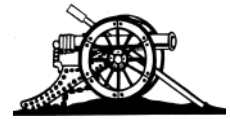
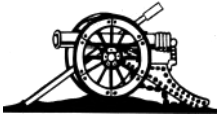


CASCABEL

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To all our Defence Force Personnel serving in Australia and Overseas, our Association wishes you all a very Merry Christmas and a Safe and Secure New Year.



Recording a message home.



*This beautiful little girl was about to receive her greatest Xmas Gift.
Her Daddy was coming home for Xmas*

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CASCABEL



FORMER PATRONS, PRESIDENTS & HISTORY



FOUNDED:

First AGM April 1978

First Cascabel July 1983

COL COMMANDANT: BRIG N Graham AM

PATRONS and VICE PATRONS:

1978

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

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

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Patron: BRIG Sir William Hall KBE, DSO, ED

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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

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Honorary Auditor:	Maj David J Osborne

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CONTENTS AND SUBMISSIONS

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

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

Submissions for the **January 2014** issue are required no later than **1 December 2014** unless otherwise arranged with the Editor.

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The President Writes

We have once again reached our final copy of Cascabel for the year.

It always seem as I am wishing my life away to be talking about Christmas when it is only September (August actually). Never the less I wish you all the Compliments of the Season and may you have a happy and healthy New Year.

One of the reasons for the early delivery of Cascabel is so that we can give the required notice for the Annual General Meeting.

A good turn up at the AGM is required as we have to decide upon changes which the Justice Department has made to Incorporated Associations.

A number of activities occur towards the end of the year. Please read the Parade Card at the end of the magazine, and the items regarding each activity in the body of the magazine.

Neil Hamer

MAJ (Retd)

Letter to the Editor

I am pleased to see this section of our magazine introduced.

It is a great opportunity for readers to air their views on any relevant topic, ask questions and generally keep in touch.

You have really brought our magazine into the electronic age and broadened our information on things artillery as well as the wider picture.

Thanks Alan

Neil Hamer

Membership Report

Current Membership as at	31 Aug 13	2 June 13
Life Members	196	196
Annual Members	44	45
Senior Annual Members	15	13
Affiliates	27	29
Others (CO/CI, Messes, etc.)	9	9
Libraries	4	4
RSL's	4	4
Total	<u>299</u>	<u>300</u>

New Members

We welcome Capt Craig Batten and Mr Arthur Leigh Tuckerman to the Association as Annual Members.

Vale

It is with regret that we note the passing of WO2 Bruce Bernard Green.

Bruce joined the Association on 17 Oct 1986 as a Life Member.



Resignations

The 2 Aust Fd Regt Association has been taken off the membership list at the request of Mr Connor Knaggs.

The 77 Mobile AASL Bty Association has been taken off the membership list due to the passing of Mr C Knight.

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

Brig Peter Alkemade RFD



I'm pleased to be able to report that 2/10 Light Battery is making a strong contribution to both 4 Brigade and to the broader Army mission. Our gunners have recently returned from their most recent deployment and were welcomed home at a parade at Watsonia where their service and the service of all Reserve soldiers who have deployed to the Solomon Islands was commended by the Commander 2nd Division.

Indeed the Battery has been very busy during what is officially their reset year in the three year training cycle. Later this month a troop will again support the School of Artillery firing in support of the RMC field exercise at Puckapunyal, the second time in six months that they have provided support.

During July I was a guest of the 10 Medium Regt association at their annual dinner in Geelong. A most enjoyable evening with some of those I served with as BC 38 Battery. The highlight of the evening was an address by CAPT Samarica Payne who recounted her experience as an interpreter in Iraq with 2nd Cavalry Regt in a most open and informative presentation.

I also encourage members to the RAA symposia

arranged by LTCOL Cooke which continue to provide informative presentations on RAA matters every few months.

I recently had the opportunity to meet with a number of fellow gunners at the DRA conference in Perth. Sadly the news from some of the other Light Batteries has not been as positive as our experience however all are working hard to maintain capability and seek to adapt their organisation to improve both career progression and to adapt to local requirements.

In addition we were treated to pre election statements from both the Government and Opposition spokesmen currently responsible for reserve policy. Although there was limited joy for the RAA both made a strong commitment to continue to support the reserve and to see more training time and equipment provided to further improve the reserves ability to generate capability especially under plan Beersheba. There was also a commitment to advance the delayed legislation on reserve protection and to progress conditions of service under plan Suakin.

Ubique

A message from the Battery Commander

2/10 Light Battery RAA

5th/6th Battalion

Royal Victoria Regiment

Major Garry Rolfe CSC

Welcome once again to all Gunners and members of the wider Gunner family.

Of recent the Lt Bty conducted a technical shoot to confirm Mortar Line and Command Post drills in order to train the Joint Fire Team (FO Party) by engaging targets during fire missions. The tech shoot was a terrific opportunity to confirm drills at all levels and enabled the JFT to conduct

patrolling and occupation drills into the OP. The JFT under command of Lt Jeff McFarlane received valuable mentoring by the IG, (Instructor of Gunnery)



Capt Erin Stewart during the conduct of the fire missions. Ammunition employed to train the JFT consisted of HE Prac and Smoke Red Phosphorous (white phosphorus).

The second activity of note is the Lt Bty Deployments Training EX in August. The activity was part of EX Amiens, the Bn training EX and purely focused on deployment drills on the

Mortar Line and JFT in a non-firing environment at the Puckapunyal Range.

The Lt Bty practiced daily routine, drills in the Hide, the Deliberate Occupation and Direct Occupation. A unique (been around for years) approach was the use of the 'walkthrough'. Instead of conducting the deployment then debriefing what went well and what we need to work on, under direction of the SMIG and BSM the detachments walked through the requirements of the successful occupation. This enabled knowledge to be confirmed and doubtful points addressed before conducting the occupation.

The BC party deployed a JFECC (Joint Fires and Effects coordination Centre) to provide command and control over the EX. Another unique approach was the use of the Observer Trainer debrief led by the BC, BSM and SMIG after conducting each deployment. The JFT OT debrief was conducted by the IG. All ranks were involved in the OT facilitated approach and every member provided input to what went well and specifically areas that the Lt Bty needs to address to turn into strength. The OT approach achieves ownership in training and continual improvement at the individual and collective level.

On the 04 Aug the Light Bty and all Companies of the Battalion concentrated at Simpson Barracks to welcome home our members concluding the successful Rotation 30 deployment to the Solomon Islands. A fine display of drill on the parade ground supported by the Combined 4th Brigade Band was witnessed by all including family and friends.

The Lt Bty members are currently on post deployment leave and will return for a welcome brief at Sargood Barracks on the 3rd Sept. Members of ROT30 will not return to training until late Oct.

Capt Reed Powney (ROT30 CIMIC Team Leader) will provide a presentation on the deployment at the next RAA Mess Symposium on Friday 20th September at Sargood Barracks commencing 1900hrs. I will be unable to attend the presentation as I will be in Nepal trekking to the Mt Everest Base Camp, however I wish Capt Powney and members of the RAA Association best wishes and every success on the night. Capt Erin Stewart will be acting BC during my period of leave.

The Lt Bty is busy currently preparing for a live firing support task to RMC at the Puckapunyal Range in Sep and in the lead up to EX Pozieres to be conducted over nine days as the Battalion deploys to the field. A detailed report is to be provided on both activities in the next edition of Cascabel.

In the next edition I would also like to share with our members information on the role of the JFECC and the Trade and all Corps Course requirements for both Officer and Soldiers to progress through the ranks. I am sure you will find it an interesting and enjoyable read.

Ubique

Garry Rolfe

BC

2/10 Lt Bty

RELOCATION

Due to the creation of an all ranks mess at Sargood Barracks, it has been necessary for the Royal Australian Artillery Association to relocate their administrative and memorabilia collection to the area formally occupied by the Jarks club.

This new location will allow the association to be separate from the drill hall and can be found at the rear of the main building.

Maj Neil Hamer, Ssgt Reg Morrell, Ssgt Ernie Paddon and myself were ably assisted by the depot commander, Maj G, Rolfe allowing members of 2nd/10th light battery to give much needed assistance with our relocation.

Ssgt Brian Cleeman

A NEW CHAPTER BEGINS FOR RESERVE GUNNERS

Lieutenant Colonel Jason Cooke
Former Commanding Officer 2nd/10th Field Regiment (Army Reserve)



Introduction

Picture the scene. Thirty mortar teams descending upon the Concourse at the School of Artillery. They were at the end of their 5km route march, showing signs of physical stress as they deployed their mortars while the Instructional Staff watched carefully, correcting faults and shouting words of encouragement. What was so special about this scene? These were members of the 2nd Division Artillery units during their conversion course to mortars; the beginning of a new chapter in the history of Reserve Artillery.



It was November 2009 and I had just taken over as the Commanding Officer of 2nd/10th Field Regiment, Royal Australian Artillery. It was my second month in the job and it was the moment for me when the full reality of my new posting really hit home. As well as being CO, I was now responsible for the 2nd Division Artillery conversion to mortar in accordance with Land Command Directive 19/09. That scene really helped me focus my attention for the next three years as the 2nd Division delivered a new capability. On reflection, it was an honour and privilege to be involved in such a significant change occurring to the Regiment of Artillery the like I have not witnessed in my 30 years service.

I was surrounded by excellent staff, received superb support from the School of Artillery and the Combined Arms Training Centre staff plus inher-

ited a well constructed and thought out change management plan designed by two former CO's of 2/10: Dean Ashton and Rob Crawford, who likewise had great staff to help them. Let us also not forget the Gunners themselves as without their enthusiasm, dedication and commitment to the conversion program, none of the achievements and successes would have occurred.

Change is Ongoing

Over the past three years, I became acutely aware of Regimental and Unit histories, and started asking questions about Association's Banners and the origins of Units. I quickly discovered that change and constant evolution is deeply embedded within our Gunner history. In fact, there were Gunners trained on 3 inch mortars prior to being deployed to Vietnam due to equipment shortages. The constant in all of this was our language of indirect fire and our prowess in communications, liaison and control. In this article I wish to document the events over time that have taken us to the place where we are today.

Background

Over the past decade the Australian Defence Force (ADF) has experienced a golden period of growth and involvement as we supported the political aspirations of our Government. The ADF has performed exceptionally well. For the Army, this period has been one of unprecedented "churn" with a multitude of conflicting priorities and enforced requirements ranging from: constant financial constraints; the desire to incorporate new technology; prolonged overseas engagement of troops and the subsequent impact upon our raise, train and sustain cycle; internal structural changes; our commitment to deliver savings under the Strategic Reform Program; and the need to upgrade and replace equipment due to 11 years of conflict.

The 2nd Division has not been immune to this and have professionally gone about complying with the necessary evolution of the Army. Converting the artillery units to mortars is but one element of this change. This evolution began about 2003-5, as Army commenced a journey of discovery in order

to combat the turmoil created by constant deployment. Over the next couple of years, Army set up a variety of focus workshops, think tanks and other high level exercises or activities searching for answers regarding our future force. What does it need to look like, how should it be structured, what equipment do we need etc? Catch phrases began to creep into Army's lexicons; Hardening the Networked Army (HNA) and then in Aug 2008 the Adaptive Army Campaign. These headline campaign names were designed to force deep reform across the ADF and in particular Army.

One element of the Adaptive Army Campaign was to rationalise Army's command and control, and structures in order to ensure force generation, preparation and certification were efficient and highly adaptive. Government was also seeking reassurance from Army that deployed forces were certified prior to deployment. Army's structure did not allow for this singular focus to occur and deep reform was required to re-align Army's output. This ultimately resulted in the creation of Forces Command (FORCOMD) in July 2009. The role of FORCOMD is to raise, train and sustain a force suitable for operational deployments.

Another element undergoing deep reform was on the logistic side of the ADF. Defence logistics is a complex function which can only be enabled, planned and executed at the Joint level due to multiple agencies providing the overall effect for the ADF. In this aspect, Army is at the end of a long logistic supply chain but has obvious functions that are required to be performed within Army formations as they undergo their raise, train and sustain cycles.

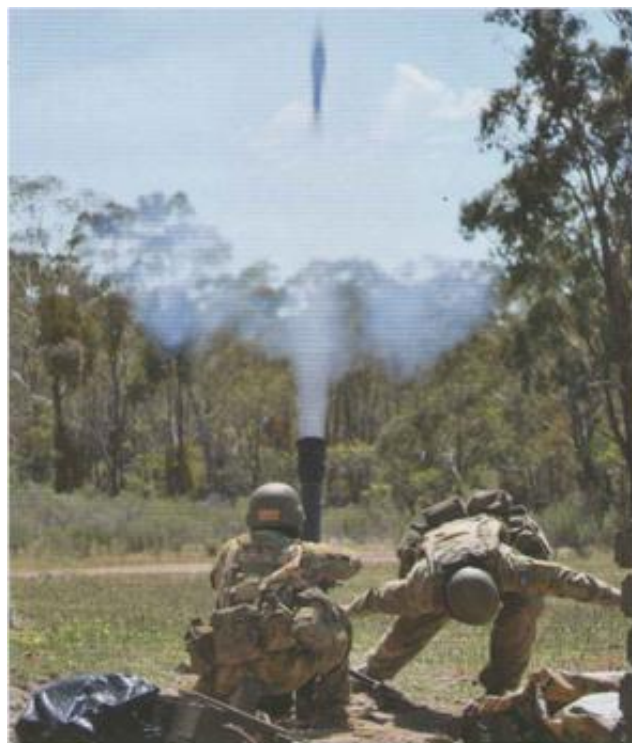
Deep Reform within the 2nd Division

So what has deep reform got to do with the conversion of Reserve Artillery units to mortars? These deep reform programs are significant in answering that question and are often misunderstood or forgotten even amongst soldiers within the 2nd Division today. The 2nd Division's deep reform initiatives were Project FOCUS and Project PO[^]IERES, which have delivered enduring and significant change across the formation in regard to logistics and training.

With the creation of FORCOMD began the concept of measuring capability and the cost of producing this capability. All units and formations were now being scrutinised on their cost drivers including

equipment holdings, maintenance regimes and workforce. The 2nd Division was given specific force elements to raise, train and sustain against specified mission profiles and areas of operations. These force elements meet specified capability gaps and or inputs into the ADF's requirements for deployments overseas. For Artillery units, the capability outputs were High Readiness Reserve Joint Offensive Support Teams or HRR JOSTs.

Project FOCUS was a 2nd Division initiative which centralised the provision of unit and workshop Combat Support Services at a formation level in order to reduce their dependence on critical regular Army logistical trades. This resulted in the disbanding of supply, admin (orderly room and pay), as well as transport and workshop positions traditional within the unit's structures of Combat and Combat Support units. These positions were off set against the creation of the Brigade Operations Support Companies (BOSC) under command of the



Combat Support Service Battalion (CSSB).

The intent was to gain functional efficiencies within Brigades, through a centralised one stop shop which could provide several units with common functions. The second order effects were to: reduce the strain on the Regular Army filling positions within the 2nd Division against these critical skills; reduce the hollowness within Reserve positions against these skills; and reduce the associated training liability. Simply put, there were not

enough trained and, skilled personnel to fill all positions across formations.

Project POZIERES was an Army initiative that tasked the 2nd Division with the capability to deliver individual all corps and specified corps trade training within the formation. This resulted in the grouping of University Regiments under command of 2nd Division formations with increased regular Army staffing levels drawn from savings delivered under Project FOCUS. This Plan tasked 2nd Division to establish a nationally co-ordinated and regionally delivered individual training capability, in order to expand Army's capability to deliver individual training to Reserve personnel and enhance the ability of the Reserve to generate individual and collect capabilities that support, sustain and reinforce Army's Operational Force. By 1 Jan 2009, the 2nd Division was shaped accordingly, FORCOMD had re-aligned the responsibility of the Army Reserve raise, train and sustain function within the 2nd Division.

It is important to understand what was occurring in the broader Army, especially within the Royal Regiment of Australian Artillery. Artillery was entering a period of significant change with the proposed introduction of new equipment under a variety of projects, plus the injection of a vast amount of experience from exposure to allied Offensive Support platforms and systems. Fundamentally, our Allies operate in a truly joint environment compared to the Australian Army. Over the next 24 months the RAA will witness the introduction of several new capabilities and the phasing out of more traditional ones: a new indirect 155mm weapon platform - M777, Advanced Field Artillery Tactical Data System (AFATDS), new Counter Rockets, Artillery and Mortar (CRAM) platforms, Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAV), reshaping of traditional structures to Regiments, advancements in surveillance, acquisition, and targeting techniques and the reliance upon communications and computers to co-ordinate all of these functions.

From a Reserve Force point of view, we knew that our current equipment was nearing "end of life" and that the purpose of LAND 17 was to deliver common calibre platforms with AFATDS as the central hub or brains providing the central coordination and control of all Offensive Support platforms. We were also aware of the new equipment and technology being rapidly introduced for the

observer teams on operations as part of the "sensor to shooter" suite utilising a digitally networked system.

Structurally the Reserve and Regular units were different even though all Artillery units and Regiments were based upon the traditional structure of RHQ, HQ Bty and 2 x Gun Btys. The Regular Regiments were already moving towards a US Army structure which consisted of Delivery Btys and Observer Btys taking full advantage of the new weapon platforms, digitised networked command and control systems including the observer equipment.

Reserve units on the other hand had HQ Batterys removed under Project FOCUS leaving them with an RHQ and 2 x Gun Batterys. At the time we were also aware of the mortar trials being conducted so it would be fair to say we were extremely nervous and anxious on what the future might hold.

Land Command Directive 19/09

The Directive was released in April 2009 giving 2nd Division Artillery units clear direction as to the role they were to perform under the Adaptive Army Campaign. We were to maintain our current role of providing Offensive Support coordination and indirect fire support to the manoeuvre units but now employing the 81mm mortar instead of the 105mm platform, thus ensuring an artillery unit can sustainably produce a live fire capability in order to train HRR JOST.

At the heart of the directive was the creation of a new trade now known as Operator Artillery - Light due to the platform change. The Mortar Trial conducted by 2/10 Field Regiment from 2007 through to 2008 convincingly proved that this new trade could sustain the training liability required by Gunners and Officers to continue delivering HRR JOSTs. It further proved that the 81mm mortar was a more efficient and effective indirect fire platform to operate in a Reserve setting. Other imperatives were to enable modular battery structures capable of operating within combined arms teams and the ongoing requirement for ceremonial capabilities to be maintained within the regions.

The employment categories within the Artillery Corps are designed to link all of our platforms, observation techniques, co-ordination and command systems, practices, and functions together in a common language which has served us well for a

very long time and previously contained 'mortarman' as a trade. So converting Gunners back to an old trade should not prove too difficult!

All Reserve Artillery units were to convert to mortars in a deliberate, controlled and phased approach. Steady state was to be achieved by the end of 2011 with the following measures of success:

the Defence Force Remuneration Tribunal approves the new Employment Category Number (ECN) 161 - Operator Artillery Light which by default must be included in the Graduated Other Ranks Pay Scale (GORPS) review; all units to be re-structured and re-equipped with mortars; current qualified personnel (ECN 162 and ECN 254) are to



convert to ECN 161; and all training packages are to be proven and stable.

The initial Mortar Conversion Course was conducted at Puckapunyal in November 2009 and was made up of Gunners from across the 2nd Division, including Regular and Reserve. It heralded the commencement of our journey and proved to be a huge success and was the result of thousands of hours which went into shaping, constructing and influencing the ability of the 2nd Division to conduct such a suite of courses.

The importance of establishing ECN 161 Operator Artillery Light must be emphasised and commented upon. There has been much discussion,

debate and passion between artillery and infantry on the most appropriate training required for 2nd Division Gunners on mortars. The creation of a new artillery trade was deliberate in order that for career progression, pay and remuneration purposes, 2nd Division Gunners remained within the RAA. As in accordance with LCOMD Directive 19/09, we were to maintain our current role providing Offensive Support coordination and indirect fire support to the manoeuvre units sustainably in order to deliver the capability of HRR JOSTs.

I am the first to acknowledge that there are proficiency differences between a Regular JOST and an HRR JOST based upon experience and skills gap. There are also many valid and logical reasons why this occurs however there was a clear direction given to create a trade enabling the Reserves to maintain the ability to provide a JOST capability. The mortar platform's sole purpose under directive 19/09 is to train HRR JOSTs whilst at the same time providing a means upon which to train Gunners in the language of indirect fire. Thus enabling Reserves to provide HRR JOST which by the very nature of their skills, includes command and control of indirect fire assets of all types, of which a mortar is but one platform.

The new trade structure was mapped out during the Mortar trials with the Training Management Packages (TMP) based upon Infantry training techniques and methods but modified to meet Artillery career and trade progression criteria. Nothing was deleted from the Infantry TMPs, we just adjusted the sequence of learning and added essential trade and career progression triggers that were missing.

All in all there were nine TMPs created as a result of the mortar trial ensuring soldiers and officers could operate, fire and command the 81mm mortar platform reliably and safely and remain aligned with the Artillery Employment Category criteria over their career. This includes the requirement for mortar line safety and Officer In Charge responsibilities not taught on the Combined Operations Advanced Course for Officers.

Many lessons were learnt on the aspect of creating and delivering TMPs over the three or so years since the inaugural combined course in Nov 2009 until the end of 2012. Not surprisingly, the key lessons concerned the lack of understanding and appreciation as to the enormous effort required to

manage the conversion on behalf of the 2nd Division and the constant manpower expenditure required to maintain, review, amend and deliver a series of conversion courses for multiple units across different states.

The solution lay in pooling the very finite qualified instructor base against the schedule of conversion. It had to be well co-ordinated with constant input from all Reserve artillery units which we achieved through monthly telephone conferences. This allowed appropriate sequencing of courses ensuring maximum attendance targeted in accordance with their individual training liabilities. This sequence and schedule of courses was then sensitised against our key resources i.e ammunition. It necessitated a creative solution resulting in courses being conducted simultaneously in order to maximise conversion rates against effective use of resources, time and effort. This resulted in a deliberate suite of mortar courses which were independently conducted but deliberately combined during their respective live fire modules which ensured maximum use of ammunition with a significantly reduced impact upon the key qualified range instructors as well as range templates and time on live firing ranges.

Key was to be cognisant that soldiers of Bombardier and above required a specific sequence in their conversion training to ensure they could perform their roles and responsibilities within the new Mortar Bty structure. Ultimately, their progression through rank and trade qualification must produce HRR JOST, a directed output.

Underpinning the Artillery rank and trade profession is a career path that forces qualifications across the different functions within an artillery unit. Therefore soldiers are required to gain qualifications: to operate and then control indirect fire platforms; perform duties within a command post; perform duties within a JOST; and then be responsible for the co-ordination of all these functions. Thus the suite of nine TMPs within ECN 161 was designed in accordance with this methodology. It took 2/10 Field Regiment two solid years conducting several suites of courses before I could consider the manning of the proposed Mortar Battery structure as acceptable or even stable. It wasn't until our annual exercise in November 2011, that we could fully staff the Battery with rank and trade qualified personnel which did not rely upon supplementing key positions with qualified Regular

Army Staff.

The lesson of what I call vertical understanding of the conversion liability versus a horizontal one became quite evident when the two independent Batterys within Queensland became part of the 2nd Division. In 2012, it was planned that the two NSW Regiments commence their conversion in accordance with Direction 19/09. However with the intent of Plan Beersheba to re-align parts of the Reserves we were required to absorb the two independent Btys into the overall conversion schedule. I became increasingly concerned at the expectation that "conversion" could be solved within a single suite of courses and or the very least within a single year. Thankfully, I was proved wrong and the conversion was an outstanding success; a testament to all those involved.

Reserve Mortar Battery Structure

Whether by design or simply overlooked, LCOMD Directive 19/09, did not adequately address the useful employment of the bi-product of developing HRR JOST; i.e. qualified mortar teams. It soon became abundantly clear that we were producing very capable mortar teams only to be used as training aids to produce HRR JOSTs. These teams lived only within the lecture rooms and controlled range practices for courses as there was no clear direction as to their employment within Directive 19/09.



I suppose the unrealised capability was one of those unrecognised second or third order effects when planning a complex change management program; however we were producing a real capability. Admittedly, it was not ready to be deployed as it wasn't associated with its manoeuvre unit but it could perform to a comparable standard with

their Infantry counter parts. I soon realised that there was no appetite for a quick solution and that this was a long term goal; to see a 2nd Division mortar team on operations albeit in a contrived environment providing indirect fire from a firm base never to go outside the defensive perimeter.

It wasn't until we underwent the Unit Establishment Review that we truly understood our future. It was the catalyst for success as we organised a series of working groups which galvanised our thoughts and ideas to create a very coherent, balanced and sustainable Mortar Bty Structure for use within the 2nd Division. The final structure is a blend of two worlds which under Plan BEERSHEBA will deliver any Reserve Battle Group not only an integral offensive support capability but the necessary observation, command and control cells for the co-ordination of any offensive fires. In simple terms take an infantry mortar line add an artillery command post, a joint offensive support cell (main and tactical) plus traditional HRR JOSTs. Hence the Reserve Battle Group comes complete with offensive fires assets which could be plugged into the assigned Brigade Headquarters. It should be noted that an Artillery Cell has also been added into the 2nd Divisional Headquarters in order to assist and ensure adequate training occurs enabling the effectiveness of the reserve Battle Group.

Plan BEERSHEBA

Plan BEERSHEBA is the next phase of Army's evolution under the "Adaptive Army Campaign" and will rebalance the mix of land force capabilities based upon Multi-role Manoeuvre Brigades (MMB) within the 1st, 3rd and 7th Brigades which will be fundamentally alike with no separation between Regulars and Reserves. Basically two Reserve Brigades will collectively develop the third Battle Group of their assigned Regular Brigade which will in turn train with that Brigade throughout the 36 month cycle. Again, this is another significant deep reform initiative occurring across the whole of Army, and one that appears to deliver greater integration of the Reserves across Regular formations.

Conclusion

Clearly for Gunners our evolution has just begun as we now take our new trade inside a Reserve Battle Group. I have no hesitation in my conviction that Reserve Mortar Teams can deliver indirect fire support to the manoeuvre units employing the 81mm mortar. Our real challenge lies in, and I

would argue has always been, to deliver Offensive Support coordination and integrating these command, co-ordination and control cells within a Reserve Battle Group.

Hopefully I have been able to walk you through the various initiatives, directions and circumstances that have lead Reserve Gunners to be where they find themselves right now. And more importantly highlight their role in the exciting future and opportunities that awaits Reserves under the next evolution of Army Adaptive Campaign - Plan BEER-SHERA.

To be involved in such a significant change occurring to the Regiment of Artillery has been the absolute highlight of my career to date. To witness all of the passion associated with change and then see the results and the enthusiasm Gunners have for their new trade is reassuring. I am very confident that they will continue the proud tradition of evolution as they boldly write a new chapter in the history of Artillery in the Reserves.

About the Author

Lieutenant Colonel Jason Cooke joined the Army Reserve as an infantryman at Monash University Regiment. He graduated Dux of his FAC course in 1987 and was commissioned into the Intelligence Corps but later corps transferred to Artillery. He completed his term as CO 2/10 Field Regiment in December 2012 and is currently posted to Army Headquarters.

This article first appeared in the April '13 edition of the Reservist Magazine. Ed

WOT! No laces.

"Over the next three years Army will replace the lace-up style patent leather boot with the new parade boot, which is a fully stitched, elastic-sided boot with a full grain leather design."

The boots, to be worn with general duty and ceremonial dress, went through a one-month trial with Australia's Federation Guard as part of DMO's selection process.

RSM-A WO David Ashley said "We are providing our officers and soldiers with the best boots in the country because they deserve them."

Courtesy Army News

Letters to the Editor

In our previous journal — 116 — our President, Maj Neil Hamer requested I begin a page for you.

I have begun the page by including the following two letters taken from The Australian Gunner, Vol. 2 No. 1, September 1979.

Dear Sir,

I have just received my copy of the Australian Gunner and if you will excuse my arthritis scribble, which is the best my fingers are capable of these days, I would like to comment on the article headed 'Know Your Regiment — 2/15th Field Regiment'.

It was most remiss on your part not to mention that there had been an earlier 2/15th Field Regiment than the one that was created in 1974 by the amalgamation of the 2nd and 15th Field Regiments. Its service in Malaya is fully covered in the Official History, 'The Japanese Thrust' by Wigmore. There are members of it still alive in New South Wales and Queensland. The regiment was raised in New South Wales but owing to the heavy casualties in the fighting on the Malayan Peninsular, received a large reinforcement of Queenslanders when it arrived back on the island of Singapore.

We have a very active Reunion Association. I was the second Commanding Officer. The first was John O'Neill who was killed in a car accident prior to the Japanese war commencing.

My war service began with the 12th Australian Light Horse in Sinai in June 1915. In January 1917 I transferred to the Royal Flying Corps. When I became too old for flying I set out to become a Gunner and attended many annual camps, lectures and other training at Victoria Barracks, Sydney.

JOHN W. WRIGHT

The article John refers to is to be included in a future journal. Ed

Dear Sir,

It is with a great deal of pleasure that we receive your complimentary copy of the Australian Gunner each month. I am happy to see that the artillery branch of service in our allied armies publish such a fine, respected periodical. The articles in the Australian Gunner are most informative and must certainly be well received by the RAA. Congratulations and thank you so much.

JACK N. MERRITT Commanding General,

US Army Field Artillery Center Commandant, US Army Field Artillery School.

The following are current

Hi Alan.

I walked into a hail of slaps and pats on the back from my guide friends this morning as they had already seen what you had put in the "Cascabel"!! It was not meant to be anything major, but it appears to have been received well at this end. It was also meant to give you some detail of my military career, which I thought you might edit and only print what you needed!! What a shock I got with the WHOLE story printed, and thank you for your acknowledgement. I noticed Major Osborne was mentioned somewhere. He was the last officer I served with in 1978. I came down to Melbourne just to do the camp and I stayed a night pre and post camp at his residence. Names keep coming back... Bruce Green at Batman Avenue, Reg Morrell and the other Ssgt who was at Dandenong with me. Thank you for the opportunity to relive some of those memories again in our "Band of Brothers". If you are in contact with any of them, let them know that I still remember them well and pass on my regards.

As you are aware, I am now a Guide at Fort Lytton, and a member of the Fort Lytton Historical Society, so if any one is up this way, they will probably see me at Fort Lytton.

Kindest regards to yourself and all my comrades in the former 2 Fd and 2/15 Fd Regt's who are still around.

Graham Kluver - 21 April 2013

Thanks Allan, I skimmed through the hard copy this arvo; another good effort! Cheers, Geoff Laurie

Sent 19/4/13 re 115

Col Laurie is the President of the RAAA of Sth Aust Inc. and the immediate past Col Comdt (RAA) of Central Region

Hi Alan.

The Symposium went well, had a good turn-up, about 38-40 in all. The CO of 5/6 RVR seems like a nice guy, should do well. He certainly knows his stuff. Picked up a hard copy of Cascabel from Reg while I was there, (fantastic) you really did a good job on that issue, well done.

Ubique. Ernie. (Ssgt Ernie Paddon)

Alan, just a quick word on what a great effort for the 30th. Keep doing it this good and they won't let you retire. ??

Regards, Barry. (Ssgt Barry Irons)

Letters continued

Hi Alan.

I hope this finds you fit and well.

I thought that I had better put pen to paper, so to speak, in relation to the article in Cascabel 116.

I am pleased to hear John Pereira is well and appreciated his article on Barry Cane, the drawings and in particular the “cresting incident”.

Barry, by the way, was known for his cartoons while with 12 Fd Regt, 104 Fd Bty, in Vietnam and a number of his cartoons are shown in the Regiments book “Twelve In Focus” produced from the Regiments second tour of Vietnam in 1971.

The Cresting Incident! I have a little problem recalling much from that time, an age thing or too many red wines, but I thought that it was in fact either John Decker or Darryl O’Connor, sorry guys if I am wrong.

I know it was not me or Bob Armstrong but have an idea it was one of those two. I know I had Don Roderick and Ian Wingate with me and they would have looked after me. I thought that Peter

Simmonds was with John Decker at that time and in the back of my mind there is something about the cresting problem.

Perhaps John, Darryl or Bob know more.

Regards

David Gibson

Just on another thing, I have recently been asked to write a small summary of my national service life and was wondering if you think it would be suitable to reproduce in CASCABEL, just an idea of what I did and went through as a Nasho in the late 1960’s early 1970’s! Will leave that up to you if you like.

David

(WO2 David Gibson)

I replied.

David

Great to hear from you.

I would be delighted if you would send me your article. I’m sure it will be great reading & bring back memories for many others. Make it as long as you like.

Editors Indulgence

I made a commitment in our previous journal that I would be keeping future editions much shorter in length—in fact no larger than 44 pages. 44 is the maximum for a cheaper postage rate, therefore keeping our treasurer happy.

APOLOGY from Ssgt Reg Morrell:

Cascabel 116, page 30 refers to Sgt D. O’Brien. It should have read **WO2** D. O’Brien.



I have failed, so find the money Reg!

I keep finding/being sent articles I believe are worth publishing, so here they are. I have sufficient serialised articles to see us through 2015. Yes, I have commenced journals up to 125.

A reasonable start to the President’s request for letters to be sent in. I now ask you again—write to me re any topic you wish. Should I be including more varied content, is there a subject we could explore, any criticisms/other comments re my layout, etc?

Let’s hear from you!!

Merry Xmas in Aust. 55 secs.

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

The ABC Kimberley troupe have turned their hands to putting some north Australian reality into the European Christmas cliché. 2.5 mins.

<http://www.abc.net.au/local/videos/2012/12/06/3649263.htm>

Still a couple of months to go, but I take this opportunity to wish you all a Very Merry Xmas and a safe and productive New Year.

That’s all ‘til Jan, 2014.



I was hoping I wouldn't have to include any more Vale tributes to members of our forces. I sincerely hope that this will be the last from Afghanistan. Ed



Personal details of Corporal Cameron Stewart Baird MG

Corporal Baird was a member of the Special Operations Task Group and was from the 2nd Commando Regiment based at Holsworthy Barracks in Sydney, New South Wales.

Corporal Baird is survived by his parents, brother and his partner.

Corporal Baird was born in Burnie, Tasmania in 1981. He joined the Army in January 2000 and upon completion of his initial employment training was posted to the then 4th Battalion (Commando), The Royal Australian Regiment, now the 2nd Commando Regiment, in February 2000.

Corporal Baird was an outstanding Special Forces soldier. He exemplified what it meant to be a Commando, living by the attributes of uncompromising spirit and honour, which in turn earned him the unconditional respect of his fellow Commandos. His leadership in action was exemplary, constantly inspiring those around him to achieve greater things. Corporal Baird was an extremely dedicated and disciplined soldier, always striving for excellence in everything he did.

Corporal Baird died how he lived – at the front, giving it his all, without any indecision. He will forever be remembered by his mates and the soldiers he served with in the 2nd Commando Regiment.

Corporal Baird has been awarded the following honours and awards:

Medal for Gallantry,

Australian Active Service Medal with Clasp East

Timor, Clasp Iraq 2003, Clasp International Coalition Against Terrorism,

Afghanistan Campaign Medal,

Iraq Campaign Medal,

Australian Service Medal with Clasp – Counter Terrorism / Special Recovery,

Australian Defence Medal,

United Nations Medal with Ribbon United Nations Transitional Authority in East Timor,

NATO non article 5 Medal with Clasp ISAF and Multiple Tour Indicator (3),

Infantry Combat Badge, and

Returned from Active Service Badge.

During Corporal Baird's service in the Australian Army he deployed on the following operations:

Operation TANAGER (Timor-Leste) – April 2001 – October 2001,

Operation SLIPPER (Afghanistan) – February 2003 – March 2003,

Operation BASTILLE (Iraq) – March 2003 – May 2003,

Operation SLIPPER (Afghanistan) – August 2007 – January 2008,

Operation SLIPPER (Afghanistan) – March 2009 – July 2009,

Operation SLIPPER (Afghanistan) – July 2011 – February 2012,

Operation SLIPPER (Afghanistan) – February 2013 – June 2013

Courtesy of and more information at http://www.defence.gov.au/vale/cpl_baird/cpl_baird.htm

SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

A Special General Meeting of the RAA Association (Vic) Inc followed by the Thirty-sixth Annual General Meeting of the RAA Association (Vic) Inc will be held at **Sargood Barracks**, Chapel Street, East St Kilda on Thursday **7th November 2013** commencing at **1930 hrs**

SGM AGENDA

Explanation of new Model Rules for an Incorporated Association and Tier 1 requirements.

Motion 1

That the new Model Rules be adopted with the inclusion of

- a. The current name of the association,
- b. The current purposes of the association, and
- c. The period of the association financial year.

Motion 2

That the audit requirements of the RAA Association remain.

Motion 3

That a document containing RAA Association By-laws be set up to cover any areas not covered by the Model Rules.

Such By-laws may be adopted, amended or deleted by a simple majority vote at a Committee or General Meeting.

By-laws adopted, amended or deleted by a General Meeting can only be amended or deleted by a General Meeting.

AGM AGENDA

- | | |
|--------------------------------|---|
| 1. Apologies | 7. General Business |
| 2. Minutes of previous meeting | a. President's report |
| 3. Business arising | b. Regimental reports |
| 4. Correspondence | c. Election of office bearers |
| 5. Treasurer's report | 8. Other Business |
| 6. Membership report | a. Social activities |
| | b. Items from the floor if time permits |

NEW MODEL RULES

CHANGES TO THE CONSTITUTION

Consumer Affairs Victoria, which comes under the Victorian Department of Justice, is the organisation controlling incorporated associations in Victoria.

The Royal Australian Artillery Association is an association incorporated under the Associations Incorporation Reform Act 2012. The 2012 Act replaced the Associations Incorporation Act 1981. The RAA Association was incorporated under the 1981 Act and therefore now comes under the 2012 Act.

The 2012 Act has changed the Model Rules on which our Association Constitution was based.

If we wish to keep our present Constitution we can do so, but must include any changes which are included in the new Model Rules.

The Committee has agreed that the new Model Rules should be adopted with only the minimum changes necessary.

The name of the Association, the Purposes of the Association and the Financial Year need to be inserted in the Model Rules to adapt them to suit our Association.

A copy of the Model Rules for an Incorporated Association can be obtained on the Consumer Affairs website at www.consumer.vic.gov.au/

Enter in the Search box: Incorporated Associations Model Rules.

WHAT HAS YOUR COMMITTEE BEEN DOING?

The answer we generally get to this question is "Not a lot". To try and overcome this totally unfounded and prejudicial statement I intend to give you a brief run-down on the activities of the Committee. This shouldn't take long.

To be more than fair, I should say that the members of the Committee spend a great deal of their time ensuring that the Association contin-

ues to provide the things that we think you want.

The April meeting did not take place due to lack of a quorum. I can't recall this ever happening before. As we all get older and retired it seems like a good idea to spend some time away.

All meetings:

Deal with the usual reports from the various members and authorise that accounts be paid.

New members are accepted and membership numbers are monitored.

The Program of Events, such as the Gunner Dinner, Reserve Forces Day, RAA Luncheon, Gunner Symposia, Church Parade and the AGM are updated and discussed. Working groups are formed as required to carry out the various tasks.

May meeting:

Noted that the unveiling of the plaque at AAMI Stadium is to take place shortly. (Still waiting.)

RAA and RVR Associations are working on care packages for the final Solomon Island rotation. RAA Assoc. donated \$100 towards the packages.

June meeting:

The new Model Rules and the impact on our present Constitution was discussed.

A stock take was carried out.

July meeting:



SSgt Reg Morrell proposed we investigate the possibility of visiting Puckapunyal to see the M777A2 firing. No decision yet.

The Association office and Museum has been moved into the area previously occupied by the JARKS Club. This was accomplished by Ssgt's Reg Morrell, Brian Cleeman & Ernie Paddon with assistance provided by 2/10 Bty. (This has almost been completed. Looks great.)

That's all for now

.....

NOMINATION FORM

This form is to reach the Secretary not later than 25th October 2013

<.....> (full name) of

<.....> (address)

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

<.....> (signature of Proposer)

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

<.....> (signature of Secunder)

<.....> (Secunder's full name)

Signature of consenting nominee: <.....>

.....

FORM OF APPOINTMENT OF PROXY

I, <.....>

of <.....>

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

<.....>

of <.....>, being a member
of that Incorporated Association, as my Proxy to vote for me on my behalf at the
General Meeting of the Incorporated Association to be held on 7th November
2013, and at any adjournment of that meeting.

Signed <.....> Date <.....>

Message from our Association VP Lt Col Jason Cook

JULY SYMPOSIUM – CO 5/6 RVR SPEAKS WITH PASSION & EXCITING NEWS ABOUT RAAHC LAUNCH

Another great night of first class presentations, fire side chats, in depth discussions and of course catching up with old mates occurred last Friday night (19th July) at the July Symposium held in the 2/10 Light Battery Gunner's Club, Sargood Barracks. Thanks to all those that could attend, especially the serving members of our Light Battery, and of course our guest speakers Lieutenant Colonel Matthew Burr – CO 5/6 RVR and Lieutenant Colonel Nicholas Floyd – Director Royal Australian Artillery Historical Company. There was a great mix of olds and bolds, gunners we haven't seen for awhile, familiar faces and a good number of current serving gunners – well done to you all. On behalf of the President of the RAA Association – many thanks, as your attendance really makes these nights.

The symposium began with LTCOL Nick Floyd giving us a heads up of the Royal Australian Artillery Historical Company (RAAHC). What they do, who they are and of course why we should get involved. It was a special presentation as we were given an insight into the RAAHC launch which is to occur in Canberra on the 9th August.

For future information please read the attached flyer and check out the link on the RAA Assoc Victorian website.

If that wasn't enough, we were then lucky to have CO 5/6 RVR give his presentation on all things 5/6 RVR and the role 2/10 Light Battery has within the Battalion. He spoke with passion and pride as any CO should but his openness and honesty in answering numerous questions from the floor, really displayed his passion for those he commands. As we discussed and as he acknowledges, the Army Reserve has just commenced our journey towards a very exciting period within the ADF especially the role 4 BDE has within that space and that of the Light Battery. All this is unknown but the great thing about Friday night was the open and frank discussions we all had about getting there together.

So please come along to the Sept Symposium on Friday 20th September, same place & time where you will be treated with a presentation from our 2/10 Gunners that have just returned from the Solomons. Then at the November Symposium, 15th November, we will be given a presentation and a chance to chat with the LTCOL Joint Fires from 2 DIV HQ. Just remember these nights are for you to enjoy and get involved in so we would love to see you come along. See you soon.



ANA TRAITOR KILLED

The former Afghan National Army (ANA) soldier who wounded three Australian and two Afghan soldiers at Patrol Base Nasir in November 2011 was killed in a late evening operation on 13 August 2013 (Afghan time).

The Chief of the Defence Force, General David Hurley, said Mohammad Roozi was killed by small arms fire when he engaged the combined force elements.

"As the team approached, Roozi threw a grenade. He was immediately engaged with small arms fire and killed," General Hurley said.

On securing the site, the partnered force identified the deceased man as the target of their search, Mohammad Roozi.

In November 2011, Mohammad Roozi opened fired with an automatic weapon on Australian soldiers as they worked alongside their Afghan partners at Patrol Base Nasir. Three Australian soldiers were wounded along with two ANA members.

"We never gave up searching for Roozi. Australian forces, in concert with ISAF, narrowed down his location and then worked with the ANSF and ISAF elements responsible for the area to plan and conduct a focused mission," General Hurley said.

"We continue to work with ISAF and ANSF authorities to detect and apprehend those who commit these insider attacks, General Hurley said.

This is an edited edition of the article published by Defence Media Operations (02) 6127 1999 ed



**Application for Ordinary Membership or Renewal of Membership
of the
Royal Australian Artillery Historical Company
(RAAHC)**

**Honorary Secretary
RAAHC
PO Box 171
Cremorne Junction
NSW 2090**

For Membership Enquiries
Phone: 02 9908 4618
Email: membership@artilleryhistory.org

I apply to become a Member/Renew my Membership of the Royal Australian Artillery Historical Company (RAAHC) and agree, subject to my admission, to abide by the Company's Constitution and its By-Laws.

Rank/Title..... Surname.....

Given Names.....

Post nominals/decorations/qualifications.....

Address for mailing and contact details:

No & Street.....

Suburb..... State..... Post Code.....

Phone (.....) Fax (.....)..... Mobile.....

Email.....

.....
(Signature)

.....
(Date)

Membership Rates As applicable, subscriptions are due for renewal on 1 July each year

Ordinary Membership - One Year	\$30.00
OR Ordinary Membership - Five Years	\$120.00
Total	\$

Payment Options

For Bank Transfers for Membership, please use BSB 032 096 A/c # 179215. Include description "(Surname-Initials) Subs". Please make cheques payable to the RAAHC.

For Credit Cards (Visa and MasterCard only), please complete the details below

Card No.																			
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Expiry Date:/..... Cardholder's Name:

Signature: Date:/...../.....

Note: 1. The RAAHC is a not-for profit organisation and is registered as a Deductible Gift Recipient with the Australian Tax Office. Donations over \$2.00 are Tax Deductible. Please consider making a donation to help us preserve the heritage and history of Australian Artillery.

Note: 2. The RAAHC relies on Volunteers to assist with our work. Please see our Website www.artilleryhistory.org

Putting rounds on target quickly and accurately takes skill and practice, Capt Tony Mumford reports.



Gunners from 8/12 Regt RAA showed what they were made of during Exercise Thunder Run 2 at the Mt Bundy Training Area recently.

The unit deployed for a live fire exercise to train joint fires teams and gun troops up to danger-close practices.

Over two weeks the unit was put through the full range of conventional war fighting activities it could reasonably be expected to conduct in combat.

CO Lt-Col Julian West said one of the highlights of the exercise was firing danger close missions at night in support of dug-in infantry with 155mm HE rounds impacting 175m from his own troops.

"Two weeks isn't a long time in the field, but under the leadership of hardworking junior NCOs, the regiment successfully conducted realistic and high-tempo joint fires coordination and execution by day and night," he said.

Lt-Col West was also happy with the performance of the M777-A2 howitzer.

"The M777 is an excellent gun; it has a good rate of sustained fire providing consistent and accurate indirect fire support," he said.

Detachment commander Bdr Adrian Broadhead

said the unit had an active enemy probing and ambushing the gunners constantly.

"We had to pay attention, we had to make ourselves a hard target and know our drills and procedures," he said.

Lt Nathan Small, 103 Bty command post officer, said the post-battle procedure immediately after an intense contact with the enemy was an eye opener.

"We trained a lot to conduct our correct processes during a quick attack, but dealing with casualties and handling back-loading and resupply, while still providing indirect fire support, was difficult at first," he said.

"However, due to our robust training and operating procedures we quickly learnt to plan for this, execute and move on."

Bdr Chris Saetta said the live fire and movement ended with danger close missions in support of 5RAR's final activity, a clearance of an enemy main defensive position.

"We brought the rounds into 175m from 5RAR's forming up point," he said.

"The infantry boys weathered it really well - it created a lot of energy for the attack."

Gunners shine on last rotation

Sgt Dave Morley



Members of 4 Bde parade at Simpson Barracks, Watsonia, after returning from the Solomon Islands

VICTORIAN gunners were well represented on Operation Anode's final rotation, with two of them receiving CTF 635 Commander's Commendations during their deployment.

Seventeen members of 2/10 Lt Bty, 5/6RVR, took part in the deployment, with three running the CIMIC team, one working as an operator supply and the remainder serving in rifle platoons.

LBdr Gavin Hunt said the deployment was the first time he had ever been overseas. "I feel very proud to serve my country on an overseas operation," he said. "My great-grandfather was in the Victorian 4th Light Horse Regiment at Gallipoli and my grandfather was in the Army during WWII."

Gnr Thomas Patterson, at 19 the youngest member of Rotation 30, said he felt it a privilege to receive his Australian Service Medal (ASM).

"I made a decision last year to deploy instead of completing my Year 12 exams, and receiving my medal makes the experience all the more special and worth the sacrifice," he said.

Gnr Patterson plans to complete Year 12 at TAFE before studying international relations at university.

Gnr Sean McKellar said Op Anode was "a fantastic opportunity for diggers who participated from 2/10 Bty".

"I count myself really lucky to have been deployed as a reservist at 21 years of age," he said. Gnr McKellar received a Commander CTF 635 Commendation for his professionalism throughout the deployment.

Gnr Andrew Prentice, who also received a commendation, said the amount of quality training he had received as a reservist during the deployment had been worth every second. "I am confident I can return to my home unit with a new set of expertise in order to contribute more as a soldier," he said.

Courtesy Army News Aug 15, '13

Additional comments from Lt Col Jason Cooke

"Great to see an article focusing on the Gunners just returned from overseas. Most importantly the article sites GNR McKellar and GNR Prentice in receiving commendations for their effort during the deployment, as well as some words from GNR Patterson. The two commendations are extremely significant as both GNR Prentice and GNR McKellar were awarded for their professionalism and speaking with the boys at the parade, they are very well respected by their infantry counterparts whom speak highly of their infantry skills.

Well done lads".

The 2nd mammoth instalment of the American Civil War by Ssgt Barry Irons begins here.

It Begins

The American Civil War has been called the last of the ancient wars and the first of the modern wars. It was a war which introduced the first metallic rifle and pistol cartridges, the first repeating rifles and carbines, the first ironclad ships, and many other inventions which heralded a change in the conduct of warfare.

But the military still relied on the old tried and trusted means of smoothbore muskets, paper cartridges, and troops marching in military precision across the battlefield towards the enemy. More innovations and experimentation took place during the Civil War than during all other previous wars combined. This mix of technology was very evident in the ordnance department.

Prior to 1860, the United States government offered little encouragement to, and even less interest in, the inventions and experiments being offered by various ordnance experts. The general opinion of the U.S. Ordnance Department was that smoothbore cannons had won the previous wars and nothing further was needed. (*Where have we heard that before!*)

Many of the Ordnance Department employees were elder military officers who resisted any changes or departures from these smoothbore field guns, Napoleons, Howitzers, and ²Columbiads. (²*A name for heavy siege or coastal guns*)

As a result, American inventors were subjected to years of expensive experimentation, field trials, and political bickering just to be able to introduce their ideas to the government.

Many of these inventors invested their own money into their projects and faced financial ruin if the government turned their invention down. Meanwhile in Great Britain, inventors were encouraged by their government to implement the rifling system in both small arms and artillery. Rifling was a system of lands and grooves in a barrel which caused a projectile to turn as it exited the muzzle, thereby improving trajectory and accuracy.

The grooves were cut into the smoothbore gun and the lands were the original diameter and spaces left after the rifling process. Rifled weapons had to

be stronger than smoothbore because a greater stress was inflicted on the gun by a tighter seal, less ³windage (³*A term to denote the fit, or clearance in the bore. Not external wind effects*) necessary for the projectile to take the rifling, resulting in vastly greater pressures in the breech to overcome the friction between the projectile and the rifled bore. The pre-war years saw many patents granted to British inventors. These weapons would render important service to the opposing armies in the Civil War.

During this pre-war period, Englishman Bashley Britten patented the Britten projectile on August 1, 1855. Britten pioneered a method which cast a lead sabot onto the iron shell. Upon being fired the sabot expanded and took the rifling in the cannon barrel. Variations of this system were used on a multitude of projectiles during the Civil War. Britten continued to experiment with and patent rifled projectiles and lead sabots for several years.

The reluctance of the United States Government to entertain improvements in artillery ended when, on April 12, 1861, at 4:30 A.M., Confederate Army Lieutenant Henry S. Farley pulled the lanyard on his mortar at Fort Johnson, South Carolina. The shell he fired arched high over Charleston harbour and exploded above Fort Sumter, thus beginning the first sustained artillery duel of the Civil War.

Although this was not the first hostile shot fired (the unarmed Federal supply ship, *Star Of The West*, was fired on by Confederates in Charleston harbour on January 9, 1861), it did, for all intent and purposes, signal the beginning of four years of bloody conflict. The Blakely projectile was one of the first rifled projectiles to be fired at Fort Sumter.

Types and Models. (On both sides)

At the beginning of 1861, the American field artillery consisted almost exclusively of pre-Mexican War smoothbores not significantly different from the pieces with which was fought the Revolution. By 1865 however, advances in metallurgy combined with new manufacturing techniques, better powder, and more dependable fuses to bring muzzle-loading artillery to its highest possible state of effectiveness.

First however, some definitions. Early field artillery was identified by the term "pounder" (usually abbreviated "pdr"), which referred to the weight of the solid shot fired by a particular size gun.

Thus a 12 pdr gun was called that because it fired a solid round shot weighing 12 pounds. With the development of Howitzers in the 17th century, the term became obsolete, though it continued to be used right up through the Civil War. (*Carried over to our own 25 Pdr?*)

"Howitzers," technically speaking, are not "guns." They are shorter, lighter pieces than guns of the same bore diameter, have chambered bores, use smaller charges, fire explosive shells instead of solid shot, and were meant, essentially, to lob their projectiles at low velocity into a target.

Guns are longer and heavier. They use larger charges and have untapered (unchambered) bores of a consistent diameter all the way to the breech. They were originally intended for relatively long range pounding or battering (thus the word, "battery") of targets with projectiles fired at high velocity.

These distinctions had blurred considerably by the time of the Civil War, but the terms continued in use. Howitzers, in any case, had come to be manufactured in the same standard bore sizes as guns, so the "pounder" designation of a particular gun was automatically applied to the howitzer of the same bore size.

A Model 1841 12 pdr gun, for example, had a 4.62 inch bore. The Model 1841 howitzers of the same bore size were therefore called "12 pdrs" even though their hollow shells usually weighed less (though, depending on how they were packed, could weigh more) than 12 pounds. In short, by the time of the war, "pounder" actually referred to bore size rather than to projectile weight.

Some time back, somebody remarked that based on what was seen on the battlefields, there must have been only two types of cannon used during the war, "green ones and black ones." What was inferred to in fact, is not a bad starting point for a discussion of Civil War field artillery.

The "green ones" most likely the bronze (sometimes called "brass") pieces, usually smoothbores, which have weathered to a pale greenish hue. Their designs generally pre-date the war by from 5 to 20 years. The "black ones," for the most part, are the iron rifles which were being developed just as the war began.

When the fighting actually started, the armament of the field artillery consisted only of "green ones."

There were six altogether, though one, the little 12-pdr "mountain howitzer," saw such limited use during the conflict that it was not a defining weapon of the war. (*Refer Figure 2 Cascabel Issue 116*)

The five main pieces were the Model 1841 6 pdr and 12 pdr guns, the Model 1841 12 pdr and 24 pdr howitzers, and the Model 1857 Light 12 pdr Gun-Howitzer, or "Napoleon." Larger pieces such as the 24 pdr gun and 32 pdr howitzer could also be used in the field, but only with difficulty due to their size and weight.

Technically, these are classed as "siege" pieces, rather than "field" pieces. Note again that these smoothbores were all there was. There were no rifled field pieces in the U.S. service, North or South before 1861.



Scene of the result of a night attack on Fort Sumter, September 8, 1863.

The following text in italic has been inserted by me from additional text sent from Barry. ed

As you will find out by reading on, Fort Sumter has played a pivotal role in the American Civil War.

This picture was taken after the war, when relic-hunters had removed the shells, and a beacon light had been erected where once stood the parapet. On September 8, 1863, at the very position in this photograph, the garrison repelled a bold assault with musketry fire alone, causing the Federals severe loss.

The flag of the Confederacy floated triumphantly over the position during the whole of the long struggle. Every effort of the Federals to reduce the crumbling ruins into submission was unavailing. It stood the continual bombardment of ironclads until it was nothing but a mass of brick dust, but still the



Fort Sumter, S.C., April 4, 1861, under the Confederate flag.

gallant garrison held it.

The Confederates evacuated Fort Sumter and Charleston in February 1865, as Union Maj. Gen. William T. Sherman outflanked the city in the Carolinas Campaign. On April 14, 1865, four years to the day after lowering the Fort Sumter flag in surrender, Robert Anderson (by then a major general in the Union army, although ill and in retired status) returned to the ruined fort to raise the flag he had lowered in 1861, when the Union garrison surrendered the fort to Confederate personnel at 2:30 p.m. April 14.

The Battle of Fort Sumter (April 12–14, 1861) was the bombardment and surrender of Fort Sumter, near Charleston, South Carolina, that started the American Civil War. Following declarations of secession by seven Southern states, South Carolina demanded that the U.S. Army abandon its facilities in Charleston Harbor.

On December 26, 1860, U.S. Major Robert Anderson surreptitiously moved his small command from the indefensible Fort Moultrie on Sullivan's Island to Fort Sumter, a substantial fortress controlling the entrance of Charleston Harbor.

An attempt by U.S. President James Buchanan (Buchanan's

*final day as president, March 4, 1861 before Lincoln became the 16th President of the United States) to reinforce and resupply Anderson, using the unarmed merchant ship *Star of the West*, failed when it was fired upon by shore batteries on January 9, 1861. South Carolina authorities then seized all Federal property in the Charleston area, except for Fort Sumter.*

During the early months of 1861, the situation around Fort Sumter increasingly began to resemble a

siege. In March, Brig. Gen. P. G. T. Beauregard, the first general officer of the newly formed Confederate States of America, was placed in command of Confederate forces in Charleston. Beauregard energetically directed the strengthening of batteries around Charleston harbor aimed at Fort Sumter.

Conditions in the fort grew dire as the Union soldiers rushed to complete the installation of additional guns. Anderson was short of men, food, and supplies. The resupply of Fort Sumter became the first crisis of the administration of President Abraham Lincoln.

He notified the Governor of South Carolina, Francis W. Pickens, that he was sending supply ships, which resulted in an ultimatum from the Confederate government: evacuate Fort Sumter immediately.



Fort Sumter today

Major Anderson refused to surrender. Beginning at 4:30 a.m. on April 12, the Confederates bombarded the fort from artillery batteries surrounding the harbor. Although the Union garrison returned fire, they were significantly outgunned and, after 34 hours, Major Anderson agreed to evacuate.

There was no loss of life on either side as a direct result of this engagement, although a gun explosion during the surrender ceremonies on April 14 caused two Union deaths.

Following the battle, there was widespread support from both North and South for further military action. Lincoln's immediate call for 75,000 volunteers to suppress the rebellion, resulted in an additional four southern slave states also declaring their secession and joining the Confederacy. The Civil War, with all its unimagined carnage and destruction, had begun.

End of additional text. ed

The following will provide basic information.

Model 1841 6-pdr Gun

The 6 pdr was considered perhaps unfairly, "a popgun" by those who had served them. Used extensively during the Mexican War, it was made obsolete by the increased range of the available infantry weapons as much as by the coming of better artillery.

Though fairly mobile at 900 pounds, its softball-sized shot was entirely too small to do much damage and it could easily be outranged, especially once rifled guns came into play.

Most sources give it a range of about 1500 yards, but this is being generous. No doubt the gun could throw a shot that far but, at that distance, it's small round projectile could hardly be accurate and would be easy for troops to avoid. ?

These guns existed in large numbers at the outbreak of hostilities, however, and were pressed into service by both sides. Both sides also got rid of them as quickly as possible, when more modern pieces became available.

Model 1841 12-pdr Gun

Packing a solid punch and having a respectable 1600-1700 yard effective range, the 12 pdr was a

much better weapon than its little brother. But its weight (1800 lbs.) was a liability, just about at the top limit for the requirements of mobility in the field.

Model 1841 12-pdr Howitzer

This was by far the most effective field piece of the war for use at any range under 400 yards. Its large shells gave it firepower, while its light weight (less than 800 lbs.) made it highly mobile and easy to position, even by hand.

Because of its mobility, the piece was readily adaptable for close infantry support. Nine of them were supposed to have followed the infantry in Pickett's Charge so as to protect its flanks and render whatever service they could in front. However some confusion of orders and effective Federal artillery fire during the pre-charge cannonade resulted in the nine pieces being unavailable.

It is interesting to speculate what difference they might have made had they accompanied Pickett's troops. The 12 pdr howitzer's great weakness was its effective range, which is not much over 1,000 yards, well under that of even the 6 pdr gun. It made the piece an easy target for other artillery.

Model 1841 24-pdr Howitzer

When positioned in field fortifications, these were extremely useful pieces of ordnance because of their powerful 5.82 inch shells. Their 1400 pound weight made them a bit unwieldy in the field, and their 1300-1400 yard effective range put them at a disadvantage to other pieces. Nevertheless, infantrymen could not have relished the idea of charging a battery of 24 pdr howitzers.

E. Porter Alexander, General Longstreet's de facto Chief of Artillery for much of the war, called them "my favourite guns." On occasion, he even had them mounted on skids and used as mortars. (*True innovation in the field.*)

Model 1857 Light 12-pdr Gun Howitzer

Undoubtedly the best known field piece of the war, the "Napoleon" was a kind of hybrid in that it could do everything the other four smoothbores could do. It had more firepower than the 6-pdr gun, weighed 600 pounds less than the old 12 pdr gun, was every bit as sturdy as the bigger 24 pdr howitzer, and could fire shot or shell, with effect, to 1700 yards.

In another sense however, it was not a hybrid at all as it possessed none of the technical features of a Howitzer - notably, it lacked a chambered bore, and was called a howitzer only because it could fire shell.



Figure 3..Restored 1857 Model "Napoleon" Note the "Green" colour and the distinctive muzzle swell

The basic Napoleon came from the French Emperor Louis Napoleon, who in the early 1850's ordered his Ordnance Department to design something with which he could standardise his field artillery. *(One of the first in a long line to follow)* Not only would such standardisation save money, but it would greatly simplify the manufacture, supply, and distribution of the guns themselves, not to mention their carriages, implements, and ammunition. *(ditto)*

Unlike many hybrids, the Napoleon was a resounding success. It greatly impressed the three-man American military commission which toured Europe in 1855-56 (one of whose members was future General, George McClellan).

On their return, they brought back the specifications of the new French gun, and a recommendation that it be seriously considered for the American service. About a year later, with minor modifications, it was formally adopted.

Strangely, (or perhaps not so strangely, given the Congress's well-known lack of interest in the military during peacetime), only five Napoleons were purchased for the army between 1857 and the outbreak of the war. One of these was used for proofing. The other four were given to Battery M, 2nd U.S. Artillery at Fort. Leavenworth, Kansas, in late 1857.

It was no coincidence that the new guns went to

that particular unit. Battery M's commander was Capt. Henry Hunt, acknowledged even then as one of America's premier artillerymen. Hunt later brought the guns to First Manassas where they were the only Napoleons on the field and where, without infantry support, they broke up a Confederate flank attack on the beaten Union army as it retreated toward Centerville late in the day.

Hunt actually was credited by General Winfield Scott with saving the Union army that day. He went on to become the Army of the Potomac's Chief of Artillery. The Federal government quickly began ordering more Napoleons.



Figure 4. Restored Confederate "Napoleon" minus the muzzle swell, but still "green"

General McClellan, as part of his reorganisation of the army, ordered that all four Model 1841's be replaced with Model 1857's, which is precisely what had been intended when the Napoleon was first adopted.

This process was begun immediately, though logistics problems and the emphasis on the war in the East, resulted in the western Federal armies using the old models much longer than did the Army of the Potomac.

The Confederates, without the Union's industrial capacity, were required to keep the older guns and howitzers in service throughout the war. In December of 1862, General Lee suggested that all 6 pdrs be melted down and recast into Napoleons. Though a few were recast right away, it was not until after Chancellorsville (May 1863) that the Army of Northern Virginia managed to replace even these smallest of the 1841's with Confederate-made or captured pieces.

Just under 1200 Napoleons were produced for the

Union army during the war. The Confederates produced some 500-600 of their own, though these came in several styles. The early Southern pieces closely resembled the Model 1857, while later designs eliminated the distinctive muzzle swell and otherwise changed the appearance of the piece.

Shortages of bronze ultimately required Richmond to manufacture Napoleons of cast iron. These were strengthened with breech reinforcing bands which made them look rather like fat Parrott rifles. For convenience however, all of these Confederate-made models are simply called "Napoleons."

It should be noted that all Napoleons were 12 pdrs. Occasionally, someone will write or speak of "6 pdr Napoleons," but this is a misnomer, as there was

no such thing.

Before moving on to a discussion of "the black ones," it might be useful to note something of the use of particular metals for particular field pieces.

The early United States used bronze (an alloy of approximately 90% copper and 10% tin) for most of its field artillery. This was the traditional material and was used by the big European powers. Around the turn of the 19th century, the factors of cost and supply combined to bring about a switch to iron.

Bronze was 5-6 times more expensive than iron on a per-piece basis. Moreover, while there were large deposits of iron ore in the United States, there was little available copper or tin and foreign sources of supply would most likely be cut off



"Sentry Go"- Fortifications at Yorktown, Virginia, during the Peninsula Campaign of 1862.

Federal Battery No. 1 before Yorktown.—Never before had so heavy a siege battery been mounted. It was placed half a mile farther down the York River than Battery No. 4. From its six Parrott guns, five 100-pounders and one 200-pounder, it could at a single firing drop 700 pounds of shot and shell upon the fortifications and landing at Yorktown, two miles away.

It opened up on May 1, 1862; with such telling effect that the evacuation of the town was greatly hastened, occurring two days later. These Parrott guns were in many cases failures. The reinforcement of the breach was not properly placed to stand the heavy charges and many burst, killing the artillerymen and wrecking everything in close vicinity. The life of these guns was short.

during a war. Thus, the "Iron Age" of American artillery began in 1801.

For a variety of reasons mostly involving the domestic politics of the day, the Iron Age ended with a return to bronze around 1835. Bronze is a better material for smoothbore artillery anyway. It is not brittle like cast iron and though it will wear and even stretch, it is much less subject to bursting. (*Reassuring, as will be explained later*)

With the return to bronze came design experiments which resulted in the Models of 1841. These, as we have seen, remained the standards until the coming of the war demanded their replacement.

The Napoleon was a significant step forward which took the smoothbore concept about as far as it could go. But the real advances in field artillery during the Civil War came with the development of iron rifles with their great ranges and astounding accuracy for the time.

Early in the war, it was thought that the need for rifled guns could be met quickly and easily by rifling existing smoothbores. As a rifle's elongated solid shot (called a "bolt") weighed about twice as much as a smoothbore's round shot of the same diameter, doing this seemed to offer the promise of magically turning 6 pdr smoothbores into 12 pdr rifles.

Charles T. James - inventor, militia general, and former U.S. Senator from Rhode Island, made one of the first attempts at rifling bronze guns and created the short-lived "James Rifles." Some of these were merely re-bored 6 pdrs. Others were manufactured from scratch, with one style resembling the old guns and another looking very much like the sleek 3 inch Ordnance Rifles.

Unfortunately, none of them worked very well as friction from the projectiles quickly wore down the soft bronze, in effect turning the guns back into smoothbores. The experiment of rifled bronze field pieces was abandoned soon after.

Curiously though, the 2nd Connecticut Battery was still armed with four James Rifles and two old 12 pdr Howitzers as late as Gettysburg. (July 1863) It was the only battery in the Army of the Potomac not then equipped with Napoleons or with one of the iron rifles.

Two of the Ordnance-pattern James Rifles now mark the position of the 2nd Connecticut at



Figure 5. Restored Union 20 Pdr Parrott Gun with distinctive Breech reinforcing

Gettysburg (Hancock Avenue, just south of the large Pennsylvania monument). The two most important "black ones" were the Parrott Rifle and the Ordnance (often misspelled "ordinance") Rifle. Other types were tried, but none were produced in as large quantities or saw as extensive use as these two.

Model 1861 2.9-inch and Model 1863 3-inch Parrott Rifles

Captain Robert P. Parrott resigned from the army in 1836 to take over as superintendent of the West Point Foundry in Cold Spring, New York. He had long been interested in the problems of cast iron artillery and tried various experiments to overcome those problems.

Apparently concluding that it was not possible to improve the metal itself, Parrott decided to create a stronger piece by reinforcing the cast iron with a band of wrought iron shrunk around the breech, the point of greatest pressure during firing.

This was critical because rifles, with their tight-fitting projectiles, generated much greater internal pressures than did smoothbores. The idea was not new, nor did Parrott claim it as his own. But he did devise a better method of manufacturing banded guns.

Typically guns to be banded were held in place while the band was heated, fitted, then allowed to cool (i.e., shrink) onto the breech. The problem was that gravity acted on the cooling metal to pull it downward so that the fit around the breech was uneven.

Parrott's innovation was to slowly rotate the gun tube throughout the fitting and cooling so that the

metal would retain a consistent density and cool evenly. In his larger guns, he also used the Rodman method of piping water into the bore to help ensure even cooling. The result was guns which were much stronger at the breech than normal cast iron guns.

He hoped this would prevent bursting, a long-recognized problem even with the lower pressure cast iron smoothbores. Parrott's first model was a 2.9 inch 10 pdr developed in 1859-60, but finally known as the Model 1861. It is easily distinguished from his Model 1863 by the muzzle swell which was eliminated on the later piece.

Parenthetically, (*An old term meaning as an aside or part of*) though Confederate-made Parrott's do have the muzzle swell, they may be readily distinguished from the Federal made

1861's by looking at the forward edge of the breech reinforce. On Federal guns, the edge is vertical (perpendicular to the bore), while on the Southern 10 pdr's, it is bevelled.

One of the first Parrott's was sold to the Commonwealth of Virginia in the summer of 1860. In light of the worsening political situation in the country, Virginia had inventoried its state arsenals and decided to upgrade from the approximately four dozen 6 pdr's which were all it then had in its possession.

Francis H. Smith, superintendent of the Virginia Military Institute and an old army friend of Robert Parrott's, visited Cold Spring, watched tests of the new 10 pdr and ordered one for further testing back home.

When it arrived at the² VMI (²*Virginia Military Institute*) the gun was turned over to the school's instructor of artillery, Professor Thomas J. Jackson, not yet known as "Stonewall." Jackson, a former artillery officer, conducted a series of firing tests and pronounced himself thoroughly satisfied with the gun.

This 300-pounder rifle was directed against Fort

Sumter and Battery Wagner, from Morris Island, South Carolina, 1863.

The length of bore of the gun before it burst was 136 inches. It weighed 20,000 pounds. It fired a projectile weighing 250 pounds, with a maximum charge of powder of 25 pounds. The gun was fractured at the twenty-seventh round by a shell bursting in the muzzle, blowing off about 20 inches of the barrel.



Its accuracy at ranges well over a mile made it an impressive piece. Another dozen immediately were purchased from the West Point Foundry. Using the specifications and models obtained from Cold Spring, Tredegar and other southern foundries manufactured the piece during the war.

Ironically, one of those Virginia Parrott's was the first of its type to be fired in anger, as it was used against United States troops at Big Bethel on June 10, 1861. Only three weeks earlier, the Federal army had taken delivery of its first Parrott's.

For all of Robert Parrott's improvements and Stonewall Jackson's enthusiasm, the Parrott rifles proved a major disappointment. They were still cast iron pieces and they still burst unexpectedly and often. All Parrott had really managed to do was move the bursting point forward. Strengthened at the breech, Parrott's became infamous for bursting at the centre near the trunnions.

The real difficulty was the gun's unpredictability. Some Parrott's served long and dependably, firing several thousand rounds with no problem. But cast iron cannon tended not to show wear and tear.

The metal simply gave way whenever it gave way, after few rounds or many, so there always was a high level of uncertainty in connection with the use of cast iron guns.

One Private Augustus Buell of Battery B, 4th U.S. Artillery (a Napoleon battery) is recorded as saying, perhaps with some sarcasm, that "so long as the Parrott gun held together it was as good as any muzzle loading rifle."

Unfortunately for the crews who worked them, Parrott's too often failed to hold together and became extremely unpopular with artillerymen. Buell himself best expressed the common view when he later said, "If anything could justify desertion by a cannoneer, it would be an assignment to a Parrott battery."

Another less dangerous problem with the 1861s was its 2.9-inch bore. The Ordnance rifle was a 3-inch and the two guns could fire some of the same ammunition. More than once, 3 inch ammunition was issued to crews of 2.9 inch guns, causing delays and ammunition jams.

The Parrott Model 1863 was a 3 inch piece created specifically to alleviate this problem. Additionally, some 2.9 inch guns were re-bored to 3 inches. But it was too late. Though the 3 inch Parrott's continued to be purchased by the Federal government through 1865, the army began phasing them out in favour of Ordnance Rifles mid-way through the war.

At the beginning of the Wilderness campaign in May 1864, only five of the 49 batteries in the Army of the Potomac (excluding the IX Corps which was not technically under General Meade's command) were Parrott batteries, the others being armed either with Napoleons or Ordnance Rifles.

Even with its weaknesses, the 2.9 inch Parrott was an important artillery piece. In 1861 it was the first workable rifled gun available to either side. For the Union, it could be produced quickly, inexpensively, and in large numbers.

Altogether some 500-600 Model 1861 and 1863 10 pdr Parrott's were produced for the Union army. Perhaps another 150 came from Confederate factories. The end of the war, however, brought the end of the Parrott, for the gun was never used again.

To be continued

23 May 2013

Army helicopter safely jettisons unstable load

An Australian Army Chinook helicopter safely jettisoned an under-slung load when the load became unstable during a routine training exercise at the High Range Training Area near Townsville on Monday, 20 May 2013.

The aircrew applied standard safety procedures when they detached the under-slung load, an **M777 artillery gun**, when it became unstable.

The jettison caused the M777 to fall approximately 40 feet to the ground below, which the aircrew had determined was clear before detaching the load.

There were no injuries to Army personnel or damage to the aircraft as a result of the incident.

Commanding Officer, 5th Aviation Regiment Lieutenant Colonel David Hafner, CSC said the actions of the aircrew reflected a high degree of skill, composure and professionalism.

"The crew applied their training and standard procedures to respond quickly and safely to the change in centre of gravity of the load when it became unstable," Lieutenant Colonel Hafner said.

"Their actions prevented what could have been a more serious incident."

The Chinook is a medium load helicopter capable of under-slinging significant loads and is frequently used to transport stores and equipment. If an under-slung load becomes unstable it may unbalance the aircraft, endangering the safety of the aircraft and crew. Safe practice under these circumstances is to jettison the load.

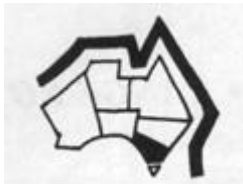
The reason for the load becoming unstable is currently being investigated. The Army's Chinook fleet remains in active service.

The routine training exercise involving live firing tanks, aircraft and infantry continues.

Media contact:

Defence Media Operations (02) 6127 1999

From Victoria



RAA Association for 3 MD

The inaugural meeting of an RAA association, was held at Batman Ave. Depot on April 7, 1978.

A Draft Constitution was submitted to the meeting and accepted.

The first committee is:

President: Maj./Gen. N. A. Vickery, CBE, MC, ED.

Vice-President: Brig. K. V. Rossi, QBE, ED.

Secretary: Mai. I. G. White, ED.

Treasurer: WO1 K. M. Hodges.

Members: Capt. J. E. Morkham, Maj. D. I. Perry, Maj. I. L. Barnes, Capt. J. V. Phillips, Lt. C. S. Rose (RL), Bdr. G. A. Dunn, Maj. J. K. Tutton.

Membership is offered to all present and past members of Artillery units and attached Corps.

Applications should be forwarded to the Secretary, Artillery Association, c/o 2/15 Fd. Regt., Batman Ave., Melbourne, enclosing an annual subscription of three dollars.

The first social activity (a simple happy hour) at which all potential members are welcome, was held at 132 Div. Loc. Bty. RAA, Landcox Street, Brighton on Friday, July 28 from 1730 hours to 2000.

Calendar 1978

NOV.

1 —2/2 Aust. Fd. Regt. Annual Dinner at Victoria Hotel.

19—B.B.Q. 2/8 Aust. Fd. Regt.

21—132 Div. Loc. Bty. Unit Birthday.

DEC.

3—St. Barbara's Day Celebrations.

4—St. Barbara's Day.

Regiment's colours laid up

MELBOURNE University Regiment (MUR) conducted a parade and ceremony on May 19 to lay up the Colours of the Monash University Regiment (MonUR).

The Colours were laid up before CA Lt-Gen David Morrison, Commander 2 Div Maj-Gen Steve Smith and Commander 4 Bde Brig Mike Annett.



Presentation: Maj-Gen Greg Garde entrusts the Monash University Regiment Colours at the ceremony attended by about 400 people at the University's Religious Centre.

Photo by Maj Ian Toohill

In conjunction with Duntroon, the regiment produced junior officers for service in Victoria's 4 Bde and held driver and junior NCO training. Graduates of MonUR have served Australia in theatres across the globe.

MonUR's Colours, which were consecrated and presented in front of more than 3000 people at Monash University's Clayton campus in 1988, returned to the heart of the campus where they were laid up in the Religious Centre.

MUR CO Lt-Col Margaret Sorial presented the Colours to MUR's Honorary Colonel, Maj-Gen Greg Garde, who in turn entrusted the Colours for laying up and safekeeping to Reverends Laurie Foot and Geoff Harvey of Monash University.

The CA commended the officers, warrant officers and soldiers of MUR on ensuring a fitting ceremonial conclusion for the regiment.

RSM-A WO Dave Ashley said it was "a sharp, fitting and professional effort by all involved - well done".

Courtesy Army News June '13

You may recall that in our previous journal - 116 - I mentioned that I had been given some copies of The Australian Gunner by Lt Col John Morkham. Fittingly, the photos below include John and are taken from Vol. 2 No. 1 September 1979.



It must be a rare occasion when a CO, Lt-Col Graham Allinson, finds each of his battery commanders become either engaged or married within a 12-month period. However that has just happened at 2/15 Field Regiment. Pictured above at a dinner to celebrate the events are (from left): Maj John Morkham and his fiancé, Miss Julia Hayes; Mrs Pam Smith and Maj Roger Smith; Mrs Mary Henry and Maj John Henry; Mrs Wendy Allinson, and Lt-Col Graham Allinson.



WO2 J.H. Breeze who was awarded the AOM in the Australia Day Honours List. WO2 Breeze has had 22 years service with 132 Div Loc Bty RAA. Initially a member of RAA for 15 years, he transferred to RAEME to continue service with 132.

An article re Exercise Chong Ju was used in journal 116. Jordan's submission arrived too late, so I include it now. ed

LT Jordan A'Vard – 2/10 Lt Bty

The atmosphere was filled with anticipation as the radio chatter, amplified by the loudspeakers, echoed through the air. The Manoeuvre Arms Commander (MAC) has just finished issuing his radio orders to his manoeuvre elements, just as the Mortar Fire Controller (MFC) radioed through to our call sign.



"SECTION! POSITIONS!" I bellowed out to the line. With frantic action, the gunners leapt up from the stand easy area and took their positions around the tubes.

The radio crackled "Fire. Over"

"Fire. Out" The signaller responded. He glanced at me, "Fire, sir"

"SECTION! FIRE!"

Explosions filled the air as round after round of High Explosive and Red Phosphorus ammunition impacted on the hill in front of us. In the background, thunderous explosions could be heard rumbling across the clear skies as the battery of M777 155mm howitzers from 53 Independent Battery opened up. Seconds later, the ground shattered as a barrage of 40kg high explosives shells tore the hill asunder.

A sudden burst of high-powered gunfire sounded to our right, whipping our heads around. ASLAVs on the high ground let loose with a staccato of 25mm rounds, ripping through the air to our left and right as they provided support by fire onto the enemy position. In the mean time, Abram tanks and APCs raced across the ground to our front, 120mm sabot rounds cracking the air around the muzzle as the round screamed home, punching

cleaning through the enemy vehicles.

As the tanks and APCs closed in on their objectives, their infantry spilling out to begin the messy process of clearing enemy pits, fire started to ignite from the right of our mortar position from the hot ammunition casings expended by the ASLAVs. We watched curiously, and then, nervously, as the fire grew larger and larger, moving steadily to where our idle mortars were sitting.

Finally, after getting clearance to pause the activity and under the guidance of the SMIG, the gunners quickly raced out and grabbed the tubes, tore them out of the ground and brought them back to safety.



Sweaty and covered in smoke and ash, the gunners packed up the last of the mortars stores just as the Tiger helicopters swooped in. The thunder of the chopper blades was deafening as they flew in overhead towards the feature, just as they unleashed a torrent of hellfire rockets and 30mm round on the target.

The Gunners did a fantastic effort in their role and really proved themselves demonstrating the skills and capability of Reserve Artillery. Each and every one of them should be proud of their efforts and achievements.



The Chief of Army, Lieutenant General David Morrison, AO

today announced the suspension of three members of the Australian Army and that action had been initiated to consider the suspension of another five Army members, pending the outcome of civilian police and Defence investigations into allegations of unacceptable behaviour.

The investigations relate to evidence that a group of officers and non-commissioned officers of the Australian Army allegedly produced and distributed highly inappropriate material demeaning women, across both Defence computer systems and the public internet.

The production and distribution of the material dates back to 2010 and also appears to make veiled reference to drug use.

"There is no place for this behaviour in our Army, and in a Defence Force that prides itself on teamwork, courage and respect, and where women and men work alongside each other as colleagues and professionals," Lieutenant General Morrison said.

"It brings the Australian Army into disrepute and betrays all those whose service has established its enviable status among our citizens.

"I am, of course, cognisant of the need to keep an open mind and to let the evidence speak in regard to how these men are dealt with, but I view the allegations that are being made in the gravest light."

The three Army members already suspended are the subject of an ongoing investigation by New South Wales Police.

The Army today initiated action to consider the suspension of another five members who are the subject of a parallel Australian Defence Force Investigative Service (ADFIS) investigation into a number of alleged Service offences. The ADFIS investigation is also ongoing.

Pending the outcome of the ongoing ADFIS investigation, the Army may consider further suspension decisions against nine others if the circumstances warrant.

ADFIS is also investigating a further 90 individuals who have been identified as peripheral to the group's email exchanges.

These 90 individuals are predominantly Army members.

Where any serious case is proven, the Chief of Army is resolved to take every step available to remove the individual responsible from the Army.

"If proven, these allegations could lead to the imposition of punishment, to these individuals being discharged from the Australian Army," Lieutenant General Morrison said.

"After the significant effort we have made to encourage women to enlist and remain in the Army, I am extremely concerned at what appears to have been uncovered.

"In the wake of the ADFA 'Skype' case, and the series of inquiries and reviews into various aspects of the ADF culture and military justice over the last 20 years, the leadership of the ADF no longer accepts the 'bad apple' argument when one of these incidents occurs.

"These behaviours are symptoms of a systemic problem and we will continue to address them in a comprehensive manner, through Defence's Pathway to Change strategy."

Army and Defence are engaging with and providing support to those women who have been affected by these allegations.

Defence is also providing support to those personnel who are the subject of these allegations.



Ever heard of a 62 gun salute. View the link to see it fired at the Tower of London in the UK.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/magazine-22243247>

A brilliant series of post WW2 photos can be viewed here.

<http://www.theatlantic.com/infocus/2011/10/world-war-ii-after-the-war/100180/>



Brigadier JR Salmon CBE

Arthur Burke

John Robert Salmon was born in 1926 and educated at Geelong College during the Second World War, finishing schooling in 1943. He was destined for a military career as his father and godfather (a Victoria Cross recipient) had served with distinction in the Great War. On entry to the Royal Military College, Duntroon in February 1946 John was selected second in his class and three years later, he graduated in second place. Don Weir recalls that, 'one irreverent classmate remarked that he did not progress at all' whilst at the College!

Appointed to the Royal Australian Artillery, Lieutenant Salmon was posted to A Field Battery with the British Commonwealth Occupation Force in Japan. Six months later, he was transferred to and completed his BCOF service on the staff of Headquarters 34th Australian Infantry Brigade. Following appointments as adjutant of 1st then 6th Field Regiments, Captain Salmon was attached to 16th Field Regiment RNZA where he served as a forward observer on active service in Korea. On a night raid with the 1st Battalion RAR, he was seriously wounded by a grenade and repatriated to Australia. John did not allow this injury to interfere with his active life.

In 1953, following a posting as an instructor in gunnery at the School of Artillery, John attended the Long Anti-Aircraft Gunnery Staff Course in the United Kingdom. On return to Australia he was posted as the senior instructor in anti-aircraft gunnery for 12 months before attending the Australian Staff College. Then followed an instructional posting at RMC Duntroon.

In 1961 he was appointed the first Battery Commander of the newly raised 103rd Field Battery, 4th Field Regiment, Brisbane. This battery was destined for service in Malaya and he described this period with the 103rd as 'the happiest time I spent in the Army'.

On arrival in Malaya with his advance party, the battery came under command of a British artillery regiment. He was determined that '103 would beat the Brits at gunnery, movement, deployment and living in the bush'. It proved to be successful in all these areas.

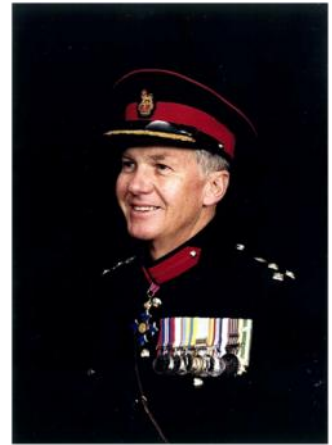
The 103rd was John Salmon's pride and joy and he worked the men hard with their new 105mm L5 Pack Howitzers deploying by road, Belvedere helicopters, Pioneer fixed wing aircraft and even riverine barges. John Bertram recalls every man in the battery held their heads up high at the first class standards achieved.

Competition continued on the tennis courts when he partnered 17th Gurkha Division's open singles champion (103's Lieutenant John Bertram) and won the 1962 and 1963 doubles championships. John Bertram recalls how his BC would bristle when the umpires announced, 'Next up on the court is John Bertram and his partner'!

Canberra became the next challenge. Promoted lieutenant colonel and appointed to the Directorate of Military Training, John dedicated himself to using his gunnery, instructional and command experience to produce outstanding results. His service in this appointment was rewarded with selection for overseas Joint Services Staff College in the UK.

In 1967, John returned to the Gunner fold as the Chief Instructor and Commanding Officer of the School of Artillery. He was well suited for this appointment and set high standards for both staff and students. This was the Vietnam War era during which courses at the School doubled in number. Nevertheless, the highest of standards were achieved and maintained under his leadership. With John Bertram on the staff as an instructor, the old doubles team was reunited on the Officers' Mess tennis court. John B recalls the pair competing in the annual officers versus sergeants' tennis matches which were strongly contested by such other tennis notables as Warrant Officer Geoff Jebb.

Promoted to Colonel, John returned to Canberra as the Deputy Director of Staff Duties in Army



Headquarters. This area with its precise rules and principles was very much in the mould of JR Salmon. He had high expectations of his staff in this appointment and some found them to be excessively demanding.

The year 1971 saw John as the Chief of Staff at Headquarters Australian Force Vietnam in Saigon. It was a very busy and difficult period as it involved planning for the withdrawal of the Australian force from Vietnam. This required continuous liaison with the senior staff of Headquarters 1st Australian Task Force in Nui Dat.

His excellent service in this role was recognised with the appointment of Commander of the Order of the British Empire (CBE).

On return to Australia John was promoted brigadier and concluded his Army service as the Brigadier Army Reorganisation, attendance at the Royal College of Defence Studies, Director General Coordination and Organisation, and Commandant Joint Services Staff College. He retired in 1982.

He subsequently worked for a number of years as a consultant with Short Brothers plc based in both Northern Ireland and Australia. In those days, his face was seen more frequently in the corridors of Materiel Branch (Army) than when he was serving.

John was able to rejoin Canberra Legacy after leaving the Army and devoted more time to his widows. President of Canberra Legacy Robert Connors said that he was dedicated to, and meticulous in looking after his widows, no less than 14 at any one time. He served five years on Legacy's Welfare Committee where he made a great contribution; and though suffering health issues in his later years, he continued to deliver button boxes to government departments with the aid of a fellow legatee. In total, John gave 30 years of dedicated service to Canberra Legacy.

John Salmon was as passionate about his sport as his Gunner career. He played cricket, Australian Rules, Rugby, tennis, squash and enjoyed fishing, sailing and horse riding. Don Weir suggests that he spent most time at cricket where he played everywhere he went in Australia, England and Japan. He represented the Australian Army against New Zealand in Japan and on one notable occasion he was struck in the mouth by a particularly nasty ball. 'Such was his nature that he spat out blood and teeth and continued batting—and made a reasonable score'.

He also competed for the Army in the squash team

which won the inaugural competition of the ACT Association.

During his time in Canberra at Army Headquarters, he and David Engel formed the Saturday morning tennis club on the RMC courts. This gave him the opportunity to continue one of the loves of his life—as well as exercising his inimitable authority. 'White,' he would say, 'is the only acceptable colour of dress in the club' and he insisted on this standard even when he was retired. Garth Hughes recalls the enforcement of this rule, but smiles as he remembers the time when the commandant of RMC arrived for a game wearing black shorts. There was no way that John was going to tell their host that he must wear whites, so an exception to the rule was made that day!

Jim Shelton, when reviewing a draft of this obituary reminded Margie that John was also 'a very good horseman'.

Of all his sporting activities, some of his happiest days were sailing with Margie. The tranquillity of days broken only by the rushing of water parted by the bow provoked many happy memories.

There was also a dedicated and loving family man behind John's very military exterior. He married Jennifer in 1956 and they had three children—Jane, Libby and Hugh (deceased). John was deeply saddened by the passing of his beloved sister, Jane and then the mother of his children. He married Margaret (Margie) in 1987 and her children Simon and Letitia extended the Salmon family.

Margie was the most loving and supportive partner for which any husband could wish. They were hospitable and generous hosts sharing their lives with many. Don Weir recalled 'though he was not a saint and certainly had his share of faults (and detractors) ... he lived with these and was fortunate to be loved unequivocally by the loyal Margie whose care during his long illness showed an unsurpassed level of devotion.'

Vale John Robert Salmon—a strong personality, a man of courage, conviction and determination, and all the characteristics of an achiever, which he was. A kind and loving family man; a good citizen and friend; and a Gunner soldier of distinction. Posted to the Great Gun Park up above on 17 March 2013.

Written by Col Arthur Burke OAM (Retd)

Courtesy Brig Neil Graham AM (Retd)

DID YOU KNOW!!

Holding Ground

The correct terminology for "Holding Ground" is "Troops Keeping the Ground". Today on many unit ceremonial occasions, the corners of the parade ground have troops in position "Holding Ground"; these soldiers may be equipped with anything from lances to mortars, or even field guns, all facing out. The role of these troops is to "secure the area", thereby allowing the unit on

parade to safely carry out its ceremonial duties.

The tradition dates back to the British hollow square (the 'square' was just that, a fighting unit lined up in a four-sided formation with a hollow centre; the troops were shoulder-to-shoulder, three or four ranks deep). When the troops were resting, lines of picquets were placed out, at sufficient distances to give early warning of pending attacks, thereby allowing the battalion or regiment time to regroup and fight off the approaching enemy.

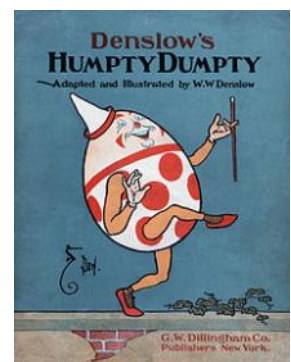


The Parade ground at the Royal Military College, Duntroon.

DID YOU KNOW

Humpty Dumpty was in fact believed to be a large cannon! It was used during the English Civil War (1642 - 1649) in the Siege of Colchester (13 Jun 1648 - 27 Aug 1648). Colchester was strongly fortified by the Royalists and was laid to siege by the Parliamentarians (Roundheads). In 1648 the town of Colchester was a walled town with a castle and several churches and was protected by the city wall. Standing immediately adjacent the city wall, was St Mary's Church. A huge cannon, colloquially called Humpty Dumpty, was strategically placed on the wall next to St Mary's Church.

A shot from a Parliamentary cannon succeeded in damaging the wall beneath Humpty Dumpty which caused the cannon to tumble to the ground. The Royalists, or Cavaliers, 'all the King's men' attempted to raise Humpty Dumpty on to another part of the wall. However, because the cannon, or Humpty Dumpty, was so heavy 'All the King's horses and all the King's men couldn't put Humpty together again!' This had a drastic consequence for the Royalists as the strategically important town of Colchester fell to the Parliamentarians after a siege lasting eleven weeks. Earliest traceable publication 1810.



Courtesy Ssgt Morrell; verified at http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Humpty_Dumpty

Chapter 3

Sandakan POW Camp, 1942–1944

After the fall of Singapore in February 1942, numbers of Allied POWs—Australian and British—were brought progressively to Sandakan. The first large group of Australians—about 1500 men—to arrive from Singapore was 'B' Force. They steamed along the east coast of Borneo on the Ubi Maru and arrived at Sandakan on 17 July 1942. Lieutenant Rod Wells thought the scenery beautiful:

From the sea it's lovely. With the red chalk hills on the side of Berhala Island it really is very impressive. I suppose for a split moment we thought, with a sigh of relief, that here's some beautiful, peaceful land where there may not be any Japanese.

Once ashore, the Japanese marched them to Sandakan POW Camp, which was under the command of Captain Hoshijima Susumi. In April 1943, 'B' Force was joined by 776 British POWs and, between April and June, by another group of 500 Australian prisoners—'E' Force.



Captain Hosijima Susumi (centre), Commandant, Sandakan POW Camp, 1942–1945, talking with his defence counsel outside the courtroom where he is being tried for war crimes at Labuan, January 1946. AWM 133913

The POWs were brought to Sandakan to build two military airstrips and their service roads and dispersal pens. Each day at 7.30am, work details left the camp for the airfield where they cleared and burnt off scrub, filled in swamps, dug gravel, and pushed trucks along a light railway to where the gravel was dumped for levelling. At 5.30 pm they marched back to camp. In the early days this life was almost bearable. Private Keith Botterill, 2/19th Battalion, remembers:

We had it easy the first twelve months. I reckon only half a dozen died at the top...Sure we had to work on the drome, we used to get flogged, but we had plenty of food and cigarettes...We actually had a canteen in the prison camp. We

were getting ten cents a day...I think a coconut was about one cent, and a turtle egg one cent... And a fair sized banana went for a cent...It was a good camp.

Concerts were held and one of the best entertainers was Private Nelson Short, 2/18th Battalion, who composed songs. Short adopted the popular Irish–Australian song Ireland Over Here to their situation at Singapore and at Sandakan:

If the Harbour Bridge was spanned across the causeway And old Fremantle came to Singapore If Adelaide bells rang out in Bukit Timah And Bondi Beach was lined around these shores If the River Yarra flowed into the harbour And old Rockhampton on this island did appear Then we wouldn't want to roam. We would always feel at home If we only had Australia over here.

Although prisoners, their position might at that time have been summed up in the words, chosen by the Japanese, on a postcard that Bombardier Dick Braithwaite, 2/15th Australian Field Regiment, recalled they were allowed to send home: ***We are well. We are happy. We are well fed. We are working for pay.***

This tolerable situation did not last long. One significant change came with the arrival in April 1943 of new Formosan guards. With the advent of the Formosans, who lived in the camp, and the earlier establishment in late 1942 of a system of punishment known as the 'cage', the POWs began a journey into a world of systematic depravation and violence. Mass beatings during work details began, as recalled by Warrant Officer William Hector 'Bill' Sticpewich, Australian Army Service Corps:

My gang would be working all right and then would be suddenly told to stop...The men would then be stood with their arms outstretched horizontally, shoulder high, facing the sun without hats. The guards would be formed into two sections, one standing back with rifles and the others doing the actual beating. They would walk along the back of us and...smack us underneath the arms, across the ribs and on the back. They would give each man a couple of bashes...if they whimpered or flinched they would get a bit more.

The cage, which was placed near what was known as 'the big tree' facing the guardhouse, was a more prolonged and agonising form of punishment. It

was a wooden structure, 130cm by 170cm, with bars on all sides and high enough only to sit in. Prisoners crawled into the cage through a narrow opening. A POW undergoing punishment would have to sit at attention through the heat of the day. At night he had no bedding or mosquito netting. During the first week no food was permitted and the guards twice daily administered beatings. Sentences to the cage for trivial misdemeanours varied from a few days to over a month. Keith Botterill spent some time in the cage:

The time I was in for forty days there were seventeen of us in there. No water for the first three days. On the third night they'd force you to drink till you were sick. For the first seven days you got no food. On the seventh day they started feeding you half camp rations. I was just in a 'G' string, never had a wash. We were not allowed to talk, but we used to whisper...Every evening we would get a bashing, which they used to call physical exercise...The [cooks] knew we got out at five so they'd come down then to feed the dogs with swill, the kitchen rubbish. They'd pour it into this trough. We'd all hit together, the dogs and all of us, and we'd fight the dogs for the scraps. If you've ever tried to pull a bone out of a starving dog's mouth you'll know what it was like. The dog would fasten onto your wrist to take the bone off you, and you'd still be putting the bone into your mouth. And you'd finish up the better.

Captain L C Matthews GC, MC, 8th Division Signals, 2nd AIF. Captain Matthews was executed by the Japanese on 2 March 1944 for his part in the secret intelligence organisation run between Sandakan POW Camp and Sandakan town during 1942 and 1943. Matthews was posthumously awarded a George Cross for gallant and distinguished service whilst a



POW at Sandakan.

AWM059358



Gunner D S Folkes, 12 Battery, 2/3rd Anti-Tank Regiment, examining a wallet belonging to a deceased POW which he found in the mud at Sandakan POW Camp, October 1945. AWM 120438

In July 1943 an elaborate local intelligence network, built up at the camp and connecting it with the local civilian internees and guerrilla units even further afield, was betrayed to the Japanese.

Captain Lionel Matthews, 8th Division Signals, was the organiser of this network. Matthews was arrested, tortured and eventually shot, along with eight local people who had been part of the organisation.

Following the breaking of the intelligence ring, the Japanese, hoping to take out the source of such resistance from the camp, removed all but eight officers to Kuching, hundreds of kilometres away on the far side of Borneo. Discipline and security at the camp were tightened.

The rest of 1943 and 1944 were characterised by an increased number of beatings—'almost daily occurrences' is the phrase used in the official history—prolonged work, diminishing rations and sickness. In September 1944 Allied planes began raiding Sandakan and the airfield. December saw a reduction in the daily rice ration to between about 140 and 200 grams per man, despite there being adequate supplies in the camp. By the end of the month further air raids had rendered the airfield inoperable and any real usefulness the POWs had for their captors was at an end. The health of the POWs deteriorated rapidly and the death rate crept up. In January 1945 the Japanese issue of rice ceased altogether and men were given just 85 grams per day from accumulated stores built up by the POWs themselves.

January 1945 saw the Japanese on the defensive throughout that vast Pacific and Asian territory they had conquered so swiftly in late 1941 and early 1942. To the Japanese, it must have seemed only a matter of time before the Allies struck at Borneo. Fearing that this invasion might occur in the Sandakan area, they made provision to move the POWs over 260 kilometres westward to Ranau where they might prove useful as supply carriers in the mountains. A track, or *rentis*, was cut by local labour through the low-lying swamps and jungle to the south of the Labuk River and its tributaries—the Dusan, the Kolapsis, the Muanad, the Pandan Pandan, and the Mandorin—up into the dense rainforest of the Maitland Range, past Paginatan village into the Crocker Range (which formed the foothills of Mount Kinabalu) and on to a highland plateau at Ranau. In the swamp lowlands this track was made of logs and proved dangerous to walk on. It was often easier to wade through the swamp itself. Through the mountains the track became narrow, slippery and, in many places, steep.

On 26 January 1945 the POWs were informed that a party consisting of approximately 455 Australians and British were to leave Sandakan for another part of Borneo where there was plenty of food. The prisoners were divided into nine groups which left the camp progressively between 28 January and 6 February. Bill Sticpewich remembers them leaving:

None of them were fit. They were all suffering from beriberi and malnutrition. They were all issued by the Japs with crude rubber boots but nobody could wear them. Some of them had their own boots but more than sixty per cent of them were bootless.

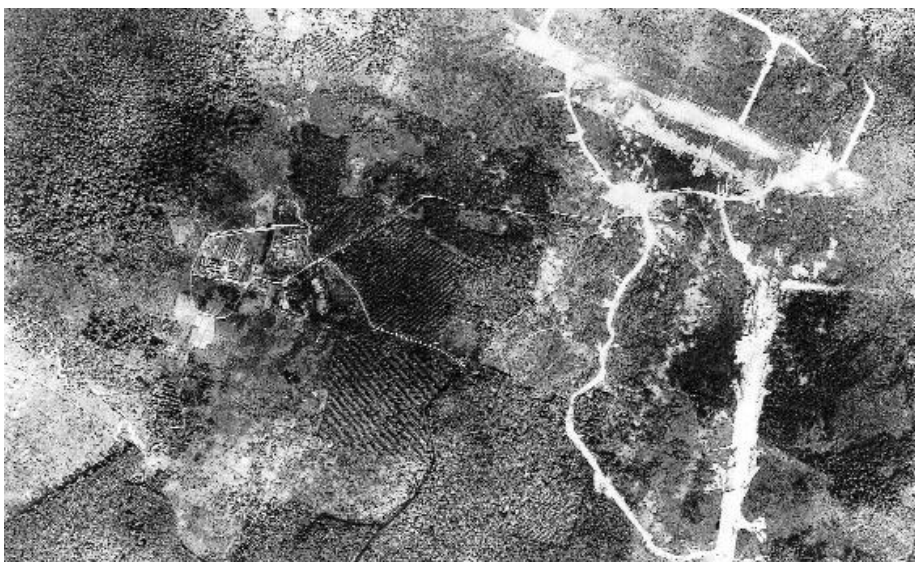
In this state the marchers set off westward into the swamp and the jungle.

Chapter 4

First death march to Ranau January–March 1945

Approximately 455 POWs left Sandakan on the first march to Ranau. They were issued with enough rations—rice, some dried fish and salt—for just four days, and the men found that they were also to be burdened with extra sacks of rice, ammunition and other pieces of Japanese equipment. Additional supplies supposedly were to be made available at various Japanese food dumps along the way but the marchers were often reduced to scrounging whatever the jungle could provide or by trading their few possessions with the local people. Most were forced to march in bare feet and the track west soon became a barely passable pathway of mud, tree roots and stones. Virtually every night it rained. Over sections of low-lying swamp a bamboo walkway had been erected. With the mud and rain, this proved impossible to walk on, so the POWs were forced to wade through the swamp itself.

Keith Botterill was with the third group to leave Sandakan on 31 January. For their first three days in the swamp country they had a small amount of rice and six cucumbers among 40 POWs. This was, in Botterill's words, just enough to keep them alive. Group 3 took 17 days to make the trip through swamp, jungle and mountain forest. Of the 50 who had started out, only 37 reached Ranau. Some had simply died of exhaustion and



An aerial view from an Allied reconnaissance plane of Sandakan POW Camp (left) and the nearby Japanese military airstrips. The bomb craters from recent Allied air raids are visible both on and close to the airstrips.

AWM 044659

disease: others, unable to go on, were shot or sometimes beaten to death. As Botterill later recalled:

I've seen men shot and bayoneted to death because they could not keep up with the party. We climbed this mountain about 30 miles out from Ranau, and we lost five men on that mountain in half a day. They shot five of them because they couldn't continue. But I just kept plodding along. It was dense jungle, I was heartbroken; but I thought there was safety in numbers. I just kept going.

As Botterill went on towards Ranau he realised that others in the earlier parties had suffered a similar fate:

Although I did not see the bodies of any men who had been shot in the parties that had gone before, often I could smell them.



Japanese POWs filling in graves at Sandakan POW Camp. The graves have been examined for relics that might have helped to identify the occupants. AWM 120451

This ruthless disposal of incapacitated POWs seems to have been official, if unwritten, policy on all the POW marches which left Sandakan between January and June. Behind the final group on the first march came Lieutenant Abe Kazuo's killing squad which had been given the task of making sure that no POW survived if he became unable to go on. If they came across POWs who had fallen out from earlier groups, but were clinging to life when Abe's squad came through, they were to dispose of them. A Japanese soldier who was with Abe later testified to war crimes investigators:

Two soldiers .. were the ones who had been detailed to come at the rear and they may have received the orders you refer to directly from Abe .. About two or three hours after leaving Boto one PW became very ill indeed and Sato [Sergeant Sato Shinichi] without telling me anything about it took him into the jungle and bayoneted him to death. Endo [Private Endo Hirkaki] and Sato told me that 16 had died on the way from Sandakan to Boto but they did not give any details of the deaths.

Groups 1 to 5 all marched through to Ranau, losing 70 out of 265 POWs along the way. Groups 6 to 9 were held at the village of Paginatan, ostensibly because there was no accommodation for them at Ranau. Private William Dick Moxham, 2/15th Australian Field Regiment, was with Group 7 and he recalled their progress over the 200-odd kilometres between Sandakan and Paginatan:

Men from my own party could not go on. Boto was the first place where we actually had to leave anyone. They remained there, at this Jap dump. At the next place, at the bottom of a big hill, we left two more men. Later, we heard shots, and we thought the two men must have been shot.. In all of my dealings with the Japanese, I have never seen anyone of our chaps after they

had been left with the Japs. Once you stopped—you stopped for good.

Groups 6 to 9 remained at Paginatan for about a month. There, many simply wasted away and died. Some, including the sick, suffered the same routine of brutality that they had encountered from the guards at Sandakan. Of the 138 POWs from groups 6 to 9 who had reached Paginatan, there were but 68 left one month later. At the end of March approximately 50 to 60 Paginatan survivors set off for Ranau. Dick Moxham remembers the nightmare journey:

One man was puffed up with beriberi in the legs and face, and was getting along all right on his own and could have made it; but the Japs would not let him alone, but tried to force him along, and eventually he collapsed. They kicked him on the ground. The Jap turned and saw the man had gone down, and he struck him over the head with his rifle butt. The soldier was left there. The party marched on.

Just 46 of them reached Ranau alive to join the remnants of groups 1 to 5.

Of the approximately 195 POWs who had made it through to Ranau from these first groups, by 1 April another 89 had died at the camp and 21 on rice carrying parties between Ranau and Paginatan. The purpose of the carrying parties was to take supplies back to Paginatan for subsequent POW and Japanese groups making the trek from Sandakan. Most of those who died on these nine-day trips were either shot or bayoneted to death for their inability to walk any further. As Keith Botterill, who went on all six journeys, recalled:

No effort whatsoever was made to bury the men. They would just pull them five to fifteen yards off the track and bayonet them or shoot them, depending on the condition of the men. If they were conscious, and it was what we thought was a good, kind guard, they'd shoot them. There was nothing we could do.

At Ranau the POWs were herded into insanitary and crowded huts. Dysentery became endemic and eventually three-quarters of the available living space was occupied by the sick and the dying. Dirt and flies covered everything and the weak, but still relatively healthy POWs, could only watch helplessly as their comrades wasted away with dysentery or their bodies became distended with the accumulated fluids of beriberi. Each night, Keith Botterill recalls, was a night of death followed by a morning of burial:

You'd wake up of a morning and you'd look to your right to see if the chap next to you was still alive. If he was dead you'd just roll him over a little bit and see if he had any belongings that would suit you; if not, you'd just leave him there. You'd turn to the other side and check your neighbour; see if he was dead or alive.

There'd be a burial party every morning .. which consisted of two men to each body. We used to

wrap their wrists and ankles together and put a bamboo pole through them and carry them like a dead tiger. We had no padre. And no clothes on the bodies, just straight into six inch deep graves. The soil was too hard to dig any deeper. We'd lay the body in and the only mark of respect they got, we'd spit on the body, then cover them up. That was the soldier's way.

By 26 June, just under five months from when the 450-odd Australian and British POWs had set out from Sandakan, there were only six of them left alive at Ranau—five Australians and one British soldier.

Over those months those who had stayed behind at the Sandakan camp fared little better than their comrades at Ranau and Paginatan. Malnutrition caused by the reduction in the rice ration to virtually starvation levels, disease and the failure of the Japanese to issue needed medicines brought inevitable results. From the beginning of February to the end of May, 885 Australian and British POWs died at the camp. One Australian who died in February was Private Ted Ings, 2/19th Battalion, of Binalong, New South Wales. The official cause of his death was given as malaria but certainly he was also suffering at that time from malnutrition and possibly also from one of the other diseases which by that time were endemic at Sandakan. Ted Ings' death was typical of those hundreds of Australian and British POWs who between January and August 1945 expired at Sandakan camp from ill-treatment in a situation where their captors possessed locally enough medical and food supplies to adequately care for them.



Paginatan village is approximately 42 km east of Ranau on the road back towards Sandakan. In 1945 it was a Japanese food dump and POWs were forced to carry rice between the village and Ranau. A number of men died or were beaten to death on these rice-carrying parties. AWM 042511

By mid-April the Japanese had decided to move the rest of the POWs away from Sandakan, an area where they expected an Allied landing. However, a final evacuation of the camp came about only after a large sea-air bombardment of Sandakan on 27 May. This attack severely damaged most of the town and convinced the Japanese that the foreshadowed invasion was imminent. They withdrew their defences inland beyond the POW camp that now stood between them and any Allied troops who might be landed at Sandakan. In these circumstances, the camp, which contained approximately 800 malnourished, ill and, in many cases, dying POWs was evacuated and burnt. Dick Braithwaite watched his home of three years go up in flames:

It was a strange, sad sort of feeling to see those huts going up. Knowing also, of course, that any records of our friends that had died, things that we'd made and cherished, the little pieces of wood that had become more or less like the family jewels, they were going up in smoke. It was a great loss. It must have been in the back of our minds all the time that this was it for us.

Some 530 prisoners were gathered together in eleven groups for another march westwards to Ranau. The remainder, all too incapacitated to move, were left behind in the smouldering ruins.

To be continued



Balabiu, a nine-year old from the Ranau area, who gave food to starving Australian and British POWs during the death marches, listening to a recording made of her story. Also listening is a missionary, Mr Trevor White (left), and Major Harry Jackson (right), the leader of the combined Australian-British Borneo Reward Mission, 1946–1947. AWM 042565

I'm sure you remember these two "wannabees" from previous journals. It now seems that justice is going to be dispensed.

From the Courier Mail, courtesy of Lt Col Ian George OAM RFD ED, we catch up with their "goings on" in court.



It appears one of the Hines twins has now changed his name to George Carr.

George Carr will not be fronting for trial on Monday 3 August. He is down for mention again on 23 August.

LAWYERS for a man accused of masquerading as an Australian Digger during an Anzac Day parade can no longer represent him for "ethical reasons", a court had been told.

Mr Halden told the court one of his colleagues, from Boe Williams Lawyers, had identified an issue that meant they could no longer act on Carr's behalf on ethical grounds.

Carr, who is currently in custody after his parole on unrelated offences was cancelled eight months ago, confirmed his lawyers had raised the ethical dilemma directly with him on Thursday. Mr Carr did attempt to discuss the nature of that dilemma in open court.

However, Magistrate John McGrath immediately interrupted Carr, saying he did not need to know the reasons.

Outside, court Mr Halden declined to reveal those reasons when approached by The Courier-Mail. Carr told the court he would need several weeks to make a fresh application for Legal Aid funding. He told the court he was not happy about being left to languish in prison while being forced to find lawyers to represent him.

"Right now I'm on my own," he said. "It is very difficult to do this from a prison cell. For me to get Legal Aid (is hard)."

Mr McGrath ordered Carr be remanded to re-appear for mention on August 23. Carr and his twin brother, John Anthony Hines, have been charged with a string of offences allegedly committed while marching alongside veteran soldiers at last year's Anzac Parade in Brisbane.

The charges include improper use of service decorations on Anzac Day.

It is alleged that among the medals worn by the fake diggers was the Australian Active Service Medal, Vietnam campaign medals and an Australia Service Medal and Infantry Combat Badge.

Hines was not required to appear in court on Friday, with his charges yet to be listed for trial or sentence.

Communication is essential to modern war-fighting, yet it also played a vital role in Navy's development, Lauren Norton reports.

ON APRIL 10, 1903, while conducting exercises in Moreton Bay in company with sister ship *Paluma*, His Majesty's Queensland Ship *Gayundah* passed, using a bamboo fore-top mast measuring 110 feet and wireless telegraph equipment, the RAN's first 'Marconigram' from sea," CDRE Rob Elliott told guests at an historic dinner on April 9.

It was received in a small shed in what is now St Mary's churchyard via a 40m antenna mast and read: "Gun drill continued this afternoon and was fairly successful. Now off Mud Island. Blowing squally, cold and rainy. Prize firing tomorrow. Marconi insulators were interfered with by rain but easily rectified and communication has since been good. Good night."

This year marks the 110th anniversary of that message—the first Navy ship-to-shore wireless transmission.

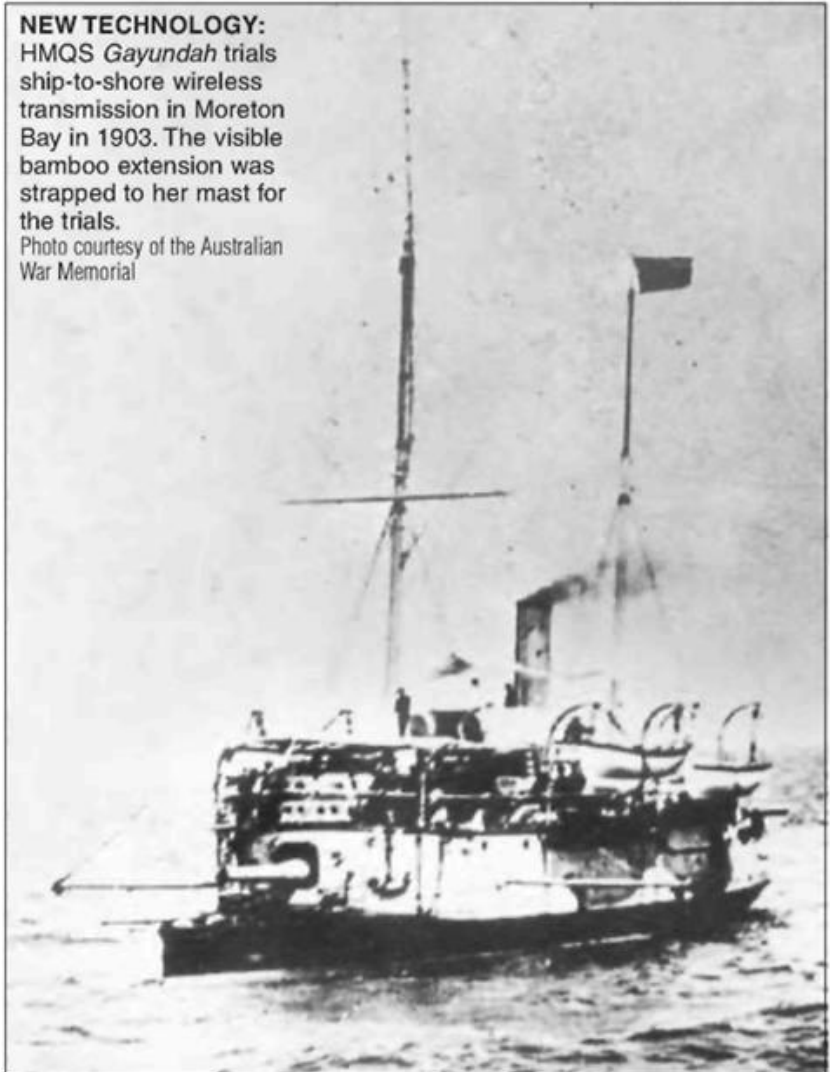
The message showed how wireless telegraphy could overcome the limitations of lights and flags and led to the establishment of the first Navy communications system.

This system, which evolved to allow ships to deploy and maintain vital links with Australia and its allies helped to usher Navy into the modern era of war-fighting.

"In fact the last 113 years has taken us from 10 words per minute via flashing light info an era where today's technology offers line of sight communications of greater than 10 megabytes per second," CDRE Elliott said.

"In capability terms the LHD is a game changer and will shift the way we conduct our amphibious training and operations just as the arrival of the first RAN fleet of ships in October 1913 shifted the thinking of those in the Navy at the time

NEW TECHNOLOGY:
HMCS *Gayundah* trials ship-to-shore wireless transmission in Moreton Bay in 1903. The visible bamboo extension was strapped to her mast for the trials.
Photo courtesy of the Australian War Memorial



Historically, Navy has had an emphasis on joint expeditionary capability, while communications have been central in maintaining a cohesive and effective Defence Force.

"If we consider one of the very first combat experiences of the RAN.. Australia and New Zealand had combined to create a naval and military expeditionary force, which set on August 19, 1914, just weeks alter the proclamation of war, to land in Rabaul and then take the wireless station at Bitapaka," he said.

"Today of course we still serve in a joint environment, and as it was then ,so it is now with communications as the backbone of how we fight and win at sea."

I received the following email on 16/5/13.

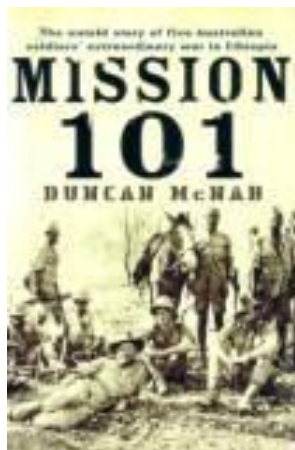
Dear Sir,

I have enclosed a book review and a copy of the book cover which I respectfully submit for publication in Cascabel.

Yours faithfully,

David Harris

Thank you David. ed



MISSION 101 by DUNCAN McNAB

Reviewed by David R H Harris, Maj (RL)

MISSION 101. Duncan McNab. 2011. Pan Macmillan Australia Pty Limited. Paperback. Guerrilla Warfare in Ethiopia. Map and photographs. \$34.99. ISBN 9781742610429(pbk).

Duncan McNab was a detective in the New South Wales Police Force and later a private investigator. He is now a journalist and author. This book is a tribute to his uncle, Ken Burke, who was one of the five members of 2/1 Field Regiment seconded to the British Army for special duties in Ethiopia in 1940.

This book relies heavily on anecdotal evidence from the families of the five Australians, supplemented with official records and a wide ranging bibliography. The author's background has led to a detailed but not military style description of the activities of the five gunners over six months of guerrilla warfare against the Italian forces occupying Ethiopia. It is entertaining and easy to read and absorb

I met some former members of 2/1 Field Regiment whilst a young officer at 1 Field Regiment RAA in the early 50s but I never heard of the exploits of Mission 101 nor have I heard of them over the years which I have been associated with RAA since then. Yet it is a story that should become an important part of the history of the RAA. The five members concerned were: Lt Alan Hooper Brown, Sergeants John Kenneth Burke, William Roland Howell, Edward Maxwell Body

and Ronald Charles Wood. As a guerrilla group, Operational Centre Number One, part of the fledgling Special Operations Executive, they led teams of local troops in a successful six months of guerrilla warfare.

The aim was to force the Italian army to leave Ethiopia so that the deposed Emperor Haile Selassie could be returned to his throne. This objective was achieved quickly due in the main, to the efforts of the various Operational Centres and a military force all under command of the legendary but enigmatic Ord Wingate. Yet at the conclusion the Australians were given little recognition. (Body received an M.I.D.). For their efforts all suffered for the remainder of their lives from the effects of malaria, dysentery and malnourishment occurring during their time in Ethiopia.

The author covers the activities of the five in detail throughout the planning and execution of their mission which was named after a contemporary HE fuze. He also brings into the story another Australian who made a fatal contribution to the freedom of Ethiopia, the politician, hunter and spy Arnold Wienholt.

After their operations with the Special Operations Executive the four sergeants earned commissions and the Australians all rejoined the AIF. Brown and Body returned to 2/1 Field Regiment, Burke went to 2/2 Battalion, Howell to 29 Infantry Battalion and Wood to 2/3 Battalion.

The five then served in the Pacific. All saw the arrival of Peace except Howell who was killed in action in New Guinea in 1942. The last survivor was Ted Body who died in 1994.

Wingate became most unpopular with the British General Staff and this is probably why the Australians as part of his command, were never officially recognised for their sterling contribution towards the reinstatement of Haile Selassie. However the Emperor personally invited Brown to Ethiopia for celebrations in 1966.

I recommend this book to anyone interested in the history of the RAA, in guerrilla warfare techniques or who enjoys a good easily read tale of military expeditions.

Battalion remembers Coral

Cpl Max Bree

OLD mates from 1 BAR joined the battalion's present day soldiers to commemorate the Battle of Fire Support Base Coral at Lavarack Barracks on May 12.

Two 105mm howitzers blazed away a 20-round fire mission using blank rounds before Abrams tanks from the Armoured Cavalry Regiment (ACR) and Bushmasters from B Sqn 3/4 Cav rolled in to clear the parade ground.

All vehicles advanced line abreast before the bushmasters dropped two sections of 1RAR soldiers who cleared the rest of the parade ground ahead of the bat-talion march on.

RSM 1 RAR WO1 John Stonebridge said the unit was lucky all the vehicles were in Townsville for the recent ACR trials and 3 Bde combined arms training activity.

"Basically we wanted to represent all the units who were involved at the Battle for Coral," he said. The reviewing officer, CDF Gen David Hurley, was driven on and off the parade by a Vietnam-era M113.

"It was an original M113 ARC from tours of Vietnam," WO1 Stonebridge said. "It's believed to be the last working M113A1 in the Australian Army"

The day also coincided with the 20th Anniversary of 1 RAR's deployment to Somalia in 1992/3, during which Gen Hurley was the CO of the battalion group.

Veterans from Coral and Somalia also took part in the parade by presenting awards and medals to current battalion members.

Courtesy Army News June '13



'Digger' belongs to us all

WITH 2015 coming and the 100th anniversary of the Anzac Gallipoli landings, I suggest that the Army consider abolishing the rank of private and replacing it formally with the rank of digger.

This would be a fitting tribute to the Anzac legend and further bond the link between the diggers of today and the past.

Just a thought. While the term has dropped off a little today, it was quite common to be called a "digger" as an OR in the Army of the 1980s/1990s and before.

It's time we brought it back into use on a daily basis, remember our customs and traditions, and remind our youngest and newest soldiers of who they are and where they came from.

Sgt Antony Buckingham
ADFIS

**RSM-A WO Dave
Ashley responds:**

THANKS Antony - we have known each other for a long time and you have provided a lot of good input over the years.

I can see your position, but I think the term "digger", which is a great term of endearment for Army's people, applies to us all.

I am proud to be a warrant officer and equally as proud to be a digger. I bet you, as a senior NCO, don't mind being referred to as digger by a member of the public and I don't think even the CA would mind!

Our private soldiers are awesome - you and I were privates once, but "digger" refers to us all.

I speak to many groups, in and out of Army, and I don't agree that the term "digger" has reduced at all. It is as supportive and reflective of society's warmth for us today as at any time in my memory.

It is important that we all behave and act in a way that continues to warrant this respect and warmth - and I know that you do.

A great strength of our Army is our egalitarianism. To me this speaks to mutual respect between ranks.

I think having us all termed "digger" as a generic term for all of Army's men and

women, not just formally linked to our private soldiers, best reflects us as the great national institution Army is.

What do you think? Should the rank of private be formally changed to digger? Send your letters to the Editor at Cascabel ahalbish@netspace.net.au



Heritage: The term "digger" has referred to Australian soldiers of all ranks since the Anzac landings at Gallipoli. Should it replace private as the official starting rank for enlisted personnel?

Photo provided by the Australian War Memorial

ARTILLERY ASSOCIATION CHURCH PARADE

The 2013 Church Parade of the Royal Australian Artillery Association (Vic)

is to be held on **Sunday 8th December 2013 At 10.00 am**

At St Georges Uniting Church (adjacent to Sargood Barracks) Chapel Street, East St Kilda

All Gunners (present and past) and family and friends are welcome.

WARNING ORDER

Reporting from a warzone

Deploying across the globe with weapons, body armour, ballistic eyewear, cameras and a voice recorder is the working life of a military reporter, Cpl Mark Doran reports.

W02 Andrew Hetherington was the first Defence News military reporter to deploy with a formed body to Afghanistan during Operation Slipper.

Deploying with Combined Team Uruzgan (CTU) last November, W02 Hetherington's role was to report on the activities of International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) units and personnel across Afghanistan.

He hit the ground running for his nearly seven-month tour and his fifth deployment to Afghanistan since 2008.

"It was a highlight to be deployed with CTU and I expected to gather a lot of stories and imagery on a long and sometimes difficult tour," he said.

"One of the challenges was with the geographical location of people and units, even within Multinational Base Tarin Kot, as it's such a large base and personnel are spread everywhere.

"As the deployment progressed and the retrograde and the deconstruction of the base began, it became obvious an important chapter of Australia's military history was coming to an end."

Travelling regularly across Afghanistan from Tarin Kot to Kabul and Kandahar, W02 Hetherington was also required to fly to A1 Minhad Air Base in the United Arab Emirates for reporting tasks.

W02 Andrew Hetherington spent Christmas and New Year's eve working in Kabul where he met Afghan National Army (ANA) soldiers who were training with Australia's Artillery Mobile Training Team.

"The ANA soldiers were all positive and had taken to the training, showing great respect for Australian and ISAF instructors, mentors and advisers, and they were given respect in return," he said.

"It was my favourite story and experience from the deployment and it was amazing to be on the artillery firing range with a backdrop of snow covered mountains.

"Anzac Day at Tarin Kot was the most emotional experience, with the large crowd, a piper from 7RAR and two Apaches flew over the base during the ceremony.

"I felt privileged to be in Afghanistan again as a military reporter and an Australian soldier."



Inset, spending Christmas and New Year's Eve covering ANA artillery training in Kabul was one of the highlights of the trip for W02 Hetherington.

Photos by Cpl Mark Doran and W02 Andrew Hetherington

As another chapter of history draws to a close, the surviving four members of the famous Doolittle Raiders prepare to bring their reunion ritual to a close.

Courtesy of Ssgt Reg Morrell

On Tuesday 6 Aug. '13, in Fort Walton Beach, Florida, the surviving Doolittle Raiders gathered publicly for the last time.

They once were among the most universally admired and revered men in the United States. There were 80 of the Raiders in April 1942, when they carried out one of the most courageous and heart-stirring military operations in this nation's history. The mere mention of their unit's name, in those years, would bring tears to the eyes of grateful Americans. Now only four survive.

After Japan's sneak attack on Pearl Harbor, with the United States reeling and wounded, something dramatic was needed to turn the war effort around.

Even though there were no friendly airfields close enough to Japan for the United States to launch a retaliation, a daring plan was devised. Sixteen B-25s were modified so that they could take off from the deck of an aircraft carrier. This had never before been tried -- sending such big, heavy bombers from a carrier.

The 16 five-man crews, under the command of Lt. Col. James Doolittle, who himself flew the lead plane off the USS Hornet, knew that they would not be able to return to the carrier. They would have to hit Japan and then hope to make it to China for a safe landing.

But on the day of the raid, the Japanese military caught wind of the plan. The Raiders were told that they would have to take off from much farther out in the Pacific Ocean than they had counted on. They were told that because of this they would not have enough fuel to make it to safety.

And those men went anyway.

They bombed Tokyo, and then flew as far as they could. Four planes crash-landed; 11 more crews bailed out, and three of the Raiders died. Eight more were captured; three were executed. Another died of starvation in a Japanese prison camp. One crew made it to Russia.

The Doolittle Raid sent a message from the United

States to its enemies, and to the rest of the world: We will fight. And, no matter what it takes, we will win.

Of the 80 Raiders, 62 survived the war. They were celebrated as national heroes, models of bravery. Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer produced a motion picture based on the raid; "Thirty Seconds Over Tokyo," starring Spencer Tracy and Van Johnson, was a patriotic and emotional box-office hit, and the phrase became part of the national lexicon. In the movie-theatre previews for the film, MGM proclaimed that it was presenting the story "with supreme pride."

Beginning in 1946, the surviving Raiders have held a reunion each April, to commemorate the mission. The reunion is in a different city each year. In 1959, the city of Tucson, Arizona, as a gesture of respect and gratitude, presented the Doolittle Raiders with a set of 80 silver goblets. Each goblet was engraved with the name of a Raider.

Every year, a wooden display case bearing all 80 goblets is transported to the reunion city. Each time a Raider passes away, his goblet is turned upside down in the case at the next reunion, as his old friends bear solemn witness.

Also in the wooden case is a bottle of 1896 Hennessy Very Special cognac. The year is not happenstance: 1896 was when Jimmy Doolittle was born.

There has always been a plan: When there are only two surviving Raiders, they would open the bottle, at last drink from it, and toast their comrades who preceded them in death.

As 2013 began, there were five living Raiders; then, in February, Tom Griffin passed away at age 96.

What a man he was. After bailing out of his plane over a mountainous Chinese forest after the Tokyo raid, he became ill with malaria, and almost died. When he recovered, he was sent to Europe to fly more combat missions. He was shot down, captured, and spent 22 months in a German prisoner of war camp.

The selflessness of these men, the sheer guts .. there was a passage in the Cincinnati Enquirer obituary for Mr. Griffin that, on the surface, had nothing to do with the war, but that emblemizes the depth of his sense of duty and devotion: When his wife became ill and needed to go into a nursing

home, he visited her every day. He walked from his house to the nursing home, fed his wife and at the end of the day brought home her clothes. At night, he washed and ironed her clothes. Then he walked them up to her room the next morning. He did that for three years until her death in 2005."

So now, out of the original 80, only four Raiders remain: Dick Cole (Doolittle's co-pilot on the Tokyo raid), Robert Hite, Edward Saylor and David Thatcher. All are in their 90's. They have decided that there are too few of them for the public reunions to continue.

The events in Fort Walton Beach this week will mark the end. It has come full circle; Florida's nearby Eglin Field was where the Raiders trained in secrecy for the Tokyo mission. The town is planning to do all it can to honour the men: a six-day celebration of their valour, including luncheons, a dinner and a parade.

Do the men ever wonder if those of us for whom they helped save the country have tended to it in a way that is worthy of their sacrifice? They don't talk about that, at least not around other people. But if you find yourself near Fort Walton Beach this week, and if you should encounter any of the Raiders, you might want to offer them a word of thanks. I can tell you from first hand observation that they appreciate hearing that they are remembered.

The men have decided that after this final public reunion they will wait until a later date -- some time this year -- to get together once more, informally and in absolute privacy. That is when they will open the bottle of brandy. The years are flowing by too swiftly now; they are not going to wait until there are only two of them.

They will fill the four remaining upturned goblets.

And raise them in a toast to those who are gone.



12 August 2013 (*Courtesy Defence Media*)

Australian Special Forces contribution to the International Security Assistance Force train, advise and assist mission in 2014.

Australia, in consultation with the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF), has agreed to provide a Special Forces training contribution to support the international effort to develop the Afghan National Security Force's (ANSF) capacity and capability throughout 2014.

Australia will offer up to 18 Australian Special Forces and other Australian Army personnel to the ISAF Special Operations Advisory Group. These personnel will train, advise and assist the ANSF personnel in the Headquarters General Directorate of Police Special Units in Kabul. The Directorate is responsible for the command and control of the Provincial Response Companies and National Mission Units which seek to maintain internal national security, including responding to attacks on Kabul.

The ADF's role in Uruzgan, including the Special Operations Task Group (SOTG), will conclude by the end of 2013 with the closure of Multi National Base – Tarin Kot, and the completion of transition to Afghan security lead in Uruzgan.

With the closure of Multi National Base – Tarin Kot, over 1000 Australian troops will come home.

Australia, together with our ISAF partners, will continue to support Afghanistan through a nationally-focused effort as we move towards transition across all of Afghanistan and the conclusion of the ISAF mission at the end of 2014.

Australia remains committed to Afghanistan for the long-term as demonstrated by the Comprehensive Long-term Strategic Partnership signed by the Governments of Australia and Afghanistan in May last year. Planning for the post-2014 commitment to Afghanistan will continue through the remainder of 2013 and potentially into 2014. The actual size and scope of Australia's post-2014 contribution is yet to be determined. This includes any ongoing Special Forces contribution, either training or counter-terrorism, or both, under an appropriate mandate.

Australia has also committed to contributing **US\$100 million per year for three years**, from 2015, to help sustain the Afghan National Security Forces post-2014.

Health battalion brings latest medical facilities



Stitched up: Surgeons at the role 2E hospital in the Shoalwater Bay Training Area conduct a practice casualty scenario during the early stages of Ex Talisman Saber 13. Photos by Cpl Max Bree

IT looks like the inside of a space-ship, but 2GHB's giant field hospital has brought the latest medical technology to the Shoalwater Bay Training Area during Exercise Talisman Saber 2013.

The 5600sqm hospital boasts two operating theatres, an x-ray department, trauma wards and four intensive care beds.

1 Surgical Coy OC Maj Paul Mitchell said the hospital also boasted a swag of highly skilled specialists.

"The majority of our specialists are reservists," he said. "But we have more specialists here than at Rockhampton base hospital."

Working in one operating theatre is Maj Christian

Kenfield, a surgeon from Melbourne specialising in liver and trauma cases.

"There is no difference in the equipment you see here apart from the shell," he said. "We have a soft shell; a permanent hospital in one of the capital cities would have a hard shell.

"We can treat the same life threat-ening conditions that can be treated in centres like Rockhampton."

And Maj Kenfield is totally prepared to back the team.

"There are enough facilities here that if there were a real disaster we would send the patients here rather than send them to Rockhampton," he said.

"It can operate with enough staff to be running both operating theatres simultaneously and having a surgeon assisting in resuscitation."

When inspectors placed Agar plates in the operating theatres to check for bacteria, one had nothing on it and the other grew just one germ colony.

Those results are unheard of in the civilian medical world, according to Maj Mitchell.

Apart from the intensive care beds, the hospital has 45 ward beds along with about 220 medical and support personnel.

Once the battalion arrived in location, Maj Mitchell said it wasn't long before they could have serious cases through the door.

"When we start building; within 48 hours we can receive the first case that requires resuscitation," he said.

The hospital underwent certification by an independent team during its time in the field.

"We've had some trial cases over the last four to five days," Maj Kenfield said. "From minor cases to life threatening cases.

"We know ourselves that this facility is very good but by having an external team certify us to Australian standards just proves that this is a very good hospital."

THE "coolest" place to hang out in 2GHB's massive field hospital is the pharmacy store room.

Lt Nicole Such is one of three pharmacists staffing the battalion pharmacy that is constantly maintained at below 25 degrees.

"We're involved with re-supply and logistics, but we also go on rounds and give medication to patients," she said.

"I just like the interaction with all the departments; they're very grateful."

The battalion pharmacy stocks 380 lines of medical consumables along with 330 lines of pharmaceuticals. Lt Such said they recently found a

Sydney-based supplier that would deliver to Shoalwater Bay.

"They have said that within five days we should be able to get resupply out here," she said. "A lot of stores have to be stored below 25 degrees and have to come in air-conditioned trucks."

Apart from not having to deal with geriatric or paediatric patients like she would in the civilian world, Lt Such also gets a taste of life in the field.

"I like doing real Army stuff," she said. "It's a good opportunity to experience what the Army's about.

"If the power goes down, what do you do? You have to think and use your resources and contacts to keep everything active."



To view what is on at the Shrine of Remembrance from now to the end of the year, click the link.

<https://dl.dropboxusercontent.com/u/41877721/What's%20on%20at%20the%20Shrine%20July-December%202013.pdf>

PARADE CARD
As At 31 August 2013
September 2013 to August 2014

January 2014	June 2014	October 2013
22. Cascabel Issue 118 posted	4. Reservist Luncheon	4. Gunner Dinner
26. Australia day Salute	17. Committee Meeting	9. Cascabel Issue 117 Posted
		15. Committee Meeting
February 2014	July 2014	
18. Committee Meeting	6. Reserve Forces Day March	November 2013
	9. Cascabel Issue 116 posted	7. Annual General Meeting
March 2014	21. Committee Meeting	8. Golf Day
5. RAA Luncheon		15. Gunner Symposium
18. Committee Meeting	August 2014	19. Committee Meeting
	18. Committee Meeting	
April 2014		December 2013
9. Cascabel Issue 115 posted	September 2013	4. St Barbara's Day
15. Committee Meeting	17. Committee Meeting	8. Annual Church Parade
25. Anzac day	20. Gunner Symposium	? 2/10 Bty Family Day
		11. Committee Meeting
May 2014		
20. Committee Meeting		
Note: This Parade Card 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

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