium Heavy Capability on December 12.

Mr Smith also revealed that Thales Australia was invited to enter stage two of the Manufactured and Supported in Australia component of Land 121 Phase 4, while monitoring of the US joint light tactical vehicle program continued.

Land Vehicle Systems Director Brig Greg **Downing welcomed the Minister's** announcement and said the vehicles were sought in protected and unprotected configurations to be used for operational deployment and tactical training. "These decisions represent important steps forward for Land 121. The Rheinmetall MAN vehicles have been acquired by a range of armed forces around the world and are currently in service with the British Army," Brig Downing said.

"These vehicles strike the right balance between mobility, protection and payload to meet the **ADF's for its logistical requirements.**

After a robust evaluation process, including the conduct of extensive user trials, Defence will now

enter negotiations with Rheinmetall MAN for the supply and support of medium and heavy logistics vehicles.

Pending a successful outcome of the negotiations, Defence will seek a revised second pass approval from the Government in mid-2013 before entering into contract.

This segment will provide a range of vehicle variants that, together with their associated trailers, will provide a payload carrying capacity of between four and seventy tonnes.

The project will also produce and deliver specialist bulk liquid, flat rack and tipper modules.

Brig Downing also said he was pleased Thales Australia had been invited to continue developing its Hawkei vehicle. "It's a major landmark in the projects Manufactured and Supported in Australia component, which in my view has involved the most comprehensive developmental test program ever undertaken for an Australian Army project.

"The prototype vehicles provided by the participants to date have allowed us to acquire vital information and refine requirements for Army's capability need. I'm confident that Land 121 Phase 4 is well placed to deliver a solid recommendation at second pass approval, but there is still a lot of work ahead."

Courtesy Army News

RAA LUNCHEON 2012

Brigadier Doug Perry OAM RFD ED and Ssgt Reg Morrell conducted the RAA Luncheon at the RACV premises in Melbourne on 13 March, 2012. Seventy-one Gunners (all ranks) were in attendance and they enjoyed a two course meal and refreshments.

Brigadier Perry opened the venue by welcoming Major General J. Barry AM MBE RFD ED; Colonel Commandant, Brigadier N. Graham AO; Brigadier K. Rossi AM OBE RFD ED and a special welcome to two new female Lieutenants to the Regiment, S. Alemaych and S. Hogan. He also welcomed the two Reverends, John Leaver and Bob Maguire. Sometime later, the Commanding Officer of 2/10 Field Regiment, RAA, Lieutenant Colonel J. Cooke gave a brief overview of the **Regiment's status**.



Lt Col Cooke

Firstly, the overview of the Regiment's current role was to raise, train and sustain Indirect Fire and be Joint Fire and Coordination specialists. The manning of the Regiment was 141 (which is 93 per cent of its full allocation). The Regiment will hopefully continue to run Mortar Schedule Courses. All Reservists within 2 Division will have **defined roles that contribute to the Army's total** force capability. Future roles of 2/10 Field

Regiment will lead the 2 Division RAA Mortar **Capability and the Reservists must "Be Prepared for Change"**.

A short time later, Colonel Farley OAM RFD ED gave answers to a RAA Luncheon Quiz, which was circulated prior to the lunch.



Col Graham Farley

Overall, the RAA Luncheon was a successful event for Gunners to catch up and renew acquaintances.

Ubique

SSgt Reg Morrell.



Two faces I (ed) hadn't seen for many years.

Sgt Eddie Evans & Sgt Michael "Dicko" Dickson

Super Sniper Kills Taliban 1.5 Miles Away



Cpl of Horse Harrison sealed his place in military history

A British army sniper helped save his commander and set a new sharpshooting record after killing two Taliban machine gunners in Afghanistan from a mile-and-a-half away.

Corporal of Horse Craig Harrison fired his consecutive shots from such a long distance that they took almost three seconds to reach their targets.

This was despite the 8.59mm bullets leaving the barrel of his rifle at almost three times the speed of sound.

The distance to his two targets was 8,120ft, or 1.54 miles - according to a GPS system - and about 3,000ft beyond the weapon's effective range.

The 35-year-old beat the previous sniper kill record of 7,972ft, set by a Canadian soldier who shot dead an al Qaeda gunman in March 2002.

Speaking about the incident, Cpl of Horse Harrison said: "The first round hit a machine gunner in the stomach and killed him outright. He went straight down and didn't move.

"The second insurgent grabbed the weapon and turned as my second shot hit him in the side. He went down, too. They were both dead."

The serviceman then fired a third and final round to ensure the machine gun was out of action.

He said: "Conditions were perfect, no wind, mild weather, clear visibility. I rested the bipod of my weapon on a compound wall and aimed for the

gunner firing the machine gun."

He killed the two insurgents as he protected his troop commander, whose vehicle became trapped in a field in Helmand Province and started coming under fire.



The sniper being treated after a later attack

Cpl of Horse Harrison, from Cheltenham, Gloucestershire, was using the British-built L115A3 Long Range Rifle, the army's most powerful sniper weapon.

It is only designed to be effective at up to 4,921ft - just less than a mile - and capable of only 'harassing fire' beyond that range.

To compensate for the spin and drift of the bullets as they flew the length of 25 football pitches, Cpl of Horse Harrison reportedly had to aim 6ft high and 20ins to the left.



In a remarkable tour of duty, he cheated death a few weeks later when a Taliban bullet pierced his helmet but was deflected away from his skull.

During the Taliban ambush, his patrol vehicle was hit 36 times. He said: "One round hit my helmet behind the right ear and came out of the top.

"Two more rounds went through the strap across my chest. We were all very, very lucky not to get hurt."

He later broke both arms when his army vehicle was hit by a roadside bomb.

Cpl of Horse Harrison was sent back to the UK for treatment, but insisted on returning to the front line after making a full recovery.

SEND IN THE DOGS

When U.S. President Barack Obama went to Fort Campbell, Kentucky, for a highly publicized, but very private meeting with the commando team that killed Osama bin Laden, only one of the 81 members of the super-secret SEAL DevGru unit was identified by name: Cairo, the war dog. Cairo, like most canine members of the elite U.S. Navy SEALs, is a Belgian Malinois. The Malinois breed is similar to German shepherds but smaller and more compact, with an adult male weighing in the 30-kilo range.

(German shepherds are still used as war dogs by the American military but the lighter, stubbier Malinois is considered better for the tandem parachute jumping and rappelling operations often undertaken by SEAL teams. Labrador retrievers are also favoured by various military organizations around the world)



detect and identify both explosive material and hostile or hiding humans. The dogs are twice as fast as a fit human, so anyone trying to escape is not likely to outrun Cairo or his buddies.

The dogs, equipped with video cameras, also enter certain danger zones first, allowing their handlers to see what's ahead before humans follow. As I mentioned before, SEAL dogs are even trained parachutists, jumping either in tandem with their handlers or solo, if the jump is into water. Last year canine parachute instructor Mike Forsythe and his dog Cara set the world record for highest man-dog parachute deployment, jumping from more than 30,100 feet up — the altitude transoceanic passenger



jets fly at. Both Forsythe and Cara were wearing oxygen masks and skin protectors for the jump. Here's a photo from that jump, taken by Andy Anderson for K9 Storm Inc. (more about those folks shortly).

Like their human counterparts, the dog SEALs are highly trained, highly skilled, highly motivated special ops experts, able to perform extraordinary military missions by Sea, Air and Land (thus the acronym). The dogs carry out a wide range of specialized duties for the military teams to which they are attached: With a sense of smell 40 times



greater than a human's, the dogs are trained to

ground. And like the human SEALs, Cairo was

wearing super-strong, flexible body armour and outfitted with high-tech equipment that included “doggles” specially designed and fitted dog goggles with night-vision and infrared capability that would even allow Cairo to see human heat forms through concrete walls. Now where on earth would anyone get that kind of incredibly niche hi-tech doggie gear? From

Winnipeg, of all places. Jim and Glori Slater’s Manitoba hi-tech mom-and-pop business, K9 Storm Inc., has a deserved worldwide reputation for designing and manufacturing probably the



best body Armour available for police and military dogs. Working dogs in 15 countries around the world are currently protected by their K9 Storm body Armour.

Jim Slater was a canine handler on the Winnipeg Police Force when he crafted a Kevlar protective jacket for his own dog, Olaf, in the mid-1990s. Soon Slater was making body Armour for other cop dogs, then the Canadian military and soon the world. The standard K9 Storm vest also has a load-bearing harness system that makes it ideal for tandem rappelling and parachuting.

And then there are the special hi-tech add-ons that

made the K9 Storm especially appealing to the U.S. Navy SEALs, who bought four of K9 Storm Inc.’s top-end Intruder “canine tactical assault suits” last year for \$86,000. You can be sure Cairo was wearing one of those four suits when he jumped into bin Laden’s lair. Here’s an explanation of all the K9 Storm Intruder special features:

Just as the Navy SEALs and other elite special forces are the sharp point of the American military machine, so too are their dogs at the top of a canine military hierarchy. In all, the U.S. military currently has

about 2,800 active-duty dogs deployed around the world, with roughly 600 now in Afghanistan and Iraq. Several of the photos I have included here are from Foreign Policy, as you will see. Other photos are from K9 Storm Inc.

As for the ethics of sending dogs to war, that’s pretty much a moot point, don’t you think? If it’s ethical to send humans into combat, then why not dogs? At least the U.S. now treats its war dogs as full members of the military. At the end of the Vietnam War, the U.S. combat dogs there were designated as “surplus military equipment” and left behind when American forces pulled out.

Revenge!

Four Canberra youths gained revenge on a speed camera van operating in the area.

Three of the group approached the van and distracted the operator’s attention by asking a series of questions about how the equipment worked and how many cars the operator could catch a day. Meanwhile, the fourth sneaked around and unscrewed a number plate from the van. After bidding the van operator goodbye, the friends returned home, fixed the number plate to their car and drove through the camera’s radar at high speed seventeen times. As a result, the automated billing system issued seventeen speeding tickets to itself.

Light hearted info courtesy SSgt Ernie Paddon.

Further research into this article appears to classify it as “Legend” rather than “True”.

You can read the report at <http://www.snopes.com/autos/law/snaptrap.asp> ed.

Gunners set for success

Afghan artillerymen set sights on certification after more than 18 months with Australian and US mentors.

A BATTERY of Afghan artillery-men will soon be fully qualified and able to operate independently thanks to the efforts of Australian and US mentors.

Three soldiers from Townsville's 4 Regt RAA have worked with a US artillery unit since June 2010 to bring the gunners of Cannon Bty from the 4th Kandak up to speed.

The Afghan gunners will gain their final live-fire certification later this month.

MTF 3 lead artillery mentor WO2 Brendan Colles said the ANA gunners had come a long way since their training began.

"The 4th Kandak only had one working gun and few experienced gunners when we first arrived," WO2 Colles said.

"[Now] they have a functioning battery with two command posts that can safely and accurately provide offensive fire in support of future 4th Kandak operations."

He said MTF 3 would head home before all certifications were complete.

"The certification process involves two stages and, while we'll oversee the direct fire practice, circumstances mean we'll miss the final indirect live-fire practice.

"We're leaving Cannon Bty in good hands with the

US Army instructors and our MTF 4 colleagues, but it would have been great to see the job through."

As they worked alongside their US Army counterparts, 4 Regt's gunners had some issues to overcome.

"There are some differences in US and Australian artillery doctrine but we've negotiated those and delivered a sound package to the ANA," he said.

"The Americans are a smart and motivated group of people who've done an excellent job in delivering a high level of training."

Twenty-six US Army soldiers from the Texas-based 1st Btn, 21st Fd Artillery Regt assisted in training ANA gun teams, fire support officers and command personnel.

According to WO2 Colles, the Commander of the 4th Kandak, Brig-Gen Mohammed Zafar Khan, is "very big" on literacy training for his soldiers.

"He believes education is an important tool, so we convinced the local Dari contractor to give Cannon Bty's gunners an additional 65 hours of literacy and mathematics tuition," WO2 Colles said.

"This extra education presents obvious benefits for the battalion, brigade and ANA as a whole."

After completing the training, the MTF 4 artillery mentors from 1 Regt RAA will continue to advise Cannon Bty during operational missions.

The US Army personnel will take the experience gained with the Australians to another Afghan province to train another gun battery.



Precision planning:

Sgt Simon Hastings, MTF 3, and US Army officer Lt Daniel Underwood observe Afghan artillerymen as they plan where to locate their Russian-made howitzer field guns during a training exercise at Multinational Base Tarin Kot in Afghanistan.

Unrest in the ranks as retired troops slide into poverty

Peter Criss, a retired RAAF air vice-marshal, writes:

AUSTRALIAN ARMY, AUSTRALIAN DEFENCE FORCE, AUSTRALIAN TROOPS, POLITICIANS' PAY RISES, SUPERANNUATION SCHEMES

"The willingness of future generations to serve in our military will be directly dependent upon how we have treated those who have served in the past." -- George Washington

So the politicians have seen fit to grant themselves another pay rise. No, sorry, the Federal Remuneration Tribunal has granted them a pay rise and they have accepted its ruling. Changing the legislation to say no is apparently not an option.

What many may not realise is that politician pay rises benefit not just current politicians, but all qualifying pre-2004 retired politicians. If those retired politicians are survived by their spouse, this pay rise also goes to them.

Such are the terms of the pre-2004 Parliamentary Contributory Superannuation Scheme (PCSS) -- **which must be irresistible if you're entitled to it.**

Our troops certainly aren't. They can't even get the indexation they were guaranteed when enlisting.

You may not have noticed yet, but you will. The troops -- current and retired -- are angry. Retirees receiving military superannuation pensions are struggling to maintain their standard of living because of inadequate indexation.

Ninety per cent of the 63,000 military pensioners are receiving less than \$30,000 a year; the average **being \$23,000. What's more, that money is taxed** even if they are older than 60.

Those who volunteered to serve in the Australian Defence Force were promised an indexed military superannuation pension that would maintain its purchasing power as part of their employment "contract". This "guarantee" has been given since 1977.

Before 1977, the Defence Force Retirement and Death Benefit Scheme (DFRDB) and the earlier schemes obtained increases retrospectively through ad hoc legislation introduced at the whim of the government. The automatic "safeguarding"

of their pension through the Consumer Price Index (CPI) initiative which, from the seventies to the early nineties, correctly captured cost of living increases, meant military superannuation pensions automatically retained value -- employer obligations were met.

When age pensioners saw their purchasing power diminish, new indexation arrangements were progressively adopted, beginning in 1997. But the troops were abandoned.

Over the past 10 years, age pensions have increased by 95%. Politicians' pensions have increased well over 100% (factoring in this latest pay rise). Retired military payments have increased by a paltry 33%. DFRDB recipients, plus about 4000 still serving under that scheme, are left wondering what they did wrong

The consequence of this employer neglect on veterans is profound. In real terms, our retired troops are sliding into poverty with many now having to rely on welfare safety nets to survive.

Take Major Ben McGuinness (name changed for privacy reasons) who retired in 1987 after 21 years in the Army on a salary of \$38,584. He received an initial pension of \$14,083 per annum indexed to CPI. In 2011, 24 years into retirement, he now receives \$27,331. If either he or his wife work that income is also taxed at the marginal rate even though both are over 60.

That's how a senior officer is impacted by unfair indexation; imagine what the troops are getting; a Sergeant retiring after 21 year in 1989 received \$10,442.

Farcically, the "Military Super Book" (current edition) states: "Pensions are subject to full CPI updating every six months (ensuring that \$1 in 2011 will be equivalent to \$1 in 2028)." I believe the government knows that is deliberately misleading. The veteran community certainly knows it (from bitter experience) and there is growing awareness of the lie among those still serving.

An even starker injustice is the discriminatory treatment of a spouse following the death of a retired military member. Their spouse receives **62.5% of their partner's entitlements. The spouse** of a politician receives 83.3%. Why the disparity?

How in this staunchly democratic society, with its abundant wealth, enshrinement of the concept of

"a fair go" for all, and with the parliament's unambiguous acknowledgement of the unique nature of military service, can governments maltreat those who served our nation in the national interest for 20 years or more.

George Washington undeniably comprehended the national importance of fairly treating those who have served in uniform -- wisdom that has evaded **Australia's political elite for decades.**

Send your tips to boss@crikey.com.au or submit them anonymously [here](#).

Pensions put squeeze on retired troops. Our story yesterday on the unrest in military ranks over superannuation pensions got one ex-serviceman -- "on a low and taxed pension" -- hot under the collar. They write anonymously:

"At this time of the year there is no greater hypocrisy than being asked by politicians to think of our servicemen and servicewomen serving overseas in countries like Afghanistan and then when they return home after serving in the name of Australia and retire from military service the servicemen and servicewomen receive a pension that is indexed at a lower rate than politicians and others who receive a Commonwealth Welfare and Aged Pension. Yes, put your life on the line, allow our leaders to make capital out of your brave service, but be quiet when you no longer serve this nation in uniform and be grateful to receive a lower indexation than others who have not contributed like you have."

ADF sports team victorious in
US Marine Corps trials



The Minister for Defence Science and Personnel, Warren Snowdon, today welcomed home a team of seven ADF members who won 19 medals, including 14 gold, at the US Marine Corps sports trials for permanently disabled and significantly injured military personnel.

The ADF members competed in a range of track

and field, shooting and swimming events at Camp Pendleton near San Diego, taking out the 14 gold, three silver and two bronze medals.

The competition is organised by the US Marine **Corps' Wounded Warrior Regiment** and included military personnel from eight countries.

The Australian team included amputees, a double amputee, members who have experienced traumatic brain injury and other service related injuries.

Two of the Army members received their injuries on operations in the Middle East, others were injured in Australia, some on Defence tasks, others through road accidents and the like.

"These ADF members have represented their nation and done Australia proud again. I congratulate the entire team on their extraordinary achievements," Mr Snowdon said.

"This competition is about overcoming adversity, and the ADF team has worked hard, shown determination and in many events, has come out on top."

"Regardless of the result, every participant in this competition deserves credit for the spirit in which they approach it."

"The team members have faced a range of major challenges since sustaining their injuries, but Defence is committed to supporting our injured personnel and has a full range of programs in place for them and their families," he said.

The team's involvement in these trials is part of the ADF Paralympic Sports program, a clinical rehabilitation initiative that uses adaptive sport to optimise functional independence, physical fitness and promote positive self image.

Those who participated are:

Warrant Officer Class Two Dennis Ramsay

Signaller Garry Wilson

Sergeant Sarah Webster

Private Kyle Bridgewood

Flight Sergeant Tony Benfer

Able Seaman Paul de Gelder

Warrant Officer Class One Scott Mengel

Last month, a small group of seriously injured ADF personnel participated in Exercise Wounded **Warrior in an adaptive 'learn to ski' program** at Mount Washington in British Columbia.

This is the speech given at Fort Rucker when they retired the last Huey on 17 May 2011

As a Vietnam Veteran Army Aviator, I would like to thank everyone for coming to this special occasion, on this, **to be honest ... very sad day, the end of a era. An era that has spanned over 50 years.** The retirement of **this grand old lady ... "OUR MOTHER" ... the Huey.**



Fight like hell for the Living

I would like to thank, MG Crutchfield for allowing me to speak at this event and try to convey in my own inadequate, meager way, what this aircraft means to me and so many other Vietnam veterans.

First a few facts: It was 48 yrs ago this month that the first Huey arrived in Vietnam with units that were to become part of the 145th and the 13th Combat Aviation Battalions; both units assigned here at Ft Rucker today. While in Vietnam, the Huey flew approximately 7,457,000 combat assault sorties; 3,952,000 attack or gunship sorties and 3,548,000 cargo supply sorties. That comes to over 15 million sorties flown over the paddies and jungles of Nam, not to include the millions of sorties flown all over **the world and other combat zones since then ...** what an amazing journey ... I am honored and

humbled to have been a small part of that journey.

To those in the crowd that have had the honor to fly, crew, or ride this magnificent machine in combat, we are the chosen few, the lucky ones. They understand what this aircraft means, and how hard it is for me to describe my feelings about her as a Vietnam combat pilot ... for she is alive ... has a life of her own, and has been a life long friend.

How do I break down in a few minutes a 42 year love affair, she is as much a part of me, and to so many others as the blood that flows through our veins. Try to imagine all those touched over **the years ... by the shadow of her blades.**

Other aircraft can fly overhead and some will look up and some may not; or even recognize what they see but, when a Huey flies over everyone looks up and everyone knows who she

is ... young or old all over the world she connects with all.

To those that rode her into combat ... the sound of those blades causes our heart beat to rise ... and breaths to quicken ... in anticipation of seeing that beautiful machine fly overhead and the feeling of comfort she brings. No other aircraft in the history of aviation evokes the emotional response the Huey does ... combat veterans or not ... she is recognized all around the world by young and old, she is the ICON of the Vietnam war, U.S. Army Aviation and the U.S. Army. Over 5 decades of service she carried Army Aviation on her back, from bird dogs and piston powered helicopters with a secondary support mission, to the force multiplier combat arm that Army Aviation is today.

Even the young aviators of today that are mainly Apache pilots, Blackhawk pilots, etc. that have had a chance to fly her will tell you there is no greater feeling, honor, or thrill than to be blessed with the opportunity to ride her thru the sky ... they may love their Apaches and Blackhawks, but they will say there is no aircraft like flying the Huey; "it is special". There are two kinds of helicopter pilots: those that have flown the Huey and those who wish they could have.

The intense feelings generated for this aircraft are not just from the flight crews, but also from those who rode in back - into and out of the "devils caldron". As paraphrased here from "Gods own lunatics", Joe Galloway's tribute to the Huey and her flight crews and other Infantry veterans comments:

"Is there anyone here today who does not thrill to the sound of those Huey blades?? That familiar whop-whop-whop is the soundtrack of our war...the lullaby of our younger days, it is burned into our brains and our hearts. To those who spent their time in Nam as a grunt, know

that noise was always a great comfort. Even **today when I hear it I stop ... catch my breath ...** and search the sky for a glimpse of the mighty eagle.

To the pilots and crews of that wonderful machine ...we loved you, we loved that machine.

No matter how bad things were ... if we called ... you came ... down through the hail of green tracers and other visible signs of a real bad day off to a bad start. I can still hear the sound of those blades churning the fiery sky ... To us you seemed beyond brave and fearless ... Down you would come to us in the middle of battle in those flimsy thin skin-chariots ... into the storm of fire and hell, ... we feared for you, we were awed by you. We thought of you and that beautiful bird as "God's own lunatics" ... and wondered ... who are these men and this machine and where do they come from. Have to be "Gods Angels".

So with that I say to her, that beautiful lady sitting out there, from me and all my lucky brothers that were given the honor to serve their country, and the privilege of flying this great lady in skies of Vietnam ... **Thank you for the memories ... Thank you for always being there ... Thank you for always bringing us home regardless of how beat up and shot up you were ... Thank You!!!!.**

You will never be forgotten, we loved you then ... **we love you now ... and will love you till our last breath"**

And as the sun sets today, if you listen quietly and closely you will hear that faint whop whop whop of our mother speaking to all her children - past and present - who rode her into history in **a blaze of glory ... she will be saying to them: I am here ... I will always be here with you. I am at peace and so should you be ... and so should you be.**

Courtesy WO2 Max Murray



Maj David Osborne wrote:

I have received a copy of a speech delivered by a retired Lt Col Graham Lockwood to a recent function of the NAB Retired Officers Association. Thought it may be of use to re-print. I have no contact details for the Colonel, the document came to me from a person who attended the function.

Thanks David. Ed

Anzac Address by Lieutenant Colonel (Retired) Graham Lockwood, on 12th April, 2011

Thank you for the privilege of giving an Anzac address to you today on the eve of the Australia's involvement in the War of 1914 to 1918. In 2015 we will commemorate the century of that involvement.

I am sure that you all know the Anzac story but let me remind you of that episode of Australian history which has been said to mark the coming of age of our Nation.

Few Australians today know enough about the part played by the Diggers from the Somme battlefields to compare it seriously with what the Anzacs did at Gallipoli. Yet nearly ten times the number of soldiers fought at the Somme than did at Gallipoli and they fought more than five times as long and in even more shocking conditions.

The Anzacs fought the Turkish army for more than seven months at Gallipoli and Australia had nearly 40,000 troops engaged there. The number of Australians killed - some 9,700 of which 3,600 were Victorians - shocked our Nation. Each year on Anzac Day we remind ourselves of these things and yet few are aware that on the Western Front in Europe from 1915 until the end of the war in November 1918, some 400,000 Diggers, 10 times the number at Gallipoli, fought in the trenches of the Somme battle fields, sometimes weeks at a time up to their knees in mud.

Largely as a result of poor leadership of the allied armies the bodies of nearly 40,000 Australians lie in the war cemeteries of France and Belgium and a further 11,000 have no known grave. Another 11,000 lie in graves in Gallipoli and other battlefields of the War. More than three times

this number were wounded. In the years that followed the war, tens of thousands more died from their wounds and the aftermath of being gassed. It would be easy to say that once the war ended, life would go on as before. Life would never be the same for the families of the more than 10 million dead nor for the 20 million wounded. The scale of what had happened in that 4 years of war slowly began to dawn on a people who had, on the one hand, rejoiced in the triumphs that led to victory and, on the other hand, those who despaired at the events which led to inevitable defeat. It was now time to count the cost. Few families in Europe, in what was then the British Empire, or in parts of Asia and in the Americas were untouched by war.

There has been nothing in history to match the magnitude and awfulness of WW1. There was slow recognition that the world had changed dramatically. New boundaries were drawn, new alliances formed, all on the basis of economic interest rather than geographic division. Soldiers had fought alongside people from other countries than their own, speaking languages they did not at first understand. It was little wonder the conflict became known as the Great War.

The rehabilitation process included recognition of the service and sacrifice of so many and it included, not just the medical treatment required but also the public admiration and respect they deserved. Mindful of this, politicians of the day determined that the victory won at such enormous cost should not be forgotten. The acting Prime Minister of Australia at the time Mr **A E Watt said "Let us now address ourselves to the task of following up our victory worthily by redeeming our obligations to all who fought and suffered for us."** In December 1918, the then Lord Mayor of Melbourne, Alderman William Cabena, recommended that steps be taken to commemorate the war on the first anniversary of the armistice in 1919. Suitable memorials were being planned, and culminated in Melbourne with the building of the Shrine of Remembrance whose foundation stone was laid on 11th November, 1928 and dedicated on Armistice Day 1934.

Australia was justifiably proud of the part it

played in achieving victory in Europe and its commanders, notably General Sir John Monash, had earned almost universal respect for their leadership and tactics. The population of Australia at this time was four million, most of Anglo Saxon ancestry. From that handful of people this country sent a volunteer contingent to join other parts of Europe to fight for King and country.

Some rubbery statistics give an idea of **Australia's commitment. Of our four million** about half were male and of that two million about two thirds were either too young or too old to enlist. Of the remaining 600,000, some 417,000 volunteers enlisted for service representing some 10% of the total population.. Of this number 215,000 were casualties and nearly 62,000 were killed with some 19,000 being Victorians. These are staggering figures when you remember we are talking about young men. Imagine if you can the nature of the work force in the offices, factories and fields of the time, where every second man that served had been wounded and these figures do not include those that suffered shell shock.

The Australian figures are matched only by those of New Zealand which, from a handful of people lost 16,500 killed and over 400,000 wounded. Australia and New Zealand may have been remote parts of the Empire but they contributed mightily to its glory.

It was a storeman during the Somme campaigns in France who suggested to his boss that writing **"Australian and New Zealand Army Corps"** on every stores requisition was very time consuming and could it not be shortened to the first letter of each word. His suggestion went right up to the Commander of the Corps, Lieutenant General Birdwood who gave it a tick and so the Anzac legend was born. In some editions of the Oxford dictionary the word Anzac is shown as **"an Australian or New Zealander."** This new collective name became used by Australians and New Zealanders: they were the Diggers. Anzac was a high formal, solemn **"Digger"** - a form of address among equals expressing special fellowship distinguishing the Australian or New Zealand soldier from the British **"Tommy"**.

The first Anzac Day was commemorated in

Australia in 1919, and in 1928 the first Dawn Service was held in Sydney with other States following progressively until it became national in 1933. In Melbourne it is estimated that over 40,000 attended the Dawn service at the Shrine last year. Armistice Day has also been commemorated in Australia since 1919, but the name was changed to Remembrance Day in 1947 so that the day could include remembrance of the service and sacrifice in the war that became known as the Second World War.

The war, fought between 1939 and 1945, was more global than The Great War and it was fought, in one way or another, on every continent. It involved from Australia, 925,000 servicemen and 66,100 servicewomen out of a population of just 7 million representing 14% of the total population. While most were conscripted a substantial number were volunteers. Of those who served, 27,313 were killed and more than 30,000 became Prisoners of War, mainly by the Japanese.

And, of importance to us is the fact this war was much closer to home. From the bombings in Darwin and Broome to enemy submarines in Sydney Harbour, Australia was very much involved in its own defence.

So, from, and during the Second World War Anzac and Remembrance Days have become an opportunity to remember all who served, particularly those who fell, for our cause.

Since the Second World War, we, as Australians have fought, and died, in other conflicts. Korea, Borneo, Malaya, South Vietnam, East Timor, Iraq and Afghanistan are but a few of the places we have served since 1945.

Always at Anzac Day and Remembrance Day we **softly say "Lest We Forget" and we pledge "we will remember them"**. Some times I wonder how serious we are about remembering. Our forefathers hoped that remembrance would prevent repeat. Some would say we have let them down and, in the process let ourselves down. I believe that's a bit harsh, as all the conflicts since The Great War with perhaps the exception of a couple of cases have been either in defence of our country or to assist in justifiable humanitarian causes.

Sir William Dean, when Governor General of Australia, said that Anzac was not only about loss, but also about courage, endurance, love of country, mateship, good humour, survival and a sense of self worth and decency in the face of dreadful odds. This is the legacy our forefathers have left us and should I believe, be our guide in the way we conduct our lives.

When the coming Anzac commemoration takes place and you attend the parade or watch images on television, can I ask you to just lightly close your eyes. Instead of seeing old men and women marching, see young and vital people parading. People like your children and grandchildren. The veterans we see marching **were young when they answered Australia's call** to risk their lives and their future, to preserve the peace, the freedoms and the way of life we enjoy today.

Sadly, not all returned from the various conflicts and, with the passage of time, many others have passed on. But in spirit, those fine young men and women are still marching with their colleagues. Mateship never dies - it is synonymous with the word ANZAC.

Again let me thank you for this opportunity to address you today in this important month in our Nations history.

LEST WE FORGET

Graham Lockwood



Parliamentary Secretary and VCDF visit ADF personnel in the Middle East

Parliamentary Secretary for Defence Senator David Feeney and Vice Chief of Defence Force Air Marshal Mark Binskin have just visited Australian Defence Force personnel deployed to the Middle East Area of Operations (MEAO).

“During the visits I was pleased to meet a number of Reservists who are performing vital roles in Middle East operations. There are currently 91 Reservists deployed to the MEAO including 12 women. There are nearly 60 Reserve members on the ground in Afghanistan and more than 30 elsewhere in the Area of Operations. They are undertaking a wide variety of tasks including air crew, intelligence, signals and transport.

Edited version. ed

WO2 Max Murray wrote:

*I don't have much time for politicians whatever the party they belong to. However, I have always thought that Barnaby JOYCE seems like a down to earth good bloke. Having read what he has written in the **CANBERRA TIMES yesterday (Apr '11)** he has gone up a notch or two. I know he is not responsible for his family background but this is pretty impressive.*

Article written by Senator Barnaby Joyce published in the Canberra Times.

Deep links in Anzac sacrifice and valour.

On August 9, 1916, a boy from Condongblonga Station, near the town of Adelong, 100km as the crow flies from Canberra, walked into an office, told people he was 21 when he was actually 16, and got himself enlisted. His regimental number was 1637 in the Australian Flying Corps.

He made the mistake of refusing to salute a British officer and, for his efforts, his leave was cancelled and he was sent to the Western Front. His role during World War I would be a radio operator. The conditions were terrible. He would complain that his radio aerial was continually shot down. In the miserable mud and cold, he ended up getting double pneumonia and was in a very bad way.

Fortunately a nurse took him into her direct care and nursed him back to health. He was medically discharged on the July 27, 1919, and returned to Australia on a hospital ship. His record was not exemplary beyond his peers, but it was exemplary that a person would take themselves completely out of their comfort zone in country NSW.

Was it for adventure or was it for patriotism? Only he could answer that question. Later on, the memories of the Western Front would bring recurring nightmares and remained a traumatic experience for life.

In a small coastal village south of Christchurch, a young man, the youngest of seven children, decided to pursue a career in the army at the age of 19. He enlisted just before World War I. As a bombardier in the first New Zealand expeditionary force he was sent to Gallipoli on April 25, 1915; service number 2-512. On the May 17, 1915, he was promoted to sergeant. He arrived at Gallipoli on the first day. He stayed there throughout the

campaign except for a brief period when he was evacuated and hospitalised.

On October 21, 1915, he was appointed Battery Sergeant Major. He left Gallipoli on the last day. On April 7, 1916, he embarked to France for the Western Front. Some of the horrors from this time stayed with him for the rest of his life. An example was the killing of all the men around him and his survival due to being mounted on a somewhat blind, but what he considered a lucky horse.

As a Sergeant he was awarded a Distinguished Conduct Medal for bravery under fire, at Messines Ridge and Bapaume. He was highly respected by his men as a person of immense character. After World War I, he stayed in the army, becoming a Regimental Sergeant Major.

On my wall at home, I have a photo of him sitting beside the Prince of Wales, later King Edward VIII, with his bodyguard standing behind and a British officer sitting to the right of the prince. In World War II he was still in the army and had progressed to be the Commander of the Royal Artillery for the New Zealand 3rd Division engaging the Japanese in the Pacific. He set up the gun emplacements around the city of Noumea in New Caledonia. He ended up serving in the army for 36 years and 233 days. In World War I, he served four years and 250 days and, in World War II, he served one year and 261 days.

These people mentioned were my two grandfathers. My father also enlisted in the army, ending up as a Lance Bombardier. Unfortunately, or fortunately for me, his service came to an end when an antiaircraft gun, which was being loaded, swung out and smashed his legs. My grandmother, who was English, had either six or seven brothers; we were never quite sure how many. What we do know is they were all killed in war.

Every family has its connection to Anzac Day. The longer our nation prevails the more there are descendants of those who have given military service to protect our nation.

Anzac Day is enmeshed in the finest thread of our nations' tapestry. Everybody on Anzac Day feels a connection to the fact that, if it wasn't for them, we wouldn't be here. That is why we remember them.

A patriotic Christmas. In Britain they make a big thing each year of which single will be top of the charts come Christmas Day, and this year the bookmakers have even stopped betting on the result. The Military Wives are the clear cut favourites ...



<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HFqgLCjvrTA>

The official charts company reports the choir's Wherever You Are is the fastest selling single in six years. The lyrics were taken from love poems, which were written between the women and their absent husbands. Royal wedding composer Paul Mealer wrote the music.

ROYAL AUSTRALIAN ARTILLERY ASSOCIATION (NT)
INC/DARWIN MILITARY MUSEUM

Greetings from RAAANT/DMM.

When using the new link, you can go to the Military Museum site by clicking the link on the left hand side of the page.

NEW WEB-SITE – DEFENCE OF DARWIN EXPERIENCE/DARWIN MILITARY MUSEUM

Please amend your bookmarks file from:
www.darwinmilitarymuseum.com.au
TO <http://www.defenceofdarwin.nt.gov.au/>.

Captain John R Johnston RFD ED (Retd)
National Liaison Officer RAAANT/Executive
Committee Member

E-mail: jrj5076@bigpond.net.au

Postal: PO Box 12757 George Street Q 4003

Telephone: 0419 836 669

**Parade Card
as at 29 February 2012**

January 2013	June 2012	October 2012
23. Cascabel Issue 114 posted	13. Reservist Luncheon	5. Gunner Dinner
26. Australia day Salute	19. Committee Meeting	10. Cascabel Issue 113 Posted
		16. Committee Meeting
February 2013	July 2012	
19. Committee Meeting	1. Reserve Forces Day March	November 2012
	10. Cascabel Issue 112 posted	1. Annual General Meeting
March 2012	17. Committee Meeting	2. Golf Day
13. RAA Luncheon		20. Committee Meeting
21. Committee Meeting	August 2012	
	19. Church Parade. Healing the Wounds of War	December 2012
April 2012	21. Committee Meeting	2. Annual Church Parade
10. Cascabel Issue 111 posted		2. 2/10 St Barbara's Day Parade and Family Day
14. Visit to 2/10 in field	September 2012	4. St Barbara's Day
17. Committee Meeting	14. Pipe Clay Dinner Dance	11. Committee Meeting
25. Anzac day	18. Committee Meeting	
May 2012		
17. Committee Meeting		

Change of Personal Details

Rank	Surname and Post Nominals	DoB
Address		
Telephone Mobile Email		
Additional Information		