



30th ANNIVERSARY EDITION

Below is how the front page of the first edition of Cascabel was presented
by (then) Maj Rob Gaw way back in July 1983 *(Further information on P11)*



CASCABEL



Newsletter of The Royal Australian Artillery
Association (Victoria)

Number 1, July 1983

Editor: Major R.M. Gaw

Asst. Editor: Capt. J.A. Davis

MESSAGE FROM COL A. "SANDY" MAIR,
PRESIDENT ROYAL AUSTRALIAN
ARTILLERY ASSOCIATION (VICTORIA)

Dear Member,

It's time again for our Annual General Meeting. This year it will be held on Thursday 28th July at Batman Avenue Artillery Depot at 8.00 p.m.

Annual General Meetings, whilst most necessary can be a bit boring - apart from the happiness of course of re-meeting with Gunner friends. This year as a means of interest I have arranged for a couple of short films to be shown during the evening.

The first will be on the M198 Medium Gun. This is the new American 155 mm which will replace the 5.5 Gun with which 10 Medium Regiment is equipped at Geelong and Colac. In fact the first of these equipments has been received at Geelong - much to their delight. The second short film is "Fire Power" which deals quite dramatically with the employment of Field Branch Artillery in the modern day.

The Mess at Batman Avenue will be nice and warm and the films I hope will be a change from a guest speaker.

The usual refreshments and supper of course will be available and there will be ample opportunity for a chat and a glass with your friends.

The formal notice for the Annual General Meeting is attached.

Apart from listening to my Report on our doings over the past year, we do have the matter of the election of our office bearers and committee for 1983/84 and as a reminder I list these for your cogitation.

Patron: Brigadier Sir William Hal

Vice Patron: Major General His
Honour Judge N.A.
Vickery

President: Colonel A. Mair

Vice President: Lt. Colonel C.W.
McLean

Secretary: Lt. K.F. Field

Treasurer: WO1 K. Hodges

Committee: Major G. Hill (Serving)
Major M. Taggart
Major R. Gaw (Serving)
WO2 J. Ferguson
Lt. Col. D.G. Cox
Capt. J. Davis (Serving)

Auditor: Capt. D.J. Osborne

All members of your committee have indicated that they are eligible for re-election and we have the required number - three - of serving members.

Your committee has met regularly each month - except December and

| Article | Pages |
|---|-------|
| Cascabel General Information | 3 |
| Assn Contacts, Conditions & Copyright | 4 |
| The President Writes and Membership Report | 5 |
| From The Colonel Commandant | 6 |
| From Lt Col Jason Cook | 7 |
| BC 2/15 Light Bty Maj Garry Rolfe | 8 |
| Solemn day in Tarin Kot | 10 |
| Editor's Indulgence | 11 |
| Centre built for new vets | 19 |
| Distinguished veteran visits Tarin Kot | 20 |
| Dress manual clears confusion | 21 |
| Reserve officer training to be aligned with ARA standard | 22 |
| Gunner Dinner 2013 | 23 |
| Women in foxholes | 24 |
| Fighting on 'until you're about to put a rope around your neck' | 26 |
| SASR and 2CDO REGT HONOURED and Defence Archive Centre at Fort Queenscliff. | 28 |
| Soldiers steal victory after invite to Air Force fun run and Vale for Warrant Officer 2 Bruce Green | 29 |
| 'Birdie's' grave restored and Vietnam Veterans' Education Centre – Wall of Faces | 30 |
| So, what is a vet? | 31 |
| Artillery (And other Minor Weapons) Of The American Civil War | 33 |
| The Pioneer Sergeant and A Vietnam Video | 38 |
| The British Military writes OFRs reports and Bagpiper at a funeral | 39 |
| Latest rotation is off to the Solomons | 40 |
| It's high time we publicly honour our peacekeepers | 42 |
| Arty school handed over | 44 |
| C sub, Freddie Troop, 58th Battery | 45 |
| The drones are coming to Adelaide | 48 |
| SANDAKAN 1942—1945 | 49 |
| Study tour goes to South Korea | 53 |
| Soldiers connect - Three junior NCOs went on a study tour to South Korea | 54 |
| AWM gets Afghan exhibit | 55 |
| The National Gunner Dinner: Saturday 23 rd of August, 2014 | 56 |
| CITATION — WO2 William L. Dunstan | 57 |
| Arty Spartans show they have what it takes | 59 |
| Air defenders prove capability | 60 |
| SOUTH CHANNEL FORT EXCURSION | 61 |
| Barry Caine's drawings | 62 |
| HMAS Sydney embeds with the US Navy's Seventh Fleet | 63 |
| Bowe Bergdahl and Retired Green Beret shoots intruder, gets court martial | 64 |
| VCs at memorial for Pte Poate | 65 |
| Lambeau Field | 66 |
| Afghan School of Artillery achieves autonomy | 67 |
| St. Kilda Artillery Drill Hall | 68 |
| The brief history of a Royal Australian Artillery Gun Battery called 101 | 69 |
| The difference between COMPLETE and FINISHED | 70 |
| The Charge Of The Light Brigade | 71 |
| Crackdown on Anzac Day 'wannabes' wearing fake medals | 72 |
| Soldiers deployed to Solomon Islands are training in challenging terrain | 73 |
| Soldier On launches VC medallion set | 74 |
| Celebration of ward's success and Editor's Indulgence continued | 75 |
| 92WVG personnel and support staff during the homecoming parade | 76 |
| (Leo Nette says) Hi from Beechworth | 77 |
| Answers to the Gunner Luncheon Quiz held on 6 March | 78 |
| Parade Card/Changing your address? See cut-out proforma | 79 |

Current Postal Address: All mail for the Editor of Cascabel, including articles and letters submitted for publication, should be sent direct to:
 Alan Halbish: 115 Kearney Drive Aspendale Gardens Vic 3195 (H) 9587 1676
 email to: ahalbish@netspace.net.au

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 |
| Treasurer: | SSGT Reg Morrell 9562 9552 |
| Curator: | SSGT Brian Cleeman 9560 7116 |
| Webmaster: | Maj Carl Sarelius 0447 002 409 |
| Members: | WO2 Lionel Foster SSGT Ernie Paddon |
| Cascabel Editor: | WO2 Alan Halbish 9587 1676 |
| Representatives: | Maj Garry Rolfe 2 nd /10 th Light Bty RAA WO2 Lionel Foster (10 Mdm Regt Assn) |
| Honorary Auditor: | Maj David J Osborne |

VIC REGT CONTACTS

| | |
|---|-----------|
| 2/10 Light Bty 38 Light troop 8 Chapel St St Kilda | 9526 4222 |
| 22 Light Troop 65 Princes Hwy Dandenong South | 8710 2407 |

CONTENTS AND SUBMISSIONS

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

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

Submissions for the October 2013 issue are required no later than 1 September 2013 unless otherwise arranged with the Editor.

COPYRIGHT (C)
RAA ASSOCIATION (VIC) INC -2000
ALL RIGHTS RESERVED
ISSN 1322-6282
MEMBERS & KINDRED
ORGANISATIONS ADF &
ACCREDITED RESEARCH:

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

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

COMMERCIAL USE/PRODUCTS & BOOKS

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



The President Writes

The ANZAC Day dawn service was again conducted at Sargood Barracks St Kilda this year. It was organised by 2/10 Lt Bty and the Association. 5/6 RVR (the Battalion which is attached to 2/10 Lt Bty!!) attended the functions organised by the Battalion. The service followed the usual format and was very well presented, and the light breakfast after the service was a little different, but very acceptable.

SSgt Reg Morrell and his committee of Brig Doug Perry ran the RAA Luncheon at the RACV last March. It was well attended and an enjoyable social occasion.

The 2013 Gunner Dinner Will be held on the 4th Oct. I look forward to seeing as many members as possible on the night.

I, of course, must remind you of the most important activity of the year, the Golf Day. This will be held on the 8th Nov after the second most important activity, the Annual General Meeting on the 7th.

The Justice Department which controls all incorporated associations in Victoria has decided to change their Model Rules (Constitution). This means that our Constitution must be changed to suit their changes. Maj Robin Smith is working on the changes at the moment. Our proposed constitution has to be approved by the Justice Department, and then we will need to accept it at the AGM. A copy will be posted on our website when it is completed so that you can read it before the AGM. We require a quorum of course, so please try to attend.

I must congratulate all editors for their contributions in ensuring Cascabel has attained its 30th Anniversary. Further comments from our editor begin on p11.

It is our intention to start a Letters to the Editor page in Cascabel 117. Letters can be questions, opinions, criticisms, about any Artillery related topic, or praise or acknowledgement of any item.

Letters should be limited to approx. 200 words, signed and sent to the Editor by mail or email.

Letters to the Editor are not to be confused with other items you may submit for publication which may be of any length.

All items submitted shall be published at the discretion of the Editor. They may also be edited for publication purposes.

Editor's mailing details are on p2.

Neil Hamer

MAJ (Retd)

Membership Report

Current Membership as at 1 June 13

| | | |
|------------------------------|-----|-------|
| Life Members | 196 | (193) |
| Annual Members | 45 | (42) |
| Senior Annual Members | 13 | (13) |
| Affiliates | 29 | (30) |
| Others (CO/CI, Messes, etc.) | 9 | (9) |
| Libraries | 4 | (4) |
| RSL's | 4 | (4) |
| Total | 300 | (294) |

New Members

We welcome Sgt Cedric John Spalding as an Annual Member and Gnr Kevin Leonard Poulter as a Life Member.

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

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

Neil Hamer Contact: Telephone: 9702 2100

MAJ (Retd) 0419 533 067

Membership Co-ord

Email:

nhamer@bigpond.net.au

From the Colonel Commandant



In my last message I said it was too early to report on the Light Battery. I'm now pleased to be able to report that the Battery is working well and making a major contribution to the Army with gunners deployed to RAMSI and a troop supporting the School of Artillery in the recent firepower display in addition to their regular training commitment.

I was impressed by the enthusiasm and skill that the gunners from 2/10 Light Battery demonstrated during the firepower display at Puckapunyal. This exposure is important in demonstrating their skills and in making the wider Army aware that they make a contribution to capability. It was also valuable for the gunners to see the wide range of firepower available to support the combined arms team in conventional combat. There is a more detailed article in this issue of Cascabel

I would also comment the RAA seminar program being run by LTCOL Cooke. The first for 2013 was held last month (May) at Sargood Barracks and was most informative in presenting the current situation and the immediate challenges the Light Battery is facing. I encourage all members to try to attend when they are able. A program of events is included in the parade card in Cascabel.

Finally I was able to attend the Associations visit to South Channel fort. This was a well organised activity which allowed a number of members to visit a historic site which formed part of the harbor defences of Victoria prior to federation. The fort is in a remarkable state of preservation and I would recommend a future visit to allow more members to see the structure.

Ubique



Do you recognize any of these members of 23 Bty at Frankston?



Message from our Association VP

Lt Col Jason Cook



FAREWELL PARADE FOR ROTATION 30 – SOLOMON ISLANDS

On Sunday the 24th March the COLCOMDT BRIG Peter Alkemade, the RAA Association of Victoria and the 10th Medium Regiment Association were lucky enough to represent our memberships at the farewell parade 4th Brigade was conducting for the next rotation of soldiers deploying to the Solomon Islands. It was a great day full of activities

professionalism. It was a wonderful display and a fitting celebration illustrating their readiness as a total force for whatever awaits them overseas. The format included a special tribute by 3 Platoon in a **traditional Fijian dance similar to the “Haka”**. Again this highlighted the tight relationships already formed as there were a few Aussies amongst the ranks, who performed as one with their new mates.



for the children along with various displays of military hardware related to the equipment the soldiers would be utilising on operations. So it was fantastic to witness the eager engagement and enjoyment families and friends had in the displays and activities. Everyone I spoke with commented about the wonderful opportunity they had in **seeing the equipment their loved ones “go off and play with”**. My son especially liked climbing all over the Protected Mobility Vehicle (PMV).

The main event of course was the parade and the soldiers executed the challenging format with precision, pride and a huge degree of

The day was a great success especially noting that this is the first time in Victoria that 2/10 Field Regiment (at the time) was given the opportunity to fill positions in an overseas deployment. Hence 20 Gunners from the new 2/10 Light Battery have deployed with 5/6 RVR filling important communication, linguist and headquarter roles.

The day ended with afternoon tea where everyone sent them off with their love, best wishes and words of encouragement upon their safe return. It was a fantastic day and I have no doubt that from the display of comradeship and mateship, the deployment will be a highlight of their military career. Well done and good luck to all.

A message from the Battery Commander

2/10 Light Battery RAA
5th/6th Battalion
Royal Victoria Regiment
Major Garry Rolfe CSC



A warm welcome to all members of the Gunner family. Once again it gives me great pleasure to provide a report to Cascabel on behalf of the Light Battery.

The Light Battery commemorated its first ANZAC DAY Dawn Service at the Sargood Barracks on 25th April. In the early and quiet hours of the morning members both past and present along with families and friends gathered at the **Gunner's Memorial. The service was led by the BSM WO2 Paul Wainwright** with the wonderful support provided by the Rev John Bottomley **previously from St George's Uniting Church** adjacent to the Barracks. The Colonel Commandant Southern Region, Brigadier Peter Alkemade attended the Service as Principal Guest and delivered the ANZAC Day address. The Band provided excellent musical support (as usual) to the Service including an outstanding rendition of Advance Australia Fair by Musn Cherry.

Following a hearty breakfast prepared by LBdr Overall and his work party the Catafalque Party departed to support Berwick RSL in the High Street. Members of the Catafalque featured in the following edition of the Berwick Leader newspaper. The Band then joined force with 4th/19th Prince of Wales Light Horse Band for the ANZAC Day march through the city and down St Kilda Road to the Shrine.

I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge and thank the RAA Association for their generous support to the Light Battery in providing funds for the ANZAC Day breakfast.

During the period 29th April – 2nd May and on acceptance of an invitation from the Commandant, Combined Arms Training Centre (CATC) at Puckapunyal the Light Battery (-) deployed 3 tubes and a command post in support of EX Chongju. This EX is a demonstration of Army combat weapons systems and effects in the Battlespace in the form of a firepower demon-

stration. EX Chongju is a component of the Combat Officers Advanced Course.

This support task provided a valuable training opportunity for the Light Battery to fire HE and Red Phosphorous (white phosphorous) ammunition. The mortars were deployed in a prime location directly in front of the viewing stand. The professionalism of the detachments and timely and accurate engagement of targets was noted by key staff and spectators alike.

Additional excitement occurred when a grass fire ignited by an Abrahams Main Battle Tank engaging a target with the main armament spread unexpectedly and came exceptionally close to the tubes and stores. A quick response by members of the Light Battery extracted the tubes and stores to a safe location.

Gnr Ollis
See next page



The Light Battery received praise and thanks from many sources including CATC and Commander 4th Brigade. The Light Battery's Gunner Ollis even featured in a photo in the next days edition of the Herald Sun preparing to fire a mortar round. The Light Battery also received an invitation to provide future support to CATC courses and activities.

In my first report I mentioned the Joint Fires Cell. This Cell is a 2nd Division asset comprising ARA and Ares staff led by Lt Col Warrick Young. The Cell performs a multitude of functions including trade management and development, and conduct of national trade courses in addition to providing vital support to the Light Batteries. The training and operations function is supported by a Master Gunner and SMIG (Sergeant Major Instructor in Gunnery).

In May the light Battery conducted a Salute Gun Course for members of the Light Battery being the first course conducted since 2010. This course qualified Gunners on the drills required to bring the Gun into and out of action and perform the duties of Gun Number during the firing of a Salute. The requirement for this qualification is due to the M2A2 Howitzer being withdrawn from service, however the M2A2 is the Gun used to fire ceremonial salutes. I pass on my thanks and acknowledge the work of BSM, WO2 Wainwright and SMIG, WO2 Brown for their preparation and conduct of the course. I also thank Sgt Wessner and Bdr Johnson for instruction during the conduct of the course. No course would run efficiently without the behind the scenes work performed by the GD's (General Duty Staff) under the watchful eye of Pte Simsir.

On Saturday 8th June, precisely at midday the Light Battery will fire a 21 Gun Salute on the occasion of the birthday of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II our Captain General.

The Salute is to be fired at midday on the Forecourt at the Shrine of Remembrance. On this occasion I extend a warm invitation far and wide to all Gunners, families and friends to attend on the day to join the Light Battery at the Shrine.

Last month the Officers, Warrant Officers and Senior Non Commissioned Officer's came

together for a Battalion Dinner at the Geebung Polo Club in Hawthorn. At the dinner the Light Battery Officers and Senior NCO's were formally welcomed to the Mess by the Commanding Officer. On this occasion the new subalterns were also welcomed to the Regiment and presented the 5th/6th Battalion, Royal Victoria Regiment lanyard and pugaree flash. The occasion was concluded in fine company at the combined Officers and Sergeants Mess at Battalion Headquarters.

Recently, I attended Battalion Headquarters on a Sunday morning where members of the Royal Victoria Regiment Association, Royal Australian Artillery Association and 10th Medium Regiment Association combined forces to pack care packages for members of the Battalion on Rotation 30, the deployment to the Solomon Islands. In true military style an enthusiastic band formed an efficient and effective work party to pack the contents of the care packages.

Families of deployed members attended Battalion Headquarters for lunch and opportunity to add a small item to the packages. A special mention of thanks must go to Bob Hart for his leadership at this activity on the day.

Take care and stay safe.

Kind regards

GR

Ubique



At the going down of the sun

And in the morning

WE WILL REMEMBER THEM

Solemn day in Tarin Kot

WO2 Andrew Hetherington

AUSTRALIAN soldiers at Multinational Base Tarin Kot gathered at a dawn service marking Anzac Day in Uruzgan province.

Alongside the Australians, soldiers from the US, Singapore and Slovakia attended the moving dawn service.

Defence Parliamentary Secretary Senator David Feeney, CA Lt-Gen David Morrison and Commander JTF 633 Maj-Gen Michael Crane joined the troops to pay tribute to personnel who had died on operations, including the 39 Australian soldiers killed in Afghanistan since 2002.

Senator Feeney said the Anzac Day ceremony in Uruzgan was significant for all Australians.

"The thoughts and prayers of Australians are focused on this place and the Australians here like no where else in the world," he said.

In his address, Lt-Gen Morrison said he felt privileged to be in Uruzgan on Anzac Day.

"There is no place I would rather be than among this band of brothers and sisters here on this Anzac morning in 2013," he said.

"Standing in front of this simple wall that bears testament to the humanity and sacrifice of our fellow band of brothers and sisters with three words in front of them that say it all for us - *Lest We Forget*."

LCpl Tamara Jesenkovic, a signaller with the 7RAR Task Group, said for her, Anzac Day was a time to reflect and remember fallen soldiers.

"It was a moving dawn service and we had time to remember especially the soldiers who had died serving at Tarin Kot," LCpl Jesenkovic said.

"I'm proud I can wear this uniform and hat every day, especially on Anzac Day."

After the dawn service, troops participated in a dawn run, watched Anzac Day AFL and NRL matches, played two-up in the base gym and raised more than \$42,000 from auctions and raffles held for charity.



Solomon Islands



3 RAR XO Maj Paul Prickett helps former unit MO Col Don Beard (ret'd) affix the Kapyong Streamer

EDITORS INDULGENCE.

As this journal marks the 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF CASCABEL, I have prepared the following article. I trust that it will update and/or remind members of how Cascabel has been kept alive all of these years.



In the preparation of this article, I envisaged perhaps 3-4 pages at the most. However, it has blown out to 9 + pages, so I am publishing it in 2 parts. The following is part 1 of 2.

A BRIEF HISTORY OF CASCABEL EDITORS

In 1983 the Royal Australian Artillery Association (Vic) Inc. decided to produce a newsletter similar to the Gunner Newsletter which circulated a limited number of editions in the late seventies. It is necessary to recap on a little history first. A request had been made by Maj Gen NA Vickery (then Colonel Commandant for RAA 3 Div) in 1977 or early 1978 for a regional Gunner publication to be instituted. General Vickery asked that 132 Div Loc Bty take on this role for the Corps. The publication was edited by then Maj (but later Brig) Doug Perry and WO2 Phil Baines, both at that time serving with 132 Div Loc Bty RAA as BC and BSM respectively. The Newsletter was only published twice (March and June 1978), and after Doug Perry was promoted and posted from the Locating Battery the publication was not produced again.

The RAA Association was very active in the period after its formation in April 1978, developing ideas for keeping members involved and engaged with their Association. The association had discussed publishing **a newsletter, recalling the earlier publication "Gunner Newsletter" that had not proceeded after the first two editions.** The RAA Association Committee endorsed the idea in early 1983 and appointed then RAA Association committee members Maj (but later Lt Col) Rob Gaw and Capt Judith Davis as Editor and Assistant Editor respectively.

The first edition of the newsletter was produced in July 1983, and the content of this first edition was very limited indeed. It was modelled after the earlier publication and was printed in the same size (B5) and layout. In fact, the editor and his assistant spent more time thinking of a suitable name for the newsletter than they did seeking out subject matter for inclusion in it. After much fruitless discussion, Rob and Judith resorted to **looking through Steve Gower's (Later Maj Gen S N Gower, and Director Australian War Memorial, Canberra) book Guns of the Regiment for inspiration.** The term that caught their attention was Cascabel (refer to the first illustration on page 11 of the book) or Cascable as it is spelt in the **book's Glossary of Terms. This term met their criteria perfectly, it was gun related, it was different, and it was thought its use would create a point of interest as to the origin and meaning of the newsletter's name.**

Rob submitted the name Cascabel to the next committee meeting of the Association and it was officially approved as the name of the new publication.

Although small in size, the early editions of Cascabel were very labour intensive to produce and circulate. The text had to be typed and proof read. The pages were then photocopied, collated and folded. Dataforce Pty Ltd (Rob Gaw's company) initially maintained a computerised membership system for the Association which printed all address labels. Address labels needed to be updated, printed and affixed to the envelopes before the newsletter was inserted, after which all of the envelopes were sealed using a roller and water. In order to take advantage



This picture of Rob was taken when he was a Major.

of reduced postal charges, the newsletter became a registered publication which created the additional task of sorting the envelopes into postcode areas before being taken to the post office for distribution. Approximately, 350 – 400 newsletters were prepared for each quarterly mail-out by no more than the editorial staff of two and perhaps one other volunteer.

After Dataforce closed down in 1986, David Osborne approached the successor business (now called Hansen Technologies Ltd with which he is still associated) to continue to maintain the membership register and print labels for each issue, which they did at no charge for some years until the Association acquired a suitable software product.

The early editions of Cascabel could not have been produced without the unpaid support and facilities provided by Rob Gaw's company Dataforce Pty Ltd and Doug Perry and David Osborne's firm Shepard Webster & O'Neill Pty Ltd. Doug Perry also arranged for the printing (gratis of course) of the original Association letterhead by another of his business interests Rolls Printing Pty Ltd.

I am indebted to Maj David Osborne for the preceding introductory paragraphs. (ed)

In his first editorial, Maj Gaw wrote:

"This is the first edition of "CASCABEL", newsletter of your Association. Your committee plans to produce the newsletter quarterly, in July, October, January and April each year. The aim of the newsletter is to keep all interested gunners, both past and present, up to date with gunner activities within Victoria. Much news for publication in the newsletter, concerning the three gunner units in Victoria is readily available through the serving members on your committee. Likewise, news of the activities of the Association itself is available from the committee. However, articles of interest not available from these sources are necessary to make the newsletter appealing to all gunners, both new and old. Any contributions would be most gratefully accepted. Please address them to: RAA Association (Victoria) Artillery Training Depot Batman Avenue, Melbourne".

SOME THINGS NEVER CHANGE. MORE CONTRIBUTIONS ARE ALWAYS NEEDED. (ed)

Maj Osborne continues.

"In relation to Rob Gaw what I know of his military career is - Commissioned as an Officer (2Lt) into RAA S Comd 27 October 1967. After initial corps training was allotted to 3 Bty as a Sect Comd in 1969. He progressed through the officer ranks with reasonable speed as a GPO, then FO, and was Bty Capt at 132 Div Loc Bty in 1977. Promoted to Maj (Bty Comd) at 10 Mdm Regt Geelong and then Lt Col as CO of 10 Mdm Regt Geelong in Sept 1983. Rob was a Director and 50% owner of a computer software business called Dataforce Pty Ltd. He took the position of Managing Director in Sydney of a subsidiary of Dataforce Pty Ltd in late 1985 and so transferred to the Reserve of Officers to concentrate on his business interests. In late 1986 Lt Col Rob Gaw was diagnosed with an aggressive form of cancer, sought various forms of treatment, but succumbed in 1987 at the age of 40 years".



Judith at her OCTU graduation ceremony.

Cascabel had continued under their very capable hands until journal No. 9 in July 1986 (it had doubled in size) when being in Sydney and illness prevented any further involvement from Rob.

I remember him well as a dedicated officer of whom I was fortunate to serve under during his time as GPO of, I think, 2 Bty. WO2 O'Connor & I were even invited to evening sessions in his home where we were taught and practiced in some of the intricacies of the CP. Taken far too soon.

It was fortunate for our Association that a readymade editor was available to immediately step up and carry the reins. Capt Judith Davis ensured Cascabel would continue by becoming editor No 2 and published her first journal - No. 10 - in October 1986 and carried on until No. 21 in July 1989. Judith's involvement over six years was

outstanding.

Captain Judith Davis enlisted into the Army as an Officer Cadet at OCTU, 3MD in February 1976, and graduated as a 2Lt in October 1977. Allotted to RAA upon being commissioned into the Women's Royal Australian Army Corps (WRAAC), Judith paraded with 132 Div Loc Bty in the role of Battery Officer. Subsequent promotion to Lt, Judith was posted to 2/15 Fd Regt at Batman Avenue as the IO. Her next posting was to HQ RAA 3 DIV as SO3 (Arty). This was a role that was largely centred around Officer career management activities. Judith was promoted to Captain during this posting. A non-corps posting at HQ 3 Div was followed by roles at OCTU on the admin team, and HQ 3 Div as a staff officer. Judith also paraded at Victoria Barracks as a Staff Officer involved with Army Reserve soldier career management for Victoria. Captain Davis transferred to the Reserve of Officers in 1993.

Any change of editor always needs someone volunteering for the task. This time it was taken up by Maj Ross Peterken as editor No 3 who published No. 22 in October 1989 and completed his excellent work **with No. 41 in July 1994. Maj. Peterken's brief Record of Service follows:**

Graduated from Course 9 OCTU and posted to 2Fd. Regt. as 2Lt – Section Comd. 2 Bty. in October 1973

Various postings in 2/15 Fd Regt until 1979.

Posted to 132 Div. Loc. Bty. as Survey Troop Comd. and acting BK April 80

Posted to 2/15Fd. Regt as BK Oct 84

Promoted Major and Posted as BC HQ Bty July 85

Posted to 132 Div. Loc. Bty as BC. In July 87

Posted as 2IC 2/15 Fd. Regt in 88

Placed on the Retired List in June 89

In providing me with this info, Ross said:

"In doing this it brought back some great memories of the various postings and people and of the times I spent serving with you and other Senior NCO's like Doc O'Connor, Bob Armstrong, Craig Cook et. Al:".

His first editorial stated:

"As the new editor of Cascabel, I would like to firstly say I will attempt to maintain the high standard of presentation and content that we have been used to. In this I will be ably assisted by our membership secretary Major David Osborne. It would be of assistance if any articles for inclusion in Cascabel are forwarded to: (!!)

I would like to thank, on behalf of all of us, Capt Judith Davis who, for many years has, amongst a multitude of other tasks, been the editor of Cascabel".

Pressures of business led to Ross being forced to relinquish his position as editor.

His final journal included the following:

= From the Editor's Desk =

"You may remember over the last two issues, that I have asked for the assistance of an assistant editor to help with the preparation and distribution of CASCABEL. Unfortunately, there were no takers. Again unfortunately, my situation, both work and personal, has necessitated my advising the committee that I will not be seeking re-election as a committee member at the August AGM.

Naturally, I gave this quite a deal of thought, but in the end, made the decision not to stand. This will I hope be temporary, as my commitments will, over the next year or so, decrease; I reckon I'll be back. I would like to thank all the correspondents over the last 4-5 years that I have had CASCABEL. Please keep the articles, anecdotes, etc. coming in, for without them, no newsletter or journal would survive. Thanks".

PS. "If there is someone out there that can help the committee with this newsletter - please let us know".



Editor: Major Ross Peterken RFD

On this page, I am changing the format to a 2 column layout. Lt Auchettl was the first editor to use it. (ed)

Next to step up as editor No 4 was Lt John Auchettl. Suddenly, Cascabel had ballooned out to 24 pages. The President, Maj Merv Taggart wrote:

"Well, how do you like the new format? We were becoming quite concerned about finding a new editor when Lt John Auchettl offered his services.

Suddenly we had new deadlines to meet and urgent requests for articles. John is very enthusiastic and has many new and exciting ideas for the magazine, including the change to this new shape and format. I am sure that he will welcome your comments on these changes.

It would be remiss of me, if I did not pay tribute to Ross Peterken, who has been carrying the load of Cascabel for five or so years now. I am sure you will agree with me that it has been a very readable little newsletter and an irreplaceable means of communication with the membership.

*Ross has had to relinquish his position as Editor and Committee Member due to the pressure of other interests, not the least of which is his position at Telecom. On behalf of the Association I thank Ross for his skill and humour in maintaining the **standard of Cascabel**".*

The following is a rather lengthy first editorial by Lt



* Major Ross A. PETERKEN RFD, being presented with RAA plaque by the President Major Merv TAGGART RFD, ED. In recognition of Ross Peterken's 5 years of service as EDITOR of CASCABEL.
[Photo (C) Lt John Auchettl].

Auchettl. I have included it in full as it demonstrates his desire to upgrade Cascabel from a newsletter to a journal.

"THANK YOU ROSCO

My first duty as Editor is to acknowledge my predecessor, Major Ross (Rosco) PETERKEN. Rosco and I have known each other for some years, [since I joined the RAA]. As a "EX-GRUNT", it was Rosco who introduced us [me] into the new & very difficult world of Artillery with a Regt YO's Course, from this our friendship developed.

Back to the journal, I cannot over emphasise how difficult it is to produce a publication such as CASCABEL. If you are limited by time, cost, pages and space, then the task becomes near impossible. Rosco and past Editors will testify to this difficulty. If you lack space, you lack the ability to bring good articles & variety. Therefore, to each past Editor, our Members do owe them a debit of gratitude. It should be noted that Ross was Editor of CASCABEL from Number 22-1989 to 41-1994. Again, many thanks to you and your family, Rosco"!

CASCABEL NEW IMAGE

"CASCABEL needs to grow. Therefore, when I was "SHANGHAIED" by a number of anonymous Gunners, I took the task on one condition, and that was to bring our Newsletter up to a standard Journal, with variety, photographs, and with the aim

of increasing the Associations profile. Thanks to our President, Merv and the committee, all took up the challenge, and I am on trial for one year, to use all my new ideas and format. [REF: RAA MIN: 108/94]”.

DEDICATION TO NORM

“Also note, that this first new format of CASCABEL is dedicated to the memory of our past President Major PRICE STEWART (NORMAN) WHITELAW, ED. who passed away on the 9th of October, 1993. Norm was a helpful friend, and in my early days when we joined the RAA, he was a wonderful ambassador to ARTY”.

NOTE THE: CHANGES

“Note the following changes:

- CLASSIFICATION; CASCABEL is now a JOURNAL!
- PRINT; To keep cost down we will stay with the low cost photostat system and non gloss paper.
- DUST COVER; The inside of the Journal "Address Dust Cover" will not be wasted, and will hold information or photographs that you may find interesting. So try and open your cover with care.
- WEIGHT; We are in an Australia Post category, that can give us up to 50 pages. That's if we need the extra pages. However, size will vary with each Journal, due to cost!
- ISSN NUMBER; I have put our Journal into the National Library, ACT as a historic record of Victorian Artillery. It's ISSN Number is ISSN 1322 - 6282. [HREF; RAA MIN: 117/94/ & 121/943].
- HISTORIC DOCUMENTS - It will try and reflect a Historic Record of Victorian Artillery past, present or the future. Museum Trust record.
- TYPE - JOURNAL; - It is open to past, present and future items. Historic, Technical, 2/10 Regt, info, functions, interstate items, books, donations, museum items and private profiles — Photo Journal.
- PRINT SIZE; - The main print will be in the mid range. The level is at Std Press. It is the MPI of the many possible computer print types, but the one I believe everyone can see. Not too large and not too small.
- STORAGE; - I have designed it to fit into a storage Folders that can be purchased via the RAA Shop — very soon.
- REFERENCES; - All material should have a

Reference. One or all of the following — Source, Authors, page, date etc. But try and DO IT!

- PHOTOGRAPHS; - Should have source, location, what the photo describes, names and who took it as a credit. If you need the photo back then tell us. Put your name on the back.
- CONDITIONS; - If you write an article, or letter to the Editor please observe the conditions at the front page 3D. These will no be strictly enforced by me! I may need to use them if we find your article a little large.
- LISTS; - List of RAA Assn members & Rank, 2/10 Regt Officers / SNCO / OR and past departed members, will be listed in some way at some future editions.
- INDEX; - There will be a index produced for each year and when we have all the data on my computer we will try and bring to our members a single all edition index, from the first edition.
- PAGE NUMBERS; - From next year (95) the Page- * will run in sequence for the 4 Journals, for the full index.
- MISTAKES; - You will find many mistakes! I am not GOLF OSCAR DELTA, just human. But let me know, as we can apologise or make a correction.

IT'S YOUR FORUM

Remember, you get out of CASCABEL what you put into it! So don't complain to us, if you do nothing for the Journal. Any ideas write to me. Constructive criticism is always welcome”!

Further innovations followed. Journals now consisted of 36 pages and the front and back pages of journals 46-50 were now in colour.

Journal 50 is dated October 1996. The next journal - 53 - is dated October 1997. So what happened to Nos 51 and 52?

Lt Auchettl wrote a two page letter to all members dated 31 July, 1997. In it he went to some length in an attempt to justify why he had so unexpectedly “pulled the pin” as the editor of Cascabel. I do not intend to reproduce the full content here. However, his letter concluded with:

“Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those members and many friends who have assisted me over the last three years. I hope I can get my last two Journals to you, and if so, as soon as possible. I am always available to the

Committee & Association and look forward to its strong growth, Good luck to you all”.

The two journals were never produced, neither was John able to fulfil many of the changes he envisaged!!!

END OF PART ONE!!

I did intend to spread this over two journals. However, I changed my mind—a seemingly popular thing to do these days. ed

A BRIEF HISTORY OF CASCABEL EDITORS CONTINUES WITH PART 2

In journal No. 53, the President Maj Merv Taggart politely wrote:

“You will probably realise by now that we have been having some trouble with the preparation and production of Cascabel. John Auchettl is suffering the pressures of his business and other responsibilities and the printing arrangements were falling in a hole so you can see that we have had some problems.

Ron Curtis has offered to take a turn at producing the magazine. I welcome him on to the committee and I am sure you will all join me in wishing Ron good luck in this task. I must thank John Auchettl for his three years effort in developing the newsletter to such a high standard”.

Ron’s first journal as editor No 5 contained a newly titled editor’s page. It read:

EDITOR'S EXOTERICS



“Why exoterics? “Suitable for or communicated to the general public”, hopefully the rest of this publication is anyway, “not belonging or pertaining to the inner or select circle, popular, simple, commonplace”, yep! that’s me: Ron Curtis, your new Cascabel editor.

Background? Ex-Gun SGT on the old 40mm Bofors at 18 LAA Regt, Kogarah, 111 LAA Bty, Holsworthy, 17 LAA Regt, Revesby, 1 Fd Regt, Holsworthy, 9 HAA Regt, Dee Why and School of Arty, North Head, all of the latter on detachment as FTD CMF from parent unit 18 LAA Regt, where I finally retrained on the new (at the time) Bristol Bofors before discharge on 25 Jun 64 after 7yrs 6 days service. NB We must not forget those 6 days. Also served as a civilian in the Commonwealth Public Service for 25 years until my retirement on a package on 18 Oct 96. Approximately 18 years of those 25 years were with Department of Defence and probably more than half that time with Army Directorates.

I am honoured to be allowed to take over as editor of CASCABEL magazine and am somewhat overawed at the thought that I am doing so in the wake of so competent a predecessor as LT Auchettl, who unfortunately does not have the amount of free time that I have, being now retired. One thing you will notice is that we have had to drop the coloured cover but please note that this will stem the otherwise inevitable rise in costs of producing this journal for a while and so help the assn to keep up with inflation.

I recently went on a holiday to Darwin for a week and while there visited the Military Museum. I can definitely recommended it to anyone planning to visit the north in the future, but more about that in the next issue”.

Ron Curtis Editor

You have probably noted that I have reverted back to a single column layout. Lt Auchettl was the first editor to produce our journal in a 2 column layout, so I used it for him. Ron decided he liked to read across the pages, hence my reversion.

Ron is the fifth editor of Cascabel. Great (from my biased point of view) to see a SNCO take over the reins, and I always enjoyed reading his Exoterics. He had a unique style. It was a pity, however that the pictures used were not very clear when printed. To be fair to Ron, that problem was soon overcome & future journals were as clear as could be expected.

Journal No. 70, dated January 2002 saw Ron's Exoterics contain, in part, the following:

"I am pleased to say that I am back to my usual level of well being again, after a nasty fright on 25 Sep 01, when I collapsed on my bathroom floor. Fortunately a friend was staying overnight and found me, noted that I had vomited up a large volume of blood and called an ambulance, otherwise the medicos tell me I would have been dead now. I was in Frankston Hospital by 4.30 am and in theatre by 7 am, diagnosis a stomach ulcer. Four litres of blood transfusion and eight days of hospital treatment and I was home, but not sparking on all fours again for awhile. But back to normal now I am pleased to be able to say".

Ron's final journal was No 72 dated July 2002. I again reproduce, in part, these comments from him.

"Have been in hospital again for eight days this time with a blocked small upper intestine. Not nice I can tell you, but back on the road to full recovery now okay.

Don't know how reliable I can be counted to continue as Editor of Cascabel as things stand. Anybody interested in understudying me so that in the event of me having to give it up, you would be in a position to step in and take over, please let me know.

It needs to be a separate position on the Committee, not something to add to other duties, so keep that in mind if you are considering taking me up on it. I would want to keep it on for as long as I am able, but a little assistance in the meantime would be appreciated".

Ron was obviously unwell. Although he hadn't mentioned it, his heart wasn't too good either and he was found slumped over his beloved computer. I believe he was working on his next Cascabel journal at the time.

Ron Curtis



"You will have seen from the membership report that Ron Curtis has passed away. Ron will be missed by the committee and members of the Association for his constant and energetic efforts as editor of Cascabel. I (Maj Merv Taggart) have drawn these thoughts from a eulogy presented at Ron's funeral by his great friend Robert Taylor".

"Ron was born in 1938 and raised in Hurstville Sydney. He lost his father at the age of seven when he was killed in action during the second world war. Ron was very proud of his father and the sacrifice he made in that war.

He joined the army himself and achieved the rank of Sergeant in an Anti Aircraft regiment. He was No 1 on a Bofors gun with the responsibility of training and leading his detachment. Like a few of his contemporaries he claims the experience of shooting down a tow plane instead of the drone. This may have had something to do with him becoming a senior civilian clerk with the Department of Defence in later years.

To the end he maintained his passion and respect for the armed services and the Artillery Association in particular - acting as editor for the magazine CASCABEL. A recent letter to the editor found by his computer.

Ron's interests have included singing, speedway driving, book binding and a time when he contemplated becoming a male nurse. Whilst he had a fine voice his performances were restricted to church and an accident resulting in a back injury finished his ambitions on the speedway track.

He was a committed Christian and as such a staunch member of his local Anglican church. He was extensively involved with the Boys Brigade as a youth group leader. Ron was editor of the Boys Brigade magazine which led him to offer his services for Cascabel when he heard we had need of an editor. He had no family other than his great friends Robert and Virginia Taylor and their family. He was of course always considered a member of the Gunner family and will be sadly missed by the committee and members of the Association".

In his President Writes column, Maj Taggart stated:

"You will see that there is no Editors Exoterics in this issue and that is because our editor Ron Curtis passed away on the 27 Jul last. This was very sad news for us all. Whilst we grieve for him my task is to keep Cascabel going and I am finding out quickly just how much Ron did. As is the way of the world, Ron's software doesn't want to work on my machine so I am starting from scratch almost. I hope you will excuse any shortcomings in this issue (73) but we are doing our best. Lindsay Prichard has offered to take over the job of editor after this issue so we must all give him all the help we can for awhile so that he can settle in".

Excellent work by Maj Taggart in ensuring the continuity of the journal. Even though he only edited a single journal, he rightly takes his place as editor No 6.

So our first SNCO editor has - unexpectedly - made way for editor No 7. We're moving around the ranks now to a JNCO. The diversity of it all!



Bdr Lindsay Prichard commenced his six year stint as editor No 7 with Journal No 74. He introduced himself with the following: (Note! I'm back in a two column layout as I like it better!!)

The Editors Scratchings

"I was saddened to hear of the passing of Ron Curtis. He undertook the task of Editor of Cascabel with much enthusiasm and seriousness. To follow in his footsteps seems quite daunting. After I heard of Ron's passing I was wondering who would be the new editor. I did some thinking as to what would be involved and how much time that it might take. What the heck. If the Committee would be in favour of me undertaking the task I would give it a go.

In the eyes of the Committee I am still only a "baby" at 41 years of age. At present I am employed as an Occupational Health and Safety Officer for the manufacturing Divisions of the Schiavello Group of Companies. (The Schiavello Group manufacture commercial office furniture.)

I enlisted into the Army Reserve in February 1981 with 3 RAAPC Detachment in North Fitzroy, completed driver training and became a driver for Pay Corps. 1983 I was promoted to LCpl. Mid 1984 I commenced full time duty working on the Small Arms Replacement Project at the Engineering Development Establishment at Maribyrnong. October 1985 I moved to Bundaberg and joined D Company RQR as a rifleman. November 1987, I returned to 3 RAAPC. October 1989 I transferred to 23 Fd. Bty 2/15 Fd. Regt as a Gun tractor driver. I

was a Gun tractor driver for a number of years before completing IET gun course and promotion courses for Bombardier. I was promoted to Bdr. Served on the guns as a No. 7 and a No 1. My final posting before discharge from Army Reserve in December 1999 was as 22 Fd. Bty. Tpt. NCO.

I will follow the same format for Cascabel as Ron has done in the past, however I will make one or two changes in content. These changes will be part of the regular format. At present I am establishing contacts for content, so bear with me if the content is not up to the usual standard. I will endeavour to keep the standard of writing and content up to what you currently expect, however if I do make any errors they will not be intentional and will be through my limited military writing".

Lindsay produced 25 journals for our Association - a monumental effort as he was still employed throughout this time. Equally impressive is that he has been our most productive editor. Will this achievement ever be beaten - I don't think so but time will tell!!

His journals varied in length from 28 - 36 pages and his interest in Military History soon became evident. His research skills in this regard were excellent with many fine articles being produced. A few pages were always guaranteed each edition as Col Graham Farley was in full swing with his My Service Career and Some Other Military Reflections series.

A couple of surprises to me were journal No. 93 being printed in A5 format and his "Editor's Scratchings" being discontinued after only 2 issues. As Lindsay told me recently.

"I can't remember why I stopped it. (His "Scratchings"). Quite probably as I didn't have much to say and the focus to be on articles, not my comments. I continued the "Scratchings" as a

continuance from Ron Curtis "Editors Exoterics" (think from memory that was what it was called).

For a number of years Cascabel was printed at Vic Barracks and Merv Taggart would take a hard copy there for printing. We must have begun to have problems with them printing it. I can't recall. Jason Cooke from memory was able to get it done through the Defence system and could be printed anywhere. The A 5 issue was done in error and should have been done in A4, we continued in A 4. I didn't mind it although the print was a little small".

Sometime around April/May 2009 our President, Maj Neil Hamer made a request for a new editor. "Why not", I thought. In Journal No. 100, Neil wrote the following:

"As I am sure that you have noticed, we have a change in Editor for our magazine. Bdr Lindsay Pritchard indicated that he would not be able to continue in this position due to a change in his employment and relocation to Clunes. Lindsay has done a really excellent job during his time as Editor and we cannot thank him enough for his dedication to the task.

In response to my plea for a new editor, WO2 Alan Halbish has offered to take on the role. I am sure



that Alan will bring his own style to the magazine, as past editors have done. We enthusiastically and gratefully welcome Alan into this position".

Having now served for approx. 4 years as editor No 8, I have enjoyed the position immensely. Since I retired in 2005, I often thought about taking on the job. However, there was no way I was going to attempt to push Lindsay aside. So when Neil asked for volunteers, it was an easy decision to make.

Yes, I have brought my own style to bear. I haven't received many adverse comments, so I'm presuming any changes I've made have been acceptable. My previous computer experience (Journal 100, p8) has enabled me to use Microsoft Publisher, a dedicated Desktop Publishing Software package that is much easier for me to format and manipulate than Microsoft Word. My commiserations to previous Word editors.

I must make a further comment re our previous

editors. With the exception of Ron Curtis and myself, the others were all working full time in their respective professions. I don't know how they did it as it is an extremely time consuming task. I congratulate them all.

What does the future of Cascabel contain?

Hopefully, the continuation of each journal being printed in colour as it improves the readability immensely.

We really need more members opting to receive their Cascabel by email. This would further decrease the number of journals to be printed, **therefore reducing postage costs. We'll see!**

Further work needs to be done re informing other organisations/readers of our association website (www.artilleryvic.org.au) of the type of content that is in Cascabel. Hopefully the word will get around and more people will be encouraged to visit the site. This year has seen the introduction of all email clients now having to go to our web site to view (and download if they wish) each journal. I hope that time will also be spent on perusing other content.

Finally, my inflated ego says that I should include the following. It was sent to me from Brig Doug Perry, dated 17/04/2012 and contained, amongst other things:

"Whilst I have this email open, I wish to say, that at a recent meeting of the RAA Historical Sub Committee, Cascabel was acknowledged as the principal Association publication nationally and I must say, that without detracting from your predecessors, the strength and quality of the current Cascabel is very much down to you".

Undoubtedly, you will all have your own opinions about that!!

Anything else? Comments/suggestions are always welcome.

How long can I keep going?

My current aim is to produce more journals than Bdr Lindsay Pritchard's 25. As this edition is only my 17th, I hope to be around for at least 3 more years. After that, who knows!

Ubique Alan Halbish Editor

Please go to [page 75](#) for a little more info from me.

SUMMARY

CASCABEL EDITORS ISSUES/JOURNAL NUMBERS

Maj Rob M Gaw No 1 July 1983 – No 9 June 1986

Capt Judith Davis No 10 October 1986 – No 21 July 1989

Maj Ross A Peterkin No 22 October 1989 – No 41 July 1994

Lt John Auchettl No 42 October 1994 – No 50 October 1996

Sgt Ron Curtis No 53 October 1997 – No 72 July 2002

Maj Merv Taggart No 73 October 2002

Bdr Lindsay Pritchard No 74 January 2003 – No 99 April 2009

WO2 Alan Halbish No 100 July 2009 – ???

On a different note, I've been fortunate to have been given seven copies of Australian Gunner. These came from LtCol John Morkham and date from 1977 to 1981. There are some excellent articles in them and I intend to publish a collection of them over the course of the next few journals.



Centre built for new vets

A NEW centre offering young veterans and their families a place to relax and access support services has opened in Victoria.

The Frankston Young Veterans and Families Wellbeing Centre was set up by the local RSL to reach out to the new generation of veterans.

Frankston RSL president Brent Clyne said at the opening on February 22 that the centre would be "alcohol and judgment free".

"It is a place for all young veterans, including those who've served in Iraq, Afghanistan and peacekeeping operations, and their families, to call their own," he said.

"Young veterans have special needs and in the past veterans hadn't always accessed the care they needed.

"The Young Veterans and Families Wellbeing Centre will provide a place of trust, a safe place where young vets can have a chat and reach out for assistance if they need it."

Veterans' Affairs Minister Warren Snowdon said the centre was a first in Australia and "ensures that the young veterans in Frankston have a welcoming place to socialise with mates and access support services for themselves and their families".

Part of the centre's funding included \$73,000 from the Veteran and Community Grants program.

Welcome home: Young veterans liaison officer Peter Erdman and Brent Clyne at the Frankston Young Veterans and Families Wellbeing Centre.



Distinguished vet visits Tarin Kot

VICTORIA Cross recipient Keith Payne visited troops at Multinational Base Tarin Kot and Al Minhad Air Base during a tour of the MEAO from March 13-16.

Mr Payne, who earned his VC in the Vietnam War, spent a day with troops at AMAB before heading to Tarin Kot with Commander JTF 633 Maj-Gen Michael Crane and Deputy Chief of Joint Operations RAdm. Soldiers from the 7RAR Task Group hosted Mr Payne for his visit and took him through a series of equipment demonstrations.

He also participated in briefings and had time to share experiences with his modern-day counterparts.

Pictured here alongside 7RAR Pte Brad Maidment, Mr Payne discusses the use of mortars on operations with troops from the task group.



Dress manual clears confusion

New document and updates make it easier to understand

Courtesy Army News

SOLDIERS can now access the new Army Dress Manual for guidance on uniform policy.

Last month, CA Lt-Gen David Morrison released the new Army Dress Manual to replace the Army Standing Orders for Dress (ASOD).

DGPers-A Col Tony Hambleton said the new Army Dress Manual would help officers and soldiers be prepared when organising their ceremonial dress.

"This new Army Dress Manual is more efficient and will make it easier for all personnel to understand what dress is required when attending Army events," he said.

"It will be available from the Army website and intranet to ensure easy access for all of our soldiers, including reservists."

The Army Dress Manual includes updated dress policy supported by images. It has also been condensed into one volume with six chapters for greater practicality.

ASOD has become obsolete from March 1 and is now no longer authorised policy.

The Army Dress Manual will not be distributed in hard copy to any unit, commander, RSM or Defence organisation, but a PDF version is available on the Army website.

"Army is developing an inter-active publication, which will allow all personnel to access the dress manual and use links that will assist them to apply the policy," Col Hambleton said.

The interactive publication will be released later this year.

Personnel with questions in relation to the new manual should first approach their unit or sub-unit RSM or CSM.

Download the new Army Dress Manual at

www.army.gov.au/Our-work/Equipment-and-clothing/Army-Dress-Manual/

For more information on Army's dress policy contact RSM Ceremonial W01 David Lehr.

KEY CHANGES

- Authorised personnel can wear the Australian Multi-Pattern Uniform. Women can wear cosmetics, fingernail varnish and make-up in line with the stipulated colours outlined in the new policy.
- Women with long hair may now wear their hair in different styles that allow them to wear all forms of headdress comfortably.
- Women are allowed to wear 5mm diamond stud earrings with general Duty Dress (DPCU).
- Women are allowed to wear 5mm gemstone earrings with mess dress orders of dress.
- The policy on Sikh religious dress has been included.
- The Socomd dress policy towards wearing Special Forces items and accoutrements has been updated, particularly in relation to a person posted out of Socomd.
- The Sam Browne belt is to be worn by RSM and Adjt while wearing general duty orders of dress other than DPCU.
- Women may wear slacks blue/ black with mess dress orders of dress as a substitute to wearing skirt black/blue.
- Restrictions to the wearing of para smocks have been removed to allow personnel to wear this garment in the field.
- All orders of dress tables have been updated with accoutrements and embellishment detail.
- Triservice equivalencies of dress have been included to assist personnel posted to a joint or triservice organisation.

Officers aligned

Reserve officer training to be aligned with ARA standard

RESERVIST officer training will be aligned with regular Army standards when a new all-corps officer training continuum is implemented in November.

The reserve captain course and reserve major course will each comprise two modules of seven and 16 days under the new continuum.

The first modules of both courses will be based on command, leadership, management and training, and the second modules on foundation war fighting planning processes.

Maj Gary Melling, of Duntroon, said a team from HQ RMC was working closely with personnel from the Land Warfare Centre, 2 Div, QUR and DROCM-A to design and implement the new program.

"It was identified in 2011 that the ARes officer training continuum was not producing the capability requirements Army needed and Command Forcomd directed it be aligned, where practical, with the ARA officer training continuum," Maj Melling said.

Course attendance will be managed in the same way as ARA courses, with general service officers and combatant specialist service officers (SSOs) attending all modules, while non-combatant SSOs will attend both modules of the captain course and only module one of the major course.

Maj Melling said the first modules of both courses would remain similar after the change, but the second modules would have an increased

emphasis on operations training to align the reserve courses with the ARA training - a requirement of Plan Beersheba in which the ARes will be linked with three multi-role combat brigades.

DROCM-A will release signals providing more information on the changes and the transition to the new scheme.

"QUR will manage all transition arrangements to the new course suite," Maj Melling said.

"If an ARes officer is deemed qualified under the previous training scheme, there will be no need to attend the new courses.

"The training will continue to be centrally located and conducted at QUR, Enoggera, with the modules scheduled so they can be completed separately or back to back, but there will be a requirement to complete module one before module two."

The reserve captain and major courses held in June and September will be the last under the old system.

Maj Melling said the alignment would place more emphasis on the need for ARes officers to ensure they completed all prerequisites before attending the courses.

"The alignment will enhance capability, ensure ARes officers are able to more effectively integrate with the ARA and place a greater emphasis on conventional operations and achieving the intent of Plan Beersheba," he said.



Taking the lead: Changes to the reserve officer training continuum will come into effect in November to align reserve officer training with the regular Army. Photo by Cpl Mark Doran



Royal Australian Artillery Association Victoria)



INVITATION Gunner Dinner 2013

The President and Committee of the RAA Association (Vic) extend to you, your partners and guests, a warm invitation to attend the 2013 All Ranks Gunner Dinner.

The Dinner will be held at the **Caulfield RSL**, 4 St Georges Road, Elsternwick
on **Friday 04th October, 2013 at 1900 for 1930 hrs.**

Dress is Mess Dress, Black Tie with Miniatures, Lounge Suit, or Jacket and Tie.

Serving members may wear polyesters.

The Band of the 2/10 Light Battery may provide our music.

Entrée is \$70.00 per person and includes pre-dinner drinks, hors d'oeuvres, three courses, table wines, port, coffee and cheese.

After dinner drinks will be available at bar prices.

Please return the form below, together with a cheque made payable to the RAA Assoc (Vic)
not later than Wednesday 25th September, 2013.

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

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

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

Enquires and return address: Ssgt Reg Morrell 6 Melissa Street Mount Waverley 3149,
Phone: 9562 9552 Mobile No.0425 837 958 Email: morrells@morrell.org



GUNNER DINNER 2012

Rank _____ Name _____

Address _____

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

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

Rank _____ Name _____

Rank _____ Name _____

Special dietary requirements _____

If possible I wish to seated near _____

Women in foxholes



Gen. Patrick Brady says putting females in combat poses 'an insane burden on readiness'

By Maj. Gen. Patrick Brady, U.S. Army (ret.)

For many Americans, it is hard to believe that Secretary of Defense Leon Panetta could top his statement in defense of the administration's tragic bungling of the terrorists' massacre in Benghazi: **"(The) basic principle is that you don't deploy forces into harm's way without knowing what's going on; without having some real-time information about what's taking place (The Obama Panetta Doctrine)." But he did top it.**

In justification of the administration's policy to put women in foxholes, he claimed that women in (direct) combat strengthen our military. His statement is a contradiction of every war we have fought and the ethos of every warrior who ever fought in those wars. But it does reflect the attitude of the commander in chief, disastrously **over his head in the international arena, a "leader"** unable to make tough decision who is fearful of risk and does not know the difference between a corps and a corpse. He is more comfortable around homosexuals and feminists than warriors. **Panetta's statement extolling the readiness** multiplier of women leading bayonet charges is beyond the pale.

Neither Obama nor Panetta has ever served in combat, nor has most of Congress. But worse, none of the current military leadership has had any serious combat (in the trenches) experience, and it is beginning to show.

World War II was won by combat veterans from World War I. In Korea we had the veterans of World War II, and in Vietnam the combat veterans of both World War II and Korea. The Vietnam veteran won Desert Storm. All those warriors and their leadership are gone, and we see a military with dismal leadership resulting in unprecedented rates of suicide, PTSD and security breaches. We had one high-ranking officer lament that the **terrorist's massacre at Fort Hood would damage** his diversity efforts! Leadership relieved the judge

in the trial of the Fort Hood terrorist for enforcing military shaving rules on the terrorist – and after over three years, he is not tried! And they are **calling that obvious terrorist massacre "workplace violence," deliberately depriving those killed and their families of deserved benefits.**

Unimaginable in our past, we have leaders who consider awarding medals for not shooting, and now a medal for risking carpal tunnel syndrome that outranks the time-honoured Bronze Star for valour. This gaggle actually lost graves of our warriors at Arlington Cemetery and are attacking **the benefits of America's nobility** – our veterans. I **don't know where the term girlie men came from**, but it perfectly describes many in this administration and their military leaders.

After commanding an all-men medical unit in combat, I commanded a medical battalion, including many women, in peacetime. These units are not direct-combat units but do spend a lot of time on the battlefield and are exposed to enemy fire and casualties. But it is nothing like the exposure of the grunts in the mud and grime for days and weeks at a time.

My rule in the battalion was standards, not gender-governed, except where they were already assigned, i.e., medics and mechanics. This was **during the '70s, a tough time for drugs and discipline in the military.** Here is what I found. As a result of competition, my driver and our color guard, highly contested duty, were women. The women had less disciplinary problems than the men. In administrative jobs, they were at least equal to men. But most could not carry their load physically – loading litters in choppers, carrying wounded to safety, even lifting tool chests. As a result the men covered for them, often causing us to use two people when one should have done the job – all of which effected readiness. They were not good in the field and became less functional when issues of hygiene, and feminine hygiene, literally knocked them out and we had to jerry-rig showers, wasting valuable time.

And they got pregnant, which took out key jobs at critical times. Other sexual distractions, favouritisms, fraternization and assault are also readiness disruptions and follow women throughout the military, even in our military academies. I had serious problems with wives whose husbands shared standby shacks with women overnight. This

would go on for weeks in direct combat units; think tank crews. Male bonding, immeasurable to success in combat, would be damaged. All in all, the women pose an insane burden on readiness.

My conclusion, which I passed to my division commander at his request, was that I would not want females with me working the battlefield let alone in direct combat. I told him I would not want my daughters in a unit of half women going bayonet to bayonet with an enemy unit 100 percent men. Those comments almost cost me my career because my immediate superior disagreed, which may explain some of the obsequiousness and cowering of military leaders today on this issue and a quad-sexual military.

The move to teach our daughters and mothers to kill is defended using the same criteria I used in my battalion: standards, not sex-govern. It does not work. Most men will not treat women as they do other men – thankfully. And there is no intention to do so despite what we hear. Listen to our top **military leader, Gen. Martin Dempsey**: “If we decide that a particular standard is so high that a **woman couldn’t make it, the burden is now on the service to come back and explain to the secretary, why is it that high? Does it really have to be that high?**” **Those standards have been set over hundreds of years of combat!** We should change them **to satisfy the crazes of the president’s feminist supporters?** Imagine how Gen. George Patton and all the leaders who founded and secured this country would react to those comments.

I have said, and many men agree with me, that **Adam’s rib was the greatest investment in human history.** Why? Because God then gave man woman, a different creature, who complemented him. God did it on purpose, and we are privileged to live with the differences. Feminists et al., get over it. It is not discrimination to accommodate **God’s design; it is acknowledging His will – it is wisdom.**

Despite “Kill Bill” and other Hollywood visuals of females pummelling men, women for the most part are not designed to kill. And they will not be good at it. God designed them to produce life and nurture it, not destroy it. They don’t belong in the trenches of the NFL or in the octagon in Ultimate Fighting; combat is the ultimate, Ultimate Fighting – and they don’t belong there, either.

It is difficult to teach some men to kill, but they

have no choice. Imagine a draft and a nation forcing our women into killing units. Visualize what will happen to women POWs, not to mention homosexuals, captured by our most likely enemies. We have heard of the man who sent his wife downstairs to check on a possible burglar (I actually knew such a man). We are becoming a nation like that man, a girlie nation. There will always be burglars, (international thugs), most of whom are male, and they should be confronted by males.

Why these ridiculous changes? No serious person could believe that women in foxholes will do anything but reduce readiness. Just as devastating is the formation of a quad-sexual military, which introduces sodomy not only to foxholes but military communities – and with it serious health and deployment issues. Pregnant females cannot deploy, and some will get pregnant to avoid it. Homosexuals cannot give blood and may not be deployable. Every warrior is a walking blood bank – who would want his son or daughter to receive a blood transfusion from a homosexual? The NBA stops a basketball game for a drop of blood because of the threat of infection, the Magic Johnson rule; Johnson had AIDS. The battlefield is full of blood. Do we think less of our soldiers than the NBA does of its players? What will be the reaction when a warrior sees his commanding officer dancing and romancing another man – or if he is hit on by a homosexual? Yet we are told these changes will improve readiness.

Sequestration, designed by President Obama, will, if allowed to kick in, emasculate what is left of our military. Aside from the cruel impact these budget cuts will have on military careers and families, they **are perfectly suited to Obama’s isolationist goals.** He is a rhetorical celebrity dedicated to social issues, i.e. same-sex marriage, gun control and government running just about everything. He is also a man intimidated by crises and the decisions they require. He is a voting-present leader, and we are learning he was not even present to lead during the massacre at Benghazi. He apparently hid out during the entire event and tried to blame it on a video. What would he do during a major 9/11-type crisis? An insignificant military takes us off the world stage and requires only voting present in future crises, which perfectly suits our present leadership. We can only pray there will be no such crises.

Get the full account of Gen. Brady's Vietnam rescue operations in his book, "Dead Men Flying," a riveting tale from America's most decorated living soldier – autographed!

Maj. Gen. Patrick Brady, retired from the U.S. Army, is a recipient of the United States military's highest decoration, the Medal of Honor.

Semper Fi, Dutch
United States Marine Corps (Ret)
<http://marines.togetherweserved.com/profile/2412>

Courtesy WO2 David Troedel

The General definitely has a very strong opinion on this subject. However, others have been saying they are all for it.

YOU BE THE JUDGE. Ed

The Battle of Ong Thanh. Another cover-up of a **disastrous Viet ambush of two US Inf Coy's**

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sYhKbBrRHh0&feature=youtu.be>

I've never been a fan of US drill; much prefer Australian or British. However, I've never seen precision marching like this. The formations they achieve are amazing. I thoroughly recommend you view this link from WO2 David Troedel and have the patience to see it through to the end.

<http://player.vimeo.com/video/54452768?autoplay=1>

Historic photos WW11

http://youtu.be/8GJl_sX_MNs

For those of you that didn't watch the news on Channel 7, 14-04-2013.

Coral Balmoral. An absolute MUST VIEW

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RT8ykFhOghM&feature=youtu.be>

Courtesy WO1 John Mottershead

BATTLE SCARS: fighting on 'until you're about to put a rope around your neck'

Courtesy of AMBER JAMIESON Crikey journalist

When Steve Ager first enlisted in the Australian Regular Army as an eager 19-year-old in 1980 he didn't know his 27-year military career would end with him being classified as totally and permanently incapacitated -- TPI, as it's known in Defence -- due to post-traumatic stress disorder. But he did know anyone who talked openly about health was dubbed weak.

"Pretty well the day you start your recruit training, there's the person that will continue with training no matter what, and there's the person that will attempt to access medical treatment at the slightest hint of something hard," he told Crikey. "If you go to the regimental aid post [medical aid], you'll get a reputation for yourself as being a softie and trying to get out of things."

The unrelenting demand for toughness, an attitude that permeates the military, has a name. "The warrior culture is alive and well," Ager said. "'Have a cup of cement and harden up' is a common catch cry."

For Ager, this meant hiding his symptoms of post-traumatic stress disorder from the military for 20 years -- partly out of ignorance, partly out of fear.

"I just thought everyone in the Army who has been in a long time felt like this: the flashbacks, the nightmares, the difficult sleeping, the anxiety, the depression," he explained. But Ager says there was always an understanding that if you admitted to suffering from mental health issues, there'd be repercussions. "You know if you declare it, you'll get the sack."

He says he first developed symptoms of PTSD in 1986 but didn't tell anyone about it until 2006, when he chose to leave the Army. "I didn't declare it until my final medical to get out of the Army, because I was part of the system and the system said shut up and get on with it," he said.

Military service and training in Australia can be just as psychologically damaging as overseas deployments, says Ager. In 1986 during an army training accident, a tank rolled over and killed Ager's best friend, with Ager left responsible to climb into the tank with his mate's body and deal with the live ammunition.

During a deployment to the Malay Peninsula in 1986, one of Ager's soldiers self-mutilated in front of him. Several years later two young soldiers in Ager's squadron were killed in a motorcycle accident -- he was charged with informing the families, pack up their rooms and return their belongings to their families.

"I talk freely about it now, but it's taken me years to arrive at that point of time. It cost me a family."

The violation of human rights he witnessed during his posting to East Timor in 2000 affected him deeply. Ager reels off a list of horrors: the murder of three UN civilians in Atumbua, the death of Private Leonard Manning (a New Zealand soldier whose body was mutilated), orphans, horrific wounds, being sent to find a dead body, investigation of women being raped, children being sexually abused.

"I talk freely about it now, but it's taken me years to arrive at that point of time," he said. "It cost me a family."

It was by chance Ager was diagnosed with PTSD. His second wife, Naomi, was suffering from her own mental health issues after a navy career and deployments to East Timor and the Solomons (Ager's first marriage broke up mainly because of his undiagnosed PTSD issues, he says). Ager drove Naomi to a grief counsellor weekly, who quickly identified his PTSD symptoms and suggested he come for counselling as well.

He did, but he didn't tell his military bosses. He kept his mental health issues quiet until his final medical exam in the Defence Force, when he broke down. The civilian doctors that examined him declared him "Class 3" (temporarily unfit, the same level as a broken leg). Three years later the Department of Veteran Affairs certified him as TPI due to PTSD from military service.

Ager has left the Defence Force, but he says most

of his friends are still military people -- "I find it hard to relate to those who haven't served" -- and just three weeks ago he received a call from one who admitted he was suicidal. The friend was a soldier who left the army last year after a long and successful career, including several overseas deployments.

Suicide and reckless behaviour is a reoccurring issue with veterans, says Ager. "They're driving cars down the wrong side of the road, they're being public nuisances, they're poisoning themselves, hanging themselves in their sheds where their families can see them, drinking or drugging themselves to deal with it. This warrior culture



they are indoctrinated with means they don't seek help."

And if Defence personnel or veterans don't seek help -- or have a family member who does -- there's not much the Veteran Affairs or Defence departments can do. "They [DVA] don't push or monitor you. You don't have a standalone case manager," said Ager. "You can go to see the Veterans and Veterans Family Counselling Service or ring to get mental health help and once you're in that network you can fall in to different programs. But if you don't wish to take them up on the offer, they are just happy to have you out there until you're about to put a rope around your neck."

The upper echelons of Defence and DVA have declared destigmatising military mental health issues a priority. Ager is understandably sceptical.

"If I slipped through the cracks, there has got to be literally thousands of others that the same things have happened to," he said.

SASR and 2CDO REGT HONOURED

Prime Minister Julia Gillard and Minister for Defence Stephen Smith today announced that the **Australian Army's Special Operations Command** will receive the first Army Battle Honour since the end of the Vietnam War.

The Battle Honour is for outstanding performance during the Shah Wali Kot Offensive in Afghanistan from May to June 2010.

The Battle Honour, titled Eastern Shah Wali Kot, has been awarded in recognition of the operational actions of the Special Air Service Regiment (SASR) and 2nd Commando Regiment (2 Cdo Regt) from the Australian Special Operations Task Group Rotation XII.

The Prime Minister congratulated the Special Operations Task Group on the Battle Honour, which was awarded under revised guidelines that acknowledge the way the Army fights in the modern era.

"The combined achievements of SASR and 2 Cdo Regt during the Shah Wali Kot Offensive are worthy of the highest praise," the Prime Minister said.

Minister Smith said, **"We acknowledge the efforts made by all elements of the Special Operations Task Group including significant contributions from Special Operations engineers, signallers, logisticians and headquarters support staff, as well as the United States 101st Airborne Division.**

"Their outstanding performance has now been recognised in the same manner as similar performances have been recognised in the past."

The efforts of the SASR and 2 Cdo Regt during the engagement were highly commended by the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) command for the contribution it made to overall ISAF efforts to disrupt insurgent activities in the region around Eastern Shah Wali Kot, one of their traditional stronghold areas.

The Chief of Army, Lieutenant General David Morrison, recommended that the SASR and 2 Cdo Regt receive formal recognition for their outstanding performance during the offensive.

The Chief of Army directed the Battle Honour Committee to examine all Army engagements since the Vietnam War to determine whether

actions since then are eligible for formal recognition under the revised guidelines.

The Battle Honour will be formally presented to the Regiments later this year.



Today, (25 March) Parliamentary Secretary for Defence, Senator David Feeney, officially opened the Defence Archive Centre at Fort Queenscliff.

"Fort Queenscliff is a fundamental part of the local Queenscliff and Geelong communities, and the establishment of the Defence Archive Centre reaffirms Defence's commitment to retaining a presence at the Fort," Senator Feeney said.

"Since its initial use as a fortification in 1860, the Fort has seen many uses, including being the Army Staff College and Soldier Career Management.

"Today we are opening the next step in the Fort's history. When fully established, the Defence Archive Centre will become the main Defence repository for the personnel records of serving and recently discharged soldiers, sailors and airmen," he said.

Darren Cheeseman, Member for Corrangamite, said the Defence Archive Centre would open up local employment opportunities as it becomes fully established.

"The local community is excited that Defence will undertake an estimated \$7m worth of facility and refurbishment works during the next 12 months."

The establishment of the Defence Archive Centre Fort Queenscliff supports the Defence Record Management Strategic Reform process by collocating records functions and enabling improved, standardised records and archive management processes.

Imagery will be available at: <http://images.defence.gov.au/12133183>



On the run: Members of 102 Coral Bty, 8/12 Regt, participate in the 4.6km RAAF Base Edinburgh Fun Run.

Photo by Cpl Colin Dadd

Soldiers steal victory after invite to Air Force fun run

WHEN RAAF Base Edinburgh opened its runway to a field of fun runners and walkers on February 22, organisers were left to rethink their strategy of inviting a group of soldiers who ran away with the spoils.

The inaugural RAAF Base Edinburgh Runway Fun Run/Walk, hosted by 453 Sqn Edinburgh Flight, saw more than 400 people participate in a 4.6km event.

The healthy Army presence included a 30-man team from 102 Coral Bty which completed the run as a **troop wearing DPCU's and in patrol order.**

Sqn-Ldr Langford said given the interest in the event, another was being planned.

"Clearly Air Force will have to lift its game, or neglect to invite the Army if we intend to win next time."

WARRANT OFFICER 2 BRUCE GREEN

It is with regret that I inform you that WO2 Bruce Green died on 10 April, 2013 at the age of 75 years. In 1956, he joined the National Service and then proceeded to remain in the CMF/ARES until he was discharged in 1974. His final posting was BSM of 2 Battery, 2 Field Regiment, RAA at Batman Avenue, Richmond.

He is survived by his adoring wife, Terri, son Mark and two daughters, Lynne and Martyne.

There were approximately 250 persons at the funeral mass, situated at St. Mary's Church of Fatima, Rosebud. The following members from the RAA Association were also present:-

Brigadier D. Perry OAM RFD ED

Lieutenant Colonel I. George OAM RFD ED

Major M. Taggart RFD ED

Lieutenant D. Baker

WO1 D. O'Toole

WO2 R. Fulton

Ssgt R. Morrell

Ssgt B. Cleeman

Ssgt G. Turville

Sgt D. O'Brien (Best man at WO 2 Green's wedding)



Courtesy Ssgt Reg Morrell

Rest in Peace.

'Birdie's' grave restored

The London grave of the British General described as 'the soul of Anzac' has been restored by the Office of Australian War Graves (OAWG).

The poor condition of Field Marshal Lord Birdwood's grave was brought to OAWG's attention in October 2012 by an Australian living in London. After some effort to locate the current Lord Birdwood, his permission was obtained to remediate the grave.



The Australian government, through the OAWG, usually only commemorates Australians who have died in, or as a result of, war. The exception for this British officer recognises his special place in the Australian story.

Birdwood led the Anzacs at Gallipoli and the AIF in France for much of the First World War. At Gallipoli 'Birdie' as he was affectionately known,

was often to be seen walking around the Anzac position and up along the trenches on the ridges. On most days, he could also be observed swimming off the beach, sharing the dangers of Turkish shelling with every-one else. Such behaviour made him, unlike many generals, very visible to his men and earned their respect.



Later awarded the titles of Lord Birdwood of Anzac and Totnes, 'Birdie' died in 1951 and was buried at Twickenham in London. The towns of Birdwoodton in Victoria and Birdwood in South Australia are named in his honour.

Both articles courtesy department of veteran affairs

Vietnam Veterans' Education Centre – Wall of Faces

In 2011 the Prime Minister announced that Australia would contribute \$3.3 million to the development of the Vietnam Veterans' Education Centre (VVEC) in Washington DC. On 27 November 2012, there was a ceremonial ground breaking at the site, where US Defense Secretary Leon Panetta made special mention of Australian service in the Vietnam War. Construction of the centre will begin this year and it will open in 2015. The central feature of this high tech centre will be a 'Wall of Faces', a digital display of the images of those who died, including the images of the 521 Australians who died in Vietnam.

Throughout last year, staff from the OAWG collected more than 330 images of our war dead. The

assistance of parents, widows, siblings, children, unit associations and other ex-service organisations has been extraordinary. These personal images, chosen by families, are very different from those in service records and will make for a poignant commemoration of their service. Despite the success to date, the task is unfinished. OAWG is yet to locate a living relative for 185 of our servicemen who died in Vietnam. Some of their names are listed on this page. A full list of names is at www.dva.gov.au/commems_oawg/OAWG/Pages/VVEC.aspx If you can assist with locating a relative, or have a good quality image of any of these men, please contact OAWG on (02) 6225 4487 or email vvec@dva.gov.au

| SURNAME | GIVEN NAMES | DATE OF DEATH | SERVICE NO. | RANK | UNIT |
|----------|----------------|---------------|-------------|------|---------------|
| ALLEN | NORMAN GEORGE | 10.11.1967 | 2784699 | PTE | 7 RAR |
| BAIN | JOHN | 12.7.1970 | 16667 | SGT | AACC |
| BLANCK | WAYNE ALLEN | 20.9.1966 | 38033 | WO2 | AATTV (RAINF) |
| CAMPBELL | JOHN ALEXANDER | 3.8.1968 | 2787278 | PTE | 3 RAR |
| CHECKLEY | THOMAS WILLIAM | 5.8.1966 | 311534 | GNR | RAA |
| DAVIES | REX WILLIAM | 27.10.1970 | 422514 | T/LT | 7 RAR |



What is a Veteran?

Some veterans bear visible signs of their service: a missing limb, a jagged scar, a certain look in the eye.

Others may carry the evidence inside them: a pin holding a bone together, a piece of shrapnel in the leg - or perhaps another sort of inner steel; the soul's alloy forged in the refinery of adversity.

Except in parades, however, the men and women who have kept Australia safe wear no badge or emblem. You can't tell a vet just by looking.



SO, WHAT IS A VET?

He is the cop on the beat who spent six months in Iraq sweating 6 litres a day making sure the armoured personnel carriers didn't run out of fuel.



He is the bar room yobbo, thick as a short plank, whose drunken antics are outweighed a hundred times in the cosmic scales by four hours of exquisite bravery near the East Timor border.

She or he is the nurse who fought against futility and went to sleep sobbing every night for 12 Months in Vung Tau.

He is the parade - riding Anzac who pins on his medals with a prosthetic hand.

He is the career quartermaster who watches the ribbons and medals pass him by.

He is one of the forgotten soldiers that fought on the one man front in Kokoda or held back the Chinese onslaught at Kapyong.



He is the POW who went away one person and came back another - or didn't come back at all.

He is the drill instructor who has never seen combat - but has saved countless lives by turning slouchy, no-account larrikins and no hopers into Diggers, and teaching them the creed of mateship.

He is the Vietnam Veteran, sundered from the society that sent him to war. He was rejected but did not reject the call to arms by people who would vilify him for doing his duty.

He is the anonymous warrior in The Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, whose presence at the Australian War Memorial forever preserves the memory of all the Diggers whose valour dies unrecognised with them on the battlefield, in the sky or in the ocean's sunless deep.

He is the old guy bagging groceries at the local store - palsied now and aggravatingly slow - who helped liberate a Nazi death camp and who wishes all day long that his wife were still alive to hold him when the nightmares come.



He is a soldier and a saviour and a bulwark against the darkness, and he represents nothing more than the finest, most noble facets of man's existence.

He is an ordinary and yet an extraordinary human being - a person who offered some of his life's most vital years in the service of his country, and who sacrificed his tomorrow for your today.

So remember, this or any other Anzac Day, when you see the lined and weary face of a digger re-living the loss of mates in a faraway land, or trying to make sense of horrors



no person should endure, just lean over and say :

"Thank You".

Let them know that you have not forgotten. For those that are left that simple act will be enough.



Courtesy WO2 Max Murray

**We now commence another comprehensive article from our “Gun Guru”,
SSgt Barry Irons.**

It continues for the next five journals and is breathtaking in its thoroughness.

I trust you will enjoy this latest contribution from Barry. *Ed.*

Artillery

(And other Minor Weapons)

Of The

American Civil War

12th April 1861 – 12th April 1865



The famed 1857 “Napoleon” 12 Pdr. “Holding Ground” Stones River Cemetery.

Hallowed Ground, 24,500 listed Casualties, both North and South. Located in Middle Tennessee.

Barry Irons

Armament Artificer (R)

Arte Et Marte

*A review of the types of weaponry in use of the Union and Confederate
Forces during the time frame shown.*

Artillery / a:'tilari noun (plural *artilleries*) *large-calibre guns used in warfare on land.*
a branch of the armed forces trained to use artillery.

Derivatives *artillerist* noun

Origin ***Middle English: from Old French *artillerie*, from *artillery*, alteration of *artiller*, 'equip, arm' probably a variant of *atirier*, from *a-* + *tire* 'rank, order'***

Just in case you wanted to know.

Basic Summary of Early Artillery Ammunition

Gunpowder, a mixture of sulphur, saltpetre, and charcoal, was known in China as early as the 10th century, but was used mainly in firecrackers. It was being used in war in Europe by the early 14th century, when it was loaded in small cannon to propel stones or the metal darts that had been used in crossbows.

About 1350, balls cast of lead, bronze, or iron came into use. Experiments were made in loading cannon with large numbers of small balls that would scatter over the battlefield. Case shot, or canister, consisted of projectiles of this type placed in a case or can for loading.

Canister was in use as early as 1439. It was particularly effective against infantry and cavalry at distances up to 350 yards (320 m). A later form of canister was grape shot, which was effective at ranges up to 1000 yards (900 m). Grape shot consisted of from 9 to 60 iron balls grouped around a frame that would break up and scatter the balls at some distance from the gun.

Both canister and grape were used extensively during the period from the French Revolution through the American Civil War. The mainstay of artillery fire, however, was the cannon ball of solid iron.

Explosive shells were used as early as the 14th century. In the simplest form a cord fuse was inserted in a hole bored in a hollow iron ball. The hollow was filled with gunpowder, the fuse was ignited when the gun was fired, and the bursting charge scattered fragments of the shell.

In 1804 Henry Shrapnel, of England, invented spherical case shot—a sphere filled with balls and an explosive charge set off in midair by a time fuse. Spherical case shot came to be called shrapnel. During World War I shrapnel shells were widely used and accounted for most of the wounds inflicted by artillery fire. Although shrapnel has not been in general use since, injuries from shell fragments are still commonly called shrapnel wounds.

Until the mid-19th century all cannon were discharged by applying fire to the powder through a touchhole (a hole bored in the base of the gun's barrel). During the American Civil War a friction primer was introduced.

The friction primer was inserted into the touchhole and activated by pulling a lanyard, a long cord attached to the movable part of the primer. Late in the century smokeless powder replaced gunpowder as the propellant for artillery ammunition.

Basic Summary of Early Small-arms Ammunition.

Ammunition for early small arms consisted of gunpowder and lead balls. It was loaded through the muzzle, or front end, of the barrel. A charge of gunpowder was poured down the barrel and then the ball was pushed down the barrel with a ramrod.

With rifled weapons, a small patch of cloth, paper, or leather was placed over the muzzle after the powder was poured in and was rammed down together with the ball. (The patch made the ball fit snugly in the barrel and, when the gun was fired, caused the ball to be spun by the rifling in the barrel.)

Riflemen would carry powder in a flask made of metal or in a horn (usually a cow's horn). They would carry bullets in a pouch and usually have a mould for casting their own bullets from lead. For soldiers, ammunition was often supplied in paper cartridges. Each cartridge contained a bullet and enough powder for one shot. The soldier would tear open a cartridge with his teeth and empty the contents into the barrel.

In firing a gun, gunpowder in the barrel was set off by means of a flash produced by an external priming charge. In early muskets, the priming charge consisted of a small amount of gunpowder placed in a pan located near an opening, or vent, leading to the rear of the barrel. In muskets called matchlocks, which date from the early 1500's, the priming charge was ignited with a mechanism that brought the smouldering end of a taper, or wick,

into the pan.

In later weapons, such as the wheel lock and flintlock, the powder in the pan was ignited by sparks produced by a mechanism that struck flint against steel. These weapons were replaced in the mid-1800 with guns that were fired with a percussion cap.

The cap contained mercury fulminate, an explosive. It was placed over a nipple on a tube leading to the vent. The cap was made to explode by striking it with a moving part called a hammer. The percussion cap was invented in 1807 by Alexander John Forsyth, a Scottish clergyman.

Development of more Modern Ammunition

Claude Étienne Minié of France in 1849 produced an elongated bullet—called the Minié ball—that had a hollow base. When the bullet was fired from a gun, the explosion of the propellant forced the sides of the base to expand and tightly grip the rifling as the bullet passed through the barrel.

The Minié ball helped increase the accuracy of small arms. Fixed ammunition was developed in the mid-19th century as firearms that were loaded through the breech, or rear of the barrel, became practical. The first smokeless powder practical for military use was developed by Paul Marie Eugène Vieille, a Frenchman, in 1887.

Several high explosives were produced by chemists in the 19th century, but because of the dangers in handling, their application to military purposes was slow. Guncotton was invented by Christian Schönbein, a German chemist, in 1846. It became a basic ingredient of smokeless powders. At about the same time Ascanio Sobrero, an Italian, discovered nitro-glycerine.

It was unsafe to handle until Alfred Nobel of Sweden in 1866 combined it with absorbents to form dynamite. The United States used a **“dynamite gun”** in the Spanish-American War. Nobel also invented ballistite, a kind of smokeless powder. Picric acid was produced by P. Woulfe in 1771 but was not used as a military explosive until the 1880's.

Cause and Effect.

The causes of the Civil War were complex, and have been controversial since the war began. The issue has been further complicated by historical revisionists, who have tried to improve the image of the South by lessening the role of slavery.

Slavery was the central source of escalating political tension in the 1850s. The Republican Party was determined to prevent any spread of slavery, and many Southern leaders had threatened

secession if the Republican candidate, Lincoln, won the 1860 election. Following Lincoln's victory, many Southern whites felt that disunion had become their only option.

While not all Southerners saw themselves as fighting to preserve slavery, most of the officers and over a third of the rank and file in Lee's army had close family ties to slavery. To Northerners, in contrast, the motivation was primarily to preserve the Union, not to abolish slavery.

Abraham Lincoln consistently made preserving the Union the central goal of the war, though he increasingly saw slavery as a crucial issue and made ending it an additional goal. Lincoln's decision to issue the Emancipation Proclamation angered both Peace Democrats (“Copperheads”) and War Democrats, but energized most Republicans.

By warning that free blacks would flood the North, Democrats made gains in the 1862 elections, but they did not gain control of Congress. The Republicans' counterargument that slavery was the mainstay of the enemy steadily gained support, with the Democrats crushed at the 1863 elections in Ohio when they tried to resurrect anti-black sentiment.

Introduction

Artillery Men, and now perhaps Artillery Women, can take pride in the fact that they are, or have served, perhaps in the second longest serving arm of the Military. Pride of first place will always be accorded to the Infantryman.

As to precisely how long that service may recede into the depths of time passed, may only be answered by historians and researchers alike, dedicated to the task at hand. There is always some point of dispute or conjecture, as to what actual point of time artillery came into being.

As debatable as that point may be, you can be assured of going back to at least several hundred years, perhaps more, if you want to include the **Chinese using rockets a long time ago. But let's not** get side-tracked as to what could be, but get to what was.

The American Civil War will be remembered for all the wrong reasons; one would be the fact that some 620,000 troops of both sides paid the ultimate sacrifice. Another would be that the enemy, real or perceived for whatever reason, was their own countrymen. Different only in the beliefs or values they held dear, and prepared to defend those beliefs, no matter what the cost.

Also, this was the first major conflict in which the civilian population became unwilling participants,

caught up in all the trials and tribulations than only a war can bring along with the untold suffering. With this, the Civil War could not hide; war correspondents had been around for some time. This war or action as some wish to call it, was different as the war photographer came out on his own.

Photographic equipment and cameras were still bulky affairs, but were refined to being almost portable. Thus we have for posterity, pictures of the Civil War that would not normally be seen. With those stark and graphic pictures of the battlefield, illustrated without question, the unspoken brutality and reality of war.

Stock pictures of officers and men posing for the shot, as you had to be quite still as any movement would blur the photo were the norm. This is why no actual battle scenes could be taken. Gradually the scenes of the carnage and destruction to man and beast began to filter through.

Whenever you think of the Civil War, images bound to appear, one most likely would be the film, **'Gone with the Wind'** a **blockbuster in its own right**, according to the film buffs, and not to be overlooked, written by a woman. Margaret Mitchell, first published in May 1936, who was awarded the Pulitzer Prize for fiction in 1938, no mean feat at the time. The book and film, (now DVD) still available.

Others may be the genteel South in all its codes of chivalry, the glory of mint juleps on the veranda, overlooking the slaves working in the cotton fields, it goes on. Another may be the definitive work of Ken Burns, The American Civil War on DVD. An outstanding masterpiece of its own, telling the story from all walks of life, and of the everyday people of this most turbulent time in American History. Even more perhaps, of the events surrounding 1776.

For some, it may be the logistics of the conflict, as supply of material, control and movement of troops, began to evolve as never before. It is all too easy to overlook now in this present time, but back then, it was to revolutionise military thinking and planning. Throughout history, some became renowned for it.

Other just as important aspects needed to be considered, like the supply of food and water for the troops, and the same for the horses. Planning became not just an accepted ritual by appointing certain personnel to specific tasks, but vital to the conduct of any war. This to be able to place the right troops, with supporting elements (artillery) at the right time and hopefully, in the right place.

Anyone who wishes to study the Civil War in any

depth, would know that this was not always the case. Fate, if you want to believe in that, and chance, favoured both sides in all manner of conflicts. And not to discount the initiative and bravery of some commanders and troops on both sides, to turn a perilous situation into success.

Another sometimes overlooked factor is that most senior officers were all trained in the same establishment. West Point Military Academy, founded 16th March 1802 of West Point, New York. West Point itself, was first used by the Continental Army on 27th January 1778. The Confederate General, Robert E. Lee was a graduate, as was Union General Ulysses S Grant.

Both would have known all of these personally. The same in return all of these officers would have known each other, perhaps some being in the same class. In the annals of military history, both sides knew the same tactics that could be employed by each other.

As in all conflicts, some rose to the challenge, while others were found wanting. History records who they were if you wish to go looking. For the recorded history of the American Civil War is seemingly endless. Authors, historians, enthusiasts alike, all rub shoulders with re-enactment groups, while some organisations founded in the Civil War still continue to this day.

Feelings can still run high, dependant on whether **you support the "Blue" Union Army, or of the "Grey" Confederate Army in some areas.** The distinctive Confederate flag was still flown in some parts of the South instead of the Stars and Stripes, the now accepted flag of the United States, up to the Second World War (and after) on official buildings.

The American Civil War has been identified as "a defining moment" in America's history and the forging of a nation. Similar perhaps to our own Gallipoli campaign, while ours was a defeat in the military sense, in the rising tide of pride and nationhood in both actions, no one really wins.

Outline (Mainly of the North)

All firearms larger than small arms are generally known as artillery or cannon. Although there were dozens of different types of cannon used during the Civil War, they all fell into one of two categories: smoothbore or rifled cannon.

They were further designated by the weight of their projectile (12 pounder, 24 pounder, 32 pounder, etc.), the calibre or size of their bore diameter (3 inch, 8 inch, 10 inch), method of loading (breech or muzzle), and often their inventor or the factory in which they were made

(i.e. Dahlgren, Napoleon, Rodman, Parrott, Whitworth).

A further distinction involved the path of their trajectories: guns had a flat trajectory, mortars a high, arching path, and a howitzer a trajectory between the other two. Civil War artillery was also classified according to its tactical deployment, including field, seacoast, and siege artillery. Cannon were made of steel, bronze, or iron, depending on the availability of material.

The favourite artillery piece in both the Union and the Confederacy was the Napoleon, a smoothbore, muzzle-loading, 12 pounder "gun-howitzer." Developed under the auspices of Louis Napoleon of France, it first appeared in the American artillery in 1857. Relatively light and portable, the Napoleon was used as both an offensive and defensive weapon by both armies.

Initially made of bronze, Napoleons were cast from iron when the South ran short of the other metal. Its maximum effective range was about 1700 yards, but it was most effective at about 250 yards or less. Firing canister (see below), the Napoleon probably inflicted more casualties than all other artillery pieces combined.

The most used rifled guns were the 3-inch Ordnance and 10 pdr Parrott rifles. These cannon were more accurate and had a longer range, up to about 2,300 yards, than their smoothbore counterparts. During most battles, however, the longer range was unnecessary and relatively ineffective. During this period, a gunner had to see his target in order to shoot with any accuracy, and the shorter range Napoleons were adequate for that purpose.



Figure 1. Breech loading 12 pdr Whitworth. Note the screw arrangement at the rear of breech.

However, rifled cannon were particularly effective in knocking down fortifications and played decisive roles at Vicksburg and Atlanta. Almost all Civil War cannon were muzzle loading; breech-loading

models, such as the British 12 pounder rifled Armstrong and Whitworth cannon, were generally considered unreliable and awkward to quickly bring in action.

The 12 pound mountain howitzers were among the smallest and most portable artillery, and were useful in battles fought in the mountainous regions of the Western theatre. Naval and siege cannons, including Dahlgren's and Rodman smoothbores, were among the heaviest and most powerful.



Figure 2. Confederate Brass Mountain Guns, small but useful, and in the authors view, under utilized?

The 8 and 10 inch siege howitzers had ranges of over 2,000 yards and could fire 45 and 90 pound shells. Artillery ammunition included solid shot, grape, canister, shell, and chain shot, each of which came in any of the nine common artillery calibres.

Solid shot and shell were used against long-range, fixed targets such as fortifications; chain shot, consisting of two balls connected by a chain, was used primarily against masts and rigging of ships. (refer to the previous article of Brass Monkey, Cascabel Issue 87)

Very frequently used was canister; which, like its larger cousin, "grape shot," was a scattershot projectile consisting of small iron balls encased in a container. Canister projectiles came packed in a tin can while grape shot was usually wrapped in a cloth or canvas covering and tied with string which made it look like a bunch of grapes.

When fired, the can or wrapping disintegrated, releasing the shot in a spray. In effect, then, a gun loaded with grape shot or canister acted like a large, sawed-off shotgun; it was particularly lethal when fired at a range of 250 yards or less. Grape was less often used by the field artilleries of the day as it was more effective to fire the smaller and

more numerous canister balls at an advancing enemy.

Thanks to its superior industrial strength, the North had an overall advantage over the South in all types of artillery, as well as a higher percentage of rifled cannon to smoothbore cannon. But, as will be outlined later on, the North (Union) Armies did not have it all their own way. (refer summary)

To be continued



Did you know!

The Pioneer Sergeant



In 1965 the (then) Governor-General, Lord De L'Isle, presented the 4th Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment (4RAR), with its Colours, and on this occasion he suggested that the Battalion's Pioneer Sergeant should wear a beard and carry an axe, as is the custom in many British Army units. And so the tradition was born.

The tradition dates back to the 18th century, when each British infantry company had a

pioneer who marched at the head of the regiment. He wore a "stout" apron and carried an axe which was used to clear a path for all who followed. The pioneer sergeant was also the unit blacksmith and so wore an apron to protect his uniform and a beard to protect his face from the heat and the slag of the forge. His axe was also used to kill horses that were wounded in battle. The Pioneer Sergeant also carries a tomahawk on parade in lieu of a bayonet.

From 1973 to 1995 the 4th Battalion was linked with the 2nd Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment (2RAR), and the tradition of the bearded pioneer sergeant continued within the amalgamated Battalion (2/4RAR). Shortly after taking on its current role as a commando unit, in the early 2000s, 4RAR removed the position of pioneer sergeant from its establishment, but the relevant standing orders allow for the Battalion to reinstate the position at a later date.

In 2007 the tradition of the bearded sergeant was formally raised within 2RAR, and now both 2 and 4RAR are the only units within the Australian Army officially authorised to have bearded troops.

On being re-posted the outgoing pioneer sergeant has his beard removed by the unit's commanding officer in front of the entire battalion.

Courtesy WO1 Chris Jobson "Looking Forward Looking Back"

A Vietnam Video..This was made by Michigan Vietnam Vets, but it says it all for every Vietnam Vet. Share it with a Vietnam Vet or a family that may have lost a Dad, Brother, Uncle or Son...

I thought they did an excellent job on this. Touching, I suspect in the future this theme will be shown over and over again for each conflict. This is one of the better Vietnam videos made by and for Michigan Vietnam Veterans, but I believe all of you will appreciate this. This story could be retold by 49 other states and territories as well. If you know a Vietnam Veteran consider sending this link to them:-

http://www.v-prod.com/trailer_vietnam.html

Courtesy WO2 David Troedel

The British Military writes OFRs (officer fitness reports). The form used for Royal Navy and Marines fitness reports is the S206.

The following are actual excerpts taken from people's "S206s":

1. His men would follow him anywhere, but only out of curiosity.
2. I would not breed from this Officer.
3. This Officer is really not so much of a has-been, but more of a definitely won't-be.
4. When she opens her mouth, it seems that this is only to change whichever foot was previously in there.
5. He has carried out each and every one of his duties to his entire satisfaction.
6. He would be out of his depth in a car park puddle.
7. Technically sound, but socially impossible.
8. This Officer reminds me very much of a gyroscope - always spinning around at a frantic pace, but not really going anywhere.
9. This young lady has delusions of adequacy.
10. When he joined my ship, this Officer was something of a granny; since then he has aged considerably.
11. This Medical Officer has used my ship to carry his genitals from port to port, and my officers to carry him from bar to bar.
12. Since my last report he has reached rock bottom, and has started to dig.
13. She sets low personal standards and then consistently fails to achieve them.
14. He has the wisdom of youth, and the energy of old age.
15. This Officer should go far and the sooner he starts, the better.
16. In my opinion this pilot should not be authorized to fly below 250 feet.
17. The only ship I would recommend this man for is citizenship.
18. Works well when under constant supervision and cornered like a rat in a trap.
19. This man is depriving a village somewhere of an idiot.

Courtesy WO2 David Troedel

Bagpiper at a funeral

As a bagpiper, I play many gigs. Recently I was asked by a funeral director to play at a graveside service for a Homeless Man. He had no family or friends, so the service was to be at a Pauper's cemetery in the back country.

As I was not familiar with the backwoods, I got lost and, being a typical man, I didn't stop for directions.

I finally arrived an hour late and saw the funeral guy had evidently gone and the hearse was nowhere in sight. There were only the diggers and crew left and they were eating lunch.

I felt badly and apologized to the men for being late. I went to the side of the grave and looked down and the vault lid was already in place. I didn't know what else to do, so I started to play.



The workers put down their lunches and began to gather around. I played out my heart and soul for this homeless man with no family and friends, and played like I've never played before. When I played 'Amazing Grace,' the workers began to weep. They wept. I wept, we all wept together.

When I finished I packed up my bagpipes and started for my car. Though my head hung low, my heart was full. As I opened the door to my car, I heard one of the workers say,

"I never seen nothin' like that before and I've been putting in septic tanks for twenty years."

Apparently, I'm still lost... It's a man thing.

Courtesy WO2 Max Murray

Latest rotation is off to Solomons

Reservists from 4 Bde ready to put new skills to the test on deployment

TROOPS deploying to Solomon Islands in support of the Australian-led Regional Assistance Mission to the Solomon Islands (RAMSI) were farewelled by family and friends at a parade in Melbourne on March 24.

The 30th rotation of peace-keeping troops involves 106 members, including reservists mostly from 4 Bde and a platoon from the Tongan Defence Force.

Defence Parliamentary Secretary Senator David Feeney officially farewelled the group and recognised the many personnel who had served in the Solomon Islands throughout the past 10 years.

"Approximately 7500 ADF members have served in the Solomon Islands since the mission began in 2003. I know that you will look back on your part in this mission with great pride and satisfaction," Senator Feeney said.

"You will uphold the compassionate, engaging and hardworking reputation of the service men and women who have gone before you.

"Each one of you is an ambassador for your country and an example of the cooperative spirit of the nations of the South-West Pacific."

Commander 4 Bde Brig Michael Annett said the parade marked the end of a demanding and comprehensive training program.

"It is important to also pay tribute to the families and employers who are here today, their support is vital and I want to formally acknowledge that," he said



Deploying: Australian and Tongan soldiers march on for their farewell parade ahead of deployment to the Solomon Islands. Inset, Cpl Beck Pinder is farewelled by husband Jay and children William and Abigail.

Courtesy Army News April 11, 2013

It's high time we publicly honour our peacekeepers

Australia has always had a special place in our memory for our peacekeepers: an unmarked, shadowy alcove – near a storage area – in an obscure section of the Australian War Memorial.

Blessed are the peacemakers... this work is often as dangerous as fighting a war

The book where Australia honours those who have died while trying to prevent war has only recently been made available to the public. For years it was locked away in a cabinet. Out of sight, out of mind, perhaps.



Those who die in battle absolutely deserve the **high recognition they receive. But it's a strange** aspect of our culture that we almost ignore those who work in our name to promote international peace and security; to prevent more Australians being sent into battle.

Peacekeepers are men and women deployed overseas by the Australian Defence Force. They **serve in Australia's name, in situations that are** unpredictable and can rapidly become hostile. There is continual danger and risk. Sometimes they die in this service.

Failing to recognise their sacrifice equally is more **than just unfair. For some, it's heartbreaking.**

For years, two very brave women and a dedicated group of former peacekeepers have been working to address this inequality. I have been privileged to work with them on this campaign.

Avril Clarke and Sarah McCarthy united to start a petition to recognise loved ones lost on peacekeeping missions. This petition now has over 35,000 signatures.

Paul Copeland at the Australian Peacekeeper &

Peacemaker Veterans' Association has worked tirelessly on this issue and through him I was introduced to Peter Pridue, who lost his son Beau almost in Timor Leste 18 months ago.

Peter Pridue says Beau and other peacekeepers wear the Australian armed forces badge on their **shoulder, and the Australian uniform. "If they are** killed overseas or at home, they should be **recognised. Otherwise it feels as if his life doesn't mean anything."**

The Australian War Memorial's failure to list peacekeepers alongside their fellow soldiers sends a message to the Veterans, their families and the wider community that their service is less important, even though peacekeepers have a difficult and often dangerous role.

The Australian War Memorial Council has previously rejected all requests to add the names of 48 peacekeepers to the Roll of Honour, despite widespread public support.

This week, they are reconsidering that decision under new director and former Opposition leader Dr Brendan Nelson.

Peacekeepers do us proud and their sacrifices for Australia need to be recognised as soon as possible.

Late last year, I read into Hansard the name of each Australian peacekeeper who has died while serving their country. Their names will now be listed forever in Parliamentary records. But only the Australian War Memorial Council can provide the honour they truly deserve.

When our peacekeepers are properly recognised **on the Australian War Memorial's Roll of Honour,** we can truly take these brave men and women out of the shadows and into our hearts.

Courtesy WO2 David Troedel

Latest Update

Avril Clark from Perth has just had an incredible win using Change.org -- and we thought you'd be interested in seeing it:

"It's probably the best day since he passed away, just knowing that it's probably the last thing I will be able to do for him" -- a father of a fallen peacekeeper.

This is big. Avril's 41,000-strong petition to have her son Jamie and 47 other fallen peacekeepers

recognised just won -- the War Memorial Council this week unanimously voted in favour of adding their names to the Roll of Honour.

"The day that the AWM granted our Peacekeepers the right to go on the Honour Roll was a significant day to my family and to my son Jamie. I know that he would want his name alongside his comrades who have lost their lives serving their country. This victory is something we needed to do for Jamie and all 48 Peacekeepers."

It's been an astounding journey. Before starting a petition on Change.org, she spent years sending letters to Ministers of Defence, Prime Ministers and MPs -- yet they turned her away every time.

This time, something different happened. She posted a petition on Change.org, then thousands of people began sharing it on social media -- and her story was picked up by some of the country's biggest media, including The Project, Today Tonight, ABC News, News.com.au, The Australian, Channel 7, 9 and 10 nightly news.

Through the petition, she connected with other families of people killed on peacekeeping missions, like Sarah McCarthy and Peter Pridue. The Greens, Labour and Coalition all backed a Senate motion in support of Avril's campaign. And by the time the War Memorial Council was making a decision, an amazing 41,000 people had signed her petition -- forcing them to add peacekeepers to the War Memorial in Canberra.



This is War Memorial Director Brendan Nelson showing media where peacekeepers will be added to the Roll of Honour:

Courtesy Mike Prowse

AUSTRALIAN PEACEKEEPING MEMORIAL PROJECT

Australia has been actively and continually involved in peace operations for over sixty years, although our military and police contributions have increased significantly over the last decade. Our involvement has covered the complete spectrum of peace operations and personnel from a number of government agencies have participated in these peace initiatives. In 1947 four Australian ADF officers were the world's first ever peacekeepers when deployed to the Dutch East Indies under the UN Commission in Indonesia (UNCI).

Over the last few years a proposal has been developing that a Peacekeeping Memorial should be built in the national capital Canberra to honour all those who have and will continue to serve on peacekeeping operations. This includes those from the Australian Defence Force, the Federal, State and Territory Police Forces, and Government Agencies who have served and died on peacekeeping operations commanded or authorised by the United Nations or sanctioned by the Government of Australia. Our definition of peacekeeping aligns with that of the Australian War Memorial, and includes some 60 operations over the last 60 years, including not only UN commanded missions but also coalition arrangements such as is occurring in RAMSI, MFO, Bougainville, Timor Leste, Afghanistan and Iraq. This proposal has now developed into the Australian Peacekeeping Memorial Project (APMP), and an APMP committee has been formed to develop the Proposal.

APMP Vision

To create a national memorial that will appropriately honour the sacrifice of Australian Peacekeepers in the service of international peace and security, and recognise the courage and professionalism of Australian Peacekeepers in the face of the particular challenges of their operations. The Memorial will be the focus for recognising the continuing significant contribution by Australians to international peacekeeping.

Further information and pictures about this important project may be found at:

<http://www.peacekeepingmemorial.org.au/index.php>

Arty school handed over

Training team mission complete

Capt Sean Childs

THE Australian-led Artillery Training and Advisory Team (ATAT) brought its mission in Afghanistan to a close with the official transition to Afghan leadership of the School of Artillery at Camp Alamo in Kabul on April 1.

The transition represents a significant step in the ANA's move to full responsibility for security in Afghanistan.

The School of Artillery, mentored and advised by the ATAT from its inception, is now fully capable.

The school provides the full range of artillery courses to the ANA, from recruit training in the disciplines of guns fire support and fire direction, through to advanced career courses.

CO ATAT Lt-Col Nick Wilson paid tribute to its achievements. "This school has come an incredibly long way since its establishment in 2010 and there is no greater recognition of this than the fact we are here today in order to mark its transfer to autonomy", he said.

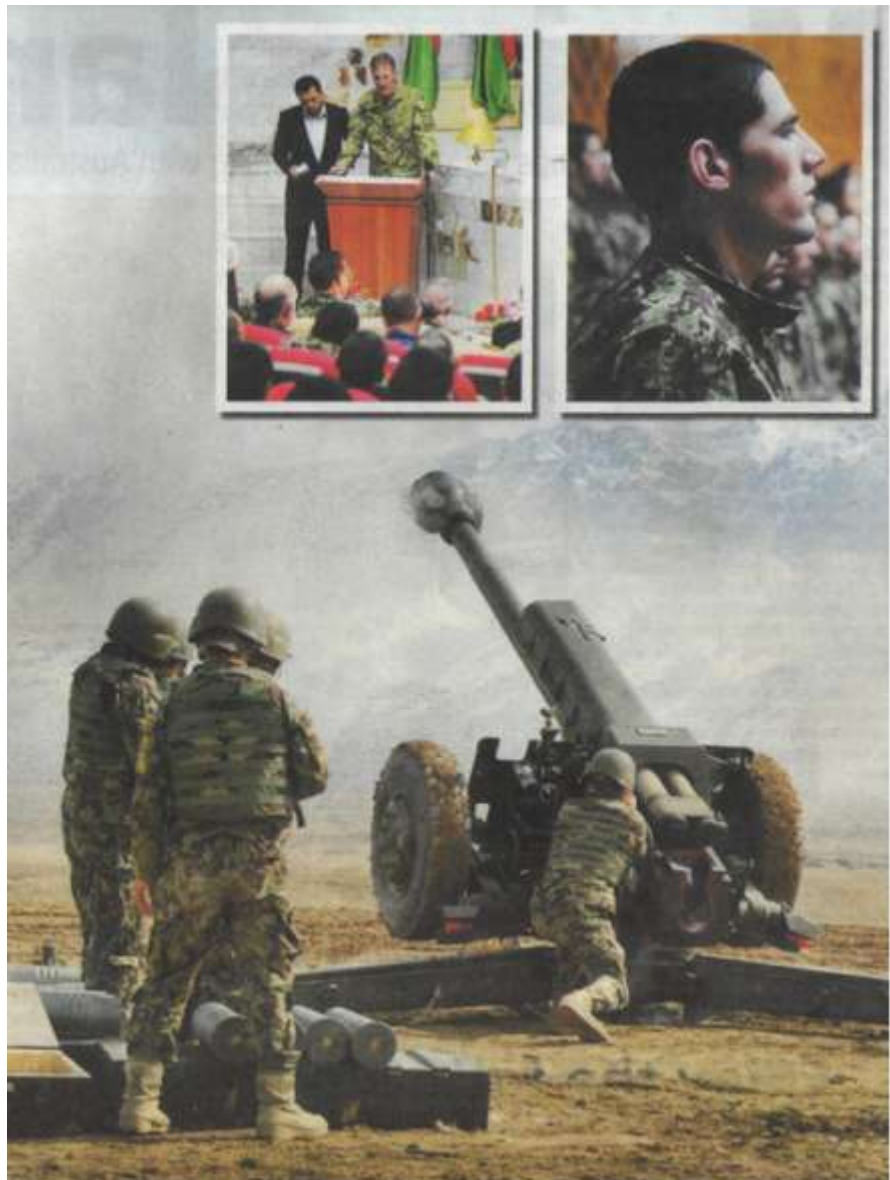
Commander JTF 633 Maj-Gen Michael Crane described Australia's contribution to the capability as tremendously significant and one which would leave an enduring legacy.

"Since the school was formed the training advisory team has been an Australian-led multinational coalition unit," he said.

"Your legacy is a fully functional Afghan School of Artillery, which I know has a bright future."

The facility is currently manned to about 95 per cent of its approved personnel capacity, with all instructors certified.

Since the school's establishment in 2010, it has graduated more than 2300 trainees, including 1100 last year.



Historic moment: Trainees at the ANA School of Artillery fire a D-30 Howitzer during exercises at Camp Alamo in Kabul. Inset left, CO ATAT Lt-Col Nicholas Wilson addresses Afghan instructors and trainees (pictured inset right) during the ceremony to mark the school's transition to full Afghan leadership.

Photos by Capt Jay Ellul and PO Phil Cullinan

Greetings Alan

Thank you for Cascabel; which we receive each quarter and we read it and then pass it on to other members of the RAA Assoc of Tas because it always has items of interest to us.

In the Apr 2012 edition on page 34 you have a story of 2/8th Aust Fd Regt at El Alamein. My father-in-law was a gun sergeant of C gun F Troop 58 Bty and I believe the story as told by Dan Green is worthy of publication as it follows on from the article published and it is attached along with some other notes I wrote some time ago that might be of interest to Cascabel readers.

I also believe the guy mentioned on page 35, TX 525 Lieutenant John Leslie STEER after the war years was a politician.

UBIQUE

Norman B Andrews OAM Secretary-Public Officer RAA Assoc of Tas Inc

“C sub, Freddie Troop, 58th Battery, 2/8th Aust Fd Regt at El Alamein”

April 1941.

2/8th Australian Field Regiment was attached to the 6th Division, and became part of the “Desert Troops” who campaigned against the Italians and later the Afrika Korps; back and forth across the Western Desert of Egypt. During time spent in Syria, they became part of the 9th Division, which took over the duties of the 7th Division, when it returned to Australia about mid-January, 1942. The 2/8th moved back to the Western Desert, Egypt, in July 1942, to take part in the El Alamein Campaign, where they were involved in front-line fighting against Rommel.

Dan Green told the following true tale regarding “Chief Garrard’s 25 Pdr gun crew” of which Dan was a member. During the July 1942 attack of Tel el Eisa (Western Desert, Egypt) by 9th Division 2nd AIF the 58th Battery of 2/8th Australian Field Regiment was forward Battery going in behind the Infantry. Occupying a position under the shoulder of Ridge 26 with the other troop on the flat saltpan to our right nearer the coast. Our “F” troop (Freddie) was shielded from direct enemy observation by a spur of ridge 26 running parallel to the main desert road and railway line and in consequence were subjected to very heavy air attacks by Stuka’s dive bombers. At this stage we had dug personal slit trenches for protection but the guns were not dug in. As I was No 2 (gun number on right side of gun) on “F” troop No3 Gun (Charlie Sub) my slit trench was the only one on

the right side of the gun [which I felt singled me out like a shag on a rock] and had the annoying feature of a large piece of flinty rock in the bottom which I was unable to shift & caused skinned knees, leading to the unserviceable “wog” sores to which I was particularly subjected, many times I took hasty cover if we were not firing during Stuka attacks

On the 12th July before first light I decided to dig another slit trench some 10-15 feet in front of the old one and had just moved back to the gun position when the first wave of Stuka’s came over and I saw the formation leader unleash his bombs which were obviously going to fall very close. I remembered hesitating as to which slit trench I would dive for; and selected the new one even though it was a little further away and got to ground in time to miss the splinters from the explosion. When all hell seemed to have subsided and I came to the conclusion I wasn’t dead. I poked my head up to see how the rest of the gun crew had fared and was greeted by the really funny sight of five other heads popping up together like rabbits out of a warren – what we saw was our gun listing at a drunken angle with one shattered wheel, a seized breech block, a shattered range cone and the shield peppered with shrapnel holes and our ammunition trailer [limber] was lying on its side full of holes. “Chief” having reported No3 gun out of action we were ordered to replace the damaged wheel and evacuate the Gun to our RHQ [Regimental Head Quarters] area after our gun

tractor had come up from the wagon lines leaving Frank Osborne and Bob Walduck (we had cut low cards) as volunteers to dig a gun pit ready for our return. At RHQ we were given a meal and ordered further back to a Tommy LAD [British Royal Mechanical & Electrical Engineers Light Aid Detachment] workshop but NOT before we were treated to a demonstration of the rather futile, but never the less frightening shelling of RHQ area by **"Alamein Anne" a German 210mm Naval Gun**, mounted on a railway track, some miles behind their lines.

On arrival at the LAD workshops the gun was inspected by a British Royal Artillery Major who **told us he had "no spares and repairs would certainly take several days"** [the prospect of the holiday suited us fine]. However on learning we were 2/8th Field Regiment, which he claimed had TOP Priority, he ordered the wrecking of another 9th Div gun and guns from the RA (Royal Artillery) to get us back in action.

Repairs were finished and the following day (July 13th) about mid afternoon we were back in position just in time for a very hot counter battery shoot during which we had several 88mm rounds pass through our camouflage net. One of which **burst some yards behind "Chief" our Gun Sergeant**, who was crouched at the rear of the unfinished gun pit with the tannoys loud speaker held against his chest relaying fire orders. Throwing him feet into the air with the tannoys wire trailing behind to land flat on his back. Amazingly not injured – anyway he and the tannoys both kept talking but **his language would not bear repeating ("Chief" was known for his self control and not swearing)**

About dusk Jerry launched his all out tank attack during which his tanks broke through our Infantry positions and drove towards Ridge 26 – Tanks of a Royal Tank Regiment were ordered to withdraw from the hold down positions they had occupied along the crest of the ridge leaving our guns blocking the enemy advance to the coast to cut the 8th ARMY position in two. In the meantime, as the crest prevented us from firing over open sight, we were dropping HE 119 shell using charge one onto the advancing tanks [with some success] and seeing their tracers passing over our heads. With the range down to a few hundred yards and it was obvious that whilst we would get the first few tanks over the ridge but the next would get us. **GPO (Gun Position Officer) issued the "Death or**

Glory" order every Artilleryman dreads "Gun Control – down camouflage nets – Load with AP [Armour Piercing shell] You are on your own boys". No 3 C sub F Troop gun crew looked at one another **and all had the same thought: "Our numbers are up; we'll knock out the first tanks over the hill, but the next lot will run us down".**

At that stage my brother Rod Green remembered the bottle of KING GEORGE 1V Scotch Whisky we had carried **"For emergency use only" in the glove [tool] compartment of the wrecked gun trailer [limber].** He went to investigate and found it intact in spite of a bomb splinted passing so close that it tore the underpants it was wrapped up in. At that stage what happened remains a bit hazy but I can remember Rod passing the whisky to me saying **"It has been a pretty good war, this could be our last chance to enjoy the whisky, we may never have another chance to drink this".** I am reported to have removed the cork and thrown it into the desert remarking **"we won't need that again"** where upon we passed the bottle round and **figuratively rolled up our sleeves " Come on you B***** we are ready"**

The anti climax came when the Jerry tanks who were being fired on from over the ridge [possibly not knowing what strength lay behind it]. After a while, the rumbling sounds of the tank Divisions were fading, the enemy guns had ceased firing upon us, the jerry tank division had suddenly broken off the attack [a miracle had happened] leaving behind some very relieved AIF gunners.

I have read quotes among the many articles and reports written about El Alamein:-

One attributed to Rommel's chief of staff, stating that had they known only a handful of guns of a Field Regiment lay between the jerry tanks and the Coast they would have pushed home the attack and it may have changed the final outcome.

Others were from Churchill who stated "There was a hole in our defence but Rommel did not find it" and "Before Alamein we never had a victory. After Alamein we never had a defeat!"

So our luck held, however, my personal luck **started the day before when the Stuka's got our gun** as when we looked to see where the bomb that caused the damage had landed. We found it had served a direct hit on my first slit trench; which

I would certainly have occupied if I hadn't finished the new one just in time.

After the war the five Tasmanian members of "Charlie sub" gun crew all returned safely to Tasmania and agreed to meet on, or as close as possible, to the 13th July in each year to drink "KING GEORGE1V scotch whisky in memory of El Alamein. Although illness and transfers have at times, made it impossible for all to be present this has been faithfully carried out. As a result of a article which appeared in a local paper finding its way to the King George 1V distillery in Scotland they very generously instructed their agents to supply a full bottle of whisky each year [this supply was later increased {Any way who said the Scots were not generous}] and have continued to do so.

At first these reunions were held at the Village Inn, St Leonards where Eddie McKenzie was mine host –(Eddie was 58th Battery BSM) and later at his home where he and his wife Maj have entertained us [We don't even hold the fact he was our BSM against him

Gun Crew "C Sub, Freddie Troop, 58 Battery, 2/8th Australian Field Regiment was

TX 1442 Sgt Vernon B Garrard "Chief" No1

TX3599 Gnr Dan A Green "Dan " No2

TX3164 Gnr Robert Walduck "Bob"

TX3100 Gnr Frank C Osborne "Frank"

TX3130 A/Bdr Rod A Green "Rod"

VX 25721 Gnr Norman Richards "Norm"

TX 2066 Lt Max Robinson "Max" QM

TX 1463 WO11 E J McKenzie "Eddie" BSM

TX 3157 Gnr Lance H Barnard "Lance"
Deputy Prime Minister of Australia in Whitlam era.

Royal Australian Artillery Association of Tasmania Inc

Secretary Notes.

Typed from notes hand written by the late Dan Green 21 Jul 1982 referring to "Chief's" gun crew in the desert and other sources during World War 2.

"Chief" spoke of the events from time to time. But unfortunately Lorraine and I did not get around to getting him to speak on audiotape or write his

experiences down on paper before "Chief" passed away on 23rd April 1991.

Dan Green passed away at Fred French Nursing Home, LAUNCESTON on 29th June 1997.

"Chief" Garrard was my wife Lorraine's father and he served in the Australian Army continuously from 1935 in the Militia, then joined the PMF (Artillery) (King George V1 Coronation contingent) and AIF and Interim Army, then the ARA until 1950 later he served in the CMF 1952 until he retired in 1960.

Interestingly he did NOT qualify for any Long Service Medal because of red tape, reason he was NOT IN ANY ARMY LONG ENOUGH.

Update 25th Oct 2002

Text of hand written note by "Chief" to Dan found inside of the book THE HISTORY OF THE 2/7 AUST FD. REGT. by David Goodhart. Undated

Dan. This book may throw some light on your doubts as to the exact day on which we celebrate.

You will note on p165 that he says a strong attack came down the coastal strip on 12th July at 1700Hrs and lasted 'till 2200.

He mentions a heavy mist on the morning of 13th and I remember it clearly now, it was like a Launceston blanket (blanket fog = very thick fog), & I remember thinking it would be easy to attack under its cover. From his story the 13th appears to have been relatively quiet, & the 14th was the day of fun & games. You will note on p169 that the last para mentions the tanks breaking through on 14th

I have now reached the conclusion that we were hit on the morning of the 14th & came back the same afternoon. I recall only having one meal, & that was a hot stew at RHQ, & I also remember my dismay when the repair depot said the gun would be ready in a couple of hours, as they would strip a gun from another unit, I think 2/7

I feel we must reorganize our thinking & agree on the 14th July as "it".

If, as the book states, the mist arose on the 13th then that rules that morning out, as I think it remained for some hours.

End of hand written message

2/8th Fd Regt RAA - OUR COLOUR PATCH

From Max Robinson (QM) the story of how 9 Div Artillery was the only divisional Artillery in which each of the following – Div Headquarters, 2/7, 2/8, 2/12 Field Regiment's 3 Anti Tank, 4 Light Ack Ack [blast the American Able Able] could be distinguished by separate colour patches. Robbie went to RAA HQ for morning tea at El Alamein. HQ 9 Div was close by and Morsehead happened to be at RAA HQ. Robbie was shown the new colour patch and being Robbie he spoke up "In the first World War in Corps Artillery each Brigade Artillery (our equivalent of a Field Regiment) was made different by placing a spot on the colour patch in a different place. Morsehead said "Is that so". He was assured it was. Nothing more was said, but, you all know the result – each unit had a distinctive colour patch by the placement of a spot.

Bob Walduck TX 3164.

Notes updated 6 June 2011

Norman B ANDREWS OAM, Honorary Secretary/Public Officer, Royal Australian Artillery Association of Tasmania Inc. Estb 18 Mar 2000

"TARA room", 24 Robin Street,
NEWSTEAD, LAUNCESTON, Tas

The drones are coming to Adelaide.

The Royal Australian Air Force is expected to base a fleet of military drones at Edinburgh in Adelaide, using them to patrol Australia's coast for asylum seeker boats. The drone fleet is likely to be made up of nine Northrop Grumman Triton drones (pictured), which have a 39.9 meter wingspan, can stay aloft for 30 hours and fly around 16,000 kilometres without needing to refuel.

The drones, roughly the same size as a Boeing 737, are expected to be in place by 2020, but significant logistical work is expected to occur well before then to prepare the base. It's understood South Australian Minister for Defence Industries Jack

Snelling was in Palmdale, California last month alongside representatives from defence contractors to talk to Northrop about the specifics of basing the Triton at Edinburgh.

South Australian Defence Teaming Centre CEO Chris Burns, who travelled with Snelling's tour, told InDaily the drones would replace the Orion aircraft which already operate from Edinburgh.

"The key driver will be the replacement of the Orion aircraft at RAAF base Edinburgh. There's a fleet of 19 of those. They'll replace that fleet, but about 50% of the replacements will be manned aircraft. The other half of the fleet will be an unmanned aerial vehicle. So you're talking seven to nine unmanned aerial vehicles," he said.

Courtesy of InDaily



SANDAKAN 1942—1945

Foreword



The events surrounding the Sandakan–Ranau death marches are, regrettably, little known by most Australians. Yet, together they represent what is arguably the worst war time atrocity committed suffered by

Australian service personnel.

This booklet is an important step along the way to making this part of our history better known among Australians of all ages.

The 1999 mission by former prisoners of war (POWs), and widows and relatives of POWs who died at Sandakan and during the death marches also will help us remember those who perished in those dark times. It is my privilege to lead this mission, during which the official dedication of improvements to the Sandakan Memorial Park will take place.

I commend this booklet to the reader, trusting that he or she will recognise that the service and sacrifice of those who suffered so cruelly at Sandakan and during the marches are as much a part of our heritage as the more glorious episodes from other times. At the very least, we all should pause for a moment in silent remembrance of them.

This serialised version of the booklet is reproduced here with the kind permission of Courtney Page-Allen (Editor) Commemorations Department of Veterans' Affairs GPO Box 9998 Canberra ACT 2601 (ed)

Chapter 1

Remembering Sandakan

Private E H 'Ted' Ings, Binalong, New South Wales

Whenever the parishioners of the Anglican Church, Binalong, New South Wales, attend a service, they are reminded of the tragedy and loss of war. The memorial gateway to the church is dedicated to the memory of Private E H Ings, 2/19th Battalion, 2nd Australian Imperial Force (AIF), who died in 1945 on active service.

Ted Ings was born in 1903 at Binalong and in the 1930s, with his brother Les, he ran a dairy farm near the town. The Ings brothers were well-known for their skill in building the large old-fashioned **haystacks**. **At local dances, Ted's skilful playing of the squeezebox** was much in demand and he is remembered in the district as gentle-natured and well-liked. On 17 July 1940, at Goulburn, New South Wales, he enlisted in the 2nd AIF and was assigned to the 2/19th Battalion. In early 1941, Private Ings and the 2/19th Battalion, 8th Australian Division, sailed from Sydney on the *Queen Mary*, bound for Singapore and the defence of Malaya.



'Ted' Horace Ings at work, Binalong, late 1930s. Photograph: Ings Family

As letters in the possession of the family show, throughout that year Ted regularly wrote home from Malaya. But other events were soon to have a telling effect on Ted and the soldiers of the 8th Division. On 15 February 1942, the British defenders of Singapore, which included the 2/19th Battalion, surrendered to the Japanese. Months later, on 19 July 1942, the *Sydney Sunday Telegraph* published the name of Private E H Ings in a list of 430 **New South Wales soldiers classed as 'missing in action' in Malaya, Singapore and Java.**

After this alarming news, the Ings family in Binalong would have been relieved to hear that **Ted was not 'missing' but a prisoner of war. Over a year later, in September 1943, a card from Ted, which said he was a POW in Malaya, reached his sister-in-law May, in Binalong. It had been sent through the International Red Cross. Today the family still has the telegram May sent to the other members of the family, telling them the good news. A later letter from the Red Cross Bureau for Wounded, Missing and Prisoners of War, Sydney, sent on 6 November 1944 to Binalong gave the following brief information from the International Red Cross, Geneva:**

Tokyo Cables NX 60355, Pte. E.H. Ings Transferred From Malaya to Borneo Camp Since 1/4/44.

Ted Ings never returned from Borneo. The inscription on the memorial gates at the Binalong Anglican Church records that Private E H Ings died on 24 February 1945, aged 41, at somewhere called **'Sandakan–Ranau'.**



Paybook photograph taken on enlistment of NX60355 Pte Ted Ings, 2/19 Battalion. AWM PO2467.777

Chapter 2

Searching for the Sandakan POWs Borneo, September–October 1945

Sandakan is today a large city on the north-east coast of the island of Borneo. In 1945 Borneo was still occupied by the Japanese, and at the end of the Pacific war in August, Australian units arrived in the Sandakan area to accept the surrender of the Japanese garrison. Just 16 kilometres out of Sandakan, in a north-westerly direction, was the Sandakan POW Camp. Here, between 1942 and 1945, the Japanese had at different times held over 2700 Australian and British prisoners. The POWs were brought from Singapore to Borneo to construct a military airfield close to the camp. By 15 August 1945, however, there were no POWs left at Sandakan Camp.

During October and November 1945, the camp site and some of the jungle area to the west was searched by Australian War Graves units and 3 POW Contact and Enquiry Unit. Similar searches were also conducted in the area of a small settlement called Ranau, 260 kilometres west of Sandakan, **in the mountains close to north Borneo's largest mountain, Mount Kinabalu.** Eventually, searches were also made all along a jungle track, or rentis, which ran from near Sandakan, through low-lying river swamps and up into the mountains to Ranau.

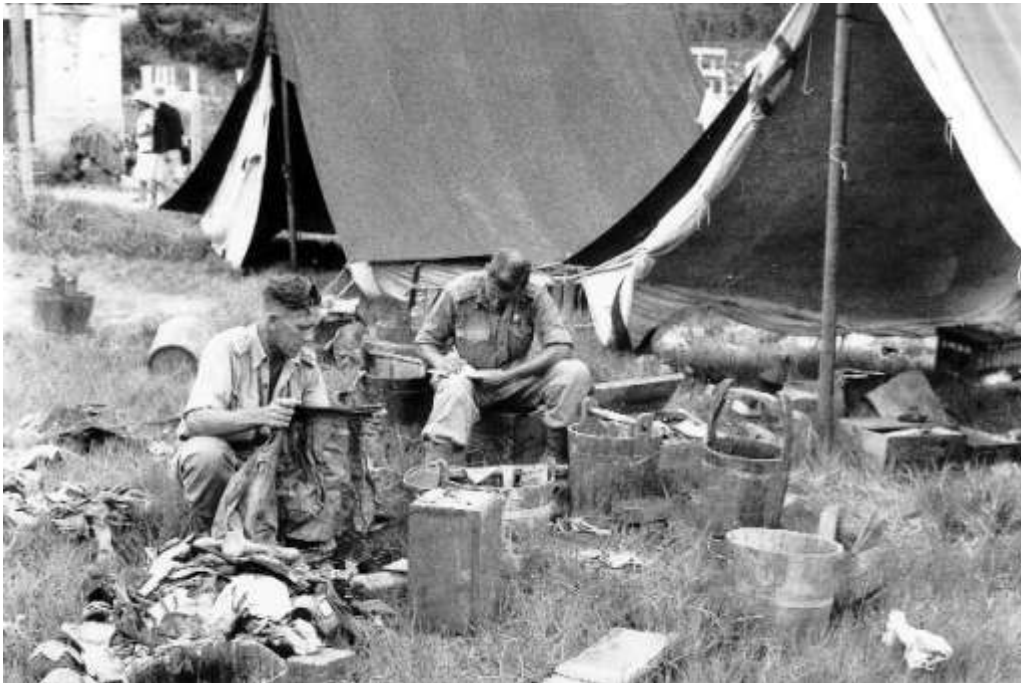
In these areas at various times between 1945 and 1947 were found the personal relics and bodily remains of over 2163 Australian and British POWs. The remains of a further 265 known to have been at Sandakan in early January 1945 were never found.

Sandakan camp itself was a burnt-out ruin. Careful excavation and searching uncovered hundreds of bodies at different burial locations. One Australian War Graves officer wrote of this work in the unit war diary:

25 September 1945—Was informed that a native who had worked in the PW compound for the Japs was willing to give information...his information was of the greatest importance. He said that in a certain part of the compound there was a place where there were mass burials, on receipt of this information I immediately went to the place and found that what the native said was true. At the daily conference I

asked for and obtained 20 Japs [Japanese prisoners held at Sandakan awaiting repatriation to Japan] as a working party for the following day.

26 September 1945—Took out Jap working party to compound. On digging found ample evidence that it was a mass burial place. It is difficult to calculate the number but would say at a guess that it would be somewhere in the neighbourhood of 100–150 bodies. Went to No 2 cemetery where 24 graves appear to be too big for single burials. Several graves which were opened were found to contain as many as 5–8 bodies.



Captain G M Cocks, 3 POW Contact and Enquiry Unit, at the Sandakan POW Camp reading out the name and regimental number from a pair of shorts belonging to a POW to Lieutenant E K Robinson. All the articles shown here were found in the camp and bore the names and numbers of Australian and British servicemen, most of whom died in the camp. AWM121783

Some scattered personal items belonging to the POWs were also found at the camp. The war diarist of 23 Australian War Graves unit recorded:

22 September 1945—Spent all day at the PW compound searching for records and other articles that may have a bearing on identifying bodies. Found over sixty paybooks and various other articles bearing numbers and name.

The main items located at different places in the camp were service paybooks, identity disks and army-issue webbing such as haversacks and kit bags. The military badges showed the international origin of the Sandakan POWs—Australian

Army hat and collar badges, along with badges from British and Imperial units such as the Gordon Highlanders, the Singapore Volunteer Force, Royal Army Medical Corps, the 17th Dogras (a British India Army unit), the Suffolk Regiment and many others. Other personal relics found included jackets, hairbrushes, mugs and eating utensils.

Perhaps the most poignant area to be searched was that which appeared to have been used by the POWs as a medical aid station. The final report of 3 POW Contact and Enquiry Unit described what was found there:

*On 22 October Lieutenant Robertson located what would appear to have been the RAP [Regimental Aid Post], after the remainder of the camp had been destroyed. A large number of improvised stretchers were found under **banana palms**...The wreckage of a small atap hut was cleared, and items of medical stores found...**No drugs of any kind** were found. Used filthy bandages and dressings were scattered over the whole area. It is*

thought that this area is where the sick were concentrated when the compound was destroyed by fire, after the fit personnel left for Ranau.

More bodies and similar personal items were found along the track to Ranau and at Ranau itself. Reports from the unit listed all items found and stated:

The items themselves have been parcelled and will be sent to Records, Melbourne, for further checking. All Paybooks and most of the other items have been damaged by weather and/or fire, and require very careful handling. Pay-

books, and personal effects of PW, in a number of cases, found concentrated in small heaps, and in some cases covered over by blankets or sacking either for concealment or protection from the weather.

Typical of the few recovered remnants of the **POWs' presence at Sandakan** are some items in the collection of the Australian War Memorial. These include six fire-damaged cigarette cases, two improvised smoking pipes, a shaving brush, a dixie lid used as a cooking utensil, a rosary and crucifix, and false teeth. All of these were found at

the camp by 9 Military History Field Team.

Research has indicated that some 2428 Allied servicemen—1787 Australians and 641 British—held in the Sandakan Camp in January 1945 died between January and August 1945 in Japanese captivity. Private Ted Ings of Binalong was one of them. They perished at the Sandakan POW Camp, along the track to Ranau, and at Ranau itself. What brought about the deaths of so many prisoners so close to the Allied victory over Japan in August 1945?

To be continued



The AIF section of the No. 1 Cemetery at Sandakan POW Camp. Thirty-eight of these graves were marked and identifiable. AWM 120491



Fire damaged men's pocket watch and metal crucifixes found in the camp ruins by members of the 9 Military History Field Team.

*AWM REL/02028.007 and
AWM REL/02028.006*



Study tour goes to South Korea

Cpl Nick Wiseman

THREE junior NCOs have been selected to take part in an intensive overseas study tour of Australian campaigns in South Korea.

LBdr Justin Donnelly, of 4 Regt RAA, LCpl Danielle Mayo, of 33 Dental Coy, and LCpl Shane O'Mara, of 2/14LHR(QMI), started their adventure in Canberra at a small ceremony on April 18.



CA Lt-Gen David Morrison awarded the scholarships to the three in recognition of their outstanding performances as Australian soldiers.

"You now have the opportunity to travel through South Korea over Anzac Day when the Battle of Kapyong was fought," he said.

"I look forward to seeing what you have learnt and the photos from the tour."

The CA presented the trio with history books to keep them entertained on the journey and assist them with their research assignments.

Each member will research two participants during the war, as well as a battlefield.

They will spend a week in South Korea as part of the fifth CA's "I'm an Australian Soldier" Scholarship and visit battlefields and shipwrecks, and participate in the Anzac Day dawn service.

Accompanying the group on the tour will be veterans who will guide them throughout the tour and give them first-hand insights.

LBdr Donnelly said he was looking forward to the experience and taking the information back to his unit.

"Not only do we get to visit the battlefields but we get to share that experience and learn first-hand from veterans who fought there," he said.

"You don't often get this type of opportunity.

"Keeping this knowledge to myself would just be greedy. I'll be able to teach many what I have learnt and I'm sure my CO will want a detailed report on my trip."

Joining the group for the Canberra ceremony was the South Korean Defence Attaché, Col Dae-hee Ahn, who provided the trio with a selection of items to help with the tour including a travel guide and magazine on his country.

LCpl Mayo was told she would be heading to South Korea when she was called into her CO's office while preparing for an official unit function.

Assuming she had done something wrong but unable to pinpoint what it was, she was surprised to be told she had won the CA scholarship.

Arriving in her CO's office, LCpl Mayo said she was asked if she had ever travelled to South Korea before.

"I replied no and when asked if I would like to I said of course I would," she said.

"My CO congratulated me and then told me I had won the CA scholarship and would be travelling to South Korea. I felt honoured and privileged to get such a great opportunity."

The CA scholarship was created to promote the study of military history and recognise and reward junior soldiers who achieved in the core values of the "I'm an Australian Soldier" initiative.

LCpl O'Mara said he was looking forward to the tour, having a keen interest in military history.

"The Korean War is one of those battles that slips in between the cracks," he said.

"This will be a really good opportunity to look into it and get a deeper understanding of it."

Soldiers connect Three junior NCOs went on a study tour to South Korea

Cpl Max Bree

THREE soldiers have returned from South Korea as part of the CA's 'I'm an Australian Soldier' Scholarship from April 22-28.

LBdr Justin Donnelly, LCpl Danielle Mayo and LCpl Shane O'Mara spent most of the time travelling with a group of Australian and other Korean War veterans.

The soldiers first visited the Republic of Korea's 2nd Fleet HQ and viewed the wreckage of the corvette ROKS Cheonan, sunk by a North Korean submarine in 2010.

demilitarised zone and passed through three layers of defences to reach Camp Bonifas to see conference centres built half in the North and half in the South.

Here LBdr Donnelly strayed into North Korean territory, but moved back to the southern side of the room "quick fast".

The group visited the site overlooking the Maryang San battlefield before going to dinner at the Australian ambassador's residence in Seoul.

Soldiers and veterans also went to the Kapyong battleground for a service on the 62nd anniversary of the battle, in which 32 Australians were killed, 59 wounded and three were taken prisoner. A US Presidential Citation was awarded to 3RAR for its contribution.

"It made me realise at that point why I wear the uniform and I may have been standing a little bit taller with my head held high," LCpl Mayo said.

An Anzac Day service was held at the "enormous" South Korean War Memorial followed by lunch with the veterans and a visit to the Korean National War Cemetery.

That night the group was treated to a dinner hosted by the South Korean Minister for Veterans' Affairs.

"These guys don't skimp on anything and everything was first class, with a seven-course meal and nine or more pieces of cutlery," LBdr Donnelly said.

"I had no idea what I was doing and ended up with half the knives and forks still on the table when all the meals had been served."

The next day at the Commonwealth War Cemetery, the participants visited the graves of soldiers they had researched before arriving in Korea.

The three soldiers spent the next two days sight-seeing before returning to Australia.



Battlefield tour: LCpls Shane O'Mara and Danielle Mayo, and LBdr Justin Donnelly meet with Korean War veterans at the UN Memorial Cemetery in Busan (above).

"The few hours we spent with the South Koreans was very educational as I was unaware of how many encounters over recent years they have had, and the severity of the attacks," LBdr Donnelly said.

After meeting veterans, soldiers travelled to the

AWM gets Afghan exhibit

WWI galleries modernised as new section recognises the Middle East Area of Operations.

THERE are major changes under way at the Australian War Memorial. The WWI galleries are undergoing a \$32 million modernisation and a new Afghanistan exhibition is nearing completion for its opening later this year.

The exhibition will encompass all areas of operation in the Middle East across the three services. It will por-tray the experiences of Australians at the sharp end, reflecting the heroism of those men and women who help to bring stability to the country through training Afghan soldiers, and building bridges, schools and other infrastructure.

When AWM director Brendan Nelson was last in Afghanistan, an Australian soldier remarked to him, "Sir, when I take my son to the Memorial, I can show him what his great-grandfather did. I can show him what his grandfather did. But I can't show him what I'm doing".



"The Australian War Memorial is the national site of commemoration and interpretation of the Australian experience of war," Dr Nelson said.

"We owe it to our current service-men and women to tell their stories and place them among the great stories of those who served in the past.

"This exhibition will allow current-day veterans to feel confident that their stories are being told for today's generation, and that their extraordinary efforts on behalf of all Australians will never be forgotten."

The new Afghanistan exhibition will open later this year on the AWM's lower level, near the entrance

to the Research Centre, now the Online Gallery.

The Sinai-Palestine and Western Front galleries are temporarily closed to the public to make way for a suite of newly redesigned galleries to be launched in early 2015.

"The centenary of WWI is fast approaching and the Memorial is gearing up to deliver something very special," Dr Nelson said.

"Our new WWI galleries will draw on a range of new interactive technologies that will take the Memorial far beyond the centenary. The refurbishment will place the Memorial's galleries at the forefront of Australia's centenary program."

The first stage of the redevelopment began in November last year when conservators started work on conserving the dioramas.

"Favourite exhibits, such as the dioramas, will remain a prominent part of the new galleries, but the redevelopment also offers an exciting opportunity to display objects that have rarely been seen

and in some cases never seen before," Dr Nelson said.

The Gallipoli gallery will remain open until June. Later this year a temporary WWI exhibition called "Anzac Voices" will open, so visitors to the AWM can continue to learn about the Great War until the new galleries open in 2015.

"This is only the beginning of a busy period at the Memorial," Dr Nelson said.

The services offered in the Online Gallery will, from May 5, be provided from a new location within the AWM.

Later this year, significant changes will occur to the AWM's website

to enhance the usability and functionality for research.

"For the first time, the dioramas will be placed in chronological order and explained in a manner suitable for a younger generation."



A FURTHER REMINDER OF THE EVENT

AUSTRALIAN ARTILLERY ASSOCIATION



2014 NATIONAL GUNNER DINNER

When:
Saturday, 23 August 2014


Where:
The Event Centre
20 Minchinton Street
CALOUNDRA QLD 4551

The Event: 3 Hour Dedicated Military Concert by the Sunshine Coast Symphony Orchestra
1:30 pm to 5:00pm

3 Course Dinner with 3 Hour Drinks Package followed by Port
Includes a Wind and String Quintet to provide light background dinner music
6:30 pm to 12:00 Midnight

Costs: \$145.00 per person

Bookings: Essential



Wives
and
Partners

Most Welcome

The Australian Artillery Association is proud to host this wonderful, entertaining and memorable event.
A special event bringing Gunners of all eras together to share in this momentous occasion

This is a Once-in-a-Lifetime event for all Gunners to gather in one location and enjoy a First Class event

DON'T MISS OUT

(2 INTERNATIONAL REGISTRATIONS HAVE ALREADY BEEN RECEIVED EX RAA GUNNERS FROM THE USA AND SCOTLAND)

MINIMUM NUMBER: 400 - MAXIMUM NUMBER: 950

For further information visit: www.australianartilleryassociation.com

or call Graham on 0411 141 580 or Kim on 0417 422 427

Received this letter from WO2 David Troedel. He regularly sends me articles suitable for publication and I thought it's about time I gave him due recognition, even though he's not an association member.

Hi Alan,

Pat & I have just returned from a trip down south taking 19 days.

We travelled down the Newell Highway and visited my parents graves at Deniliquin then on to Bendigo where we had dinner at the RSL Club with Jack Balsillie and his wife Greta. Jack was the ASM with 101 Battery in Malaya and served 40 years in the Army from 1945 to 1985, he retired a Major.

One of the reasons for the trip was to visit the area where one of my ancestors started the wine industry at Great Western in the 1850's. We went through Blampied on the way from Bendigo to Ararat, the town is named after my Great Grandfather's family.

I had arranged to meet one of my Gunners from the Survey Troop at 132 Div Loc Bty at Brighton for lunch at the Ararat RSL Club.

To my surprise six of them that served with me in the 1980's turned up.



Bronwyn Whitelaw (Morrish), Jed Hynes, Peter Whitelaw, Kelvin Verlin, Myself, Mike Bellamy and Mike Butler.

They had travelled from, Warrnambool, Horsham, Harcourt and Melbourne to have lunch with Pat & I. It was great to see them all after all these years.

We visited Great Western and Stawell and spent some time looking through the cemeteries as well as trying to find where the old winery (St Peters) was.

Then on to Melbourne where I marched on Anzac Day with the Malaya and Borneo Veterans Association. Met up with Reg Poole who I had not seen since 1960 when he returned from Terendak to Australia.

Also met Bill Dunstan, another 101 Battery member. Bill has just received the Silver Star which he was awarded when serving in the AATTV.

Just over 43 years ago, Bill Dunstan was serving with an ARVN reconnaissance company when his gallantry in action was cited with a recommendation he be awarded a Silver Star. The medal arrived in the post in March 2013.

CITATION

On 14 December 1969 WO2 William L. Dunstan and Maj Thomas F. Matteo were serving as advisers to the Reconnaissance Company of the 6th Regiment, 2d Infantry Division (ARVN). The Reconnaissance Company was attached to the 1st Battalion, 6th Regiment for an air assault on the Batangan Peninsula against the 48th Local Force Battalion. The area of operations is a flat rice paddy covered area. The 48th Local Force Battalion had been operating in this area and had proven itself to be an effective force with excellent morale. On this date as the Reconnaissance Company entered the landing zone it was brought under extremely accurate small arms and automatic weapons fire from an enemy force fighting from well prepared positions surrounding the landing zone. The Reconnaissance Company was forced to establish a defensive perimeter on the landing zone. As the intensity of the fight continued the Senior Advisor called for gunships while WO Dunstan moved to aid the wounded. Although the area was under extremely heavy fire, WO Dunstan without regard for his personal safety, exposed himself to the withering fire and directed the helicopters to the landing zone. He then supervised the loading of the wounded and directed the helicopters out of the small landing zone. After returning to the Senior Advisor, he assisted in directing airstrikes which were being put in support of the surrounding Reconnaissance Company. Twice the company attempted to break the deadly grip on the landing zone. For the third time the Senior Advisor called for gunships. Jets hit the enemy, which allowed the Recon Coy to breach the enemy's position and fight their way into a village nearby. The company had been pinned down for five hours, during which WO Dunstan repeatedly aided the wounded and coordinated medivac

missions. The enemy counter-attacked with an estimated reinforced company using small arms and B-40 rocket fire, which forced the Recon Coy to fall back to the LZ. During this attack both the Senior Advisor (SA) and WO Dunstan sustained multiple shrapnel wounds. Despite his wounds, WO Dunstan assisted the more seriously wounded Senior Advisor to the LZ and aided in directing the gunship strikes against the VC forces threatening to overwhelm the Reconnaissance Company. The gunships broke the momentum of the enemy's attack and enables WO Dunstan to call a medivac to evacuate the SA who had been blinded in one eye. WO Dunstan's courage, professionalism and coolness under fire saved the lives of many wounded Vietnamese. (This citation has been edited slightly)

From Melbourne we went up to Wangaratta and visited Beechworth and Stanley where my mother's family (Sinclair's) came from.

Then on to Canberra and spent a day looking through the AWM. On to Sydney where we went to North Head and had a look at the old School of Artillery, and North Fort.

It is a shame to see the School going to waste, we were able to walk around and look into the rooms through the windows, I saw room 6, A Wing where I spent 13 weeks in 1958. A bit of luck the door from A Wing to the Vestibule was open and we were able to have a look at the Gunners Mess and the Ball Room.

Bull Storey would not be a happy chap if he could see his beloved School today.

It was a wonderful trip, though we are happy to be home again.

We seem to arrange our holidays around Anzac Day's, 2012 in Kuala Lumpur, 2013 in Melbourne and we are organising a get together in Canberra for 101 Battery members in 2014.

Regards

David & Pat

David's Service History

I enlisted directly into the ARA from National Service and after 7 days leave went to the School of Artillery for my Basic Gunnery Course. I was lucky that our course went to 101 Battery as they were warned for service in Malaya.

We sailed on the MV Flaminia from Sydney on the 18th September 1959 calling into Brisbane to pick

up 1 RAR and then to Singapore and Penang and across to Butterworth where we spent the first 12 months and then joined 26 Fd. Regt. RA as the third Gun Battery at Terendak Camp at Malacca. We were on standby for Laos during our tour.

We boarded the Flaminia again in Singapore and sailed to Penang to pick up 1 RAR and back to Sydney arriving on 12th November 1961 (spent quite a bit of time outside Australia). Caught the train to Brisbane that night and joined 4th Fd Regt on the 13th November. In 1962, 101 Battery was split up and I was posted to HQ Bty, Survey Troop. I did my Class 3 Regt Svy course in 1962 and the Advanced Arty Survey course in 1964. Elected discharge as at that time there was not much going on, little did we know how big Vietnam would get.

Served in the Regular Army Reserve and the Regular Army Emergency Reserve and then joined the CMF.

I was talked into transferring from 15 Fd Regt to 132 Div Loc Bty due to my Survey qualifications.

Elected discharge from the CMF due to work pressures when working at Lysaghts at Westernport but when things settled down I re-enlisted in the ARES and spent 6 years as a Survey Section Sergeant, promoted to S/Sgt (Survey Troop Sergeant) but I was a bit stale in the posting and transferred to OCTU.

I enjoyed the Instructional roll and was appointed PI Comd for Course 20 which graduated in December 1983. This was probably the most satisfying job I had in my Army career.

In late 1985 I was transferred to the Queensland Sales Office of John Lysaght's/ BHP.

Pat and I met in Brisbane in 1962, married there in 1963 and then spent 21 years in Melbourne.

In 1987 I had enough of the Army and took my final discharge, after 29 years of service.

Pat enlisted in the ARES in 1975 when they started to allow married members into the ARES.

She stayed in the Army until 1997 when she reached retirement age. Pat served in 6 Fd Ambulance in Melbourne, 2 Fd Hospital in Brisbane and did 2 years full time duty in 1990/91 at a Ward Sergeant at 1st Military Hospital.

She was discharged a S/Sgt.

Arty Spartans show they have what it takes

Tough day:

From rear left,

Sgt Anthony Bray,
WO2 Andy Crump,
Cpl Mitch Stirling,
Sgt Andrew Cox,
WO1 Reg Grundel.

Middle row from
left,

Sgt Josh
Tschiderer, WO2
Daniel Brauman.

Front left

LBdr Simon Vescio
and Capt James
Manchip.



THE Spartan Race series premiered in Australia on March 2 at the Wonthaggi Motocross track with a strong number of competitors, including a team from the [School of Artillery](#).

The team participated in the 15 obstacle, 7km sprint, which included two 80m leopard crawls, cargo net climbing, an 800m dead weight carry and active "Spartans" waiting at the finish line to tackle, push and pin competitors down to increase their time.

Team member Sgt Andrew Cox said the track was brutal.

"We had to leopard crawl into the hard-compacted motocross track," he said.

"The mud was thick like half-melted ice-cream, but nowhere near as fun, and the dead weight carry seemed to go forever."

To ensure safety and fairness, officials were stationed at each obstacle watching competitors carefully and rewarding each participant with 30 burpees if they failed or skipped a station.

After 43 minutes, the first team member crossed the finish line, with three more arriving shortly after, fulfilling the minimum number for a team to score - the remaining team members were all in by the hour with most of them placed in the top 110.

The team itself placed third overall out of 3500 competitors, with the best individual effort placing at 42, which included racers from the Spartan League.

Sgt Cox said he thoroughly enjoyed the event.

"Most of the team has already signed up for the next one in September," he said.

"It's a 14km race in the same area, but this time over the sand dunes."

The team raised more than \$7000 thanks to sponsors, which has been donated to the Commando Welfare trust fund to help raise awareness for the fund and to support those who need it.

This is the latest version of a flying car. A truly remarkable new invention named the PAL-V.

Have a look at this short video and you will be impressed.

<http://tinyurl.com/bsg4b4j>

Air defenders prove capability

Troops demonstrate response to air and indirect fire threats

FOR the first time since being raised last year, 16 AL Regt has demonstrated its full suite of anti-aircraft and counter-rocket, artillery and mortar technology operating simultaneously.

The regiment showed off its capabilities to Forcomd and demonstrated how the unit would integrate with Army's existing systems.

Whether enemy aircraft are closing in or indirect fire is falling nearby, 16 AL Regt can rapidly detect incoming threats and send support elements to neutralise the enemy.

Combining a live feed from a circling Air Force Wedgetail with a Giraffe Agile Multi-Beam radar (G-AMB), the gunners were able to detect an "enemy" PC-9 from takeoff all the way to its target at Woodside Barracks.

The radar data was sent with a click of a button to 110 AD Bty, which identified the enemy aircraft on its Portable Search and Target Acquisition Radar and countered by deploying an RBS-70 missile launcher in less than 30 seconds from the new air defence variant Bushmaster.

Surrounding forces were simultaneously warned of an incoming air threat.

The next phase had all observers on the edge of their seats. Even a few support specialists from Defence partners including Raytheon



Air threat: The Giraffe Agile Multi-Beam radar plays a crucial role in detecting an enemy aircraft, which is then engaged by an RBS-70 missile team (inset) during a capability demonstration by 16 AL Regt.

and SAAB looked on nervously.

Overseeing the Giraffe radar and a troop command post was LBdr James Howarth, of 111 Bty, who said it was the first time so many elements had been connected.

"The linking of so many different systems has never been done before," he said.

Part two of the demonstration began with Light-weight Counter Mortar Radar (LCMR) and Giraffe radar detecting an incoming RAM (rocket, artillery and mortar) event.

Though the Giraffe radar can detect at longer ranges it is not as manoeuvrable as an LCMR.

Bdr Dale Munson, a Counter Fires Detachment Commander, said the LCMR could get in closer for more accurate detection.

"With the LCMR my detachment can move ahead with lead elements providing a point of origin of indirect fire that the G-AMB could miss being further back due to terrain," he said.

Both radars automatically relayed the RAM event, including the point of origin, to the brigade Air Land Integration Cell and in turn the Joint Fires Effects Coordination Cell (JFECC), where a decision was made to counter what was assessed to be a mortar threat.

The system then provided a call for fire on the Advanced Field Artillery Tactical Data System and an approval from the JFECC sent the call for fire to an M777-A2, provided by 8/12 Regt's 102 Bty, which fired on the enemy's mortar position.

Simultaneously, Air Ground Operations Bty also received the feed in the Brigade Integration Cell, coordinated through a JTAC to send a second PC-9 - this one playing friendly - on a bombing mission to the enemy mortar position.

For 16 AL Regt, as well as supporting operations overseas, the next step will be making these elements function in a tactical and dynamic environment with even more components at play on Exercise Talisman Sabre 13.

Courtesy Army News 11 April, 2013



SOUTH CHANNEL FORT EXCURSION

On the 15th of April, 2013, an excursion by the RAA Association Members attended at Queenscliff Marine Park, outside South Bay Eco Adventures. The weather was cloudy, bay was slightly rough and there was some rain. We were fitted out with heavy duty blue coats (not green) and we boarded a 20 seater launch under the directions of Mike, who was our Launch Captain, pilot and our guide and we headed off to the South Channel Fort. This Fort was man made and it was a strategic defence network and placed in the Port Phillip Bay to provide support against the Russian & French Countries in 1880.

On arrival, we walked around the Island, which still contains four gun emplacements, a labyrinth of underground passages, which we were invited into and a magnificent panoramic views of Port Phillip Bay. Two gun barrels from South Channel Fort, are located outside Fort Queenscliff.

After approximately two and a half hours later we returned to the Queenscliff Marine Park. The cost of the launch ride and Fort was \$60.00.

The following members of the RAA Association attended this excursion are as follows:-

Brigadier D. Perry AOM RFD ED

Brigadier P. Alkemade

Major W. Cross

Major D. Osborne

Major M. Taggart RDF ED

Major G. Wishart

Captain M. Womack

WO1 D. O'Toole

WO2 L. Foster

WO2 C. CookSsgt B. Cleeman

Ssgt R. Morrell

Sgt R. Smead

Six wives and other women also attended

Thanks to Ssgt Reg Morrell for this report

Dear Alan

Trust this finds you well.

Have just completed a tidy up of my "office" under the direction of a highest authority at home and **discovered 4 or 5 of Barry Caine's drawings summarising either a camp or firing weekend or were they Barry's "Highlights" of his time with 2 Bty.** I can't recall which, but can certainly recall a couple of the "events" and was even portrayed in one quite unjustly in my book.

From memory Barry was the AIG before Bill Cross. Talking about both do you know where they are now?

The drawings hung on the walls of CP training room at Batman Avenue. Before we moved to Dandenong I photocopied them as I didn't want them lost. It always struck me how Barry managed to capture the moment with a good dose of humour.

Move now

Chief culprit was John Decker attempting to explain to the BK why us CP types should be cut some slack. My reputation has been ruined by Barry suggesting I would sleep out in the open. My preferred resting place was under the RHS table in the CP despite the various GPO's suggestions to the contrary. GPO's came and went but CP Op's Fd who had been banished from Dave Gibson's Gun after his first live firing weekend remained in the CP for life with a year off for good behaviour as the BC's Ack.



The BK would have either been Jim Christie or Roger Smith.

Alan I think you were the BG and both Decker & I earned your wrath as the day wore on.

Crested

For some reason I always thought the No1 was "Doc" O'Connor. Noticed today that the gun marker says Alpha. So was it Bob Armstrong or Dave Gibson, or (?) Wingate. I think Pete Simmons & John Staples were still Bombardiers and they were either Charlie or Delta.

The question I ask is: Did Decker forget to take the Bty Chainsaw with us or did the incident lead to the CP being issued with a chainsaw?

Will scan and send on the other drawings. Would be good if others with more reliable memories can put names, places and times to this History of 2 Bty.



Kind regards

John Pereira

Thanks John. Great to hear from you again down in the boondocks in Tasmania. I hope there are others out there who will fill in the gaps for you. Let me know please! ed



Michael Brooke

NAVY will take another important step toward operating a task group with Hobart-class DDGs and Canberra-class LHDs when HMAS Sydney embeds with the US Navy's Seventh Fleet next month.

Sydney was scheduled to depart Fleet Base East on April 22 for Japan to participate in a range of multinational maritime exercises with the George Washington carrier strike group.

CO Sydney CMDR Karl Brinckmann said his ship would conduct carrier strike group integration and participate in exercises, including Talisman Sabre 13, while operating as a unit of the strike group's Destroyer Squadron 15.

'The embed with the Nimitz-class George Washington carrier strike group in Yokosuka, Japan, will enable Sydney and Navy to increase knowledge and skills relating to air defence procedures, strike group integration and other high-end defence capabilities,' he said.

Sydney's embed reflects Navy's forward-thinking approach to training in order to upskill sailors and absorb game-changing technologies.

'The opportunity to embed into a carrier strike

group will greatly enhance the Navy's preparation for the DDGs, which feature the Aegis combat system" Brinckmann said.

Sydney's deployment represents a premium opportunity for the crew to gain an intimate working knowledge of how warships interact in a strike group to achieve a vast array of different missions, including protecting a high-value asset such as a carrier or LHD.

In preparation for the embed, Sydney's communications suite has been enhanced to improve interoperability with the US Navy, while the crew have been busy digesting lessons from HMAS Darwin's experiences with the Seventh Fleet and at RIMPAC.

"We have the benefit of hindsight from Darwin's experience and we in turn expect to have experiences that will help the RAN to operate our DDGs and LHDs in a carrier strike group type structure," CMDR Brinckmann said.

Sydney's ship's company will use the first leg of the voyage from Fleet Base East to Guam to conduct damage control exercises and other drills in preparation for the embed.

Courtesy Navy News

Bowe Bergdahl

Claim: A U.S. soldier named Bowe Bergdahl has been held prisoner since being captured by the Taliban in 2009. **TRUE**



Origins: Bowe Robert Bergdahl is a U.S. Army soldier who, as a 23-year-old Private First Class with an infantry unit, went missing on 30 June 2009 near the village of Yahya KHel in Afghanistan adjacent to that country's border with **Pakistan. Since Bergdahl's disappearance, the Taliban have released five different videos (the last in May 2011) showing him to be in their captivity. and in 2010 the Taliban demanded \$1 million and the release of Aafia Siddiqui (a Pakistani scientist convicted of attempting to murder U.S. soldiers in Afghanistan as well as 21 other Afghan prisoners held by the U.S. in exchange for Bergdahl (threatening to execute Bergdahl if their demands were not met).**

Efforts by the Obama administration to secure the release of Bergdahl in exchange for five Taliban leaders held at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, broke down in 2012, and it now seems increasingly unlikely that any such prisoner exchange will take place prior to the scheduled withdrawal of the U.S.-led international military force from Afghanistan in 2014.

Bowe Bergdahl is the sole American soldier held by Taliban insurgents. He was promoted (in absentia) to the rank of Sergeant on 17 June 2011.

SNOPES—Last updated: 29 March 2013

Retired Green Beret shoots intruder, gets court martial.

BREVARD, Jan. 19, 2008 - Retired Army Green Beret Smokey Taylor got his court martial this weekend and came away feeling good about it.

Taylor, at age 80 the oldest member of Chapter XXXIII of the Special Forces Association, was on **trial by his peers under the charge of "failing to use a weapon of sufficient caliber" in the shooting of an intruder at his home in Knoxville, TN, in December.**

The entire affair, of course, was very much tongue in cheek.

Taylor had been awakened in the early morning hours of Dec. 17, 2007, when an intruder broke into his home. He investigated the noises with one of his many weapons in hand.

When the intruder threatened him with a knife, Taylor warned him, then brought his .22 caliber pistol to bear and shot him right between the eyes.

"That boy had the hardest head I've ever seen," Taylor said after his trial. "The bullet bounced right off." The impact knocked the would-be thief down momentarily. He crawled out of the room then got up and ran out the door and down the street. Knoxville police apprehended him a few blocks away and he now awaits trial in the Knox County jail.

The charges against Taylor were considered to be serious. He is a retired Special Forces Weapons Sergeant with extensive combat experience during the wars in Korea and Vietnam.

"Charges were brought against him under the premise that he should have saved the county and taxpayers the expense of a trial," said Chapter XXXIII President Bill Long of Asheville. "He could have used a .45 or .38. The .22 just wasn't big enough to get the job done."

Taylor's defense attorney, another retired Weapons Sergeant, disagreed. He said Taylor had done the right thing in choosing to arm himself with a .22. "If he'd used a .45 or something like that the round would have gone right through the perp, the wall, the neighbor's wall

and possibly injured some innocent child asleep in its bed," he said. **"I believe the evidence shows that Smokey Taylor exercised excellent judgment in his choice of weapons. He did nothing wrong, and clearly remains to this day an excellent weapons man."**



Counsel for the defense then floated a theory as to why the bullet bounced off the perp's forehead.

"He was victimized by old ammunition," he said, "just as he was in Korea and again in Vietnam, when his units were issued ammo left over from World War II." Taylor said nothing in his own defense, choosing instead to allow his peers to debate the matter. After the trial he said the ammunition was indeed old and added the new information that the perp had soiled his pants as he crawled out of the house.

"I would have had an even worse mess to clean up if it had gone through his forehead," Taylor said. "It was good for both of us that it didn't."

Following testimony from both sides, Taylor was acquitted of the charges and was given a round of applause.

Meanwhile, back in Knox County, the word is out: **Don't go messing with Smokey Taylor. He just bought a whole bunch of fresh ammo.**

Courtesy WO2 David Troedel

VCs at memorial for Pte Poate

THE Australian War Memorial officially launched the new Last Post ceremony in the presence of more than half of the world's living Victoria Cross recipients and hundreds of onlookers on April 17.

Present out of the nine living VC recipients world-wide were WO2 Keith Payne (retd), Cpls Mark Donaldson, Ben Roberts-Smith and Dan Keighran, and NZ VC recipient Cpl Willie Apiata. They were joined by George Cross recipient Const Michael Pratt, CDF Gen David Hurley and CA Lt-Gen David Morrison.

Cpl Keighran launched the new ceremony, reading an account of the life of Pte Robert Poate, who was killed in Afghanistan on August 29, 2012.

"Although I didn't know Pte Poate, I was honoured and humbled to be asked to read his story on behalf of his family, his mates and his unit, 6RAR," Cpl Keighran said.

He said he thought the new Last Post ceremony was a fitting tribute and a great way to enhance the visibility of the Australian War Memorial.

"The new format gets more people involved and also gives uniformed members the chance to take part," he said.

"To remember those who lost their lives and reflect on what they did for our country is a good thing."



AWM director Brendan Nelson said he wanted to start the new closing ceremonies with a recent soldier's death.

"I want Australians to understand there are still men and women who are in our uniform risking their lives for us and our values every day," he said.

"No one is more or less important than anyone else, but to focus on someone who has given his life within the last 12 months, hopefully there will be Australians who realise this is real."

Many people think that Americans can get carried away with some of the things they do. However, you cannot but admire their enthusiasm and patriotism demonstrated by the pictures below. ed



Lambeau Field is an outdoor stadium in Green Bay, Wisconsin and this display was performed in 2012. It took 90 workers two weeks to get all of the coloured card boards mounted under each seat. Each piece of card board had eye slits in them so the fans could hold up the coloured sheet and still see through the eye slits. Every seat had to have the proper card, with no mistakes, to make this happen.

*Courtesy of
Sgt Eddy Evans*



Feed: Defence News and Media
Posted on: Thursday, 11 April 2013 12:18 PM
Author: Media Room
Subject: **Afghan School of Artillery achieves autonomy**

The Australian-led Artillery Training and Advisory Team (ATAT) has successfully completed its mission to establish a fully autonomous Afghan National Army (ANA) School of Artillery.

Minister for Defence Stephen Smith said the ATAT mission officially ended on 11 April following a transition ceremony at Camp Alamo in Kabul earlier this month.

Minister Smith said the transition represents a significant step in the ANA and the **Afghan National Security Forces' move to full responsibility** for the security of Afghanistan.

The school underpins the foundation for **Afghanistan's security by ensuring a powerful force projection** through growing the artillery capability of the Afghan National Army.

It will provide the full spectrum of artillery courses to the ANA, from recruit training in the disciplines of Guns, Fire Support and Fire Direction, through to advanced career courses.

Australia's Joint Task Force 633 Commander, Major General Michael Crane, described the **Australian Defence Force's contribution to the Afghan National Army School of Artillery** as tremendously significant and one which will leave an enduring legacy.

"Since the School was formed, the Training Advisory Team has been an Australian led multinational coalition unit...your legacy is a fully functional Afghan National Army School of Artillery which I know has a bright future," Major General Crane said.

The ANA School of Artillery is now fully enabled to plan and implement a sustainable future as an independent ANA Branch School; and as the centre of professional artillery knowledge and training.

Members of the ATAT will now return to Australia.



ANA School of Artillery at a glance:

- All Afghan National Army instructors are fully certified and functional equipment status is above 90%.
- **Since the School of Artillery's establishment** in 2010, more than 2300 trainees have graduated, including 1100 in the 2012 calendar year.
- The ATAT was an Australian-led organisation based at Camp Alamo in Kabul.
- **During the team's mission, support was provided** by specialists from the United Kingdom, the United States, Canada, Singapore and Mongolia.

Australian personnel who deployed with the ATAT were drawn predominately from the Royal Australian Artillery units of the Australian Army including 1st Regiment, 4th Regiment, 8th/12th Regiment and the School of Artillery.



Imagery is available at:
<http://images.defence.gov.au/12133353>

Media contact:

Defence Media Operations (02) 6127 1999

Legacy going great guns

In the 1850s and '60s, bullets flew over some of Melbourne's favourite destinations.

In early Melbourne, folks sometimes had to be careful where they walked in the wilderness reaches of Studley Park, Albert Park and Elwood Beach because, on some days, they might find bullets or even cannonballs whistling over their heads.

A young state with plenty of gold in the coffers had projected a paranoia that, because of the 1853 war declaration between Russia and Britain over the Crimean Peninsula, Victoria faced a threat of Russian invasion. In 1854, "this unprotected state of the colony" decided to raise a voluntary citizen militia.

Thousands of young men who could shoot or ride responded to the recruitment call and formed themselves into rifle clubs that met

throughout the suburbs and country towns.

Collectively, this Dad and Dave army who relished "playing at being soldiers" evolved into the Royal Victorian Artillery Volunteer Regiment that drilled and practised and held regular war games – occasionally with real bullets.

In 1862, a major mock exercise was held at Point Ormond and 20,000 spectators turned out to watch the Collingwood Rifles advance "in a deathless charge" and with conspicuous gallantry towards chaps from the Geelong, South Yarra, Hawthorn, Kew, Richmond and St Kilda rifle corps.

The St Kilda Rifle Company was a notably enthusiastic group who swore they could marshal 500 rifles should St Kilda foreshore come under real attack. Initially, the corps' shooting range was on the swampy ground around Elster Creek and along Elwood beach, where the higher land features were

sometimes used as targets by warships firing cannon from the bay.

Many complaints came in of "promiscuous shooting across Elwood beach" and of the wilful



Amateur army facility: St Kilda Drill Hall; inside the hall (below left). Photos: Luis Enrique Arce

trashing of the tea trees. A cannonball once glanced off the wall of a house in Acland Street, crashed through a nearby wash-house roof and landed with a clang in the copper. A butcher's boy was wounded by a stray bullet on St Kilda beach but the report was hushed up. A horse was killed near Point Ormond by a marksman aiming at a stump 160 metres to the right.

WHERE TO FIND IT

St Kilda Artillery Orderly Room and Drill Hall, 10 Chapel Street, Windsor. Melway 2P H5.

By 1864, the St Kilda lads had been shifted inland to less-populous Windsor, where they co-opted what became Alma Park as their "attached gun range". The site this suburban militia occupied remains defined defence territory. Today it is a recruitment centre and training facility for the 2/10th Field Regiment, part of the contemporary volunteer citizen militia known as the Australian Army Reserve.

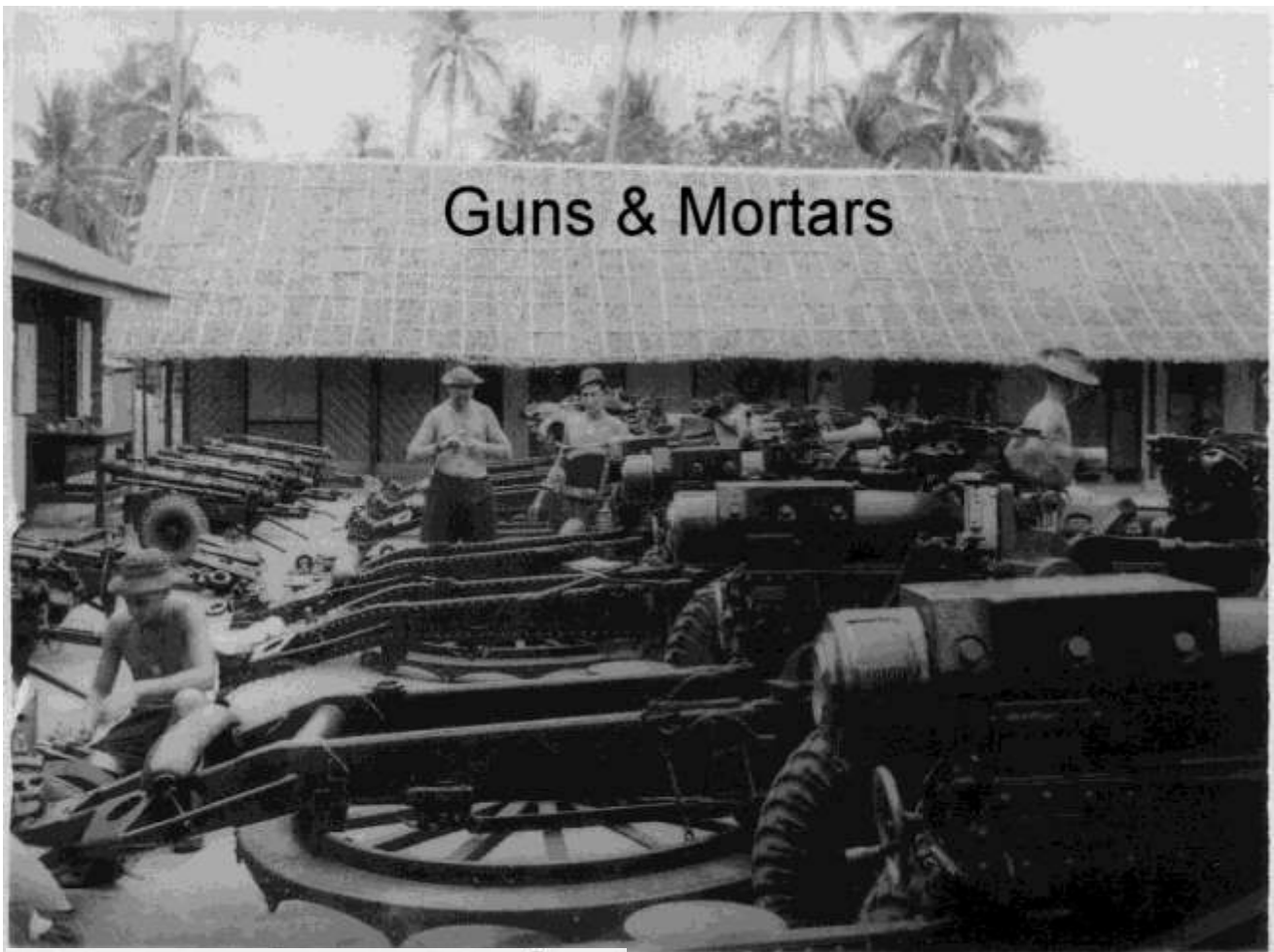
Set beside a couple of churches and with long frontage to Chapel Street, the St Kilda Artillery Orderly Room and Drill Hall is a beige and brown-trimmed collation of wooden buildings with some interest added by the "massing of the structures"

and the arrangements of fancy casement windows.

The facility represents a time when an amateur army was being reinstated as a paid, permanent, professional force. St Kilda's drill hall was built in 1889 to house the big guns of the horse-drawn artillery and alongside the commanding officer's house, the gabled buildings were used as gun sheds, officers' messes and storehouses. The biggest structure was the stable, tack and harness room for the horses. St Kilda is one of the largest remaining of the 439 drill halls erected across Australia in an era when a citizen gun culture was being officially encouraged.

The brief history of a Royal Australian Artillery Gun Battery called 101.

Written by Kevin Salter, November 2004 and submitted by WO2 David Troedel.



The Bty and members of 1st Tp Royal Australian Engineers (RAE) left Sydney on 18 September 1959 on the m.v. Flaminia, stopping at Brisbane to embark the 1st Bn RAR.

In Brisbane, Capt D.K. (Don) Baker, who was OC 101 Bty on the Flaminia, received by officer courier a TOP SECRET communication from the Director Military Operation and Plans. The envelope was to be opened 30 mins after sailing. At sea, Capt Baker opened the envelope. The signal contained inside warned that because of the communist threat in neighbouring Laos, the Bty could be deployed there shortly after the ship arrived in Singapore. As history has shown, this deployment to Laos did not eventuate.

The Flaminia arrived in Singapore 2 October 1959 where the Bn disembarked, then continued on to Georgetown, Penang Island, arriving 4 October 1959 where the Bty and 1 Tp personnel were greeted by their respective advance parties

and trucked from the Flaminia via the Penang-Butterworth ferry to the Bty and 1 Tp camps on the mainland (called Quebec Lines) some 2-3 miles south of the Butterworth RAAF Base and just to the north of the Malayan town of Butterworth.

After a short period of intensive training/acclimatisation the Bty commenced anti-terrorist operations as part of 28th Commonwealth Infantry Bde. Some four weeks after landing at Georgetown, D Tp deployed with **25 pounders on 'OPERATION JAYA' (Op JAYA)** in early November. With D Tp deployed on Op Jaya, C Tp carried out conversion training on their 4.2 inch mortars. From mid November to **end December, C & D Tp's rotated as fire supporting artillery. After D Tp's first operation** (3-10 November 1959) it carried out conversion training on their 4.2 inch mortars.

With the political situation in neighbouring Laos **still deteriorating, the Bty's ability to use 4.2 inch mortars** became very important. Besides carrying out anti-terrorist operations, as part of **28th Commonwealth Bde, the Bde's units had a** role as part of the South East-Asia Treaty Organisation (SEATO). The Bty was designated as the close support Bty for the 1st Battalion, 3rd East Anglian Regiment (1/3 East Angicans), a British Infantry Battalion and as such would be amongst the first units to serve outside Malaya if **a SEATO country (or 'protocol' state) required** military help.



The difference between COMPLETE and FINISHED

No dictionary has been able to adequately explain the difference between COMPLETE and FINISHED.

However, in a recent linguistic conference held in London, England, and attended by some of the best linguists in the world: Samsundar Balgobin, a Guyanese, was the clear winner.

His final challenge was this: Some say there is no difference between COMPLETE and FINISHED. Please explain the difference between COMPLETE and FINISHED in a way that is easy to understand.

Here is his astute answer:

"When you marry the right woman, you are COMPLETE. But, when you marry the wrong woman, you are FINISHED. And when the right one catches you with the wrong one, you are COMPLETELY FINISHED!"

His answer was received with a standing ovation lasting over 5 minutes and it entitled him to receive an invitation to dine with the Queen, who decided to call him after the contest. He won a trip to travel around the world in style and a case of 25 year old Eldorado rum for his answer.

Courtesy SSgt Don Roderick

The second stage of the Seymour Memorial Walk is now open. Especially relevant to Vietnam Veterans.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZgAC7xsOdfc&feature=youtu.be>





Alfred, Lord
Tennyson
1809-1892

This poem was written to memorialize a suicidal charge by light cavalry over open terrain by British forces in the Battle of Balaclava (Ukraine) in the Crimean War (1854-56). 247 men of the 637 in the charge were killed or wounded. Britain entered the war, which was fought by Russia against Turkey, Britain and France, because Russia sought to control the Dardanelles. Russian control of the Dardanelles threatened British sea routes.

Many in the west best know of this war today because of Florence Nightingale, who trained and led nurses aiding the wounded during the war in a manner innovative for those times. The War was also noteworthy as an early example of the work of modern war correspondents.

The Charge Of The Light Brigade

by Alfred, Lord Tennyson

Memorializing Events in the Battle of Balaclava, October 25, 1854

Written 1854

Half a league half a league,
Half a league onward. All in the valley of Death
Rode the six hundred:
'Forward, the Light Brigade!
Charge for the guns' he said:
Into the valley of Death
Rode the six hundred.

'Forward, the Light Brigade!
Was there a man dismay'd ?
Not tho' the soldier knew
Some one had blunder'd:
Theirs not to make reply,
Theirs not to reason why,
Theirs but to do & die.
Into the valley of Death
Rode the six hundred.

Cannon to right of them, Cannon to left of them.
Cannon in front of them
Volley'd & thunder'd;
Storm'd at with shot and shell,
Boldly they rode and well.
Into the jaws of Death,
Into the mouth of Hell
Rode the six hundred.

Flash'd all their sabres bare,
Flash'd as they turn'd in air
Sabring the gunners there,
Charging an army while
All the world wonder'd:

Plunged in the battery-smoke
Right thro' the line they broke;
Cossack & Russian Reel'd from the sabre-stroke,
Shatter'd & sunder'd.
Then they rode back, but not
Not the six hundred.

Cannon to right of them,
Cannon to left of them,
Cannon behind them
Volley'd and thunder'd;
Storm'd at with shot and shell,
While horse & hero fell,
They that had fought so well
Came thro' the jaws of Death,
Back from the mouth of Hell,
All that was left of them,
Left of six hundred.

When can their glory fade?
O the wild charge they made!
All the world wonder'd.
Honour the charge they made!
Honour the Light Brigade,
Noble six hundred!

Note:

This poem, including punctuation, is reproduced from a scan of the poem written out by Tennyson in his own hand in 1864. The scan was made available online by the University of Virginia.

Courtesy WO2 David Troedel

Further to the article on the Hines twins in journal 115, p37, I'm very pleased to announce that the authorities are finally taking some positive action.

Meddling impostors

Crackdown on Anzac Day wannabes wearing fake medals

ANZAC Day "wannabes" who wear commemorative badges on their left breast that could be mistaken for genuine medals face punishment under laws to weed out fake heroes.

The Federal Government has confirmed planned amendments to the Defence Act will make it punishable to wear commemorative medals on the left breast.

It is already a federal offence to claim to be a returned soldier, sailor or airman, and an offence to wear a service decoration to which the wearer is not entitled. Family members of deceased service people can wear their medals on the right breast.

Medal "masquerades" is of growing concern as the nation prepares to commemorate World War I anniversaries.

"Uncharitably referred to as 'wannabes' by the ex-service community, these men and women choose to wear commemorative medals awarded by their own organisation, or purchased privately, on their left breast where they are easily mistaken for medals awarded by their nation," Veterans Affairs' Minister Jack Snelling told the South Australian Parliament yesterday.

"Such conduct has been referred to as 'stolen valour', and indeed it is, it is shameful

conduct."

Mr Snelling said the Veterans Advisory Council discussed the issue, which led to a successful representation to the Federal Government seeking support to ban the practice. "We are approaching one of the most important periods of our nation's military history," he said.

"Next year will herald a period during which we will commemorate our nation's century of service, and a concerted effort will be made to acknowledge the hundreds of thousands of Australian men and women who have served our nation."

SA RSL chief executive Sam Jackman welcomed the move saying such action dishonours people who served their nation and earned their medals.

"We are overjoyed the State Government has achieved action on this issue," Mrs Jackman said. "It is unfathomable some people feel the need to wear medals as though they have earned them serving the nation. In the majority of cases it is a mistake and people stop doing it, but there are a few people out there deliberately pretending they have won an official award."

Punishment is expected to be a fine up to \$5100.



War-fighting skills

Soldiers deployed to Solomon Islands are training in challenging terrain

Cpl Nick Wiseman

AS the security situation in Solomon Islands continues to improve, maximising the value of each rotation's deployment is important.

Ten years of operations supporting the Royal Solomon Islands Police Force (RSIPF) and the Participating Police Force (PPF) have helped normality return to the islands.

CO CTF 635 Lt-Col Brenton Gasteen said the task force still provided a tier-four response force to support the RSIPF and PPF if the need arose, but such a situation hadn't occurred for almost two years.

"Instead of being contained behind the wire, what we have now is the opportunity to do some pretty good foundation war-fighting training in challenging terrain," he said.

That terrain is on Guadalcanal, which was the site of brutal fighting between US and Japanese forces in World War II.

With a humid tropical climate, plenty of rain and elevations of more than 2000m, it is an environment unlike most of the traditional training areas back in Australia.

Soldiers from Papua New Guinea are also attached to the task force and have been invaluable in teaching Australian soldiers how to live in the jungle with little more than a machete and the skills to source their own food and water.

Lt-Col Gasteen said strong bonds had been forged between the two cultures.

"The Australian soldiers were ecstatic in what they have learnt," he said.

"Simple things like how to survive without the constant resupply we have come to expect and how to create effective bush shelters."



Jungle warfare: A soldier deployed to the Solomon Islands practises his camouflage skills in challenging terrain.

The soldiers handed over to the latest rotation, drawn mostly from 4 Bde, after spending the last weeks of their tour exercising in specialist skills at all levels.

"We have a sizable support element, which allows them to be exercised supporting a company-sized activity in the field," Lt-Col Gasteen said.

He also said the most recent rotation had conducted courses throughout the duration of the deployment, qualifying soldiers in much-needed skills.

"We have the opportunity to get a large number of soldiers qualified at the one time and not having to worry about civilian commitments," he said.

"Previous rotations have run promotion courses and this time we got a number of soldiers qualified as instructors and assessors."

Lt-Col Gasteen said he had noticed a greater vibrancy on the streets in the six months he had been deployed to the Solomon Islands.

"They recently had the festival of Pacific arts and a royal visit," he said.

"The Solomon Islands has taken the lead in planning and conducting these events, and I can see a greater sense of pride and confidence in their ability to do these things without having to rely on external agencies."

Courtesy Army News 11 April, 2013

Soldier On launches VC medallion set

AUSTRALIA'S four living Victoria Cross (VC) recipients and sole living George Cross (GC) recipient banded together in support of the nation's wounded servicemen and women to launch a limited-edition series of medallions for charity Soldier On at the Australian War Memorial on August 17.

Joined by CA Lt-Gen David Morrison, the group officially launched the set, which features the images of WO2 Keith Payne (ret'd), Cpl's Mark

Donaldson, Ben Roberts-Smith and Dan Keighran and Const Michael Pratt.

The series, "In the Service of Others: For Valour and Gallantry", recognises those who have performed extraordinary acts of valour and gallantry through their duties for the nation and community.



Embossed: VC recipients Cpls Dan Keighran and Mark Donaldson tour the War Memorial after launching their special edition medallions (pictured inset). Photos by Lauren Black

Soldier On patron-in-chief Cpl Donaldson said he hoped the medallions would inspire others to acknowledge the sacrifices of those wounded in the service of the nation.

"Australians are becoming increasingly aware of the impact and sacrifices of our military personnel," he said.

"It is clear the public wants to help and these medallions are a way for them to support our wounded."

All profits generated by the limited edition sets will go to Soldier On to support Australian servicemen and women who have been physically and mentally wounded on operations. Each medallion is minted from brass and finished in highly polished nickel.

The medallions are available as a complete set and individually with only 1000 of each available to purchase.

For more information on the medallions go to the Soldier On website at www.soldieron.org.au or call (02) 6123 2950.

Celebration of ward's success

THE successful medical treatment and care for 5500 ADF personnel at the ADF Ward at St Vincent's Hospital was celebrated by senior ranking officers and staff a closing down ceremony on March 20.

The ward provided advanced treatment and care for personnel, including soldiers wounded in Afghanistan and sailors injured in serious accident or with life-threatening illnesses.

One of the ward's most seriously injured patients was ABCD Paul de Gelder, who lost his right hand and left leg when he was attacked by a bull shark in Sydney Harbour in February 2011.

The ward closed after providing Sydney-based personnel with recovery care, treatment and rehabilitation for the past five years.

Commander Joint Health RADM Robyn Walker said the 24-bed ward was leased to Defence in 2008 to accommodate patients while Balmoral Naval Hospital was under-going extensive renovations.

"The partnership with the hospital brought numerous benefits including a high level of treatment with the bonus of simultaneously avoiding duplicating costs, public money and resources," she said.

"Access to digital radiology, online pathology,

bedside specialist consults, emergency and surgical services in a modern hospital such as St Vincent's has changed the way Defence delivers healthcare to its members "

The lease enabled medics to expand their knowledge by engaging with civilian specialists and staff participating in case reviews and from watching various procedures.



MEMORIES: Staff from the ADF Ward at ST Vincent's Hospital at the ward's closing ceremony in Sydney. *Photo: ABIS Cassie McBride*

"ADF medics and nurses gained important on-the-job training where they were exposed to greater learning opportunities including information sessions with highly qualified civilian specialists." RADM Walker said.

The lease for the ward expired on March 31 and will not be renewed by St Vincent's Hospital.

RADM Walker said alternative locations for a new ADF ward in the Sydney region were being investigated, but this would not reduce health care entitlements for ADF personnel.

Editor's Indulgence *continued*

I must admit that I got carried away with the content in this edition. As it is an anniversary journal, I set out to make it a bumper edition.

Information and articles kept on coming in and I kept using them. I suppose that as long as the **content isn't boring, the length doesn't matter.**

However, this is a one off and future journals will be much shorter—but still interesting to read!!

Return to [page 19](#)

92WG's homecoming

THE city of Adelaide was brought to a standstill on March 23 as more than 700 Air Force Personnel marched through the streets to commemorate the end of AP-3C Orion operations in the Middle East.

Locals lined the streets to recognise the efforts of 92WG personnel and support staff who were a part of the almost decade long deployment on Operations Slipper, Catalyst and Falconer.

CAF AIRMSHL Geoff Brown said the entire nation was proud of what they had achieved.

"You all have my sincere thanks and I hope your lives are starting to feel a sense of normality again."

In January 2003, the first detachment of 170 people from 11SQN, supported by other units across Air Force, deployed with two AP-3C's to conduct their first military operations in the Middle East.

"At the time of deployment, no one had any idea that this would be one of the longest operational commitments in the history of the Air Force," AIRMSHL Brown said.



WELCOME BACK:
Members of the 92WG Colour Party stand to attention during the homecoming parade held at Torrens Parade Ground in Adelaide.
Photo: LACW Nico Freeman

Since 2003, 92WG had rotated about 1600 personnel on three to eight month tours of duty through the MEAO. The Orion crews conducted over-land intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance tasks in Afghanistan and Iraq, maritime patrols of the Arabian Gulf and North Arabian Sea and more recently, counter-piracy missions in the vicinity of Somalia, working closely with the US-led Combined Maritime Force and other international task forces.

During the homecoming parade, marked by a perfectly timed AP-3C Orion flypast, 92WG was also awarded a Meritorious Unit Citation for sustained outstanding service in warlike operations. The award was announced by the Governor of South Australia, RADM Kevin Scarce.

Commander Surveillance and Response Group AIRCDRE Stephen Osborne said it was an amazing achievement.

"Number 92 Wing personnel have made an important contribution to coalition operations in the Middle East that is not widely known among the general public and so this event was an important way of recognizing them, he said.

Following a march from Hindmarsh Square, the members joined their families for a barbecue lunch at the Torrens Parade Ground, supported by local and Rotary.

Courtesy Air Force News, Apr '13

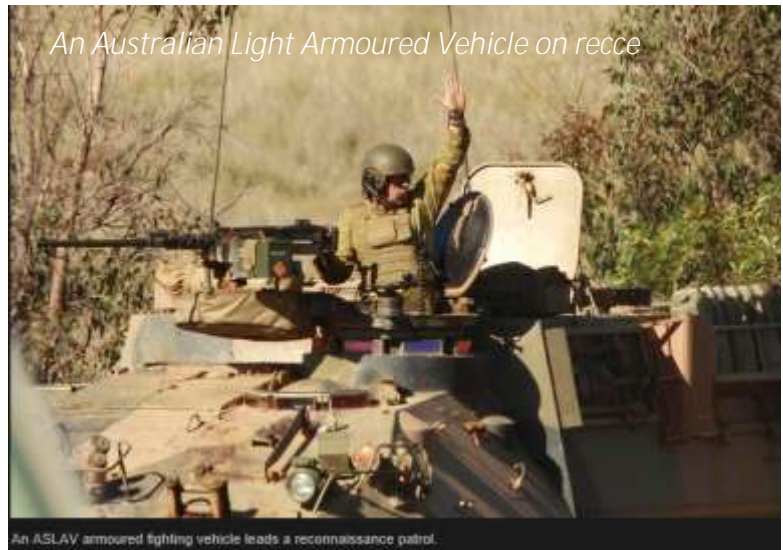
(Leo Nette says) **Hi from Beechworth**

Compliments to our local RSL and their connections to "Armour" I had the privilege to visit Puckapunyal yesterday to view a rehearsal of exercise Chong Ju. It was a great day for an old gunner. I did not get to walk the gun line (they were too far away) but I saw the rounds impact almost spot on ranging and then right on the money for 2 missions. I believe 4 guns M777 x 155mm were firing. Also directly in front of the viewing stand were situated 3 x 81mm mortar. They fired about 8 rounds each at a range of about 1000 plus yards and the fall of shot was great to see. Armour followed , with I think 5 Abrams tanks followed by various APC's their firepower apart from music to the ears was startling and very accurate. An Apache helicopter then showed what it could do... equally startling and accurate with devastating fire-power. A missile launch culminated the exercise then it was time to wander around the exhibited M777 Howitzer, and other exhibits including missiles, more target locating and registering equipment than I have ever seen before. A far cry from the old Arty board. Lunch was provided at Armours Officers Mess and drinks afterwards in the Sergeants Mess. The only thing that was a small disappointment was no 25 pounder on display outside the School of Artillery. A real highlight of the day was the management of the exercise , both Officers and Ranks treated their visitors with great respect and showed a very professional approach to their tasks. Hopefully, I might one day, revisit Pucka again and soak up more of the same nostalgia. Which included something we all experienced during exercises "Hurry up and wait"

Regards, Sgt Leo Nette (Thanks Leo. ed)

The ASLAV has an eight wheeled configuration (capable of either four or eight wheel drive), is amphibious and has a range of 600km with a top road speed of 120km/h. The vehicle has excellent battlefield mobility, as all wheels are equipped with a solid-core secondary run-flat tyre next to the hub, allowing the vehicle to function even with eight flat tyres.

Phase 3 improvements include a laser range finder, the latest generation thermal imager, 24 V DC electric drive for the turret and improved suspension for the hull.



The heat of northern Australia poses special problems for armoured vehicle crews with interior temperatures reaching 55 °C (131 °F). The ASLAV is fitted with air-conditioning that reduces temperatures at the crew positions to outside levels. Increasing the versatility of the ASLAV even more is the use of non-permanent Mission Role Installation Kits (MRIKs) to generate several variants from a single hull design. This is a unique Australian modification and much of the design and development work was done in Australia.

More exercise images at:

<http://www.theage.com.au/photogallery/national/puckapunyal-military-exercise-chong-ju-20120510-1yfe1.html?selectedImage=1>

Answers to the Gunner Luncheon Quiz held on 6 March. You can also view Col Graham Farley presenting these answers on our web site YouTube Luncheon link No 2.

GUNNER LUNCHEON QUIZ 2013—ANSWERS

1. What sized formation, unit or sub-unit would fire a "UNIFORM TARGET"? **Division**
2. In Vietnam, the term "DUST OFF" was associated with what activity? **Casualty evacuation**
3. Brigadier rank is a crown and three stars. What did a Brigadier-General have in WW1?
Crossed swords
4. The Yeramba was a 25-pr SP gun on which tank chassis? **General Grant**
5. Give the rate intense for a 25-pr. For those who fired the 5.5", you may answer for that equipment. **5 for 25-pr; 2 for 5.5"**
6. What was the name of Hitler's dog in WW2? **Blondie or Blonda**
7. On Queen Elizabeth's accession the shape of the "crown" was altered. Its name? **Edwardian**
8. When lines of fire are parallel what is the area covered by concentrations for a battery?
150 x 150m
9. Can you give a plausible origin for the "red tabs" on the collars of Colonels and above?
The gorget patch was the piece of armour that protected the throat and the tabs reflect the means by which this important piece of defence was held in place. The real presence of red tabs is for the person observing them to prepare to kneel and genuflect.
10. The BP card AF B 250 was two sided. What was on the back?
A diagram showing the BP's location in relation to local topographical detail.
11. What are the director skirt colours for P Bty Q Bty & R Bty? **White, Orange & Green**
12. A minefield must always be covered by both observation and? **Fire**
13. 2nd/12th Fd Regt served at the Siege of Tobruk, how many guns did they take in and how many did they bring out. **Nil & Nil**
14. What was the nickname of the volunteer battery at Hastings in 1890 and with what were they equipped. **Ham & Beef Bty with Armstrong 40 Pr RBL.**
15. What was the rating of the generator for the 3 MK 7 Mor Loc Rdr ? **17KVA**
16. When 10 Fd converted to Mdm, who was the CO. **Black Sam Stuart**
17. What is the bore diameter of the 25 Pdr? What is the diameter of the clearance gauge and what was the calibre in metric measurement? **3.45", 3.440" & 88mm**
18. There are 4 axes and lines from which all ballistic angles are measured. What are they:
Line of departure, axis of bore, line of sight and horizontal
19. The angle of projection is measured between; **The Line of departure and the line of sight**
20. How many mils in a "four knuckle" hand subtension? **150 Mils (8 Degrees)**

Parade Card
as at 2 June 2013
July 2013 to June 2014

| | | |
|---|---|------------------------------|
| January 2014 | May 2014 | September 2013 |
| 22. Cascabel Issue 118 posted | 20. Committee Meeting | 17. Committee Meeting |
| 26. Australia day Salute | | 20. Gunner Symposium |
| | June 2014 | October 2013 |
| February 2014 | 4. Reservist Luncheon | 4. Gunner Dinner |
| 18. Committee Meeting | 17. Committee Meeting | 9. Cascabel Issue 117 Posted |
| | | 15. Committee Meeting |
| March 2014 | July 2013 | |
| 5. RAA Luncheon | 7. Reserve Forces Day March | November 2013 |
| 18. Committee Meeting | 9. Cascabel Issue 116 posted | 7. Annual General Meeting |
| | 16. Committee Meeting | 8. Golf Day |
| April 2014 | 19. Gunner Symposium | 15. Gunner Symposium |
| 7. Cascabel Issue 115 posted | | 19. Committee Meeting |
| 16. Committee Meeting | August 2013 | December 2013 |
| 25. Anzac day | 18. Church Parade. Healing The Wounds of War. | 4. St Barbara's Day |
| ? Visit to South Channel Fort | 20. Committee Meeting | 8. Annual Church Parade |
| | | ? 2/10 Bty Family Day |
| | | 11. 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 | | |

ROYAL AUSTRALIAN ARTILLERY ASSOCIATION
(VIC) INC

12 Marida Court BERWICK VIC 3806

Reg No A13889Z

Print Post Approved

PP 320418/00029

**PRINT
POST**

PP 320418/00029

**POSTAGE
PAID
AUSTRALIA**

