

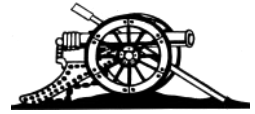
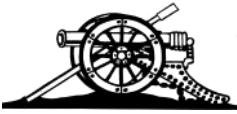
CASCABEL

Journal of the

ROYAL AUSTRALIAN ARTILLERY ASSOCIATION

(VICTORIA) INCORPORATED

ABN 22 850 898 908



ISSUE 113

Published Quarterly in
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OCTOBER 2012

We may get to be armed with these one day - but don't hold your breath



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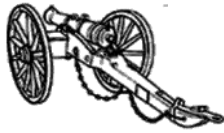
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Alan Halbish

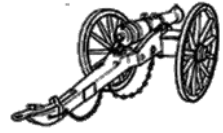
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CASCABEL



FORMER PATRONS, PRESIDENTS & 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: LAPEL BADGE:

Our Assoc Logo and Lapel Badge 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.



The Badge is a 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. It differs from the logo in that the badge has been cast with the rammer in a different position and the end of the trail has been reduced in length. 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
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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

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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 **January 2013** issue are required no later than **1 December 2012** unless otherwise arranged with the Editor.

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The President Writes

I know it is a little early, but as this is the last issue of Cascabel for this year, I would like to take this opportunity to wish all members and their families the Compliments of the Season and may the New Year be a safe and happy one.

Please take note of the Parade Card at the back of the magazine. As I am sure most of you know, 2/10 will cease to exist as a regiment at the end of this year. It is to become a mortar battery which will be administered by 5/6 RVR. At this stage I believe that the battery will be 4th Battery RAA. I personally would like to see it become 4th Light Battery RAA to designate the delivery system (mortars) with which the battery will be equipped.

The Saint Barbara's Day activities are at present being organised and it is expected that they will take place over two days; Saturday 8th and Sunday 9th of December. The Annual Church Parade will be held on the 9th.

The Commanding Officer 2/10 has more to say about this in his article elsewhere in the magazine.

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.

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 Saint Barbara's functions in December.

Remember that this is the last occasion that Reserve Artillery in Victoria will parade as a Regiment.

Neil Hamer

MAJ (Retd)

Membership Report

Current Membership as at 20 Jun 12

Life Members	197	(199)
Annual Members	33	(44)
Senior Annual Members	13	(13)
Affiliates	31	(31)
Others (CO/CI, Messes, etc.)	10	(10)
Libraries	5	(5)
RSL's	4	(4)
Total	293	(306)

Ten members have not yet paid the 2012/13 subscription.

New Members

No applications for membership have been received during the last quarter.

Vale

It is with regret that we note the passing of Gnr Barry Pearce KSJ. [See page 43](#)

Resignations

The Committee has accepted the resignation of Maj John Campbell.

SCMA Officers' and Sergeants' Messes have closed.

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



Time flies, and my four years as Colonel Commandant end on St Barbara's Day this year. Much has changed in this period, especially the structure of the Regular and Reserve Forces. I know that Jason Cooke will give you a good report on these changes.

As part of his duties, a Colonel Commandant is a member of the RAA Regimental Committee, which has the role of fostering and developing RAA traditions, history and heritage. Much has also changed in this area, including the closing of the RAA Museum at North Head. The collection is in storage at Bandiana pending the construction of the new museum. Unfortunately, as I reported in the last Cascabel, this may not occur for about 10 years.

In the meantime, the RAA Historical Company, which was concerned with the operation of the museum, is now taking a national perspective. On the positive side, this has led to the development of the RAA Heritage Plan. This plan has the following objectives:

- ♦ Supporting the establishment of the new Artillery Museum at Puckapunyal.
- ♦ Supporting the maintenance and restoration of priority artillery heritage sites across Australia and the recording of those sites not able to be restored.
- ♦ Developing and maintaining a register of guns located throughout Australia and supporting the maintenance and restoration of those considered of heritage value.
- ♦ Improving the linkages between the Australian gunner community and the Australian War Memorial and other collections (both public and private) which contain items of significance to Australia's artillery heritage.

The initial steps in the implementation of this plan are underway, and I would like to thank Doug Perry for his work in this area.

I would also like to thank Doug and Reg Morrell for their sterling efforts in running the Gunner Lunch each year.

Both the **Commanding Officer and Regimental Sergeant Major** are leaving at the end of the year and I would like to commend them both on the work they have done and wish them all the best for the future.

The new **Colonel Commandant** should be announced shortly. However, I will still be involved with the Regimental Committee, and also look forward to seeing you at the Gunner functions in Victoria.

Best wishes

Brig Neil Graham, AM

Colonel Commandant, Southern Region

Royal Regiment of Australian Artillery.



I wish to thank Brig Graham for his contributions to Cascabel. ed



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



To all Gunners

As we near the end of 2012, the pace at which the Regiment is working has not reduced however, more broadly, the Reserves will be entering some tough times ahead. No surprise there if you have been reading the papers and listening to the news on Defence. But before we get too depressed about the future, let me update you on the fantastic things 2/10 has been doing since my last message.

I would like to welcome back my RSM, WO1 Paul Holstein from his recent deployment. Great to have him back especially as he has returned in one piece. Although I have noticed that he has developed a few more muscles since I last saw him. My sincere thanks and gratitude goes to WO2 Maurice Broughton for doing an outstanding job as RSM whilst Paul was deployed, especially noting the Regt's achievements during that time.

2/10 has been heavily engaged in supporting the series of conversion courses for other 2nd Division RAA units. I have already informed you of the July concentrated combined courses for 13 and 41 Bty in QLD; however since then we have commenced the rolling series of conversion courses required for the NSW Regiments. 2/10 has supported 7 Fd Regt in Sept and will be supporting 23 Fd Regt in Oct, plus we are running our own suite of courses in Nov. 2/10 has also conducted a SMIG conversion course aimed at qualifying the next batch of ARA entering the 2nd Division in 2013. As you can imagine, this has taken a significant effort – again well done on your efforts and the fantastic results achieved.

Let's not forget that 2/10 has a large number now in full swing preparing for operations in the early part of 2013. The next rotation of soldiers from 4 Brigade will see a good smattering of gunners amongst the force. I am still very excited about this proposition and the

opportunity they have been given and of course I am very pleased with the response from the Regiment in taking up this challenge. We wish them all the best for their deployment and hope there are many more opportunities for gunners to deploy in the future.

The rest of us have been concentrating on developing the mortar trade during our normal training regime. The challenge set for them by the end of the year, is to explore the boundaries of this new trade and in particular - dismounted deployments. It is fair to say that we have concentrated on developing the mortar trade from a traditional gunnery perspective i.e. with vehicles. We have learnt many lessons and developed a suite of SOP and drills that meet the new equipment. However, under the Plan BEERSHEBA orbat there maybe a need for dismounted operations so 2/10 needs to extend the 2nd Division knowledge base and start to explore all types of deployments.

As a result, we have focused the training at BDR level which really highlights and tests all the drills, procedures and theories we have created and developed in support of this new light artillery trade in the 2nd Division over the past two years. Not surprisingly, the soldiers and junior ranks have risen to the occasion and are delivering the results required but not without pain and tension. We are all looking forward to the live fire weekend in October when the real test of our training will be put to the test.

The Regiment is deliberately, methodically and more importantly professionally working towards the next chapter of Artillery in Victoria. Come the new year, comes the new command structure where there will be no Regiment but a Battery under command of 5/6 RVR. The new battery structure is yet to be signed off by the Chief of Army however, under the Plan BEERSHEBA orbat, gunners will provide our profession from a Bty within an Infantry Battalion. They will have to be self sufficient,

resilient and eager to maintain this new trade with minimal support from the Corps, that being a CAPT and a SMIG only. Luckily we have fought and won the creation of a Divisional Artillery Cell whose main job is to drive home at every opportunity and prove the absolute requirement for effective command and control over all offensive fire support and potential ISTAR feeds into this Plan BEERSHEBA Battle Group. We can not afford to lose any more ground.

The time now is not for resistance or delay anymore. We have played the best hand we could noting we had both hands tied behind our backs. The future has been set and we are quickly approaching the launch date of the future. I know you all will, but let's get behind the Mortar Battery and fully support the soldiers in their efforts. We are in tough times and I fear there is more to come. When you compare what is occurring in other Defence Forces, Australia is doing the best they can but at the end of the day, we are in the 2nd Division and we simply cannot afford the Army we need.

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 28th September. The theme of this session is "Operations". These nights are proving to be a great success and hopefully I see these nights extending into the future as these will become a great vehicle for "Gunnery" to congregate at the one time and talk of our profession. This time we will have a couple of guest speakers that will fully engage you in conversation and thought. So come along – you are all invited.

As usual I will conclude with some quick public announcements. There will be a "closing of 2/10 Field Regiment" event on 7th December (details to be out soon). This will be a big event – DO NOT MISS IT. 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 Dinner, AGM and/or 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



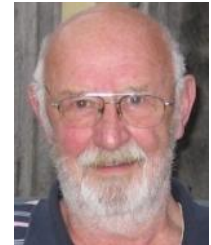
It is with regret, I notify all that 3114238 WO2 Kevin (known as Sam) Phyland died in his sleep at 0930 hours on 31 Jul 12 at the age of 79 years. He joined National Service on 07 Aug 1951 and retired on 07 Feb 1978. Our records reveal that he was a Sergeant in P Battery, 22 Field Regiment (Self Propelled) then he was transferred to Charlie Troop, Q Battery, 10 Medium Regiment as a Gun Sergeant at Brighton Depot. He was a very competent and professional instructor. He transferred to Q Battery, 2 Field Regiment at Frankston and shortly after he transferred to OCTU, where he was promoted to Warrant Officer Class 2.

Rest in Peace, Sam.

SSgt Reg Morrell

Editors Indulgence

For those members we cannot contact via email, I would hope you can access a computer. Perhaps your children, grand children, friends or neighbours have one. If so, I trust you will visit our web site <http://www.artilleryvic.org.au> where the page History of Artillery in Victoria now has a pdf article attached. It is part 1 of a 3 part series that will be completed in due course.



If you wish to update your copy of journal 112, here are 3 amendments to make:

P 37, 1st column, 2nd paragraph. Major General Steve Cower should read **Gower**

2nd column, 2nd paragraph. Thorneycroft Haithi should read **Haiti**

P 3, 2nd column, 1st paragraph. Screwed into the breach should read **breech**. This error has been around since journal 87, but I won't be going back to correct them all.

I feel saddened to hear of the extinction of the last ARES Fd Regt in Victoria. I am also going to miss the input from their CO, Lt Col Jason Cooke who has submitted many fine articles to keep us informed re 2/10 and the Reserve in general. I trust he will be able to appoint a Cascabel input successor prior to his departure.

I will also miss Brig Neil Graham who has too, been a regular contributor. However, perhaps we'll still see them both around the traps from time to time.

Those of you who receive a hard copy of Cascabel would have noticed some pictures were in colour. While the printing is out of my hands, I'm hoping there will be even more colour in this and future journals.

The following comments are to be regarded as my personal feelings only, and in no way are they to be interpreted as necessarily being Association Policy.

I was appalled to hear today (30/8/12) of the slaughter of three of our finest by, apparently, an Afghan Army imposter. My thoughts immediately turned to: "It's time to get out". Enough is enough. Save the money, use it assist the genuine Afghan refugees to come here. That's how we could best assist their people. This war is another Vietnam! When the majority of the US forces depart, the Taliban will probably take over again. Our soldiers have contributed enough, too many have been sacrificed for what, ultimately, may be in vain.

Many of our members and readers may well be in disagreement with me. That's fine, we are all entitled to our own opinions. But I feel sure that there will be more and more people coming to the same conclusion that I have. IT IS INDEED TIME TO GET OUT. Ed

Xmas is fast approaching once again and the next journal won't appear until Jan '13.



So I take this opportunity to wish you and your families the very best for Xmas, and may the New Year be a healthy and prosperous time for all.

Alan

Merry Xmas <http://youtu.be/1qv64wCws98>

Walking tall. Our Olympic hero, Ben

WAR hero Ben Parkinson took his longest walk since losing both legs in a 2006 Taliban bomb blast on Tuesday when he carried the Olympic flame 328 yards. Crowds chanted "Go Ben" as the 28-year-old paratrooper, pictured right, bore the burning torch through his home town of Doncaster.

Walking with him were 25 colleagues from his Colchester-based Paratroop platoon, dressed in their fatigues and red berets.

Lance Bombardier Parkinson is the most severely injured British serviceman to have come home alive from Afghanistan

He lost both legs, had his back, hips and ribs broken and suffered brain damage when his vehicle hit a mine.

Strong

Ben has learned to walk again with hi-tech prosthetic legs and his physiotherapist Shep Shepherd supported him during the 27 minutes it took him to complete his section of the torch relay.

After the walk, his friend Sgt Adam Colvin said: "Ben deserves a gold medal for this.

"I know him well, I have served with him and he is mentally and physically strong and that's how he has managed to overcome his devastating injuries. This has been an incredible feat of strength and determination."

Ben's commanding officer Major David Walker added: "My men would have crawled over broken glass to come here today to show Ben our support. What he has done is nothing short of awe inspiring.

"His tenacity and determination to do this on his prosthetic legs is incredible. To overcome the injuries has shown his fighting spirit and physical and mental courage.

Ben's proud mother Diane Dernie said: "I cried from start to finish but that's my job. People were shouting and cheering. He is very tired, it



was hard work but he is absolutely elated. He is so proud and is absolutely buzzing. This was 100 yards further than he has ever walked".

International Express July 3, 2012

Courtesy SSgt Ernie Paddon

Part 3 of the diary of Lt. Keith Batiste continues courtesy of RUSIV (Royal United Services Institute of Victoria)

4th August 42. Fairly quiet day at the O.P.; our old friend across the way with the Spandau seems to be very keen to get our scalps; he keeps firing bursts up at the O.P.; still can't see him or any flash from his gun. Thought he might be hiding out in some derelict tanks; put a few rounds of H.E. into them but he is still there; getting quite a personal touch about it now; sooner or later he will give himself away.

The view from here (Hill 33) is not so good; there has been a heavy sandstorm blowing all day; have spots in front of my eyes from staring through the glasses; the glare from the sand certainly plays up with your eyes. About 600 yards out on the left is the Tel-El Elna Station; a fairly hotly contested spot, it has changed hands several times past on East & Westerly Hills 24. Around there are the burnt-out remains of Jerry Mk IV & III tanks; part of the 21st Panzer Division which our guns badly mauled during the big counter attack of July; also about a dozen lorries; destroyed by shellfire (90th Light Division). The guns chopped his Infantry to pieces; there are dozens of dead Germans laying out there. Behind the O.P. there are three Jerry Mk IVs knocked out by an Australian Anti-tank gunner (later awarded the M.M.) the fourth tank got hi; but he certainly did a good job, in stopping this position from being overrun.

5th August 42. Message of congratulations to all ranks from General Blamey. Didn't get much sleep last night, fairly heavy shelling & a little bombing. An intercepted Jerry message stated he was going to attack Hill 33. Didn't feel particularly happy as happened to be sitting on top of it. He didn't attack but the barrage came down just the same; we dear friendly old Mother Earth; his fire is very accurate; several large shells within a few yards of the O.P. One shell bursts about 4 yards away in a heap of mines and Mills bombs; there is a terrific explosion, burning embers rain in on us – nobody hurt. Bill English had a fairly severe jolt from concussion otherwise all OK. Jerry is using a lot of air-burst shells; about 4" [calibre]; they burst about 15-20 feet off the ground; they have a particularly deadly burst & have been in a large way responsible for our heavy Infantry casualties. Several days ago the 32nd Battalion put in an

attack near .24; took their objective & were pinned down on a bare stony ridge by M.G. fire. His Artillery then ranged onto them with air-burst and chopped them to pieces. Our fellows were too close to Jerry to use H.E. Eventually we poured 150 rounds of smoke into the hill to try & blind the machine gunners. Could have all been prevented by using a few tanks; the tanks didn't arrive & on Infantry went in by themselves. Wish we had our own tanks, the Tommy tank people aren't much chop. Our Divisional Cavalry go out in Bren Carriers where the English tanks won't venture. These English conscripts are a pretty poor type; no wonder Jerry thrashed them. Stuka parade again! Hell of a mix up: they bomb us & our bombers fly over on their way to bomb Jerry; in between the fighters "mix it" and try to get their respective charges safely through. The Stukas unload their eggs on us; notice some four fighters looking on! I'll bet they are not Australian pilots.

6th August 42. Fairly heavy shellfire; two unexploded bombs found near our position were detonated; both were 2,000 lbs. 48th Bn again put in an attack; heaven only knows what with, as they were shot to ribbons in the last push; my word they are great lads; both objectives have been taken. We give them a helping hand with a barrage of smoke & H.E. Jerry is throwing everything he has at them; but it is too late now; they have taken their objective & won't let 'em go! Jerry's evening "hate" session has started; some of his shells 210mm (8") are enormous; I think they must be naval guns; some of the shell splinters are 18" long & as sharp as a razor; when they burst they throw a column of earth or debris about 60' in the air.

The flies are terrible; they cannot be brushed off, you have to kill them; have done all we can to make our position hygienic but it doesn't seem to make any difference. I notice Eytie and Jerry prisoners are also covered in septic sores. Five German & two Italian officers were taken prisoner today; saw two of them; the Jerries were typical bull-necked Prussians; the Italians are only lads like ourselves & laugh & talk to us in their limited English. They are well built fellows & both very fair; think they must come from Northern Italy

Message from G.O.C. 25th July behind Alamein

To All Ranks

You have done well; you have turned what was a retreat into a firm stand; you have captured the

initiative from him by sheer guts & hard fighting & put him on the defensive. He has lost heavily & is short of Ammo. Petrol & other vital commodities that he is trying to replace; but the Navy & Air Force are at his shipping. I have asked much of you; I am going to ask more. Keep at him; stick to him & he will crack. I know you can do it.

C.J.E. Auchinleck

GOC ic VIII Army

7th August 42. A little bombing last night; the ack-acks were firing intermittently throughout the night. 28th Bn put in an attack through a gap in Jerry's minefield & take their objective; a low stony ridge; Jerry found the gap in the minefield through which they had come & covered it with defilade & enfilade fire from machine-guns supported by 4" mortars & artillery. 28th were cut off & the echelon vehicles couldn't get ammo to them; looks as though most of the Battalion will be lost.

Colonel Crisp's nephew killed by Jerry machine gun fire; up at the O.P. Jerry gunners got behind the O.P. Capt Garrott was in charge & had to get out quickly. Crisp was left out there. Three reinforcements arrive; one of them, Stephens, who was only wounded a little while ago & still has bandages around his head & face [from] when he was hit by splinters; they must be very short of men. Had to go down to the R.A.P. this morning; arm in quite a mess with desert sores; 80% of the chaps have them; ugly septic things continuously aggravated by myriads of flies. The insects are nearly as bad as Jerry's shells; flies by the millions; it's impossible keep them down with the dead out there.

8th August 42. Hear that some of the 28th managed to get out OK; heaven only knows how they held on until dark without any ammo; but apparently they did & are now coming back in small parties – good lads those boys. I wonder what John Curtin & Australia in general will say when our casualty lists are published; anyway it's tie we did something to warrant our existence. If only we had our 6th & 7th Divisions here we could smash right through him; but the Tommies, the 48th & 32nd Battalions beat odds of 10 to 1 at Tel-el-Eisa. There is no doubt about the Aussie Infantry.

9th August 42. Orders to sleep in holes; Jerry long range guns; nothing very close. Manage to sneak a

truck back to ammo today; the boys put one over the Tommy Canteen fellow & got 250 cans of ale; cigarettes & chocolate – all having a good time. A little shelling, otherwise all quiet. Listened to the German short wave station last night & got a good laugh out of it. They certainly rubbed it in to the Tommies. "The Alamein front is held by a hard core of Aust shock troops; cannon fodder; ably backed by the British – well in rear. The road they tread is the road of death" The lads thought it was a great joke; it sounded more like a penny dreadful than a cultured nation's efforts at propaganda. German planes shower us with leaflets; they read, "Aussies: the Americans are having a good time at home – but what about you? – Wouldn't it!

10th August 42. Change our gun positions with the 12th Regiment; they take over our old position in Death Valley.

11th August 42. Decided to push our O.P. forward onto Hill 22. Sid Smith (*QX2519 Captain Sidney Smith, born 3 January 1908 in Wolverhampton, England, enlisted 21 October 1939, discharged 22 January 1946*) arrives back from L.O.B. (*Left out of battle*) & takes over command of the troop.

Spend most of the day working out tasks for Regimental Concentrations; any worthwhile target; either from Air photographs, Infantry patrols etc; are engaged in turn with a concentration of 24 guns.

Each second night we go out "night firing" – idea being to prevent the Hun from getting any sleep; usually open fire about 2100 hours & go through to 0300 hours pumping bursts of gunfire into his position.

12TH AUGUST 42. Go out to relieve Sid on Hill 22; Jerry shelling the roadway with 105mm; pretty heavy stuff, make a dash for it & hope for the best; just get through; four shells hit behind us; the driver of the following vehicle is hit. We stop; but some Infanteers are pulling him out. Jerry shelling Hill 22; wait for it to stop; reach our foremost troops; some machine-gunners smoking & playing cards on top of their slit trenches. The O.P. is about 900 yards in front of the Infantry & through our minefield. Hide the vehicle behind a ridge & go out; don't feel very happy going through the mines & tread very warily; reach the Bren-carrier & then out to the O.P. It is a small hole about 6' x 3' & only deep enough to crouch in; things are fairly quiet but have to crawl the last 50 yards on my stomach;

an anti-tank gun is dug in behind the O.P. Sid goes down to the gun position. Spend the morning getting familiar with the zone we have to cover.

13TH AUGUST 42. Jerry opens fire on the O.P.; apparently he can see us; there's not much you can do; seems to be using about 4 guns; about 75mm. The first shell comes as a surprise & we are caught napping; luckily it was a bit plus. We hope that it is only the odd round but no such luck; he commences ranging. Next shell lands plus & right; smoke pours into our hole; in between rounds endeavour to pick up the flash – no luck.

You can hear the bang of this gun in the distance, then after several seconds the scream of the shell; then a terrific crash as it hits & twanging noises as splinters fly overhead. This goes on for 10 minutes, each one getting closer; he's dead in lie but a little minus; a shell lands straight in front & he goes to gunfire; about 10 shells come over in a bunch, the telephone lines are blown away but nobody is hit; we wait but apparently he thinks he hit us as he doesn't fire again. Visibility drops; spasmodic shelling; the infantry fires several long bursts from their Vickers guns at some target we can't see; bullets fly overhead.

14TH AUGUST 42. Decent dog-fight overhead; two planes come down but cannot identify them. Open fire on a group of Jerrys on Ruisat Ridge. Can see his supply vehicles moving along the Sidi-abd-el-Rahman track but they are out of ranges. Jerry pops over a few shells at random; one lands near a mortar crew & both are killed.

15TH AUGUST 42. Down at the gun position; had to go the R.A.P. to get arm dressed; it won't heal. Stukas dive bomb us; some of the bombs are a new type & burst about 20' off the ground. Nobody hit.

Jerry fires a concentration & caught us all out in the open; we dive for cover; one shell lands behind No 3 gun; amongst their stores & blows their billy of tea & Primus stove to smithereens; several pieces of shell hit the gun & the dial sight is smashed. There are six of us in one hole; decide to spread out in case he gets a hit. Make a dash for it; nearly reach Sid's Doova (*slang for rudimentary foxhole*) when I hear the next one coming; dive in



25-pounder of "C" troop, 2/8th Field Regiment in Egypt on 12th August 1942, on the coastal sector at El Alamein. The crew is seen relaxing after having put down a harassing barrage on German positions.

& land on top of Sid. Several pieces of spent shell come in as well; pick up a piece which is still hot & drop it on Sid's leg. He lets out a yell & reckons he's hit. Can't help laughing at him; but he doesn't think it's funny. Shelling lasts about another ten minutes & then lifts. Total damage; one billy, one primus stove, one washbasin & a damaged dial-sight – it must have cost Jerry hundreds of Pounds in ammunition to accomplish this.

Go out night firing; an enemy plane tries to bob us but is wide of the mark; when he dives, we stop firing & he can't see where to aim his bombs.

16TH AUGUST 42. Go up to the O.P. again; a heavy dust storm starts & visibility drops. Write several letters home. This afternoon an enemy patrol of about 18 men came up to within 500 yards of the O.P. Opened fire with H.E. & they scatter; another O.P. sees them & start firing too; think they must have been lost as they run in all directions; keep shelling them but can't see how many are hit; there certainly weren't 18 left when they faded from sight. Find a mouse in the O.P. & make friends with him; he will come down & eat pieces of cheese.

17TH AUGUST 42. Down at the gun position; usual day's routine.

18TH AUGUST 42. Jerry bombs & shells the roadway several [times] close to the R.A.P.

19TH AUGUST 42. General Moreshead comes around to inspect the guns; find him quite a jovial sort of

cove; tells us there is a big job ahead of us. Roof the C.P. over with corrugated iron to keep the sun out but the flies still get in – Maleesh! Pinch some batteries from a stranded tank & get our wireless going again.

20TH AUGUST 42. Find a sand viper on my bed when I wake up; nasty creatures those. Several Dog-fights & a little shellfire.

Go out night firing; Jerry opens up on us & his first shell gets a tractor; he pumps shells into us at a pretty steady rate. Our Medium guns start to reply & a duel starts; six of his shells land in close proximity to our guns; we are ordered to stop firing.

Further south the whole front flares up; heavy artillery fire on both sides; the sky is lit up for miles with the gun flashes; hear later the South Africans put in a raid.

21ST AUGUST 42. We are to move our guns further forward amongst the Infantry; now only 1000 yards behind the O.P. We occupy the position by night under cover of harassing fire from the 12th Regiment. (2/12th Field Regiment).

22ND AUGUST 42. Jerry knows we are here but cannot see us; pumps shells into our area; the Infanteers curse us for “drawing the crabs”. Fred Rowlands arrives back; we dig in; & fire Regimental concentrations; each day is much the same; we fire on & off; but not from the same position at night as we have no flash cover.

23RD AUGUST 42. Up at the O.P. Engage several targets; ammunition is rationed to 20 rounds per day unless targets extra big.

24TH AUGUST 42. Jerry moves some guns in very close; when they open fire they seem right on top of us. They make a beautiful target; open fire on them straight away; go to F.F.E. & G.P.O. rings up – Ammo Allotment finished. Ask him to get permission to use more ammo; have to wait; can see Jerry bringing up tractors to pull his guns out – the type of target we dream about & no ammunition. He pulls his Battery out & they disappear over a ridge, 5 mins later receive permission to use another 20 rounds. Feeling pretty disgusted.

25TH AUGUST 42. Night firing again; go to bed at 3.30 am feeling pretty tired; it stops Jerry from sleeping but it also stops us. Fire on & off all day.

26TH AUGUST 42. Believe Jerry is going to attack but

nothing happens.

27TH AUGUST 42. Flies still pretty bad; manage to obtain some beer from the N.A.A.F.I.. In the evening sit around the wireless having a drink; Fred [Rowlands] & I take turns manning the telephone of a night to let the Signallers get some sleep. Our bombers drop flares over his lines & bomb him for nearly an hour.

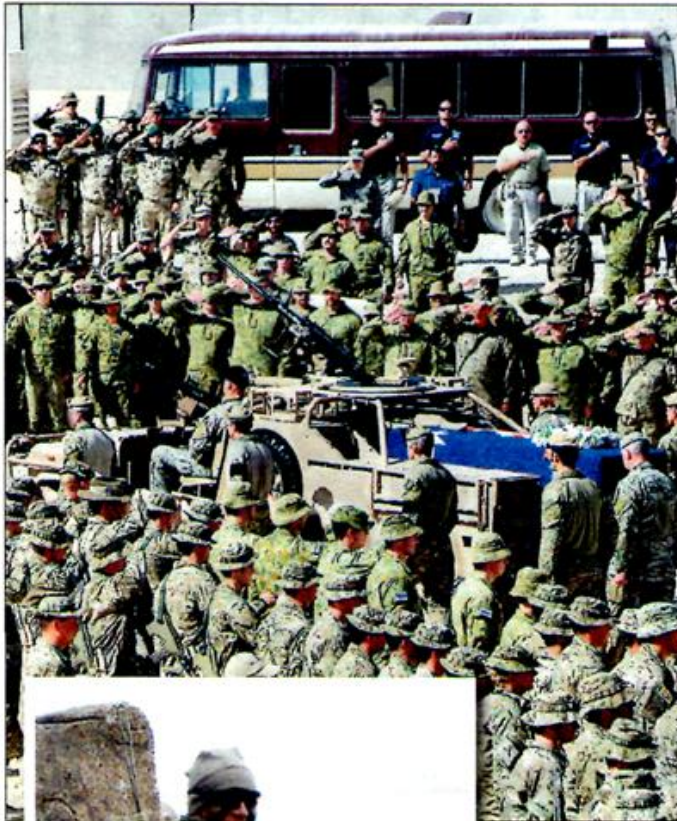
28TH AUGUST 42. At the O.P. Shelled us again using air-burst as well; shakes us up a bit; the barbed wire in front of the O.P. has been blown away. Jerry plane machine-guns us. Our ack-ack blaze away at him. Notice his supply vehicles seem to be moving up more rapidly along the Rahman track; can count nearly 150 of them; but out of range; something is in the air.

Continued next journal. Ed



Tributes paid to an 'inspirational leader'

Special Forces community mourns the loss of one of SASR's most experienced soldiers



Experienced professional: SASR's Sgt Blaine Diddams, pictured inset during an SOTG operation in Afghanistan, is farewelled by thousands of soldiers in a ramp ceremony at Tarin Kot on July 5.

"BLAINE is forever engraved in the history of our nation and the proud history of the SASR."

Special Operations Commander Australia, Maj-Gen Gus Gilmore, paid tribute to fallen SASR member Sgt Blaine Diddams during a ramp ceremony at RAAF Base Pearce in Western Australia on July 9.

"His leadership, courage and dedication to his mates will inspire generations of Australian soldiers to come," Maj-Gen Gilmore said.

"The scale of our loss of Sgt Diddams is perhaps only surpassed by our recognition of his contribution to Australia over so many years in so many places and at such a consistently high standard."

He was killed during an engagement with insurgents in Afghanistan on July 2 while serving as a patrol commander with SOTG.

He was shot in the chest during the partnered mission with Afghan National Security Forces to target a known insurgent commander.

The patrol's advanced first aider provided immediate assistance. Sgt Diddams was evacuated by helicopter to the Role 2 Medical Facility for further treatment, but unfortunately he succumbed to his wounds and was declared deceased by a treating doctor.

Born in Canberra in 1971, Sgt Diddams enlisted in the Army in 1990 and after completing his initial employment training for infantry was posted to 1RAR in Townsville. He successfully completed his SASR selection course and was posted to the unit in 1995.

This was his seventh tour to Afghanistan since 2001 and he had deployed previously to Somalia, East Timor and the Solomon Islands.

Sergeant Diddams, or "Didds" to his mates, was described as a devoted family man and a dedicated professional soldier. Known for his outgoing personality and quirky sense of humour, he was held in the highest regard by his mates.

Soldiers from SASR formed an honour guard and bearer party to escort Sgt Diddams' casket from the RAAF aircraft to his grieving family at the ramp ceremony.

DECORATIONS

- Australian Active Service Medal with Clasp Somalia, Clasp East Timor, Clasp ICAT
- International Forces East Timor (Interfet) Medal
- Afghanistan Campaign Medal
- Australian Service Medal with Clasp Solomon Islands, Clasp CT/SR
- Defence Long Service Medal
- Australian Defence Medal
- NATO ISAF Medal
- Meritorious Unit Citation
- Infantry Combat Badge

OPERATIONS

- Op Solace (Somalia) – January-May 1993
- Op Warden (East Timor) – January-February 2000
- Op Tanager (East Timor) – February-May 2000
- Op Trek (Solomon Islands) – 2002
- Op Slipper (Afghanistan) – November 2001-April 2002
- Op Slipper (Afghanistan) – May-October 2007
- Op Slipper (Afghanistan) – January-April 2008
- Op Slipper (Afghanistan) – May-July 2008
- Op Slipper (Afghanistan) – June-November 2009
- Op Slipper (Afghanistan) – January-July 2011
- Op Amulet (CHOGM Perth) – 2011
- Op Slipper (Afghanistan) – February 2012-July 2012.

The Diggers we choose to forget

Opinion Piece by James Brown *November 11, 2011*



Why commemorate wars past if troops of today end up ignored?

ACROSS our nation today Australians will pause to commemorate a war that began before the vast majority of us were alive and ended with the deaths of 60,000 Australian soldiers. Our leaders will make speeches echoing honour and sacrifice, school captains will lay wreaths, and trumpeted reveilles will puncture a minute's silence. But what is the point of all this national emotional investment in commemoration?

Australians seem obsessed with commemorating world wars past. Driving from Sydney to the nation's capital you can cross the Anzac Bridge, swing through the Sir Roden Cutler, VC, interchange, and cruise down the Remembrance Driveway, where roadside toilets remember our Victoria Cross winners. We have thousands of war memorials and our children even swim in war memorial pools. You can buy sand from Gallipoli over the counter at Australia Post shops. Commemoration is almost inescapable - lest we forget.

This year while the Australian Defence Force budget was cut the Australian War Memorial budget rose 25 per cent, and \$25 million is planned for two new world war memorials beside Lake Burley Griffin. A further \$8.1 million is committed to building memorials in Wellington and Washington.

Despite the proliferation of memorials and a fetish for military history, the gulf between the public and the military that serves them today has never been more yawning. The public do not understand the complexity or context of the modern wars our soldiers are fighting in places such as Afghanistan. Many soldiers now question whether the public care. In May, when two Diggers were killed, a federal MP noted his office had been deluged with hundreds of calls about the welfare of Australian cattle in Indonesia, but not a single call about the welfare of Australian soldiers in Afghanistan.

After a decade of war in the Middle East, private citizens, with a few honourable exceptions, have done little new to help ease returned and wounded soldiers back into their communities. In Britain a hugely successful charity campaign, Help for Heroes, has raised \$175 million for wounded veterans in four years. Celebrities and prime ministers have signed on to build recuperation centres for soldiers and their families, to write cookbooks, and to record chart-topping singles.

In the US, a private group has pioneered Operation Proper Exit, an innovative program that takes wounded soldiers back into war zones to see where they were injured, thank colleagues who saved their lives and leave the war on their own terms. Actor James Gandolfini has made a critically acclaimed HBO documentary to help soldiers with post-traumatic stress disorder.

In Australia, our wounded soldiers are invisible. The poker machine lobby cynically brandishes "Clubs support our Diggers" signs while donating a pitifully low percentage of gambling revenue to veterans. While top US entertainers perform in Afghanistan and Iraq, only five of Australia's top 120 musical acts have joined ADF-run war zone tours in the past five years. No wonder our soldiers are confused that so much commemorative effort is not matched with contemporary concern.

Somewhere in all this Anzac nostalgia we have forgotten that commemoration in a vacuum is pointless. Why remember Gallipoli and the Somme if not to learn from the tragic sacrifice and never let soldiers be sacrificed again? Our amphibious ships don't float, our Black Hawks can't be sent to a war zone, and we have more generals than we do tanks. If the modern ADF wanted to land troops ashore in Gallipoli, it would struggle to do so.

Australians are apathetic about defence policy and the decisions that shape where, how and with what our soldiers fight.

Our defence force has serious problems that need more than a minute's reflection. Rather than building an Anzac interpretive centre for last century's military, we need one for today's.

Building war memorials is easy; building defence policy for the future is hard. It's time we started caring more about soldiers who are alive than those long dead.

James Brown is the military associate at the Lowy Institute and served in Iraq, Afghanistan and Solomon Islands.

Listed in the Queen's Birthday Honours



MEDAL FOR
GALLANTRY (MG)

Bdr David Steven ROBERTSON
For acts of gallantry in action in hazardous circumstances on 20 March 2011 while a joint fires observer in Mentoring Task Force 2 on Op Slipper in Afghanistan.



BUCKINGHAM PALACE

Major General T. R. Ford, AO,
Representative Colonel Commandant,
Royal Regiment of Australian Artillery.

Please convey my warm thanks to the Colonels Commandant, the Head of Regiment and all Ranks of the Royal Regiment of Australian Artillery for their message of loyal greetings, sent on the occasion of Royal Australian Artillery Day which will commemorate one hundred and forty one years of dedicated service by the Regiment.

As your Captain-General, I much appreciate your kind words and, in return, send my best wishes to you all for a memorable and successful event.

ELIZABETH R.

1st August, 2012.

How the US Army Rangers Work

The U.S. Army Rangers are an oddity of the U.S. military special operations forces. Though they can trace their lineage as far back as colonial times, they didn't become a permanent presence in the military until the 1970s. Called to duty, their original purpose was to complete a mission and then disband.

The Rangers are known for their skill at remaining undetected in a war. If you're in a combat situation and you see a Ranger, most likely he's already spotted you. There's no telling how long he's been observing you, and what's more, by the time you detect a Ranger, you're probably too late.

It wasn't until the outset of the United States involvement in World War II that the Rangers were officially activated for the first time in the 20th century. American commanders decided that the United States needed a specialized fighting force based on the successful special operations force, the British Commandos. Tasked with the creation of such a force, Major William Darby took the idea and made it a reality in just a little more than three weeks. Darby formed the First Ranger Battalion at Sunnyland Camp in Carrickfergus, Ireland, choosing 600 candidates from a pool of thousands of volunteers

The British commando forces were also involved in the formation of Rangers. They created a specialized training regimen so intense that one-sixth of the men washed out -- they couldn't complete the training -- and one died and five more were injured.

These first Army Rangers served, at first, alongside the British commandos that trained them. Then, on their own, they conducted small-scale invasions in Algeria, Tunisia, Sicily, Italy and France, breaking through enemy lines and opening the way for larger forces to enter behind them.

But during these raids, many Rangers were lost, and out of necessity, the Rangers adopted a new

tradition of replenishing their ranks by absorbing other companies and groups of soldiers who had shown skill and fortitude in other operations. These select remnant groups have come out on top against formidable odds, battle-experienced and Ranger-ready -- like the 5307th special

composition force formed to regain control of the Burma Road from the Japanese during World War II. This regiment marched 1,100 miles from its training camp in India through the Burmese jungle,

emerging victorious after dozens of fire fights with Japanese soldiers.

And in the Vietnam War, long-range patrols -- small platoons capable of remaining undetected behind enemy lines for long periods of time -- conducted raids and reconnaissance. These patrols were then absorbed by the Ranger regiments fighting there. Because of the wartime status and the need for new recruits, the Ranger candidates trained in the form of actual missions -- the "in-country Ranger school". Only after proving that their value and skill sets were in line with the Rangers' were the recruits formally indoctrinated.

So what are the skills and qualities required of an U.S. Army Ranger? In this article, we'll look at Rangers -- where they came from and what they do. In the next section, we'll look at the history of the Army Rangers.

Army Rangers History

The Army Rangers were heavily influenced by the American landscape and the people who populated it before the Europeans. The rough terrain and forests of the newly settled land were much more conducive to the ambushes and raids carried out by Native Americans in battle than the traditional pitched battles fought in open fields by European armies. To have any sort of chance in war against the Native Americans, European soldiers had to adopt the same guerrilla tactics.

This was what Captain Benjamin Church had in mind in 1670 when he assembled the first Ranger-like team in American history. Church created a



Photo courtesy U.S. Army

U.S. Army Rangers perform a water infiltration on a Zodiac inflatable boat.

band of men who conducted hunting parties to find and kill "King Philip," the English moniker given to the Wampanoag tribe chief, Metacomet. Church's scouts and raiders spent long periods of time "ranging" -- quietly covering distances in search of the enemy. This gave rise to the term "ranger." Church's Rangers used the Native Americans' own methods against them, conducting short, sporadic surprise battles and ambushes resulting from the information gathered during ranging.

The man credited with establishing the first Ranger company is Major Robert Rogers. To help the British in their fight during the French and Indian War, Rogers assembled the first official Ranger group in the colonies in 1756. This regiment was made up of deer hunters who knew how to move swiftly and quietly through the woods and hills, how to track, and how to shoot precisely with the highly imprecise weaponry available at that time.

Rogers expanded upon the knowledge these men already had, adapting it to the context of war and creating 28 operational rules that included advisements on ambushing, marching formations, prisoner interrogation, retreat, scouting and reconnaissance. These were documented in Rogers' now-famous Standing Orders for Rangers (more on that later), and 19 of the orders are in use for the 75th Ranger Regiment.

The most famous Ranger brigade of the war is arguably Colonel John Mosby's band of Confederate troops, who, according to Mosby's mode of operation, shared loot from Union Army camp raids with the local population. But it was Mosby's raids and guerrilla-style warfare that became the hallmark of Rangers. Mosby was very successful at striking the Union Army randomly, always catching them off guard.



Photo Courtesy [Library of Congress](#)

Confederate Colonel John Mosby is known as the most successful Ranger leader in the Civil War.

Although they didn't make any formal appearance in the Spanish-American War or World War I, the Rangers were activated once again in World War II. In North Africa, Europe and South Asia they fought, forming the basis for the modern Ranger Regiment in existence today. We'll learn more about that later, but first let's look at Rogers' Standing Orders for Rangers, the criteria for ranging.

Army Rangers Standing Orders

Robert Rogers' orders are sensible and direct. When he created them, no one else had assembled so many tactics into one comprehensive guide. What's more, they have withstood the test of time -- the standing orders were so effective, that much of the operational standards are still in use by Rangers today.

Rogers' orders to his men were:

1. Don't forget nothing.
2. Have your musket clean as a whistle, hatchet scoured, 60 rounds powder and ball and be ready to march at a minute's warning.
3. When you're on the march, act the way you would if you was sneaking up on a deer. See the enemy first.
4. Tell the truth about what you see and what you do. There is an army depending on us for correct information. You can lie all you please when you tell other folks about the Rangers, but don't never lie to a Ranger or officer.
5. Don't never take a chance you don't have to.
6. When we're on the march, we march single file, far enough apart so one shot can't go through two men.
7. If we strike swamps or soft ground, we spread out abreast, so it's hard to track us.
8. When we march, we keep moving till dark, so as to give the enemy the least possible chance at us.
9. When we camp, half the party stays awake while the other half sleeps.
10. If we take prisoners, we keep 'em separate

till we have had time to examine them, so they can't cook up a story between 'em.

11. Don't ever march home the same way. Take a different route so you won't be ambushed.
12. No matter whether we travel in big parties or little ones, each party has to keep a scout 20 yards ahead, 20 yards on each flank and 20 yards in the rear, so the main body can't be surprised and wiped out.
13. Every night you'll be told where to meet if surrounded by a superior force.
14. Don't sit down to eat without posting sentries.
15. Don't sleep beyond dawn. Dawn's when the French and Indians attack.
16. Don't cross a river by a regular ford.
17. If somebody's trailing you, make a circle, come back onto your own tracks, and ambush the folks that aim to ambush you.
18. Don't stand up when the enemy's coming against you. Kneel down, lie down, hide behind a tree.
19. Let the enemy come till he's almost close enough to touch. Then let him have it and jump out and finish him with your hatchet.

To illustrate the worth of these orders, consider that Rogers once moved his company of 200 Rangers over 400 miles in 60 days, culminating in a successful raid on an enemy camp. These are time-tested and battle-proven tactics that serve as the foundation for 21st-century Rangers. In the next section we'll look at the structure of today's 75th Ranger Regiment.

Army Rangers 75th Ranger Regiment Structure

At the outset of the Korean War, the 75th Ranger Regiment was created and headquartered at Fort Benning, Ga. The volunteer pool was drawn exclusively from the 82nd Airborne Division. That recruiting tradition continues today: All Ranger candidates are required to have first graduated from airborne school before becoming an official Ranger.

To be selected as a Ranger, a soldier must prove that he's physically capable and must undergo calisthenics and endurance tests like long runs and hikes. Once he's accepted to Ranger school, his

training begins. Training is split into three different phases: crawl, walk and run.

Crawl training is the most basic training in Ranger school. It includes instruction in hand-to-hand combat, pugilism -- fighting with fists or sticks -- and tests on comfort level in water immersion.

Walk training is intermediate. It includes training in rappelling, knots and planning and executing ambushes and airborne operations.

Run training is the most advanced training and includes graduation from Ranger school. In this phase of training, Ranger recruits learn water-bound infiltration, urban assault and troop extraction -- removing troops in hostile environments, usually with a helicopter.

Throughout their training, Rangers also learn skills like sabotage, navigation, explosives and reconnaissance.

Officers completing the training program go on to enter the Ranger Orientation Program, a series of courses aimed at introducing an officer to the policies and the procedures of the Rangers.



Photo courtesy [Library of Congress](#)
An engraving of Robert Rogers

The Ranger Orientation program is similar to the Ranger Indoctrination Program given to enlisted soldiers.

Though it was activated at the beginning of the Korean War, the 75th Ranger Regiment was deactivated after hostility ceased. The Regiment was similarly activated and deactivated for the Vietnam War. It wasn't until one commander recognized the value of having a Ranger force at the ready that a continuous Ranger unit was established. Chief of Staff for the Army, General Creighton Abrams, ordered the establishment of the 1st Ranger Battalion of the 75th Ranger Regiment in 1974.

This was the first time that a Ranger force was ever activated during peacetime and lead to the formation of the 75th's current structure:

- 1st Battalion - stationed at Hunter Airfield, Ga.
- 2nd Battalion - activated in 1974 and stationed at Ft. Lewis, Wash.
- 3rd Battalion - activated in 1984 as part of a larger Ranger force expansion and stationed at Ft. Benning, Ga.

Each battalion is composed of a Headquarters and Head-quarters Command (HHC) and three rifle companies. Battalions are made up of no more than 580 Rangers: Each rifle company consists of 152 riflemen, and the remaining Rangers make up the fire support and headquarters staff.

Rangers' fire support is vital to their operations. The Ranger weapon company provides moderate firepower to Ranger operations, including heavy machine guns, Stinger missiles, a mortar group and the Carl Gustav Anti-Armour Weapon. The Gustav, unique to the Ranger forces, is a shoulder-fired launcher, capable of firing a variety of rounds, including armour-piercing ammunition and smoke rounds. In addition, fire support includes two two-man sniper teams and a third two-man .50-caliber sniper team. Even with these weapons, they are still a light-infantry troop. For larger fire support, Rangers must rely on the company on whose behalf or in whose support they are carrying out a mission.

The Ranger Regiment is capable of deploying anywhere within 18 hours. This is possible through the Ranger Ready Force (RRF), a 13-week designation that rotates between the three battalions. When a battalion is the designated RRF, they can't perform any off-base exercises or training. All soldiers receive inoculations, and all weapons are checked for readiness and replaced if

necessary. All supplies needed for a mission are crated and packaged.

In the next section, we'll learn about the kind of operations Rangers carry out once they're tapped for a mission.

Army Rangers Duties

The foundation of Ranger operation is performing as a quick "shock troop" -- one capable of carrying out surprise strikes . But how they get to their strike zone, what they do there and what command is calling the shots varies widely by operation.

Since they're Airborne graduates, Rangers often parachute to the designated insertion area. But they're also trained for other types of insertions -- or means of getting soldiers quickly and quietly behind enemy lines -- like a small boat in a swamp or down fast lines (ropes lines that allow a quick descent) from the sides of



Photo courtesy [U.S. Army](#)

Ranger companies are supported by three sniper teams, including a team outfitted with .50-caliber guns like this one.

a helicopter. Once on the ground, their operations take many forms. In a strike situation, the Rangers' archetypal operation is the seizing of an airfield.

They're also extremely versatile and can easily move from a special operation into a conventional one, once the initial mission is fulfilled. For example, if the Rangers' mission is to take an airfield, they may parachute in, eliminate any threats, take control of the airfield and signal that the mission is accomplished. When conventional forces move into the secured airfield, Rangers can link up with them, moving onward as part of the larger conventional-fighting force.

These kinds of strikes and raids are called direct-action operations, and they can eventually get pretty loud due to the gunfire that erupts. There's another type of operation for which Rangers are suited -- reconnaissance, or recon. Recon is Ranger tradition, born from the Colonial scouts and honed

by the long-range patrols in Vietnam. All Rangers are taught recon, but there's also a small specialized group of Rangers extensively trained for scouting and recon -- the Regimental Reconnaissance Detachment (RRD).

Created in 1984 as part of the Ranger expansion, the RRD consists of three, four-man teams of seasoned scouts who can survive for up to five days behind enemy lines in a silent state with minimal movements.

There are only 12 of these soldiers for the entire 75th Regiment, and each team is attached to one of the three battalions. RRD Rangers are asked to confirm or deny existing intelligence, place surveillance equipment in enemy territory, report on troop movement and call in strikes or acquire targets. In some very uncommon circumstances, these teams may be called upon to carry out specific direct-action strikes, but for the most part, their main objective is to come and go undetected.

Rescue missions are also tailor-made for Rangers. These missions are often a combination of direct action and reconnaissance. Rangers must first confirm intelligence concerning the whereabouts of a lost troop or prisoner of war (POW), and in many cases must engage the enemy with fire to gain control of their objective. Rangers are suited for rescue missions because of their ability to get in and get out, their endurance for long-distance movement, their ability to remain undetected and their light-infantry capabilities. All this means that Rangers can get to places that most others can't.

Perhaps the most notable Ranger-rescue mission was carried out by troops led by Colonel Henry Mucci. In the next section, we'll learn about Mucci's Rangers and some other notable Ranger operations.

Army Rangers Notable Operations

The bloody Allied invasion of Normandy, France, in World War II is considered to have been successful largely because of the actions taken by the Rangers. The invasion proved to be a particularly

deadly one -- Allied troops suffered as many as 10,000 casualties in just a few days. The German positions were well-stationed, and machine gunners perched on the cliffs overlooking the sea had a vista of the entire beach.

It was here that the Rangers' motto was born. Aware that perhaps no one

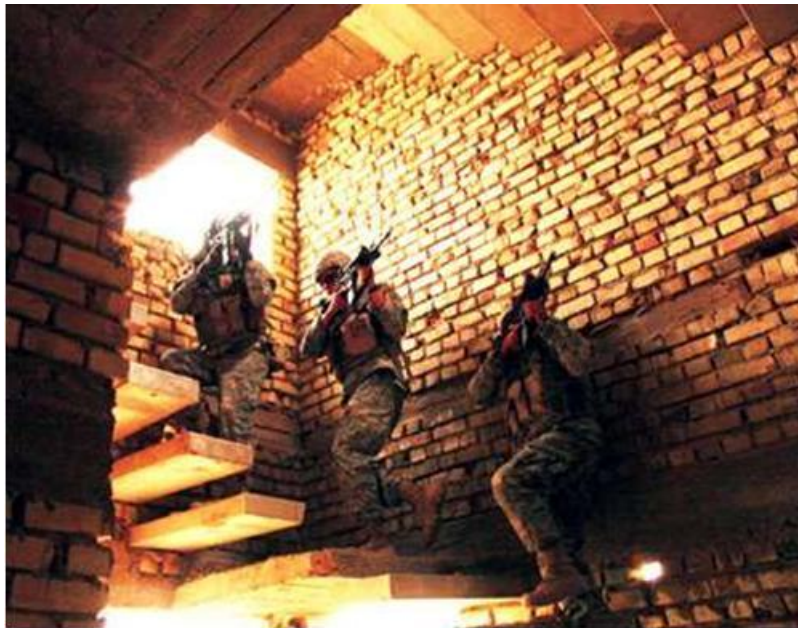


Photo courtesy [U.S. Army](#)

Rangers are capable of carrying out quick, direct-action raids with minimal troop numbers.

else could break through the German front, Brigadier General Norman Cota shouted to the 5th Battalion stationed on the beach, "Rangers, lead the way!" The Rangers did just that, penetrating the enemy beachhead -- their foothold along the shore -- and literally climbing the cliff walls to reach and capture the German machine-gun nests, leaving open just enough space for the larger forces to enter. World War II also gave the Rangers some of their largest losses. In Cisterna, Italy, the Rangers broke through the Axis lines, only to have the front collapse behind them, blocking Allied forces from moving in and leaving the Rangers trapped. Almost three battalions were lost in that battle, and it was after this that the Rangers absorbed the 5307th composite force, nicknamed Merrill's Marauders -- the group that had recaptured Burma Road from the Japanese -- to replenish the ranks. In the Philippines during World War II, Rangers led by Colonel Mucci executed a raid on a Japanese prison camp that held Allied prisoners of war. These prisoners were scheduled for death once the Japanese no longer had use for the camp. Mucci, along with his Rangers and Filipino guerrillas, attacked the prison camp, freeing 500 prisoners of war, killing 200

Japanese soldiers and fleeing into the jungle, carrying some POWs on their backs for as long as two days

Rangers have also contributed to peacetime missions, like in Grenada during Operation Urgent Fury in 1983. After an airborne insertion, Rangers converged on a medical facility where Americans were trapped by the violent uprising within the Caribbean island nation. Rangers rescued the Americans and helped quell the uprising. The mission was declared a success and, as a result, the next year the 3rd Battalion was formed.

The Rangers' presence was also noted in Panama in 1989. All three of the Ranger battalions fought together during the invasion of the Central American country to remove the dictator, General Manuel Noriega. As part of Operation Just Cause, Rangers took airfields and airports -- in true Ranger fashion -- and engaged the Panamanian Defense Force in firefights.

The Rangers have also survived defeats. Operation Eagle Claw - the 1980 special operations mission tasked with releasing 66 American hostages in the embassy in Tehran, Iran, -- failed and left eight of the force dead. And in Somalia, during Operation Restore Hope, the special operations force, of which the Rangers were part, suffered 18 deaths in as many hours. The firefight that took place is recounted in the book and film, "Blackhawk Down."



Photo courtesy U.S. Army
A Ranger stands at a roadblock during Operation Just Cause in Panama.

Despite their losses, the Rangers have always had a big impact with minimal numbers. In World War II, for example, out of the 15 million Allied troops, only 3,000 were Army Rangers.

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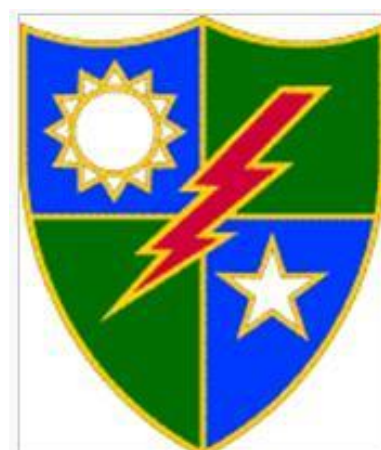
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75th Ranger Regiment
Distinctive Unit Insignia.

Duntroon staff cadets smash Sandhurst comp.

A section of RMC staff cadets took on hundreds of trainee officers from all over the world to win the US Army's Sandhurst competition, **John Wellfare** reports.

A TEAM of 11 Duntroon staff cadets headed to the US last month hoping to place in the top 10 in West Point's Sandhurst military skills competition. Instead, they won outright against 50 US and international teams with a consistently strong result through a series of tough challenges in the two day event.

Held at the Camp Buckner field training area near the US Military Academy in New York, Sandhurst

"Although there were some people we chose specifically for their individual skills, all the cadets chosen were top performers in their respective companies, in terms of physical fitness."

To start the selection process, Capt Ream put the word out last July and received 300 expressions of interest.

A "paper board" went through the files of all the nominating cadets and narrowed the field to 40, physical test-ing identified the top 16 and, of those, 11 staff cadets - a nine-person section with two in reserve - were selected to head to the US.

Everyone knew their job and knew the only way to win was to work as a team.

- SCdt David Hodge, RMC

"Then it was a real challenge for their section commander to be the chief of chiefs and lead a team of high-performing individuals."



Straight shooting: The team lines up for the section defence shoot on the first day of competition.

tests participating sections in a range of skills with a focus on core soldiering proficiency, teamwork and leader-ship.

Each West Point company fields a section-sized team to compete along-side international teams. Sandhurst has been running since 1967, but it's only the second year Australia has had a team in the competition, with last year's entry placing respectably in the middle of the field.

Charged with putting together Australia's entry for the competition, Duntroon instructor Capt James Keam aimed to bring together the college's top performing staff cadets.

"Based on the experiences of last year's team, we were looking for cadets who could think outside the box, had good endurance and unique skill sets that would help in specific events," he said.



Hanging tough: SCdt Andrew Jackson hauls himself and an ammunition crate along a rope obstacle.

That unenviable job fell to SCdt David Hodge, who played down his role in bringing the section together during the competition.

"Everyone knew their job and knew the only way to win was to work, as a team," he said.

"At different stands we had different people identified to take the lead where their specific skill sets could shine and everyone else just took a knee and listened."

The Australians placed fifth in both day-one events, putting them 10 points ahead in the competition.

"The next closest team was the Brits and they came first in the navigation but something like 30th in the range shoot, so it was our consistency that paid off," SCdt Hodge said.



Waterworks: The Duntroon team tears up the water during the boating stand of the Sandhurst competition at West Point in the US, above.

The first day started with a navigation exercise through some of the training area's most rugged terrain.

"It's hard going and on top of the physical side, every activity has some other complicating factor," SCdt Hodge said. "For the navigation exercise, we were working across two different maps with two different scales, so that presented its own challenges."

After an exhausting navigation exercise in the morning, the team faced a live-fire section defence activity in the afternoon to test individual shooting accuracy and fire control orders.

The complicating factor was the addition of "civilians" among the enemy targets, penalising teams for indiscriminate fire.

"We didn't realise the significance of it until the next morning when we walked into the mess and it was clear we were the team to beat - the American kitchen staff were dishing out food to the West Point teams saying "you'll need this to beat the Aussies".

The second day started with an obstacle course and continued with a range of activities to test the sections in military skills, problem solving and team work, including rope bridges, rappelling, first aid, weapon assembly, boating and communications.

Teams navigated between stands and, as with the first day, each activity included a complicating twist.

"On the obstacle course, for example, we had to get a person on a stretcher through some of the

obstacles," SCdt Hodge said.

"It's all about adding that extra bit of pressure to make the activity more realistic and more intense."

Coming out of the first day with the realisation they had a chance to win the competition, the team members were determined to keep their cool and maintain a consistently strong performance throughout day two.

"We told ourselves at the start of the day we would be as slow as we needed to be - we'd stop at each stand and work out the best way forward and maintain that consistency all day," SCdt Hodge said.

"We didn't want to be the quickest -we wanted to get through with the least penalties."

The strategy paid off and the Duntroon team maintained its lead on the second day to win the competition by five points.



High praise: West Point Superintendent Lt-Gen David Huntoon congratulates the Australian team on the win, above.

SCdt Hodge put the success down to a strong support network both within the team and from supporting staff, and the popularity of the team among the other participants.

"Most of the other teams said if they didn't win, they wanted us to win," he said. "We didn't try to be super competitive - we'd help other teams out with advice when they were showing up at an activity that we'd already completed."

"When we were announced as the winners and brought forward to receive the award, we got huge cheers and a standing ovation from everyone in the theatre - about 6000 people - which was an awesome sight."

TEAM MEMBERS

SCdt David Hodge, Section commander

SCDT Emily Dutton,

2IC SCDT Anthony Luxford

SCDT Rober Bitters

SCDT D'arcy Andrews

SCDT Deanne Allen

SCDT Alex Hine

SCDT Stuart Jackson

SCDT Hugh Rawlinson

SCDT Andrew Henderson

SCDT Oliver Smith



Afghans get fired up

The Afghan National Army's 4th Brigade gunners are preparing to reinforce security near patrol bases after live-fire training for Exercise Eagle's Flight, **Capt Jesse Platz** reports.



THE Afghan National Army's 4th Brigade is a step closer to deploying gun detachments outside coalition patrol bases after a successful live-fire artillery shoot.

Exercise Eagle's Flight show-cased the improving capability of the 2nd Battery, or Canon Tolay, as the Afghan gunners fired high explosive, smoke and illumination rounds onto a designated target area near Patrol Base Sorkh Bed, northern Kandahar, in July.

Offensive support mentor Capt Raj Chetty, of the 3RAR Task Group, said the live-fire training would prepare the ANA artillery capability for transition and eventual independence.

"In supporting ANA activities, there will be a requirement to push their offensive support assets out to the patrol bases and enhance their force on

the ground. We are aiming to gauge their current ability and advance them to a level where they can conduct their job without support from Coalition forces," he said.

"They definitely have the capability to progress further. We're introducing them to new equipment and systems and we are trying to digitise them.

"The sky is the limit with them. Now it's just a matter of time."

Despite using a manual prediction method, the ANA gunners have become competent in supporting manoeuvre elements and helping defeat the insurgency.

The Sorkh Bed live-fire serial spanned two days and one night and followed successful validation using D-30 122mm Howitzers.

Vet of the year award, you may be surprised!

Many people may have forgotten about his time in the U.S. Army.

He is the son of an Air Force General, an accomplished Golden Gloves boxer and he graduated from Pomona College with a B.S. degree. He then became a Rhodes Scholar from Oxford University and then joined the U.S. Army at the prompting of his father.

After graduating from Officer Candidate School he attended and graduated from both Army Airborne and Ranger training in the very top of each class.

He was selected for U. S. Army Special Forces Training but refused so that he could attend pilot training where he earned his wings, became an accomplished U.S. Army helicopter (gun ship) pilot and achieved the rank of Captain.

He was about to be promoted to the rank of Major, and appointed to teach at West Point when he resigned his commission from the Army to go into music and acting. You can tell in this video that his time in the military means a lot to him.

You should just watch because you will be surprised who it is!

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PU-A7eqadho&feature=related>

Courtesy WO2 Max Murray

This edition of Eyes & Ears is dedicated to the Plaque Unveiling Ceremony, which coincidentally happened on the 46th Anniversary of the detachment putting their collective feet onto South Vietnam soil.

The lead up to this Unveiling and Dedication Ceremony has been a culmination of specific events which started with the re-invention of the Eyes & Ears newsletter in February, 2009 and an ever growing circulation to some 209 plus readers, then the formation of the 131 Locators Association in March 2011, the creation and establishment of the Association's website, the commissioning of the plaque and then finally the acceptance of its placement by the Australian War Memorial.

The Plaque in itself is dedicated to the Members of the Detachment, who served in South Vietnam from 1966 to 1971. However it can and is also an expression of gratitude and conscience to those Battery Members who supported us on Australian soil during this time.

The day proceeded along these lines...

The Plaque Unveiling / Dedication Ceremony – 4th May, 2012

The actual day, Friday May 4th, saw a cold start to the day in Canberra - minus 1C as the sun rose. The soldiers from the Detachment were assembling for the Plaque Dedication later in the afternoon - thankfully.

By the time the 1400hrs ceremony started at the Australian War Memorial the skies were sapphire blue, the wind minimal and the sun shining. Nola Anderson, A/g Director of the AWM spoke to welcome the audience, then "Blue Leader", Warwick Hamilton reminded us exactly why we were there.



"Nola Anderson, Acting Director Australian War Memorial, Craig Castona, US 1/83 Artillery Association Representative. Fellow Det 131 Div Loc Bty members, Artillery and RAEME.

Ladies and Gentlemen
Welcome

It is an honour to address you this afternoon. I believe there are three parts to this dedication. The first is that this plaque will provide a lasting, tangible memory of the Detachment 131 Divisional Locating Battery, South Vietnam - a small, but the

Commemorative Plaque Dedication Ceremony



in recognition of the sacrifice and service of
members of the

131 Divisional Locating Battery

2pm, Friday 4 May 2012

Western Courtyard
Australian War Memorial



longest continually serving Artillery unit, in the Australian Task Force in Vietnam; from the advance party in April 1966 to May 1971.

Indeed today, 4 May, is the day 46 years ago when the whole Detachment arrived in South Vietnam. All other units rotated as a whole identity after about twelve months, whereas we rotated people while the unit name remained.

During the five years and two months of deployment, 463 artillery members and I regret I'm not sure how many RAEME served, some on multiple tours. Additionally we were the only locating unit in the western world on active operations, with the result that our advice and assistance was sought by others, including the US Army and Marines. Not bad credentials for a small unit.

Our role was to identify and provide intelligence on the Viet Cong and NVA heavy weapons (mainly mortars, guns and rockets), and control and coordinate counter bombardment fire.

To do this we employed both high tech and low tech methods, initially using radar together with listening posts who saw flashes, movements or heard and pin pointed sounds of weapons firing. This information was passed to the artillery intelligence section at TF HQ (known as Arty Tac) for response from our guns. After the event

analysis of craters and fragments allowed positive identification of weapons and surprisingly accurate determination of their firing points. Later infrared and thermal imagery, sound ranging and seismic sensors were added. It was essential that the location of all devices, and our own and other friendly artillery was accurately known and linked. This was the painstaking and often quite 'challenging' job of our Artillery Surveyors.

To maintain our complex equipment the detachment had a workshop of about 35 RAEME technicians performing miracles daily. Essentially the detachment was the eyes and ears of the Task Force - with a bit of brain in the artillery tactical HQ - and on duty 24 hours a day seven days a week.

Another point of difference from a "normal" unit was that the detachment was not in one single location. There were independent posts located in other units including friendly allied forces such as the US 1/83 Artillery. Unfortunately few other task force units really understood what our posts were doing – even though they were constantly briefed. Sometimes this resulted in situations where a listening post might be in, or ahead of, the main defensive line of troops; questions asked such as "why does the radar need to have its generator running"; and the demolition, by our own forces, of sound ranging microphones and other sensors.

"What's this thing here Fred?"

"Dunno. Might be a mine. Better blow it!"

The day to day liaison with these host units placed a lot of responsibility on the shoulders of our junior post commanders – Bdr's, LBdr's, and sometimes Gunners. All rose to the occasion. Having a large proportion of quite highly trained and independent National Servicemen however, sometimes created interesting situations, particularly in ARTY TAC. Often an "order" to do something non-operational became a group discussion until consensus was achieved! Did the detachment achieve its role over the whole period? **YES!**

The 2nd aspect of dedication is to remember all the Artillery, RAEME and other personnel who have served in the detachment. Those still with us, and those who are not.

Now a little about the plaque you will see. The design is based on the original unit wall plaque

developed in country in 1967. Prominent is the dragon, which also resembles and represents the shape of Vietnam. In Asian mythology no creature is as impressive as the dragon. Since the first millennium BC the dragon has existed on Vietnamese artefacts usually as a symbol of the fourfold deity – clouds, rain, thunder and lightning ... the last two definitely linked to artillery.

I'm sure you are all aware that this year, 2012, is the Lunar Year of the Dragon. Definitely a good omen. The next symbol on the plaque is the atom, representing the hi-tech nature of the unit. The seven electrons are radar, survey, artillery



intelligence, listening posts, sound ranging, sensors and workshop, all orbiting the HQ nucleus. Each individual and essential, and linking to make a powerful entity. The centre of the plaque, representing our Regiment, is the gunner badge.

I mentioned three aspects of dedication.

The third is of another form. This is the dedication of a small enthusiastic band who have sought to find and bring together our scattered comrades and their stories, forming en route a well organised and active association which is recording and preserving our part in history. They have also arranged this dedication ceremony today – no mean feat.

To them, on behalf of us all, a very large thank you.

I would also like to thank the Department of Veterans Affairs, and the AWM, especially Adam O'Sullivan, and particularly Chaplain Jaensch for organising such great weather!

Thank you – Warwick Hamilton"



Left to right – Kevin Browning, John Blake, Leigh Hemming, Bob Billiards, Ernie Newbold, Vic Danko, Frank Ipsa, Craig Castona (1/83 rd), Stan Briggs, Rob Retrot, Al Adams, Grahame Dignam and Paul Dickson.

The Group Photo – not too bad after 46 years less and counting



Top Row (left to right) – Warwick Hamilton, Barry Campton, John Chilton, Allen Morley, John Blake, Peter Colman, Craig Castona (1/83rd), Leigh Hemming, Graeme Owen, Terry Westerway, Ian Board, Ron Mason, Ken McNamara, Geoff Blackwell, Nick Proskurin, Norm McManus, Vic Danko, Frank Ipsa, Greg green, Dave Doyle

Middle Row (left to right) – Jim Fitzgerald, Dave Dougherty, Ernie Newbold, Rob Retrot, Paul Dickson, George Lane, Ray Smith, Stan Briggs, Geoff Jebb, Eric Marques, Kevin Browning

Front Row (left to right) – Terry Erbs, Ian Amos, Ken Woodbine, Bob Billiards, Barry Guzder, Bert Blink, Al Adams, Ged Carroll, Bruce Irvine, Warwick Brooker, Grahame Dignam, Max McPherson.

Ed - (Paul Dickson) - just as a final note on the occasion which was a credit to the group that put it together as it is something that we should be ever thankful for. Another highlight was Norm McManus's impromptu heartfelt words relating to the camaraderie fostered by the interaction of the ARA members and the Nashos – that put a gloss on the night.

It was good to see friends and family there and as I tried to express at the dinner, that if it wasn't for their support over the past 40 plus years we would not be here on that night.

Fellas, let's not wait too long to do it again!

...and last, but not least, a word from Tim Ford -



Tel: 02 83949161

**Major General Tim Ford, AO (Retd)
Representative Colonel Commandant Royal Regiment of Australian Artillery**

**PO Box 744
Surry Hill NSW 2010
Australia**

**Message from the RAA Representative Colonel Commandant
Major General Tim Ford, AO (Retd)
On the occasion of the dedication of the Detachment 131 Divisional Locating Battery
RAA Plaque at the AWM on 4th May 2012**

Dear Fellow Locators, Gunners and supporters,

As RAA Representative Colonel Commandant, a Locator and a previous Commander Det 131 Div Loc Bty In South Vietnam, let me first apologise for not being able to join you today at this important dedication. I wish you all the very best for a most memorable service and day.

On behalf of all Gunners, past and present, I also wish to express our admiration and thanks to those many who served with the Detachment in Vietnam with distinction and valour and in the very fine tradition of Australian Gunners and Locators that continues today.

I congratulate the 131 Locators Association President Allen Morley and its members in arranging the laying and dedication of this plaque today and the Dinner tonight. I trust you will have a great day and be very pleased that the memory of the service and sacrifice of Australians as members of the Detachment 131 Divisional Locating Battery RAA will always be recorded and remembered at the Australian War Memorial through this plaque.

Ubique,

Tim Ford

GOING OUT WITH A BANG

“... the transition to Plan Beersheba and the mortar battery produces a better capability for the wider Army than we can currently achieve and the technical standards we can bring to the application of mortars will be significant.

— Lt-Col Grant Palmer, CO 7 Fd Regt

The crew: Sgt Justin Atchison (front row, second from left) and the men on number four gun made sure it was they who fired the last round on June 17.

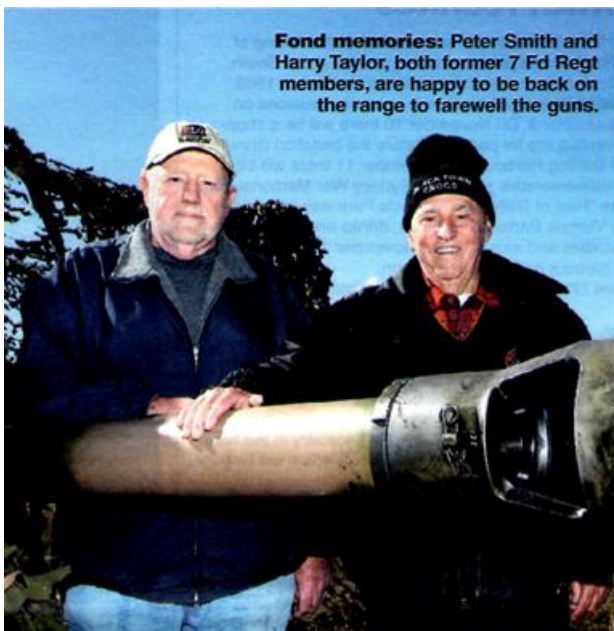


FORMED in March 1916, the 7th Fd Artillery Bde was deployed as part of the 3rd Div and saw its first action at the Battle of Armentieres in France in January 1917. It subsequently took part in the battles of Menin Road, Passchendaele, Mont St Quentin, Messines and others. During World War II, the regiment served in defence of Australia, first in Sydney and Wollongong, and later across Western Australia. Current CO 7 Fd Regt Lt-Col Grant Palmer said the regiment had a long, proud heritage of more than 90 years' service to the nation across all of the battlefields the Army had been engaged in since WWII. "The regiment provided a lot of soldiers who served in Korea, Vietnam, Afghanistan, Iraq, Solomon Islands and East Timor," he said. "Maintaining the heritage, in many ways is just simple things - identifying that we are still gunners with the white lanyard and our colour patch, and recognition through naming conventions. There's been a bit of discussion about what we should be titled. "We'd very much like to honour our tradition by being called 25 Bty which was the first battery raised in the regiment in Australia, but was demobilised in England and never had the chance to serve in Australia.

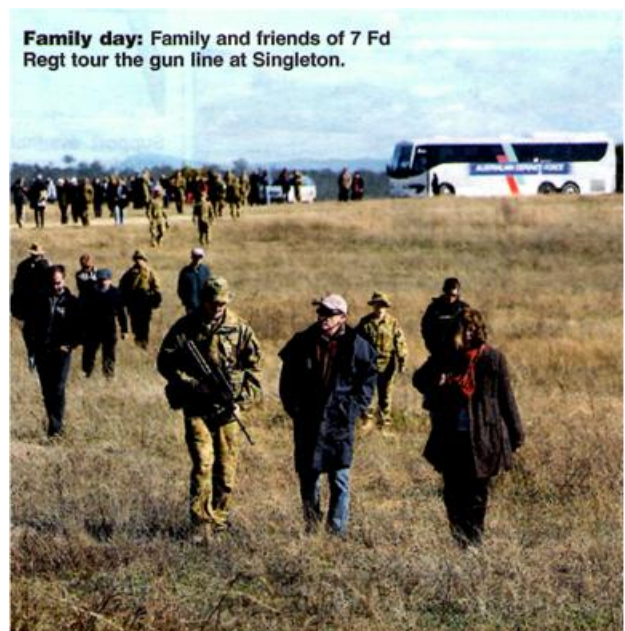
Courtesy Army News

THANKING THE FAMILIES

ENTERTAINING family and friends in the field during a live-fire shoot was a rare and special event for the reservists of 7 Fd Regt. CO Lt-Col Grant Palmer said having the families on the range was unusual and had only happened once before. "We invited the families and the regiment association into the field today to thank them for what they do for the regiment," he said. "I think it was very important, especially with the nature of reserve service - blokes work five days a week, then we ask them to come away for a week end and then they go home tired and smelly and make the washing machine all horrible. Lt-Col Palmer said although he had to be careful of fatigue, safety was also very much part of the relationship with the families. "The way we approach safety in the regiment is actually about what's important to us personally," he said. "We take safety very seriously for reasons that are reflected in the families who came up here today. It was also good to help the families understand why I have to train the soldiers so hard and demand so much of them".



Fond memories: Peter Smith and Harry Taylor, both former 7 Fd Regt members, are happy to be back on the range to farewell the guns.



Family day: Family and friends of 7 Fd Regt tour the gun line at Singleton.

2/10 led the way, now it's the turn of others. ed

NORWEGIAN POLICE BAND DRILL

If you think that the guards and royal marines drill is good, watch this! This is a presentation by the Real Norwegian Police! This is "River Dance" with boots and rifles! I can't remember ever seeing a display of precision to beat this! All the precision drill is being performed on

ICE!! Those are US made Garand M-1 rifles (WWII), and they are heavy weapons. Watch when that one fellow goes on his solo.

YOU'VE NEVER SEEN A RIFLE SPUN THAT FAST!
Unbelievable!!!



Badge of the Norwegian Police Service



<http://sorisomail.com/email/16993/exibicao-de-banda-militar--um-espectaculo-imperdivel.html>

Bring out the big guns

Armed with new guns and a high-tech fire control system, the gunners of 8/12 Regt RAA have been lighting up Shoalwater Bay, **Flg-Off Michael Moroney** reports.



THE gunners of 8/12 Regt RAA have shown off their new toys, the M777-A2, with explosive results during Exercise Predator's Strike at Shoalwater Bay. The unit's long range firepower and forward observation capabilities were highly valued during the exercise, with the guns softening up target areas with bombardments before the infantry and armoured vehicles rolled in. The Joint Fires Team (JTT) is one of the key elements of the capability, deploying in support of combat teams on the ground.



Ready, set, go.

G u n n e r s from 8/12 Regt fire a continuous barrage of rounds from an M777-A2 Howitzer.

Before the M777-A2, 8/12 Regt used the M198, which relied on a manual and verbal system for relaying mission data to the guns. The new artillery operates on a fully digital system, which is a significant step forward for coordinating fire support. "With this new system there's no requirement for voice anymore, which speeds up missions and ultimately speeds up the response for the troops on the ground," Lt Barletta said. The unit has been operating in the Shoalwater Bay Training Area since April, honing gunners' abilities to perform in the combined arms setting for Exercise Hamel.

Army News

New information has revealed Special Operations Military Working Dogs Quake and Devil were killed protecting their fellow patrol members.

WITH the return of the latest Special Operations Task Group (SOTG) rotation, details have emerged of two Special Operations Military Working Dogs' (SOMWD) heroic actions before they were killed during Special Forces missions in Afghanistan.



Quake and Devil were Belgian Shepherds posted to SASR with distinguished records of service detecting enemy positions and equipment on operations in Afghanistan. SOTG personnel credited the dogs with saving the lives of their handlers and patrol members with their actions during countless missions. Devil was shot by an insurgent on July 2 during the same mission in which SASR's Sgt Blaine Diddams was killed.

During the mission, Devil provided early warning of an enemy fighting position. A fire fight ensued between the SOTG patrol and the insurgents, during which Devil was targeted by an insurgent at close range and killed instantly by small-arms fire.

Quake was killed a week earlier in a similar situation during an SOTG mission on June 25. During the mission, he provided early warning of an enemy sentry position. The insurgent engaged Quake at close range with small-arms fire, killing him. Quake's actions saved the lives of his handler and the other members of the patrol who were approaching the position. Quake was instrumental in informing the SOTG patrol of insurgent actions and also supported SOTG tactical action with great distinction, allowing the SOTG patrol to engage and kill several enemy personnel.

SOMWD QUAKE

- Belgian Shepherd
- Born March 9, 2008
- Born into the RAAF puppy program and raised and mentored by an Air Force dog handler until 2011.
- Trialled in early-mid 2011 and posted to the SASR.
- Deployed to Afghanistan from September to December 2011.
- Deployed again to Afghanistan in February 2012 and was killed in action on June 25.



SPECIAL OPERATIONS MWD DEVIL

- Belgian Shepherd
- Born April 14, 2009
- Raised and trained by a civilian breeder until 2010.
- Trialled in mid-late 2010 and posted to the SASR.
- Deployed to Afghanistan in February last year with SOTG rotation 15.
- Deployed again to Afghanistan in February 2012 and was killed in action on July 2.

Personnel who work closely with our dogs form extremely close bonds with them so these deaths will affect them. Both dogs were on their second tour of duty in - Lt-Col J, CO SOTG

Afghanistan when they were killed.

At the time of the dogs' deaths, |CO SOTG Lt-Col J said their loss would have a big impact on the task group. "Personnel who work closely with our dogs form extremely close bonds with them so these deaths will affect them," he said. "These dogs were much loved members of the SOTG and they will be sorely missed."

I have read many stories of Medal of Honour recipients, but this one has to be amongst the most incredible. Having read this, please click on the link at the end. ed

Medal of Honor

BENAVIDEZ, ROY P.

Rank and Organization: Master Sergeant. Detachment B-56, 5th Special Forces Group, Republic of Vietnam

Place and Date: West of Loc Ninh on 2 May 1968

Entered Service at: Houston, Texas June 1955

Date and Place of Birth: 5 August 1935, DeWitt County, Cuero, Texas

Citation:

Master Sergeant, then Staff Sergeant, United States Army. Who distinguished himself by a series of daring and extremely glorious actions on 2 May 1968 while assigned to Detachment B-56, 5th Special Forces Group (Airborne). 1st Special Forces, Republic of Vietnam. On the morning of 2 May 1968, a 12-man Special Forces Reconnaissance Team was inserted by helicopters in a dense jungle area west of Loc Ninh, Vietnam to gather intelligence information about confirmed large-scale enemy activity. This area was controlled and routinely patrolled by the North Vietnamese Army. After a short period of time on the ground, the team met heavy enemy resistance and requested emergency extraction. 3 helicopters attempted extraction, but were unable to land due to intense enemy small arms and anti-aircraft fire. Sergeant Benavidez was at the

Forward Operating Base in Loc Ninh monitoring the operation by radio when these helicopters returned to off-load wounded crew members and to assess aircraft damage. Sergeant Benavidez voluntarily boarded a returning aircraft to assist in

another extraction attempt. Realizing that all the team members were either dead or wounded and unable to move to the pickup zone, he directed the aircraft to a nearby clearing where he jumped from the hovering helicopter, and ran approximately 75 meters under withering small arms fire to the crippled team. Prior to reaching the team's position he was wounded in his right leg, face and head. Despite these painful injuries he took charge, repositioning the team members and directing their fire to facilitate the landing of an extraction aircraft, and the loading of wounded and dead team members. He then threw smoke canisters to direct the aircraft to the team's position. Despite his severe wounds and under intense enemy fire, he carried and dragged half of the wounded team members to the awaiting aircraft. He then provided



Roy P. Benavidez
Roy P. Benavidez
Congressional Medal of Honor

protective fire by running alongside the aircraft as it moved to pick up the remaining team members. As the enemy's fire intensified, he hurried to recover the body and classified documents on the dead team leader. When he reached the leader's

body, Sergeant Benavidez was severely wounded by small arms fire in the abdomen and grenade fragments in his back. At nearly the same moment, the aircraft pilot was mortally wounded, and his helicopter crashed. Although in extremely critical condition due to his multiple wounds, Sergeant Benavidez secured the classified documents and made his way back to the wreckage, where he

craft from an angle that prevented the aircraft door gunner from firing upon them. With little strength remaining, he made one last trip to the perimeter to ensure that all classified material had been collected or destroyed, and to bring in the remaining wounded. Only then, in extremely serious condition from numerous wounds and loss of blood, did he allow himself to be pulled into the



aided the wounded out of the overturned aircraft, and gathered the stunned survivors into a defensive perimeter. Under increasing enemy automatic weapons and grenade fire, he moved around the perimeter distributing water and ammunition to his weary men, reinstilling in them a will to live and fight. Facing a build-up of enemy opposition with a beleaguered team, Sergeant Benavidez mustered his strength, began calling in tactical air strikes and directed the fire from supporting gun ships to suppress the enemy's fire and so permit another extraction attempt. He was wounded again in his thigh by small arms fire while administering first aid to a wounded team member just before another extraction helicopter was able to land. His indomitable spirit kept him going as he began to ferry his comrades to the craft. On his second trip with the wounded, he was clubbed with additional wounds to his head and arms before killing his adversary. He then continued under devastating fire to carry the wounded to the helicopter. Upon reaching the aircraft, he spotted and killed 2 enemy soldiers who were rushing the

extraction aircraft. Sergeant Benavidez' gallant choice to voluntarily join his comrades who were in critical straits, to expose himself constantly to withering enemy fire, and his refusal to be stopped despite numerous severe wounds, saved the lives of at least 8 men. His fearless personal leadership, tenacious devotion to duty, and extremely valorous actions in the face of overwhelming odds were in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service, and reflect the utmost credit on him and the United States Army.

View further info of Roy at these links.

http://www.youtube.com/watch_popup?v=RZ7968BbMnU&vq=medium

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aOWBw7muH9M&feature=youtube_gdata_player

Thanks to SSgt Morrell for these links.

Gentlemen

I attended at the DRA sponsored parade at the Shrine on Sunday 1 July and was both disappointed and embarrassed to find that there were only 4 others prepared to march behind the RAA Assn banner. This was obviously impractical and the Gunners were not represented. There was a significant representation from most other units, arms and services which only added to my embarrassment.

I believe that the "Old & Bold" have an obligation to support the serving Reserve and this event is an opportunity to show our support. I hope that we can do much better next year.

I have made a few calls and, after discussion, offer the following comments and suggestions:

- It must be understood that it is a Reserve Forces Day
- There is some feeling that DRA & RAA were not supporting this event and that must be dispelled.
- Serving members should be encouraged to march behind the RAA Assn banner.
- The march is essentially a participation event and not a spectator event (for members)

Furthermore, whilst I have your attention, there are a number of other Regimental function that could be better supported. Including the Gunner Dinner and the annual lunch at RACV, which has been set for 6 March 2013

Regards



Staff Cadet Casey

It is said that many years ago, in the history of the Royal Military College, Duntroon, there was a staff cadet called Casey. Staff Cadet Casey was a member of Fourth Class and prior to a particular Christmas leave he was skylarking around. He finally managing to get himself locked in a broom cupboard. Casey was not missed from the Leave Draft so he remained in the cupboard until the Corps returned for duty in the New Year.

Staff Cadet Casey's skeleton was found, but his ghost still haunts the corridors and cavities of the college. He will never graduate, but to appease his spirit he is present at each graduation ball.

Casey's skeleton is lodged in a glass locker in the Cadets' Mess with "his" parade boots and Blues cap.

Courtesy WO1 Chris Jobson. "Looking Forward, Looking Back"

**30 Hinchinbrook Drive
Kirwan, Townsville, 4817 QLD
Telephone (07) 477 39632
22nd June, 2011**

Senator Nick Xenophon

Senator Penny Wong

Senator Bob Brown

Senator Kate Lundy

The Hon. Prime Minister Julia Gillard MP

The Hon. Tony Abbott MP

Following the Senate's rejection of the Fair Indexation Bill on 16th June, 2011, I forwarded a number of emails to your office to express my bitter disappointment on the Senate's decision as, in my view, it was a shameful betrayal of the men and women who have served our Nation in the Australian Defence Force for 20 years or more.

I was appalled that this decision was primarily based on financial restraints and yet our Politicians, including you, never hesitate to approve an increase to your own salaries, despite the financial state of the Nation!!

It is a complete mockery for members of our Parliament to attend the funerals of our young warriors who have been killed in action, and to observe a minute's silence in the House of Representatives and in the Senate, and yet you reject a Bill which would have aligned the increases to DFRB and DFRDB superannuants' pensions with our old age pensioners. This disgraceful decision, obviously based on Party lines, has alienated the Veteran Community and it has ensured that DFRB and DFRDB superannuants will see their measly pension (average annual pension is approximately \$23,600) continue to lose its purchasing power. This will be exacerbated by increases to the cost of electricity, increased vehicle registration, increased cost of food, increased cost of petrol, increased insurance cost, increased medical costs and the list goes on and undoubtedly will include new taxes!!

This is compounded for those surviving spouses who only receive 5/8th of the DFRB/DFRDB superannuants' pension which continues to be indexed against the CPI. It seems inequitable and immoral to me that the surviving spouse of a political pensioner has his/her pension indexed against the increases to the salary of a back bencher. Does this mean that a politician's spouse makes such a huge contribution to the defence and well-being of our Nation when compared to the spouse of a lowly soldier, airman or navy personnel? Where is the justice in this?

Could you please explain to me why the Government has accepted the recommendation by the Matthews Review that the CPI remains the most appropriate method of indexation for military superannuants? If this is a legitimate argument, then please explain to the Veteran Community why your pensions are not indexed against the CPI when you retire?

The Matthews Review does suggest the use of an Analytical Living Cost Index and the Government introduced the Pensioners and Beneficiaries Cost of Living Index (PBCLI) the day after the Matthews Review was released. Why was the PBCLI not accepted as a fair indexation for military superannuants?

Apparently my emails, to which I referred in my opening paragraph did not reach your office. Consequently I am enclosing copies of both emails for your attention. Please note that they have been distributed to a very wide distribution list and most recipients have in turn redistributed them to their own mailing lists.

You should be aware that this decision has angered the Veteran Community and we will continue to fight for a "fair go", especially as the Labour Party has abandoned the spirit of its election commitment to conduct a review that would address the inadequacy and inequity of the Indexation method (CPI) which has not kept up with the cost of living.

This is immoral, it lacks the principle of "a fair go" espoused by all politicians and especially by the Labour Party. How do you explain this to a Veteran who has fought for his country, who has been sent into action by his Government, who has seen his mates fall in action, who has readily surrendered his own freedoms so that our nation can meet its International commitments and to ensure our Nation remains free?

I formerly request that you acknowledge receipt of my letter and that you provide me with your answers, not your Party line answers, to the questions I have posed in this missive.

Yours sincerely,

Neil Weekes, AM, MC

Brigadier Retired

Patron of The Townsville Sub-Branch of the RSL

Patron of The Townsville Branch of Vietnam Veterans Association of Australia

Patron of The Townsville Branch of the National Servicemen's Association of Australia

Courtesy SSgt Morrell

Life in the Australian Army

Text of a letter from a kid from Eromanga to Mum and Dad. (For those of you not in the know, Eromanga is a small town, west of Quilpie in the far south west of Queensland)

Dear Mum & Dad,

I am well. Hope youse are too. Tell me big brothers Doug and Phil that the Army is better than workin' on the station - tell them to get in bloody quick smart before the jobs are all gone! I wuz a bit slow in settling down at first, because ya don't hafta get outta bed until 6am.

But I like sleeping in now, cuz all ya gotta do before brekky is make ya bed and shine ya boots and clean ya uniform. No bloody horses to get in, no calves to feed, no troughs to clean - nothin'!! Ya haz gotta shower though, but its not so bad, coz there's lotsa hot water and even a light to see what ya doing!

At brekky ya get cereal, fruit and eggs but there's no kangaroo steaks or goanna stew like wot Mum makes. You don't get fed again until noon and by that time all the city boys are buggered because we've been on a 'route march' - geez its only just like walking to the windmill in the bullock paddock!

This one will kill me brothers Doug and Phil with laughter. I keep getting medals for shootin' -

dunno why. The bullseye is as big as a bloody dingo's arse and it don't move and it's not firing back at ya like the Johnsons did when our big scrubber bull got into their prize cows before the Ekka last year! All ya gotta do is make yourself comfortable and hit the target - it's a piece of p...!! You don't even load your own cartridges, they comes in little boxes, and ya don't have to steady yourself against the rollbar of the roo shooting truck when you reload!

Sometimes ya gotta wrestle with the city boys and I gotta be real careful coz they break easy - it's not like fighting with Doug and Phil and Jack and Boori and Steve and Muzza all at once like we do at home after the muster.

Turns out I'm not a bad boxer either and it looks like I'm the best the platoon's got, and I've only been beaten by this one bloke from the Engineers - he's 6 foot 5 and 15 stone and three pick handles across the shoulders and as ya know I'm only 5 foot 7 and eight stone wringin' wet, but I fought him till the other blokes carried me off to the boozier.

I can't complain about the Army - tell the boys to get in quick before word gets around how

Your loving daughter,

Susan

Courtesy Sgt Andrew Millis

This is Reg Lindsay's daughter Dianne and Simmo, her husband.

Hi all. This song was written by Merv Maltman ex Army who was at the Horseshoe near Nui-Dat, the Australian task force base. It's from a woman's perspective. Simmo did the arrangements and is playing on it, also singing in the background. It hasn't been released yet, this is not a commercial copy.

It will be put out as a single. Hopefully released before Anzac Day 25th April 2012. I reckon they have done a great job of it, what do you reckon ???.

Gregg

Gregg Dickson Vice Chairman/Secretary

www.youtube.com/watch?v=h6cn3lxaw5s

40th RASigs Anniversary Reunion Vietnam
Ho Chi Minh City
VIETNAM

Courtesy WO2 Max Murray

Self service on the way

Reservists will soon handle their own administration on PMKeyS

RESERVISTS will be able to report and monitor their duty periods on the DRN thanks to an expansion of PMKeys Self Service coming in September.

The changes will mean reservists can enter their own attendance and some allowance claims directly into PMKeys Self Service.

This will remove the need to have attendance diary forms filled out, approved and entered into the system by pay clerks. But the diaries can still be sent for processing by members without DRN access.

Reservists will be able to view past attendance records on PMKeys Self Service using the Attendance History Inquire page, along with training day balance and other ongoing allowances.

The new Training Day Summary Inquire page will also give pay details, allocations, expenditure for training days and allowances and the financial year history.



More access: Reservists will be able to manage many administration tasks on their own when PMKeyS Self Service is expanded in September.

Photo illustration by Cpl Mark Doran

FEATURES	
Reserve attendance management	
■ Training day allocation and usage	
■ Personal details	
■ Attendance and/or allowance claim	
■ Approval	
■ Action/submit	
Attendance history	
■ Member training day balance section	
■ Member attendance details section	
■ Other ongoing allowances section	
Training day summary	
■ Pay details	
■ Training day allocations	
■ Training day expenditure	
■ Allowance expenditure	
■ Financial year history	

Courtesy Army News

Projects progress

Radar, mortar system and maritime projects move forward

THE approval of four Defence projects announced on June 3 brings the total number of projects approved in 2012 to 11, worth more than \$2.6 billion.

The government has given first-pass approval for a project to replace the Identification Friend or Foe (IFF) and Secondary Surveillance Radar (SSR) systems currently used by the ADF.

IFF and SSR are used in a range of systems, including RBS-70 ground based air defence systems, to identify friendly forces within a field of unidentified contacts. The upgrades, cost capped between \$100m and \$300m, will continue

to prevent friendly fire incidents and promote air safety.

First-pass approval has been given to investigate a replacement for the Australian Army's 83mm mortar system under Land 136 Phase 1 (Land Force Mortar Replacement).

The project aims to acquire a modern, digital mortar system which will deliver more responsive, precise fire support for ground forces.

Funding has been approved for first pass to second pass work, including project development

and risk mitigation studies and investigation of the mortar system solution.

First-pass approval has also been given for Joint Project 1770 Phase 1 - Rapid Environmental Assessment and Sea 1778 Phase 1 - Organic Mine Counter Measures.

The approvals follow the record 49 capability projects approved in 2011, worth more than \$6 billion. In the next financial year, about \$9 billion in projects will be considered for approval by Government.

Courtesy Army News



Friend or foe: A project is underway to find a new radar system to help distinguish between friendly and enemy radar contacts. *File photo by LAC Leigh Cameron*

EX BIG BANG EXERCISE

On 10 Aug 12, the Royal Australian Engineers conducted a 4 day Bivouac at Puckapunyal, so on the 12 Aug 12, members of the RAA Association accompanied the RAE Historical & Heritage Association, Woodpeckers and Old Sappers to Puckapunyal to visit 22 Const Regt which was displaying Demolitions and Viewing of Reno Rescue. The RAE provided 2 buses to convey us to a parking site outside the Army Unit Museum, where we were brief by the Lt. Col. Darren Potter CSC, who is the Commanding Officer of 22 Const Regt on the format of the day and the rules on safety procedures. We were separated into 3 groups, then we mounted into one of 2 Bushmasters or a Unimog, and we travelled for approximately thirty minutes to Demo West via Route 20. I thoroughly enjoyed my ride in the Bushmaster.

On arrival, we were given another briefing by Lt. Natalie Canham re the Demonstration practice on a Bailey Bridge, destroying a 44 gallon drum of concrete and a concrete pillar using PE4 and Comp B explosives. We adjourned to a bunker for refreshments and for Darby O'Toole to press the charger to destroy the Bailey Bridge into two sections. The concrete drum and pillar were also



destroyed. Mission was accomplished. We were then invited to join the serving RAE Soldiers in a photograph. Congratulations to the serving soldiers of the RAE.

After the safety check parade, we mounted back into the Bushmasters and Unimog. This time, I rode in the front seat of the Bushmaster and that was fantastic. We visited the Mill Site, which was situated behind Range Camp, where we were shown over the Engineering Site and a building which had been renovated within 72 hours. The Commanding Officer then briefed the Associations regarding the reduction of 4 CER and 22 Const Regt re future planning. Then we were invited to a BBQ lunch, which was very enjoyable. At 1600 hours, we then climbed back into bus and returned to Oakleigh Barracks.

Special thanks to Major Austin Byrne (Retired) for inviting the RAA Association and Captain Brian Burton for his excellent work in arranging transport and guidance for the day.

The following members of the RAA Association were Merv Taggart, Josh Gay, Sandra Keating, Darby O'Toole, Brian Cleeman, Rod Olsen, Stan Lee and Reg Morrell.

Reg Morrell
Treasurer.

VIETNAM VETERANS WELCOME HOME THE LONG TAN CROSS

The Minister for Veterans' Affairs, Warren Snowdon, has joined the Governor-General, Her Excellency Quentin Bryce AC CVO, and veterans of the Vietnam War for the unveiling of the Long Tan Cross at the Australian War Memorial.

In 1969, the Long Tan Cross was installed at the site of the Battle of Long Tan, where 108 Australian and New Zealand soldiers primarily of Delta-Company 6RAR fought a pitched battle against more than 2,000 North Vietnamese and Viet Cong soldiers three years earlier.

The battle saw the loss of 18 Australian soldiers and another 24 wounded, entering military history as an example of overcoming seemingly insurmountable odds, like the campaigns at Gallipoli, Tobruk, Kokoda and Kapyong.



The loan, until April 2013, of the cross coincides with the 50th anniversary of the arrival of the Australian Army Training Team Vietnam in country.

The Long Tan Cross is an important part of Australia's military history, it represents not only those D-Company soldiers who were lost in the rain-saturated rubber tree plantation in 1966, but it symbolises the bravery and determination of all those who fought in Vietnam.

Almost 60,000 young men were sent to Vietnam, many of them conscripted into the armed forces.

Those who returned, often bore the physical and mental scars of conflict, many of which still persist today.

I would encourage all Australians to see the Long Tan Cross and to pay due respect to the veterans of the Vietnam War. Their service and sacrifice will never be forgotten.

GHOST SHIP RESURRECTION

With the arrival of the new Canberra-class LHD due in 2014, those aboard *Canberra 1* who survived her sinking are looking back at that August day in 1942. *Michael Brooke reports.*

SURVIVORS of HMAS *Canberra 1*, that was sunk 70 years ago in WWII, said the arrival of the new Canberra-class LHD symbolises the resurrection of their heavy cruiser from her watery grave in Solomon Islands.

On the eve of the 70th anniversary of the sinking of *Canberra*, the members of the Canberra / Shropshire Association said how special it would be to have a new HMAS *Canberra* in the RAN.



A survivor of *Canberra 1*, LCDR Henry Hall (rtd), said the new HMAS *Canberra* would carry on a proud name and special traditions.

LCDR Hall said the new vessel would mark the resurrection of the fighting spirit of his former ship that was discovered by deep-towed sonar in 1992.

"When NUSHIP *Canberra* is commissioned It will be like a ghost ship has come back from the dead, he said.

"*Canberra* will serve the nation proudly once again for the first time since the Adelaide class FFG, HMAS *Canberra*, paid off in 2005", said LCDR Hall, who was mentioned in dispatches for his role in tending to the wounded on the bridge of the heavy cruiser.

Canberra 1, a County-class heavy-cruiser, bore the brunt of the Japanese night attack and sunk off Savo Island on August 9, 1942. while supporting the American landings at Guadalcanal and Tulagi.

In *Canberra's* forward control, the then AB Hall was talking on the telephone to the sailor manning the phone on the 4-inch gun deck when a green-white flash illuminated the pitch black night.

The men on *Canberra* tried to respond quickly to the attack but it was too little, too late as the Japanese strike force pounded the RAN heavy cruiser with more than 20 salvos of 8-inch gun fire and two torpedoes in her starboard side. At least two shells landed near the bridge.

With power lost and the ship listing, the wounded and survivors were transferred to USS *Patterson* and USS *Blue*. The US Navy task force commander ordered that *Canberra* be abandoned and sunk if she could not steam by 6.30 am.

Once all the survivors had been evacuated, and acting in accordance with the orders, USS *Selfridge* fired 263 5-inch shells and four torpedoes into *Canberra*, but she refused to sink. Eventually a torpedo fired by USS *Elliot* administered the final blow and *Canberra* sank at about 8am on August 9.

Of *Canberra's* crew of 819, 76 went down with the ship while another 109 were casualties in a ferocious sea battle that historians called "the worst blue-water defeat in naval history."

With LCDR Hall and the remaining 13 survivors all in their 90s, a special service to mark the 70th anniversary will be conducted at the HMAS Kuttabul chapel on August 12.

Navy will also mark the anniversary by dispatching HMA Ships *Gascoyne* and *Huon* to Guadalcanal to join commemoration activities from August 6-9.

The two 28,000 tonne LHD ships, *Canberra* and *Adelaide*, will be the largest ships ever built for the RAN when they come into service in 2014 and 2015 respectively.

The LHD will be the third RAN warship to proudly carry the name HMAS *Canberra*, with the first being the County-class heavy cruiser and the second being the Adelaide-class FFG that served in the RAN from 1981 to 2005.

LOOKING BACK: This photo of HMAS *Canberra 1* is from the personal effects of CAPT FE. Getting, who was in command when the ship was sunk in 1942. He died of wounds on August 9, 1942.

Courtesy of Australian War Memorial



Barry Pearce had been involved in ex-servicemen's affairs since 1983 when he joined the Vietnam Veterans Counselling Service in Melbourne.

He has acted as a VRB Advocate, Pensions Officer and Welfare Officer and is a qualified welfare worker and occasionally acted as a Funeral Celebrant.

Barry was involved in the RSL at Meredith, the Geelong Vietnam Veterans' Association of Australia sub branch, the Corps of Commissionaires in Melbourne and the TPI Association. Barry, as the Association Newsletter Editor, was keen to make the 107 Fd Bty RAA Association a viable network for ex-members to keep in touch. Barry and wife Sandra, have released their book, "Geelong to NuiDat and Return, outlining their respective lives during the trying time while Barry was away at war. Barry, above, recording his experiences during a quite time on a fire support base in Vietnam in 1970-71.



He served with 107 Fd Bty RAA 4 Fd Regt South Vietnam 1970-71 and was awarded the Active Service 1945-75 Medal. General Service Medal. Australian Defence Medal. Vietnam Star. **RIP Barry.**

[Back to page 5](#)

Information courtesy of 4 Fd Regt RAA



Aussie officer to oversee US troops

Cpl Nick Wiseman

AUSTRALIAN Maj-Gen Rick Burr, 1 Div Commander, has been selected to take up the position of Deputy Commanding General Operations, US Army Pacific from November.

The position will put Maj-Gen Burr in a position to direct training and command efforts for more than 60,000 US soldiers in the Pacific.

It will reinforce the relationship between the US and Australia and provide personnel with operational expertise and professional development opportunities.

Maj-Gen Burr will assume the post, based in Hawaii, in November.

As the commander of 1 Div and the Deployable Joint Force HQ, Maj-Gen Burr has overseen deployment preparations for troops and the development of amphibious strategies.

Courtesy Army News

Maori farewell for three Kiwi troops

<http://www.michaelyon-online.com/2nd-1st-farewell-their-fallen-comrades-with-a-huge-haka.htm>

Courtesy WO2 Dave Troedel

Pacific posting: Maj-Gen Rick Burr, 1 Div Commander, will head to Hawaii to direct training of more than 60,000 US soldiers.

Photo by Cpl Nick Wiseman

GONE BUT NOT FORGOTTEN

COMMEMORATING AIR FORCE'S WORST PEACETIME AIR CRASH

Defence representatives today joined members of the Papua New Guinea community in remembering the 40th anniversary of Air Force's worst peacetime air crash.



On 28 August 1972, a Caribou transport aircraft came down in the Kudjeru Gap in Papua New Guinea, claiming the lives of 25 of the 29 on board.

Chief of Air Force Air Marshal Geoff Brown said the aircraft had been returning high school students and instructors to Port Moresby following an Australian Army School Cadet Camp in Lae.

"We believe poor weather forced the crew to retrace their route back through the Kudjeru Gap, but the aircraft's starboard wing impacted with treetops on a ridgeline," Air Marshal Brown said.

"After three days of searching, rescuers discovered five surviving cadets, however, one survivor later died in hospital."

Air Marshal Brown said the majority of cadets lost in the accident were students of De la Salle High School, outside Port Moresby. The Caribou's crew included Flight Lieutenant Graham Thomas, Pilot Officer Gregory Ebsary and Corporal Gary Power. Captain Robert Loftus, a Ground Liaison Officer with the Australian Army, was also killed in the accident.

The aircraft was part of a detachment of No. 38 Squadron Caribou operated in Port Moresby until Papua New Guinea's independence in 1975.

To mark the 40th anniversary of the accident, members of the Australian High Commission in Port Moresby, along with representatives of Air Force's No. 38 Squadron, attended a memorial service at De La Salle High School in Port Moresby.

Ref to named school. <http://www.postcourier.com.pg/20020906/weekend03.htm> (ed)

"It is humbling for Defence to join the community at this memorial service, as we are bonded in our grief," Air Marshal Brown said

"The Defence members on board the Caribou made the ultimate sacrifice whilst serving the Papua New Guinea community.

"The tragedy of their death is compounded by the loss of so many young lives in this accident."

Air Marshal Brown said the past 40 years had shown Defence was committed to supporting the Papua New Guinea community, as evidenced by recent election support as well as providing humanitarian assistance and disaster relief.

Courtesy Defence Media Centre

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Thirty-fifth Annual General Meeting of the RAA Association (Vic) Inc
will be held at Sargood Barracks, Chapel Street, East St Kilda,
on Thursday 1st November 2012, at 7.30pm (Topelz booking 5.30pm)

AGENDA

1. Apologies
2. Minutes of previous meeting
3. Business arising
4. Correspondence
5. Treasurer's report
6. Membership report
7. General Business
 - a. President's report
 - b. Regimental reports
 - c. Election of office bearers
 8. Other Business
 - a. Social activities
 - b. Honorary Life Membership motions (see back)

NOMINATION FORM

This form is to reach the Secretary not later than 25th October 2012

..... (full name) of

..... (address)

a financial member of the Association, is hereby nominated for the position of

President / Vice President / Secretary / Treasurer / Committee member (cross out those positions not nominated for) by the undermentioned Proposer and Seconder, who are also members of the Association.

..... (signature of Proposer)

..... (Proposer's full name)

..... (signature of Seconder)

..... Seconder's full name)

Signature of consenting nominee:

.....

FORM OF APPOINTMENT OF PROXY

I,

of

being a member of the Royal Australian Artillery Association (Victoria) Inc, hereby appoint

.....

of, being a member of that Incorporated Association, as my Proxy to vote for me on my behalf at the General Meeting of the Incorporated Association to be held on 1st November 2012, and at any adjournment of that meeting.

Signed Date

Continued next page

Proposed motions to create Honorary Life Member

FIRST MOTION

A special category of “Honorary Member”, (Honorary Life Member), with the term “for life”, shall be instituted to recognize Long and Distinguished Service to the Association.

MOVED: L.FOSTER SECONDED: J.COOKE

Notes on the FIRST MOTION:

1. The Committee is authorized to elect Honorary Members, and the names and terms of membership shall be tabled at the first AGM following such election.
2. The Committee proposes to introduce Honorary Life Membership to recognize long and distinguished service to the Association.
3. The concept and initial nominations are thus presented to this AGM for confirmation.

SECOND MOTION

The persons nominated during this meeting and confirmed by votes of the members present (whether in person or by proxy) are recommended to the Committee as the first “Honorary Members for Life”.

MOVED: L.FOSTER SECONDED: J.COOKE

Notes on the SECOND MOTION:

1. Prior to consideration of this motion, names of any persons proposed for consideration by the meeting should be submitted to the chairman of the AGM in writing, together with details of service (to the Association) in support of the proposal.
 2. This motion will only be put to the meeting if the first motion is passed.
-

Some more interesting links for your viewing pleasure.

Original WW1 Battle Footage Passchendaele 1917 Pont des Arts

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TGVmOS9yM6M&feature=related>

This video is similar to that posted in Journal 109. However, it’s an Australian oriented tribute and I rate it as a “**must see**”. <http://www.youtube.com/user/willolee1>

Mosquito Manufacturing—1944

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dwwhpsZ_lsg

50 cal round comes back.

http://youtu.be/7VVaKsVj_uQ

SOCIAL GOLF DAY

To be held at the Berwick Montuna Golf Club

Beaconsfield-Emerald Road, Guy's Hill

(Melways 212 C4)

On Friday 2nd November 2012

Tee Time 0830 Hrs



This is the Eleventh Annual Golf Day and we look forward to an even bigger and better field to compete for the coveted RAA Association Perpetual Trophy.

Golfers at ALL levels of expertise are invited to attend (handicap not required).

Hire clubs, buggies and motorised carts are available from the Golf-Shop. These items should be booked directly with the Golf shop on 9707 5226 at least ten days prior

The cost for golfers is \$28.00 which covers green fees for 18 holes and trophies.

Lunch will be available in the Clubhouse at very reasonable prices.

The competition of the day will be a stableford competition. Players who do not have a handicap will be "allocated" a handicap on the day.

Trophies will be awarded in the Clubhouse during lunch.

So that tee times and a number for lunch can be booked, please indicate if you will be attending, and the number of people in your group, by telephone, mail or e-mail to:

Maj Neil Hamer, 12 Marida Court, Berwick 3806;

Telephone, 9702 2100;

E-mail, nhamer@bigpond.net.au

Not later than 20th October 2012.

Please include: Your name and handicap, (if you have one). The name and handicap of your guests.

The number of non-golfers who will be attending for lunch.

The name/s of your preferred group.

MORE TRAGIC LOSSES



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Spr James Martin, Pte Robert Poate, LCpl Stjepan Milosevic LCpl Mervyn McDonald, Pte Nat Gallagher

Five Australian soldiers killed in Afghanistan



Five Australian soldiers have been killed in two separate incidents in Afghanistan.

Three Australian soldiers have been killed and two wounded following an insider attack at Patrol Base Wahab in the Baluchi Valley region of Uruzgan.

The attack occurred during the evening of 29 August 2012 (Afghan time) inside the confines of the Patrol Base.

Acting Chief of the Defence Force, Air Marshal Mark Binskin, said early reports indicated a lone individual wearing an Afghan National Army uniform fired a weapon into a group of Australian soldiers from close range before fleeing the Patrol Base on foot.

"Five soldiers were hit in the burst of automatic fire," Air Marshal Binskin said.

"Their comrades made every effort to revive the three soldiers, but their wounds were fatal."

One of the five soldiers was seriously wounded in the attack while another sustained minor wounds as a result of the shooting.

All five soldiers were members of the 3 RAR Task Group tasked with mentoring the 4th Brigade, 205 Corps in Uruzgan. All five soldiers were normally based at Gallipoli Barracks, Enoggera in Queensland.

In a separate, unrelated incident, two Australian

Special Forces soldiers from 2nd Commando Regiment were killed when an ISAF helicopter crashed in Helmand on 30 August.

The Australian Special Forces and their partnered Afghan National Security Force unit were participating in a targeted mission at the time of the incident.

Air Marshal Mark Binskin said the soldiers were en route to the mission area.

"Early reporting indicates the aircraft was attempting to land in the mission area when the incident occurred," Air Marshal Binskin said.

Air Marshal Binskin extended his condolences to the families and friends of the soldiers on behalf of the Minister for Defence, the Chief of the Defence Force, the Chief of Army and the Defence community.

"I cannot begin to describe the overwhelming grief that their families are experiencing but I want them to know that Army and the ADF community share their anguish and we will continue to support them and care for them," Air Marshal Binskin said.

"This is a terrible day for all and our thoughts and prayers are with all those who have been affected by this incident."

<http://www.defence.gov.au/defencenews/stories/2012/aug/0831.htm>

Parade Card
as at 1 September 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 2013	
19. Committee Meeting	7? Reserve Forces Day March	November 2012
	9. Cascabel Issue 112 posted	1. Annual General Meeting
March 2013	16. Committee Meeting	2. Golf Day
6. RAA Luncheon		20. Committee Meeting
19. Committee Meeting	August 2013	
	18. Church Parade. Healing the Wounds of War	December 2012
April 2013	20. Committee Meeting	4. St Barbara's Day
8. Cascabel Issue 115 posted		8. 2/10 St Barbara's Day Parade and Family Day
16. Committee Meeting	September 2013	8. 2/10 Wind-up Social Evening
25. Anzac day	17. Committee Meeting	9. Annual Church Parade
May 2013		11. Committee Meeting
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		

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Reg No A13889Z

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