

CASCABEL

Journal of the
ROYAL AUSTRALIAN ARTILLERY ASSOCIATION
(VICTORIA) INCORPORATED
ABN 22 850 898 908



ISSUE 112

**Published Quarterly in
Victoria Australia**

JULY 2012



ROOF TOP EVACUATION IN MOUNTAINOUS AFGHANISTAN

FLYING AT ITS' VERY BEST

Article	Pages
Cascabel General Information	3
Assn Contacts, Conditions & Copyright	4
The President Writes	5
Membership Report	5
From The Colonel Commandant	6
CO 2/10 Fd Regt	7
Editor's Indulgence	9
Loyal Message	10
Dr. Heather Schnagl	11
2012 All Ranks Gunner Dinner	12
Origins of the Tank Pt 5	13
Improved, lighter version of the F88 Austeyr	16
"The Last Vietnam Victim"	17
Advertisement in Vetaffairs	18
70th Anniversary Battle of the Coral Sea	19
Mounting a defence of our armed forces	20
"Where were you on 18 Aug. 1966"	21
84 yr old former WW11 sniper	23
Russian Navy's Zubr Class hovercraft	24
Microwave Radar	25
Canadian officers tour Australian bases	26
The Potshot (Exmouth) Secret Base	27
Australian war heroes ripped off	31
Part 2 of the diary of Lt. Keith Batiste	32
Royal Australian Navy members to guard Queen's Pageant	36
Moving the Guns History Project	37
Proposal to Award VC to Unknown Soldier	38
"Red team study"	40
This is Runway Able	41
What is a bastard?	44
Re-raising Coral Bty	45
Rehab to Race Walking Champion	46
A bunch of Neville Nobody Bureaucrats	47
38 M2A2 Howitzer Guns to be preserved	48
Annual General Meeting	49
Healing the Wounds of war	50
Parade Card/Changing your address? See cut-out proforma	51

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

CASCABEL

FORMER PATRONS, PRESIDENTS AND HISTORY



FOUNDED:

First AGM April 1978
First Cascabel July 1983

COL COMMANDANT: BRIG N Graham AM

PATRONS and VICE PATRONS: 1978

Patron: LT GEN The Hon Sir Edmund Herring
KCMG, KBE, DSO, MC, ED

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

1982

Patron: BRIG Sir William Hall KBE, DSO, ED

Vice Patron: MAJ GEN N. A. Vickery CBE,
MC, ED

1999

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

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

2008

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

Vice Patron:

PRESIDENTS:

1978 MAJ GEN N. A. Vickery CBE, MC, ED

1979 MAJ GEN J. M. McNeill OA, OBE, ED

1981 COL A. (Sandy) Mair ED

1984 MAJ P. S. (Norman) Whitelaw ED

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

1991 MAJ M. Taggart RFD, ED

2004 MAJ N Hamer RFD

JOURNAL NAME:

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

CASCABLE - English spelling.

ARTILLERY USE:

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

[Ref: "Text Book on Fortification Etc", Royal Military College, Sandhurst, by COL G. Philips, RE, 4th Ed, Ch-1, P9, para 28, 1884].

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

CASCABEL HISTORY:

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

ASSOC LOGO:

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

LAPEL BADGE:

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

RAA Association (VIC) Inc Committee

President:	MAJ Neil Hamer RFD 9702 2100
Vice President:	Lt Col. Jason Cooke 9705 1155
Immediate Past President:	MAJ Merv Taggart RFD, ED 9773 3730
Secretary:	Mrs Rachel Decker 9578 5205
Assistant Secretary:	MAJ Robin Smith RFD 9435 6352
Treasurer:	SSGT Reg Morrell 9562 9552
Curator:	SSGT Brian Cleeman 9560 7116
Webmaster:	Maj Carl Sarelius
Members:	CAPT. Peter Wertheimer OAM, RFD WO2 Lionel Foster SSGT Ernie Paddon
Cascabel Editor:	WO2 Alan Halbish 9587 1676
Representatives:	Maj Garry Rolfe 2 nd /10 th Fd Regt RAA WO2 Lionel Foster (10 Mdm Regt Assn)
Honorary Auditor:	Major David J Osborne Shepard Webster & O'Neill Pty Ltd

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

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

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

Submissions for the **October 2012** issue are required no later than **24 August 2012** unless otherwise arranged with the Editor.

COPYRIGHT (C) RAA Association (Vic) Inc -2000 ALL RIGHTS RESERVED ISSN 1322-6282 MEMBERS & KINDRED ORGANISATIONS ADF & ACCREDITED RESEARCH:

Only Members, Kindred Organisations, ADF and accredited researchers, may copy without prior approval, ORIGINAL articles or items of interest, within this Journal, if the source and author are acknowledged. Based on goodwill.

Where the word "Copyright" or "(C)" appear with an article or where the material has been reproduced from a designated source, permission to copy should be sought from the Author or Source given.

COMMERCIAL USE/PRODUCTS & BOOKS

Apart from members/kindred organisations/ ADF and accredited research, no part of CASCABEL is to be reproduced or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic or mechanical, including photocopying or recording by any storage or retrieval system without written permission from the RAA Assn (Vic) Inc, the authors or the referenced source. Reproduction in any manner in whole or part in English or any other language is prohibited.



The President Writes

The Association Committee recently agreed that we should take out life membership as Friends of the Shrine. This was done at a cost of \$1500. The benefits to the Association, and to the Shrine, should appear in the next issue of Cascabel.

Some time ago we had some Name Badges made for some of the members. The badges look something like this:

If you are interested in purchasing a name badge, please let me know. The cost should be about \$25, but will depend upon the number required.



The Gunner Dinner will be held on the 5th October this year at the Elwood RSL. More information is on the flyer in this magazine. To ensure that we can continue to run this important traditional function, please make every endeavour to attend.

We are still trying to organise a visit to 2/10 in the field. We should be successful later in the year.

The ANZAC Day Dawn Service held at Sargood Barracks was well attended. The wet weather meant that it was held in the drill hall. We are very lucky to have this "plan B" alternative.

The future of 2/10 as a regiment is still to be finalised, but LtCol Jason Cooke may have more to say about this. My personal opinion, and I stress "my opinion" is that the whole concept for the reserve forces in Australia is poorly conceived and being badly executed.

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

Neil Hamer

MAJ (Retd)

Membership Report

Current Membership as at 20 Jun 12

Life Members	199	(194)
Annual Members	44	(44)
Senior Annual Members	13	(12)
Affiliates	31	(31)
Others (CO/CI, Messes, etc.)	10	(12)
Libraries	5	(5)
RSL's	4	(4)
Total	306	(302)

New Members

We welcome Lt Sandra Keating (Hodgson), Sgt M Dixon, Sgt J Pereira, LBdr P Shattock and LBdr L Baker as Life Members; and Mr J Hoehn as an Annual Member.

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

If you have not already done so, it would be appreciated if you would provide the information requested so that our files can be kept up to date. This proforma should also be used to notify us of any changes in the future.

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

From the Colonel Commandant



It is good to see the efforts of Victorian Gunners being recognised in the Queen's Birthday Honours. Congratulations to the following:

- Brigadier Mike Phelps, AM. Member of the Order of Australia. For exceptional service in procurement and maintenance of Army equipment. He is currently the Program Manager for MyDefenceGear, and is also the Director General Integrated Soldier Systems. In other words, he is responsible for most of what soldiers wear and carry.
- Brigadier Nic Jans, OAM (Retired). Medal of the Order of Australia. For service to the community of Marysville, particularly in the aftermath of the 2009 Victorian bushfires.
- Lieutenant Colonel Shane Harding, CSC. Conspicuous Service Cross. For leading the team which undertook the rapid procurement of the Counter Rocket, Artillery and Mortar system, which is already in operation in Afghanistan.
- Lieutenant Colonel Ian Douglas George, OAM RFD ED (Retired). Medal of the Order of Australia. For service to veterans through the Defence Reserves Association, and to the community.

Well done to all of you.

In June I attended the Artillery Regimental Conference at the School of Artillery at Puckapunyal. Among the many topics of discussion was the future of the Army Artillery Museum.

Many of you will be familiar with the Museum, which used to be at North Head in Sydney. Because the Army vacated North Head, the Museum has had to move and it is planned to be located at Puckapunyal, together with the Tank Museum. This requires the construction of a new building, which was to be available at the end of this year. Unfortunately, we have just been advised that the Government financial cuts may result in a 10 year delay in providing the building. In the meantime, the collection is in storage in Bandiana.

The Artillery Regimental Committee is looking at options for trying to bring the date for the operation of the Museum forward. This is important as the collection is a significant part of our Artillery heritage. I hope to have better news for you next time.

Finally, I would like to encourage you all to attend the Gunner Dinner in October. It is the major activity conducted by the Artillery Association each year. This is a great opportunity for all Gunners to get together and is also very much enjoyed by those partners who attend.

Best wishes

Brig Neil Graham, AM

Colonel Commandant, Southern Region

Royal Regiment of Australian Artillery.



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



To all Gunners

Everyone I speak with, soldiers, officers and work colleges tell me that 2012 is travelling at a frenetic pace, so I will refrain from stating the obvious and simply inform you that the Regt is no different. Since my last report 2/10 has conducted dry and live field exercises, participated in the 4 BDE Victorian Shield (small arms competition), been actively involved in several RAA courses across the Division (including the concentrated combined courses converting the two QLD Independent Btys 13 and 41), conducted the 4 BDE Military Skills Trophy (ex CAMBRIAN PATROL), held a very successful ANZAC DAY parade at RHQ, and continued to develop training packages including being responsible for several trade related workshops. Let's also not forget the number of significant audits conducted by AHQ Staff throughout the BDE related to security, technical integrity and safety.

Got to tell you that is a heck of a workload and without the leadership, professionalism and commitment from the soldiers and officers throughout the Regt, none of this could have occurred nor the high results achieved. Of special note I would like to acknowledge the efforts my regular staff that have just taken this on the chin and run with it. The majority of them have not seen their families over a number of continuous weekends since March. It has been an intensive 3 months. Outstanding effort, so personally – many thanks to all.

Sadly, WO2 Adrian Jensen will depart 2/10 earlier than anticipated as he has been posted to 8/12 Regiment as at 1 July 12 to meet urgent requirements. I say sadly but I know he is extremely excited about the posting. It is sad for 2/10 as he has made a huge impact upon 22 Fd Bty and the Regt so he will be sadly missed. On behalf of all the members of 2/10, we wish

Adrian and his family all the best and would welcome him back whenever in Melbourne. From myself, many thanks for all of your tireless work, dedication and willingness to impart your knowledge across the members of the Regt. Thank you and good luck on your new posting.

The most single significant event that has occurred in this reporting period not mentioned yet, is the 2nd Division Unit Establishment Review (UER) with Army Headquarters. As a result of the announcement of Plan BEERSHEBA and the new role the Reserves have in this rebalanced Defence Force, the 2nd Division is undergoing a series of UER across every corps and unit. I spoke a little of this future in my last report with the planning currently underway between the 4th and 9th Brigades on a combined activity occurring in 2014. The end result will see a 4th / 9th BDE Battle Group exercising within and along side 1 BDE units throughout their cycle of deployment preparation and training.

This is a significant shift by the Australian Government in asking our Reserve Force to deliver capability in the overall defence of Australia, from our previous role as an expansion base for the regular defence force. If you do not know and or wish to know more about this, please come to the RAA Association of Victoria Annual General Meeting in Nov where I will present more on this topic. As gunners, or ex CMF or ex Army Reserve, you need to know what the Australian Government is asking of your part time defence force. I cannot stress enough the importance of your involvement in understanding this new future. For the gunners within the 2nd Division it is significant. I have already spoken and informed the members of the Regt that 2/10 will be reduced to a single battery, under command one of the Infantry Battalions, most likely 5/6 RVR. The detail,

structure, timeframe and transition plan etc are still be finalised and formulated so come along and get involved – I can do with your input.

In light of the new role, the momentum to convert all 2nd Division Artillery units to mortars has really intensified. 13 Fd Bty and 41 Fd Bty have just completed their initial conversion period and will now formally become under command 2nd Division in July. 2/10 has designed, constructed and will deliver the first SMIG conversion training course in July. This will ensure that upon posting any new SMIGs into the 2nd Division can undergo a conversion course on mortars increasing their ability to fulfil their essential role as senior instructors and masters of gunnery. It is also confirmed that 23 Fd Regt and 7 Fd Regt in NSW, will undergo their initial conversion period in Oct this year.

Not to labour the point, but without the enormous amount of staff work and direct involvement in the delivery of mortar courses 2/10 has had over the past three years, the ability of the 2nd Division to convert over 300 soldiers in a single year could not occur. Again I will sing the praises and publicly acknowledge the immense proud respect I have for the soldiers and officers within the Regt for their professionalism, dedication, passion and endeavour. Outstanding.

Finally 2/10 has been given the opportunity to deploy as a force on the next rotation on OP ANODE. 4 BDE has the responsibility for potentially the last deployment early next year so whilst we are heavily involved with the conversion courses, we need to simultaneously deliver a Platoon for certification in November this year. This is an excellent opportunity and I think reward on effort, but it is also recognition of the ability of our soldiers, one which I know they are keen to illustrate.

If you missed attending the last “professional development” session, please come and join us at the 2/10 Officer Mess, Chapel Street East St Kilda on the 20th July. The theme of this session is “AFATDS”¹. If you do not know what this acronym is – then YOU NEED to attend. I have organised experts from the School Of Artillery to

bring along and discuss this vital and integral system shaping our language and delivery of lethal effects on the battlefield. Again I can only stress the wonderful opportunity this is to see first hand, discuss amongst fellow gunners and really understand the new technology being introduced into our Corps right now. This will be another great night so come along – you are all invited.

As usual I will conclude with 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.

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 remainder of 2012 and hope to see you at as many functions as possible.

Ubique

Jason Cooke

Lieutenant Colonel

Commanding Officer

2nd/10th Field Regiment

¹ AFATDS = Advanced Field Artillery Data System. It is the brains behind the management and co-ordination of all indirect fires on the battlefield, greatly reducing the time from sensor to splash.



This link will take you to the latest bomb technology in the US. Other presentations are available, but this link is the most informative.

<http://youtu.be/PXGdIFtGifY>

EDITORS INDULGENCE

Unfortunately I must begin with an apology. An apology is necessary as I failed to check the veracity of an article in the previous (111) journal. It was about the supposed origins of the term "*freeze the balls off a brass monkey*". The article was crap and had been proven so by a previous article written by our Guru, SSgt Barry Irons. **See p25 in Cascabel Journal 87, dated April '06.**



I suggest all readers who need to refresh their memory visit our website where you will find a link to the relevant pdf. If any further proof is needed, have a look at the following site:
<http://www.snopes.com/language/stories/brass.asp>

Received the following in an email:

Alan trust this finds you well. Have spent the last 3 hours reading past issues of Cascabel on the net. Absolutely brilliant brought back lots of fond memories and sadness to read about the passing of mates. Each time I take 4 hours to reverse a trailer at the tip I remember your screaming at me about my reversing skills with H1. Yes I know I should have stuck to sharpening my china graph pencils in the command post. Please pass on my best regards to all of the guys who would know me. Kind regards, John Pereira aka "darkie"

Thank you for the contact "Darkie". I'm sure many of your mates will read this. If any of you wish to say hello to John, send him a message via jper3558@bigpond.net.au John is now a life member of our Association.

Did you know? Some 10,000 Australians airmen served with the Royal Air Force's Bomber Command during the Second World War. Of these almost 3500 were killed in action and some 650 died in training accidents in the United Kingdom – making the bombing campaign against Germany and Italy Australia's costliest campaign of the Second World War.

Barbara and I were in Southern Queensland and Northern NSW recently and were fortunate to catch up with three "not seen for years" old mates. They were (L - R) SSgt Mike Prowse, ex 15 and 2/15 Fd Regt's, WO2 David Troedel, ex 101 Bty, 132 Div Loc and OCTU, WO2 Jock McDonald, ex 132 Div Loc. Also in the photo is yours truly and Sgt John Decker, ex 2 and 2/15 Fd Regt's and ARES Recruiting. Had lunch and a few beers with them at Jupitor's Casino in Broadbeach.



Some more links you may like to view. Enjoy.

Prototype Quadrotor with Machine Gun!

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SNPJMk2fgJU>

If it plays, put up with the advert at the start, then watch what true mates do.

<http://www.9news.com/video/1298199044001/1/Delivering-one-last-gift>



AUSTRALIAN ARMY
Head of Regiment
Royal Regiment of Australian Artillery
Bridges Barracks, PUCKAPUNYAL VIC 3662, AUSTRALIA

I3259679

The Private Secretary to Her Majesty The Queen
BUCKINGHAM PALACE

Dear Sir,

I request that you submit for Her Majesty's consideration the following loyal message from the Royal Regiment of Australian Artillery:

The Colonels Commandant, the Head of Regiment, and all Ranks of the Royal Regiment of Australian Artillery convey to Her Majesty, our Captain General, their respect and loyalty on the occasion of Royal Australian Artillery Day, 1st of August 2012, commemorating 141 years of dedicated service to Australia.

We extend our congratulations, to Her Majesty on the occasion of her Diamond Jubilee and we express our appreciation for the enduring leadership and dedication to the service of the people of the Commonwealth shown by Her Majesty.

Whilst our close involvement with the Royal Artillery in Afghanistan has ceased, Australian Gunners remain involved in operations and training across a range of areas. The danger that our Gunners share in pursuit of success was sadly brought home again to us late last year when Captain Bryce Duffy a member of our 4th Regiment, RAA was killed in Uruzgan Province.

This year our thoughts are with our gunners and their families who continue to prepare for and support several operational theatres.

Ubique

Yours faithfully,

T.R. FORD, AO
Major General (Retired)
Representative Colonel Commandant
Royal Regiment of Australian Artillery

Tel: +61 3 5735 6465
E-mail: greg.metcalf@defence.gov.au

June 2012

Occasional Address

Courtesy Barrage April 2012

Dr. Heather Schnagl, who is the daughter of 2/4th's VX16786 Ronald (Ron) Syme (shown below), gave a very interesting Address at the 2011 Tree Ceremony - we include here an edited version:

"It's a great honour to be asked to talk here today. I feel that I literally grew up as part of the 2/4th Field Regiment - it was the unit that a number of my family members belonged to...



My father, Ron (Ronald York Syme VX16786) as well as his brother-in law, Vasey Houghton (VX 15739) and, as I discovered recently, Dad's first cousin, Alfred Mellor (VX69859) were all members of the 2/4th

This Sunday, what our family colloquially called the tree ceremony, or more correctly the anniversary of the unit's embarkation to the Middle East in October 1940, was observed almost religiously as I was growing up. Nothing was allowed to prevent the entire family attending. Even when I moved out of home, I was given strict instructions to attend until Ron was no longer well enough to attend. Hence it is a real privilege for me to be asked to speak with you today - and I do so as someone who has worked with young people for more than 25 years as an educator.

To me it is important to help young people learn to honour the service of those who have fought for their country. There is a real challenge to pitch this appropriately. My goal is to help our young people learn about your service and the service of others, the pivotal events which have played such a big part in shaping our nation's history, but also to understand some of the reality of war, the suffering including that of those left behind but definitely not to glorify war...

So what works well in helping them understand? Each year we have deliberately tried to take a different perspective but always done so for Anzac Day within the full formal service, with all the traditional components including the Ode, Requiem, Last Post and Reveille...

The importance of the key events of both WWI and WWII, in our nation's history cannot be underestimated. Whilst it is vital that every young Australian knows the story of the Gallipoli campaign,

and especially the impact of the massive toll on a small fledgling country, it is actually the stories of the individual men and women that mean more to students. By reading the diaries of the young men, including their letters home to loved ones, that our young people get a sense of the awfulness of the conditions, how hard the fighting was...

Our school has also been privileged to welcome some great speakers, many of whom have shared some small parts of their story, but as you know most returned service men have found it extremely difficult to share their stories with anyone other than their unit mates...

I never managed to get Dad to speak - other than some hilarious and grossly inappropriate stories he told me, including how to swear in Arabic, he never talked about the serious business of the war. His brother, Ken Syme (HMAS Warramunga) came and spoke about the day Sydney Harbour was attacked by the Japanese and the eventual liberation of the Philippines and the dropping of the atomic bomb on Hiroshima - something he believed was fully justified by the lives it saved. Talk about stirring up some controversy!

My aunt Dame Beryl Beaurepaire, who was the Chair of the Australian War Memorial, who spoke at the Unit's 60th Anniversary Dinner in 2000, has also spoken to our girls about her challenges being a female in the WAAF, her fight to become an officer and especially her desire to see active service and how she did eventually achieve this...

I would like to conclude today by thanking all the members of the 2/4th Field Regiment, including those no longer with us for their service and for sharing the ideals for which they fought - our young people are so proud of what you did for them and they will ensure that your sacrifice and courage will always be remembered and your spirit will live on **"Lest we forget"**.



Royal Australian Artillery Association (Victoria)

INVITATION

Gunner Dinner 2012

The President and Committee of the RAA Association (Vic) extend to you, your partners and guests a warm invitation to attend the 2012 All Ranks Gunner Dinner.

The Dinner will be held at the Elwood RSL, 2 Pine Avenue, Elwood
on Friday 5th October, 2012 at 1900 for 1930 hrs.

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

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

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

After dinner drinks will be available at bar prices.

Please return the form below, together with a cheque made payable to the RAA Association (Vic) not later than Wednesday 28th September, 2012.

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

Any member who requires assistance with transport should contact Lt Col Jason Cooke on
Home: 03 9705 1155. Work: 03 9282 6900. e-mail: jason.cooke@defence.gov.au

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

Enquires and return address: Ssgt Reg Morrell 6 Melissa Street Mount Waverley 3149,
Phone: 9562 9552 Email: morrells@morrell.org



GUNNER DINNER 2012

Rank _____ Name _____

Address _____

I accept your invitation to attend the 2012 Gunner Dinner. _____

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

Rank _____ Name _____

Rank _____ Name _____

Special dietary requirements _____

If possible I wish to seated near _____

Origins of the Tank Part 5

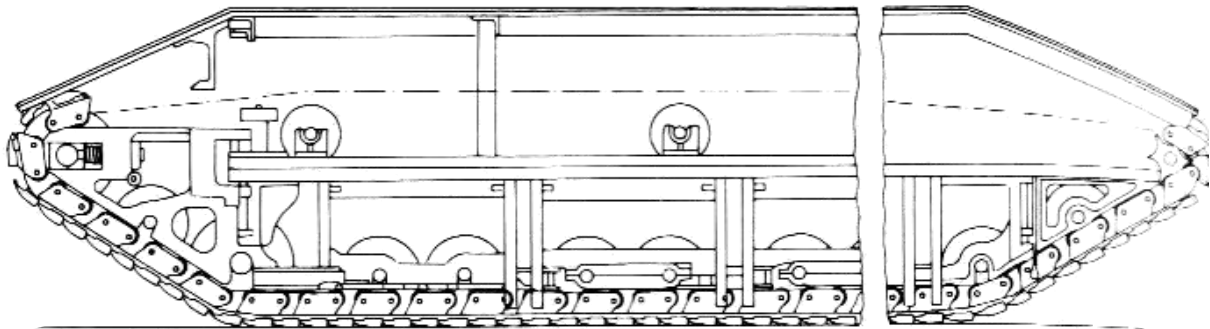
A Forgotten Australian Connection.

In 1912, a South Australian, Lancelot De Mole, submitted a proposal to the British War Office for a "chain-rail" vehicle which could be easily steered and carry heavy loads over rough ground and trenches". De Mole made several more proposals to the War Office after 1912, in 1914 and 1916, with a culminating proposal in late 1917, accompanied by a huge one-eighth scale model, yet all fell on substantially deaf ears.

According to the online edition of the Australian

cover his expenses. As an aside, De Mole noted in 1919 that he was urged by friends before the war to approach the Germans with his design, but declined to do so for patriotic reasons.

This is an interesting, if not brilliant concept for its time that would not look out of place some twenty years later, or even now. In particular look at the track design, a bit bicycle "chainish" and the careful design of the guide rails for the idler wheels, but it still looks good. However, it is difficult to envisage the design of the engine and transmission layout and final drives in the drawing and model shown. But let's not assume



The tracked fighting vehicle proposed in 1912 by Australian engineer L. E. de Mole. It was one of the earliest practical designs offered to the British War Office. The idea was rejected.

Dictionary of Biography, de Mole's idea was rejected by the British War Office which held on to some of the paper he submitted. In 1915 he resubmitted his designs but was told they required a working model before it could be considered.

But before he could build and transport the model, a British Army engineer, Lt-Col Ernest Swinton, had his design adopted and Lieutenant W. G. Wilson and William Tritton were commissioned to produce a so-called landship.

De Mole's proposal already had the climbing face, so typical of the later World War I British tanks, but it is unknown whether there was some connection. Inquiries from the government of Australia, after the war, yielded polite responses that Mr. De Mole's ideas had unfortunately been too advanced for the time to be properly recognised at their just value.

The Commission on Awards to Inventors in 1919, which adjudicated all the competing claims to the development of the tank, recognised the brilliance of De Mole's design, even considering that it was superior to the machines actually developed, but due to its narrow remit, could only make a payment of £987 to De Mole to

the armchair critic mode, as this was conceived almost a century ago. And here. Another case of what could have been.

Reflections

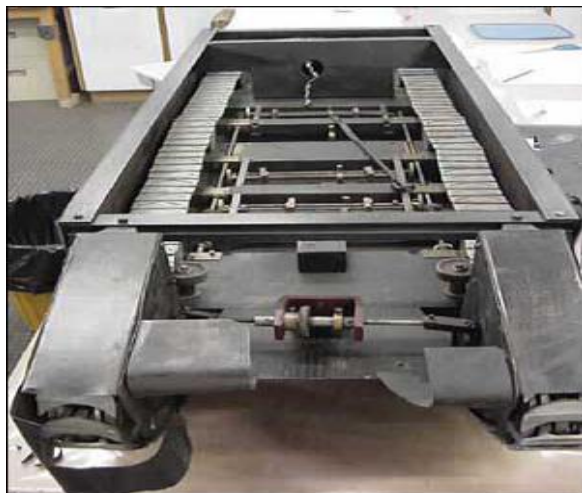
Looking back at those turbulent times, it is all too easy to say that it should have been done differently. And in hindsight, it should have. But, who at the time knew any better. If ever there was a project that started from absolute scratch, with no associated reference material to work from, or be guided by, you tell us in that time frame of the "Great War" Clues were certainly in the early manuscripts of the ancients and Leonardo's, Yes, the idea had been kicked around as they say, but as yet no one had actually done it, as far as we know.

Many times you hear so called "educated" persons say that they (designers) got the placement of the guns wrong. That is, in what is called the "sponson" mounts on the side, and in the middle. Some thinking they were placed there just for "balance"¹ The designers did not get it wrong. They were specifically placed there for a reason, and a damned good one.?

¹This does have some merit – refer earlier

The Tank was designed for one reason, and one only, and that was to cross the trenches and advance towards the enemy with protection. When crossing the trenches, it was envisaged that while crossing, the main armaments could, and did, fire into the trenches to “neutralize” the enemy. Neither feasible nor practical with forward mounting weapons that is considered the norm today.

Some Pictures of the Design Model



With all this you have to remember one other important factor at the time, manufacturing. Technology had to wait for a few years to catch up with what was required, in particular the armour, engine and drive trains, track design, and not forgetting that quaint invention of one Guglielmo Marconi.

Wireless discipline and control became vital to the tank elements, as proven in the Second War, then and now, to deploy a cohesive and planned attack or defense. Deploying an effective artillery fire support plan would be just about unmanageable, without the wireless as we have it today.

Again, we have to sometimes wait for the

technology to catch up, along with the now incredible increase (and reliance?) in the advancement of electronics on the battle field.

It has been mentioned before in a few places, that the advantage was not exploited to its fullest when the tanks did break through. That they achieved the element of surprise is not in doubt. You only have to read the various accounts of the day, of the surprise, disbelief, fear and uncertainty these lumbering monoliths appearing on the battle field were able to cause.

The lack of follow up support was due to many reasons. One of the first is that the allied troops themselves were just as surprised as the enemy. It was here that the secrecy surrounding the manufacturing and eventual supply to the front, may be hailed as a triumph, but in most cases it sadly backfired.

In this there was no training or briefing to the troops in what to do. Indeed the very shock troops of the day, and had been for centuries, the cavalry, also had no real understanding of what role they were to take. As always, the cavalry was held to the rear, and only went to action when the opportunity presented its self.

And when it did, by the time someone wise (or brave) enough to take the initiative, it was always too late. Another reason not fully covered, was the lack of communications of the day. Radio was still in its infancy. By the time the regimental and company runners were dispatched with orders, even if understood, uncertainly caused further delays and follow up actions. After two years of stalemate, rapid advance through the enemy positions was looked upon with great misgivings and suspicion.

Also, a lot of commanders were not convinced of the value of these “new-fangled things” on the battle field. In one case, a commander refused to have anything to do with them, for in his own words, “I don’t want them. They only attract extra artillery fire on my command when they appear” and so it went on.

When the end of the “War to end all Wars” mercifully came on that fateful day of 11th November 1918, the issue of the tank in most military planners was in doubt. Sporadic and the occasional bursts of enthusiasm in some quarters kept the tank ideals alive.

It was not until 1st September 1939, that a new word, "Blitzkrieg" (Lighting War) was to be forever written into the language of war. And with that, all future military and logistic planning was to change because of it.

Furthermore, the major unit of the implementation of those actions was, The Tank. Overlooked and even ignored by some, it came back with a vengeance, in the hands of resolute and determined crews; it was truly able to change forever the face of war.

Today

Little Willie was preserved for posterity after the war, saved from being scrapped in 1940 and is today displayed at the Bovington Tank Museum in the UK. It is basically an empty hull now, without engine, but with some internal fittings.



Little Willie Today



Mark IV tank in the Museum at Lincoln (a "Water carrier for Mesopotamia") (Rear View). *Note side hatch below the elevated sponson mounting*

Other examples survive, either in the various UK museums, or along the area of the "Western

Front" between France and Belgium, most in private museums. Here, one example of a World War I "Female" tank, in just about mint condition, is at the Trelor annex of the Australian War Museum in Canberra. Not many are aware of this place and the treasures it contains. Well worth a visit by itself.

Conclusion.

That the tank has moved on to gain its own niche in any military formation, in some circles of thought may be a given. The variants are as varied in design and applications as is the manufactures themselves. There is little doubt that progress or evolution of the tank will continue, as more and more refinements are tried, discarded or tried anew.

After nearly a hundred years since it appeared on the scene, still some military planners and theorists debate about its present value. And now the catchword is value, a modern tank can be upwards to a million dollars each? A big slice of the military budget pie in any language. But the question remains, who would dare to be without them, or some variant of armour in the order of battle.

As to what makes the "perfect" tank, and what it is, that will be left to you to consider and debate. But be prepared for a prolonged discussion, as the tank is truly a vehicle of trade off to design and performance, endurance and reliability.

Barry Irons Armourer Artificer[®] OUT



"Lest We Forget"

References: As previously published.

Thank you Barry. Another brilliant series concludes. Look for Barry's next series on "The Gun Tractor". Ed

New Austeyr in development will be lighter and offer more options for integrating ancillary equipment

Sgt Andrew Hetherington

BY LATE 2014, soldiers should be carrying an improved, lighter version of the F88 Austeyr.

The Contract for Project Land 125 3C Enhanced F88 was signed with Thales Australia on December 8 last year to improve the overall capabilities of the weapon.

Project director Maj Simon Johns said the project's key purpose was to enhance what was already a very capable weapon in a number of areas.

"The weight-saving target for the project is ambitious but Thales Australia intend to shave up to 500 grams off the weight of the current F88 - a significant amount of weight to lose off an assault rifle," Maj Johns said.

They will achieve this by redesigning the barrel and the receiver group.

"When these improvements are implemented they will lighten the soldier's burden and allow him or her to engage targets with greater speed and improved consistency."



Another key advantage will be to make the new Austeyr compatible with coalition partners' and allies' ammunition. This will provide access to munitions with improved terminal effects without sacrificing the Austeyr's renowned reputation for reliability.

Soldiers and the Defence Science and Technology Organisation (DSTO) have played an important role in the project.

"Thales Australia is focusing on meeting a demanding user requirement by addressing the human factors and design elements associated with the weapon through a reduction in weight and improvements to its balance," Maj Johns said.

"A new grenade launcher made by Madritsch will be carefully integrated with the rifle and provide better balance and access to improved munitions currently incompatible with the in-service M203 launcher.

"The provision of three Picatinny rails will allow the operator to attach other ancillary items to the weapon. Items could include a range of optical sights, bipod legs, torches or laser aimers and pointers."

The extended Picatinny top rail will allow users to easily adjust sights to suit individual eye relief and also allow more than one sight to be mounted on top of the weapon.

The DSTO Human Factors team at Puckapunyal assessed the initial design during December, using the experience of 10 soldiers about to deploy to East Timor with Timor-Leste Task Group 4.

The trial troops were selected to provide a spread of dimensions and to incorporate left and right-hand preferences.

"They were encouraged to use the weapon in a manner natural to them and to provide their feedback on what they thought of it," Maj Johns said.

From the feedback, Thales Australia made modifications to the weapon's pistol grip and refined previous modifications.

Since the December trials, Thales Australia has also completed several additional design reviews and is producing more trial weapons to undergo continued user testing during April and May.

Courtesy Army News

This article courtesy of **THE EYES and EARS**, the Official newsletter of the **131 Locators Association Inc**



Ian Finlay sent the link to this story "The last Vietnam victim" by: Terry Brown From: Herald Sun October 31, 2011.



"MICK Berrigan went to war in 1967 - a bright spark who loved a drink and the girls. The shell of a man who came back injured never recovered from his private hell.

PRIVATE Mick Berrigan died from combat injuries last Sunday and was buried on Thursday.

There weren't any politicians there, or news cameras, because death didn't come swiftly.

It ate at him for 44 years, tore at his body and soul and drove his parents, Rosemary and Gerald, to an early grave.

The artillery shell shrapnel that hit him, so-called friendly fire, took the best part of his life in Vietnam, and then took its time with the rest.

When soldiers die on the battlefield, they are said to have made the ultimate sacrifice. To live on in pain, anger and confusion as a brain injury progressively destroys you and everybody you love, is worse than that.

Comrades count Mick as an Australian combat casualty of the Vietnam War, as much as any of the official 500 fallen. They think, dead at 66, he may be the last.

"We commemorate the dead but we forget about the wounded," unofficial 7th Battalion historian Mike O'Brien says bitterly.

And Mick's younger brother Chris, who has spent most of his life watching his brother's cruel decline, says there are worse things than a battlefield death.

"If you're killed outright, there's traumatic suffering and terrible sadness. But the terrible sadness goes away eventually, doesn't it?" Chris says. "I think this was worse than what they usually call the ultimate sacrifice."

In 1967, while the rest of the world embraced flower power and the Beatles sang that love was all you need, Mick Berrigan, the fourth of eight kids, went to war.

He was smart, with a year of Melbourne University law under his belt, and headstrong. He liked a beer a little too much, liked to chase girls at South Side Six in Moorabbin, and took a gap year from uni to build a bankroll for the rest of his course.

When the call-up came for national service, Mick was up for the pay and the adventure.

He landed in Vietnam in April 1967 and took a hit in November ahead of an attack on a Viet Cong camp 1km east of Nui Toc Tien.

Australian guns were called in to soften up the camp and five of the six shells hit. The other exploded against a tree 50m from Pte Berrigan and shrapnel from it tore through his skull and his brain.

"We couldn't keep him quiet," a Digger mate of Mick's wrote in a diary. "We gave him dose after dose of morphine. We believed we had no alternative. We were close to the enemy and had to keep him quiet."

But the story didn't stop there. Mick died and was resuscitated. His mother was flown to Vietnam to say her goodbyes to her comatose son, but he was strong and fit and lived.

"Operating on his skull, they had to remove fragments that were blown into his brain. Then they patched him up," Chris says. "I remember him in bed at Heidelberg (Repatriation Hospital) and he looked remarkably fit and very, very tanned, brown as a berry. "He was already

side. His speech was slurred already, but he knew people."

With calipers and a four-pronged walking stick, somehow the hospital got Mick on his feet and home.

"There was a time when he was at home and we were living in East Malvern when he used to walk up to the front gate, walk 100m down the street," Chris says.

But it was a false dawn.

"There was a great hopefulness that he would improve. That changed into 'nothing's happening', and that changed into a feeling of hopelessness, awful for any family," Chris says.

Mick suffered seizures and each one took a part of him away. His short-term memory was shot and his useless limbs, once so strong, grew twisted.

"It's like he's been a 22-year-old soldier all his life. In that sense he was stuck in time," Chris says, but adds: "Whatever brain damage there was, he did have some episodes of clarity and deep insights. We wondered how much he knew."

In an earlier war, Mick would have died. A later one, and he would have caught medical advances and better treatment. As it was, his life became a round of psychiatric hospitals, frustrated outbursts and harsh drugs to bomb him out.

The family's fight for the best for Mick was unending. And also, so bittersweet, there were times when he touched his carers and family, connecting in small ways that meant everything to them.

"He was quite an assertive, macho guy, intensely independent," Chris says. "It was very difficult for him to have that taken. Often he would lash out at people, try to hit people. He would get angry and this would lead to him being heavily tranquillised."

"It was just a gradual decline. It's hard to express. My mum was particularly devastated by it. It was a real heartbreak to go out and see him. "He went through unpleasant repat hospitals for many years, and nursing homes and things like that."

Family priest Fr Peter Matheson spoke of the toll on Mick's parents at Thursday's service. "They died before their time because of that weight,"

he said.

Mick's last 11 years were spent surrounded by kindness, helped by Yooralla at a home in Highett, but the brain injury was relentless and paralysis spread to his throat muscles.

"There was not much in his life. The only pleasures were a beer and a smoke and his food," Chris says. "In the end you'd give him food and instead of swallowing it, he was breathing it in."

On Sunday, his battle ended. The war was over for Mick and his family. "The ultimate sacrifice? This is even more, isn't it, really? What a waste," Chris says.

"He died in his sleep. That's something, isn't it?"

And a comrade, John Johnston, one of the 30-odd Vietnam veterans in a guard of honour for the flag-draped coffin, spoke for all of them.

"There just couldn't be a greater sacrifice," he said. "There couldn't be."



Advertisement in Vetaffairs Autumn 2012

Seeking relatives of WWII Gunner GREGORY JAMES HYLAND, died 13/9/85 at Waratah NSW, served 39-45, in 6th Div on discharge.

Captured in Nth Africa, escaped in Italy to Switzerland. Was a boxer in the Hunter region after the war, wife Dorothy May Hyland nee Stokes.

I have a box of personal effects and would like to return it to its rightful place.

Contact Nevell Smith

PO Box 3107

Blacksmiths NSW 2281 or

(02) 4972 1698.



70th ANNIVERSARY OF THE BATTLE OF THE CORAL SEA

The Minister for Veterans' Affairs, Warren Snowdon, today encouraged all Australians to remember the Battle of the Coral Sea, one of the defining naval battles of the Second World War, and one which has been regarded by many as 'the battle that saved Australia'.

Mr Snowdon took part in a 70th Anniversary commemoration in Darwin, laying a wreath this morning.

"The Battle of the Coral Sea was the largest naval battle ever fought near Australia. Starting on 4 May 1942, a time during the Second World War when Australia was vulnerable and had already been directly attacked by the Japanese numerous times," Mr Snowdon said.

"The battle was a critical campaign that halted Japanese forces in their planned invasion of Pacific waters and nearby islands," Mr Snowdon said.

The Japanese threatened to cut off crucial nautical supply lines between Australia and the United States of America, and this had the potential to interrupt transport routes and restrict America's military capability.

"Japanese victory in the Coral Sea would also have seen Australia encircled by opposing forces, leaving our country open to potential attack – a move that may have rewritten the history of our great nation," Mr Snowdon said.

"Fortunately this wasn't the case, as Australian and US forces worked together to drive the Japanese back from the Coral Sea, while causing major damage to their fleet."

"It was battles such as these that underpin the continuing strong alliance between Australia and the United States."

Five Japanese warships, including the aircraft carrier Shoho, were sunk and 43 aircraft destroyed. In addition to the Shoho, the aircraft carrier Shokaku was seriously damaged.

Two Australian warships were involved in the battle. HMAS Australia and HMAS Hobart,

joined Task Group 17.3 in patrolling the northern Coral Sea south of the Jomard Passage to prevent Japanese ships entering the Coral Sea from the north.

"On this important anniversary I would also like to pay tribute to the professionalism and dedication of all our sailors and officers of the Royal Australian Navy past and present," he said.

"Their efforts in the Battle of the Coral Sea shouldn't be forgotten when we reflect on the great campaigns in the Pacific."

"The use of aircraft carriers by both opposing sides, also means the battle will be remembered as a turning point in naval combat. It was the first time a battle was fought without opposing ships ever sighting or directly firing upon each other."

"Fortunately, no Australian casualties were recorded and both HMAS Australia and HMAS Hobart made it safely home," Mr Snowdon said.

"The Battle of the Coral Sea is an example of a campaign that highlights the importance of strong alliances. The efforts of our Allies both then and in conflicts since must continue to be acknowledged."

Historical images of the Battle of the Coral Sea are available from the Australian War

Courtesy of:

Minister for Veterans' Affairs Subscription List



A gun from the USS Peary being placed on the Darwin Esplanade – Photo courtesy of the Northern Territory Library, December 1991, World War II Collection

Mounting a defence of our armed forces

by Lainie Anderson

When Rod Stewart rocked Adelaide last month, (3/12) he dedicated Rhythm of My Heart to the servicemen and women of Australia and Britain. I remember it distinctly for two reasons: 1) in Australia, we might 'well up' once a year as veterans march on ANZAC Day, but we most definitely don't fawn over serving troops; and someone shouted "THANKYOU" in a way that implied "FINALLY, some bloody recognition".



Lest we bloody forget.

Pic: Darren Fletch

I've been musing on the incident this week in the wake of those inane comments uttered on Channel Ten's morning chat show The Circle.

In the unlikely event you missed the subsequent outpouring of wrath, hosts Yumi Styne and George Negus 'joked' about the intelligence and sexual prowess of Australia's newest Victoria Cross recipient, Corporal Ben Roberts-Smith. Tacky at best, disgusting at worst, and the social networks went into meltdown.

Like a true officer and gentlemen, Corporal Roberts-Smith issued a statement accepting the comments weren't malicious and that he was keen to focus on serving his country.

But the incident highlights an interesting contradiction: Australia's ANZAC legacy is a sacred cow, yet as a nation we have seem to have very little respect for our serving armed forces.

A friend visited the US last year and he couldn't believe the reverence afforded American servicemen and women.

"At shopping malls, strangers walk up to thank them for their service to the country," he said. "In airports there are regular PA announcements inviting soldiers and vets to special lounges where they get free or cut-price food and drinks."

Flash back here to Australia and how do we treat even our most revered serving soldier? We joke that he's a "dud root" in search of a brain.

Why is that?

One reason must surely be geography. It's 70 years since the bombing of Darwin (and for years the scale of the attack was downplayed so as not to freak us out).

Blokes like Corporal Roberts-Smith might risk death daily in Afghanistan, but our biggest worry back home is whether Carla and Thomas will get their just desserts on My Kitchen Rules.

September 11? For most it was a television spectacle – as terrifying as it was, it didn't strike at the heart of our national psyche.

Good old Aussie irreverence plays a part, too, as does our healthy scepticism of authority. (I read one comment this week that we're nothing more than 'America's ho' when it comes to defence.)

Despite concerted advertising campaigns aimed at positioning military 'careers' as exciting and intellectually invigorating, we tend to equate army jobs with troubled teens. ("Bring back conscription – that's what these young whipper-snappers need!")

And finally, the Australian Defence Force isn't doing itself any favours, either.

Hot on the heels of lurid sex scandals and allegations of widespread abuse, ABC1's 7.30 this week revealed a Facebook page used by current and former members of the Royal Australian Regiment.

Among other things, site postings refer to Muslims as "rag heads" who should be shot and claim that "all women are filthy, lying whores".

It would be grossly unfair to judge our entire defence force by the outrageous words of a few ignorant wankers.

Nonetheless, it's hard to be proactive about the amazing role of our troops across Australia and overseas when you're constantly taking fire over a culture of racism, sexism and bullying.

So how can the ADF engender pride among a cynical Australian public?

One option might be a series of community-building programs involving young servicemen and women (I'm sure Queensland flood victims have many an inspiring tale of soldiers rebuilding towns and homes).

Another option would be to find one simply outstanding individual and hold him up as a shining example of all that's great about the men and women who risk their lives despite bugger all fanfare and acknowledgement.

Ah yes. Corporal Roberts-Smith VC. Report for duty, please.

Many articles have been written about Long Tan. I've included in this article some comments from a different perspective. **Courtesy of "Eyes and Ears", the newsletter of 131 Div Loc Vets Assoc**, the following are the recollections of some of their members who were directly involved in the infamous battle. Editor Paul Dickson asked his members: "Where were you on 18 Aug. 1966".



Merv Nairn responds from Vietnam, now, with more memories.

'G'day mate from Saigon (Sorry HCMC) - the reason for the confusion is that you have been asking about Thursday when I think you have meant the 18th, which is Tuesday I can tell you exactly what happened on the 18th, Firstly we were at the Col Joye / Little Patty show, during the show we noticed more & more groups of digs getting up & leaving in large groups. By the time we got back to our lines, mine at the time was bravo radar; the shit was really starting to hit the fan. I was instructed to take my vehicle and 1 other of our crew this being George Lane and go to the area where the choppers were dropping the resupply ammo for the guns of 103 battery, and continue to load it on the radar transport vehicles and carry it to the guns as they were on a fire mission battery and ammo had to be dropped up from Vung Tau.

I vividly remember that we worked our asses off keeping the resupply up to the guns. I also remember that at the time we were running on pure adrenalin, when we finally got the stand down order we released the tension like a group of little kids we chased one another around the tents and dragged each other through the mud & puddles, It's amazing what grown, supposedly sane men in a situation will do in a situation like this.

The upside of the situation is that (and I don't like to make light of the situation) is that as it was early days of the task force it finally gave us sufficient ammo boxes to put floors in our tents and some home-made furniture. I now have a mate in our sub branch who was D Company 6 RAR & every time he gets a few under his belt he comes to me & puts his arm around me & tells everyone that is willing to listen that I helped to save his life. Regards, Merv (Baldy) Nairn.

David Doyle has some vivid memories –

'Dicko, My LP was attached to B coy 5RAR we were hot extracted out of the "J" on that day. We had a shower shave and all those things that one does

after being in the "J" for three weeks. Jumped in our wagon and went down to the show as you could hear it all over the Task Force. I captured Col Joye and Judy stone at gun point of course and took them back to B coy lines and told that they had to sing for their supper. They appreciated our hospitality as the gun battery had started to engage the enemy and artillery was flying everywhere. David Doyle.'

Brian Kilworth being another one of the guys who helped establish our presence in that part of the world puts more deep meaning to the actual day.

'Dicko, During our tour us poor surveyors didn't have a permanent home as such; we were scattered all over the place and came together when an operation required survey. I did time with both radars, a couple of LP's and a stint with the Corp of Surveyor assisting in topographical survey of the Province. 18/08/66. I was attached at the time to Fred Lennon's radar (A or B?). We had been mortared the night before; I with Laurie Gallop spent hours in a water filled weapon pit.

On the morning of the 18th, I was still hoping my waterlogged boots would dry out before the Col Joye/Little Pattie concert. I attended the early afternoon concert. Col Joye sang "Mama"; "Who's the one who shed a tear as you walked down the aisle with your future bride...it was Mama". Never heard the song again until many years later; I then cried!

Back to the tent lines where I again took the bloody boots off to dry. The shit hit the fan; every artillery piece that could spit out a shell was ripping. Panic and yelling for help from 104 Battery adjoining us. All hands to the pump; breaking out stored ammo, chaos, Land rovers trying to run you over and that torrential rain!

One of the Gun Sgts. said to me, "Fuck off and get some boots on or you'll lose your feet". Pretty smart - I'd turned up to a war with no boots! Running back to get the boots lightning struck

radio antennae and blew me over. Felt rather stupid really! The guns went all night nonstop. Next morning the stories came - D Company 6RAR. All the infantry guys from my boot camp went to 6RAR, and a lot were involved that night. I always remembered on my first day of National Service (30/6/65) leaving Central station for Kapooka - on the platform one guy I observed had his girlfriend and a huge family group to farewell him. Talking to him at Kapooka he told me that he was a Pom whose family migrated looking for a better life to raise a family. He married his girlfriend before leaving for SVN with her expecting their child. Jack Jewry now lay dead in a land a long way from home. It just didn't seem fair!

Anyway, Dicko I've finally got it to you...sorry about the ramblings! Brian Killworth (Killa)'

Bill Finlay succumbed to some nagging and supplied the following.

'Hi Paul, your persistence can no longer be ignored; here is my story of 18 Aug 1966.

The night of the 17th was the departure eve of Capt Jim Townly the first TFAIO, who was replaced by Capt Barry (Yogi) Campton. We had a farewell barbie for Jim that night, at which I had rather overdone the consumption of beers and went to bed under the weather so to speak. Meanwhile the VC were setting up their mortars and recoilless rifles to make life uncomfortable for the task force. This was a devious plan to draw out the Aussies who were sure to investigate the area from which the fire originated. The VC had noted this reaction and were preparing for the expected response, the battle of Long Tan was the result. I was blissfully unaware of the attack, snored on through the whole thing. In the morning when I found out what had occurred the previous evening I was rather shocked to say the least, anyway off I went to carry out crater analysis in the Engineers area where most of the mortar rounds had impacted. The ground was soft and the craters were easy to read and grid references were established (locreps), none were provided by the useless Radars during the attack the night before. CB fire was directed at targets from the CB fire plan. This plan was developed by the TFAIO and me earlier, not long after the Occupation of the Task Force Base. I found out later in the day that we had actually hit a recoilless rifle position with CB fire and as no rounds of this type impacted the TF area I can only assume they were hit before they could

get any rounds off. Maybe they would have landed on a tent containing a certain Sgt Finlay sleeping the night away.

I will never forget the carnage caused by one round that impacted at the corner post of an 11x11 tent in which slept an Engineer Officer who was too lazy or dumb to have a sandbag wall around the tent. The tent pole resembled the letter J the blood and gore was splattered all over the place. I do not know who he was or whether he survived or not.

I delivered my report to Arty Tac and the info was passed to D Coy. I then set off to visit the LP's to see how they were all coping etc.

I was in the Bty area when the battle commenced and was called upon to deliver ammunition to the gun bays, as was every other person available, cooks, drivers, orderly room wallahs, the lot. I then realised that my proper place was at Arty Tac and saw out the rest of the day listening to the drama unfold over the Regimental Radio Net. As Arty Int we had little to contribute at that point as there was no use of mortars by the VC during the battle. The background noise when the FO was directing the fire was unforgettable. This is the first time I have written an account of my involvement in the Battle of Long Tan, I hope you and your readers find something interesting in it. Bill Finlay, ex Cracker Minor, Det 131 Div Loc Bty 1ATF.'

John 'Beau' Roberts has dug really deep to relate the following.

I read your request for memories of locations etc on Thursday August 18, 1966 and feel I would like to share something with you and the others I haven't been willing to do outside of Bernie Erica and Damien McManus. I was fortunate that every letter I wrote to my parents my mother kept. She offered them to me earlier on in my life and I told her to destroy them, luckily she didn't and recently I read them again and have compiled a document with the letters and comments.

The following are extracts from a letter dated August 19th 1966:

"Yesterday I returned from 10 and a ½ days in the donga.....the operation was codenamed Holsworthy and part of the operation was to pacify a village up the road about 8000 metres called Bihn Ba, treat the people with Doctors and leave a South Vietnamese Special Forces Commando unit in charge.....On the first day out.....the platoon to

my left saw some Vietnamese and couldn't really tell what they were so they opened up with a machine gun.....our score was one dead baby and seriously wounded mother who took about ½ hour to die.....so we buried them and carried on.....that night we propped ourselves up against trees, soaking wet, and about 2:30am we arose and through pitch darkness made our way to the edge of the village.....other companies had surrounded the village.....We did the sweep.....the result was 17 VC and 77 suspected VC along with quite a number of deserters from the South Vietnamese Army.....the rest of the time we spent roaming around the bush.....one afternoon we moved into position for the night when 3 VC simply walked down a path.....one guy opened up with a rifle followed by a machine gunner.....the VC got away but one of our guys (Kennedy) was reliving his bowels over the path and wore it in the neck.....he died instantly.....

Yesterday on our return there was a tremendous concert, Col Joye and Little Pattie.....Col Joye came up to Battalion HQ and all of us at B Co decided to kidnap him, which we did and brought him to our canteen.....eventually the CO broke it up as the chopper was waiting to take him away"

The significant part of this letter is of course, the date. I was sent to B Co 5RAR because the LP guys normally stationed with B Co were ill and myself and Bernie Erica were to form the LP on the operation. They did this with us surveyors when we weren't otherwise occupied. The parts of the letter are self explanatory but what is not contained there is what happened on August 17 and 18 1966.

Perhaps the worst part of Kennedy's death was not that he was having a crap, rather that the jungle was so thick that there was no way the Medivac chopper could land and the area was now a hot spot. All they could do was to drop a stretcher, do a loop and come back and winch him out. However, they didn't want to hang around and just took off with him dangling and rotating on the end of the winch rope, one leg over the side.

The CO of B Co thought he knew where the VC or a North Vietnamese unit rumoured to be in the area was most likely located. This turned out to be the reason we were roaming around. On the morning after Kennedy's death the CO called us together and said he had worked out that the most likely place the VC would be was in the Long Tan area. He told Task Force HQ of his thoughts and

intention to go there. From memory I think we actually started off in that direction but HQ called him and told him not to proceed. He was so keen to go there that he called them up 3 times requesting permission to go and each time they told him to hold. Eventually they informed him that a Company from 6RAR was headed that way and we should return to base, which thankfully we did. The rest is history.

I am not sorry that we didn't proceed there, I don't have a desire to be a hero, but if we had gone there it wouldn't have been with a better CO or bunch of guys.

Beau (John) Roberts



Picture taken at the National Cemetery in Minneapolis, MN on misty spring morning- as it appeared in the Minneapolis Star/Tribune.

Talk about a picture being worth a thousand words! It says everythingThanks SSgt Reg Morrell

This is a must watch video of an 84 yr old former WW11 sniper shooting a modern sniper rifle. Fantastic! *Courtesy SSgt Morrell*

http://www.strategypage.com/military_videos/military_photos_20110306202637.aspx

STRANGE RUSSIAN MILITARY EQUIPMENT - WORLDS LARGEST HOVERCRAFT

The Russian Navy's Zubr Class hovercraft. Now this is not a new design. There have been three in service with the Russian Navy since 1988, with 2 more in the Ukraine navy and even more with the Greek navy.

The vessels are designed for military transport with the capacity to carry nearly 130 tons of cargo including multiple tanks, equipment and troops with the unique ability to deploy them directly onto land. The Zubr can cruise at max speed of 60 knots for 300 miles.

Naval-technology.com tells us about its propulsion systems:

Three upright ring shrouds, housing the air propellers and standing upright at the back of the ship, give the Zubr its distinctive appearance. The four bladed propellers which are provide the ship with a top speed of 60 knots. High-temperature gas turbine engines provide the power to drive the air-cushion blowers and the air propellers.

The craft has four blowers model NO-10, fitted with axial operating wheels of 2.5m diameter, to generate the air cushion. The air thrust for movement is powered by three four-bladed, reversible, variable-pitch air propellers, 5.5m in diameter.

The air propellers are mounted inside ring shrouds. The Zubr is equipped with two electric power plants. Each power plant has two gas turbine generators, each rated at 100kW. Control of the ship and systems is carried out from a main control station, a central control room and through various remote control panels.



From the Russian Navy to the WW11 Air Forces. Have a look at the following link to see some brilliant paintings. Keep in mind that these are paintings, not photos.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KMdohvYmur4> Aviation Art (2)

Microwave Radar

Radar changed both offense and defense in war. It was the first automated way to see the enemy, but also to be seen. As late as World War I, watching for the enemy meant stationing a man in the field with field glasses and telling him to phone the commander when he saw a plane. Forget that on a cloudy day.

Because radar enhanced commanders' ability to see, everyone had to work harder to stay out of sight.

Night Vision Goggles.

A further development was the use of night vision goggles. These gave the troops on the ground the ability to see otherwise invisible or indistinct targets.



Night vision is most often used by the military, such as this French army infantryman with night-vision goggles.



U.S. Navy SEALs await a night mission to capture Iraqi insurgent leaders. Night vision is green as the human eye can differentiate the most shades of green as compared to other colours.



A U.S. Special Forces MH-53 helicopter arrives to take U.S. Navy SEALs on a night mission. Viewing distance can be over 500 feet with certain types of night-vision equipment.



Using infrared lasers only seen with night vision goggles, U.S. Marines set out on a search operation for insurgents during the early hours in Iraq.

A Czech commando, member of Army's 601st Special Forces Unit, wears night-vision binoculars during a training in anti-guerrillas skills.



Canadian officers tour Australian bases to share their experiences

WHEN Capt Nichola Goddard became Canada's first woman killed in action during 2006, the news was hard to take for Capt Genevieve Bertrand.

Not necessarily over the death of a female and fellow officer but because she had lost a friend.

"The way that impacted ... was because I had known her before," Capt Bertrand said. "That's more hurtful on a personal level."

Canadian military sociologist Lt-Cmdr Karen Davis (retd) believed Capt Goddard's comrades looked past gender when remembering her.

"Her colleagues prefer to remember the first forward observer officer, that called the guns, killed since Korea," Ms Davis said.

Capt Bertrand and Ms Davis were part of a Canadian military delegation invited to Australia by CDF Gen David Hurley to share Canada's experiences integrating women into combat roles.

The Canadian team toured major military bases from Melbourne to Townsville from May 7-18 and shared their experiences with staff at combat training centres including Singleton and Puckapunyal.

Support from unit commanders was the key to integrating women into combat corps, according to the visiting Canadians.

When the Canadian Forces introduced women into combat roles in 1987, the smoothest transitions were at units with commanders who fully supported the new role of women, Ms Davis said.

"In 1997 we interviewed over 30 women who had left the combat arms," Ms Davis said. "They talked about how commanders from different levels of leadership impacted on them."

"As soon as a leader shows any sign that a woman can't do it ... or they don't agree with it, that influences all the leaders below them."

She said there was no massive influx of volunteers once frontline combat positions were opened to women.

"It was a challenge to recruit women into combat arms. But those they did recruit and the women today are highly capable soldiers," she said.

The head, another member of the delegation, Col Jennie Carignan, joined the Canadian military in 1986 and became one of her country's first female combat engineer officers.

"I come from a family where there were no barriers to what I could do," Col Carignan said.

"I had no idea about discrimination or 'you can't do that because you're a girl'."

"[After joining the forces] you see the reaction of some people, that's when you think 'there's a little bit of friction here'."



Leading the way: Canadian Army Col Jennie Carignan (left) and Capt Genevieve Bertrand were members of a delegation touring Australia to share their country's experience opening combat roles to women.

As one of the first females in the combat arms, Col Carignan was well aware of initial mistakes made in the early days regard-ing women's sleeping arrangements.

"The reaction was to separate women from their sections or platoons. By doing that they cut them off," she said.

"When we deploy to the field now the section members are all together."

Today, women form 4.2 per cent of officer positions and 1.5 per cent of other ranks in Canadian combat corps.

The Potshot (Exmouth) Secret Base:

The Artillery Presence.

By Bob Glyde

February/March 1942 was a time of much apprehension for most Australians, particularly those in Western Australia. Firstly the 15th February brought the news of the fall of Singapore, then on the 19th February, the bombing of Darwin. It seemed as if the relentless movement southward of the Japanese was unstoppable. Then, as the Philippines were isolated, the submarines of the United States Asiatic Fleet were forced to leave their peacetime base at Subic Bay, taking refuge at the Dutch naval base at Surabaya before that base too, became untenable.

Senior officers from the US Navy were examining possible bases from where the submarines would be able to carry out their attacks on Japanese shipping. There were no ports between Darwin and Fremantle on the western coast of Australia with the backup facilities for the operation of these units. Darwin was already under attack and the submarine depot ships were too valuable to expose to damage or sinking. Fremantle was so far south that Rear Admiral Purnell, USN decided to examine the possibility of developing a base near North West Cape in the waters of Exmouth Gulf. There were no facilities whatsoever in the area, however he felt that by establishing a submarine tender with its attendant auxiliary vessels at the site, he could save the long haul down to Fremantle. Not only were there no facilities, the only available anchorage gave no protection from the cyclones which frequently swept through the area during the October/April cyclone season. The idea was not proceeded with at the time.

Early in March 1942, Rear Admiral Carpenter USN, who had been appointed Commander, US Forces for the SW Pacific Area, notified the Australian Government of his intention to base twenty five Asiatic Fleet submarines at Fremantle, together with their depot ships "Holland" and "Otus" as well as auxiliary vessels. The USS "Otus" was replaced by the USS "Pelias" in July, to enable the former to return to the US to complete its outfitting as a submarine depot ship. It returned to Fremantle early in 1943.

A further reconnaissance was undertaken in April after which Rear Admiral C S Lockwood, the task

force commander, signified his intention to establish an advanced base in the Exmouth Gulf. The code name for the base was "Potshot".

The plan for the development of the base provided for the construction of a landing strip, maintenance facilities for fighter aircraft and shore based patrol



planes, a radar station, roads, water storage, a pontoon pier and moorings for a submarine tender with A/S defences and underwater detection gear. Accommodation was to cater for up to five hundred personnel. Anti-aircraft defences were also to be provided. Bulk fuel storage tanks were to be built at the small port of Onslow, situated about 150 kms away on the northeast shores of the Gulf.

Early in July 1942, the situation existed where there were twenty large submarines operating from Fremantle, serviced by the USS "Otus" and five at Albany together with the USS "Holland". Due to the congested nature of Fremantle and the possibility of a Japanese attack, it had been decided in March to move some of the units to Albany. They were accompanied by the North West Cape submarine tender USS "Holland" and the seaplane tender USS "Childs" with a number of Catalina flying boats to carry out seaward patrols from the port. The seaplane tender and 3 PB5 (Catalina) aircraft left Albany on 19th May and went to the Bay of Rest on the southern side of Exmouth Gulf, where an anchorage was established.

The home porting of submarines at Albany continued until August 1942, when the base was closed down.

From the 17th August 1942, when a 500-ton oil lighter arrived from Darwin, the Fremantle based submarines were able to top up their fuel tanks before setting off on their patrols, which took then as far north as the South China Sea. On their return they were able to top up with fuel to reach Fremantle, if this were necessary. This effectively increased their range by a further 2400 kilometres.

It was not until November 1942 that the plan submitted by the Advance Base Planning Committee was approved and the planned shore works were put immediately under construction. The plan called for a USN HFDF station, a landing strip, a RAAF radar station, a 1.8 km concrete airstrip for an RAAF fighter squadron and an Australian heavy anti-aircraft battery.

On 11th December, LHQ Melbourne issued an instruction to raise the AA units required. A AA Battery HQ was to be transferred from the Victorian L of C area. The unit eventually chosen was the 4th Aust Heavy AA Battery. Two Guns Stations, No.s 452 and 453 were to be manned by personnel from the Melbourne AA Defence establishment. The CASL Sections were to be manned by personnel posted from the Coast Defence Fortress Engineer units in the WA L of C area. They were known as the 166th (2 moving lights) and the 167th (2 moving lights) Aust. CASL Sections. The equipment for the HAA Battery was to be provided from stocks held in the Victorian L of C area whilst the equipment for the CASL sections was to be provided by the WA L of C area from existing sources..

On Boxing Day 1942, Lt F Ingram and a group from the 5th Aust. HAA Battery, left Fremantle for Exmouth on the fleet oiler USS "Trinity together with an advance party from the 4th Aust. AA Battery under the command of Major Jones. Lt Ingram's party was responsible for the assembly of the eight 3.7 inch (94 mm) mobile HAA guns and two 40-mm Bofor guns. His report, dated the 11th January, noted gross neglect during the handling at Fremantle with essential equipment missing or damaged from the 3.7inch guns, preventing them from being brought into action immediately. One set of forward area sights was missing from one of the 40-mm guns. Both were

set up for immediate action with ammunition at the landing point and the gun assembly area.

The assembly group returned to Fremantle on the vessels "Koolinda" and USS "Gulf Star", which had delivered the main party of the 4th Aust. HAA Battery to the site on the 30th December and had completed unloading on the 5th January 1943.

The 4th Aust HAA Battery was a Victorian unit.. It had its origins in the 4th AA Cadre, which was authorised and formed in 1938 as a Victorian militia unit. It's officers were initially from the 23rd /21st Infantry Battalion. With the outbreak of the war, it became a training battery and formed the nucleus of the 2nd AA Regiment (AIF). Initially it was responsible for the AA defence of the port at Melbourne.

When transferred to Exmouth, it consisted of two troops namely the 452nd and 453rd Aust HAA Troops, each with four 3.7 in HAA guns and a 40 mm Bofors gun, the latter for the defence of the gun stations, as they were known, against low level attacks. Initially the unit came under the control of HQ 8th Aust AA group at Fremantle. It would appear the guns were installed in temporary emplacements whilst permanent facilities were built, with the guns being able to



Exmouth – North West Cape – 3.7in Gun and Crew in Coast/AA Mode.
4th HAA Battery 1943
AWM Photo: (058324)

operate in the dual role of AA and coast defence. The battery Exmouth – North West Cape – 3.7in Gun and Crew in Coast/AA Mode. 4th HAA Battery 1943 AWM Photo. (058324) operated two AA Radar Mk II sets, which was also capable of assisting in the coast defence role. Two searchlight sections, the 166th and 167th Aust CASL Section, were attached. 4600 rounds of 40 mm ammunition, six 3 ton trucks and a Wiles Cooker accompanied the main party, as well as the radar sets.

The 3rd Aust Corps Operations Instruction No.42 dated the 24th February listed the following artillery and associated units as being on site at Exmouth.

- HQ 4 Aust AA Battery
- 452 Aust Tp AA gun stn (Class A)
- 453 Aust Tp AA gun stn (Class A)
- 166 Aust CASL Sec (3 moving lights)
- 167 Aust CASL Sec (2 moving lights)
- 4 Aust AA Bty Sig Detachment
- 6 Aust Hy AA Workshop Section

In addition, a section of two 18 prs, with two Army NCOs, to act as permanent gun detachment commanders, were allocated for the protection of the RAAF radar equipment at North West Cape in the vicinity of the Vlaming Head lighthouse.. The two Army personnel came under the command of the OC, RAAF Station, and North West Cape. The 4th Aust AA Battery was responsible for the training of the RAAF personnel allotted to the manning of the guns. Each gun was allocated 300 rounds fitted with Fuze 119 and 60 rounds of armour piecing shot. A further 100 rounds of HE were provided for training purposes. These latter details formed part of the 3rd Corp Operational Instruction No. 44 dated the 4th March 1943.

In March, two troops of 40mm Bofors guns of the 2/3rd Aust LAA Regiment with support units, moved from the fighter airstrip at Onslow to cover the new airstrip built at Exmouth for the RAAF. An exercise involving the AA defence facilities in the area was undertaken with reported satisfactory results. The 2nd Aust Radar Detachment was raised on the 26th March 1943 and did not become operational until the 5th May. They conducted a number of training exercises with other units soon after. The unit was equipped with coast artillery radar equipment.

There must have been some concern that the facility might attract an assault from the sea of Japanese forces, as a detailed instruction was issued on the 18th March concerning the removal and disposal of equipment in the event of such an attack occurring.

Potshot had been developed in great secrecy, however at 2309 hours on the 21st May 1943, two Japanese aircraft flying at 5000 metres dropped a number of bombs in the area, six of which dropped near the RAAF radar site. They landed in a metre of water and no damage occurred. The following night at 0036 hours, a single aircraft flying at 5200

metres released nine bombs, which caused no damage. The authorities were apparently aware the security of the base had been compromised previously as on the 8th May, an instruction was issued changing the code word for the facility at North West Cape from "Potshot" to "Erosion".

Following the two air raids, the Americans decided to withdraw their submarine depot ship back to Fremantle and maintain the facility at Exmouth purely as an advanced refuelling base. That the secrecy of the base had been compromised meant that the depot ship could come under attack and the loss of such a vessel would seriously affect the operation of the submarine units.

The scheme had proved to be a failure from the start. The north westerly winds produced a heavy swell in the Gulf waters and except in the most favourable conditions, the servicing and maintenance of the units alongside the USS "Pelias" could not be safely carried out. Weather was also a factor. Already in February, a cyclone had affected the area causing havoc and damage. The USS "Pelias" returned to Fremantle on the 27th May after only being in the Gulf for approximately one month. To supplement the fuel barge, the oil tanker mv "Ondina" was stationed in the Gulf from the 22nd June and the submarines were able to come alongside the tanker and refuel direct from the ship's tanks.

The "Ondina" had an interesting history. The ship had been badly damaged during an attack by two Japanese raiders in November 1942 during which the tanker and its small escort had sunk one of the enemy ships. The "Ondina" had been able to return to Fremantle under its own power and was held at the port, there being no facilities to repair the heavy damage suffered. The ship was requisitioned by the Navy to provide additional storage at Exmouth. After it returned to Fremantle when the oil storage tanks were commissioned at Onslow towards the end of 1943, it was sent to the East Coast of the US to be rebuilt.

In June 1943, following discussions between the army and air force hierarchy at Land HQ, Melbourne, Composite AA Regiments were formed for the express purpose of defending advance air bases such as the one at Exmouth. These units were of two types, namely Higher Establishment (HE) equipped with two 3.7 in gun batteries, each of four guns and two 40 mm gun batteries, each of twelve guns and Lower Establishment (LE) units

comprised one 3.7 in gun battery and one 40 mm gun battery.

In June, the 2/3rd Aust LAA Regiment was withdrawn from the Order of Battle pending the unit moving to the Eastern States where it was disbanded. A Troop of guns from the 151st Aust LAA Battery replacing "P" Battery of the 2/3rd Aust LAA Regiment.

On the 16th September 1943 the War Diary of the 2nd Aust Radar Detachment recorded an Air Raid Warning, Red at 0005 hours. The aircraft flew off without dropping any bombs but the War Diary recorded that the HAA guns engaged the aircraft, firing 27 rounds.

On the 18th September, 4th Aust HAA Battery was disbanded, becoming the HQ 102nd Aust Composite AA Regiment (HE) based at Guildford. It then comprising 140th Aust HAA Battery responsible for the 452nd and 453rd HAA Gun stations with the troops renamed "A" and "B" at Exmouth. The light AA units, 151st and 152nd Aust LAA Batteries were originally units of the 109th Aust LAA Regiment. The 3rd Aust Corps Location Statement 21st August, Regimental HQ at Guildford, the 151st Battery (less one troop), Redcliffe, "R" Battery (one troop 151st Battery) at Exmouth, 152nd Battery (less one troop) at Geraldton, one troop of 152nd Battery at Pearce.

In the 3rd Aust Corps Location Statement 31st August, the Regimental HQ was shown as Guildford, it is thought that the HQ unit reverted to 109th Aust AA Training Battery stationed at Mt Lawley and soon after left for the Eastern States.

The 138th HAA Battery, although allocated to the 102nd Aust Regiment, was not raised at this stage. Already on the 3rd September, USN Admiral Christie had suggested the withdrawal of the Australian AA batteries and the RAAF fighter aircraft from the area.

The regiment was redeployed to provide AA defences at the RAAF advanced operational base at Corunna Downs on the 5th November. Battery HQ, 140th Aust HAA Battery plus "B" Troop with Battery HQ, 151st Aust LAA Battery plus "A" Troop were assigned to this task. Battery HQ 152nd and the two Troops were assigned to the defence of Pearce Air Base. Rear Regimental HQ 102nd was established in the metropolitan area. The remainders of the units were moved back to Fremantle in November 1943. The 2nd Aust Radar

Detachment was posted to Garden Island to provide radar surveillance for the coast batteries. When those batteries were disbanded at the end of 1944, it was posted to Rottnest to replace the 5th Aust Radar Detachment, which was then disbanded.

The RAAF AOB was established at Noonkanbah on the 1st March 1943, however AA defences were not provided until early in 1944 when sub units of the 102nd Aust Composite AA Regiment ("A" Troop of 140th Aust HAA Battery and Battery HQ, 152nd Aust LAA Battery plus "B" Troop), moved from Exmouth. The HQ, 138th Aust HAA Battery was raised on 23rd June 1944 thus anti aircraft defence at this base was made up of eight 3.7 inch and six 40 mm Bofor guns. The guns of the new unit had been emplaced and proof fired by the 11th July. A number of practice shoots were conducted over the next two months. On the 20th October, the unit received the warning order to return to Perth. The movement was by road to Meekatharra where it arrived on the 13th November, reaching Perth on the 15th November 1944.

The USN undertook the defence of the facilities remaining at the Exmouth refuelling base, manning four 40 mm and other smaller AA guns.

The 18 pr beach defence guns were removed in November 1944 and in February 1945 a cyclone destroyed the radar station 315, for which the guns had been positioned to defend. The station was quickly replaced and was operational again by the 20th February 1945.

The 102nd Aust Composite AA Regiment was disbanded in January/February 1945.

When the costs and effort involved in the Potshot/Erosion project are considered and that the original exercise only lasted for approximately one month, one would have to question the study that must have been done, firstly putting the project forward and finally the knowledge of those people approving the implementation of the project.

Information Sources

3 Aust Corps War Diaries and Appendices.

Unidentified Photocopied History of the "Potshot" Project. Held by RAA Historical Soc of WA Operations of the Fremantle Submarine Base 1942-1945 by David Creed.

Fremantle Secret Fleets by Lynne Cairns.

Material from Australian National Archives. Extracts from Unit War Diaries held by the Australian War Memorial.

Notes on 4th Aust HAA Battery and 102nd Aust Composite Regiment provided by K Glyde – Hobart.



Sergeant H. W. Hardman of the 2nd Australian Special Radio Detachment, checking on aircraft warning devices – Exmouth Gulf 1943.
AWM Photo (058313)



This article reproduced from
the Oct 2004 edition of

THE AIMING POST

The Royal Australian Artillery Historical Society
Of Western Australia (Inc) Newsletter



Australian war heroes ripped off over decoration allowances

Ian McPhedran

Dozens of Australian war heroes have been ripped off for decades as governments have refused to increase decoration allowances in line with inflation.

World War II and Vietnam veterans who were awarded the third highest medal for bravery, the Military Cross or Military Medal, are short thousands of dollars.

In 1945, the allowance for the MM was sixpence a day about 1/80th of average weekly wages. Today they are paid only \$1.05 a week or 1/1200th of average weekly wages (\$1272). The MM is one of 14 Imperial and five Australian gallantry decorations that attract an allowance.

It remained sixpence a day from 1943 to 1966,

when it was converted to \$2 a fortnight. In the past 45 years it has risen by 10 cents a fortnight to \$2.10. By comparison, Victoria Cross recipients receive an annual allowance of \$3848 or \$148 a fortnight.

Roland Griffiths-Marsh was a commando and a member of the top-secret Z Special Unit during the war. The 88-year-old spent months behind enemy lines in during 1945, killing Japanese troops, gathering intelligence and training locals. He was told he would receive no support and was left completely to his own devices. He actually rekindled the local head-hunting tradition and paid the natives a bounty for Japanese heads. In return, they provided him with food, a beheading knife and a blowpipe.

"On September 1, 1945, I came out of the jungle of North Borneo rotten with malaria, amoebic dysentery, prolapse of the bowel and an unidentified fever," Mr Griffiths-Marsh said.

After four months in hospital, he became virtually unemployable for the next five years.

Mr Griffiths-Marsh, from Bribie Island, had already served in the North African, Greek and Crete campaigns and is regarded as having seen more combat than almost any other World War II Digger.

"I served Australia unstintingly, was never found wanting even though I was often filled with fear and terror," Mr Griffiths-Marsh said. "I was an Australian frontline Digger."

Mr Griffiths-Marsh has unsuccessfully lobbied numerous ministers and bureaucrats for years seeking justice over the decoration allowance.

"It seems so mean," he said. "Even allowances to criminals in prison are adjusted for inflation."

A Veterans Affairs spokeswoman said successive governments had not changed the decoration allowance because they preferred to compensate veterans in other ways, "such as through the provision of disability pensions, service pensions and coverage for medical treatment".

Herald Sun, April 20, 2011

Part 2 of the diary of Lt. Keith Batiste continues courtesy of RUSIV (Royal United Services Institute of Victoria)

11th July 42. We are firing continuously; the Germans attack several times but we cut them to pieces; the men haven't slept for 5 nights now; gosh I'm tired. Heavy shellfire; we have had some very close shaves; the bombers come over again. Hell is let loose & one of our vehicles is wrecked. They bomb us seven times in one day; we are getting used to it now; every three hours waves of German bombers & try to blast us out of existence; they are going for the Artillery every time as the guns are cutting his infantry up. Hear lots of casualties in other troops. Where are our fighters? There are bomb craters all around us now. We share our cigarettes & hope for the best. Heavy shelling; his guns are very accurate. The shellfire lifts a little & over come his bombers again; hit two of our vehicles; one of our drivers hit in the chest. A prisoner has just been brought in, a German. He is standing behind No 4 gun; go over to see him; there is tremendous explosion, almost at our feet; find myself lying on my back; Bdr Fairthorne (VX14433 Sergeant Frederick Falkener Fairthorne, born 6th February 1919 in Launceston, Tasmania, enlisted 7th May 1940, discharged 19th December 1944) has a great hole through his leg; Bdr Hills (VX17241 Bombardier Alexander Raymond Hills, born 24th January 1910 in Skipton, Victoria, enlisted 25th May 1940, discharged 12th September 1945) has most of his buttocks blown away; poor Hay has terrible wounds also in the legs; hardly know where to start first, the wounds are so large; thank God for a little knowledge of first aid; more shells; shrapnel flies everywhere; there is only one hole; the German prisoner has got into it & lies there shaking with fright; the German guns keep shelling us; all the bleeding has been stopped; we carry them out. Poor Hay is only 19; I think he will lose both legs. Our machine-guns open fire; look up; "Stuka" again; there is nothing for it but to throw the wounded into a hole – we dive in on top of them; the bombs miss us. There is a terrific explosion; a large truck full of mines received a direct hit & they all blew up; the command post caves in: Jack Cuff, (TX1670 Lieutenant John Gordon Cuff, born 8th October 1914 in Launceston, Tasmania, enlisted 29th May 1940, discharged 12th



November 1945) Hunter (Probably VX14382 Staff Sergeant Robert William Hunter, born 20th January 1918 in Berwick, Victoria, enlisted 7th May 1940, discharged 7th September 1945) & Plendeleith (VX16266 Lance Sergeant Kenneth Gordon Plenderleith, born 25th May 1911 in Johannesburg, South Africa, enlisted 22nd May 1940, discharged 22nd November 1945) are buried; there is nothing left of the truck or driver; they just vanished. Send the Ser[geant] Major away with orders to get an ambulance at all costs; our telephone lines are blown away; send a runner for a Medical Sergeant. He is busy dealing with the wounded from the last raid & doesn't arrive for nearly ¼ of an hour. Sgt Sturdy (VX42559 Lance Sergeant Henry Arthur Sturdy, born 16th April 1915 in Hawthorn Victoria, enlisted 28th June 1940, discharged 29th October 1945) arrives; gives them Morphia; we have no stretchers; he carries young Hay away on his back; put the other two in a truck & the driver makes a dash for it. Jerry has got our range & is plastering us with H.E.; let him have it back as fast as we can load & fire – the gunners are magnificent.

Another bombing attack; the ack-ack gun stops firing; the crew have been wiped out by a bomb. Nankervis (VX50491 John Lee Nankervis, born 16th December 1916 in Melbourne, Victoria, enlisted 6th March 1941, discharged 6th April 1944) receives a wound in the stomach; another four vehicles are hit. The shelling slackens and stops – we get two hours sleep.

12th JULY 42. More shells; more bombs, we lay in our holes for three hours while shells whistle around us.

13TH JULY 42. Have lost all track of time now; as soon as dawn breaks the firing starts; I hear of other casualties. Norm & I can hardly speak; our voices are hoarse from shouting orders. The old bully & biscuit is very welcome – we are terribly hungry. The flies nearly drive one crazy. I try to get a cable away to let the folks know I'm OK.

14TH JULY 42. Getting desert sores again; the slightest scratch becomes septic; medical supplies are scarce. More bombs; the ack-ack get a Jerry plane; watch through my glasses as the Pilot strives to gain control – another hit! & bursts into flames; the flames grow larger & he crashes out of control. As he hits the ground his bombs blow up. The ack-ack Officer is killed by a shell.

15TH JULY 42. Quiet; ominously so; we have a hot meal & are issued with 2 packs of cigarettes. 4.30. Counter-Attack & the German 25th Panzer Division supported by the 90th Light Division are trying to break through. We blaze away; the guns Sergeants are deaf and cannot hear orders; we dash backwards & forwards between the guns. Nothing seems to matter now except to keep the guns firing. The Sar-Major is hit in the foot – sorry to lose Tassy he's a good lad. Our guns have been firing continuously now for three hours; it's dark; the gunners are working like Trojans – we no longer duck when the shells land close; three times our lines are blown away; somehow or other our Signallers manage to repair them. Things look fairly grim. Receive word that the tanks have broken through at Tel-El Elina; we switch our fire across & paste the station area. A direct hit on No 1 gun. Bdr Griffiths (VX14872 Bombardier David Llewellyn Griffiths, born 27th March 1907 in Donald, Victoria, enlisted 13 May 1940, killed in action 14th July 1942) is killed and Stephen[s] (VX17239 Bombardier Allan Clifford Stephen, born 31st December 1916 in Koroit, Victoria, enlisted 25th May 1940, discharged 11th December 1945) wounded. Griff was one of the best and I am starting to hate the Germans now. The sky is a blaze of flame & tracers; the concussion from the guns is terrific; they are red-hot; have to cease fire for 5 mins to cool them.

Everything is mixed up like a gigantic puzzle; we are automatons; we no longer care. Ammunition is getting low, have fired nearly 3,000 shells from our four guns since the attack started. Two guns cease firing; out of ammunition; the remaining two are still firing away. The kitchen truck arrives with more ammunition & the cooks are helping unload

it. A shell lands 5 yards from the Command Post, Norm (an unidentified soldier) is bowled over but not hurt. The firing slackens and stops. We cease fire; the counter-attack has failed; our Infantry beat odds of 10 to 1!

AM surprised to find my shirt is wet through with perspiration. Cigarettes are handed out. We are told our Infantry have withdrawn & we must be prepared to fight his Inf[antry], a small number of whom have infiltrated through. We scrounge a box of bombs & dish them out, make barricades from Ammo boxes; mount our machine-gun & issue the few rifles we have – standing by – no sleep for any one. Our wounded have been evacuated; put Grif in a slit trench; he was killed instantly; feel very full inside, he was a fine example to his men. There are two cases of beer – we drink them, feel much better; stand by our barricades until dawn.

16TH JULY 42. Move to another position; our casualties are fairly heavy; 16 out of 40 men; we dig in; it is the only way to stay alive.

17TH JULY 42. Our Infantry Counter-Attack, we fire all day; have barely enough men left to man the guns now. More prisoners stream back.

18TH JULY 42. Two air-raids and some spasmodic shelling; lucky we moved out; our other position has been blasted to pieces. My old truck has several holes in it. Capt Roberts wounded.

19TH JULY 42. Lt (Snow) Steer badly hit; has lost a leg; Lt Smith (QX2519 Captain Sidney Smith, born 3rd January 1908 in Wolverhampton, England, enlisted 21st October 1939, discharged 22nd January 1946) only lasted five minutes; Capt Elder (VX14218 Captain John Stanley Elder, born 23rd February 1915 in Melbourne, Victoria, enlisted 6th May 1940, discharged 28th February 1945) wounded. Jerry mortars got them; spasmodic shelling & one dive-bombing attack – well wide of the mark. We are on to Jerry's artillery now & giving them merry hell. Our shellfire destroyed thirteen enemy tanks; hear that the Regt has been M.I.D.

20TH JULY 42. General Auchinleck congratulated the Regt on its fine performance; guess the C.O. will get something out of this lot. More shellfire. G.A. hit by a bomb.

21ST JULY 42. Hear that we have lost 53 men & 7

officers. Fred Rowlands collapsed & had to be evacuated; think he has got neurosis. Two cases of shell-shock. German storm troops push our forward elements back. Hear that the German 59th Division has been rushed up & is expected to attack tonight. Standing by awaiting attack.

22ND JULY 42. Attack did not eventuate after all; a large calibre gun of his pitched shells on to our area for the early part of the night. The sky over the trenches is as bright as day with parachute flares & Verey lights. Our aircraft are blasting his back areas & supply routes. The sky is criss-crossed by tracer & ack-ack shells.

23RD JULY 42. Sgt. Wilson (*TX3540 Lance Sergeant Arthur Thomas Rheuben Wilson, born Launceston 11th September 1912, accountant, enlisted 24th June 1940, killed in action 16th July 1942, buried El Alamein War Cemetery*) killed by direct hit from shell; hear that Sam Major (*VX53797 Gunner Samuel Major, born Melbourne 24th February 1920, enlisted 20th April 1941, killed in action 10th July 1942*) was killed when those mines blew up; he had been missing ever since; our little dog "Humsa" found what was left of poor Major; we call our dog "Humsa" because that is the Arabic word for 5 – & he cost us 5 Piastres in Tripoli. "Humsa" was promoted to Sergt; but is now under "arrest" for desertion in the face of the enemy; when a shell landed near the vehicle that he was travelling in he jumped out & fled with his tail between his legs. Must have some reinforcements. Desert sores are bad now and covered with myriads of swarming flies; they nearly drive one crazy. Wonder how much longer we can hold "Jerry" – why don't they send us some more men? Batmen, Drivers and Sigs are all on the guns now & keep them firing, most of the gun crews are going deaf. A decent dog-fight overhead, one plane falls out of control but cannot see whether it's his or ours; the pilot bales out in a parachute –we cheer anyway. Water is fairly plentiful now; we smash up ammo cases and make tea – boy! Isn't it good. One gallon of water per man – good show.

There is a rumour around that we are to be relieved by another Aust Arty Regt – Infantry casualties are very heavy – damn John Curtin & his ideas; we don't want to go back; just give us a few more men.

The whole front is quiet; seems too good to be true. A heavy Hun shell just landed in an old minefield behind us – talk about a firework display

– the mines must be too close together. Sending a Don R. back with cable for Mother & Glad.

24TH JULY 42. A few planes flying overhead. The staccato rattle of M.G. fire tells us there is a dog-fight on. More & more of our planes are making their appearance; old "Jerry" is becoming a little worried. Had a marvellous night's sleep & now feel fit for anything again. A German shell landed right under the muzzle of No 3 gun but failed to explode! These coves ought to take a ticket in "Tatts". Have only 5 NCOs left now; hear that reinforcements are on the way up; hope they are better than the last lot; one was a man of 42 & practically a ripple when he arrived, had to have him evacuated the next day. AM going to do a strip-off-wash today. Wonder if Glad would recognize me now?

The Brigadier came around today & inspected the troop; congratulated the lads on their fine performance; it did one good to see the smiles of satisfaction on the faces of the gunners. The old 25s certainly look battle-scarred now; all the paint has blistered off from the incessant firing; & shrapnel scars on the shield. Found some shell splinters had gone through my pack & clothing; on unrolling my shirts find they have a half a dozen holes in them – wouldn't it! *A.I.F. News* arrive – send one to Glad & Mother. The Brigadier tells me the German G.O.C. Rommel has paid us a great compliment by withdrawing any Italians facing us and replacing them with German troops. The German 90th, 120th, 15th & 21st Divisions are facing the 9th Australian Division; the 15th & 21st are Panzer Grenadiers, the 90th light – motorized infantry – don't know much about the 120th.

I feel confident that if we could smash our way through them he'd fold up; his lines of communication are too long & what the RAF are doing to them is just a pity. Well Diary old pal must leave you now, Jerry's dawn "Hate Session" has commenced.

25TH JULY 42. The whole front is quiet; he pitches an occasional shell over from "Alamein Ann" but this constitutes more for nuisance value than doing damage. Two of B Troop lads badly hit by shrapnel. The M.O. has been evacuated with appendicitis. Still no reinforcements. Tonight we are going back to the "Death Valley" position to fire a barrage – guess it will be rather sticky. The food is excellent now; better than even when we were in Syria. Two good meals a day; a ration of cheese & butter &

N.Z. meat. Green vegetables though are not so plentiful.

26TH JULY 42. Spend quite a lot of time up at the O.P. on Hill 33; a small hole about 5' x 4'; Jerry knows we are there & shells us all day. An Aust Bren carrier platoon raided a "Jerry" "B echelon" & found it contained a quantity of Aust tinned milk & cigarettes; at this moment am smoking a Capstan – Boy! It is good! Hear we are to receive a bottle of beer per man; it will be most welcome; our blood is in very bad condition. Wonder if any mail will arrive here for us; would give anything for a few lines from Glad & the Folks.

27TH JULY 42. At the O.P. Fairly quiet; tried to knock us out; one shell landed about 4' away – thought we were gone. Our bombers go over – 18 of them; nicknamed the "Taxi Service", they go over several times a day now. The German lines for nearly half a mile are a seething mass of flame & smoke as they dump H.E. on him. A little shellfire. Have both hands & arms bandaged now from these blessed Desert sores; right arm poisoned; haven't time to see the M.O. – Medical supplies inadequate, M.O. making ointment from axle grease & Sulphanilimide. Young has a tin of blazing petrol over him – definitely first degree burns – they give him Tannofix treatment; probably means disfigurement – why don't the R.A.P. have the new aniline dye treatment? – bad show somewhere. There are nearly 800 men in the Regt. – one Doctor – no ambulance & three medical corporals – they may be separated by many miles when in action. Each of the six troops should have a Corporal & each Battery a Doctor. Doctors should be compelled to enlist. Sorry Diary; but it is a sore point with me. But how much suffering could be saved; our knowledge is not sufficient to deal with gaping wounds caused by shellfire.

28TH JULY 42. Quite an exciting day at the O.P. A German machine –gunner had us taped; every time we stuck our heads up he let a burst go at us, searched the side of Hill 25 for an hour trying to find him – no luck. Pasted the area with H.E., think I must have got him as he stopped firing. The no-man's land between the O.P. & his front line is littered with burnt out tanks, trucks & debris. What a mess. Opened fire on us with mortars but he was minus of the target – luckily. Our bombers plastered the hell out of him – did we enjoy watching it. Found some N.Z. cheese & tinned butter in an Italian dugout – have an extra good

feed.

Hear we are to attack at dawn; stay up all night working out a Barrage; Jerry has 15,000 men in front of us; hope to break through & push him on to Mersa Matruh.

29TH JULY 42. Dawn - & down goes the Barrage, we fire, shells; the noise is deafening & the sky is as bright as day with gun-flashes. Our Infantry move forward. His Artillery returns our fire & endeavours to range on us; shrapnel splashes down amongst us. A shell lands in front of No 2 gun; the gunshield stops most of the blast & splinters – no one is hit. Out fighters roar overhead & take on the Messerschmitts which come in to ground-straft us. One of our planes catch[es] fire & the pilot bales out. An ME 109 disintegrates in mid-air & pieces of burning wreckage float down. Out Inf[antry] have taken the Rly Station & Hill 24; good old foot-sloggers. The Hun is fighting back hard & drives our troops off Hill 24; we fire 300 smoke shells into it to cover their withdrawal. We have to cease fire, our guns are red-hot – you could cook a meal on them. Count 30 four planes & not a Jerry in sight. Some four tanks move through; their officers wave to us from the turrets. The attack has failed; the 49th Bn lost heavily; it is now 1500 hours & we have been firing continuously since dawn; things are quietening down a little. Four reinforcements arrive – want another 12 in the Troop. They tell us that the 8th Regt has quite a name back at base. Put 5 promotions through to replace NCOs killed & wounded; casualties approx 80 men & 8 officers.

30TH JULY 42. Lieutenant Adland (Lieutenant Adland has not been further identified) wounded; Capt Garrott (TX2096 Captain Eric Lindsay Garrott, born 23rd February 1911 in Beaconsfield Tasmania, enlisted 1st July 1940, discharged 17th December 1943) had narrow squeak, German M.G. put two bullets through his helmet – Col. Crisp's (*The first Commanding Officer of the 2/8th Field Regiment was TX2068 Lieutenant Colonel Alan Percy Crisp. OBE, DSO, VD (1889-1971) a militia officer of Melbourne, Commander 6th Field Brigade 1924-28, 6th Field Brigade 1939-40, 2/8th Field Regiment 1940-41. NX372 Lieutenant Colonel Walter Noel Tinsley, DSO took command of the 2/8th in 1942*) nephew (TX2753 Gunner Thomas James Crisp, born 16th November 1914, bank clerk of Brisbane, 2/8th Field Regiment, enlisted 27th June 1940, killed in action in Egypt 22nd July 1942 aged 27 & buried in the El Alamein War Cemetery. He had three brothers in the AIF) killed by

some bomb. Enemy retire slightly – our Infantry are shot to blazes – 48th have most of their Officers killed or wounded; one Company has only 14 men left. Don't see how we can attack again; haven't enough men.

24th Battalion were to put in an attack last night but apparently did not have enough men to do the job with. Pumped three magazines into a nosey ME 109; could see the tracers going through him but apparently no effect. Feel extra good today, have 12 packets of cigs; 3 cakes of chocolate; some tinned fruit & of all things a bottle of whisky – want it for medicinal purposes – don't laugh diary – I mean it! “Cliftied” (*Slang for 'thieved'*) a battery out of a stranded tank & have the wireless going; life is really worth living again.

31ST JULY 42 (*During the month of July the 2/8th Field Regiment suffered 9 killed, 47 wounded, 1 missing and 70 sick. (Horner, The Gunners: a History of Australian Artillery, p325).* Enemy fighters machine-gunned us while we were asleep; no-one hit. Our air force doing a splendid job. Lieut Cannington (VX39883 Lieutenant Norman Percival Cannington, born 30 Aug 1918 in North Balwyn, Victoria, enlisted 22 Feb 1941, discharged 24 Jan 1946) pretty sick; vomited for nearly two hours. M.O. says it is nervous re-action. Have a new M.O. now. Am disgusted with the Padre; never see him nowadays; think he is a little bomb happy. Wonderful meals; today's included fresh vegetables.

1ST AUGUST 42. Mail! Boy, am I happy; four letters; one each from Mother; Gladys & Edna Ring; hear that there is more to follow, this definitely calls for a celebration; but as we have nothing to celebrate it with, will have to wait. Going by Mother's letter quite a lot of my mail must have gone astray; worse still several dozen photos which I can never replace.

2ND AUGUST 42. Fairly quiet day up at the O.P. Jerry put several concentrations of fire down on the shoulder of the hill where the O.P. is situated – the infamous hill 33. A German machine-gunner puts over an occasional burst of fire if he sees us put our heads up. The Tommies send out 46 tanks & blow up 23 of them on their own minefields.

3RD AUGUST 42. All quiet; no more reinforcements as yet. Padre went down to Alexandria; got him to get some Dettol (6/6). Things are a terrific price in Alex. Padre gave a short ten minutes service in one of our gun pits; we sing “Nearer my God to Thee”

& I cannot help but think of what we have witnessed; religion seems so futile; it doesn't do one any good to think too much these days. The padre looks a different man; guess that in his own little way he must have been through it. Some A.I.F. News arrive; send two copies home.

Continued next journal. Ed

Royal Australian Navy members to guard Queen's Pageant

Four members of the Royal Australian Navy (RAN) are to participate in this weekend's Queen's Diamond Jubilee Pageant in London.

The four will form a ceremonial “Guard” around Her Majesty. They will be there at the special invitation of the United Kingdom's most senior Naval Officer, Admiral Sir Mark Stanhope GCB OBE ADC, the First Sea Lord. Australia is among only three Commonwealth Nations (Australia, Canada, and New Zealand) participating in the Queen's Pageant.

All four RAN members (one Junior Officer and three Sailors) will be embarked in one of four Royal Marine Offshore Raider Craft vessels. The Australian White Ensign will also be flown in the vessel carrying the Australian contingent.

The Flotilla will proceed from Chelsea Harbour making its way up the Thames to Tower Bridge, where the Queen will depart and inspect the Royal Guard at HMS President.

Lieutenant Kate Munari, from Sydney, is a Naval Pilot who is currently on exchange, flying with the UK's Commando Helicopter Force.

“This is a huge honour for all of us,” Kate said.

The BBC has said it will be the biggest event they have ever televised with over two billion people expected to tune in from across the globe

The RAN Officer and Sailors selected to participate are:

LT Kate Munari from Sydney, a Naval pilot flying with the UK's Commando Helicopter Force, who has completed a number of operational deployments to Afghanistan with British forces,

Leading Seaman Combat System Operator Joshua Gould from Sydney,

Able Seaman Clearance Diver Alan Bone from Brisbane, and

Able Seaman Clearance Diver Luke Neil from Perth.

The three sailors are currently part of Exercise Long Look.

Courtesy Defence Media

Moving the Guns History Project
Colonel Graham Farley, OAM, RFD, ED
(Retd)

History Sub Committee Member
Project 17 - Moving the Gun Team
Leader & Author

By necessity the Australian gunner has had to be a master of 'Moving the Guns'. How he has executed this task, and how it has changed over the last 100 years or so is the subject of 'Moving the Guns'. This is a book in advanced preparation that explores this key aspect of the gunner's skill and art.

Major General John Whitelaw set the ball rolling some years ago, when he inspired a number of 'retired' gunners around Australia to accept and undertake a list of projects focused at preserving artillery history. I accepted the project 'Moving the Guns'. A steep learning curve than began for me who was very glad of the various published works, such as that of Major General Steve Gower, which gave me an insight as to what was involved.

I deem myself to be a competent gunner ...

After service through the Citizens Military Forces (1954 - 1988) I deem myself to be a competent gunner and it was only the result of attending an 'Observation of Fire' course at the North Head School of Artillery in 1963 that I finally mastered 'the fall of shot'.

Throughout those years trucks hauled my guns. I became very familiar with those 'workhorses' of the post World War Two era - the 'Chevy and Ford Blitz', the ubiquitous GMC or Studebaker '6x6 three-tonners', and the Mack tractor.

I also knew about and had experienced 'man handling', which pre-dates even the horse but has been standard practice for gunners throughout the ages. Horse-drawn artillery was the normal form of motive power for years without forgetting elephants, mules and the like.

In Australia the early emphasis was naturally on coastal artillery and the emplacement of guns in forts around the nation. The coastal gunners had to master the arts of parbuckle, sheer legs, gyns

and spars to move their very heavy gun barrels.

Horse-drawn artillery was the normal form of motive power for years without forgetting elephants, mules and the like.

On the Australian scene the big change came with the development of tracked wheels, steam power and the internal combustion engine. In World War One, the American Holt tractor made its appearance as did farm tractors and trucks throughout the inter-war period.

The cash strapped defence budget during those years extended itself to acquiring in a very limited number the Thorneycroft Haiti tractor and some Ford utilities, but the cadre and militia gunner Regiments still relied on the horse.

Australian gunner Regiments serving in the Middle East were first equipped with British towing vehicles, such as the Matador. But gradually locally and American made '4x4 Blitz' towers came to be normal for Regiments. Nor should we forget the parachuting of guns and detachments at Nadzab in New Guinea. Truly from a movement point of view, we have been 'ubiquitous'.

Then with the post-war came the helicopter - an indispensable 'work-horse' of moving the guns, together with the development of specialist gun-towing vehicles.

In addition to the narrative of how Australian gunners towed their guns, I have included in the appendices accounts of rail movement, and eye-witness accounts of the use of muscle, sweat and blood to achieve location.

I have trawled through the Australian War Memorial archives to incorporate suitable images to illustrate the writings. I have also been given photographs taken by gunners in the course of their deployments. But there is still the opportunity for readers to submit from their own files, images, or suitable writings about 'movement'. As author I would be glad to receive them and if the appropriate detail is included they will be correctly acknowledged. Photographs should be forwarded to:

Colonel Graham Farley, OAM, RFD, ED (Retd),
Email: wimblea@bigpond.com.

Proposal to Award VC to the Unknown Soldier

*Provided by Christopher Jobson
Former RSM Ceremonial & Protocol Army
Author of RAA Customs and Traditions; &
'Looking Forward, Looking Back'
Customs and Traditions of the Australia Army*

For every person who receives an award, regardless of the reason, be it for actions in combat or for services to the community, there are countless deserving persons who are both overlooked and who go unrecognised for their deeds, their efforts and their contributions. The Unknown Australian Soldier, who is entombed at the Australian War Memorial, represents all of our Country's war dead (Navy, Army and Air Force) and a great many of these dead gave their lives valiantly and have been overlooked, and have gone unrecognised for their heroic deeds in combat.

*... there are countless deserving
persons who are both overlooked
and who go unrecognised for their deeds,
their efforts and their contributions.*

Section 3, of the regulations for the Victoria Cross for Australia, states that the Cross is awarded '*...for the most conspicuous gallantry, or a daring or pre-eminent act of valour or self-sacrifice or extreme devotion to duty in the presence of the enemy.*' There are, without argument, thousands of Australian servicemen and women who, in all the wars that Australia has served, died under these very circumstances.

Australian volunteers served in the South African War, The Great War, Second World War, Korean War, Malaysian Emergency, Indonesian Confrontation and Vietnam War, and a good many of these men and women, without doubt, willingly put their lives in 'harm's way' and died carrying-out acts of '*...conspicuous gallantry, daring or pre-eminent acts of valour*', and '*self-sacrifice*', and demonstrated '*extreme devotion to duty in the presence of the enemy*'. Again, a great number of these acts, self-sacrifices and devotion to duties have not been officially recognized.

There is no doubt what-so-ever that a great number of our national servicemen, who served in the South-West Pacific theatres of the Second World War, in the Indonesian Confrontation, and in the latter-half of the Vietnam War, also willingly put their lives in 'harm's way' and many of them have gone unrecognized for their acts of '*...conspicuous gallantry, daring or pre-eminent acts of valour*', and '*self-sacrifice*', and for demonstrating '*extreme devotion to duty in the presence of the enemy*'.

A great many Australian soldiers on the Western Front during The Great War '*sacrificed*' their lives when they rose from the trenches and charged across 'no-man's land', under horrific enemy fire, attacking the German lines; and countless '*daring and pre-eminent acts of valour*' by our troops would have gone unrecognized (in part because the relevant officers who would have witnessed and reported these acts of '*valour*' were themselves killed) in battles such as that at Pozieres and Mouquet Farm where, in six weeks, Australian troops suffered some 23,000 casualties.

One can read about our airmen who performed '*daring and pre-eminent acts of valour*' in numerous airborne combat engagements, including, for example, The Great War's Battle of Cambrai and during the Second World War in the Battle of Britain and in the raids over Germany and their heroic engagements up in the skies over Korea. Then there were our sailors who displayed '*extreme devotion to duty in the presence of the enemy*' in battles such as that between HMAS Sydney and the German cruiser Emden during The Great War; and those seamen who gave their lives whilst serving in ships such as HMAS Perth and HMAS Canberra during the Second World War.

One can look at the film footage, or read of the numerous accounts of our troops performing acts of '*gallantry*', '*of daring or pre-eminent acts of valour*' in the African deserts at places such as El Alamein and Tobruk; in the jungles of Malaya, Borneo and in New Guinea on the Kokoda Track, and in Vietnam, and of our troops in the harsh terrains of Korea. And one can read about the '*conspicuous gallantry*' and '*devotion to duty in the presence of the enemy*' displayed by a number of our service nurses who, as they joined hands and walked together into the sea, were machine-gunned down by the Japanese.

*Awarding our Unknown Soldier
with this Country's highest award
for bravery would not be setting
a precedent.*

And now we can look at our TV screens, in the evenings, showing us images of our troops displaying their *'self-sacrifice'* and their *'extreme devotion to duty in the presence of the enemy'* in Iraq and in Afghanistan. And we have, over the past 10 years, lost a number of troops in combat roles in these two areas of operations.

Awarding our Unknown Soldier with this Country's highest award for bravery would not be setting a precedent. In 1921 Britain awarded the Victoria Cross to America's Unknown Soldier *'... in recognition of the contribution and sacrifice made by America's servicemen in The Great War'*. In the same year the United States of America's Congress, through a special legislation, granted approval for the awarding of the Medal of Honour (America's highest award for bravery) to Britain's Unknown Warrior and the award of the Medal to their own Unknown Soldier; the Statute proclaimed: *'... the medal is bestowed upon the unknown ... typifying the gallantry and intrepidity, at the risk of life above and beyond the call of duty ... they died in order that others might live'*.

The wording around the Unknown Australian Soldier's Tomb reads *'... he symbolises all Australians who have died in war'*; and, at the Soldier's entombment, on 11th November 1993, the then Prime Minister, Paul Keating, stated *'...the Unknown Soldier honours the memory of all those men and women who laid down their lives for Australia. His tomb is a reminder of what we have lost in war and what we have gained.'*

There are some that consider it to be too late to suitably award the Unknown Australian Soldier; however, it should be remembered that in the early 1990's similar arguments were raised about bringing home our Unknown Soldier from the Western Front. Britain entombed its Unknown Warrior in 1920; the United States buried its

Unknown Soldier in 1921. We did not bring our Unknown Soldier home until 1993; some 75 years after The Great War's Armistice. The time factor, as such, was irrelevant; the important thing was that he finally came home.

Now is, in fact, an appropriate time to award our Unknown Soldier the Victoria Cross because, in just under two years it will be the 20th anniversary of the Soldier's entombment at our National War Memorial and in just under three years it will be the 100th anniversary of the commencement of The Great War; the War that killed our Unknown Soldier, and a great number of other Australians which are amongst those he represents.

The awarding of the Victoria Cross to the Unknown Australian Soldier will not, in any way, denigrate the Award; in fact, it would enhance both its prestige and its significance and, at the same time, add to the respect for, and the relevance of our Unknown Soldier.

It is now time for Australia to suitably recognise its Unknown Soldier, who represents ALL those servicemen and women who died fighting for this Country, a great number of whom are unrecognized for their *'...most conspicuous gallantry'*, for their *'daring or pre-eminent acts of valour'*, for their *'acts of self-sacrifice'* and their *'extreme devotion to duty in the presence of the enemy'*, with the awarding of its highest award for bravery, the Victoria Cross for Australia.



'Mistrust, contempt' divide NATO mission

Jon Boone, Kabul

MUTUAL MISTRUST AND CONTEMPT BORDERING ON HATRED BETWEEN LOCAL AND FOREIGN FORCES ARE AMONG THE CHIEF REASONS AFGHAN TROOPS TURN THEIR GUNS ON THEIR NATO COMRADES, ACCORDING TO A REPORT FOR THE US ARMY.

Research by Jeffrey Bordin, a behavioural scientist commissioned by the US military, found American soldiers enraged their Afghan colleagues with extreme arrogance, bullying and "crude behaviour". It criticised as "profoundly intellectually dishonest" NATO claims that the killing of alliance troops by Afghan soldiers was rare. The data suggests incidents such as Friday's killing of four French soldiers "reflect a rapidly growing systemic homicide threat", the magnitude of which may be unprecedented between "allies" in modern military history.

The problem was provoking a crisis of confidence and trust among Westerners training and working with Afghan National Security Forces. In response to Friday's killings, France's President Nicolas Sarkozy suspended military training and assistance for Afghan forces and said he would consider an early withdrawal from Afghanistan.

The killings were the latest in a series of episodes in which Afghan soldiers or police officers, or insurgents wearing official uniforms, have opened fire on soldiers of the US-led coalition in Afghanistan.

Four of the 32 Australians killed in the conflict were murdered by Afghan soldiers. The killings are designed to sap Western morale and hasten the withdrawal of foreign troops sooner than an agreed NATO deadline of the end of 2014. A rising number of the attacks have also been born of simmering animosity between coalition forces and the Afghan soldiers they fight alongside and train.

According to Dr Bordin's report, the number of attacks have been growing, with 26 killings or attempted killings since early 2007 that led to the deaths of 58 foreign personnel.

Based on interviews with 613 Afghan security personnel, the document paints a bleak picture of mutual contempt and misunderstanding. US troops regard the Afghans they are training and fighting alongside as untrustworthy, dishonest, incompetent and practising "repulsive hygiene".

For their part, the Afghans have been provoked into fights, and even attempts to kill, by American behaviour. This includes urinating in public, cursing at, insulting and being rude and vulgar to Afghan members, and "unnecessarily shooting animals". The factors that create the most animosity include US military convoys blocking traffic, returning fire on insurgents in an apparently indiscriminate way, risking civilian lives, "naively using flawed intelligence sources" and conducting raids on private homes. Another cause for concern is that armed Afghan soldiers hardly ever intervene when one of their comrades is trying to kill NATO soldiers.

The International Security Assistance Force said the "red team study" was produced by an outside contractor and was not endorsed by senior officials who reviewed it. The study suffered from "irrelevant generalisations, narrow sample sets, unprofessional rhetoric and sensationalism". Military red teams are independent cells used to scrutinise and challenge operations and plans.

The recruitment and training of a sizeable army and police force, which will ultimately be 352,000 strong, is a cornerstone of the NATO exit strategy in Afghanistan.

The Sunday Age, January 22, 2012

Tinian Island , Northern Mariana Islands, Pacific Ocean.

It's a small island, less than 40 square miles, a flat green dot in the vastness of Pacific blue.

Fly over it and you notice a slash across its north end of uninhabited bush, a long thin line that looks like an overgrown dirt runway.

If you didn't know what it was, you wouldn't give it a second glance out your airplane window. On the ground, you see the runway isn't dirt but tarmac and crushed limestone, abandoned with weeds sticking out of it.

Yet this is arguably the most historical airstrip on earth.



This is how it changed the outcome of World War II.



This is Runway Able:



On July 24, 1944, 30,000 US Marines landed on the beaches of Tinian.

Eight days later, over 8,000 of the 8,800 Japanese soldiers on the island were dead (vs. 328 Marines), and four months later the Seabees had built the busiest airfield of WWII - dubbed North Field - enabling B-29 Super fortresses to launch air attacks on the Philippines, Okinawa and mainland Japan.

Late in the afternoon of August 5, 1945, a B-29 was manoeuvred over a bomb loading pit, then after lengthy preparations, taxied to the east end of North Field's main runway, Runway Able and at

2:45am in the early morning darkness of August 6, took off.

The B-29 was piloted by Col. Paul Tibbets of the US Army Air Force, who had named the plane after his mother, Enola Gay.

The crew named the bomb they were carrying Little Boy. 6 hours later at 8:15am Japan time, the first atomic bomb was dropped on Hiroshima.

Three days later, in the pre-dawn hours of August 9, a B-29 named Bockscar, (a pun on "boxcar" after its flight commander Capt. Fred Bock), piloted by Major Charles Sweeney took off from Runway Able.

Finding its primary target of Kokura obscured by clouds, Sweeney proceeded to the secondary target of Nagasaki, over which, at 11:01am, bombardier Kermit Beahan released the atomic bomb dubbed Fat Man.

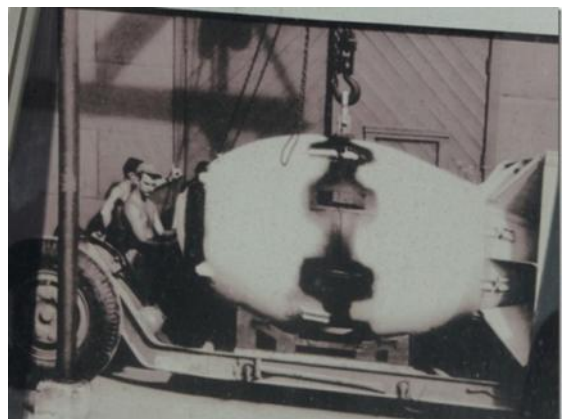
Here is "Atomic Bomb Pit #1" where Little Boy was loaded onto Enola Gay: There are pictures displayed in the pit, now glass-enclosed.



This one shows Little Boy being hoisted into Enola Gay's bomb bay.



And here on the other side of ramp is "Atomic Bomb Pit #2" where Fat Man was loaded onto Bockscar.



The commemorative plaque records that 16 hours after the nuking of Nagasaki:

"On August 10, 1945 at 0300, the Japanese Emperor, without his cabinet's consent, decided to end the Pacific War.

"Take a good look at these pictures. There are no other visitors and no one lives anywhere near for miles.

Visiting the Bomb Pits, walking along deserted Runway Able in solitude, is a moment of extraordinarily powerful solemnity.

A moment of deep reflection. Most people, when they think of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, reflect on the numbers of lives killed in the nuclear blasts - at least 70,000 and 50,000 respectively. Being here causes one to reflect on the number of lives saved - how many more Japanese and Americans would have died in a continuation of the war had the nukes not been dropped.

Yet that was not all. It's not just that the nukes obviated the US invasion of Japan , Operation Downfall, that would have caused upwards of a million American and Japanese deaths or more.

It's that nuking Hiroshima and Nagasaki were of extraordinary humanitarian benefit to the nation and people of Japan .

Let's go to this cliff on the nearby island of Saipan to learn why:

Saipan is less than a mile north of Tinian. The month before the Marines took Tinian, on June 15, 1944, 71,000 Marines landed on Saipan.

They faced 31,000 Japanese soldiers determined not to surrender.

Japan had colonized Saipan after World War I and turned the island into a giant sugar cane plantation. By the time of the Marine invasion, in addition to the 31,000 entrenched soldiers, some 25,000 Japanese settlers were living on Saipan, plus thousands more Okinawans, Koreans and native islanders brutalized as slaves to cut the sugar cane.

There were also one or two thousand Korean "comfort women", (kanji in Japanese), abducted young women from Japan's colony of Korea to service the Japanese soldiers as sex slaves.

(See *The Comfort Women: Japan's Brutal Regime of Enforced Prostitution in the Second World War*, by George Hicks).

Within a week of their landing, the Marines set up a civilian prisoner encampment that quickly attracted a couple thousand Japanese and others wanting US food and protection. When word of this reached Emperor Hirohito - who contrary to the myth was in full charge of the war - he became alarmed that radio interviews of the well-treated prisoners broadcast to Japan would subvert his people's will to fight.

As meticulously documented by historian Herbert Bix in *Hirohito and the Making of Modern Japan*, the Emperor issued an order for all Japanese civilians on Saipan to commit suicide. The order included the promise that, although the civilians were of low caste, their suicide would grant them a status in heaven equal to those honoured soldiers who died in combat for their Emperor.



And that is why the precipice in the picture above is known as Suicide Cliff, off which over 20,000 Japanese civilians jumped to their deaths to comply with their fascist emperor's desire - mothers flinging their babies off the cliff first or in their arms as they jumped.

Anyone reluctant or refused, such as the Okinawan or Korean slaves, were shoved off at gunpoint by the Jap soldiers.

Then the soldiers themselves proceeded to hurl themselves into the ocean to drown off a sea cliff, afterwards called Banzai Cliff. Of the 31,000 Japanese soldiers on Saipan, the Marines killed 25,000, while 5,000 jumped off Banzai Cliff, and only the remaining thousand were taken prisoner.

The extent of this demented fanaticism is very hard for any civilized mind to fathom - especially when it is devoted not to anything noble but barbarian evil instead.

The vast brutalities inflicted by the Japanese on their conquered and colonized peoples of China, Korea, the Philippines, and throughout their "Greater East Asia Co-Prosperity Sphere" was a hideously depraved horror.

They were willing to fight to the death to defend it.



The only way to put an end to the Japanese barbarian horror was unimaginably colossal destruction against which they had no defense whatever.

Nuking Japan was not a matter of justice, revenge, or it getting what it deserved. It was the only way to end the Japanese dementia.

Fortunately, it worked - for the Japanese.

They stopped being barbarians and started being civilized.

They achieved more prosperity - and peace - than they ever knew, or could have achieved had they continued fighting and not been nuked.

Guinness lists Saipan as having the best, most equitable, weather in the world.

And the beaches? Well, take a look:

Although we do not forget, history fades into the shadows of our mind and we seldom think about it.

But, we should remember and we should be reminded of our history.

Courtesy Sgt Gordon Hepburn



Question: What is a bastard exactly?

In the photo attached, the guy on the right is a member of a bomb squad in the middle of a deactivation.

The guy behind him, well, he's a bastard.

Courtesy of Sgt Harry Petriw



Re-raising 102 (Coral) Battery

Trevor Bryant Battle of Coral Veteran

In 2010 it was announced that the 102nd (Coral) Battery would be reformed after being officially 'mothballed' some years earlier. It would become part of the new 8th/12th Regiment RAA, and would be housed at Edinburgh in South Australia, along with the 1st Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment.

This action subsequently took place earlier in 2011, and on Saturday, 3rd December last, an official ceremony was held at the 102 Battery lines to mark the occasion. There were speeches, plus the unveiling of a plaque and the running-up of the Battery Flag. Current serving officers of 8th/12th Regiment and 102nd (Coral Battery) conducted the ceremony in front of current battery personnel on parade and looking magnificent, a few of their family members, and a number of invited guests. Some of these invited guests included a bunch of us ex-102 Battery veterans.

We had been specifically invited by the Battery Commander, Major Duncan Anderson, who is very keen to impress on his men the rich culture and history of 102 Battery. His philosophy is that we old blokes can help him reinforce the fact that, in spite of its recent resurrection, the Battery is not 'new', and is in fact, a very old and decorated unit.

... we old blokes can help him
reinforce the fact that, in spite of
its recent resurrection, the
Battery is not 'new'...

They treated us like royalty. The ceremony went without a hitch in typical Army efficient fashion, except when one of the kids watching from the sideline, got a bit bored and pulled out the microphone jack. Don Tait made a speech on behalf of the [12th Field Regiment Vietnam] Association addressing the troops and telling them about 12th Field's and 102nd

Battery's roles at Coral, and what was done that earned the citation.

After the official part, we were given a look at their current ordinance and got to see a typical mobile command post set up in a Bushmaster. There were also an M2A2 and an L5, and the Battery's 'museum' for us to view and to bring back some memories.

We old blokes were also invited to join all the Battery personnel at their end-of-year barbecue later that day, at Keswick Barracks in Adelaide. Again we were treated with great respect by all the current serving diggers we met. We took part in the 'presentation of awards' ceremony being given the chance to announce the winners and present the trophies.

It was a great day for all of us ex-102's who attended, and it was gratifying that the Battery Commander has reiterated his objective to keep strong ties with our Association. With his support, 102nd (Coral) Battery will be hosting a visit to their lines for all 12th Field Regiment (Vietnam) Association members who attend the Re-union in Adelaide over Anzac Day next year. This visit will take place on 26th April, the 'free day' on the program, and will involve a tour of their lines and facilities, a look at their new 'digital' artillery pieces which will arrive early in the year, and a presentation from the Battery Commander about Artillery's role in the Afghanistan conflict etc.

The ex-102 Battery personnel who attended representing the Association, and who were the beneficiaries of all this hospitality were: Don Tait, Les Partridge, Jim 'Dutchie' Holland, Dick Creek, Larry Darcy, Peter Geelen and Trevor Bryant.

Courtesy RAA Liaison Letter 2012 - Autumn Edition



Rehab to Race Walking Champion

Prior to joining the Army in 1989 Lance Bombardier Dean Nipperess currently posted to 20th Surveillance and Target Acquisition Regiment (20 STA Regt), Gallipoli Barracks, was an Australian Junior Representative in Track and Field as a Race Walker. His highest international achievement was second place in the 1990 Oceania Athletic Championships in the 20 km walk.

After eight years in the Army he sustained a lower back injury resulting in him having two spinal operations with the second being a spinal fusion. This injury resulted in him being medically discharged in 1997. Upon his discharge he was determined to do whatever was needed, to strengthen his back and to prove he was well enough to rejoin the Australian Defence Force.

After having a four year break and a lot of hard work, he was able to rejoin the Australian Defence Force, this time in the Navy as a Combat Systems Operator for seven and a half years before transferring back to the Army and joining 20 STA Regt.

Between February 2009 and February 2010 Lance Bombardier Nipperess had three operations on his left shoulder. During his recovery period he was faced with the possibility of being medically discharged for a second time. But with the support and help from 20 STA Regt and staff in the Rehabilitation Centre at 2HSB he was determined to fight and prove that he was able to be retained in his current trade.

Unable to partake in much of the Regimental physical training programme he returned to the 'Track' in May 2011 and took up race walking once again after a 21 year absence, and is the current Open Queensland 20 km Road Walk Champion. He is also one of Australia's top Masters race walkers for his age group, competing in walking races from 1.5 km to 20 km.

*...you will see him race walking,
often keeping up and in front of
other members who are running
and half his age.*



Oceania Masters 3000m Race

When he is able to participate in unit physical training sessions on the running track at Gallipoli Barrack, you will see him race walking, often keeping up and in front of other members who are running and half his age. He is able to complete the Basic Fitness Test 2.4 km run in under 11 minutes 18 seconds walking, which is the time required for a pass for males aged under 25 for the run.

Courtesy RAA Liaison Letter 2012 - Autumn Edition

The following article was sent to me by WO2 Max Murray and should have been included in the previous journal. I reproduce it here in full. ed

This email was sent to me by the sister of a platoon mate of mine, Alan 'Skull' Hanson, who was killed by a sniper in November 1965 somewhere in War Zone D Vietnam. At the time Al and I were the scout team for our 'extremely depleted' platoon, 8 Pl "Bodysnatchers" C Coy 1RAR and we were standing less than a meter apart checking a compass bearing in readiness to move out. Al looked at me and I was waiting for him to ask if he or I would lead out when I noticed the small red bullet hole in his throat; I still cannot recall if I ever heard the shot; and he then slumped to the ground. Subsequently we lost Al and I was a pall bearer at his loading ramp service at Tan Son Nhut a little later.

Now, from the time I met Dee I have always known her to be a very peaceful Christian lady and quite circumspect, so it was a surprise to see the underlying anger in her message to me.

For those of you I am sending this to in the USA, you may not realise that April 25th is the day we call Anzac Day (ANZAC = Australian New Zealand Army Corps), and has been our national memorial day for veterans from all wars and deployments since the landing of Australian and New Zealand troops landed on the wrong beach on the Gallipoli Peninsula of Turkey by the British navy on April 25 1915 and the subsequent horrendous conditions they fought in there, and the many other battle zones our troops have fought and died in over the years. It is a day of extreme gratitude, respect and love shown to veterans of ALL deployments of we AUSSIES and our KIWI cousins.

Recently a bunch of Neville Nobody Bureaucrats made a study in which they suggest that by honouring our veterans and particularly our ANZAC veterans at the 100th year anniversary in 2015 we will upset our immigrants who have arrived here from all sorts of other countries by honouring our dead, some of whom may have even fought against men of their father's country! The cost of this 'study' was ENORMOUS with no real value and it is hard to find anyone from an

immigrant family who was actually interviewed during this.

The attitude of we Australians is that this is OUR country, the majority of immigrants have arrived here, acknowledged our culture and accepted it and have joined in with the honouring of the veterans of all wars. Christ, even the Turks, who were the enemy at Gallipoli join in this day. This 'Study' has caused great anger in our country and these bureaucrats should simply pull their bloody heads in and leave us alone.

SO MUCH FOR THE GREAT AUSTRALIAN MULTICULTURISM. If you don't like what we do and it offends you, exercise your right to leave. If you haven't got the strength to do so, I am sure we will find many volunteers to carry your luggage on board.

Now please read Dee's message to me.

God Bless You Dee.

John Arnold

Never take a knife to a gunfight and always remember to have the biggest bloody gun there!

"What the Hell is this bullshit about 'toning down' ANZAC day because it may offend immigrants in Australia? What an absolute crock of shit! (My emphasis. Ed)

This is Australia because all our forefathers fought for us. This is one special day that 'we' proud Aussie's Pay our respects to the many heroes lost fighting for our freedom and OUR! Country!

So who cares if some DAMN ILLEGAL immigrant that's funded by OUR taxes gets offended because of tribute we rightfully pay to OUR ANZAC's!

If you're a proud Aussie too, please send this on just to remind them who's country they're in!!"

Proudly forwarded by Robert Higgins



HOWITZERS USED IN VIETNAM TO BE PRESERVED

Minister for Defence Materiel Jason Clare today (4/4/12) announced that 38 howitzer guns will be preserved at RSLs and historical organisations around Australia.

RSL organisations, Vietnam Veterans Associations and historical organisations were exclusively offered the opportunity to tender for the Howitzers in August 2011 through a Request for Offer (RFO).

“The M2A2 Howitzer Gun has provided outstanding service to Australia for more than 40 years. By providing them for static display we will preserve this important part of our military history,” Mr Clare said.

“The Howitzers have been a vital component of Australia’s arsenal. They were critical in providing close artillery fire support to the Australian Army in Vietnam.

“During the six years they were used in Vietnam, M2A2 Howitzers fired thousands of 105mm rounds.

“This important part of Australia’s military history will now be preserved in 38 RSLs and historical organisations across the country.”

The M2A2 Howitzers were procured from 1959, before being introduced into service in Vietnam in 1967 to supplement the existing L5 ‘pack’ Howitzers in use during that conflict.

The Howitzer can be towed by truck, lifted by helicopter or moved manually for short distances.

The gun has not deployed on operations since Vietnam but remained in service.

Approved recipients will pay for demilitarisation and other costs, such as transport and site preparation, and will need to be approved by United States Government under its International Traffic in Arms Regulations.

Delivery and display of the howitzers also remains subject to any relevant state firearms and planning approvals.

Imagery of the M2A2 Howitzer Guns is available at: <http://www.defence.gov.au/opEx/exercises/ts11/index.htm>

The successful organisations are:

- Armadale RSL Sub Branch and Club Inc
- Bordertown RSL Sub Branch
- Broadford RSL Sub-Branch
- Burnett War Memorial Museum Association Inc
- City of Joondalup
- City of Palmerston Council
- Dandenong-Cranbourne RSL Sub-Branch Inc
- Diamantina Shire Council
- Edenhope RSL Sub-Branch Inc
- Fort Lytton Historical Association Incorporated
- Ingleburn RSL Sub Branch Co-op Club Ltd
- Maryborough Military And Colonial Museum
- Military Vehicle Preservation Society of South Australia Inc
- Milne Bay Military Museum Inc
- Mt Evelyn RSL Sub Branch
- Muswellbrook RSL Sub Branch
- National Servicemen’s Association of Australia Qld Inc
- National Vietnam Veterans Museum Ltd
- Northhampton RSL
- Oberon RSL Sub Branch
- Phillip Island RSL Sub Branch Inc
- Returned and Services League Bute S/B Inc
- Returned and Services League of Australia Port Augusta Sub Branch
- Returned and Services League of Australia Qld Branch Cairns Sub Branch
- Robinvale Sub Branch Returned and Service League
- Royal Australian Artillery Association NT Inc T/ A Darwin Military Museum
- RSL Life Care
- RSL Roma Sub Branch
- Salisbury RSL Sub Branch Inc
- Seymour Returned and Services League Sub Branch Inc
- Shoalhaven National Servicemen's Association NSW
- South Australian Bush Artillery
- St Helens St Marys RSL Sub Branch Inc
- Taree RSL Sub Branch
- The Returned and Services League of Australia (Tea Gardens)
- Upwey/Belgrave RSL Sub-Branch Inc
- West Wyalong RSL
- Wollondilly RSL Sub Branch.
-





ARMOURED and Artillery Corps put on an explosive combat power demonstration for Exercise Chong Ju at Puckapunyal on May 10.

The simulated attack included Abrams, ASLAVs, Bushmasters, 155mm M777-A2 artillery and infantry soldiers on foot and firing a Javelin anti-armour missile.

The commandant of the Combined Arms Training Centre Col Sean Ryan said Ex Chong Ju was an important part of training for the Army's next generation of leaders. "The exercise is an opportunity for young officers and soldiers to see first hand how all the ADF systems work in unison in a potential operational scenario," he said.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Royal Australian Artillery Association (Victoria) Inc.

Thursday, the 1st of November, 2012 at 1930 hours.

Sergeant's Mess Annex

2/10 Field Regiment, RAA

8 Chapel Street,

East St.Kilda

This is a great opportunity to know what your Association is doing and also to find out the current information on 2/10 Field Regiment's Training Programme.

Light supper will be provided after the meeting.

Reg Morrell

Treasurer

This service originated in 1916 when members of the Church's Young Men's Bible Class organised a memorial service on the first anniversary of their minister Rev Andrew Gillison's death at Gallipoli. Chaplain Rev. Andrew Gillison was mortally wounded in action on Gallipoli on 22nd August 1915 while assisting a wounded soldier. Subsequently, the 14 Battalion AIF requested permission to place a memorial in the Church to honour their padre. The Battalion made the memorial service an annual remembrance, which has been held in August each year to remember Rev. Andrew Gillison and all those who have served their country in war.

Following WW2, the 2/14 Battalion and the 14/32 Battalion Associations have supported the service and in more recent years have been joined by 39 Battalion, veterans of Korea, the Malaya/Borneo conflicts, Vietnam and members of the Peacekeepers and Peacemakers Association who have seen service in Cambodia, Bougainville, Rwanda, Timor, Iraq, Afghanistan and many other conflicts. The service is assisted by the Band of 2/10 Field Regiment RAA.

HEALING THE WOUNDS OF WAR

Commemorating the 70th Anniversary of the
Kokoda Campaign, and the sacrifice of
Bruce Kingsbury VC at Isurava

ST. GEORGE'S EAST ST. KILDA UNITING CHURCH
4 CHAPEL STREET, EAST ST. KILDA

SUNDAY 19 AUGUST 2012
ANNUAL MEMORIAL SERVICE
10:30 AM

Remembering the 14 Battalion and the 97th anniversary
of the death at Gallipoli of their Chaplain, REV. ANDREW GILLISON

GUEST SPEAKERS

Theme: Personal stories from the
Kokoda Track during WWII

Peter Holloway - 39 Battalion

Bob Iskov - 2/14 Battalion

Cam Thompson - 2/14 Battalion

Battalion
flags and
banners to be
marched into the
Church.
Medals to be
worn.

FEATURING

Candle-lighting for remembrance

Music by the Band of the 2/10 Field Regiment RAA

Presentation of a Commemorative DVD 'Healing the Wounds of War'

LUNCH

Hosted by the 2/10 Field Regiment RAA and
St. George's congregation. Lunch \$7:00.

RSVP 9692 9426 if attending lunch

PLEASE SUPPORT THIS SERVICE. (ed)

Lunch bookings: *RSVP* by 7 August by phoning 03 9692 9426
All other inquiries: Rev. Angela Tampiyappa 03 9731 0604

**Parade Card
as at 1 July 2012**

January 2013	June 2013	October 2012
23. Cascabel Issue 114 posted	5. Reservist Luncheon	5. Gunner Dinner
26. Australia day Salute	18. 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 2013	17. Committee Meeting	2. Golf Day
6. RAA Luncheon		20. Committee Meeting
19. Committee Meeting	August 2012	
	19. Church Parade. Healing the Wounds of War	December 2012
April 2013	21. Committee Meeting	4. St Barbara's Day
8. Cascabel Issue 115 posted		9. Annual Church Parade
16. Committee Meeting	September 2012	9. 2/10 St Barbara's Day Parade and Family Day
25. Anzac day	14. Pipe Clay Dinner Dance	11. Committee Meeting
	18. Committee Meeting	
May 2013		
21. Committee Meeting		
Note: This Calender is subject to additions, alterations and deletions.		

Change of Personal Details

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