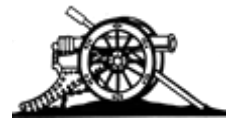


CASCABEL

Journal of the
ROYAL AUSTRALIAN ARTILLERY ASSOCIATION
(VICTORIA) INCORPORATED

ABN 22 850 898 908



ISSUE 119

Published Quarterly in
Victoria Australia

APRIL 2014

CORPORAL CAMERON STEWART BAIRD VC, MG



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Current Postal/Email Addresses

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

Alan Halbish

115 Kearney Drive, Aspendale Gardens Vic 3195

(H) 9587 1676 ahalbish@netspace.net.au

All mail for the Association, except matters concerning Cascabel, should be addressed to:

The Secretary RAA Association (Vic) Inc.

Col Jason Cooke 03 9705 1155

jason.cooke@defence.gov.au

CASCABEL

FORMER PATRONS, PRESIDENTS & HISTORY



FOUNDED:

First AGM April 1978

First Cascabel July 1983

COL COMMANDANT: BRIG P Alkemade RFD

PATRONS and VICE PATRONS:

1978

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

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

1982

Patron: BRIG Sir William Hall KBE, DSO, ED

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

1999

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

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

2008

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

Vice Patron:

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

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

1981 COL A. (Sandy) Mair ED

1984 MAJ P. S. (Norman) Whitelaw ED

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

1991 MAJ M. Taggart RFD, ED

2004 MAJ N. Hamer RFD

JOURNAL NAME:

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

CASCABLE - English spelling.

ARTILLERY USE:

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

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

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

CASCABEL HISTORY:

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

ASSOC LOGO: LAPEL BADGE:

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



The Badge is a copy of the left arm brass gilded gun once worn by GUN SGTS above the chevrons on each arm. Brassards worn by IGs at North Head were embroidered with this insignia. It differs from the logo in that the badge has been cast with the rammer in a different position and the end of the trail has been reduced in length. Selected by MAJ Warren Barnard, 1984 Assoc Committee

RAA ASSOCIATION (VIC) INC COMMITTEE

President:	Maj Neil Hamer RFD 03 9702 2100
Vice President:	Maj Merv Taggart RFD, ED 03 9773 3730
Secretary:	Col Jason Cooke 03 9705 1155
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Cascabel Editor:	WO2 Alan Halbish 9587 1676
Honorary Auditor:	Maj David J Osborne
Association web site:	http://www.artilleryvic.org.au

VIC BTY CONTACTS

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

CONTENTS AND SUBMISSIONS

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

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

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

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I did not have the opportunity in Cascabel 118 to thank Maj Robin Smith RFD for the many years he has devoted to our Association Committee. Robin has, quite rightly, decided that there is a life out there. Some time ago, he and Jan discovered golf and they travel regularly to Queensland to see the rellies. Personally and on behalf of the Association I thank you and Jan for your many years of support.

Congratulations must go to Colonel Jason Cooke on his promotion. Jason is a dedicated and highly competent officer who, I believe, still has some way yet to go. A well deserved recognition.

Of course, along with this promotion to colonel, he has also been promoted to the position of Association Secretary. It is great to have someone in the Association who knows what is (or is not) going on.

The Committee has had a bit of a shuffle with Merv taking the position of Vice-president as Jason moves to take on the secretary's role.

Rachel remains as a member of the Committee, but due to other personal circumstances decided not to continue in the demanding role of secretary.

The RAE Historical and Heritage Association has a new president: LtCol Colin Bowater (Retd).

Colin and I go way back to when we were running the cadet unit at Footscray Technical College in about 1974. Colin and I look forward to working together again for the benefit of both Associations.

Work on the Association Model Rules (Constitution) is continuing. I will try and keep you up to date as anything of significance occurs.



Neil Hamer

Maj (Retd)

Membership Report

Current Membership as at	31 Aug 13	2 Mar 14
Life Members	196	197
Annual Members	44	33
Senior Annual Members	15	14
Affiliates	27	24
Others (CO/CI, Messes, etc.)	9	9
Libraries	4	4
RSL's	4	4
Total	<u>299</u>	<u>285</u>

New Members

Lt (AAC) Allan Sterling
WO2 Kiaran Walsh
Sgt Penelope Richardson
Mr Derek Trewarne

Vale

Capt Barrie Ries
Mr J H Gunn 2/11 Fd Regt Association
Mr W T Randle 5 Bty 2 HAA Regt Association
Gnr D A Funston 2/3 Fd Regt Association



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



This year we are approaching the centenary of the forming of the First AIF. In 1914 Australian Defence force was largely composed of militia units enlisted for the defence of Australia and the majority of the permanent forces were Artillery units manning coastal defence batteries protecting our major harbours. Within six months over 80,000 had enlisted in the AIF for service overseas marking a major change from the defence of Australia to a major contribution to the Empire's war effort. There will be a number of activities conducted in 2014 to commemorate the forming and deployment of the AIF and of course many further activities in the next few years. One activity which will involve the 5/6th Battalion and the Light Battery is the units participation in the ANZAC Day parade on the 25th of April.

The development of the Light Battery continues with contributions to both Regular and Reserve activities. The battery participated in the 4th Bde CATA as part of the 5/6 defensive manoeuvre and achieved excellent results. The battery also fired the Australia Day salute in front of a large crowd at the Shrine of Remembrance.

On the 1st of March I had the pleasure of attending the 5/6 RVR Officers and Senior NCO dinner and listening to LT COL Burr's address remarking on both the recent achievement of the Battalion and Battery and the challenges for the future. It further demonstrated both the achievements of the individual components and the development of combined training.

The overall development of the Light batteries has presenting some significant challenges and 2014 will bring further changes as lessons learned during the establishment of the Batteries are reflected in further development. That said, morale in the Battery is still very good and the level of training is excellent. It is clear that everyone is focused on demonstrating the capability they can provide and seeking to exploit opportunities for more advanced training and operational experience in the next year.

Ubique

Peter Alkemade

Colonel Commandant – Southern Region

A message from the Battery Commander

2/10 Light Battery RAA

5th/6th Battalion

Royal Victoria Regiment

Major Garry Rolfe CSC



Once again I extend a warm welcome to all members of the Gunner family from all ranks 2/10 Light Battery. Looking back at last year we achieved a great deal considering 2013 was our year we transitioned from a Field Regiment into a Light Mortar Battery. The training year consisted of two Salutes, live fire support to Chong Ju and the Royal Military College Battle Block, Battery Technical Shoot and Dry Deployments EX, EX Pozieres (nine day LFX), Battalion training, the occasional dining function and not to mention the numerous governance

weekends and Tuesday night parades. The Light Battery performed to a consistently high standard in all respects and I acknowledge the commitment, enthusiasm and willingness to go that extra mile from all ranks. We concluded the year with our St Barbara's Day celebration, which consisted a parade, demonstration from the Joint Fire Team (FO Party), Command Post and Mortar Line. The afternoon was spent with family and friends enjoying a fine feast, jumping castle, games and not to mention the visit by Santa.

I thank the COL CMDT RAA SR, Brigadier Peter Alkemade for his presence on the day and for his ongoing support to the Light Battery. I congratulate recipients of the Norm Whitelaw Prizes which recognises outstanding achievement being awarded to the Best Officer, Lt Jordan A'Vard and Best

Other Rank, Gnr David Carroll. The Battery Commanders Award was presented to Gnr Alexander Mills. I also acknowledge the generous support from the RAA Association and Dandenong & Cranbourne RSL which contributed to the success of the day.

Mid January soon arrived and once again the Light Battery was called upon provide a Catafalque Party and bugler to commemorate the Anniversary of the death of Albert Jacka VC (former Mayor of St Kilda) at the St Kilda General Cemetery. In front of the assembled 200 people consisting of members of the Jacka family, friends and dignitaries the Guard's performance was noted as outstanding and ultimately received much positive feedback from members attending the commemoration.

This year we have farewelled members of the RAA Band on their transfer to Australian Army Band Melbourne. This is seen as a positive move to ensure the combined bands of the previous 2nd/10th Fd Regt and current 4th/19th PWLH band integrate into AABM to provide enhanced capability to the ADF. The Band continues to be in great demand providing support to the community and military events and occasions.

2014 saw continued support to Australia Day by firing the 21 M2A2 Gun Salute at the Shrine of Remembrance. The Light Battery is to be commended for the professional and timely conduct during the firing of the salute. This skill set required to man the M2A2 for public events while maintaining and enhancing the Mortar capability certainly places great demand on training expectations from all ranks. Concluding the Salute, the Guns were overwhelmed by members of the public showing great interest and appreciation for the contribution to this public event.

As a result of the heightened fire danger, EX Chong Ju (March 14) has been pushed back to later in the year, which has resulted in a realignment of the training program. The Light Battery is to participate in a 5 day Battalion training EX which will focus on HE weapons systems and concluding in Mortar Line dry deployments and continued training of the Joint Fire Team. Mid year will see the Battery support Battalion training, concluding in a technical live fire exercise.

I like to share and celebrate notable events in the lives of the members of the Light Battery. In this edition I congratulate Bdr Ian Johnson on his mar-

riage to Harumi and wish both Ian and Harumi a happy and successful life together. You may not be aware of this, however Bdr Johnson was awarded a Soldiers Medallion late in 2013 by the Commanding Officer recognizing his exemplary service – well done Johnno on both accounts.

With great sadness I read the fine tribute to a great mate, Sgt Jim Heggen on his passing as a result of the dreaded cancer. I worked with Jim as a fellow Gun Sergeant along with Jack Bohmer, Andy Kelzke, Wayne Andrews and many other fine members of 23 Field Battery for many years. They were the days when the Battery would live fire and deploy up to six times in a day followed by a night occupation regardless of weather. I recall the many occasions sharing a bottle of port, the time Jim fell asleep in the bath with the water lapped just below his lip and the time he sat on the thunder box when the clearing patrol returned to the position and a smoke grenade was thrown into the pit giving Jim a blue backside, and the time Jim cooked the quickest frozen steak ever – charred on the outside yet still frozen in the middle – 'she'll be right boys' he would often say. Jim was rough and ready and never short of a cheeky grin, he enjoyed a laugh and called a spade a spade. Rest in Peace Jim and condolences during this time to Cheryl and family.

2014 like our first year of transition into the Battalion and forming of the Light Battery will be a busy year in all respects. The demands of field and barracks training, administration and governance remains and I take this opportunity to once again acknowledge, show appreciation and thank the people behind the scenes who support us while we do our job; our family, friends and employers as without this ongoing support the Light Battery will not be in a position to provide enhanced capability to the ADF. I also acknowledge the guidance and support from the Commanding Officer 5th/6th Battalion, Royal Victoria Regiment, LTCOL Matt Burr who has provided ongoing commitment to the development, and acknowledgement of the Light Battery and its achievements.

Take care and stay safe.

Ubique

GR

View 3 photos on [p38](#)

Editors Indulgence

Congratulations to our new Secretary, Jason Cooke on his promotion to Colonel in early Dec. '13.

Visit this link to the Historical Company's web site, scroll to the bottom of the page and watch an excellent video of the 18 pdr in WW1. There is also information of how you may be able to assist in the restoration project currently underway

<http://www.artilleryhistory.org/>

Thanks to those "Letters" contributors.

Letters to the Editor

Good Day Alan,

I have just finished a quick read of Cascabel No. 118, and want to congratulate you on an excellent effort – a bumper edition, full of really interesting articles.

I am very impressed with Barry Irons amazing effort in researching and presenting his article on the American Civil War – please pass on my congratulations to him when you get a chance.

I read in detail David Gibson's article on his national service, and his tour in SVN with A Fd Bty.

Whether you continue as editor or not, you should be proud of your efforts in putting together a very interesting and well-presented Gunner magazine.

I have just checked and couldn't see your name listed on my distribution list for our magazine, so I have just added it & you will receive future editions – please feel free to use the info therein as you wish.

Best wishes,

Geoff Laurie

President

Col Laurie is the President of the RAA Association of South Australia. Ed

Alan:

I was delighted to read in the Cascabel that arrived today that it has all been sorted out and the high standard and content of Cascabel will continue. January's is a bumper edition.

This time I have received a hard copy.

I will get in touch with Reg Morrell about getting a hard copy of the previous edition (No. 117) as all previous copies are faithfully filed for later reference.

We have come a long way from the A4 blue paper edition of "my watch", much of which was faithfully reproduced recently.

(Col) Graham Farley



Alan

Great to see that you remain our Editor. Your work is unsurpassed and has created a standard that will be very hard to beat

Good to read that Jimmy Breeze is still around and that he received the OAM. He was a very dedicated Warrant Officer and although we tried to corrupt him and ply him with liquor in the Sgt's Mess, he was always a Gentleman and directed his R A E M E people with a sure hand and had a tricky job of doing it because they were scientists and technicians in civvy life and turned into pirates when in camp, roaring about in a huge Mack wrecker they called the green convertible. They kept the Guns Firing with on the spot repairs that were the envy of the A R A 'Tiffies', so they said and my wireless 122 's going as well, The Regiment depended on them to keep us going. At that time with National Service going full bore we had usually P. Q .R .Battery's going full strength and miles of trucks, scout cars, all kinds of jeeps and anything else the Q could get his hands on. On Exercises from Batman Av Depot to Eldon and through the Jameson valley to Pukka, the Regiment could be strung out for miles all over the place, so you can see if you had a break down it was wonderful to see them. Although we kept telling them they were very lucky to be attached to the gentlemen of the Artillery, I don't know how we would have got by without our L A D

Sorry I seem to be wandering, I was Inducted into the National Service in August 1951 and ended up in the Army. That was very strange to me as I had been to Sea since leaving School at 14 years as was the way it was then, and been told when I had my medical that I would be put into the Navy as I was classed as Able Body Seaman and had my Documents and Foreign Going Passes and all Discharges

were good.

And if I didn't do what I was told, then Pentridge for 5 Years, so I ended up Gnr J D O'Brien 9 Sec 12 Platoon 14 National Service Battalion First Intake (one of the Guinea pigs): And strangely enough I loved it from the very start, so I stayed 16 years 2 days all up.

Sorry if this seems like the ramblings of an old man. I am O B E - Over Bloody Eighty.

WO2 J D O'Brien, Danny to most.

Thank you Danny. Great to hear from you. Ed

Alan

Came across this BBC Doco. Bloody excellent

Gordon (Sgt Gordon Hepburn)

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=STPxQkHiH04>

8 Regt's involved but concentrates on the 1st Bn Grenadier Guards. Film shows them in action in Afghanistan & then rehearsing for Trooping The Colour at the Queen's Birthday Parade 2010. Ed

The following is from Maj Merv Taggart and is in relation to the interview with Maj Price Stewart (Norman) Whitelaw on [p27](#).

Hello Alan

I hope this is in time for you. No excuses, just summer time. It is fairly brief but you would not want me to tell the story I am introducing.

An anecdote. The only CMF officer I know to have done anything like the Naval gunfire liaison job was Keith Bunnnett. He spent a week on a frigate up the coast somewhere and adjusted and fired a fire plan on the land. The next day the army wanted to do the same thing again and when Keith asked for this the navy said, "We're moving all the time, we don't have target records. We will have to do the whole thing again".

Merv T

UNUSUAL JOB: POB Gerald Sullivan stands in front of one of the School of Artillery's 5-inch gate guns at Puckapunyal.

POB Gerald Sullivan has a job not many personnel would know existed. Posted to the Combat Arms Training Centre at Puckapunyal in Victoria, PO Sullivan is 190km from the nearest Navy base, HMAS Cerberus. He is Navy's representative working in

the ADF small arms policy and safety branch. "I started here in June 2013, after working in Darwin for five years," PO Sullivan said. "My usual Navy job has me working with weapons and in the past I've been mainly on patrol boats, training crews on small arms. "I came into this position as I thought it would be a change of scenery, could be interesting and was an opportunity to learn."

PO Sullivan's position is owned by Cerberus but has him working with Army personnel. "I'm here to



promote Navy's interests in small arms and to help liaise with Army to ensure those interests are put forward," PO Sullivan said. "For example if a procedure needs to be written into a weapons instruction pamphlet to make it also relevant for naval use, then I'll assist with the writing of it. "I also answer small-arms weapons questions over the phone and I've been assisting with the redevelopment of the small-arms policy and safety branch website." So far he's enjoyed the experience and working with Army.

"The best part about the job has been working with the people here," PO Sullivan said. "It's a relaxed environment and I'm working with and learning about a diverse group of combat corps Army personnel."

Courtesy Navy News Jan 31 '14

'C' Coy 7 RAR training to go to Vietnam at the Jungle Warfare Training Centre (JWTC) Canungra, Queensland. Firing Owen gun and SLR. Mess parade in bush. Snap shooting range and firing Owen Gun. Exercises. Studies of troops. Jumping off tower into river. Assault course- various obstacles shown. Camp at JWTC. Kitchen and mess parade.

<http://www.awm.gov.au/collection/F00403/>

Courtesy AWM and WO2 Max Murray

Silent movie—no sound. ed.

Making Anzac Day special in Gallipoli

Helping hand: ADF members are encouraged to apply to be a Conservation Volunteer in Gallipoli.

Sgt Dave Morley courtesy **Army News**

FROM their first days in the ADF members learn to “never volunteer for anything”.

But Graeme Hickingbotham, Gallipoli Program Manager for Conservation Volunteers, reckons it’s now time to make an exception.

He’s looking for volunteer guides to assist at Gallipoli for Anzac Day 2014.

Conservation Volunteers, under the supervision of the Department of Veterans’ Affairs, recruits and manages a group of 30 volunteers each year to form the Gallipoli volunteer team.



The volunteers are involved in welcoming and registering visitors to the commemorative services, assisting in the transition between services and generally caring for the wellbeing of visitors.

Mr Hickingbotham said Anzac Day at Gallipoli was unique and memorable.

“Three commemorative services take place - the Dawn Service, combined Australia and New Zealand, Lone Pine Service for Australia, and Chunuk Bair Service for New Zealand,” he said.

“The Gallipoli Volunteer Program also includes extensive battlefield interpretations across the Gallipoli peninsula, a crossing of the Dardanelles, a cruise on the Aegean Sea and time in Istanbul.”

Lt Cristy Ellem, a nursing officer at 2GHB, took part in the program in 2013.

She said a highlight of the trip for her was walking the Rhododendron Ridge.

“It enabled us to see the land the way the soldiers would have so many years ago and yet again, all too depressing, to see the formidable landscape in which they were fighting,” she said.

“The purpose was to assist the Department of Veterans’ Affairs in the running of the Anzac Day service.

“This involved a 31-hour shift assist-ing in bus registration, arm-banding visitors, providing information kits and ongoing assistance to the elderly or those with medical conditions, a key role for nurses.

“The variety of work and eagerness of the visitors made the hours go quickly and it was encouraging to see so many young Australians travel so far to be part of the ceremony.”

Lt Ellem said Conservation Volunteers was a fantastic organisation that coordinated various programs within Australia and New Zealand.

“The program put together for the Gallipoli volunteers was enriching, inspiring and very rewarding,” she said.

“I believe it would be difficult to gain such a comprehensive understanding and appreciation for the area without the input from our guide and companions.

“Anzac Day 2013 for me was an amazing experience that has given me a greater appreciation not only of the conflict at Gallipoli, but the history of the Nursing Corps and the hardship nurses faced in those times.”

Cost to participants is about \$5880 and applications close on November 15, 2013.

To obtain more information and to make an application for the Gallipoli Volunteer Program go to www.gallipolivolunteer.org.au

This may be applicable for 2015. ed

Australian Army

To be awarded the Victoria Cross for Australia (posthumous)

Corporal Cameron Stewart Baird, MG

For the most conspicuous acts of valour, extreme devotion to duty and ultimate self-sacrifice at Ghawchak village, Uruzgan Province, Afghanistan as a Commando Team Commander in Special Operations Task Group on Operation SLIPPER.

Corporal Cameron Baird enlisted in the Australian Regular Army in 2000, was discharged in 2004, and re-enlisted in 2006. In both periods of service, he was assigned to the 4th Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment (Commando). His operational service includes Operations TANAGER, FALCONER, BASTILLE and five tours on Operation SLIPPER. He was awarded the Medal for Gallantry for his service in Afghanistan in 2007-08.



On 22 June 2013, a Commando Platoon of the Special Operations Task Group, with partners from the Afghan National Security Forces, conducted a helicopter assault into Ghawchak village, Uruzgan Province, in order to attack an insurgent network deep within enemy-held territory. Shortly after insertion, Corporal Baird's team was engaged by small arms fire from several enemy positions. Corporal Baird quickly seized the initiative, leading his team to neutralise the positions, killing six enemy combatants and enabling the assault to continue.

Soon afterwards, an adjacent Special Operations Task Group team came under heavy enemy fire, resulting in its commander being seriously wounded. Without hesitation, Corporal Baird led his team to provide support. En route, he and his team were engaged by rifle and machine gun fire from prepared enemy positions. With complete disregard for his own safety, Corporal Baird charged towards the enemy positions, supported by his team. On nearing the positions, he and his team were engaged by additional enemy on their flank. Instinctively, Corporal Baird neutralised the new threat with grenades and rifle fire, enabling his team to close with the prepared position. With the prepared position now isolated, Corporal Baird manoeuvred and was engaged by enemy machine gun fire, the bullets striking the ground around him. Displaying great valour, he drew the fire, moved to cover, and suppressed the enemy machine gun position. This action enabled his team to close on the entrance to the prepared position, thus regaining the initiative.

On three separate occasions Corporal Baird charged an enemy-held building within the prepared compound. On the first occasion he charged the door to the building, followed by another team member. Despite being totally exposed and immediately engaged by enemy fire, Corporal Baird pushed forward while firing into the building. Now in the closest proximity to the enemy, he was forced to withdraw when his rifle ceased to function. On rectifying his rifle stoppage, and reallocating remaining ammunition within his team, Corporal Baird again advanced towards the door of the building, once more under heavy fire. He engaged the enemy through the door but was unable to suppress the position and took cover to reload. For a third time, Corporal Baird selflessly drew enemy fire away from his team and assaulted the doorway. Enemy fire was seen to strike the ground and compound walls around Corporal Baird, before visibility was obscured by dust and smoke. In this third attempt, the enemy was neutralised and the advantage was regained, but Corporal Baird was killed in the effort.

Corporal Baird's acts of valour and self-sacrifice regained the initiative and preserved the lives of his team members. His actions were of the highest order and in keeping with the finest traditions of the Australian Army and the Australian Defence Force.

Col. Bud Day, Medal of Honor Recipient, Dies at 88

Jul 29, 2013

Associated Press| by Jennifer Kay and Melissa Nelson-Gabriel

MIAMI -- Retired Col. George "Bud" Day, a Medal of Honor recipient who spent 5 1/2 years as a prisoner-of-war in Vietnam and was Arizona Sen. John McCain's cellmate, has died at the age of 88, his widow said Sunday.

Day, one of the most highly decorated U.S. servicemen since Gen. Douglas MacArthur and later a tireless advocate for veterans' rights, died Saturday surrounded by family at his home in Shalimar, after a long illness, his wife, Doris Day said.

"He would have died in my arms if I could have picked him up," she said.



Day received the Medal of Honor for escaping his captors for 10 days after the aircraft he was piloting was shot down over North Vietnam. In all, he earned more than 70 medals during service in World War II, Korea and Vietnam.

He was an enlisted Marine serving in the Pacific during World War II and an Air Force pilot in the Korean and Vietnam wars.

In Vietnam, he was McCain's cellmate at one camp known as the Plantation and later in the infamous Hanoi Hilton, where he was often the highest-ranking captive. During his imprisonment, the once-muscular, 5-foot-9 (1.75-meter) Day was hung by his arms for days, tearing them from their sockets. He was freed in 1973 - a skeletal figure of the once-dashing fighter pilot. His hands and arms never functioned properly again.

"As awful as it sounds, no one could say we did not

do well. (Being a POW) was a major issue in my life and one that I am extremely proud of. I was just living day to day," he said in a 2008 interview with The Associated Press. "One really bad cold and I would have been dead."

In a statement Sunday, McCain called Day a great patriot and said he owed his life to the man. "He was the bravest man I ever knew, and his fierce resistance and resolute leadership set the example for us in prison of how to return home with honor," McCain said.

Born Feb. 24, 1925, in Sioux City, Iowa, where the airport is named for him, Day joined the Marines in 1942 while still in high school. He returned home, graduated from law school and passed the bar exam in 1949. He entered the Iowa National Guard in 1950 and attended flight school. He was called to active duty in the Air Force the next year and did two tours as a bomber pilot in the Korean War.

In Vietnam, Day was shot down over North Vietnam on Aug. 26, 1967. He bailed out, but the landing broke his knee and his right arm and left him temporarily blinded in one eye.

In the spring of 1968, Day's North Vietnamese captors opened his cell door and brought in McCain, who was wearing a full body cast and was nearly dead. McCain had been in isolation for seven weeks and could not wash or feed himself, Day wrote in "Return With Honor," his 1989 autobiography.

"We were the first Americans he had talked to. ... We were delighted to have him, and he was more than elated to see us," Day wrote. They helped nurse McCain.

After the war and his release, Day retired to the Florida Panhandle in 1977 and practiced law, becoming a crusader for veterans' health care benefits in the courts and in Congress.

"People would stop us in the airports and all over, and we had no idea who they were, and they would say, 'Thank you, you saved my husband's life,' or, 'You saved my wife's life,' " Doris Day said. The couple celebrated their 64th wedding anniversary in May.

Day was active in McCain's failed 2000 and 2008 Republican presidential bids and in 2004 campaigned against fellow Vietnam veteran John Kerry. Day called Kerry, the Democratic presidential nominee, a turncoat who lied to Congress in 1971

about alleged war atrocities.

"I draw a direct comparison to General Benedict Arnold of the Revolutionary War to Lt. John Kerry," Day said in 2004. "Both went off to war, fought, and then turned against their country."

Day retired from the Air Force at the rank of colonel, never attaining his general's star. He said he believed he wasn't promoted further because he "told it like it was."

"When I returned from prison, there was a huge amount of the Air Force leadership that were not combat-oriented. They were quasi-political managers," he said.

Campaigning for McCain in his 2008 presidential bid, Day drew comparisons between the lessons of Vietnam and the dangers of an early pullout from Iraq.

"They cut off funding to the South Vietnamese Army and we ended up being defeated, and that's really very relevant to what's happening right now," Day said.

Day worked throughout his life, accepting an appointment to head the 35-employee Okaloosa County Public Defender's Office in 2009 at the age of 83 after the Panhandle circuit's newly elected public defender asked him to take the job as a personal favor.

-- Nelson-Gabriel reported from Pensacola, Fla.



Artillery support delivers results

AN AUSTRALIAN artillery adviser has witnessed the progression of Afghan National Army (ANA) artillery first-hand during his two deployments to Uruzgan.

Sgt Troy Charters, of 8/12 Regt RAA, first deployed with the Mentoring and Reconstruction Task Force 2 in 2009, mentoring 4 Bde 205 Hero Corps based at Multinational Base Tarin Kot.

In June, he deployed again, this time with the 2 Cav Regt Task Group Security Force Assistance Advisory Team.

He said four years ago the 4 Bde gun line was in a state of disrepair. The Uruzgan artillery battery had four old Russian D-30 122mm guns, but they had not been maintained and did not have the dial sights or aiming circles needed to engage the enemy.

Now, the ANA are employing these same guns with great effect on the battlefield.

Sgt Charters said the team in 2009 was so desperate to help the Afghans, his commander sourced two dial sights to facilitate the gunners' training.

"One managed to make it into Afghanistan, but we still had a lot of work to do to get the guns and gunners ready," he said.

"Unfortunately we didn't get to fire the guns during our rotation as they didn't reach the required technical safety standards."

Sgt Charters was thrilled to find on his return this year that the Afghan gunners had not only refined their skills, but were conducting advanced combined arms operations.

"They are doing really well," he said.

"Their D-30s are now being deployed with Afghan command posts and they are firing high explosives, illumination and smoke in support of ANA and Afghan National Police operations.

"The Afghan gunners are fast and accurate, and can effectively engage by direct and indirect fire."

Important support in the lead up to operations was provided by Slovak, Australian and US mentors from Combined Team Uruzgan.

The efforts of Slovak soldiers from the Combat Service Support Military Adviser Team assisted the Afghan mechanics in servicing the D-30 howitzers, confirming the guns were ready to fire.

Battery Commander Capt Abdul Sakad, of 4 Bde 205 Hero Corps, acknowledged the hard work of the coalition artillery mentors and advisers over the past four years.

I am sad the Australians are leaving Uruzgan, but I will always appreciate the help they have given us."

Sgt Charters is grateful he was in Uruzgan at the start and the end to see the results of the hard work of the previous rotations of coalition advisers.

"It was all worth it," he said.

"The ANA are fighting for Afghanistan - they are good soldiers. They are not fighting for money or prestige, they are fighting to make their country a better place."

Courtesy Army News Dec. '13

Major-General Walter Adams Coxen

‘the boss gunner’

Walter Coxen (1870-1949) was born in Egham, Surrey, England, the son of Henry William Coxen and his wife Margaret. His father owned several large pastoral properties in Queensland and brought his family back to Australia in 1880. Coxen was educated at Toowoomba and Brisbane Grammar schools and joined the Department of Railways as a clerk and draftsman.

In February 1893 he was commissioned in the Queensland militia garrison artillery and in June 1895 transferred to the Queensland Permanent Artillery as a Lieutenant. Two years later he was sent to the School of Gunnery, Shoeburyness, England, for the long course in coast defence and siege artillery and, having completed it with honours, trained in field artillery at Aldershot in January-March 1898.

On returning to Australia he was appointed Officer Commanding Queensland's garrison troops on Thursday Island and in August 1899 was promoted Captain. He married Adelaide Rebe White Beor at Chatswood, New South Wales in 1901. After the post-Federation reorganization of Australia's military forces Coxen, a proficient mathematician, became Chief Instructor at the School of Gunnery in Sydney in July 1902. He held this important post at a time when the artillery lessons of the South African War were being evaluated and when procedures were making gunnery more scientific.

In November 1907 Coxen went to England for further training, gaining an ordnance certificate at Woolwich, and qualifying as an Inspector of Warlike stores. He was promoted Major in June 1908 and returned to Australia in February 1910. Next April he became a Company Officer in the Royal Australian Artillery and was posted to Queenscliff, Victoria, but soon afterwards was appointed Inspector of Ordnance and Ammunition at Army Headquarters, Melbourne.



From January 1911 he was Director of Artillery, Australian Military Forces, and on the outbreak of World War I was also made Inspector of Coast Defences and promoted Lieutenant-Colonel. He was seconded in that rank to the Australian Imperial Force on 21 May 1915 to raise and command the 36th Heavy Artillery Group, commonly known as the Australian Siege Brigade. The only unit to leave Australia with its establishment manned exclusively by regular officers and men, it was the first A.I.F. fighting unit to reach France in February 1916. It first saw action in the British XVII Corps area, north of Arras. For the rest of the year Coxen commanded the brigade on the Somme, taking part in operations at Serre, Hamel, Ovillers and Pozieres.

Coxen was awarded the Distinguished Service Order on 1 January 1917. Promoted Colonel and

temporary Brigadier General later that month, he left the Siege Brigade to command the 1st Australian Divisional Artillery and in January-July served during the German withdrawal to the Hindenburg line. He took part in the attacks on Bullecourt in April and May and in the German counter-attack at Lagnicourt on 15 April. Later he commanded the Divisional Artillery in the third battle of Ypres. He was appointed C.M.G. in January 1918 and with the creation of the Australian Corps that month, became the Senior Artillery Commander of the Corps, retaining this position until after the Armistice.

It has been claimed that in the battle of 8 August he commanded the greatest aggregation of artillery in the history of warfare. On 16 November he was made Director of Ordnance in the A.I.F.s Department of Repatriation and Demobilization in London. He was created C.B. in the New Year honours of 1919. During the war he was also awarded the Belgian Croix de Guerre and was mentioned in dispatches four times.

Coxen returned to Australia in August 1919. His first post-war appointment was that of Chief of Ordnance and fourth member of the Military Board. In January 1920 he was promoted Colonel and in April was made Deputy Quartermaster General. From May 1921 to December 1924 he was Chief of Artillery. He became Quartermaster General and third member of the Military Board in 1925 and two years later also became Adjutant General, temporarily. He reached his final rank of Major General in March 1927 and in April 1930 was appointed Chief of the General Staff. At the time it was said of him: "If he had not been a Captain in Arms he would have made a Captain of industry. Good temper and a vivid sense of humour characterises this man of action."

At the front he was known as 'the boss gunner'. Gifted with keen insight, and an outsize memory, he never forgot a face or a fact. He was known throughout the army as 'Wacky' Coxen. "Efficiency is his watchword." Coxen's tenure of office in the army's top post was short; because of new governmental policy concerning conditions of retirement he was prematurely retired on 1 October 1931.

He was tall and well built, with strong features and a self-possessed and dignified manner, a good public speaker with a pleasing, well modulated English voice and after his retirement he sometimes gave radio talks for the Australian Broadcasting Commission. He was Director of the Council for Victoria's Centenary Celebrations of 1934, a role which he carried out with characteristic efficiency. His chief recreations were ornithology, gardening and cabinet-making. He enjoyed the social life of military society, in which he moved with ease and unpretentiousness. Survived by his wife, a son and four daughters, he died on 15 December 1949 at the Repatriation General Hospital, Heidelberg, and was cremated with full military honours.

Fort Queenscliff Museum takes great pride in being able to preserve and care for much of the historical collection relating to Major-General Coxen including his uniform and World War 1 diaries currently on display in the Museum along with his 1918 diary. The diary demonstrates Coxen's distinguished penmanship.

Two notable entries from the diary are:

Sunday 21st Genl Pritchard in from GHQ to see me at 1pm. Went out to see Fraser... No action as expected this morning. Saw Gen Bessel Brown re CP Scheme - . RITTMEISTER FREIHERR VON RICHTHOFEN was brought down by 53rd Battery's Lewis gunners -

Wednesday 24th Slept in office heavy Bosch Bombdt at 4.30am 3 minutes in front of our CP 2 Phase operation eased off at about 6am - all O.K. Bosch attacked about 9. am and took Villers Bretonneux held by III Corps - Several attacks on our front - all repulsed - Assisting III Corps - on our Right - 5th Div (Aust) Handed over tactically to III Corps. 2 Brigades made attack with 1 Brigade British on Villers Bret at 10 supported by a considerable amt of our Arty on Trench E of V.B. Believe all aimed objective in retaking V. Bret. Heavy Fighting all day -

His portrait, by Longstaff, hangs in the Australian War Memorial.

*Story provided by Jason Zooreview,
Fort Queenscliff History Unit.*

These pictures were taken from
The Journal of the Royal Artillery, September 1982



A recently acquired 'Famous Gunner Chest' Maj Gen 'Jock' Campbell VC, DSO & Bar, MC



A typical Vertical Display

Major-General John Charles "Jock" Campbell VC, DSO & Bar, MC (10 January 1894 – 26 February 1942) was a Scottish officer in the British Army, recipient of the Victoria Cross.

Campbell was born in Thurso and educated at Sedburgh School. In 1915, he was commissioned to the Royal Horse Artillery, becoming a first class horseman (in the top flight at both polo and hunting) and also a first class artillery officer; as well as being awarded the Military Cross.

When World War II started, Campbell was 45 years old and a major commanding a battery in the 4th Regiment Royal Horse Artillery in Egypt. When Italy declared war in June 1940, Campbell, by then a lieutenant-colonel, was commanding the artillery component of 7th Armoured Division's Support Group under Brigadier William Gott. The British Army was heavily outnumbered by the Italians, so General Archibald Wavell formulated a plan with his senior commanders to retain the initiative by harassing the enemy using mobile all-arms flying columns. Campbell's brilliant command of one of these columns led to them being given the generic name "Jock columns" (although it is unclear if the idea originated with Campbell or not).

During Operation Compass Campbell's guns played an important role in 7th Support Group's involvement in the decisive battle at Beda Fomm in February 1941 which led to the surrender of the Italian Tenth Army. In April 1941 Campbell was awarded the DSO.

In September 1941 Gott was promoted to command 7th Armoured Division and Campbell took over command 7th Support Group as an acting brigadier. In November 1941 during Operation Crusader, 7th Support Group was occupying the airfield at Sidi Rezegh, south of Tobruk, together with 7th Armoured Brigade. On 21 November 1941 they were attacked by the two armoured divisions of the Afrika Korps. The British tanks suffered heavy losses but prevented the Germans taking the airfield. Brigadier Campbell's small force, holding important ground, was repeatedly attacked and wherever the fighting was hardest he was to be seen either on foot, in his open car or astride a tank. According to Alan Moorehead,

He led his tanks into action riding in an open armoured car, and as he stood there, hanging on to its windscreen, a huge well-built man with the English officer's stiff good looks, he shouted, 'There they come, let them have it.' When the car began

to fall behind, he leapt on to the side of a tank as it went forward and directed the battle from there ... They say that Campbell won the VC half a dozen times that day. The men loved this Elizabethan figure. He was the reality of all the pirate yarns and tales of high adventure, and in the extremes of fear and courage of the battle he had only courage. He went laughing into the fighting.



Next day, under intensified enemy attacks, he was again in the forefront, encouraging his troops and personally controlling the fire of his batteries - he twice manned a gun himself to replace casualties. During the final attack, although wounded, he refused to be evacuated. His brilliant leadership was the direct cause of the very heavy casualties inflicted on the enemy, and did much to maintain the fighting spirit of his men. On 23 November the fighting continued but with 7th Armoured Brigade destroyed and the 5th South African Infantry Brigade (which had been sent as reinforcements) in the process of being destroyed, Campbell withdrew the remains of the Support Group to the south. For his actions during the battle Campbell was awarded the Victoria Cross.

He is purported to have received a letter of congratulation from General Johann von Ravenstein, commander of the one of armoured divisions 21st Panzer Division which Campbell had faced at Sidi Rezegh. A Prisoner of War since the battle, von Ravenstein expressed his "greatest admiration" for Campbell's skill on "those hot days" and recalled "all the many iron that flew near the aerodrome around our ears".

In February 1942 when Gott was promoted to lead XIII Corps Campbell was promoted major general and given command of 7th Armoured Division. He was killed three weeks later when his jeep overturned on a newly laid clay road surface.

The driver of the jeep had been his Aide-de-Camp, Major Roy Farran who was thrown clear in the process; and the other passengers knocked unconscious. Farran later admitted that he had considered suicide whilst awaiting rescue.

During the Western Desert Campaign Campbell was considered to be one of foremost commanders in the Eighth Army, an old desert hand who

had been in North Africa from the start of the war. His loss was deeply felt by the soldiers of the Eighth Army.

Official VC citation

The KING has been graciously pleased to approve the award of the VICTORIA CROSS to Brigadier (acting) John Charles Campbell, DSO, MC (135944), Royal Horse Artillery,

in recognition of most conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty at Sidi Rezegh on the 21st and 22nd November, 1941.

On the 21st November Brigadier Campbell was commanding the troops, including one regiment of tanks, in the area of Sidi Rezegh ridge and the aerodrome. His small force holding this important ground was repeatedly attacked by large numbers of tanks and infantry. Wherever the situation was most difficult and the fighting hardest he was to be seen with his forward troops, either on his feet or in his open car. In this car he carried out several reconnaissances for counter-attacks by his tanks, whose senior officers had all become casualties early in the day. Standing in his car with a blue flag, this officer personally formed up tanks under close and intense fire from all natures of enemy weapons.

On the following day the enemy attacks were intensified and again Brigadier Campbell was always in the forefront of the heaviest fighting, encouraging his troops, staging counter-attacks with his remaining tanks and personally controlling the fire of his guns. On two occasions he himself manned a gun to replace casualties. During the final enemy attack on the 22nd November he was wounded, but continued most actively in the foremost positions, controlling the fire of batteries which inflicted heavy losses on enemy tanks at point blank range, and finally acted as loader to one of the guns himself.

Throughout these two days his magnificent example and his utter disregard of personal danger were an inspiration to his men and to all who saw him. His brilliant leadership was the direct cause of the very heavy casualties inflicted on the enemy. In spite of his wound he refused to be evacuated and remained with his command, where his outstanding bravery and consistent determination had a marked effect in maintaining the splendid fighting spirit of those under him.

London Gazette, 30 January 1942

Courtesy Wikipedia

ROYAL AUSTRALIAN ARTILLERY HISTORICAL COMPANY

Dear Gunners (Readers) - WELCOME TO AIRBURST NO 7 2013,

A very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to you and yours. There was so much going on in the Gunner world we had to burst into print for the last time in 2013.



The RAAHC Board met on 14 December and among other weighty matters it was able to accept the kind offer of LT COL Jason Cooke to join as a Director. A short bio on Jason is shown in "Meet the Directors".

Jason had wasted no time in getting involved as he agreed to attend the Museum Advisory Committee (MAC) for the temporary artillery museum held at Puckapunyal on 12 December.

The temporary museum will be housed in less than appealing facilities at the Armoured Museum. Efforts are also being made to recruit some ARes staff so if you are interested or know somebody in Victoria who may be interested please let the RAAHC Secretary know.

View the link below to see who the directors are and their profiles. ed

<http://artilleryhistory.org/directors.html>



Annual exercise sees a first for regiment

Lt Samuel Watts

Thunderous end to year

GUNNERS honed their high- intensity live-fire skills in South Australia during Exercise Thunder Run.

All elements of 8/12 Regt deployed to the Cultana Training Area for the regiment's last exercise for the 2013 training year from October 11 to November 1.

The regiment managed to get eight full gun detachments in the field - the first time it has done this since the introduction of the M777 Howitzer into service.

Personnel integrated with 16 Air Land Regt (16ALR) and its GAMB Radar (Giraffe) and a number of light-weight counter mortar radar during the exercise.

Both RAA regiments conducted radar adjustment missions as well as counter-fire missions with the aid of the Giraffe Radar.

This was particularly exciting as this type of training

had not been conducted in some time and was the first time the Giraffe was used successfully to adjust fire from M777 Howitzers.

Ex Thunder Run consisted of four days of fire and movement from north to south through the training area.

Each gun line was forced to carry out core gunnery skills such as night redeployments, hasty fire missions and danger close fires, all while threatened with enemy air power, counter-battery fire and enemy recon patrols.

The Joint Fires Teams (JFTs) made their way south and coordinated fire support from both gun lines as well as supporting PC9 aircraft.

The gun lines were also faced with a threat from a notional enemy BM-21 battery and were gassed while occupying gun positions.

Each gun line was forced to carry out core gunnery skills such as night redeployments, hasty fire missions and danger close fires, all while threatened with enemy air power, counter-battery fire and enemy recon patrols.

After the fire and movement phase, the regiment consolidated in construction of a FSPB. Both gun batteries, the regimental command post and the A-echelon combined efforts and created a strong and well- defended position from which they could fire.

From this location the regiment defended against attack and continued to provide indirect fire support.

FSPB members were exposed to more gas attacks, night probing and air threats and participated in small-arms live-fire ambushes and other infantry minor tactics training.

They will always

Sgt Andrew Russell, 33

SASR
February 16,
2002
Kandahar



Tpr David Pearce, 41

2/14 LHR (QMI)
October 8,
2007
Tarin Kot



Sgt Matthew Locke, 33

SASR
October 25,
2007
Tarin Kot



Pte Luke Worsley, 26

4RAR (Cdo)
November 23,
2007
Uruzgan province



We are extremely proud of our boy and we know that we lost him doing a job he was trained for and loved doing.

— John and Marjorie Worsley, parents

LCpl Jason Marks, 27

4RAR (Cdo)
April 27, 2008
Near Tarin Kot



Jason always strived to be the best he could be, he loved the Army, he loved his mates and he loved his family.

— Cassandra Marks, wife

Sig Sean McCarthy, 25

SASR
July 8, 2008
Uruzgan province



Lt Michael Fussell, 25

4RAR (Cdo)
November 27,
2008
Uruzgan province



Pte Gregory Sher, 30

1 Cdo Regt
January 4, 2009
Uruzgan province



He was an extremely positive person with a kind soul.

— Pte Gregory Sher's family

Cpl Mathew Hopkins, 21

7RAR
March 16, 2009
Near Tarin Kot



Sgt Brett Till, 31

IRR
March 19, 2009
Southern Afghanistan



Darren was a very loving husband and father, an absolutely remarkable human being.

— Angela Smith, wife

He was a devoted son and brother to his family; a best friend to his father, Ray, and his brother, Adam; always loyal to his mates.

— Ray and Pam Palmer, parents

Pte Benjamin Ranaudo, 22

1RAR
July 18, 2009
Baluchi Valley



Spr Jacob Moerland, 21

2CER
June 7, 2010
Mirabad Valley



Spr Darren Smith, 26

2CER
7 June, 2010
Mirabad Valley



Pte Timothy Aplin, 38

2 Cdo Regt
June 21, 2010
Shah Wali Kot



Pte Scott Palmer, 27

2 Cdo Regt
June 21, 2010
Shah Wali Kot



Pte Benjamin Chuck, 27

2 Cdo Regt
June 21, 2010
Shah Wali Kot



Pte Nathan Bewes, 23

6RAR
July 9, 2010
Chora Valley



Tpr Jason Brown, 29

SASR
August 13, 2010
Northern Kandahar



Pte Tomas Dale, 21

6RAR
August 20, 2010
Baluchi Valley



Pte Grant Kirby, 35

6RAR
August 20, 2010
Baluchi Valley



Photo by LCpl Matthew Bickerton

be remembered

LCpl Jared MacKinney, 28

6RAR
August 24, 2010
Tangai Valley



Rich was the funny man, always putting smiles on other people's faces.
- Cpl Atkinson's family

Cpl Richard Atkinson, 22

1CER
February 2, 2011
Tangai Valley



Spr Jamie Larcombe, 21

1CER
February 19, 2011
Mirabad Valley



Sgt Brett Wood, 32

2 Cdo Regt
May 23, 2011
Southern Afghanistan



LCpl Andrew Jones, 25

9FSB
May 30, 2011
Chora Valley



Andrew was a dependable yet cheeky character who we will miss with all our hearts.
- LCpl Andrew Jones' family

Lt Marcus Case, 27

6 Avn Regt
May 30, 2011
Zabul province



Spr Rowan Robinson, 23

IRR
June 6, 2011
Helmand province



Todd was an all-round great guy. At work he was a soldier's soldier, a true professional who took pride in his work and who was caring.
- Sgt Todd Langley's family

Sgt Todd Langley, 35

2 Cdo Regt
July 4, 2011
Southern Afghanistan



Pte Matthew Lambert, 26

2RAR
August 22, 2011
Khaz Uruzgan region



Capt Bryce Duffy, 26

4 Regt RAA
October 29, 2011
FOB Sorkh Bed



Luke was an amazing man, husband, father, soldier, son and brother.
- LCpl Luke Gavin's family

Rick was a typical Australian bloke, friendly, with a dry sense of humour and a natural charm.
- LCpl Stjepan Milosevic's family

Cpl Ashley Birt, 22

6ESR
October 29, 2011
FOB Sorkh Bed



LCpl Luke Gavin, 29

2RAR
October 29, 2011
FOB Sorkh Bed



Sgt Blaine Diddams, 40

SASR
July 2, 2012
Chora Valley



LCpl Stjepan Milosevic, 40

2/14 LHR QMI
August 29, 2012
Patrol Base Wahab



Pte Robert Poate, 23

6RAR
August 29, 2012
Patrol Base Wahab



Spr James Martin, 21

2CER
August 29, 2012
Patrol Base Wahab



LCpl Mervyn McDonald, 30

2 Cdo Regt
August 30, 2012
Helmand province



Pte Nathanael Gallagher, 23

2 Cdo Regt
August 30, 2012
Helmand province



Cpl Scott Smith, 24

SOER
October 21, 2012
Helmand province



Cpl Cameron Baird, 32

2 Cdo Regt
June 22, 2013
Uruzgan province



Courtesy Army News Dec. '13

THE NATIONAL BOER WAR MEMORIAL

HONOURING AUSTRALIA'S CITIZEN SOLDIERS IN THEIR FIRST WAR

Lieutenant Colonel Murray Alexander RFD ED (Retd)

Defence Reserves Association - South Australia

Introduction

The Boer War ran from 1899 to 1902, and saw servicemen, many lacking training, from every Australian colony (and after 1901 from every state) serve alongside each other for the first time in a war. Contingents were sent to South Africa both before and after federation. The war was predominantly fought by British forces with Citizen Soldiers from Australia and New Zealand together with forces from other Empire countries. The men and women from the various Colonies of Australia, which transitioned into the Commonwealth of Australia in 1901 upon Federation, established the foundation for the Australian Defence Force as ANZACS and Diggers which has served our country so well ever since.

About 23,000 Australian citizens served in the Boer War. This figure includes those who enlisted both in Australian units and in the many units formed locally in South Africa. The nature of the conditions

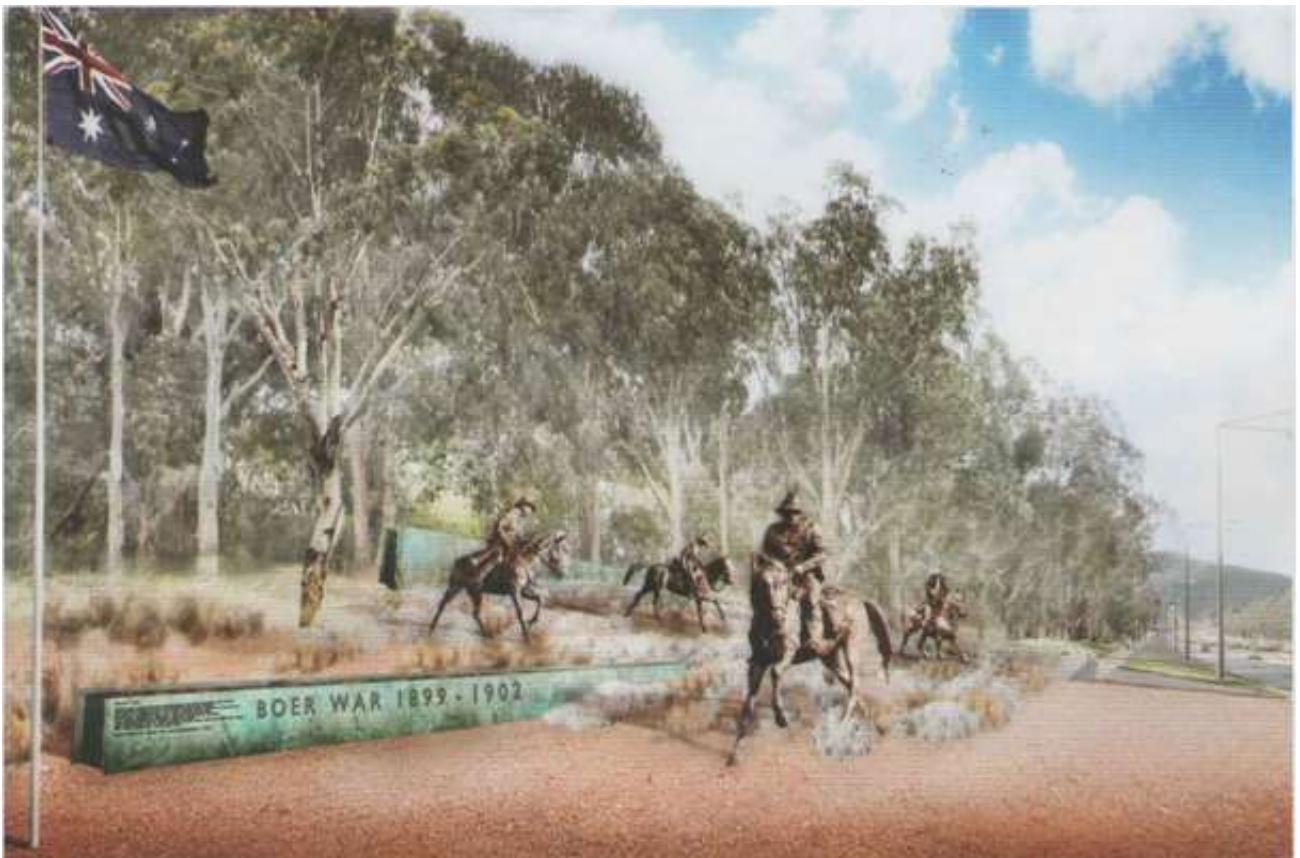
under which the war was fought and the ferocity of the conflict can be deduced from the fact that in the Australian contingents the total deaths on service was nearly 1,000.

Six Australians received the Victoria Cross for battlefield gallantry in South Africa and another 161 bravery awards were made to Australians.

Australia lost more service personnel during the Boer War in the period of nearly three years than the total of all losses in operations since WW1 including Korea and Vietnam. Australia's population in 1900 totalled 3,765,000 and in 1970 at the time of the Vietnam War during which we lost 500 young Australians, totalled 12,663,000. The Boer War is Australia's third most costly war in fatalities after WW1 and WW2 even more so proportionately if population size is taken into account.

Proposed National Memorial

The National Boer War Memorial Association



(NBWMA) has secured the support of the Canberra National Memorials Committee and the National Capital Authority to construct a National Memorial on a site that has been allocated on ANZAC Parade to a design that has been recently approved. The proposed memorial (as shown below) depicts a skirmish in progress. The scene comprises a Section of four Australian troopers mounted on War Horses 1.5 times life size realistically cast in bronze. During the Boer War, Australia dispatched 43,000 horses overseas for use by the Australian Forces. The horses were essential to provide the mobility needed to successfully engage the Boers and are a key element of the memorial.

Members and friends of the National Boer War Memorial Association Inc. and its State and Territory Branches, are working towards completing the Memorial in the National Capital on Anzac Parade, Canberra to honour those Australian men and women who served our country in the Boer War.

The aim is to achieve the unveiling and dedication before the ANZAC Centenary on 25 April 2015 and fundraising can now be escalated in earnest to achieve this objective.

On 11 December 2012, the Minister for Veterans' Affairs Warren Snowdon announced that: "A proposed memorial to honour the service and sacrifice of Australians who fought in the Boer War is a step closer to reality today, after being granted Deductible Gift Recipient (DGR) status by the Australian Taxation Office". He said that donations made to the National Boer War Memorial Association will be tax deductible for members of the public who wish to contribute towards the project. The Government is contributing \$200,000 in funding towards the memorial the design for which was unveiled in March 2012. "The Boer War marked the start of our long and proud history of military service. The men and women involved in this conflict deserve to be remembered with a lasting and fitting tribute to their service and sacrifice" he said.

"I encourage all Australians to give generously to make the Boer War Memorial a reality, and see it take its place on Anzac Parade in Canberra alongside our other national memorials," Mr Snowdon said.

The Memorial Design

Louis Laumen's statuary pays tribute to the men and women and also to the horses that suffered

the privations of war: burning sun and frosty cold, rain and sticking mud, hard dry wind and dust, the roughness of the veldt, barely survival rations, suspect water and lice.

This memorial recognises that all Australian troops in the Boer War were mounted or dependent on horses to tow their ambulances, artillery and supply wagons, thus providing the flexibility necessary to match the highly mobile Boers. It recalls their endurance and sacrifice, cast in enduring bronze

The most difficult design task has been to link the time when the Boer War took place, celebrated then by great landscape artists like Tom Roberts and Arthur Streeton, whilst simultaneously recognising that the memorial is actually being erected at this time and at this place in the 21st century and how the present is represented by more contemporary landscapes of Russell Drysdale and Sydney Nolan.

The patrol section of mounted troopers that forms the focus of the memorial could be from any Australian contingent whether called Lancers, Bushmen, Rifles, Gunners, or indeed the Medics and their Stretcher Bearers. After a few months they all looked the same, spit and polish faded to khaki chameleons melding into the veldt. This modern memorial is intended to allow visitors to the site to be able to walk among the statues in touching range to get something of the sensation of being with the soldiers on the veldt, sharing the hardships of operating in a hostile environment. While the vegetation and the shapes of the hills in South Africa are different to ours, both bush landscapes have uncanny similarities evolved to cope with low rainfall. The air is crystal clear, but easily becomes dusty or smoky, whilst the light is harsh and the sunrises and sunsets brilliant.

Between the bitumen of ANZAC Parade and the gradual beginning of the memorial the designers have ensured that there is space for commemoration ceremonies.

The magnificent design of the memorial suits the commemorative purpose, sits well in the site and complements the memorials to later conflicts that are already erected within the ANZAC Parade precinct.

Search for Descendants of Boer War Veterans

The National Boer War Memorial Association Inc is very keen to have as many descendants of Boer

War veterans registered as soon as possible on the National Boer War Memorial Association website; (see below). All appropriate family members, including young descendants are encouraged to register. The Association hopes this will capture the interest of many people to search their military ancestry.

After entering the website it is suggested that visitors wishing to register select the “Ancestor Search” box and then check both the “Australians” and the “Imperial” databases for ancestors. You may enter any ancestor not already on a database and also enter as many descendants as possible relevant to the existing database or the ancestor/s entry just made.

Further Information

For more information on the Memorial or how to donate please visit the National Boer War Memorial Association website at www.bwm.org.au

Alternatively, you may call the office on (02) 8335 5209 or email the President at john.haynes@defence.gov.au

Please consider making a donation to this worthy National Cause. For more detailed information on Australia’s contribution to the Boer War visit the Australian War Memorial website www.awm.gov.au/atwar/boer/

Courtesy The Australian Reservist, Apr ‘13

Sappers stand up. Parade welcomes two new regiments



Standing proud: Soldiers and officers of 21 Const Regt wait for the parade’s reviewing officer.

ALTHOUGH Plan Beersheba is standardising engineering capabilities across the new Multirole Combat Brigade, 5ER will be unique in that it will hold a niche engineer capability in the Littoral and Riverine Survey Squadron (LRSS).

As well, 5ER will be the only reserve engineer regiment with responsibilities for bridging, covering the force modular bridge and medium girder bridge, while 8ER gains specialist reserve engineer regiment responsibility for vital asset protection. Initially headquartered at Penrith, 5ER will relocate to Holsworthy during 2014. As a result of disestablishing 21 Const Regt, 102 Const Sqn will move to 8ER and the civil-military coordination capability will be incorporated into 4, 5 and 11 Bde headquarters across 2 Div.



Awesome sight: Soldiers from 3 Bde in Townsville impress the crowd at Tony Ireland Stadium during the Beating Retreat parade. Photos by LCDR Kyla Gower

Brigade beats a dazzling display

IN A first for 3 Bde, soldiers treated 5000 Townsville residents to a Beating Retreat parade and equipment display on November 16.

The Beating Retreat parade was held at Tony Ireland Stadium in Kirwan to allow for sufficient space for people to sit and enjoy the spectacle.

Commander 3 Bde Brig Shane Caughey said the parade was a way of acknowledging the support the Army receives from the Townsville community.

"The parade is the first of its kind that the entire 3 Bde has contributed to and was considered spectacular to witness, with the precision drill teams and artillery gun volleys all contributing to the parade's ceremony." Brig Caughey said.

A week of intense rehearsals had the 450 soldiers in shape for the parade that was Brig Caughey's last official engagement before handing command.

RSM 3 Bde WO1 Bruce Walker said the brigade worked with the local council to find a time where people would have the best chance to attend. "The locals were amazed by the parade," he said.

Drums sound in stadium



It was amazing to hear the applause as the troops conducted various drill procedures ... and when they conducted the march-on, march past and advance.

-WO1 Bruce Walker, RSM 3 Bde



Loud and proud: Sgt Jennifer Cooke, of 1RAR band, sings for the crowd (right) as members of 2RAR band display their skills (above).



Keeping soldiers safe on operation

W02 Andrew Hetherington

ARMY has used two main combat vehicles in Afghanistan, the Australian Light Armoured Vehicle (ASLAV) and the Bushmaster Protected Mobility Vehicle (PMV).

They were the combat workhorses used by Army personnel to safely travel around Uruzgan and Kandahar provinces and Kabul.

Army first sent 10 ASLAVs to Afghanistan in 2006 with RTF 1 and they were initially operated by 2 Cav Regt.

ASLAV Systems Engineering Manager at DMO Maj Anthony Lamers said almost every variant of Army's ASLAV fleet was used in Afghanistan.

"We had deployed the personnel carrier, gun, command, ambulance and recovery and fitter variants," he said.

"These vehicles had been operating in Iraq, however, a few modifications were needed for them to operate in Afghanistan.



"The outer bar armour used in Iraq was removed, due to the different threats they faced in Afghanistan. They were also enhanced with a belly plate and ballistic protected driver's seat to protect crews from IEDs and the electronic counter measures (ECM) system was upgraded during their time in country."

Maj Lamers said in six years of service in Afghanistan, the ASLAVs performed well and often operated outside their design envelope.

"They were maintained to a high level and, from a DMO fleet management perspective, we did not see any critical failures or causes for concern about the length of time they were deployed.

"The vehicles were still performing to a high standard up to the time that they ceased operations in country late last year."



The last unit to operate the ASLAV in Afghanistan was the 3RAR Task Group Mobility Support Combat Team.

"Its primary role was to provide troop carriage and enhanced blast survivability," Mr Ralston said.

"They're the ADF's IED and mine blast protected vehicle."

Since 2006, three variants of Bushmasters have been sent to Afghanistan.

"The Protected Mobility, Troop, Command and Mortar Vehicles all served there," Mr Ralston said.

"Between 2009 and late-2012 several upgrades were made to the vehicles. These included the addition of protected remotely controlled weapons station, an automated fire suppression system in the crew space, the ECM systems were also upgraded and Special Operations Task Group (SOTG) vehicles were fitted with an enlarged gun ring, which could hold a .50 calibre machine gun.

In late-2012, the entire fleet of Bushmasters was rotated out of theatre and was replaced with more than 70 new upgraded vehicles.

These new vehicles featured increased levels of blast protection, resulting in improved crew survivability, with the option of adding extra external composite armour as needed.

"All of the improvements made to the Bushmasters were conducted after battle damage assessments were completed on vehicles that were hit by IEDs," Mr Ralston said.

"The performance of the original and the improved Bushmaster were considered to be excellent by its operators, this is evidenced by multiple Bushmasters being hit and destroyed by IEDs, with none of the vehicle crews being killed.

Major Price Stewart (Norman) Whitelaw

President RAA Association Victoria 1984 – 1988

Alan has asked me to write an introduction to this article on Past President Norman Whitelaw covering his time as a member of the Association. I have seen a synopsis of the article and it seems to cover his remarkable life very well. After service in North Africa, Greece and Crete he trained to be one of a very few who became Naval Bombardment Support Liaison Officers.



With Sgt Cliff Horwood and MajGen Cooke circa 1992

After WW2 he served in 2 Field Regiment in the CMF and reached the rank of Major and the posting of Battery Comd.

Norman became a member of the RAA Association on its formation in 1978 and with the imminent retirement of Lieutenant Colonel Sandy Mair in 1984 it was generally agreed that he should be invited to become President. Norman proved to be an enthusiastic, energetic and wise leader and we were very fortunate to have him.

He presided over many interesting and important activities during his appointment. The most notable of course was his institution of skills prizes for the Gunners of 3 MD and his bequest of \$1000 (later increased to \$2000) to support those prizes. The Whitelaw prizes are still presented in his name annually.

Sadly Norman passed away only a few years after handing the Association over to Brig Keith Rossi. He was a staunch and loyal member of our Regiment.

Major Mervyn Taggart

Past President

TRANSCRIPT OF ORAL HISTORY RECORDING Accession numberS00569TitleVX97 Whitelaw, Price Stewart (Norman) (Captain) Interviewer Connell, Daniel Place made Black Rock VIC Date made18 April 1989

Description Price Stewart (Norman) Whitelaw, 2/2nd Field Regiment and Bombardment Liaison Officer HMAS Hobart, interviewed by Daniel Connell for the Keith Murdoch Sound Archives of Australia in the War of 1939-45. Discussing pre-war employment; enlistment if AIF; discipline in militia units; initial army training at Seymour Camp; transfer to Puckapunyal Camp; embarkation for Middle East; Deir Suneid Camp; Helway Camp in Egypt; contact with Italian forces at Bardia; Tobruk Campaign; embarkation for Greece; contact with German Forces at Veria; battle at Delphi; evacuation to and from Crete; casualties from Greece and Crete campaigns; return to Australia; establishment of Australian Naval Bombardment Group; role of Bombardment Liaison Officers and shore fire control parties; posting to HMAS Shropshire; posting to HMAS Hobart as Bombardment Liaison Officer; relationship between the army artillery team and naval crew; Hobart's guns; bombardment missions on Hobart at Balkipapan, Manila Bay, Cebu; demobilisation; post-war employment.

Disclaimer. The Australian War Memorial is not responsible either for the accuracy of matters discussed or opinions expressed by speakers, which are for the reader to judge.

Transcript methodology. Please note that the printed word can never fully convey all the meaning of speech, and may lead to misinterpretation. Readers concerned with the expressive elements of speech

should refer to the audio record. Readers of this transcript of interview should bear in mind that it is a verbatim transcript of the spoken word and reflects the informal conversational style that is inherent in oral records. Unless indicated, the names of places and people are as spoken, regardless of whether this is formally correct or not – e.g. 'world war two' (as spoken) would not be changed in transcription to 'second world war' (the official conflict term). A few changes or additions may be made by the transcriber or proof-reader. Such changes are usually indicated by square brackets, thus: [] to clearly indicate a difference between the sound record and the transcript. Three dots (...) or a double dash (- -) indicate an unfinished sentence.

Identification: I'm doing an interview with Mr Norman Whitelaw.

Mr Whitelaw, if we could start out, if you could just give me your address and phone number and that sort of thing?

Well, my full name is Price Stuart Whitelaw, I'm commonly known as Norman, Black Rock, Victoria. And telephone number? Area code 03? Area code 03. End of identification. Right.

Mr Whitelaw where were you born and what sort of place was it?

I was born in Rose Bay, Sydney in 1918. Dad had returned from the war. He was a victim of the ... wound, the landing at Gallipoli and he had arrived home to marry my mother and I was eventually born in 1918.

And ... or, just to have a bit of background - because it provides atmosphere that you'd grow up in - could you just briefly describe your father's war record; first world war?

Dad went to school in ... at Wesley College, Melbourne and he won a scholarship to first class Duntroon, 1911. His class was graduated early in the fact that they had a three and a half year span rather than a four year span to get them away with the First Division, AIF, going to Egypt for the first world war. Dad was one of the landers at Gallipoli, being the machine gun officer of the 2nd ... sorry, the 7th Battalion, 1st AIF - First Division. He was wounded on the day of the landing and, as he often said, it took him sixteen hours to crawl off after four hours of getting on. It took him ... in other words, I should have said in the reverse, it was four hours to get on and sixteen hours to crawl off. He was by some mistake shipped to England and he was repatriated from a hospital in England during 1916.

Right. And, your family in Australia, how would you describe them? Comfortably off or working class? Rose Bay doesn't sound like a working class area.

Well, I was in Rose Bay really because Dad, in - they couldn't sack him, he was a regular army staff corps officer, junior and all as he was - but he was an infantryman with a shot through the foot and he was not much good to the feet, tramping around as an infantry[man] must do and he was posted to South Head Battery, which was a six-inch firing battery, to see out his time, I suppose. I don't know what future they held for him. But he became so interested in guns and artillery generally he swapped his arm and became a gunner and eventually he retired from the army as GOC Western Command, Western Australia, having been the only major general, Royal Artillery, Australia has ever had which he ... those duties he performed at the end of the war. (5.00)

Right, so you definitely grew up in an army atmosphere. Could you describe what your family life was like, thinking of, you know, how it would shape you as a young boy?

Well, it was definitely influenced by Dad being a permanent army officer. My next brother - I had two brothers - my next brother Fred, he became a Duntrooner and a permanent army man. He was always keen on the army and he retired as a brigadier. My next brother, with me, joined the Citizens Military Forces before the war - I think we were called the Militia in those days - and we were in the 10th Field Brigade and very proud of the fact that we were horse-drawn artillery until the war started in 1939. So we had experience, a few years of it, as a horse-drawn unit.

When did you do that? When did you join up?

I joined the 10th Field Brigade at Batman Avenue in Richmond in 1935. I think John joined it in 1937 as a cadet and I went up through bombardier and sergeant - I was a sergeant for two years - and my first appointment to commission came through in ... during the week that war broke out in September 1939.

I interrupt this interview with Norman to insert another interview which was sent to me by SSgt Reg Morrell and was taken from a publication called Personal Recollections, Chapter 18, pages 118—119 and of which I have no other information. I include it here as it contains references not mentioned in the main article. Ed.

NORMAN WHITELOW

Recollections of a Horse Gunner

Pre-World War II, I enlisted in 38 Field Battery, 10 Field Brigade, which with 15 Field Brigade, was located in the 'new' Batman Avenue depot built in the mid thirties. Our brigade had three batteries of horse-drawn eighteen-pounder Mk II guns and one of 4.5 inch howitzers - 37, 38 and 39 Field Batteries and 110 Howitzer Battery.

Formerly in a wooden drill hall in Albert Park, burnt down in the early thirties, the brigade moved to the Victorian Scottish Regiment's old depot in Sturt Street then on to Batman Avenue. The signals depot built during the mid thirties on the Albert Park site later accommodated OCTU, 3 CSTU and ultimately Army Band Melbourne.

Frank Wood tells me that when in Albert Road, the battery manoeuvred in Albert Park, which was then fenced and locked at night, but of course it did not fire there.

At Batman Avenue there were four battery headquarters and a QM store on each side of the drill hall. Outside were gun parks for four batteries each side, and four harness rooms. During the year individual drivers cared for harness; likewise gunners looked after guns and limbers.

On camps, units took their own harness, and sometimes their own guns, or they drew guns from the mobilisation stores at Seymour. Camps were usually at Site 17, Seymour, between February and Easter; the weather could be hot and dusty or cold, wet and very muddy.

Having been a young gunner in Flanders, our CO had a saying: 'HMS' All officers and NCOs were not to forget that this signified looking after 'Horses, Men, Self in that order. So the magnificent remounts dominated the gunner scene - they were our mobility and most important consideration. Each man, gunner or driver, rostered for horse-line piquet.

During annual camp the smell of horses permeated everything. Always on our uniforms, we took it into messes, tents and ablution huts and eventually home at camp's end.

The day began with watering, feeding, grooming and veterinary inspection and treatment, all before breakfast. Almost everyone paraded straight from their blankets; no excuse was accepted.

Meanwhile, gun layers and their offsidiers tested gun sights. Generally hairs taken from horse tails created the crossed lines at the gun muzzles. They removed the firing mechanism and zeroed sights by laying the guns on a distant aiming point and sighting through the firing pin aperture, adjusting the sights accordingly.

The first units in camp each year took over the horse teams and rides allotted for the camp from remount depot personnel. Veterinary officers allocated horses to teams, each horse being trained to its job within the battery. Numbers burned into front near-side hooves identified individuals.

A gun team comprised six horses. The near-side three were ridden (with drivers astride very comfortable cavalry saddles); the off-side three were unriden. The first pair were 'lead' horses, the second pair 'centres' and the third and last pair 'wheelers'. The most experienced driver of a subsection team usually

took the lead pair as he had to follow the orders and direction of manoeuvre, usually indicated by signs from either the battery commander (BC) or gun-positioning officer (GPO).

The wheel driver had to know his job too. To check the gun and limber on downhill hauls, he kept the horses pushing 'back into the breeching' - this was a padded heavy leather strap passed around the 'wheelers' hindquarters. (The limber was the detachable two-wheeled forepart of the gun-carriage.)

If required, a gunner on the limber could apply the gun or limber brake on the wheel driver's signal. It meant that gunner alighting from the moving limber, and ducking around the shield of the gun to apply the brake, avoiding the steel-tyred wheels. This traditional but highly dangerous practice would not be allowed today.

The wheel driver, mounted alongside the limber's single shaft, wore on his right leg a special legging with a steel bar outside, protection from the shaft's antics when manoeuvring at speed or taking corners.

The gun sergeant and his bombardier 'coverer' rode on hacks alongside the gun and limber respectively. The battery staff - BC, his assistant ('BC ack'), GPO, his assistant ('GPO ack'), battery captain (BK today) and two section commanders - was also mounted. Horse holders took care of rides when an observation post or gun position deployed. Lead drivers usually attended to the gun sergeant and coverers' mounts.

The 'BC ack' and 'GPO ack' rode specially trained horses, as the former carried a plane table, forerunner of artillery boards, and the latter handled the director. Their heavy, bulky tripods, slung from the saddle, made riding uncomfortable. As well, the BC ack carried his plane table in a webbing case with shoulder straps - besides the normal gunner paraphernalia and a bag of feed for his ride.

This was comfortable at a walk, the battery's usual pace, but any faster and the bouncing and jerking was brutal.

The other battery vehicles were two-horsed GS (general service) wagons, carrying three-quarter tonne loads and commanded by the BK or BQMS, except for the signal section. The Army stored GS wagons between camps at Mob Siding, Seymour, stacked upright on tailboards with wheels off to save space.

Horses having been watered, fed and groomed, troops breakfasted then saw to ablutions, dress and order in the lines, overseen by gun sergeants.

Firstly the battery shook down for several days with battery manoeuvres, the gunner's delight. Towards the end of camp the movements and drills were exciting to watch and be part of, with the BC or his nominee out in front, or on a flank, and the teams, with guns or limbers, in column of route or in line.

Orders were by sign: Action front! or right!, left! or rear! With practice, the speed the batteries deployed was surprising and grand to see. On the signal to deploy, an organised march became organised chaos, with guns and limbers seemingly going in every direction. As vehicles unhooked, drivers drove the teams away, loose harness clanking, leaving the battery on the ground with gun sergeants and layers busy taking their original line from the battery director and laying the gun in the zero line. The sections and batteries competed keenly to be first to report 'Zero lines recorded! '.

Naturally, gunners were most excited by range practice days - proof of the year's work - and for many the first time they would perform their real duties. As with today, scarcity of ammunition limited practices.

The range was northeast of Seymour and several kilometres north of Site 17, on private land temporarily assumed for firing. (Puckapunyal's development only began after World War II started.) Our gun's range was 6000 metres, and the howitzer's 8000 metres.

We took Old Telegraph Road, which meandered between trees, to the range. During hot, dry periods, steel tyres on wooden wheels, and dozens of iron-shod horses, soon left it deep in fine powder and the air dust laden.

Lead horses were often invisible to gunners riding on limbers. Most unpleasantly for horses and men,

the dust, worsening daily, penetrated clothing and equipment. It was even tougher in wet weather, when all horse handling was unpleasant. Prewar field guns were not heavy, but drawing them required the full strength of six horses. One camp, we had to double-up the teams to get the guns off the range.

After a day of range practice, the tired battery returned to camp, but not to fill the tanks, line up the vehicles, switch them off and go into the mess for a beer! The horses' welfare came first.

In a laid-down order drivers usually watered four horses, leading them in subsection formation to the troughs. Lines were in column and turned left or right as required, then halted. Another subunit's horses would be there before you at the long troughs. If it had been hot, the animals would be very impatient, and require all the gunner's strength of voice, arm and character to restrain, and maintain the line.

The cunning remounts generally knew the drill better than the drivers. When the trough was free, many horses would with great fuss drag their handler towards it, his heels incising the shaly Seymour ground. Lifting their heads, and with water streaming from their mouths, they would wipe their nose across one's back - or nudge you into the trough.

Back at the horse lines, we groomed and fed them, settled them for the night and posted a piquet. Then we could leave and attend to our own comfort.

The atmosphere could not be duplicated today. We were very attentive to our friends, the horses. It was important for all the team to be fit - if one horse went lame it was hard to replace it with another familiar with that position in the team.

Late in the thirties, Australia's militia was 70,000 strong from a population of almost eight million. Pay was meagre but the nation's youth had less distractions and material comfort - the services offered an outlet. Morale was high and soldiers spent countless unpaid hours at their local drill hall. Individuals from all walks of life showed splendid martial expertise. The gunner's own unit was always better than the next, in his opinion.

Today, with no apparent threat to security, we have insufficient finance, fuel and practice ammunition, and it takes hard work to maintain morale. But the pendulum keeps swinging, and nobody can predict how and when things will change.

My few years as a very youthful horse gunner had a considerable effect on the rest of my life.

End of interruption. We now return to the main interview.

Well, before we go to that, because that's obviously the beginning of the main story, just a bit more of the background. The role that your mother played in your life?

Well, Mother played a very fine roll because she was a wonderful mother and a wonderful wife and I would say that Mother was one of these typical army wives who followed their husbands round from posting to posting. We didn't have very great permanency in any home and I think that the most ... that the longest time we ever stayed was between three and four years before Dad was moved on again. And it was a great influence of my life to leave at the age of ten, in 1928, with my two brothers, and Dad was attending the Long Gunnery staff course in England and we went to boarding school in England. But wherever Mother and Dad were during the holidays we went to live with them during that time and I think that that three and a half years had a great influence on my life; in fact I still remember it very well.

What sort of influence?

Well, an influence of appreciation of atmosphere; appreciation of things historical - mainly concerned with the services. But that was the world in which I grew up.

So, moving around like that you'd tend to, what, develop friendships with other boys in other military families rather than people outside the military services?

Yes, I think that that was true. But it happened on a rather small scale. I think I had more friends when I went sailing, in sailing clubs, which I loved and I still have a lot of friends - oh, I can't say a lot - but a few friends at least that I sailed with when I was sixteen, seventeen, eighteen when I came back to Sydney.

You described, before we started the interview, you mentioned that you did try to get into the navy at one stage.

Yes, it was on our arrival back from the UK. I'd spent a year at school - it was at Cranbrook School, Edgecliff, and the entry examinations for the naval cadet college came up and I sat for those examinations. They were the first ones to be held for - if I remember rightly - for at least three years because of the depressed state of the economy and they were not taking courses into the college. Therefore there was a great number of people applying and I found it very difficult to compete with all the brains of New South Wales. I did ... I missed out.

Right. And what were you doing ... You mentioned that you got your commission just before war began but you were in the Militia, so that was a part-time operation, so what were you doing when you weren't in the Militia?

Well, I was in the commercial world. Um, I started my working life at sixteen shillings a week with the Pepsodent Toothpaste Company which was an American firm based in Chicago and I did accountancy and did all the usual things a young fellow tries to do to steady himself up for a life ahead. (10.00)

Were you married?

I was not married until during the war. I was married in January 1943. I'd been very ill, I'd caught a wog which was called scrub typhus and I was carted out of the area and ...

Where was that?

North Queensland. And we ... I recovered in Brisbane and eventually had some leave - I suppose it was sick leave - and I was foolish enough to get married on my sick leave. I say 'foolish enough', I wasn't well enough. But, however, that happened in January 1943.

Right. Well, we'll come to that period, generally, a bit later. So going back to 1939. You got your commission; suddenly war is declared, you come from a military family, you must have thought, well, you know, this is the future that you'd been growing up to meet.

It's a strange feeling because I had no second thoughts about joining the army - that is the AIF that was proposed. I was a very junior officer, I had received my commission in September and I volunteered immediately for a position in the units that were being raised in Melbourne. There was the 2/2nd Field Regiment, mainly raised in Melbourne - some Adelaide people - but I was lucky enough to get a berth in that unit and I was the junior officer and my number was VX97. I went into camp on 3rd October.

Right. And what sort of training had you got in the Militia before the war? Particularly, you know, thinking of the tasks that were going to confront you in the war ahead and remembering that old phrase that generals train for the war or think of the war behind, I don't know whether it's true but it's a thing that's said. Did the training reflect that or was the training very sensible training to what really was going to confront Australian troops?

I think it was very sensible training. During the period that we had when Chamberlain went to see Hitler and there was a bit of toing-and-froing there and peace in our time and all the rest what we can remember about, the Militia in Australia was put on a pretty severe situation of alert in the fact that we voluntarily attended the drill hall almost every night of the week. I was a sergeant at the time and we worked terribly hard. We knew we wouldn't have been sent away with horse-drawn vehicles but, as gunners, we did work extremely hard and what's more, in those days the CMF had 72,000 people in it with a population of about seven million and to compare it to today with a population of sixteen million or more, we can't rake up 30,000. But, I'm just putting that in, that we were all very earnest.

When you say you were working very hard, what were you doing?

Well, I was working by day in my civilian job and I'd go home and Mother would have dinner for us and I'd get into a uniform and I'd catch the train and down to the drill hall at Richmond and I'd return about

eleven o'clock at night. And ...

But what sort of training? I mean, for someone outside the gunnery area you'd tend to think of, well, you could train, you know, with actually shooting the guns but presumably you can't do that every night - it's very expensive apart from anything else.

Well, there's a lot to do in training quite apart from shooting the guns. There's the theory of it; there's the practical side of getting an organisation to obey the rules of gunnery which we can do in a dry fashion. We call them dry shoots. We could do miniature ranging and we could do artillery board work, we could do theodolite and director work, survey work - it's all book work really but you need a man whose had the experience to teach you, just like going to school.

What would you define as the laws of gunnery?

Oh ... I know it's a long time ago. To be an efficient officer in gunnery you must know your ... the duties of your arm and the support that you give to the infantry which is your one and only reason for being alive is to give support; is to support the units to which you are allotted. But ... behind it all is a great organisation. A unit ... a field regiment in those days was about seven or eight hundred strong and there are all types in it. (15.00) There are the sergeant gunners that man the guns; there were the drivers and the signallers and the artillery assistants, as we call them - they were the boffin boys who worked the figures out - and there were the drivers - did I mention them, I might have mentioned them - and the cooks, of course. I mean, everything melded into a unit which was a pity to see demolished at the end of the war because it became such an efficient thing. Everybody knew one another; one could almost tell at the end of a period of two or three years together what one was going to do in any circumstance when it happened.

Could you ... What sort of people had joined voluntarily, because it was that pre-war situation? What sort of people had joined? I mean, ... [clock chiming] I'll just wait for that, because I'm leading up to the question of how did you maintain discipline in that pre-war force, remembering that it was a voluntary organisation without the pressure of wartime to make it hold together?

Well, the discipline part of our Militia was really no trouble at all. We were volunteers. We were there because we made ourselves available to go there or be in a unit and I can recall camp after camp how we used to regret the ending of our camps. They were two weeks of great excitement as far as we were concerned. We usually went to camp at Seymour, Site 17, Seymour, and we used to take the guns down the old telegraph road to the range by day, come home at night. We used to have to bed down the horses, feed the horses, water the horses before we did anything else. Our CO at the time, who became my wartime CO, used to say 'HMS' - horses, men, self - in that order.

Mmm. So, coming to 1939 and in October you were saying that ... What happened in October, you did something?

The unit was formed. In October '39. The 2/2nd Field Regiment was formed of the 6th Australian Division and it was formed at Site 17, Seymour - Puckapunyal hadn't been built. But we were a disciplined lot when we went in because so many people had been serving in the Militia forces. They just signed up to come in; we had a lot of volunteers but they were so well scattered amongst those who knew the ropes of artillery, right down to gunners - they had the background experience of being gunner - they learned so quickly. It was amazing how people did learn. They drilled on the square first and then they were allotted artillery jobs even right down to who was going to be signaller, who was going to charge the batteries for the signaller. One bloke comes to mind, and he did it for the wartime - for the length and breadth of the war - and afterwards he went into civil life with the PMG and you could always find him down a manhole in Collins Street or wherever in the city, you know, I used to run across him. But he'd learnt his wire joining in the army and he was only about eighteen when he joined up.

Mmm. So, you were training - continued to train - what happened next?

Well, we welded the men - everybody who was sent from the showgrounds where they were enlisting - up to Seymour into a unit. We tried very hard of this welding together those that were trained and those

that weren't and it culminated in a firing ... live firing, I think it happened in January 1940, on the new Puckapunyal artillery range, and everybody felt that they were gunners after that. We hadn't been in camp very long. I mean, most of us arrived in November ... November, December, January, it's not long before you're actually handling live ammunition and deploying your guns and digging them in and doing all the things that gunners do to keep the gun firing. (20.00)

Mmm. So, how long were you there?

But ... first of all we went into camp at Site 17 while Puckapunyal was being built. Just prior to Christmas 1939, there were so many tin sheds up that we could go to Puckapunyal in the dust because there were no sealed roads and it was terribly hot and terribly dusty and we were allowed Christmas leave. We all came back and settled into Puckapunyal until we sailed in - for the Middle East - in April ... April the 18th, I think it was.

Right. On Aquitania or what?

No, no. The Aquitania and those grand ships, they didn't come out for a long time. Ah, there were five ships in our convoy: firstly the flag ship was, or headquarter ship, was the Strathaird and there were two BI troopers of which I was fortunate to be in one, the Dunera, the other, the sister ship was the Ettrick, and then there were two BI branch liners, the Nevasa and the Neuralia. They were not troopers and they were unfortunate to have to carry troops because they weren't fitted up for so many live bods on board. They had to make great ... they improvised greatly with cookhouse arrangements and showering and latrines and things like that that were all on the open deck. And they had as many people on those ships as we had on the Ettrick or the Dunera, and yet, on the Dunera, every man was allotted a hammock space or a cabin - his own permanent place - but I think on the Ettrick [sic. Neuralia] and the Nevasa they slept where they could just find a place.

Right. So, where were you going?

We left Melbourne and met the HMS Ramillies and we had a French cruiser called the Suffren, and various other ships that came and went of the Australian navy and we proceeded to, firstly, Fremantle and then Colombo. And the five ships disembarked their troops at El Qantara in the canal, the Suez Canal, where we caught a train - or trains - up to Palestine.

And, whereabouts in Palestine?

Well, I went to several camps in Palestine. I think our first camp was called Deir Suneid which is in the south of Tel Aviv in the orange growing districts of Palestine.

Could you describe that camp?

Yes. It was a camp with no trees; it was built on a Palestinian plain of great ancient interest. The orange groves were about but no other tree but an orange would be growing there and water was available in those days quite near the surface and every orange grove had its pump which you could hear put-putting away throughout the day and the night. Days were endlessly sunny until about Christmas time when it rained for about six weeks of the year and that was the complete rainfall in Palestine. Conditions were good; healthy. The camps were all tented; we lived in a very hard working but healthy atmosphere. I don't think we had much sickness at all in Palestine and it was a very clear country for health. It was much different when we moved down to Egypt where people got things like desert sores and similar things.

How long were you there?

Well now, that's putting me on the spot. We trained very hard in Palestine - I'm taking a dip at this one - I think that we went to Egypt, on our own wheels, as a regiment, about September 1940 and we occupied a camp at Helwan which was on the outside of the periphery of Cairo. Today it's submerged, as most cities are, with suburbia but it was on the edge of the desert leading into the Western Desert in those days. And I can remember the camp was across the Nile from the Step Pyramids. I could always see the Step Pyramids over the Nile - they were quite apart from the big ones at Mena - I think they

were Saggarah pyramids. (25.00)

Right. Did you get out and about and have much contact with the local people or local culture?

At every opportunity. And ... I loved Cairo and whenever I had an opportunity of staying in Cairo a night or two I took it. As far as the local people were concerned, yes, I had a very good liaison with the local butcher in Helwan and I taught him how to cut meat in Australian fashion.

Right. So, from there you went into action against the Italians, or what happened?

Well, there was very intense training at Helwan because the division had come together and we did these huge exercises out in the desert which we called box formations where the brigades and the division would advance in a tactical box with infantry out in front; infantry reserve inside; the guns out to the flank to protect from tank attack, et cetera, and we got to be very friendly with our unit. We were generally allotted to as a unit to the - well, I was rather, in my battery - a lot of the 2/6th Battalion. The whole regiment was allotted to the 17th Brigade and we got to know our opposite numbers in the infantry as well as we did our own because it was so important. When we were sent up to forward observe, we were always allotted to a company or a battalion and stayed with the commander and we called for fire when it was required by the commander. So it was very important to be friends and know your man up-front. We were their servants really. I mean, we were there for no other reason but for the support of the infantry; that's the whole role of the artillery.

Right. And did they see it that way, or did they see themselves as being a cut above?

Every unit is a cut above the other unit. Every unit has its own morale and its own thought that 'I'm as good, if not better than anybody else' and you respected it. I mean, we respected the infantry, but by hell, they thanked us for a lot that we did for them. So, it's ... morale played a big part in that brigade. It was headed by then Brigadier Stan Savage, who was a fine soldier of the first world war, and so was my CO, Colonel William Cremor. He served with Stan Savage in the first world war, although Stan Savage was an infantryman and W.E. Cremor was a gunner of junior age and rank but still he'd stayed in the Militia throughout the intervening time between the wars and there they were both in the army together again.

(Turn it off for a bit now.) Just talking about this period before we move on, there's some questions I'd like to ask about the Australian army compared particularly with, say, some of the other armies.

Well, first of all, as a unit there's a reputation of being fairly relaxed about discipline but being very good fighters and those sorts of ideas are around, and I'm sure you've heard them more than I have, what was your feeling about the army and what sort of organisation it was in that early wartime period? And before you answer, I'll just turn the tape over because we're just about at the end of that side. END OF TAPE 1 - SIDE A

To be continued

A WW II Memorial from USS Arizona 9/2/1941 and USS Missouri 9/2/1945

These guns are HUGE!!!!!!

Some project, which has gotten very little press. Pass along to whomever you wish. Sure is cool.

Need to check it out when next in Phoenix.

ANOTHER great moment in historic preservation; dedicated on 12-7-13

http://www.youtube.com/embed/0dFIZX_RXuU

ZULU AT 50

FACTS Vs
FICTION

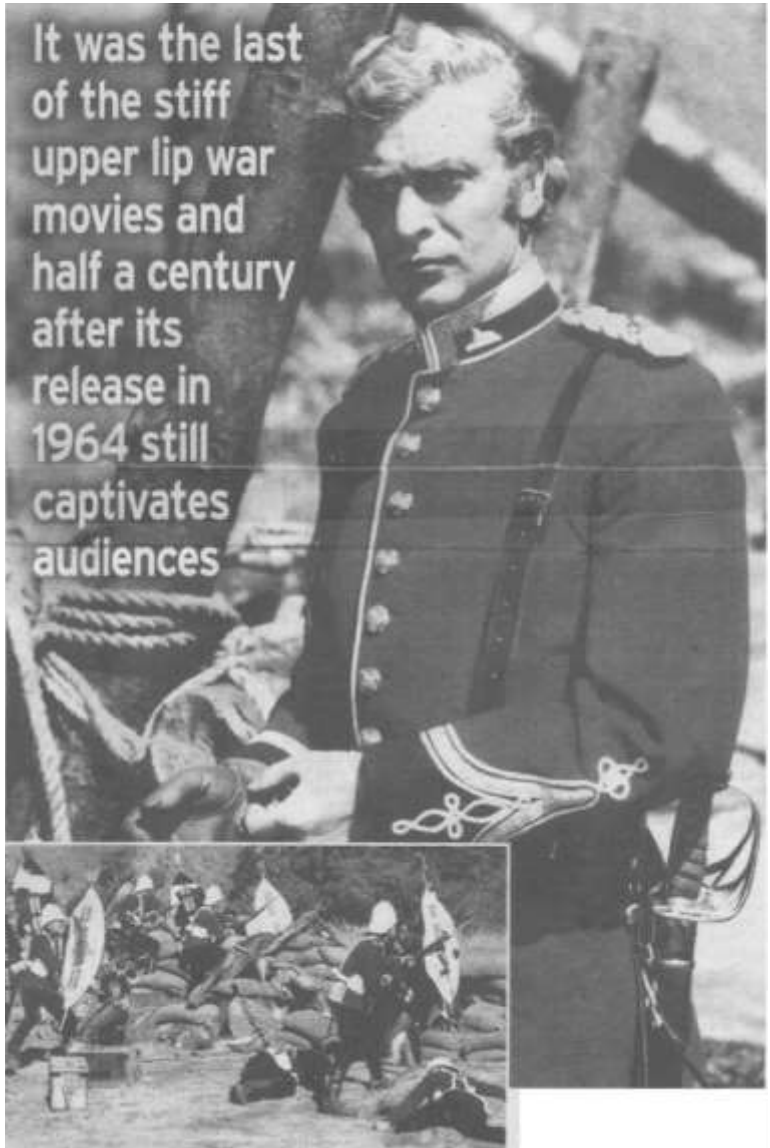
ZULUS - thousands of 'em! That's the line everyone remembers from the film. Now enjoying its 50th birthday, Zulu is still not forgotten. One hundred and thirty eight minutes of celluloid treasure it has a cast of thousands, incredible scenery from its locations in South Africa, lashings of tension, terrifying spear-rattling warriors, all of it captured in something called Technirama.

Its opening narration is the spine tingling voice of Richard Burton and it's the picture that made Sir Michael Caine a star. The glorious music is by the great John Barry, who scored Goldfinger in the same year. The music lends Zulu its tang of sun, grit and cordite. And who can forget the soldiers' stirring rendition of Men Of Harlech to compete with the Zulu war chant? Zulu was the last of the stiff upper lip war movies, a popular cinema classic that needs celebrating in an era of PC-ness and dismal hand-wringing about our colonial past. When it came out in 1964 the new prime minister Harold Wilson wisely thought Britain should stay out of the Vietnam war, which we did. Zulu allowed Britons to take pride in a very British, similarly bonkers military adventure that was safely in the past.

Audiences would have known little of the history of the Anglo-Zulu Wars. But at the start of the film Zulu warriors have already decimated a huge British force at the Battle of Isandlwana. Now (January 22, 1879) they are on their way to besiege Rorke's Drift in Natal. It was to prove the Empire's longest day Stanley Baker - a superb actor much in vogue at the time - plays a Royal Engineers officer determined to stand his ground despite having only a skeleton garrison at his command. One hundred and fifty Brits face the Zulus - 4,000 of 'em.

With their wounded they can't outrun the Zulus. Along with a by-the-book lieutenant - Michael Caine - he makes a stand using wagons, sacks of mealie and crates of ship's biscuit to form a defensive perimeter. Then comes that terrifying

It was the last of the stiff upper lip war movies and half a century after its release in 1964 still captivates audiences



EPIC: Michael Caine became a star as Lt Gonville Bromhead and, Inset, the tiny garrison defends itself against the Zulu warriors.

noise. It is the sound of spears being beaten on shields.

The beleaguered British fire volleys into waves of advancing Zulus.

Perhaps the greatest moment comes when the Zulus regroup, approach the tiny British contingent for a final assault and start up a war chant. Cue Men Of Harlech.

The regimental song seems to put the fear of God into the natives, who honour the courage of the defenders and retreat, much to the Brits' amazement. (In fact the Zulus had spotted an enemy

relief column and decided it wasn't worth continuing the fight.)

The film was critically received with more respect than enthusiasm. Battle epics were seen as a bit clapped out. And the country had recently sat through the mighty Lawrence Of Arabia. Like Lawrence star Peter O'Toole (so pretty Noel Coward nicknamed him Florence of Arabia) Caine was blond and handsome and Zulu would propel him to stardom.

The film's director Cy Endfield (working in Britain having been blacklisted as a communist in the US), got round some of the problems of filming in South Africa during the apartheid era.

He hired 700 tribal extras, showed them Westerns and told them to copy Red Indian behaviour to get in the mood. Patronising, but at least their welfare was considered.

Black people weren't allowed to be paid as much as white people so the director instructed cattle be given—far more valuable than money. The European cast were warned not to fraternise with the topless tribal dancers as the penalty for inter-racial sex was seven years hard labour. Under racial laws, none of the Africans in the film were allowed to attend the premiere.

The film, frankly, doesn't give much insight into the Zulu mind. Future South African political leader Mangosuthu Buthelezi played the Zulu king Cetshwayo, his great-grandfather, but he doesn't seem to have had much say in the way the Zulu side of the story is presented. The attack on the mission station was not ordered by King Cetshwayo, as the film has it. It was led by the King's half-brother. Nor was the British shooting as good as it's painted in the movie. Although almost 20,000 rounds of ammunition were fired by the defenders only about 375 dead Zulus were found at Rorke's Drift. Zulus feared the bayonet more than the bullet and most had died without being shot. Many of the wounded were finished off by their own side.

On the British side of things serious liberties were taken. Lt Gonville Bromhead is depicted by Caine as sharp and pretty tough. The real Bromhead was dim, deaf and described by another officer as "a capital fellow at everything except soldiering". Not a reality that would have appealed to Hollywood who wanted a starring role for their new poster boy.

Colour Sergeant Frank Bourne is superbly portrayed by Nigel Green - who teamed up with Caine on his next film The Ipcress File - as a tall, bellowing, middle-aged man. But in reality he was a tiny 24-year old nicknamed "The Kid", the youngest colour sergeant in the army who refused a VC in favour of a commission. He died a full colonel. These inconsistencies are standard Hollywood practice, the abiding rule of all war movies being:

never allow the facts to get in the way of a good story.

Certainly Stanley Baker's Celtic pride was a big part of the picture. He was the producer as well as starring as Lt Chard and he desperately wanted to put some extra Welshness into it. The regiment depicted is thus made out to be the South Wales Borderers whereas at the time it was named the 2nd Warwickshire. The regimental song was The Warwickshire Lad, not the much more rousing Men Of Harlech, which is what you get in the Welshmen versus Zulu sing-off (which never happened) led by opera singer Ivor Emmanuel, starring as Private Owen.

One small but telling travesty was the depiction of Private Hook, played by James Booth as a drunken malingering who becomes a reluctant hero. Only the hero bit is correct. In reality Private Hook was a teetotal lay preacher who had been awarded good conduct pay shortly before the battle that led to him winning the Victoria Cross. Hook's elderly daughters walked out of the London premiere in disgust at the slur on their father's sobriety.

But Zulu works because it avoids undue jingoism, dishonours neither side and there's just enough real history to get away with it. It's admired today by all sorts of film-makers. Sir Ridley Scott adores the film and made the German tribes in Gladiator chant like Zulus.

The fact remains that Rorke's Drift saw amazing courage in the face of overwhelming odds in the stand-and-fight tradition of the British army so envied by other countries. No fewer than 11 VCs were awarded to soldiers who fought at Rorke's Drift. As for Zulu... it remains a much-loved British matinee classic. Let's pray Hollywood never remakes it.

Courtesy SSgt Ernie Paddon.

Taken from the International Express 15/1/14.

RAA LUNCHEON 2014

On Wednesday, the 5th of March, 2014, the RAA Luncheon was held at the RACV Building in Melbourne, where a very good attendance of Gunners assembled for refreshments and a meal. Brigadier D.I. Perry OAM RFD Ed cordially invited serving and retired Gunners to this function to renew friendships and discuss some old time war stories. Also present was Major General J. Barry AM MBE RFD ED who extended an invitation to Reverend Father Robert (Bob) Maguire (Lieutenant Colonel Chaplain) at 2 Field Regiment, RAA. We were also had other Senior Officers such as Colonel Dougall, who appeared on behalf of Major General D. McLachlan AO and also Brigadier M. Arnold, the Assistant Commander 2nd Division. The Colonel Commandant of Victoria, Brigadier P. Alkemade and other former Colonel Commandants, Brigadier K. Rossi

AM OBE RFD ED, Brigadier Standish AM RFD ED and Brigadier Perry were also present. Colonel Cooke provided numerous photographs of Gunners (which had been supplied by Gunners over many years) on an overhead projector. Colonel G. Farley OAM RFD ED supplied us with a Gunner Luncheon Quiz e.g. The Yeramba was and remains our only SP Gun. On what variant of tank chassis was it based? Plus another 19 questions. Colonel Farley provided us with the answers. We were also honoured with Veterans from 2/2, 2/4 and 2/12 Field Regiments Associations and also Soldiers who served and were engaged with the Vietnam War. The 79 Gunners all enjoyed the venue, refreshments and the excellent meal and believed that the Luncheon was a great success.

Ubique

SSgt Reg Morrell



Catafalque
Guard to the
Albert Jacka
Commemora-
tion



Bdr Ian Johnson receiving his
Soldiers Medallion from the
CO LTCOL Matt Burr



Australia Day Salute at the
Melbourne Shrine, 2014

These photos from Maj Garry Rolfe.

See article on pp 6-7

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
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Telephone Mobile Email		
Additional Information		

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