

CASCABEL

Journal of the
ROYAL AUSTRALIAN ARTILLERY ASSOCIATION
(VICTORIA) INCORPORATED

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Photograph taken in North Queensland on the Atherton Tablelands.

Section of the Rollingstone Army base known as the Gun Park, 1943



Courtesy Ssgt Reg Morrell

Article

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CASCABEL



FORMER PATRONS, PRESIDENTS & HISTORY



FOUNDED:

First AGM April 1978

First Cascabel July 1983

COL COMMANDANT: BRIG Peter 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:

PRESIDENTS:

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

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

1981 COL A. (Sandy) Mair ED

1984 MAJ P. S. (Norman) Whitelaw ED

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

1991 MAJ M. Taggart RFD, ED

2004 MAJ N. Hamer RFD

JOURNAL NAME:

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

CASCABLE - English spelling.

ARTILLERY USE:

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

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

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

CASCABEL HISTORY:

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

ASSOC LOGO: LAPEL BADGE:



Our Assoc Logo and Lapel

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

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

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 |
| Treasurer: | Ssgt Reg Morrell 03 9562 9552 |
| Members: | Ssgt Ernie Paddon Mrs R Decker WO2 Lionel Foster |
| Curator: | Ssgt Brian Cleeman 03 9560 7116 |
| Ex-Officio: | |
| COL COMDT | BRIG P Alkemade RFD |
| Web Master | MAJ Carl Sarelius 0447 002 409 |
| Bty Reps: 2nd/10th | |
| Light Bty RAA | MAJ Garry Rolfe Capt David Council Gnr Alex King |
| Cascabel Editor: | WO2 Alan Halbish 9587 1676 |
| Honorary Auditor: | Maj David J Osborne |
| Association web site: | |

<http://www.artilleryvic.org.au>

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

CONTENTS AND SUBMISSIONS

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

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

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

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The President Writes

The work being done on the Model Rules to make them more applicable to our Association is continuing. We have been told to expect the first draft in time for the next Committee meeting.

This draft will be presented to the Committee for revision and/or ratification. A Special General Meeting will then need to be held to adopt these amended Model Rules as our new Constitution. If and when the new Constitution is accepted by the SGM, it has to go to the Department of Justice – Consumer Affairs for approval. Once approved it then takes effect as our Constitution.

Until the new Constitution is approved, the Association is operating under the Model Rules prepared by the Government. This means that we are bound to things like quorums, financial reporting, membership requirements and grievance procedures among others.

It is very important for the smooth transition and running of the Association that we get the support of the members at the EGM when it is called.

Recent events within the Committee reinforce the possibility of administrative difficulties which could arise in the future. We have a number of tasks within the Committee which are carried out by individual members. Most of these tasks require specific expertise and experience. Treasurer, Membership, Memorabilia, Secretary, Activities for example.

If the Association is to continue to function as a viable organisation, we need members who are prepared to understudy and assist these tasks.

If you feel that you can assist in any way, please talk to either Col Cooke, or myself. Any assistance would be greatly appreciated.

On a lighter note, it seems that the Gunner Dinner may be run again this year with some direct input from 2/10. To be a success it will, of course, need your support.

Also the RAA Luncheon is scheduled to be held next March at the RACV Club. This is an informal function which gives us all an opportunity to “catch up”.

The 2014 Gunner Dinner will be held on the 4th Oct. I look forward to seeing as many members as possible on the night.

I, of course, must remind you of the most important activity of the year, the Golf Day. This will be held on the 7th Nov after the second most important activity, the Annual General Meeting on the 6th.

Neil Hamer

Maj (Retd)

Membership Report

| Current Membership as at | 2 Mar 14 | 1 Jun 14 |
|------------------------------|------------|------------|
| Life Members | 197 | 197 |
| Annual Members | 33 | 34 |
| Senior Annual Members | 14 | 14 |
| Affiliates | 24 | 24 |
| Others (CO/CI, Messes, etc.) | 9 | 9 |
| Libraries | 4 | 4 |
| RSL's | 4 | 4 |
| Total | <u>285</u> | <u>286</u> |

New Members

We welcome LBdr Klaus Dieter Heil as an Annual Member.

Vale

It is with regret that we note the passing of Maj John Campbell RFD ED.

John was archived at the request of his daughter on 24 July 2012 and passed away on the 24 April 2014.



Resignations

Lt David Young was archived at the request of his daughter in May 2014.

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

0419 533 067

MAJ (Retd)

Membership Co-ord Email: nhamer@bigpond.net.au

From the Colonel Commandant

Brig Peter Alkemade RFD



Last Issue I wrote about the centenary of the forming of the First AIF. At the recent Gunner Symposium there was an excellent presentation on the first public event to be staged as part of the commemoration of the First World War, the firing of the First Shot by a coastal defence gun at Fort Nepean. There will be further information about this in Cascabel.

I must also congratulate Colonel Cooke on his outstanding effort to continue and develop these information sessions. They provide a welcome and engaging way to continue the exchange of information between past and current members of the Regiment in Melbourne and to keep us informed about issues of interest or concern in the wider Gunner community.

An item of interest was a lively discussion on the future of the RAA collection and plans for a small display to be opened at the RAAC Museum at Puckapunyal. A number of good points were raised including the need for volunteers and the challenge offered by having the collection at Puckapunyal and the consequent difficulty in attracting visitors and volunteers alike.

It was most pleasing to see our Light Battery marching on ANZAC Day as part of 5/6 RVR and the 4th Brigade. I understand that as part of the commemoration of the centenary of the First World War it is likely that the Brigade will march next ANZAC Day as well, rather than every second year as has been the practice.

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. It has been a very busy time with training commitments to date and this is a great opportunity to provide an update on the Light Battery achievement.

Unfortunately due to the hot and dry weather experienced during the early stages of the year EX Chong Ju was postponed. This exercise supports

the Combined Arms Training Centre (CATC) firepower demonstration for the Combat Officers Advanced Course (COAC). It is planned to conduct EX Chong Ju later this year in October. In 2013 the Lt Bty



excelled in providing offensive support during this activity and remains our only opportunity in a training year to fire HE rounds (in LFX training the Prac round is used).

On Saturday 1st March the Battalion Officers and SNCO's came together for a formal combined dinner at the Simpson Barracks Officers Mess. This was a fine opportunity to further integrate into the

battalion and spend time not only mixing but getting to know the key stakeholders and members throughout the Regiment.

In March, During EX Somme the Light Battery conducted a deployments exercise at the Puckapunyal Military Area. The aim of the EX was to deploy and conduct Mortar Line Deployments by foot, conduct Joint Fire Team (JFT) occupation of the OP and observation of the Zone and conduct day and night routine. The EX proved to be physically demanding with the Mortar teams moving across country wearing webbing and packs but also carrying the tubes, baseplates and CES stores. This activity was successful in all respects and proved the Light Battery ability to provide capability even on the move with the conduct of a Quick Action (call for fire while the Lt Bty is on the move).

ANZAC Day commenced with a Dawn Service at the Sargood Barracks. It was greatly appreciated that Brig Peter Alkemade was able to support the service as Principal Guest along with the Mayor of Port Phillip Cr Amanda Stevens. Rev John Bottomley again led the Lt Bty, guests, family and friends through the Service. Concluding a hearty breakfast a catafalque Party departed to provide support to the Berwick RSL ANZAC Day Service in the main street of Berwick. The Lt Bty main body boarded a bus to participate in the 4 Brigade march through the streets of Melbourne, along St Kilda Road to the Shrine. Concluding the march past the Eternal Flame the Battalion assembled on the rear steps for a variety of Unit and Sub Unit photographs.

I must make mention of the Lt Bty's successful representation and contribution to the Battalion Shooting Team at the 2014 Australian Army Skills at Arms Meeting (AASAM) held recently at Puckapunyal. Gnr Tim De La Zilwa was part of the winning Battalion team competing against shooting teams from all over the world. Formal recognition of the teams' achievement is to occur at BHQ in the coming week.

The Bn achievement for AASAM is:

14 gold, 2 silver, 8 bronze

3 pers patches awarded for top 20 shooters in army.

Visitors to Sargood Barracks (Chapel St Depot) will notice the refurbishment of the facility and reallocation of workspace. I acknowledge the work of

Capt David Counsell, his work party and also the work of Sgt Marty Catterall (BQMS) and the Q staff for their energy in completing the work. In the near future we will see the Battalion Signals Platoon and Battalion Training Team occupy various office and workspace. The refurbishment also transformed the RAA Association Museum into the previous Jarks Club while the previous Sgt's Mess was transformed into the All Ranks Lt Bty Mess.

Over the past two weeks the Lt Bty conducted the Specialist Combat Communicators Course (SCCC). The course manager WO2 Ben Brown drew upon members of the Lt Bty to support the delivery of the instructional requirements of the course, which provided skills development and vital career qualification for the students. Congratulations go to the 9 students who qualified on the SCCC.

Our recent live firing exercise EX Polygon Wood concluded on 18 May at Puckapunyal. The Lt Bty conducted a static technical shoot engaging targets using a variety of ammunition including Prac, Red Phosphorous Smoke (White Phosphorous) and Illuminating. The JFT conducted occupation of the OP and engagement of targets within zone. During this EX members of the Lt Bty were assessed and qualified in Safety appointments for OIC and OP Safety. At one stage of training it was terrific to hear '10 Rounds Fire for Effect' ordered across the Mortar Line.

On Saturday 7th June the Lt Bty is to fire a 21 Gun Salute at midday at the Shrine of Remembrance on the occasion of the birthday of Queen Elizabeth II. Following post firing maintenance at the Monash Barracks, the Lt Bty will hold a happy Hour from 1500h to 2000r. All members of the RAA Association, past and present members are welcome to attend.

On the 5th August the Lt Bty will fire one round from a salute gun (105mm M2A2) at Portsea across Port Phillip Bay to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the first round fired in World War One. While details are yet to be released, information will be provided to the RAA Association when it comes to hand. This is yet another outstanding opportunity for the Lt Bty to be recognised in the public events schedule.

Take care and stay safe. I look forward to meeting all our readers at the Lt Bty Happy Hour.

Ubique

From the Secretary's Table

Col Jason Cooke



Not much is known about the decisions and actions which occur at your association committee meetings and that is wrong. Ultimately these decisions effect the association you belong to, and since you voted us in we should be a little more transparent and open in notifying you of these decisions, especially in this modern age of technology and social media where seconds after an event you can stream it on your mobile phone or computer regardless of where you are.

So the following report is a summary of our committee meetings which hope to be informative giving you an insight into events coming up, motions passed by the committee and or progress made on those more serious matters such as our new constitution.

Did you know that the committee holds regular monthly meetings on the 3rd Tuesday of every month, commencing at 1530 in the Associations JARKS Club room at Sargood barracks. Any member of the association is welcome at these meetings and in fact it would be fantastic if you could attend. So what has occurred since the Annual General Meeting in Nov last year – a summary of those motions are as below:

1. A couple of special committee meetings occurred to hear a Grievance Notice submitted by Alan Halbish. The grievance is in the process of being resolved with Alan now re-instated as Editor of Cascabel. This has been a difficult process but one that has resulted in the committee improving our effectiveness in running the association on your behalf.

2. Forming of a Sub committee to progress the motions passed at the Special General Meeting about re-drafting our new constitution in order to comply with the new version of the Model Rules as issued by Consumer Affairs. The subcommittee will in June present a draft version of the new constitution for the committee's approval. This will need the membership to vote on before the committee can submit to Consumer Affairs for ultimate approval. Stay tuned for information on

the date of a Special General Meeting.

3. Apart from the monthly financial aspects of the Association, the committee approved the Profit and Loss Statement for this year's Gunner Luncheon at the RACV Club which resulted in a very modest profit of \$40. Since the aim of the function is to unite Gunners at a semi formal event, returning a small profit was not a concern.

4. Improving our communications with our membership either via Cascabel or the Website. The committee has made several decisions about improvements to the website and hopefully you have all noticed. But the one on the table at the moment is about creating a members' page on the website where minutes of meetings, especially Annual General Meetings can be placed in order that you can read them at your leisure. Stay tuned for this new feature to be available soon.

5. The creation of the JARKS Club into the Association room has occurred over several months with very small costs involved in this refurbishment. The majority of the work has been through the hard work of Brian, Reg and Ernie but thankfully they have received great support from the gunners at Sargood Barracks.

6. On the social calendar, the association has been trying to decide whether or not we offer a Gunner Dinner this year, noting the very small numbers that have been attending over the years. The other function which is under question is the Annual Church Service since the Uniting Church adjacent Sargood Barracks is being sold before the end of the year. The committee has decided to seek your input and will be sending out a Questionnaire for you to respond which we would encourage you all to participate in. There will be two ways in which you can respond, either by the post and flyer in this edition of Cascabel or via the web – more details to follow.

As you can see, the committee is hard at work in the monthly management of the association but requires your input in many of the decisions we

are making on your behalf. Hopefully this new report helps in providing more transparency in our decisions and excites you to take an active part in the shaping of those decisions. Our aim is to utilise the website and maximise your ability to assist us in running our association. I would be more than happy to receive any form of feedback you wish to give me or see you at the next committee meeting.

Until then – stay safe.



MAY SYMPOSIUM 2014

ALL ABOUT MUSEUMS / HERITAGE & THE FIRST FATEFUL SHOT OF THE GREAT WAR

A big thank you to all that attended the last Gunner Symposium, as it is you that make the night so successful. Why – because on the night there was a mixture of olds, bolds and current serving gunners, a mixture of the ones we see all the time and those that we haven't seen for a while. Gunners whom had literally walked off a plane from overseas to those that had escaped from hospital or captivity. That's what make these nights so special. So many thanks for coming along and sharing your time, comments and passion with a bunch of other like minded folk. Of special note should go to MAJ Bernie Gaynor for his wonderful presentation on the First Shot of World War 1 and to the Specialist Combat Communication Course members from 2/10 Light Battery for taking to time to join us. Great to see you all and I hope you enjoyed yourselves.

The basic theme for the night was **"Heritage and Museums"** commencing with MAJ Bernie Gaynor's really fascinating account of history which is not only a significant event of the "Great War" but one that us gunners should be yelling about. So it is absolutely fantastic that we have a Gunner driving the re-enactment of the first shot fired in World War 1 but also to have gunners from 2/10 Light Battery assisting in that ceremony. I would implore you all to visit our website and take the link to the First Shot of

World War One to learn more about it.

Thanks Bernie.

The Association was then presented with a framed photograph of the massive plaque commemorating the Defence site which was situated at Batman Avenue where now resides the Olympic Park stadium. There are only three of these framed photographs made and one was presented to our COLCOMDT, BRIG Peter Alkemade, to mark the occasion and the involvement of Artillery. So it was a great honour that he has kindly handed this for safe keeping to the RAA Association and it will now take pride and place in the JARKS CLUB room at Sargood Barracks. We are always most welcome to visit your association's history room.

Other items for the night were the "18 Pounder Project" by the Royal Australian Artillery Historical Company and information about an organisation concerned with Victorian history and heritage - the Military History and Heritage Victoria Incorporation, plus an update on the Artillery Museum at Puckapunyal. Again I would strongly encourage you all to visit the following websites for more information as they are both worthy of investigation: artilleryhistory.org and mhhv.org.au. As for the Artillery Museum Update, the official opening of the temporary museum will be occurring either in July or August. Once the details have been finalised I will ensure the information is sent out for widest publication, as it is planned that everyone concerned should be involved in this long awaited event.

So that's it for my report on another great night where general information was passed on, story telling and recalling of memories occurred with much laughter as well as serious discussion amongst all.

Please come along to the July Symposium on Friday 18th, same place & time where you will be treated with more of the same. Just remember these nights are for you to enjoy and get involved in so we would love to see you come along.

See you soon.

Col Jason Cooke



Editors Indulgence

It is with great sadness that I include the passing of two of our Life Members. They were WO1 Fred Fahey and Sgt Harry Bates. Their funerals were held at the Anglican Church of the Ascension in Burwood East on Wednesday the 11th of June, 2014. By coincidence, Harry was farewelled one hour before Fred.



Service history of 352374 WO1 F. J. Fahey.

Fredrick James Fahey

Enl 29 Apr 1952 Service
number No: 3/513217

14 National Service Trg Bn
Apr 52 – Jul 52

Trans 04 Aug 52 2 FD
Regt RAA Batman Ave

Prom LBDR 26 Mar 54 2 FD
Regt RAA Batman Ave

Prom T/Sgt 15 Dec 54 2 FD
Regt RAA Batman Ave

Inactive 01 Oct 56 2 FD
Regt RAA Batman Ave

Re Enlist 21 Oct 58 2 FD
Regt RAA Batman Ave P
Battery Service Number
352374

Prom Sgt 21 Oct 58 2 FD
Regt RAA Batman Ave

Prom WO2 17 Mar 65 2 FD Regt RAA
Batman Ave (Bty Guide)

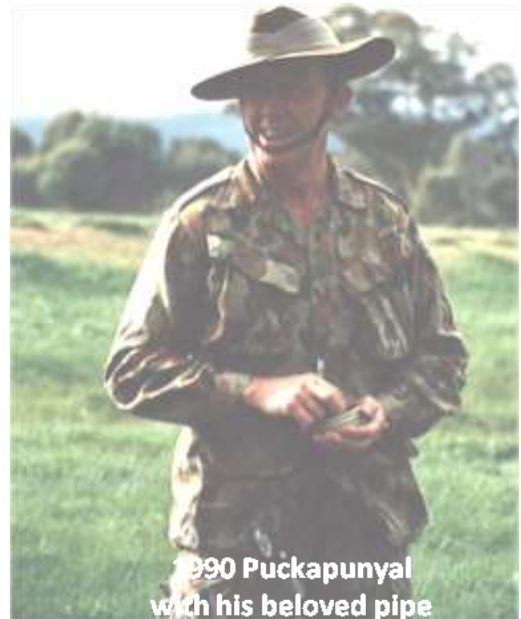
Trans 24 Feb 70 2 FD Regt RAA Batman
Ave HQ Bty (BSM)

Award EM 20 Oct 71 2 FD Regt RAA
Batman Ave (12 years Service) *pto*



Army Retirement, at 3TRG GP Sergeants Mess,
presented a painting, painted by Barb Fahey.
Titled: 25 Pounder in the Torechelli Mountains New Guinea.
The 25 Pounder was Dad's favourite Gun.

Posted 01 Jan 75 OCTU (Instr)
 Posted 21 Oct 81 2/15 FD Regt Dandenong (BSM)
 Posted 08 Apr 82 132 Div Loc Bty Brighton (BSM)
 Prom WO1 26 Feb 84 132 Div Loc Bty Brighton (BSM)
 Award RFM and clasp 03 Dec 84 132 Div Loc Bty Brighton (BSM)
 Posted 10 Sep 86 3 TRG GP DET Puckapunyal (Instr)
 Award 2nd clasp 22 May 86 3 TRG GP DET Puckapunyal (Instr)
 Award 3rd clasp 04 Feb 90 3 TRG GP DET Puckapunyal (Instr)
 Retired 30 Oct 93 3 TRG GP DET Puckapunyal (Instr)



The following was recorded with Fred by Barbara one week prior to his passing.

Hello My name is Fred Fahey

I am 80 years old....

I have been married to Josie for 57 years,

Together we have had 8 children and we have 20 Grandchildren.

I am usually a fit and active man, very social and cheeky.

I love to tease and be teased.

I have had a few tears and falls over the last few years, which has affected my ability to get my words out and my short term memory, but I am still getting out and about, I enjoy going for long walks everyday...and I play ten pin bowls twice a week. I am used to being a very independent man.

I can understand everything you say to me, please give me time to respond... I know what I want to say but sometimes have trouble getting the words out.

This is very frustrating to me.



RIP Fred

I wish to thank Ssgt Reg Morrell for contacting Fred's daughter Barbara, who kindly supplied the preceding information. ed



Sgt H A (Harry) Bates

Harry was born on the seventh of December 1932 and commenced his Army career with National Service in 1951.

He then joined the CMF, serving at Batman Ave until his retirement about 1968.

Sgt Bates was awarded the Efficiency Medal and the Anniversary of National Service 1951-1972 Medal.

He joined our Association in 1987 and became a Life Member in 1990

RIP Harry

Letters to the Editor

Hi there

Duncan McNab here - I've just noticed that Cascabel published a review of my book 'Mission 101' in October 2013. My thanks for doing so and I can add that after writing seven books, it remains my favourite - but then again I'm a bit biased!

Best regards

Duncan

From Geoff Laurie in South Australia

In Cascabel 119 I note that you published my earlier e-mail to you, and added a footnote re my position as President in SA.

Just for your info, I have regrettably completed my appointment as Col Comdt (RAA) SA & NT, and have reverted back to my rank on retirement, a mere Major!

Another good edition Alan; well done again.

Best wishes, Geoff

The Editor, Cascabel

Dear Sir,

I have attached some information on the RAAHC 18 Pounder Project which I would be grateful if you would publish in Cascabel. This is an exciting project which needs the support of all Australian Gunners.

Please do not hesitate to contact me should you require more information.

Ubique

Ian Ahearn

ANZAC Centenary 18 POUNDER GUN

Email: 18pdr@artilleryhistory.org.

Mobile: 0417691741



[See pp32—35](#)

More Indulgence

I'm back in hospital on 27/6 to have a total knee replacement. Had a partial done on 19/2 but it's failed. 7 days in then 10 days rehab should have me up & about again. Definitely won't interfere with the production of Cascabel though.

Great to hear that Ssgt Ernie Paddon has received the 'all clear' after his recent surgery.

Congratulations to Col Jason Cooke for introducing a new segment, **FROM THE SECRETARY'S TABLE**, a very welcome addition. I'm sure he will also continue to keep us informed about future symposiums.

In lieu of reading about them, why not join him at Chapel St to hear first hand the very interesting talks and discussions. The dates are in the Parade Card at the end of each journal.

PEARL HARBOR AFTER THE TOURISTS HAVE LEFT FOR THE DAY

Pearl Harbor: This is what takes place after the tourists have gone for the day.

I never knew this.

http://www.youtube.com/embed/MgE2KiPd3xg?feature=player_detailpage

The Memorial is a sombre place. The Memorial stone contains all the names of the chaps who have more recently been entombed with their mates. It is interesting to see how they place the casket and the Ceremony.

Artillery on the move. **Ultimate Weapons- NLOS Cannon**

http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_detailpage&v=5D0TleJSUhl

If you have any difficulty opening any of the web links I've published, please copy/paste them into your browser. Those reading the hard copy can easily open any of the links by

The interview with Major 'Norman' Whitelaw continues.

START OF TAPE 1 - SIDE B Identification: Right, side 2, Mr Norman Whitelaw.

Well, I was in the army for - the AIF army - for six years following my service with the Militia prior to the war and ... I think that we had one idea was to get the war over. Most of us were pretty young and a lot of us had married during the war. We wanted to be as efficient and as comfortable as we possibly could while we were serving out the war years and they were a long stretch of time when we were training and training wasn't much fun. I always thought the training was a jolly sight harder than being in action. In action we were much more relaxed; people were allowed to take short corners - take short cuts - which would never be allowed in training. But during the training time, the exercises that we did and the camp life that we led built up morale tremendously to stand the strain of being in action and doing the right thing in action. I think it was very important that camp life in training areas was as comfortable for the blokes as much as anything else. I mean, they had to be provided with canteen services, they had to be provided with entertainment, they certainly had to be provided with hard work. Everybody was strung up a little bit during our training period but we had moments of great and happy relaxation which I think was the art of good command.

What sort of things would happen?

Well, concert parties would come to camp and it didn't matter if we were out in the field, we'd come back. The CO would always bring the unit back to camp for the concert party. And then we had our own particular internal arrangements for things like Christmas and we had our good mess arrangements. We made everybody as comfortable as possible and I think that that was the main ... main theme of our ... looking after our blokes was concerned. It didn't happen so in all units, I know, but I was rather proud of the fact that whenever we came to camp it was the first thing we looked to - sheer comfort - and it wasn't very complicated comfort either. I mean, it was pretty meagre at times but we did our best.

What was comfort?

Well, comfort was having a good shelter, a draught-free tent - not too many in it - good bedding and blankets, and a good cookhouse equipped with utensils for good cooks to use and meals well prepared. Apart from that, if you have your little bit of entertainment, a good dry place and a comfortable place to sleep at night; what else can you do? Train hard; get better - get better at your job - and that's what most people did. And it was a joy, really. (5.00)

In that area, the Middle East, the training, was it much different from what you'd been doing before the war or was it a bit more practical in that you were in the place where the battles were likely to be happening?

It was different in the fact that we were relieved of the necessity to look after horses, that was the main difference. I mean, we looked after Marmon Harrington tractors which towed our guns and they were inert things once you turned the engine off. They didn't need any chaff or water or anything else, they were just lined up in the gun park or put into a pit if they were in dangerous areas. That was a great relief. But, I don't know, they were looked after too. I guess they had to go through their services and the gunners looked after the guns and there was always one man on every gun who was called the limber gunner and he was the specialist in maintaining the gun in firing order.

So, at this stage - 1940 we're talking about really, aren't we?

Yes.

What did you hear about the Italians? What were you expecting?

Well, I quite well remember the day when Mussolini decided he'd plunge in and enter the war. And we were in a Palestine camp - I can't recall its name - but we immediately had to dig slit trenches outside every living area; every tent. And we, instead of having tents in nice lines, orderly camp ... military camp style, we had to scatter them over large areas so that if we were bombed and ... we were separated to such an extent that there wouldn't be a great hole made in our unit with casualties.

Right. So, did you go into action against the Italians?

We did. We went into action on 3rd January 1941 at Bardia and we approached this slowly from a second camp we went to in Egypt which was Amiriya outside Alexandria.

This is the first time Australian troops had been in action since the first world war, wasn't it?

Well, there was a small skirmish of Australian cavalry from the reconnaissance unit which is a part of 6 Div[ision] but they went down in the desert with some Brit[ish] units and ... at a place called Giarabub - if I pronounce it correctly, I think that's so - and there was ... I think they were the first ones in action. But there were plenty of other actions. The navy had been in action long before us, and the air force, long before us. But we were very pleased to get into action and we were against the Italians and they were a pretty weak force. They were numerous in numbers but a very weak force. They didn't have the morale that we had.

Right. Perhaps if you could describe that action against Bardia? How did it proceed?

Well, unfortunately, I was serving on regimental headquarters at the time, which I didn't like. My place was down with the guns and ... but I saw everything that happened. We were headquartered right outside a famous fort called Fort Capuzzo which was put on the - by the Italians - on the border of Egypt and Libya. And the 17th Infantry Brigade, again reverting to Brigadier Savige, he commanded that brigade, and my CO were in what they called a bir - it was originally many hundreds of years ago a granary underground, it was built by some unknown tribe of bedouins most likely to store their grain - and it was a very fine headquarters because later on they dug caves within the cave to live in and this was a very comfortable place for us to live because it was very hot by day and terribly cold by night and it was a good place to live.

Right. So, what sort of contact were you having with the Italians?

We had continuing contact as soon as we hit the border of Libya and our patrols - the infantry patrols - were out in contact with the perimeter of Bardia which was like the miniature Maginot Line. It was concrete gun emplacements, concrete pillboxes in ... tactically placed in ... above a wadi, well, it was above a wadi in our front. (10.00)

A wadi meaning a sort of a lake?

A wadi was a - sorry, a valley ... a depression in the land which became a river whenever it rained but that was rarely. Wadi is spelt W-A-D-I. But the Italians were manning these defences and I think they were waiting for us to come rather than come for us. They had a very big force of people there of all types and they had splendid artillery and some very old artillery but they fired it all. Sometimes you saw rounds that were not bursting and turning head-over-heels across the desert, not detonating - they were the old guns.

So did you have direct personal contact? I mean, did you see ...

Oh yes. Eventually, I saw thousands of them but being back in RHQ at the time, doing my duties back there, it wasn't half as much fun as being up with the guns and certainly not, again, as interesting as being a forward observation officer which my very good mate was and he was killed at Bardia.

But after the ... Do you remember that? I mean, were you present?

Oh yes, the battle of Bardia went on for approximately four days and the infantry really cracked the Italian line. We were faced with the stiffest opposition and hardly went forward at all. But the infantry on our left flank, they got in behind the Italian forces which were ahead of us and eventually the whole thing folded up and then we saw Italians - Italians everywhere. They came out of holes like, I don't know, crickets out of the ground and I remember seeing a line of them which was estimated about two and a half thousand strong being escorted back in line - they were all straggling in line - with about four infantry blokes with rifles slung over their shoulders showing them where to go.

Just coming back to the fighting, did you see your friend killed?

No, I didn't see him killed. He was up in this wadi, which I spoke about earlier, opposite a very stubborn post called Post 17 and he was with the commander of the 2/6th Battalion and another friend of mine in the infantry by the name of Grey - Ab Grey - he came from Mildura, and they were conferring in the shelter of this wadi and an Italian shell came over their heads and burst on the other side and a piece of that shell came and penetrated the back of my friend's head and he was killed on the spot.

It was, what, presumably your first contact with that aspect of war?

Yes it was, yes. I went up next day and got him out and we buried him and he was later lifted out to a war cemetery. His number was VX94, C.R. Nethercote, he came from Kerang in Victoria.

And, what, you enlisted together?

Yes, we enlisted the same day. We were both in the 10th Field Brigade before the war.

And what was the ... how did that affect you? It obviously caused, you know, great sadness, in addition to that, did it cause you to rethink anything? Obviously, it didn't cause you to oppose the war but did it cause you to rethink relationships, rethink the way you lived your life, or anything like that?

I don't think so at the time. I was tremendously sad in the loss of Bob because I knew he was engaged to be married and I knew the lady concerned and I think that the CO took pity on me because I was reposted back to the guns before Tobruk which was our next big battle. I was sent back to my old troop - Charlie troop - and I stayed in Charlie troop until we got back to Palestine after Greece and Crete. (15.00)

You've said a number of things about the efficiency of your commanding officer in terms of considering morale questions - concern for physical comfort. The story you've just told shows a concern for psychological feelings and needs. This was something that he thought of independently or this was something that was a strong army tradition?

Well, it's not only a strong army tradition but he was the type of man that really developed it to a great degree. He always thought of the men and he was far ahead of us. Although we were doing jobs out of his ... out of his immediate vicinity - miles away - but he knew what we were doing and he knew what we were suffering, if we were suffering. He also knew the damn good times we had at times too because he'd join them as much as possible.

Right. What sort of times were they?

Oh, they were good times.

That was in the mess, or ...

Oh yes, in the mess.

What could happen in the mess? I mean, for someone outside who doesn't know ... understand mess life?

Oh, anything could happen in a mess. It can be a very orderly and stable place and it usually was. Our magazines were in the mess - everybody brought their magazines and put them in the mess; letters were always delivered into the mess; if we had any grog, of course, it was always in the mess. The three messes: the officers' mess, the sergeants' mess and the men's mess. And it was all pretty well shared out. We didn't have any more than the blokes down the line had.

That was different from other units?

Oh, I would say that they'd be about the same. There were, of course, different characters and different places. Some units you went to you wouldn't recognise them as you knew a unit to be. Just simply they were run in a different fashion by a different man; a different character. And, what's more he had different characters to run. And I think that we had a very amiable mess. I know it was a flattering thing that other messes liked to visit ours on dining nights whenever we put on a dinner or something like that and we always used to invite our infantry friends. Of course, we got invited back too. But we were noted for being a comparatively hard drinking mess, mainly because the CO was a hard drinker. Now, if the CO had been a teetotaler it would have been a different situation and I know there were teetotalers be-

cause when I came back to Australia I went from the 2/2nd Field Regiment to the 2nd Field Regiment and we had a wonderful CO there but he was a teetotaler and there was a different atmosphere about it. As a matter of fact I came back to - I don't know whether I should be talking about it - but when I joined the 2nd Field Regiment I was a battery commander of 5th Battery for a while and I was putting on the kegs of beer for the men - in Queensland this was, it was as hot as could be - they wanted a beer after a hard day's work and one especially hot day a message came down from RHQ saying that I could put on a barrel of beer because it had been so hot and I turned to one of the officers who'd been in this regiment for a long time and I said, 'Goodness me, what's this, Taylor? What's this?'. He said, 'Oh well', he said, 'I wasn't going to tell you that this is a dry regiment but you were putting on the barrels. We weren't complaining'. So we had an extra barrel that night when the CO said so.

Right. How were you paying for that?

Oh we paid out of our pockets. Usually the barrels were put in the canteen - the men's canteen - we didn't have an officers' mess in those days, we were in a bivouac situation, and we used to have to drink beer out of our pint enamel mugs for which we paid for.

Right. So you were buying this beer yourself and shouting?

Not shouting, no. Everybody paid for their beer.

You were just basically organising for it to be there?

Well, in this particular case that I've just told you, we started a small canteen, it was run by a sergeant, and we made a very small profit on our transactions and we had tobacco and we had toothpaste and we had the usual things that men need to keep themselves clean - razor blades which were as scarce as hell, but we got them from Melbourne some how or the other. And they used to run any beer or grog that was around the place. And in the end we had 220 men in that battery and this fellow - I wish I could remember his name, but he was a country man - he came and said, 'You know, we've got 220 pounds in the bank' and I said, 'That's a pound for every man in the battery, isn't it?'. So we kept it that way. If we got up to 250 pounds, we used to spend thirty on everybody having a party or something like that and any man that went to hospital, we used to give him his pound out of our canteen because he contributed towards it. But this is part of keeping morale high and ... and life bearable. (20.00)

Right, right. Well, going back to North Africa, you were about to describe going to Tobruk. That's obviously a very major episode in Australian military history.

Yes, it was, our first trip to Tobruk. Tobruk was taken and lost on other occasions but as far as I personally was concerned, I was delighted I went back to Charlie troop and I had a very famous gunner by the name of Sandy [Meyres], a troop commander, who was a wonderful artillery shot and we stayed together for a long time. And we advanced up to Tobruk and it was much the same as Bardia. It was defended by two or three lines of defences and ...

Italian, yes.

There were no other troops there, at that stage, and it took a formal set piece attack to break their lines. Once they were broken, the bigger break was exploited and we moved up as a regiment and ... my troop went through that gap and occupied an Italian artillery position facing the other way, of course. (laughs)

But there are still Italians wandering around ...

There were still Italians wandering around wondering what their future was to be. What ... Generally they gave them ... well, walk over there and give yourself up to that red cap, that British policeman over there, he'll tell you where to go. But, of course, we couldn't say that because most of them couldn't speak English and we couldn't speak Italian.

So, were you having any social contact with them at all?

Yes, I had a rather intriguing one. A doctor in this unit whose area we took over - his name was [Rampeni?] - and he vacated his dugout and gave it to me and he took his bag and marched himself off

to the POW camp (laughs) but he left me a beautiful blanket which he felt he couldn't take. He had too much, he seemed to be travelling in an unsoldierly manner, but how he got all his gear together and lifted it I don't know, but I lost interest in him after spending about a day and a night with him in his hole in the ground. But we were in action at that time. We were firing in support of the infantry that were making towards Tobruk. And, eventually when the headquarters of the Italian army in Tobruk was taken, that was the collapse then and we hooked in our guns and went down to the seaside on - what would I say - the eastern side of the Tobruk Harbour and cleaned up our gear and made ourselves more happy. We washed ourselves and swam and got our equipment back in order for the next stage which was Derna.

Right.

Right. But Derna was a disappointment. The Italians fled before we got them ... got there. But it was a very pretty place and undamaged and unlike the villages of Bardia and Tobruk which were both in ruins. Derna was such a pretty place and the trees were green and the water was flowing from the hills which was unusual. But we went on then to a place called Barce, spelt Barce, and that was not far from - what was the port - what's the port of Libya? Tunisia? No. ... I keep forgetting about it, Benghazi ... Benghazi, mmm. And we occupied Italian army barracks at Barce and we were there for quite a while and it was our first contact with the Germans in that place. I was sent to Benghazi by the CO, accompanied by another officer by the name of [Lyle Bardon?] who lives in Mildura now, and, oh, to get various things - as I said before - comfort for everybody. Food, any grog that we'd pick up, any ... and we came back with big carboys of vermouth. And while we were approaching Benghazi we saw from outside, the first German raid on Bardia because we'd only taken it about four or five days prior to that. (25.00)

So, after that you began to fight mainly Germans, or still Italians?

No. Things were happening in other ways. Churchill was talking about going into the ... and the under belly of Europe. You know, he was mad on that; he was mad on it in the first world war. After all we wouldn't have been in Gallipoli but for Churchill. And we wouldn't have been going - the AIF - wouldn't have been going to ... Greece. Greece, except for the same guy.

Sorry, but say Greece again because I said it. Just say it clear of my voice.

Greece, yes. So we were slowly withdrawn to firstly Mersa Matruh and then back to Alexandria where the unit was split up for embarkation to Piraeus. And we had to load our vehicles on one type of ship and the personnel on another type. And I actually went over with a transport ship; we had our vehicles on board, each with its driver and it was a very slow convoy. I think the slowest ship was only capable of doing about seven knots, so it took us about four days to get across the Med[iterranean] and we passed Crete, of course, which was to become another debacle for us at a later date. So we landed in Greece on April Fool's Day - 1st April.

Right. And, initially, you were fighting Italians, weren't you?

Yes. Mmm. But this was going to be really earnest stuff. The Germans had not invaded Greece at that stage but the Italians had from Albania and the Italians weren't doing too well and the little Greek army was doing exceptionally well. And we went up ... our regiment went up to a place called Veria which is south of the Yugoslav border in the mountains, guarding a pass coming down from the north. So, that's where we first flung a few rounds at the Germans. But they were all powerful. They had a very numerous air force and their attack plane, which was the Stuka, was a dive bomber and they'd come over in lines of twenty-one. It was a bit of a circus and I think that they were just sent out and where they found movement or a convoy on the road they used to just peel off and drop five bombs - two from the wing-tips, each wingtip, and one big one from the belly of the plane.

What was it like to have Stukas operating against you? How did it feel?

Well, it didn't feel very good because we had nothing with which to compete with them. They ... we had ...

Your guns were unsuitable for heavy aircraft?

Well we couldn't fire anti-aircraft; we were field gunners. But ... all the biggest thing that we had to fire were Brens. We mounted those on an ack-ack mounting, and, mind you, they shot down a plane or two but, oh, the planes were ... But we were given a bit of a hammering coming across a plain below, oh the very famous mountain in Greece ...

Olympus?

Olympus, yes. Mount Olympus. And the little town called Lamia - L-A-M-I-A - was on the plain and we are on the range which the Olympus was part and we dropped off two guns coming up to deny the enemy a bridge halfway across the plain and they did, very successfully, keep all vehicles off that bridge for about two days. But then the Germans brought up their medium artillery and our two guns were well and truly cleaned up and we lost about seven or eight people.

Where were you when that happened?

Just behind in my gun position behind these hills but I ... my guns couldn't reach that ... range that bridge. But there was an officer by the name of John Anderson, he was in charge
END OF TAPE 1 - SIDE B To be continued

NOW, SHE IS A TEACHER!!!

In September of 2005, on the first day of school, Martha Cothren, a History teacher at Robinson High School in Little Rock, did something not to be forgotten. On the first day of school, with the permission of the school superintendent, the principal and the building supervisor, she removed all of the desks in her classroom. When the first period kids entered the room they discovered that there were no desks. 'Ms. Cothren, where are our desks?'

She replied, 'You can't have a desk until you tell me how you earn the right to sit at a desk.'

They thought, 'Well, maybe it's our grades.' 'No,' she said. 'Maybe it's our behavior.' She told them, 'No, it's not even your behavior.'

And so, they came and went, the first period, second period, third period. Still no desks in the classroom. Kids called their parents to tell them what was happening and by early afternoon television news crews had started gathering at the school to report about this crazy teacher who had taken all the desks out of her room.

The final period of the day came and as the puzzled students found seats on the floor of the desk-less classroom. Martha Cothren said, 'Throughout the day no one has been able to tell

me just what he or she has done to earn the right to sit at the desks that are ordinarily found in this classroom. Now I am going to tell you.'

At this point, Martha Cothren went over to the door of her classroom and opened it. Twenty-seven (27) U.S. Veterans, all in uniform, walked into that classroom, each one carrying a school desk. The Vets began placing the school desks in rows, and then they would walk over and stand alongside the wall. By the time the last soldier had set the final desk in place those kids started to understand, perhaps for the first time in their lives, just how the right to sit at those desks had been earned.

Martha said, 'You didn't earn the right to sit at these desks. These heroes did it for you. They placed the desks here for you. They went half-way around the world, giving up their education and interrupting their careers and families so you could have the freedom you have. Now, it's up to you to sit in them. It is your responsibility to learn, to be good students, to be good citizens. They paid the price so that you could have the freedom to get an education. Don't ever forget it.'

By the way, this is a true story. And this teacher was awarded Veterans of Foreign Wars Teacher of the Year for the State of Arkansas in 2006. She is the daughter of a WWII POW.

Courtesy WO2 Max Murray



Historic link: Representative Colonel Commandant for the RAA, Brig Gerry Warner, presents the WWII 53 Bty flag to the current battery commander, Maj Derek Freeman. Photo by W02 Andrew Hetherington

Flag reconnects battery to its proud history

A FLAG flown by an Australian artillery battery in battle during WWII was presented to the current gunners at the School Of Artillery at Puckapunyal on November 28.

The flag was presented to 53 Bty by the Colonel Commandant of the Western Region of the RAA and Representative Colonel Commandant for the RAA, Brig Gerry Warner.

"The flag was carried by the battery throughout WWII," Brig Warner said.

"The 53 Bty Association was keen for the flag to be transferred to the safe keeping of soldiers of the current battery after it was preserved in Western Australia after the war.

"The passing on of the flag by the surviving soldiers from the WWII 53 Bty was them recognising the battery of today as a real battery, doing important work in the modern Army."

Brig Warner said 53 Bty was a significant unit with-

in the School of Artillery and the regiment.

"The battery's standards and the behaviour of its staff as seen and experienced by trainees at the school will shape them for the rest of their Army service," he said.

"Their standards are important to artillery and the Army."

The Battery Commander of 53 Bty, Maj Derek Freeman, said it was an honour for him and his soldiers to take custody of the flag.

"It's history for us and one thing our battery has is a lot of history behind it," Maj Freeman said.

"The flag will be mounted in our hall with our photographs and other battery memorabilia."

We are the only unit in the Army which is still operating both the new M777 and the old L119 guns. We have the manning to run four gun detachments and a small joint fires team.

SCHOOL OF ARTY WINGS

- The gunners of 53 Bty support most of the courses run at the school, providing live gunnery, transport and personnel.
- The Joint Fires Wing is responsible for running all of the joint fires training, including gunnery, mortar courses, observation skills and career progression courses.
- The Air-Land Wing conducts courses for the air defence and sense, warn and locate capabilities for Army.
- The Surveillance, Target and Acquisition Wing conducts courses for the UAS surveillance and ground surveillance and advanced radar operators.
- The Communications and Support Wing conducts digital communications courses and manages the initial employment trainees at the school.
- The New Equipment Training Team is managing the introduction of the new Land 17 equipment to the school and the regiment.
- The Motorised Combat Wing runs all Bushmaster PMV courses for Army.





In 2011 the School of Artillery achieved international accreditation for the joint fires observer ECN 255 course. This gives soldiers and officers recognised certification when they successfully complete the course. They now have an internationally recognised qualification and skill set and the ability to call in joint fires, including naval gun fire support, artillery, mortars and rotary-wing and attack aircraft.

FORWARD OBSERVERS

ONE of the School of Artillery's New Equipment Training Team instructors. Sgt Thomas Grieve, explains the new digital equipment he and the school are training its people to use:

The Digital Terminal Control System (DTCS) is the digital assistant to a Forward Observer (FO).

Prior to this equipment being introduced, FOs sent all of their information over voice communication networks to higher headquarters. DTCS enables FOs to digitally link into the new networks being introduced to the ADF and other foreign forces.

It will be the way FOs call in fire onto targets. It will enable target grid references and fire missions to be quickly calculated and carried out to a high degree of accuracy. It reduces the possibility of human error for the conduct of fire missions and will allow for accurate destruction of targets.

The system the FO carries in the field consists of up to seven components costing a total of about \$250,000. There's a computer, which runs the DTCS and the touch screen map and video and image display unit the FO will use to plot and receive targets.

The FO can also carry two different types of laser range finders, a Vector 21 or a Sophie thermal laser



range finder camera with a day and night capability and, if needed, a laser target designator. In the backpack with the computer there are also a couple of digital radios and attached is a GPS unit.

For the FO to do their job in the field the only necessary pieces of equipment they need are the computer, the touch screen display and the radios. For them to increase the accuracy of the location of a target on a map they would use one of the two laser systems.

The DTCS digitally integrates with the Advanced Field Artillery Tactical Data System.

The system in the future will be used by joint terminal attack controllers and for the tasking of unmanned aircraft systems.

Decorated vet recognised again

A RETIRED Melbourne head-master had his service to education recognised on Australia Day with an Order of Australia Medal (OAM), 47 years after being awarded a Military Cross in Vietnam.

Lt Neville Clark (retd) joined the Citizens' Military Force in 1958 and commissioned into the RAA in 1964.

Mr Clark was very honoured to receive it, but was also modest about his award, saying others were more deserving.

"I certainly wasn't looking for it," he said.

"The best of the honours each year go to soldiers like Sgt S or Pte J - you never know what they did in Afghanistan, you just know they deserved them."

Mr Clark volunteered for continuous full-time service in 1965 and passed through the School of Infantry and the Jungle Training Centre, Canungra.

He deployed to South Vietnam in April 1967 as a forward observer with 4 Fd Regt in support of 7RAR.

While taking part in Operation Ballarat in Phuoc Tuy province in August 1967, A Coy 7RAR encountered an enemy force and began to receive sustained small-arms and RPG fire.

Mr Clark said it was a close range contact with a company of the 274 Viet Cong (VC) Regt. "They were good soldiers with good battle discipline and their tactics were absolutely classic," he said.

"We tried to outflank them while they were doing the same to us - their left flank and our right flank ran into each other.

"The VC had learnt the best way to avoid artillery was to hug our defence line."

Mr Clark directed artillery fire from 106 Fd Bty to



within 50 metres of the 7RAR diggers, forcing the VC to break contact.

The battery fired over 800 rounds in an hour, causing heavy casualties.

Mr Clark said the difficulty he had was the guns were firing at their 'maximum range.

"They were 11,000 metres away and the rounds were in the air for 40 seconds," he said.

"At the end of the contact we'd lost six diggers KIA and 19 WIA. We found 5 VC KIA and numerous blood trails."

Mr Clark received the Military Cross for his part in the fighting, which later became known as the Battle of Suoi Chau Pha.

He said there were others more deserving of bravery awards that day.

"Sgt Jock Sutherland, the platoon sergeant of 2 PI, received a Distinguished Conduct Medal for continuing to encourage his men even after a VC rocket had taken out an eye and a leg" he said.

"As an amputee and blind in one eye, he soldiered on for several years at RMC.

"Maj Jake O'Donnell, the company commander, and Lt Graeme Ross, platoon commander 2 PI, also really earned their Military Crosses.



Sharing insights

Army surgeon awarded for passing on life-saving experience

SURGEON Maj Anthony Chambers learnt a lot about operating on patients with the wounds of war while deployed as a surgeon with the Role 3 NATO hospital in Kandahar.

He has now been recognised for his efforts in passing on those lessons to his fellow ADF Health Services personnel.

At the 2013 Military Health Symposium Maj Chambers delivered a presentation about what he had learnt working in Kandahar. For this presentation he was awarded the inaugural John Overton award.

"I was deployed to Afghanistan from April to August 2013," Maj Chambers said.

"I was posted as a general and trauma surgeon within the Role 3 Multinational Medical Unit Hospital at Kandahar Air Force Base."

Maj Chambers said he learnt countless lessons working with the US Navy team at the hospital.

"Due to their long and hard-earned experience in Iraq and Afghanistan, the US Navy doctors, nurses and medics are experts in managing gunshot wounds and blast injuries - injuries that a reservist surgeon such as myself has never seen in their civilian practice," he said.

"Working side-by-side with the Americans and operating with them on coalition casualties I was able to gain much-needed experience in treating these devastating injuries."

Maj Chambers hopes to now share these lessons and experiences with his fellow medical officers, nursing officers and medics in the Army.

The most trying aspect of Maj Chambers' deployment was treating coalition troops with severe life- and limb-threatening injuries.

"It was particularly hard treating soldiers who had been injured by IEDs and who had sustained traumatic amputations and other devastating injuries," he said

"You have to focus on doing everything you can to save those soldiers, and put aside your emotions. That was very challenging both for myself and for all of the staff at the hospital."

Maj Chambers said the highlight of his deployment



was working with an outstanding team of specialists, doctors, nurses, medics and support staff.

"The members of the US Navy that I worked with were absolutely top notch and true professionals," he said.

"The opportunity to work with them to treat wounded coalition warriors is a privilege that I will never forget."

Maj Chambers was taken completely by surprise when he was awarded the John Overton award.

"I didn't know about the award before speaking at the symposium," he said

"Having known Col John Overton throughout my 18-year career in the RAAMC and having so much respect for all he has done for our corps, I felt honoured and proud to be the first recipient of the award."

Maj Chambers is now concentrating on his role as OC 1HSC.

"I'm looking forward to preparing our medical and nursing officers and medics for their own deployments in the years to come," he said.

Making pilgrimage to Sandakan sites

Michael Brooke

SOLDIERS are invited to take part in a battlefield study tour of Borneo and a commemorative walk of the 200km Sandakan Death March in April.

Personnel from Victoria Barracks have signed up to do studies on the 2/43 Bn battles at Beaufort and Labuan in Sabah, Malaysia.

They will also walk in the footsteps of the 1800 Australian POWs who either died of exhaustion or were murdered by Japanese soldiers before Commonwealth forces invaded Borneo in 1945.

The pilgrimage is being planned by Lt-Col Col Johnston, of Forcomd, who learnt about the death marches from studying the Sigs Corps' history.

"The RASIGS' history highlighted the roles of two officers who organised an intelligence network and built a secret radio that linked the resistance movement in Borneo to Australia," he said.

Lt-Col Johnston said the trek and battlefield study tour would enable the personnel to learn more

about WWII history, including the Op Oboe amphibious operations conducted by the Australian military late in 1945.



History: A section of the allied war cemetery in Brunei Bay, Labuan.
Photo courtesy of the AWM

"Since everyone talks about Kokoda, I wanted to be different to learn and experience something that I and many others only had limited knowledge of," he said.

The pilgrimage includes an Anzac Day dawn service at Sandakan, followed by a week-long trek to Ranau, where the last POWs were

murdered a week after the Japanese surrender in August 1945.

The self-funded pilgrimage will also include climbing Mt Kinabalu and a battlefield study of Labuan, which was one of three Commonwealth amphibious landing sites.

The trek and battlefield tour has been arranged through Lynette Silver, a renowned author on Australian military history in Sabah during 1942-45.

Ms Silver has devoted a large part of her life to researching the Sandakan Death March routes and has written a number of books on the subject.

The sound of The Last Post recently rolled across the nation once again. Who wrote this and how did it come to be used for occasions such as this?

THIS is really a mystery as the revolution of military bugle calls dates back a very long way. In the British Army they began in the 18th century when George III introduced a reveille call to wake up the troops in the morning but the Last Post tradition seems to be even earlier.

It seems to have begun as a Dutch custom called "taptoe" (from which we get the word for our military tattoo) which was a bugle call to signify the end of the day, having originally been a signal that the beer taps were closed.

The British Army in the Netherlands borrowed the taptoe from the Dutch for their own call to soldiers

to return to barracks at the end of the day. The British Army in colonial times in North America also used the Last Post as a sort of daily close-down signal and its use at military funerals or remembrance events stemmed from that.

Since 1928 the Last Post has been played every evening (except during the Second World War) at the Menin Gate Memorial To The Missing at Ypres in Belgium. This Last Post ceremony has now been held nearly 30,000 times.

The tune for the call has also evolved over the centuries but seems to have been the same for about the last 100 years. Who composed the original is not known.

Courtesy Ssgt Ernie Paddon from "International Express"

CA reveals Army future

Battle styles to change, weapons will be more lethal and a digital revolution is necessary into the future

Cpl Max Bree

FUTURE battlefields will be more crowded, connected and lethal, requiring work with allies operating in a constrained environment, according to CA Lt-Gen David Morrison.

During an address at the Lowy Institute in Sydney on February 19, the CA outlined what he believed would characterise future operations until 2035.

As highly lethal weapons are now available to terrorists, criminals and paramilitaries, Lt-Gen Morrison believes it won't be just national armed forces brandishing the most dangerous equipment.

He said the Army would need to lead or credibly contribute to any future military coalitions it would join.

Everything from resources to response times and rules of engagement will also constrain how forces operate.

"The Army I joined believed war was synonymous with jungle fighting by light infantry sub units," he said. This "inhibited our thinking and analysis" about the changing nature of battle in the late 20th Century. "Logic and the changing character of war demanded that we made a more rational use of our vehicle fleets and standardise our brigades," Lt-Gen Morrison said.

The Army had difficulty deploying, commanding and sustaining a modest Australian force, much less the multi-national coalition it led into East Timor in 1999, according to Lt-Gen Morrison.

"The net effect was that we could not have engaged in sustained close combat employing com-

bined arms teams," he said. "Any suggestion that we could match a credible peer competitor was fanciful. Indeed it would be hard to conjure a peer competitor with so few coherent capabilities in its inventory." He said his predecessors used limited resources skilfully and kept the combat ethos alive.



Outlook: Battles will become more connected and lethal as populations move from rural areas into urban environments. CA Lt-Gen David Morrison says. Photo by Sgt Jesse Ann McCormick

Things changed in 2000 when the ability to mount and sustain a robust brigade deployment in Australia's immediate neighbourhood became the strategic guidance to the ADF regardless of government.

"In 2003, no Australian combat team could have survived protracted operations in Fallujah. I venture to claim we could today," Lt-Gen Morrison said. "We began the transformation from a light infantry based army to one in which every soldier was able to manoeuvre in a light armoured

vehicle. This was long overdue."

The Army started developing standard multi-role brigades with common doctrine, training and inventories.

"Without this we could not field combined arms teams capable of facing credible competitors," the CA said.

"We needed three like brigades to maintain that commitment over time. Plan Beersheba delivers that and more."

Three enabling brigades also support the three brigades at "the tip of the spear" while six streamlined reserve brigades are in support.

"Until this innovation we had to penny packet some of our highly specialised trades and skills, and this was both haphazard and very draining on the specialists involved," he said.

"We have restored the primacy of foundation warfighting skills, we have resisted the temptation to assume that we are entering an era purely of hybrid war or permanent insurgency."

During the speech the CA also emphasised the importance the ADF's joint capability and the new LHDs.

"[Because of] that I made the decision to forego self-propelled howitzers in order to assist in funding a balanced Defence Force," he said.

"Australia needs its ADF more than it needs its Army, Navy or Air Force."

Guns sound for bombing

Soldiers from 8/12 Regt give life to the 72nd anniversary of the Bombing of Darwin commemorations

Lt Andrew Ragless

FOUR M2A2 Howitzer guns roared to life on The Esplanade in Darwin on February 19, re-enacting the moment in 1942 when Australian soldiers fought with valour against the first and largest enemy air attack on Australian soil.



The 72nd anniversary of the bombing of Darwin was supported by soldiers from 8/12 Regt, their Howitzers firing 'seven blank 105mm rounds in succession to commemorate each decade passed since the devastating attack.

The gunfire, prompted by the fly past of two PC-9 aircraft from 4 Sqn, RAAF Base Williamtown, left a crowd of more than 2500 veterans, school children and community members in awe.

The PC-9s represented a force of more than 188 bombers, dive bombers and fighter aircraft of the Imperial Japanese Navy, which launched to attack Darwin from four aircraft carriers in the Timor Sea.

More than 230 people were killed and about 400 wounded in the first of more than 100 air raids on northern Australia throughout 1942-1943.

There were 131 US military casualties. Eleven ships were sunk, with the largest loss of life from the destroyer USS Peary, with 88 men killed in action.

Sgt John Moyle (ret'd), a 95-year-old Darwin resident and former anti-aircraft gunner in Milne Bay, Papua New Guinea, said the re-enactment was a very nostalgic experience.

"It brought back harsh memories, I think about mates I haven't got anymore, and that's what it's all about," he said.

Gnr Timothy Muhamad said it was sobering, but an honour to be involved in bringing the experience to life for the Darwin community.

"It's been a great day at work, to be part of re-enacting such a significant event, and in particular to see the young faces of the school kids as they learn about an important part of Darwin's and Australia's history," he said.



Assistant Defence Minister Stuart Robert addressed the gathering and said the occasion was an opportunity to acknowledge the day when a city of a mere 6000 people was battered, but refused to kneel. "We've come to remember a day where few stood against many," he said.

"We are here to acknowledge the heroism of our Defences Force and of our American allies.

"We are here today to remember and commemorate those who were killed and wounded on that day, 72 years ago and proclaim a community that was resilient, of a people who were and are courageous, and Territorians who were defiant in the face of force."

Gunner Luncheon Quiz 2014

Source: BC's Notebook Provisional, North Head, Feb 68

And other specious references and clouded recollections.

1. A barrage is a moving belt of fire, usually advancing over a rectangular area. Name the two methods used to allow the barrage to change direction"
2. When a Fire Plan is transmitted by radio, it is given the name "Tiddler" in order to differentiate it from a Divisional Task Table which is called a?
3. Which Bty brought the first Gun into action at Gallipoli on 25 April 1915:
4. When using an Artillery Board, what was the process to determine the bearing & range for that alternate position.
5. Which is the wireless appointment title for CB
6. When planning an artillery practice, what is the difference between the Restricted Impact Area and the Safe Target Area
7. What are the director skirt colours for P Bty Q Bty & R Bty?
8. Which Corps is represented by the appointment title, 'BLUEBELL'?
9. Expand the fire order, *TOT.'
10. In previous phonetic alphabets, what was the phonetic for "B"? The present one of course is "BRAVO."
11. There is a vehicle coming towards you with the Tac Sign, "H1." Whose is it?
12. What are/were the number of mils in a hand span at the OP when indicating targets?
13. What do you understand is included in "B echelon" in battery deployment orders?
14. In fire adjustment what is the distance in the "Long Bracket"?
15. What size of Formation, Unit or Sub-Unit would be involved in a UNIFORM Target:
16. The BP card AFB 250 was two sided. What was on the back when completed:?
17. The Yeramba was and remains our only SP Gun. On what variant of tank chassis was it based?
18. If your G2 included an R license, what were you authorized to drive?:
19. When did RAA change from 4 Gun Troops to 6 Gun Bty:
20. If in a shoot or quick fire plan, the order 'RESTART AT ...' is given, what is one of the possible fire orders that would have preceded it necessitating, "RESTART AT"?

Answers will be published in journal 121

UTSKY AT DEASE LAKE.....This thing is a monster air machine!



This is a photograph of the world's largest helicopter which happened to be on the tarmac in Dease Lake, B.C. recently. It is to be used for taking mining equipment and cargo out to a new mine called Galore Creek.

It is owned by a Russian company and is called the Utsky.

The chopper couldn't land at the air strip at Bob Quinn Lake because it wasn't a paved area, so it had to land in Dease Lake until the landing site north of Bob Quinn could be inspected.

Apparently this chopper's wash will pick up and fling rocks, up to 12 inches in diameter, around like leaves.

Some stats:

- Russian crew of 6, 2 Pilots, 1 Navigator, 2 Engineers (mechanics) & 1 cargo person.

- a semi-trailer will fit in it.

- carries 75 troops

- uses 2000 litres of fuel per hour

- 580 km range

- costs \$30,000/hr to rent

- 40 metres long

- 8 blades about 2 feet wide

Probably bigger than ANYTHING seen at the Dease Lake airport, including the terminal building.

I knew the Russian built 'Sky Crane' was big which is being used for lifting lumber out of inaccessible mountain areas, but this makes a 'Sky Crane' look like a mosquito by comparison.

FYI: Dease Lake is in NW British Columbia, west of Fort Nelson and east of Juneau, Alaska.

Courtesy Sgt Gordon Hepburn



Forget the SR-71, now it's the SR-72

Lockheed Martin's famed Skunk Works has finally unveiled the long-awaited successor to the SR-71 Blackbird. Aviation Week and Space Technology's Guy Norris pulled the covers off the project that Lockheed Martin is simply calling the SR-72. The new airplane will be roughly the same size as the record-setting Blackbird, but will be able to fly twice as fast as the jet that still holds the speed records.

The new spy plane will be capable of Mach 6 cruise speeds, making it the first hypersonic aircraft to enter service should it be produced. Only the rocket-powered North American X-15 was able to regularly fly those speeds, and the three examples built were used for research. The SR-71 Blackbird is legendary in aviation circles for its Mach 3 capabilities, and different iterations served as a spy plane for 35 years until its retirement in 1998. It still holds several records, including a flight from Los

Angeles to Washington D.C. in 64 minutes, 20 seconds.

The new SR-72 has long been rumoured and debated, and is part of the U.S. Air Force's plan for hypersonic capabilities that will allow fast reaction for gathering intelligence around the world. A Mach 6 airplane fills the gap between current surveillance aircraft that can loiter for long periods of time, but don't have the ability to transit to a new area quickly. The SR-72 is also expected to have optional strike capabilities, according to Aviation Week.

The key to the new airplane, as it was with the SR-71, will be the engines. Lockheed Martin told Aviation Week the company has been working with Aerojet Rocketdyne to build an air breathing engine that combines both a traditional turbine and a scramjet to deliver the Mach 6 performance.

Normal turbine jet engines have problems operating at speeds beyond Mach 2. The original SR-71

used a complicated system of a movable nose cone on the engine, along with vents that prevented shockwaves from interfering with the flow, and slowed the air down enough so that it could be ingested by the engine. Though "unstarts" were a regular problem for Blackbird pilots, and caused problems throughout the life of the airplane.

The new SR-72 will use a turbine-based combined cycle (TBCC) that will employ the turbine engine at lower speeds, and use a scramjet at higher speeds. A scramjet engine is designed to operate at hypersonic velocities by compressing the air through a carefully designed inlet, but needs to be traveling supersonic before it is practical to begin with. So far re-



Not in my lifetime!!

search projects from NASA, the Air Force and other Pentagon entities have not been able to solve the problem of transitioning from the subsonic flight regime, through hypersonic flight with a single aircraft.

Lockheed Martin told Aviation Week it has found a way to use existing turbine engines, and by lowering the operating speed of the scramjet, make a transition to hypersonic speeds possible.

The aerospace company says it may have a scaled demonstrator of the SR-72 technology flying by 2023. That airplane would be smaller, about the size of the current F-22 fighter and would be optionally piloted. The SR-72 could enter service by 2030

ARTILLERY GUNNERS INJURED

Three Australian Army members were injured during a live fire exercise at the Shoalwater Bay training area in Queensland last night.

The incident occurred at approximately 10.30pm (AEST) on Tuesday, 18 March 2014 and involved the firing of an illumination round from an Army M777A2 Howitzer.

The soldiers received immediate first aid from medical personnel, who were in attendance for the exercise. Two of the soldiers were air lifted to a local hospital by civilian air ambulance, with the third soldier transported to the same hospital by civilian road ambulance.

Two soldiers are in a serious condition, while the third soldier is in a stable condition. Due to medical confidentiality, Defence will not provide any further information about the soldiers, or details regarding their injuries.

The soldiers' next of kin have been informed and Defence is providing support to the members and their families.

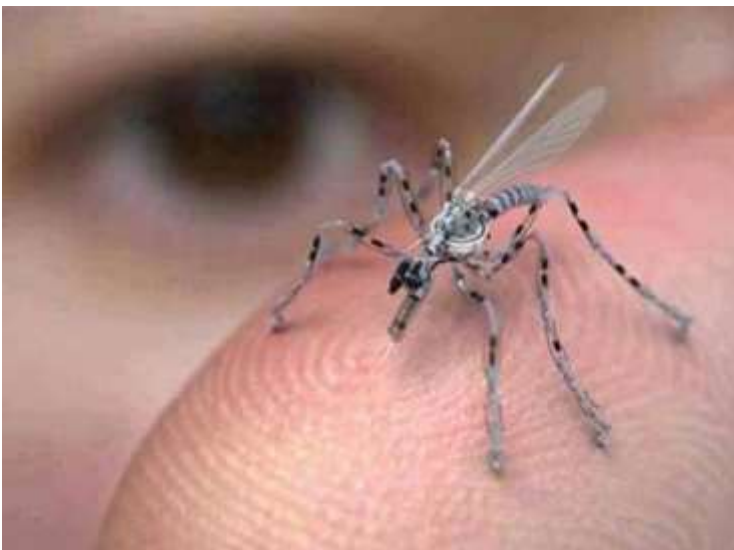
The Australian Defence Force Investigative Service (ADFIS) has commenced an investigation and will be liaising with the Queensland Police Service.



As investigations are ongoing, it would be inappropriate for Defence to comment further or speculate on the cause of the incident.

Media contact:

Defence Media Operations (02) 6127 1999



Is this a mosquito?

No. It's an insect spy drone for urban areas, already in production, funded by the US Government.

It can be remotely controlled and is equipped with a camera and a microphone.

It can land on you, and it may have the potential to take a DNA sample or leave RFID tracking nanotechnology on your skin. It can fly through an open window, or it can attach to your clothing until you take it in your home.

Given their propensity to request macro-sized drones for surveillance, one is left with little doubt that police and military may look into these gadgets next.

WWI veteran remembered

Maj Cameron Jamieson

A WWI veteran, gentleman farmer and sportsman has been honoured with the naming of a sports oval after him at one of Australia's leading Defence establishments.

The sporting field at the General John Baker Complex (GJBC), near Bungendore in NSW, has been named after local grazier Walter 'Roy' Hyles, who enlisted in 1916 to serve with the Australian Imperial Force as a field artilleryman in Western Europe.

Roy added the property where GJBC now stands to the family estate in 1968, and his descendants were instrumental in assisting the Australian Government to resume the land for Defence use.

Home to Headquarters Joint Operations Command, the GJBC employs about 400 people and is a major financial contributor to the region.

Chief of Joint Operations Lt-Gen Ash Power said it was fitting to name the base's sports field after Roy Hyles, who was also a keen sportsman and local legend in golfing and sports shooting circles.

"Roy Hyles was a quiet man who was strongly connected to his community," Lt-Gen Power said. "His service to his country, his involvement in sport and numerous sporting clubs, his devotion to his family and the building of a significant farming estate serves as a reminder to us all how humble people can leave a legacy that future generations will not forget."

Honoured: Commander Joint Operations Lt-Gen Ash Power, Helen Hamilton and Bruce Hyles unveil the new sign dedicating the Walter Roy Hyles Field at HQJOC, Bungendore. Mrs Hamilton and Mr Hyles are the children of WWI veteran Roy Hyles, inset right.

Photo by PO Phil Cullinan



WWI on display in Tasmania

MILITARY historians travelling to Hobart later in the year are being encouraged to visit the Australian Army Museum of Tasmania at Anglesea Barracks.

There will be a large format photographic exhibition presenting never-before seen images donated to us by Tasmanian families and held within our collection. "From 2014 to 2016, we will focus on the 12th Bn, **9 Bty** and the 3rd LH, who went on to Egypt, Gallipoli and Europe.



Courtesy Army News

THE 18 POUNDER CENTENARY PROJECT

The 18 Pounder Project has been gathering pace as the year progresses. It would appear that the word is getting around slowly although not too surely, at least amongst the Gunner community. For those that have not heard of the project then a quick summary.

We, the Royal Australian Artillery Historical Company (RAAHC) have a vision; to make that vision come true we need all the help possible from Gunners past and present. The vision is:

To produce a living memorial to the Australian Artillery and the troops they supported by deploying a horse drawn 18 Pounder and detachment for commemorative events starting in 2015 for the 100th anniversary of Gallipoli.

The vision sees the complete gun, limber horses and detachment leading the 2015 National ANZAC Day march in Canberra. What a sight that would be!

A summary of the story of the 18 Pounder is shown below together with an outline of the project.

Although we have submitted applications for grants and are reaching out to Defence industry this exciting venture will not be complete without the financial support of the Gunner Community, both serving and retired. Please make a tax deductible donation and help us make the vision a reality.

The project will be officially launches at the National Gunner Dinner to be held in Caloundra on 23rd August 2013. Please give some thought to attending what should be a fantastic event. Details can be found at <http://australianartilleryassociation.com> <http://australianartilleryassociation.com/>

THE ANZAC CENTENARY 18 POUNDER GUN PROJECT cont.

The Vision: To produce a living memorial to the Australian Artillery and the troops they supported by deploying the gun and team for commemorative events starting in 2015 for the 100th anniversary of Gallipoli.

The RAAHC has assembled a team to deliver a World War 1 Quick Firing 18 Pounder gun and ammunition limber complete with horse team and gun detachment. It is intended that the gun, limber, detachment and horses provide a living memorial to both the men who served in the war to end all wars and the horses that supported them.

The Project

The project is a daunting task and will involve the restoration/rebuild of an 18 Pounder its ammunition limber, the acquisition/restoration of harness and saddles, the recruitment of gun detachments, the acquisition and training of horses and the replication of period uniforms. The gun and limber have been sourced from our artillery collection and moved to North Head where restoration is to take place. Less than 10 guns of this type remain in Australia and this gun actually saw service in World War I. An 18 Pounder projectile will be collected from each of the battlefields where Australians fought and placed in the ammunition limber.

Project Management

A management team, split between Canberra and Sydney, will manage the project. This geographically separated team is led by Ian Ahearn, who is based in Canberra. Brian Armstrong and Chris Jobson, both also based in Canberra, will augment the overall management.

The team in Sydney consists of Bill Foxall, Kevin Browning and Jim Frecklington. The Sydney Harbour Federation Trust has provided facilities to enable the restoration to proceed. Restoration will be carried

out by Jim Frecklington a noted coach builder and restorer; Jim has built the Australian State Coach which was presented to Her Majesty on the occasion of the Australian Bicentennial in 1988.

Harnesses, saddles, uniforms and people are being sought by a Canberra based team of Dan Burns and Gerard Hogan. Both are artillery members of the Army Reserve. Mike Fitzgerald, an avid military collector and experienced equestrian, will provide advice to the project

It is intended that the gun and limber be restored by mid 2014. Concurrent action will occur to put in place the necessary horses, people, uniforms and harnesses to enable training to take place before an appearance for ANZAC commemorations in 2015.

Funding the Project

The RAAHC will actively seek grants and donations to complete the task.

The RAAHC has Deductible Gift Recipient (DGR) status under the Income Tax Assessment Act 1997 Sub-Division 30.15 Item 1 and 4.

The volunteer detachment will provide in kind support valued at more than \$240,000 including provision of horses, some saddlery, time for training session and upkeep of privately owned horses. This effort demonstrates their commitment to the project.

What is needed to complete the project for ANZAC Centenary 2015

Estimated costs:

Restoration/Rebuild of the 18 Pounder & ammunition limber

Acquisition and restoration of harness and saddles

Collection/restoration of ammunition

Production of uniforms

\$146,500

Costs leading to ANZAC Day 2015 Event

Transport

Agistment of horses

Training horses and detachments \$82,080

Total Cost to ANZAC Day 2015 \$228,580

Follow on cost of horse team

2015 – 2018 \$102,480

The ANZAC Centenary 18 Pounder Gun will continue to be available for commemorative events in the Centenary Years to 2018.

The Royal Australian Historical Company

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

Email: raahcoffice@gmail.com

Enquiries: 02 9908 4618

Project Manager: 02 6231 4968



THE STORY OF THE ORDNANCE QF 18-POUNDER

The Ordnance QF 18 pounder, or simply 18-pounder Gun, was the standard British Empire field gun of the World War I era. It formed the backbone of the Field Artillery during the war, and was produced in large numbers. It was used by British and Empire Forces in all the main theatres, and by British troops in Russia in 1919. Its calibre (84 mm) and hence shell weight were greater than those of the equivalent field guns in French (75 mm) and German (77 mm) service. It was generally horse drawn until mechanisation in the 1930s.

Australia and the 18 Pounder

By 1914 there were one hundred and sixteen 18 pounders in Australia. Thirty eight guns were sent away with the 1st Division Australian Imperial Force (AIF). All nine batteries of the 1st Division AIF served on Gallipoli. A further thirty eight guns were sent with the 2nd Division in November 1915.



No 4 Gun, 9 Australian Field Artillery Battery in action on M'Cay's Hill, Gallipoli 19 May 1915

In 1916 the AIF was expanded to five Divisions. From the existing eighteen field batteries a total of sixty field batteries and twenty howitzer batteries were raised each with four guns/howitzers. To fill the ranks men were transferred from the infantry and light horse and they needed to be trained in the specialist tasks of the gunners.

For the next three years the artillery provided support during all of the major battles undertaken by the AIF in France and Belgium. Artillery played a dominant role in World War I to the extent that it was called the 'Gunners' War'.

One hundred and sixteen Mark I and Mark II 18 pounders were brought back to Australia when the AIF returned. None of the original seventy six guns were included.

The 2nd AIF used the 18 pounders in the Middle East, Malaya and New Guinea until they were replaced by the 25 Pounder. The guns were retired from service in 1945.

World War I

The 18 Pounder gun and its 2-wheeled ammunition limber were towed by a team of six vanner horses (light draught) in pairs - lead pair, centre pair, wheeler pair. A driver rode the left horse of each pair. The 2-wheeled ammunition limber was hooked up to the horses and the trail of the gun was hooked up to the limber, so the total weight of the gun and trail was supported on 4 wheels. The gun detachment all rode into action either on their own horse or on the limber and wagons, led by the No. 1 (the detachment commander, a Sergeant) on his own horse.

When World War I began, British field guns (13 Pounder and 18 Pounder) were equipped solely with shrapnel shells which contained 374 small spherical bullets. High Explosive TNT shells, which exploded on impact, were first successfully fired in action on 31 October 1914 on the Ypres front.



Australian Gun team in typical traveling formation crossing the Canal du Nord, 1918

At Villers Bretonneux during the German 1918 spring offensive, massed 18-pounders were used effectively against the attacking Germans. On 4 April the Germans made their final attempt to break the Allied line. Brigadier-General Edward Harding-Newman, Commander Royal Artillery issued the following order "This attack must and can be stopped by artillery fire. If any battery can no longer effectively stop the enemy from its present position, it will at once move forward to a position on the crest, to engage the enemy over

open sights. It is essential that the artillery hold the line and they will do so." Fire from several artillery brigades, mostly with 18-pounder batteries, stopped the German advance, effectively



ending the offensive.

Australian 18 pounder gun firing Somme, Bapaume October 1917

At the Armistice there were three thousand one hundred and sixty two 18-pounders in service on the Western Front and they had fired approximately 100 million rounds.



Communication from Major Geoff Laurie, the President of the RAA Association of SA to our Sec. Col Jason Cooke.

Good Day Jason,

Many thanks for your message.

Please feel free to pass on any info about the Army Museum of SA to your members.

The Museum is located on the southern edge of the city at the entrance to Keswick Barracks, off Anzac Highway, and is open to the public on Sunday afternoons, and entry is by a gold coin donation. People are able to join a guided tour (no extra cost), or to just peruse exhibits at their own pace.

Alternatively, we welcome pre-arranged guided tours (approx 1.5 hours) by organized groups (Min no. of approx 20) at other times. Whilst we prefer Wednesdays (this is our volunteers' work day, so plenty of people are present to assist), other days can be negotiated. We are able to provide these groups with morning tea, or as is usual, a BBQ lunch following the tour – the cost for the tour and BBQ lunch is \$20.

With other hats on, I am both a Director of the Museum Foundation Board, and a volunteer, so I frequently advise the Gunners of Museum events in our quarterly newsletter, so feel free to pass on anything that may be of interest.

Best wishes,

Geoff Laurie



Remember the Wiles!

1943 Rollingstone.

The Wiles Double Oven Stationary Cooker was a 100 pound pressure steam boiler, six large steamers, two ovens and two top warming ovens, roasting pans and slides, a 40 gallon hot water tank and a 15 gallon tea urn.

Article from 'The Business Insider Australia' by a former Army officer.

The Club With Cheap Beer And Pokies No Longer Focuses On The War Veterans Whose Names It Invokes.

RSL Clubs now march to a different beat.

JAMES BROWN Wednesday, March 5th, 2014, author of Anzac's Long Shadow.

At 6.00 pm precisely and at more than 270 RSL clubs across New South Wales the staggered scraping backwards of chairs echoes as the room heaves to its feet.

Heads bow to reflect on the sacrifice of veterans who have fought in so many wars, old and new. Scattered across the walls are military memorabilia and faded photos of men fighting in far off lands. Some clubs have entrances graced by artillery guns, tanks and in one case a fighter jet.

All point to their deep origins in support for the returned soldiers of world wars and an ongoing concern for the veteran's community. Some are little more than tin and fibro shacks in country hamlets, unlocked every now and then so that old companions can gather, remember and share. Some are giant sparkling casinos with bowling alleys, multi-storey car parks and vast marketing budgets.

Today the service clubs are a multi-billion dollar industry employing thousands, with a 40 per cent share of NSW's \$3.2 billion of annual gaming machine profits. The RSL and clubs network brings together thousands of unselfish volunteers dedicated to helping one another and bound by the ideal of community. All are linked by the shared sacred rites of Anzac and Anzac Day, the imagery of military service and a mutual commitment to care for the veterans of Australia's wars. Except that they're often not linked, and often not following through on their commitments.

What was once a symbiotic relationship between registered RSL clubs and veterans has become poisonous in some cases? RSL clubs, originally a grand idea to grant special privileges in return for a promise to support veterans, have become tangled thickets of vested interests and multi-million dollar property deals.

Someone walking into an RSL club, ordering a beer and tucking into a chicken parmigiana might think that they are helping support veterans. After all,

one of the pillars of the campaign against poker machine reform was 'clubs support our diggers'. But in many cases clubs are doing little more than offering an annual Anzac Day commemorative service.

Three days before Anzac Day last year, Don Rowe, the president of the NSW RSL, made an uncharacteristically critical and detailed media intervention. "We want nothing to do with the clubs and the poker machines and the drinking. The clubs aren't serving our members," he said. "The clubs don't contribute to us or the welfare of veterans. They are trading off the Anzac traditions and the Anzac legend. Let's divorce ourselves, if you like, of the family tree. Let's call it quits and we'll get on with our business."

The reply from Clubs NSW was equally direct. "To say that there is no contribution made by RSL clubs to the RSL is just flat out wrong," said the CEO, Anthony Ball. "RSL clubs have made and continue to make an enormous contribution to our veterans to the tune of millions of dollars each year ... money that they've generated from the general community that has allowed them to assist veterans and support the ideals of the RSL." The chairman of the RSL and Service Clubs Association, Bryn Miller, also leapt to the defence, saying, "There are many examples of RSL clubs assisting and helping veterans," and denying that clubs were exploiting the Anzac spirit. The average beer-drinking, parma-polishing New South Welshman may well have been confused to see something he had long considered one and the same dividing and attacking itself in public.

It's a common and understandable misconception that RSL Clubs and the Returned and Services League are the same thing, but a little history is helpful in understanding what has now become a complex web existing under the banner of 'the RSL'. Returned servicemen's organisations arose from private efforts to look after the welfare of troops in 1917. Local clubs were formed to host

THE SOLDIER'S KISS

Descriptive of an actual incident on the road to a Battery Position in Flanders

Only a dying horse, pull off the gear
And slip the needless bit from frothing jaws.
Drag it aside there, leave the roadway clear.
The Battery thunders on with scarce a pause.

Prone by the shell-swept highway there it lies
With quivering limbs as fast the life tide fails.
Dark films are closing o'er the faithful eyes,
That mutely plead for aid where none avails.

Onward the Battery rolls but one there speeds
Heedless of comrade's voice or bursting shell
Back to a wounded friend who lonely bleeds
Beside the stony highway where it fell.

Only a dying horse. He swiftly kneels,
Lifts the limp head and hears the shivering sigh,
Kisses his friend while down his cheek there steals
Sweet Pity's tear; "Goodbye, old man. Goodbye."

No honours wait him, medal, badge or star.
Though scarce could war a kindlier deed unfold.
He bears within his breast more precious far
Beyond the gift of kings — a heart of gold.

I've found out that this poem is actually a very famous one of the First World War. It was written by Henry Chappell and used in 1916 to accompany a painting by Fortunino Matania that had been commissioned by the Blue Cross to highlight the plight of horses facing the terrors of war. Matania was an illustrator working for The Sphere magazine during the First World War but nothing seems to be known about Henry Chappell. It has been assumed that he was a soldier serving at the Front — so could it have actually been Chappell himself who was at Waterloo in 1915, or was it a soldier who had heard and memorised this very poignant poem?

Printed from "This England" magazine, Feb '14

Courtesy Ssgt Ernie Paddon



"Goodbye, Old Man" painted by Fortunino Matania in 1916.

The Jeopardy Question No One Could Answer

ARLINGTON CEMETERY

On Jeopardy the other night, the final question was "How many steps does the guard take during his walk across the tomb of the Unknowns"
-- All three missed it --

I presume all my readers will know the answer.

In the unlikely hood there are any doubts as to the correct answer, have a look at Cascabel No 104, p21 for this and other interesting facts about the guards at the tomb.

Courtesy WO1 John Mottershead

soldiers on their disembarkation from troopships and benefit them and their families.

In return, these organisations were given the right to claim the sacred word Anzac as their own and to use it in their fundraising. As the associations became more established, they acquired their own clubhouses - in some cases gifted by wealthy families or state governments, or purchased from fundraising efforts. Over time these clubs consolidated in the Returned and Services League, separately incorporated in each state of Australia. In NSW, the RSL is incorporated under an act of state parliament. It has hundreds of semi-autonomous local organisations called sub-branches, each with its own president and board of directors.

Until 2013 military service was a prerequisite to join these sub-branches, although the threshold was set low - a few months as a reservist was enough to get you across the line to full membership. The sub-branches report to a state council and president but largely set their own priorities and conduct their own operations.

In the 1970s the NSW government passed the Registered Clubs Act, which effectively meant that RSL sub-branches big and small could no longer govern the operation of their own clubhouse bars and poker machines. The Act created new legal entities: registered clubs limited by guarantee and governed by a new board, responsible for operating the clubhouse. These were called RSL Clubs, and in many cases you did not need to have served in the military to be a director of an RSL Club.

In each case the relationship between RSL sub-branch and RSL Club was different. In some cases the two entities had the same board members or were closely linked. I'm lucky enough to work on the executive of the North Bondi RSL sub-branch in Sydney, which has one of the largest memberships of serving military members in the state. We maintain a separate board from the small registered club that runs our clubhouse, but we have excellent relations with them and they are full partners in our efforts to help veterans. In other cases, the two entities have grown apart. Graeme Carroll, the CEO of the RSL and Services Clubs in NSW, is right when he says, "clubs and the RSL are inextricably linked". But Don Rowe is equally right in his criticism that "A lot of clubs have gone completely away from the ideals and aims of [when] they were founded 50 or 60 years ago by the RSL sub-

branch guys, and they've now become big business." Though there might be military memorabilia on the walls, fewer than one in 20 of the members of RSL Clubs state-wide have been in the military, and even fewer have ever been to war. And, over time, RSL Clubs have become a very big business.

So colossally does the Rooty Hill RSL Club loom over Western Sydney that for the past several years it has waged a campaign demanding its own postcode. Within its grounds are a full Novotel and bowling alley. Its gaming floor is a sea of hundreds of poker machines. The then prime minister decamped her entourage to the club in 2013 and it has played host to prime ministerial debates in the last two federal election campaigns.

The 'Last Post' is played every night, governors have paid tribute at the club's war memorial and the NSW RSL held its conference there in 2012 - but this suburban casino is no veterans organisation.

In 2012, the Rooty Hill RSL Club brought in \$71.5 million in revenue from its operations, with \$46.1 million of this coming from gambling activities alone. Donations to charity and community groups, including in-kind donations of venue space and hospitality, amounted to just \$900,000 and Rooty Hill will not divulge whether this included veteran's charities. The Castle Hill and Parramatta RSL Clubs combined brought in \$52 million of revenue, yet less than half of a per cent of this (\$250,000) went towards 'veteran support and welfare'. In 2013, the Dee Why RSL Club won the Clubs NSW award for making the greatest contribution to the community of all RSL and Service Clubs in NSW - in other words, its donation rate was the highest in the state. From total revenue of \$54 million and post tax profits of \$9.3 million, it found just \$1.2 million to donate to more than 120 community and charity groups. Among these 120 groups, only two had links to the veteran's community.

The issue is not that RSL Clubs aren't doing charitable work. The issue is that they are not doing nearly enough charitable work given the extraordinarily privileged position they occupy in society. From the rivers of gold that flow into the clubs, barely a trickle reaches veterans. Most of the money is ploughed into clubhouse renovations. Rooty Hill now boasts more than \$110 million of assets, Castle Hill \$96 million and Dee Why a whopping \$145

million. The social compact to look after veterans has been broken. And there's limited transparency. Put up a war memorial, play the 'Last Post', leverage the symbolism of Anzac and no one will hold you to your promise of looking after veterans.

Many RSL Clubs no longer even refer to veterans in their mission statement, instead proclaiming their support of sporting clubs and social members.

Extract from Anzac's Long Shadow: The Cost of our National Obsession by James Brown, published by Redback, \$19.99. Available in bookshops now.

<http://www.businessinsider.com.au/the-club-with-cheap-beer-and-pokies-no-longer-focusses-on-the-war-veterans-whose-names-it-invokes-2014-3>

THANKS AUSTRALIA THIS IS AWESOME

Written by an Australian Dentist

To Kill an American.

You probably missed this in the rush of news, but there was actually a report that someone in Pakistan had published in a newspaper, an offer of a reward to anyone who killed an American, any American.



So an Australian dentist wrote an editorial the following day to let everyone know what an American is. So they would know when they found one. (Good one, mate!!!!)

'An American is English, or French, or Italian, Irish, German, Spanish, Polish, Russian or Greek. An American may also be Canadian, Mexican, African, Indian, Chinese, Japanese, Korean, Australian, Iranian, Asian, or Arab, or Pakistani or Afghan.

An American may also be a Comanche, Cherokee, Osage, Blackfoot, Navaho, Apache, Seminole or one of the many other tribes known as native Americans.

An American is Christian, or he could be Jewish, or Buddhist, or Muslim. In fact, there are more Muslims in America than in Afghanistan. The only difference is that in America they are free to worship as each of them chooses.

An American is also free to believe in no religion. For that he will answer only to God, not to the

government, or to armed thugs claiming to speak for the government and for God.

An American lives in the most prosperous land in the history of the world.

The root of that prosperity can be found in the Declaration of Independence, which recognizes the God given right of each person to the pursuit of happiness.

An American is generous. Americans have helped out just about every other nation in the world in their time of need, never asking a thing in return.

When Afghanistan was over-run by the Soviet army 20 years ago, Americans came with arms and supplies to enable the people to win back their country!

As of the morning of September 11, Americans had given more than any other nation to the poor in Afghanistan

The national symbol of America, The Statue of Liberty, welcomes your tired and your poor, the wretched refuse of your teeming shores, the homeless, tempest tossed. These in fact are the people who built America.

Some of them were working in the Twin Towers the morning of September 11, 2001 earning a better life for their families. It's been told that the World Trade Center victims were from at least 30 different countries, cultures, and first languages, including those that aided and abetted the terrorists.

So you can try to kill an American if you must. Hitler did. So did General Tojo, and Stalin, and Mao Tse-Tung, and other blood-thirsty tyrants in the world. But, in doing so you would just be killing yourself. Because Americans are not a particular people from a particular place. They are the embodiment of the human spirit of freedom. Everyone who holds to that spirit, everywhere, is an American'.

Thanks!

Courtesy WO2 David Troedel



BOOK - 'BATTLE WINNERS' by ALAN H. SMITH

Battle Winners is a vibrant and detailed account of the extraordinary battles of the Australian 6th and 9th Division six field artillery regiments against the Italian Army and Afrika Korps in the unforgiving terrain of the Western Desert from 1940 to 1942.

It traces the 6th Division's advance to Benghazi, the legendary Siege of Tobruk and their 'bush artillery' of the 9th Division, closing with the bloody finale that was Second El Alamein against a battle-hardened foe.

The book describes the organisation, equipment, development and artillery tactics of both sides in meticulous detail.

General Montgomery's appointment in August 1942 proved the turning point and the Eighth Army artillery rose to become the 'queen of battles' at the climactic El Alamein battle.

Battle Winners includes a Roll of Honour, casualty lists, maps and photographs and includes a Foreword by Major General S. N. Gower, AO, AO (Mil).

For further information and details on how to purchase this book online - [Click Here](#).

Alan Smith joined the Royal Australian Artillery in 1951. He was commissioned in 1954 and his service includes time with the British and Canadian Artillery. He retired from the Army in 1969 and was a senior BHP executive when he retired in 1992.

Alan Smith has written extensively on Australian Artillery history and was the assistant then editor of Cannonball the Journal of the Royal Australian Artillery Historical Company from 1993 to 2013.

BATTLE WINNERS



AUSTRALIAN ARTILLERY IN THE
WESTERN DESERT 1940 -1942



ALAN H. SMITH

Courtesy of the AAA





Anniversary: Soldiers from 1 Regt RAA celebrate the band's 60 years of service.

Wowing crowds for 1 Regt RAA Band anniversary

Cpl Nick Wiseman

CELEBRATIONS of the 60th anniversary of the 1 Regt RAA band went off with a bang in an impressive mix of music, drill and artillery in Brisbane on March 29.

Starting with a Beating Retreat parade, the band then launched into a concert and finished with Tchaikovsky's 1812 Overture with M2A2 ceremonial Howitzers wowing more than 2000 spectators.

Bandmaster WO 1 Simon Renffey said conducting the 1812 Overture was definitely the highlight for him, but the crowd loved the barrage-a-phone - a unique musical instrument made from artillery shells and played similar to a xylophone.

CO Lt-Col Nick Foxall said it was the first time in 15 years the guns had accompanied a performance in Brisbane.

Courtesy Army News



Biggest Marine rotation yet.

1150 US Marines arrive in Darwin

US MARINES have deployed to the Northern Territory with their equipment and vehicles for the third iteration of Marine Rotational Force - Darwin (MRF-D).

About 1150 Marines will undertake training activities, including bilateral training with the ADF in the Northern Territory and Queensland, during the 2014 rotation.

The 1st Battalion, 5th Marine Regiment, from Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton in California, will form the basis of the rotational force and will be accommodated at Robertson Barracks.

A detachment of four CH-53E Super Stallion helicopters from Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron 463, Marine Corps Base Hawaii, will also be part of the rotation and will be accommodated at RAAF Base Darwin.

The senior ADF officer in the Northern Territory, Commander Norcom Cdre Brenton Smyth, welcomed the US Marines to Darwin.

He said the third rotation was an exciting opportunity for the ADF to engage and conduct bilateral training with the US Marines, and provided opportunities for engagement with regional partners including in response to requests for humanitarian assistance and disaster relief.

"It is also an opportunity to enhance our interoperability and cooperation as we move through the six-month rotation," Cdre Smyth said.

"Our alliance with the US is very important to

Australia and this is reinforced by the Marine Rotational Force. A continuing priority for the Marines will be to further develop a close and enduring relationship with the Darwin community, which provides mutual benefit.

The current deployment follows rotations of close to 200 Marines in 2012 and 2013.

US Marine Lt-Col Matthew Puglisi, Marine Rotational Force-Darwin, first deployed to Australia as the OIC of the Forward Coordination Element responsible for establishing MRF-D in January 2012 and returned to Darwin in 2013 to coordinate the second rotation.

He said the MRF-D included command, ground combat, aviation combat and logistics combat elements, to comprise a Marine Air-Ground Task Force.

"We are looking forward to our aggressive training schedule we have lined up over the next six months as well as our ongoing community engagements in the Northern Territory," Lt-Col Puglisi said.

"Even though there will be 1150 Marines in the Top End, at any given time some will be deployed to Townsville, the Bradshaw Field Training Area or South - East Asia conducting partnership engagements.

"Our community engagements include mentoring projects in local schools and we have a joint engineer project in Palmerston with the USMC Engineers and 1CER.

"When we ask our Marines for their preferred deployments, Australia is definitely a topic of discussion.

Courtesy Army News 10 Apr 14

Recognising a decisive battle

THE BATTLE OF THE CORAL SEA

SHARING MEMORIES: CO HMAS Coonawaira CMDR John Navin talks with Gordon Johnson, a retired sailor and veteran of the Battle of the Coral Sea, after the commemorative service in Darwin.



GORDON Johnson was 19 when he fought in the Battle of the Coral Sea. On May 9, the 91-year-old Canberra man was guest of honour at a commemorative service in Darwin to mark the battle's 72nd anniversary. "The Battle of the Coral Sea is not getting the level of recognition it deserves," Mr Johnson said. "It was equally as important as Kokoda and Gallipoli and stopped the Japanese from invading Port Moresby by sea." Mr Johnson was a telegrapher aboard the light cruiser HMAS Hobart during the battle, in which US and Australian forces took on the Japanese between May 4-8, 1942. It was the first aircraft carrier battle ever fought, and the first in which the opposing ships never fired at each other as all attacks were carried out by aircraft. "We couldn't

see anything because we were below decks," Mr Johnson said. "But when the bombs dropped it " reverberated. You'd hear, 'that was " close! ', but apart from that we didn't speak. "We were under very high tension and stress. As a 19-year-old I thought I handled it very well. I don't believe I was scared, but I really didn't have time to be frightened." The US lost three ships in the battle, including the fleet carrier USS Lexington, while the Japanese lost five ships, including the light carrier Shoho. The Japanese claimed a tactical success, but the strategic victory belonged to the Allies, who destroyed the Japanese carriers at the Battle of Midway the following month. Hobart survived the battle and was present in Tokyo Bay when the Japanese surrender was signed in September 1945. The Darwin service was held at the

memorial to the USS Peary, a US destroyer sunk with the loss of 88 men during the bombing of Darwin in February 1942. The service was attended by RAN personnel, Darwin-based US Marines and members of the local community. Wreaths were laid, and messages from Prime Minister Tony Abbott and US President Barack Obama were read out. Similar services were



held on the NSW Central Coast and in front of the Australian-American Memorial in Canberra.

Mike Coleridge, Australian Vietnam War photographer, 1933-2012

Friday 13 January 2012 by Ian Affleck. Courtesy AWM

Michael (Mike) Coleridge will always be remembered for the photograph he took on 26 August 1967 of a group of soldiers of 5 Platoon, B Company, 7RAR, waiting for an Iroquois helicopter to land and take them back to Nui Dat at the end of Operation Ulmarra. This photograph has become an Australian icon of the Vietnam War and is graphically featured on the Vietnam National Memorial on ANZAC Parade in Canberra. But this is just one of 558 still photographs and 54 films taken in Vietnam by Mike Coleridge in the Australian War Memorial's collection.



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

EKN/67/0130/VN

Mike Coleridge, Members of 5 Platoon, B Company, 7RAR waiting to board an Iroquois helicopter to return to Nui Dat, 26 August 1967

Coleridge was born in Slovenia on 11 July 1933. At the end of the Second World War his parents' marriage failed, and he accompanied his mother to Austria, before migrating to Australia as an unaccompanied 16-year-old. As a young man, he worked in a range of manual jobs in Sydney, always struggling to make his junior wages cover his expenses. At 18 he found work on a property in rural New South Wales, where his circumstances improved and his life assumed some degree of

normality. A young man looking for adventure, he eventually found his way to Darwin. Life in the Northern Territory was exciting, and during this time he learnt to fly and was awarded a private pilot's license.

In 1957 Coleridge enlisted in the Australian Army, hoping to enter the fledgling Army Aviation Corps. Believing the recruiting sergeant's assurances that he could transfer after completing his recruit



Vietnam. 1967. Private Peter Harding of Ballina (NSW), paddles out from the bank of a tributary of the Song Rai River in a boat which had been secreted among mangroves by the Viet Cong. Assault pioneers from the 6th Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment (6RAR), discovered nearly a dozen craft.

training, he signed up; however, his lack of formal education proved a barrier to army pilot training and he found himself a gunner in the **Royal Australian Artillery Corps**. He never realised his ambition to fly. Gunner Coleridge was posted to Malaysia in 1961, and during his tour he privately made films for the British Army using his own cameras.

On his return to Australia in 1963, Coleridge sought a transfer to the Royal Australian Army Education Corps as a public relations photographer. During this time he married and had two children. But his marriage failed, leaving him with his two children of his own and another his wife had brought to the marriage. Coleridge, now a

single father, was posted to Vietnam. With much difficulty, and without any support from the army, he arranged for a family in Melbourne to care for his children. Sergeant Coleridge arrived in Vietnam on 19 November 1966, and although posted to Headquarters in Saigon, he spent most of his time at the new 1st Australian Task Force (1ATF) base at Nui Dat. Over the next 12 months he recorded the activities of 5RAR, 6RAR and 7RAR and other elements of 1ATF. There were no facilities at the 1ATF base for a photographer, so he constructed a makeshift darkroom, in which he developed his own films.

Coleridge operated independently, accompanying soldiers on operations, seeking out images to satisfy the needs of the Public Relations Officer in Saigon and taking many photographs in response to the conflict that surrounded him, including many shots of Australian soldiers moving through the Vietnamese landscape. Like many photographers of the time, he always carried a number of cameras, including 35 mm and 120 still cameras and frequently a 16 mm Bell and Howell movie camera. Using his own initiative, Coleridge started using colour film in both his still and movie cameras.



A digger with his dog and gun watch for the Viet Cong during Operation Paddington, 1967.

However, the army was geared to providing the print media and TV with black-and-white images, and so initially it didn't support Coleridge's use of colour. Because the army only supplied black-and-white film, colour film and colour stock either had to be traded with other photographers or purchased privately. Colour film had to be

processed privately in Saigon, and as most of his salary was spent supporting his three children back in Australia this must have been very difficult for him. Many of Coleridge's colour film stills, and the colour films of the photographers who followed him, were duplicated in black-and-white for use in the media. Coleridge's persistence was eventually rewarded by the Army Public Relations Directorate in Canberra: a signal sent to Saigon in September 1967 acknowledged both the high standard of the colour footage and the fact that Coleridge had provided the colour stock personally, and advised that replacement stock would be dispatched from Canberra.

After completing his tour of Vietnam on 21 November 1967, Coleridge was posted to Melbourne. His period of enlistment had expired and he resisted the army's efforts to keep him, realising how difficult it would be to continue serving as a single father.

Over the decades that followed the war, Mike Coleridge travelled the countryside, finding work wherever he could. He worked for a time as a photographer for the Melbourne Truth and at other jobs, always supporting his two children. He moved to Darwin and then, in the early 1970s, to North Queensland, where he drove steam locos in the cane fields; from there it was on to Western Australia, where he mined gold, before moving to New South Wales. He and his children settled in Canberra in 1984, where he worked for a time as an attendant at the Australian War Memorial. With his children now grown up, he found some relief from his responsibilities and began growing walnuts on a small property at Jerangle, New South Wales. His final move was to a property on the outskirts of Braidwood, where he raised Angus cattle.

Like many Vietnam veterans, Coleridge experienced a range of health issues, including first cancer of the bladder and more recently lung cancer. Just before Christmas 2011 he had a bad fall in his house and was taken by ambulance to the Braidwood Hospital. He was transferred to hospital in Canberra, where an X-ray revealed he had two fractured vertebrae in his lower back.

Michael Coleridge passed away peacefully in hospital in the early hours of 10 January 2012. He is survived by his son, David, daughter, Rhonda, and granddaughter, Julia.

Courtesy WO2 Max Murray & AWM

First-Person-View Of Felix Baumgartner's Space Jump

If you've ever been in free fall you'll find this to be exhilarating, to say the least.

After about a minute you will see the altimeter and the airspeed indicator come on the screen.

Watch the speed, and his rate of descent. You will be amazed at what you see.

24+ miles above the surface of the Earth.....

THIS IS UNBELIEVABLE AND THE PHOTOGRAPHY IS BREATHTAKING.

Hold your breath and watch this, also watch the odometer as the speed increases and then decreases as he enters the earth's atmosphere. What a view!

CLICK BELOW

<http://www.flixxy.com/first-person-view-of-felix-baumgartners-space-jump.htm#.Uu5KxEhDi7Q.gmail>

INTERNATIONAL EXPRESS Wednesday March 12, 2014

Spy in sky set to fly over UK

THE Army's latest "spy in the sky" drone is ready for take-off. .

Watchkeeper, an unmanned surveillance aircraft, can loiter over areas of interest "significantly longer" than existing drones, providing clear pictures for troops on the ground.

With a 35ft wingspan and flying up to 16,000ft, it has been tested since 2010 in west Wales.

Pilots

Last week it made its maiden flight over the Ministry of Defence's Salisbury Plain training area.

Developed by Thales UK, it is operated by pilots from a ground station at Boscombe Down airfield in Amesbury, Wilts.

Colonel Mark Thornhill, Commander of **1st Artillery Brigade**, said: "Watchkeeper is a state-of-the-art system coming into service now.

"It can fly for longer, it flies off rough strips and has better sensors."

Courtesy Ssgt Ernie Paddon

PARADE CARD
As At 31 May 2014
April 2014 to March 2015

| | | |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|
| January 2015 | May 2014 | September 2014 |
| 5. Cascabel Issue 122 posted | 20. Committee Meeting | 16. Committee Meeting |
| 26. Australia day Salute | 30. Gunner Symposium | |
| | | October 2014 |
| February 2015 | June 2014 | 6. Cascabel Issue 121 Posted |
| 17. Committee Meeting | 4. Reservist Luncheon | 21. Committee Meeting |
| 21. Gunner Symposium | 17. Committee Meeting | 24. Gunner Symposium |
| | | |
| March 2015 | July 2014 | November 2014 |
| ?? RAA Luncheon | 7. Cascabel Issue 120 posted | 6. Annual General Meeting |
| 17. Committee Meeting | 15. Committee Meeting | 7. Golf Day |
| | 18. Gunner Symposium | 18. Committee Meeting |
| April 2014 | | |
| 7. Cascabel Issue 119 posted | August 2014 | December 2014 |
| 15. Committee Meeting | ?? RAA Gunner Dinner (TBA) | 7. Annual Church Parade |
| 25. Anzac day | 19. Committee Meeting | ?? St Barbara's Day/2/10 Bty Family Day |
| | | 16. C'tee Xmas Breakup |
| <p style="text-align: center;">Note: This Parade Card is subject to additions, alterations and deletions.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">* For up to date details visit the Website http://artilleryvic.org.au/calendar.html</p> | | |

Change of Personal Details

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

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