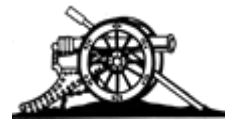


CASCABEL

Journal of the
ROYAL AUSTRALIAN ARTILLERY ASSOCIATION
(VICTORIA) INCORPORATED

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Victoria Australia

APRIL 2015



Last blast for Hamels

105mm L119 light guns are retired from 53 Bty at the
School of Artillery, the last battery to use them

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CASCABEL

FORMER PATRONS, PRESIDENTS & HISTORY



FOUNDED:

First AGM April 1978

First Cascabel July 1983

COL COMMANDANT: BRIG P Alkemade RFD

PATRONS and VICE PATRONS:

1978

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

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

1982

Patron: BRIG Sir William Hall KBE, DSO, ED

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

1999

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

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

2008

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

Vice Patron:

PRESIDENTS:

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

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

1981 COL A. (Sandy) Mair ED

1984 MAJ P. S. (Norman) Whitelaw ED

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

1991 MAJ M. Taggart RFD, ED

2004 MAJ N. Hamer RFD

JOURNAL NAME:

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

CASCABLE - English spelling.

ARTILLERY USE:

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

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

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

CASCABEL HISTORY:

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

ASSOC LOGO: LAPEL BADGE:

Our Assoc Logo and Lapel Badge is the 1800 AD 9 Pdr Waterloo Field Gun. Copy is



taken from Device, Badge and Motto of the Royal Regiment of Artillery, as approved in 1833, by HM King William IV.

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

RAA ASSOCIATION (VIC) INC COMMITTEE

President:	Maj Neil Hamer RFD 03 9702 2100
Vice President:	Maj Merv Taggart RFD, ED 03 9773 3730
Secretary:	Col Jason Cooke 03 9282 6900
Treasurer:	Ssgt Reg Morrell 03 9562 9552
Members:	Ssgt Ernie Paddon Mrs R Decker WO2 Lionel Foster
Curator:	Ssgt Brian Cleeman
Ex-Officio:	Col Comdt Brig P Alkemade RFD
Web Master	Maj Carl Sarelius 0447 002 409
Cascabel Editor:	WO2 Alan Halbish 9587 1676
BC 2nd/10th Light Bty RAA	Maj Garry Rolfe
Honorary Auditor:	Maj David J Osborne
Association web site:	http://www.artilleryvic.org.au

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

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 **July 2015** issue are required no later than **1 June 2015** unless otherwise arranged with the Editor.

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The President Writes

The work on the Model Rules has been completed with very many thanks to LtCol John Henry and Maj David Osborne. The Association Constitution is now in place and you will see in the Membership Report that the required membership changes have been made to the membership database.

Some indecision still remains about the future of our traditional Gunner Dinner and Church Parade. If you have any suggestions or comments, please let the secretary know, in writing, so that they may be discussed at the Committee meeting.

LtCol Paul Middleton, the CO of 5/6 RVR, which includes the 2/10 Lt Bty, has shown that he is very keen to support and include the RAA Association in the Battalion.

The period over Christmas has been fairly quiet from an Association point of view, so I have nothing else of interest to report.

Neil Hamer MAJ (Retd)

Membership Report

To comply with the new Constitution (Model Rules) the membership of the Association had to be re-structured.

The categories of membership are now:

1. Ordinary Members.

As defined by the term "Gunner". Any person who is serving or has served in or is or was on the strength of or is or was attached or seconded (as a member of the Royal Regiment of Australian Artillery or otherwise) to any Artillery unit of the Australian Defence Forces, or any artillery unit of any country.

This membership is further sub-divided into Ordinary Annual, Ordinary Annual Senior and Ordinary Life Members.

2. Honorary Members for Life.

As per Rule 14 (3). Members awarded a special distinction for service to the Association.

3. Associate Members.

As per Rule 14(1). Any Member not able to meet the definition of "Gunner".

This membership is further sub-divided into Associate Annual and Associate Life Members.

4. Affiliate Members.

Kindred associations with an interest in artillery.

This membership includes Library Affiliate Members and RSL Affiliate Members.

5. Other Members.

This membership includes messes and postings.

Subscriptions are payable by Ordinary (except Ordinary Annual Senior) and Associate Members.

Voting rights are restricted to Ordinary and Honorary Members for Life.

Membership;	
As at 2 Sep 2014	284
As at 13 Feb 2015	
Honorary Members for Life	4
Ordinary Life	185
Ordinary Annual	36
Ordinary Annual Senior	12
Associate Life	2
Associate Annual	5
Affiliate	24
Library Affiliates	4
RSL Affiliates	4
Others	9
	285

New Members

We welcome Gnr Neville Cornelius as an Ordinary Annual Member

Neil Hamer Contact: Telephone: 9702 2100

MAJ (Retd) 0419 533 067

Membership Co-ordinator Email
nhamer@bigpond.net.au

Neil Hamer

From the Secretary's Table

COL Jason Cooke



The following report is a summary of our committee meetings since my last report in Cascabel. It will include informative insight into what the committee gets up to especially actions as a result of our Special General meeting and Annual General meeting in Nov 2014. Again I would offer that any member of the RAA Association would be more than welcome to attend our regular meetings held on the 3rd Tuesday of every month, commencing at 1530 in the Associations JARKS Club room at Sargood barracks.

So what has occurred over the past 3 months – a summary of those motions are as below:

1. Our New Constitution.

Thankfully the members of the Association voted favourably to the Draft version of our new constitution at the November Special General Meeting. The Committee would like to take this opportunity to thank both LtCol John Henry and Maj David Osborne for their invaluable assistance in this process. As a result the Association has a robust constitution which in many ways provides greater clarity from the previous one. Thanks to all those involved.

2. Membership Database.

One of the major changes as a result of adopting the new constitution is that the association was required to clean up a few areas regarding our membership and in particular the way we maintain and store this information. One of the great challenges for our Association is communicating effectively with all members noting that our average age is in the retired age group plus we have a high percentage of our members still relying on Australia Post. Thanks to the Membership Member for his hard work is adjusting the database, especially when little to no effect is felt across our membership.

3. MailChimp.

For those with an email address, you would have seen emails from the secretary sent to you in a new format. MailChimp provides the secretary with an easy way of crafting notices, monitoring email addresses, and effectively manages outward correspondence to the membership. For you, these emails will have a small email footprint with embedded hyperlinks to documents stored on the mail server or our own website. Great advancement in effective communications, however it does rely upon having an email address.

4. Financially.

The Association is healthy and in a sound position but our membership is aging and unfortunately also reducing despite the few new members we attract throughout the year.

5. Website.

MAJ Carl Sarelius is doing a great job to assist the committee improving our communications but the committee has tasked Carl with some improvements. Hopefully over the next couple of months you will see changes to the website and we would love to hear your thoughts. Facebook is not far away – look out for that.

6. The JARKS Club Room.

Ssgt Brian Cleeman and his ever reliable band of happy workers (Reg, Stan and Ernie) have been busily making improvements to our Memorabilia Collection. They have done an outstanding job and the place is looking great. Come on down to the Sargood Barracks when you get a chance and check out the improvements. Great job – well done.

7. Social Activities.

There are a number of social events coming up that you are very warmly welcome and strongly encouraged to attend; the Gunner Symposiums, RAA Luncheon, and hopefully a Gunner Dinner this year. So please we would love to see you all there – come along and renew friendships or make new ones but come along.

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 report helps in providing more transparency in our decisions and excites you to take an active part in shaping of those decisions. 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 – good shooting.

A message from the Battery Commander

2/10 Light Battery RAA

5th/6th Battalion

Royal Victoria Regiment

Major Garry Rolfe CSC



2/10 Light Battery Achievements During the 2014 Training Year by

Posted strength

Officers x 6

Other Ranks x 46

AIRN 94.7%

Members on Deployment:

Transit Security Element (TSE74) OP SOVEREIGN BORDERS x 8 pers

Rifle Company Butterworth (RCB108) x 1 pers

On Sunday 19th January the Light Battery provided a Catafalque Party and Bugler to commemorate the 81st Anniversary of the death of Albert Jacka VC (former Mayor of St Kilda) at the St Kilda General Cemetery. Over two hundred people were in attendance including extended members of the Jacka family who travelled from all parts of the country and descendants of the 14th Battalion 'Jacka's Mob'. The Catafalque Party was commended for their outstanding display of professionalism while under command of BDR James Overell and supported by Bugler SSgt Alan Kirkman.

This year saw the farewell of members of the RAA Band on their transfer to Australian Army Band Melbourne. The reposting ensures the Bands of the previous 2nd/10th Fd Regt and current 4th/19th PWLH Band integrate into AABM to provide enhanced capability to the ADF. The Band continues to be in great demand providing support to the community and military events and occasions.

On 26th January the Light Battery participated in the Australia Day PES firing the 21 M2A2 Gun Salute at the Shrine of Remembrance. The Light Battery was commended for the professional and timely conduct displayed during the firing of the salute. Concluding the Salute, the Guns were overwhelmed by members of the public showing great interest and appreciation for the contribution to this public celebration.

The Light Battery completing the mandated Force Preservation Training package in early February. This was an ideal opportunity to establish Governance requirements and complete the FORGEN AIRN including the BFA.

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The Light Battery completing the mandated Force Preservation Training package in early February. This was an ideal opportunity to establish Governance requirements and complete the FORGEN AIRN including the BFA.

In March the Light Battery conducted a dry deployments exercise (EX Somme) at the Puckapunyal Military Area. The objectives of the EX was to deploy and conduct Mortar Line Deployments by foot, conduct Joint Fires 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 achieved successfully in all respects and proved the Light Battery ability to provide capability even on the move with the conduct of a Quick Action deployment.

In the lead up to ANZAC Day the Battery Commander represented the Light Battery and Battalion at an ANZAC DAY service conducted by the Noble Park RSL. In attendance were local dignitaries and over two

hundred and thirty members of the public.

On the 25th April the Light Battery conducted a commemoration of ANZAC Day with a Dawn Service at Sargood Barracks (Chapel St Depot). 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 Light Battery, 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 Light Battery main body boarded a bus to participate in the 4 Brigade march through the streets of Melbourne and along St Kilda Road to the Shrine of Remembrance. Concluding the march past the Eternal Flame the Battalion assembled on the rear steps for a variety of Unit and Sub Unit photographs.

Over the period 16-18 May saw the Light Battery conduct a live fire exercise (EX Polygon Wood) at Puckapunyal. The Light Battery conducted a static technical shoot engaging targets using a variety of ammunition including Prac, Red Phosphorous Smoke and Illuminating. The JFT conducted occupation of the OP and engagement of targets within zone. During EX POLYGON WOOD members of the Light Battery 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.

The Light Battery supported the Battalion Emergency Support Force (ESF) callout rehearsal on 28 May in addition to 2 Div directed ESF Certification Exercise (EX HARD RAIN) on 21 June.

The Light Battery conducted the MOD 3 (Artillery) Specialist Combat Communicators Course (SCCC) in late May. The course manager WO2 Ben Brown drew upon members of the Light Battery 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.

On Saturday 7th June the Light Battery fired 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 Light Battery held a happy Hour, which attracted not only current serving members but also many old faces.

On Tuesday 5th August, the Light Battery fired one 16oz blank cartridge from a M2A2 Howitzer as part of the First Shot commemoration, which took place at the parade ground of the old OCS Portsea at Point Nepean, Portsea. The Gun Position Officer was Captain Reed Powney and Detachment Commander Bdr Ian Johnson (a second gun also loaded was positioned in the event of misfire, however this gun was not required to be fired).

This event commemorated the firing of the first shot in the British Empire in WWI which occurred on 5th August 1914 when Gun Emplacement No 6 at Fort Nepean fired a shot across the bows of the German merchant ship SS Pfalz to prevent her from escaping from Port Phillip Bay to the open seas shortly after war was declared. The shot was successful – the Pfalz surrendered. The round fired from Fort Nepean's Gun Emplacement No 6, just three hours and forty five minutes after war was declared in London, was the very first shot fired in the entire British Empire in WWI – the first of all the hundreds of millions of rounds of all calibres that were subsequently fired over the next four years and four months until war ended on 11th November 1918.

The Commemoration was supported by the Federal Government, the Victorian State Government and the Mornington Peninsula Shire Council. The Commemoration was also supported by the Department of Premier and Cabinet, Parks Victoria, the ADF Federation Guard and the Sorrento-Portsea RSL.

During the conduct of EX AMIENS (15-17 August) the Light Battery conducted a dry deployments training activity as a part of a Battalion training exercise at the Puckapunyal Training Area. The JFT conducted tactical occupation of the OP, silent marking, ground brief, target indication drills and tactical movement between OP's. The JFT (-) comprising JFT Ack and Signaler were embedded into the lead Coy providing observation, liaison on the employment of the OS asset.

The JFECC was co-located within BG HQ (OA) and exercised command over the Light Battery and the JFT. The Mortar Line conducted drills in the Hide, Direct Deployments by vehicle (6 deployments including 1 x night deliberate) and fire missions (dry). All FE practiced morning and night routine drills.

On Sunday 24 August the Battery Commander represented the Battalion at the St George's Church Healing the Wounds of War Service adjacent to Sargood Barracks. The Service was followed by a fine lunch hosted at the Sargood Barracks

The Light Battery successfully represented the 5th/6th Battalion Shooting Team at the 2014 Australian Army Skills at Arms Meeting (AASAM) held at Puckapunyal. GNR Tim De La Zilwa was a member of the winning Battalion team competing against shooting teams from all over the world. GNR De La Zilwa has now progressed as a member of the Battalion team to participate at the Army International Marksmanship Squad in October 2014.

The Sargood Barracks has undergone a complete reorganisation 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. The Battalion Signals Platoon now occupies 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 Light Battery Mess.

Gunner Ben Edwards achieved selection in the 5/6 RVR Military Skills Team and went on to participating in the Brigade Mil Skills Comp in South Australia.

During the period 13-16 October the Light Battery provided support to the Combined Arms Training Centre (CATC) EX CHONG JU with its Mortars and Command Post. EX CHONG JU is the firepower demonstration for the Combat Officers Advanced Course (COAC) combined arms display of ADF weapons systems. Five members from 6/13 Light Battery provided support to 2/10 Light Battery for the conduct of EX CHONG JU.

The Light Battery continued to work closely with the RAA Association and hosted three Gunner Symposi-ums so far this year. This was a terrific opportunity for all current and past members and members posted out, to come together socially on a Friday evening and enjoy Corps related presentations, discussions and current information updates related to all matters of Gunnery.

At 1100h on the 11th November at the Shrine of Remembrance the Light Battery provided a Minute Gun and Detachment and fired the two rounds to commemorate the period of silence on Remembrance Day.

On 17th November, at Canberra and in conjunction with 7 Lt Bty, 23 Lt Bty and Australia's Federation Guard (AFG) members of the 2/10 Lt Bty provided support to a 21-Gun Salute fired on the occasion of the arrival of the President of China. Concluding post-firing maintenance the Lt Bty members toured the War Memorial until departure from Canberra.

Nine members from the Light Battery are currently on deployment with Transit Security Element 74 as part of OP RESOLUTE. One member of the Light Battery is participating in the lead up to Rifle Company Butterworth 108 in preparation for deployment in late October.

The IFOT facility at Sargood Barracks continues to prove to be an excellent simulation training resource for the development of JFT capability. Technical missions and Fire Planning can easily be achieved on a Tuesday night parade or weekend training activity. The Light Battery provided All Arms Call for Fire training in the IFOT for RAINF members of the Battalion on several occasions during the year.

I congratulate BDR James Overell on winning the 2014 Battalion Champion JNCO Award (an annual award open for nomination of all BDR/CPL throughout the Battalion). The Commanding Officer presented the trophy to BDR Overell at the final parade held on Tuesday 2nd December.

On Sunday the 7th December the Light will again celebrate St Barbara's Day with a family afternoon celebration and awards, preceded by a demonstration of Light Battery Capability, lunch and games. It is rumored a large man in a red suit will be dropping in for a visit.

We farewell the following members of the Light Battery and in doing so acknowledge the outstanding contribution made during the formative two years and wish them every success with their future postings:

CAPT Reed Powney BK to HQ 4 BDE

CAPT Erin Stewart IG to CATC

LT Jordan A'Vard to HQ 4 BDE

WO2 Ben Brown to the School of Artillery

Now into the second year since the formation of 2/10 Light Battery under command of 5/6 RVR, we continue to grow in strength not only in achievement of training outcomes, but in support to the many public events of significance, deployment of members on operations, conducting our own training courses, progressing members through trade training courses while still meeting the demands of governance and administration. This could not have been achieved without the relentless commitment of members at all levels of the Battery. The contribution given and time allocated to ensure training and all matters of other tasking were prepared and executed is commendable.

For this I thank all members of 2/10 Light Battery.

I also acknowledge the support from wives, partners and families who without their support would not enable the commitment from our members and achievement of successful outcomes.

And in closing, I wish all members of the Gunner family a merry Christmas, a safe and restful holiday, if you are travelling, stay safe and I look forward to members of the Battery and new staff returning to training at the start of 2015.

Garry Rolfe Battery Commander

Ubique

VALE

WO2 JAMES HAROLD BREEZE O.A.M.



Please find the attached that I wrote for Jim. It will be read in the church by Capt John Irving who served with Jim in 40 HAA and also in the Loc. Bty.

You may publish in the Cascabel, I am sure many will remember him. Not too many would have as many years in the system as did Jim.

WO2 A W (Jock) Macdonald

Military Notes on JAMES HAROLD BREEZE O.A.M.

I came to know Jim as a young man both of us having served together in the same Royal Australian Artillery units of the Army Reserve, a relationship forging a long and lasting friendship.

I have been asked and it is a privilege that I read some notes on his military service put together by Alistair (Jock) Macdonald, a military colleague and a close friend of Jim's of many years, both of them having served together in the same units of the Army Reserve Royal Regiment of Australian Artillery.

For health reasons Jock could not be here today.



Jim served in the Australian Army over a period of 43 years, from 1948 to 1991 from cadets to the Army Reserve.

Jim was an enthusiastic member of the School Cadets following on

with Regimental Cadets.

He was called up for National Service on 6th January 1954 and trained with 15 Platoon, D Coy 14, Battalion at Puckapunyal.

On completion of National Service training on 14th

April 1954 he was posted to 40 Heavy Anti-Aircraft Regiment in Coburg Vic. as a Predictor operator and reached the rank of Sergeant. He attended an AA operations course at The School of Artillery, North Head, Sydney in July 1956 and passed.

He was with 40 HAA till the Anti-Aircraft defence in Australia was abandoned by the Army in 1957 and the Regiment disbanded that year, transferring along with several Ranks from AA who wanted to continue their military careers.

Transferring to field artillery Jim and a number of others were posted to 132 Divisional Locating Battery which was at the Batman Ave Artillery Depot. At that time the battery had only been going a couple of years and was boosted by the transferes

Jim along with many others had now to learn new skills and requalify their ranks. These included Survey, Radar, Sound Ranging, Plotting and Artillery Intelligence. Also driving and signalling were included as the artillery used their own signallers and transport.

Jim along with some others were selected for promotion to Warrant Class 2 rank and having passed, qualified, was promoted along with AW Macdonald and B W Dix on the 24 Jan 1963.

Jim Breeze although small in stature, was a good and conscientious NCO and WO and was able to instruct in many facets of the units training.

He and a small group of Radar people were tasked to attempt to do an in unit method of modifying the AA3 Mark7 radar to allow it to be used for mortar locating as it had been designed for aircraft detection. Jim designed and built the main technical modification which was accepted by the army. This was the basis for his recommendation

for an award.

James Harold Breeze was awarded the Order of Australia Medal.

Range practice was an important feature of army training and it was Jim who ran it every year assisted by the Unit's WO's and Sgt's. Jim's civilian occupation was in the radio school at the then RMIT and naturally he ran the Unit's Signals section for some years, this included maintenance of radio and telephones, cables and spares and charging of batteries. Also as required, he was a driving instructor. His one complaint was that he could not drive a Mack truck heavy vehicle as his legs could not legally fully extend the pedals.

Moving on

RAEME

There was a call for a workshop Troop Sergeant Major and Jim decided it was time to swap colours and badges and transfer to the Engineers and so ended his career with the Royal Regiment.

This was the final phase of his military service till his retirement.

Breezy was liked by everyone, he was sometimes quiet and studious and could always be relied on for a good opinion.

He retired with the rank of Warrant Officer Class Two from RAEME at the end of his military service on 31st July 1991.

He was a good officer and always courteous. He will be missed by all who knew him.

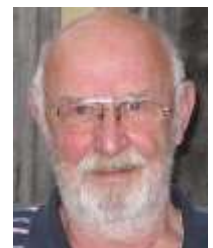


Editors Indulgence

After my 8th surgery for the year, this time for a radical prostatectomy, I'm well on the mend. Tests early this year have indicated that they've got it all, and current indications remain positive. Further tests in six months will determine the final outcome.

You will be well aware that there has not been published a journal for January this year. I apologise for the omission. Surgery and other major events messed up my time-lines. This resulted in some submissions arriving quite late. Better late than never, eh!

I added some extra content for you, hope you enjoy.



I was rather dismayed when I heard about the resignation of Cascabel's 3rd editor, Maj Ross Peterken. RFD

He published journals #22 in '89 to #41 in '94. Ross has become disillusioned with ARES Artillery since they lost their guns and reverted to mortars.

He now is heavily involved with other interests and on behalf of all members, I thank you Ross for your contribution to the Association. Further details of his tenure may be found in Journal 116, dated July 2013.

Letters to the Editor

I was both surprised and delighted that I received a newly published book in the mail. I opened the front cover and found these hand written words:

Many of us know and will have served with Capt P. N. Cooper RFD ED B Comm LPI who has written an excellent historical comparison with William The Conqueror and General Dwight Eisenhower.

*To Mr Alan Hallish.
A fellow Reservist. A personal gift to say thanks
you for your editorial expertise and dedication
to the RAA Association.
Percy Cooper
October 2014*

Entitled **Two Climactic Invasions by Percy Cooper**, the back cover states:

Over the same English Channel, **878 years apart** occurred two invasions, each of which changed our world. **William the Conqueror** thrust northwards to colonize Britain in **1066**. **General Eisenhower** thrust southwards in **1944** and invaded **William's** Normandy, beginning the liberation of Western Europe.

This thoroughly researched and excitingly readable book is the definitive compilation of complimentary and contrasting circumstances and consequences of those two climactic invasions.

Percy Cooper is a retired Forensic Accountant with a 40 year career as General Manager and/or Trustee of four of Australia's top Superannuation Funds. Concurrent with his civilian career he was an Army Reserve soldier for 18 years.

From a lowly National Service Artillery Gunner he was Commissioned an Officer with his last posting being that of Divisional Artillery Intelligence Officer.

If you would like to purchase a copy, you may buy (members only) direct from Percy for the cost price of just \$20.00 + \$10.00 postage. Contact him at:
Percy Cooper. Tel 03 9557 2485 or email pernor@bigpond.com.

Hi Alan

Just got a message that one of our Gunners, GNR Tim De La Zilwa will be representing the ADF at the International Skill At Arms Meeting (BISAM) (shooting) at Penanjong Garrison in Brunei during Jan 15.

This is an outstanding achievement by GNR DZ and a great achievement by the Bty to have one of our members reach this level. Is it possible to include in Cascabel.

Cheers Thanks Garry

I was delighted to receive this passionate letter from 91 year old Mrs. Claire Cooper. She has very proud memories of her father.

Thank you Claire.

To the Editor
Cascabel

Dear Sir,

Several months ago you featured an article about the Meritorious Service Medal. My late father, a despatch rider with 5th Div Sigs, was awarded this medal, "In the field" by General Birdwood at the Battle of Paschendaele in the first World War. I enclose a copy of the citation.

My father, 1132 bpl Reginald Leo Power was photographed among "The Lost Diggers" at Vignacourt — although not in the beautiful book, my sons found his photograph on the Internet.

He returned home in 1919, married my mother in 1920, I was born 1923, my sister in 1925, my father died in 1925.

Yours faithfully
(Mrs) Claire Cooper

Ti Tree Lodge
34 Balaka St.
Roselind West
19.1.2015 3940

Alan:

Firstly, welcome back to the world of the hale and hearty. You and your family must have gone through the wringer. I look forward to seeing you at some gunner function.

The recent *Cascabel* kindly reproduced several comments of mine, one relating to the number of guns in a battery. In reading MAJ Whitelaw's account of being in Greece and Crete he also mentions the number of guns. Without looking it up, he talks about six-guns; twelve guns (two troops of six and three troops of four) and indicates other combinations. So I do not think we will ever find a definitive answer.

Graham Farley

This modern ordnance sure is impressive. No wonder Artillery is still King of Battle.

For when you really want to totally destroy one guy in particular.

View the lethal accuracy and destructive power at this link. Ed

Courtesy Ssgt Reg Morrell

<https://www.youtube.com/embed/m6yNpNZM6fs?rel=0&rel=0&wmode=opaque>



History lives on

RAAHC calls for 18-pounder gun volunteers

Sgt Dave Morley

PLANS are under way to have a restored original 18-pounder gun, limber and horse team ready for Canberra's 2015 Anzac Day commemoration.

Deputy Chair of the Royal Australian Artillery Historical Company (RAAHC) Board of Directors Col Ian Aheam (ret'd) said the gun had already been exhibit-ed at the national gunner dinner at Caloundra, Queensland, on August 23.

"Four hundred people at the dinner raised \$3300 on the night to assist with the restoration work," he said.

"We've also recently received a request from the Lord Mayor of Sydney, Clover Moore, for the gun to be fired to initiate the New Year's Eve fireworks in Sydney."

Col Aheam said the RAAHC was looking for Defence volunteers to assist with the gun.

"We've been talking to ADFA about cadets getting involved in giving presentations, and also as riders and handlers for the horses," he said.

"We've been successful recruiting retired people but would like to see some younger volunteers getting involved.

"The volunteers will be outfitted in WWI uniforms when the gun is on public display."

He said the iconic 1917-built 18-pounder gun was one of 160 brought back to Australia at the end of WWI and one of only 10 surviving in Australia

today.

"The 18-pounder gun is the artillery piece featured on the \$100 note," he said.

"There were 3162 of them built for WWI service, and they were still being used until 1945, but with pneumatic tyres and other modifications.



"They fired more than 100 million rounds in WWI, with the four 18-pounder batteries of 4th Australian Division Artillery guns firing 272,000 rounds from January 1 until November 11, 1918."

Col Ahearn, who is the RAA Colonel Commandant Eastern Region, served in Vietnam with 102 Fd Bty, 12 Fd Regt, in 1968-69.

He was the unit's gun position officer during the Battle of Firebase Coral in May 1968.

Anyone interested in becoming involved can contact Col Aheam at 18pounder@artilleryhistory.org

For more information on the 18-pounder gun, or to make a donation toward the gun's restoration and upkeep, visit

www.artilleryhistory.org

ONE HUNDRED YEARS OLD AND LOOK JUST LIKE NEW

WW1 vehicles

[Amazing GDSF WW1 Steam Convoy - 'Gigantic' bounces around the roundabout!](#)

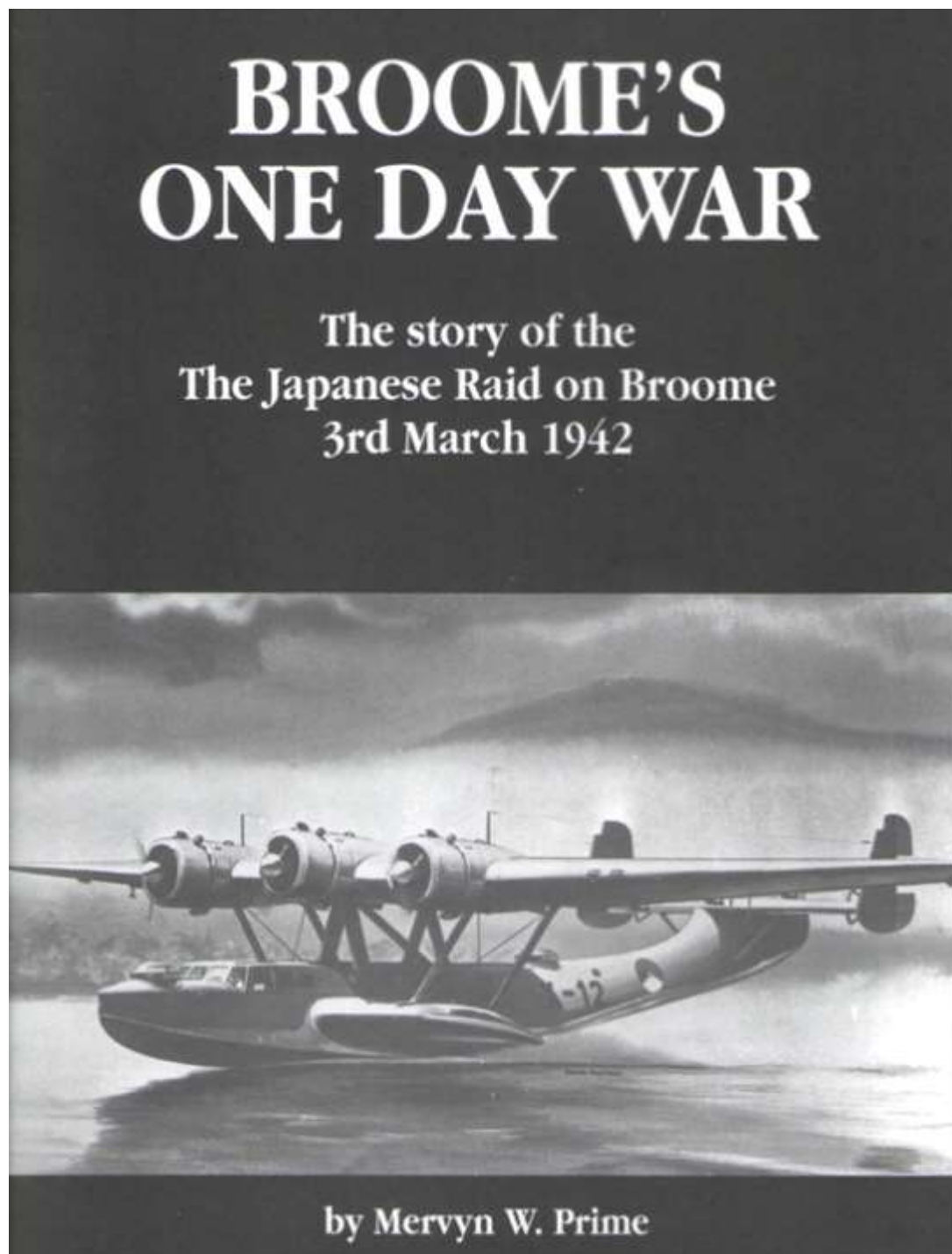
During October 2011, Barbara and I were holidaying in Broome and visited the Broome Historical Society Museum. During this very worthwhile visit, I saw this book for sale for the princely sum of \$6.00. Thinking it may provide a future article for Cascabel, I purchased it.

Following communications, I was pleased to be given permission to publish and I thank the **Broome Historical Society Museum Committee** and the author, **Mr Mervyn W. Prime** for allowing me to do so.

I have serialised the book and the following four pages are episode one of four.

Q. How many raids were launched against Broome by the Japanese: 1, 2, 3, 4 or 5. Read on, you may be surprised at the answer.

Enjoy. *ed*



Five Dutch Dornier DO.24 flying boats were destroyed at Broome, and a further one at Anna Plains Station. This cover picture is a painting of DO.24—Serial X.12

Introduction

Broome in 1942, was a small town on the tropical northern coast of Western Australia, renowned for the quality of its pearls and pearl shell, but little else. On Tuesday 3 March 1942, the tranquillity of this sleepy little town was shattered forever, when Japanese Zero fighters attacked targets on the Broome airstrip and adjacent Roebuck Bay, and the town suddenly became "Western Australia's Pearl Harbour".

The first few months of 1942 were catastrophic for the Allies, as Japanese troops were advancing on all fronts in the Asian - Pacific theatre of war, and to many it seemed just a matter of time before an all out attack on Australia would be launched. (Fortunately, the Battle of the Coral Sea, in April, put paid to the Japanese plans for the invasion of Australia).

In late February 1942, Allied Commanders anticipated that a Japanese attack would be launched on Java within a week to 10 days (the time that Allied air power in the region would cease to exist), and therefore issued orders for all Allied personnel and their dependants to be evacuated

from the island to what was considered to be the safety of Australia.

A vast aerial shuttle service was then undertaken between Tjilatjap in Java and other ports to Broome in Western Australia - a distance of nearly 1000 km over the Timor Sea - using whatever aircraft could be commandeered or made to fly.



A Zero fighter, nine of this type of aircraft raided Broome on 3rd March 1942.

Over a 14 day period from late February to March 3, more than 8,000 refugees from the then Dutch East Indies (now Indonesia) staged through Broome en-route to either Perth or Sydney. On peak days up to 57 aircraft refuelled in the old pearling town before winging their way further south. Lt. John Rouse, who was then U.S. Army Air Corps rationing officer for the town made the observation that "Broome looks like La Guardia Field (New York's airport) at its busiest, the entire aerodrome is covered with planes!"



Passengers and crew being ferried between a Dutch Dornier, and the Broome jetty a few days before the raid.

THE ATTACK

The evacuation from the Indies seemed to be proceeding well, until Monday 2 March 1942, when at a large Japanese Navy reconnaissance flying boat was seen slowly circling Broome at a height of some 4,000 metres. Following its leisurely observations of the activities in and around the town, the big machine headed out to sea, and back to its base. It reported that there were 8 large aircraft on the Broome airstrip, but no flying boats were noted on Roebuck Bay. What the Japanese did not know was that many more Allied aircraft would arrive before dusk, during the night and just after dawn the following morning!

The appearance of this enemy aircraft alarmed some of the senior military officers in Broome, as they considered it was the curtain raiser to an imminent attack on the town. Their concerns were heightened when in the early hours of the next morning, a large aircraft - presumably another enemy flying boat - made several low passes over the town, and it was reported that an unknown person had been spotted flashing signals to it with a torch. (Later enquiries suggest that the signals were from the radio shack, as the personnel on duty thought it was an Allied transport that had "lost" its radio).

These reconnaissance flights, confirmed the existence of a large concentration of land based military aircraft in the Broome area. As a consequence, Commander Takeo Shibata, the commanding officer of the Third Naval Air Group, Imperial Japanese Navy, based at Koepang, in Timor, determined that an attack should be launched on these tempting targets without delay.

By co-incidence Shibata had been the chief Naval test pilot in the mid 1930's when the Zero was being developed, and he had been instrumental in developing the special long range flight tactics for the Zero fighter - a characteristic that would be put to good use on the long flight ahead.

At 7.05 am on Tuesday March 3, 1942, a force of nine Mitsubishi A6M.2 Zero fighters, and a C5M.2 "Babs" reconnaissance aircraft, under the overall command of Lt. Zenziro Miyano took off from the Third Naval Air Group Base in Koepang, en-route for Broome. Simultaneously, Shibata also ordered a further eight Zeros, under the command of Sub - Lt. Toshitada Kawazois, to attack targets at the

northern Australian port of Wyndham.

March 3 had dawned warm and sunny in Broome, and Roebuck Bay was a hive of activity as flying boat skippers completed their paperwork, or arranged the refuelling of their machines. The warmth of the tropical sun, and the distance from the war zone lulled many of the refugees and crews into believing they were safe in this friendly Australian port. This was an illusion that was shortly to be shattered.

There was much criticism at the time that the flying boats should have left Broome at first light, and whilst with hindsight this was excellent advice, in most cases this was impractical. Some of the crew had been on duty for days upon end without rest, operating shuttle services between Java and Broome, and they were utterly exhausted. In addition the fall of the tide meant any of the machines did not have sufficient water under them to carry out a safe take off, and in any case a number of them had not been refuelled.

Miyano's flight arrived overhead of Broome at about 9.30 am, and immediately jettisoned their 320 litre long-range fuel drop tanks - an action that created the mistaken, but often held belief, that bombs were actually dropped in this raid.

Three of the Zeros were ordered to attack the bombers and transports on the town's airstrip, whilst another three dealt with the flying boats on Roebuck Bay. The remaining three enemy aircraft were initially required to provide "top cover", to deal with any Allied fighters that might put up resistance. As it was there were no Allied fighters in the region, and those three Zeros joined in the attack, leaving the "Babs" reconnaissance aircraft to direct operations from a safe height.

Several Allied machines did manage to get airborne as the attack began. An American Liberator bomber, under the command of Major Edson Kester scrambled into the air, but was immediately pounced upon by a Zero piloted by Warrant Officer Osamu Kudo. Despite Kester's valiant attempts to evade Kudo's relentless attack, the bomber crashed into the sea some 10 km off Cable Beach, breaking in half on impact. Of the 33 servicemen aboard, many of whom were sick and wounded, all but two were killed in the crash or were drowned. Army surgeon Capt. Charles Stafford was seen trying to help the wounded, but to no avail - he and the others soon slipped beneath the surface and

were drowned. Only Sergeants Melvin Donaho and Willard Beatty managed to get away from the sinking aircraft - but more of them later.

Meantime, U. S. Navy pilot Lt. Jack Lamade was more fortunate. Only days before he and his observer Tubbs had been ordered off the ill-fated cruiser USS Houston, prior to it being sunk in the Battle of the Java Sea. He had flown the ship's Curtiss SOC Seagull floatplane to Broome, arriving at Roebuck Bay with near empty fuel tanks. As the Zeros attacked, he had been preparing to depart for Port Hedland, and in the confusion he did manage to take off and get to safety. Lamade's Seagull was to be the only Allied aircraft in Broome, to escape destruction that day!

Another crew to escape injury, although their RAAF Lockheed Hudson was destroyed were saved because their absent minded pilot had forgotten to pick up his charts and codes. The Hudson had a full fuel load including 2 x 500 litre internal tanks, plus a full bomb load, and was en-route to Darwin prior to receiving orders for a bombing raid on the Jap held islands to the north.

It had taxied to a holding position, just prior to take off, as Major Edson Kester's Liberator was just starting its take off run, when pilot Wing Cdr. "Claude" Lightfoot realised he had left his codes and maps in the briefing hut. He named to his co-pilot Sgt. Jim Harkin (an American pilot on exchange duty) and asked him to go back and retrieve them, but in typical American disregard for rank Harkin snarled.- "You left the bloody things behind, so you go and get them !"

At this time the Zeros were spotted in the distance, but the Hudson crew, thinking them to be RAAF Wirraways, paid no further attention to them.

Lightfoot started walking back the 300 metres or so to the briefing hut, when the Zeros pounced onto Kester's Liberator, and as the engines on the Hudson were still ticking over Harkin proposed taking off. Wireless operator Harry Simpson told him not to be a fool, as the Zeros would make mincemeat out of them. Gunner "Chuck" Owens was all for firing at the Zeros from his tail gun position, but by then Simpson had cut the engines, and there was now no longer any power for the turret. All three then ran for cover in the long grass.

Within minutes, the Zeros were firing on the

Hudson, and with all the fuel and bombs aboard it was soon a ball of flames. All this time, the three aircrew were firing at the Zeros with their service revolvers, without much success. The Zeros were flying so low, with their cockpit canopies pulled right back, that the features of the pilots were quite visible to the defenders on the ground.

Other Allied personnel were not so lucky. The Zeros continued their devastating strafing attacks on the planes on the airstrip and the flying boats in the Bay - Shibata had given orders that only military targets should be attacked. Within minutes all 15 Allied flying boats - Dutch, American, British and Australian - were either ablaze or sinking. The carnage was horrific, due to the large numbers of women and children - mainly Dutch refugees - crammed into the aircraft. Some of the big Dorniers had up to 40 refugees aboard. Most of them had spent the previous night on the machines, due to the difficulties in being ferried ashore because of the 8 metre Broome tides, and this was compounded by the very limited accommodation available in the town.

Sgt. H. M. Juta, a navigator on one of the Dutch Catalina flying boats, gave a vivid first hand account of the first few minutes of the raid. He, his wife and a young boy had been sitting on the wing of his aircraft, getting some fresh air and escaping from the crowded quarters in the aircraft where many of the refugees were housed.

"I saw several fighter planes in the distance, and guessed them to be Royal Australian Air Force machines" he reported. "I was soon to be proved wrong, when they started strafing the flying boats in the harbour, and all hell broke loose". As the Japanese Zeros headed for his Catalina, Juta pushed his wife and the boy off the wing and into the water, telling them to swim for their lives. He dived in, and swam with them, diving under the surface as the enemy fighters made their attacks.

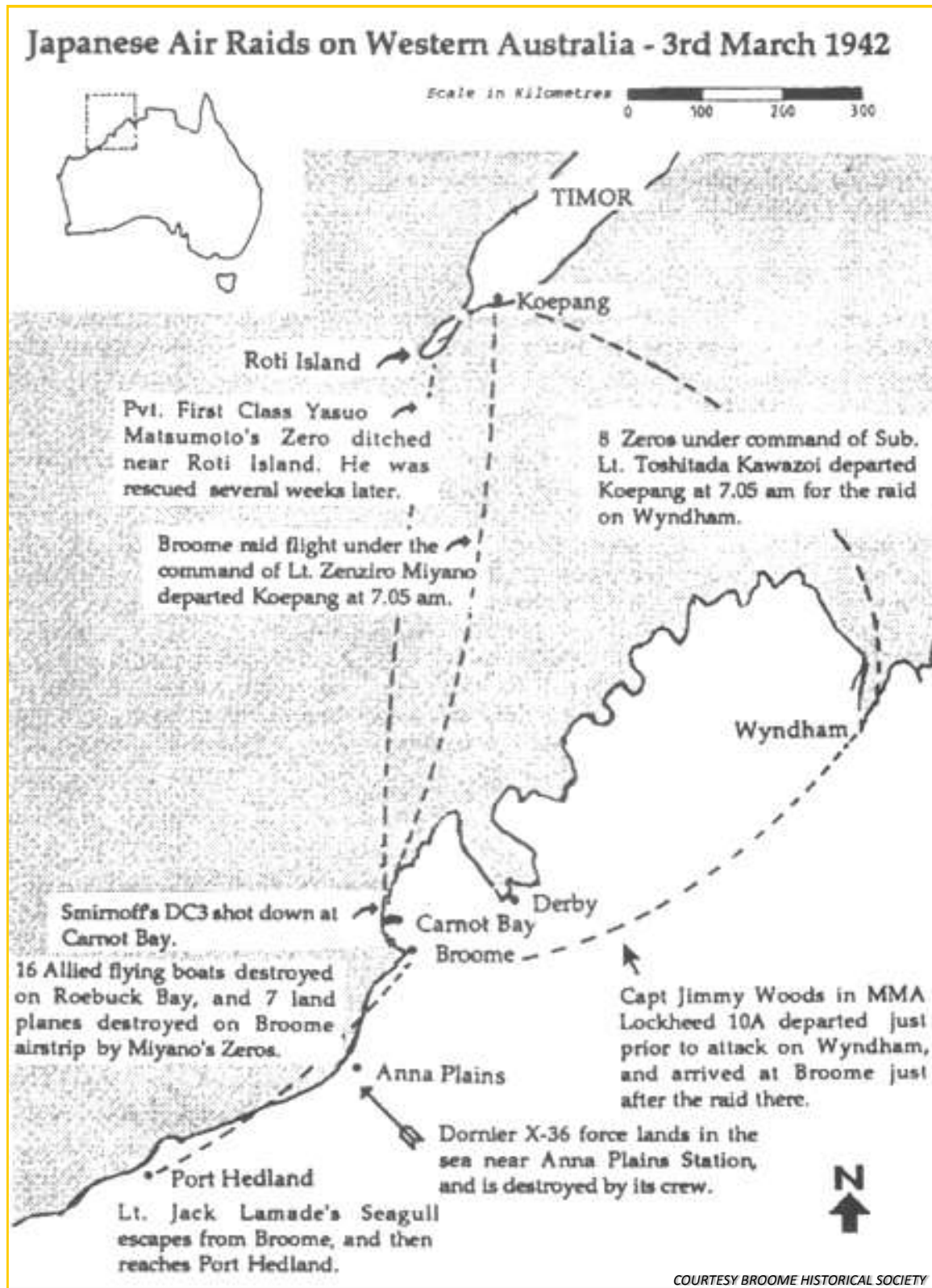
Several more of the crew and refugees jumped from the Catalina, but before long the aircraft was a burning and sinking hulk, with petrol pouring from its ruptured fuel tanks, setting the sea alight and adding to the horrific scene. Juta, his wife and the boy tried to swim to the shore but found it extremely difficult to battle against the tide. By a stroke of luck, and almost at the point of exhaustion, all three were plucked from the sea by an American serviceman, who had commandeered a small motor boat and was scouring Roebuck Bay,

looking for survivors.

All through the night, Captain Harold Mathieson and his crew of the vessel "Nicol Bay", had toiled to refuel the many flying boats on Roebuck Bay. As the raid began, he was engaged in refuelling the Qantas "Empire Class" flying boat "Corinna", whose Captain was ashore in Broome making last minute flight arrangements. Mathieson immedi-

ately cast off from the Qantas machine, and with 180 drums of highly flammable aviation fuel aboard, set off rescuing survivors in the water. By good fortune his vessel was not hit, and he was instrumental in saving many Dutch refugees. For his efforts, Mathieson was given a gold medal and a citation from the Dutch Government.

To be continued



Sgt Dave Morley

GUNNERS from the School of Artillery's support battery, 53 Bty, made history when they fired the last Hamel guns for the final time late last year.

Troop Commander Lt Adrian Parry said the guns were withdrawn at the end of 2014, with 53 Bty being the Army's last remaining unit to hold the 105mm LI 19 light gun.

"The guns were used at the School of Artillery in support of forward observer training and remained in service with 53 Bty until the 105mm ammunition stocks were cleared," he said.



LBdr Peter Graham, of 53 Bty, gets ready to fire the guns for the last time.

"The entire fleet has now been replaced by the 155mm M777A2, which incorporates a full digital thread from the observer to the guns.

"The final field exercise marked the last live firing of the guns while in service with the RAA."

Lt Parry said the firing was in support of the Regimental Officers Gunnery Course fire planning phase.

"The men of 53 Bty have served with the light guns for most of their careers and were very excited to be a part of the final firing of the light guns," he said.

Detachment 2IC LBdr Peter Graham said it was a privilege to be a part of history, not only for the battery, but also for the regiment.

"I am sad to see the light guns go, but the future of the RAA is looking very bright with the new digital equipment," he said.

Gnr Ryan Grinter said he had the privilege of working with the guns and would miss them.

"It was an honour to be a part of the final live fire of the LI 19, however, I'm confident the M777A2 is a very worthy replacement and I look forward to working with them for some time," he said.

The School of Artillery's CO and chief instructor, Lt-Col David Edwards, said the 105mm guns were a robust and highly mobile gun, serving for more than 20 years in the RAA.

"The last rounds fired in November mark the end of an era for the 105mm gun as it makes way for the 155mm medium howitzers across the regiment," he said.

"We have now moved into the realm of a highly sophisticated and accurate digital gunnery system with M777A2, presenting the RAA with a unique opportunity to develop skills and procedures around the new equipment."

Lt Parry said after the guns were fired for the last time they were returned to the equipment fleet manager at Bandiana.

"The Queen's gun will be the last light gun held within the regiments and is safe in the custody of 1 Regt RAA in Brisbane," he said.



Gnr Ryan Grinter, above, of 53 Bty, fires one of the last shots from the Hamel guns at the School of Artillery.

If you look at the back right-hand side of a Canadian \$10 bill, you will see an old veteran standing at attention near the Ottawa War Memorial. His name is Robert Metcalfe and he died last month at the age of 90.



That he managed to live to that age is rather remarkable, given what happened in the Second World War. Born in England , he was one of the 400,000 members of the British Expeditionary Force sent to the mainland where they found themselves facing the new German warfare technique - the Blitzkrieg.

He was treating a wounded comrade when he was hit in the legs by shrapnel.

En route to hospital, his ambulance came under fire from a German tank, which then miraculously ceased fire. Evacuated from Dunkirk on HMS Grenade, two of the sister ships with them were sunk.

Recovered, he was sent to allied campaigns in North Africa and Italy . En route, his ship was chased by the German battleship Bismarck .

In North Africa he served under General Montgomery against the Desert Fox, Rommel.

Sent into the Italian campaign, he met his future wife, a lieutenant and physio-therapist in a Canadian hospital. They were married in the morning by the mayor of the Italian town, and again in the afternoon by a British padre.

After the war, they settled in Chatham , Ontario , where he went into politics and became the warden (chairman) of the county, and on his retirement he and his wife moved to Ottawa. At the age of 80 he wrote a book about his experiences.

One day out of the blue he received a call from a government official asking him to go downtown for a photo op. He wasn't told what the photo was for, or why they chose him. 'He had no idea he would be on the bill,' his daughter said.

And now you know the story of the old veteran on the CAD\$10 bill.



Courtesy WO2 David Troedel

START OF TAPE 2 - SIDE B Identification: Side four of the interview with Mr Norman Whitelaw.

Um ... the conflict, tension, sort of joking, teasing, whatever, that went on between the AIF and the Militia - obviously there are two types of Militia; there's the pre-war Militia and the during war Militia, the conscripts, I'm aware of the difference - but what was your ... what were you seeing of that particular conflict as an AIF officer?

I saw very little of it because, simply, it wasn't in my unit. Although the unit to which I was posted was in existence as a brigade before they became [audible] as they did at the beginning of the war, that was in Chapel Street, Prahran in Victoria and it was a jolly good unit. It was a magnificent unit and went on in New Guinea to do marvellous things. I was not there with them because I'd got this wretched disease, although I did go back to the unit while it was in New Guinea. I was fished out to do a naval course at Flinders Naval Depot prior to me joining the 1st Australian Naval Bombardment Group.

When did you get this scrub typhus?

I collected it up in northern Queensland and I knew I was sick of something and the regimental doctor certainly couldn't tell me what it was except I kept on bursting out into great sweats and perspiration and very high temperature and eventually he said, 'Look, I don't have any alternative but you must go to hospital'. So I did and I was very lucky I did because I think my temperature was over 105 at one stage and I was rustled all the way down to - in a very bumpy ambulance - to Redcliffes [sic. Redcliffe], I think it was called, outside Brisbane. And I knew exactly that night, when that fever broke that ... it was a terrible disease. A bloke came down with me; he went blind. I think he recovered his sight afterwards. Another bloke died: he perished. But not much was known of it. It was something akin to Queensland coastal fever that the Italian cane cutters used to get from mites and lice and, what's the other thing that used to dig into your arm ... Ticks.

Ticks, mmm.

Yep. So I wasn't a very happy boy but eventually I went to the Flinders Naval Depot for training into naval gunnery and that's how I joined Hobart, ultimately.

Right. But at some stage you had managed to court your wife-to-be and to get married. I mean, where did you fit that into your life?

Well, I met her on four days leave we were given prior to embarkation. I wasted one of those four, I met her on the second day. I met her in Sydney because my father was then commander of coast defences, Eastern command and he was living at North Head and the very first day I arrived back he had to go down to [Cape Banks?] - I think that's what they called it - and there was a nine ... (5.00)

Just wait for the clock.

He had to go down to [Cape Banks?] for a night firing of a nine-point-two battery and he said, 'You'd better come with me, fellow. You'll learn a bit about a concrete gunnery rather than that field gunnery'. So I went down there and one of the officers was a fellow by the name of McKay and he said, 'I've got a couple of girls, I know one of them, she's got a cobbler from Melbourne. What about taking them out?'. I said, 'I've got my brother arriving. He's coming down from Duntroon to say goodbye to me too. You'll have to rustle up another one'. He said, 'Oh, we'll take my sister'. I said, 'Well, I'll take your sister. I don't know this unknown girl from Melbourne but I know the girl that you're taking out'. Any rate, ultimately, my brother was given the unknown and I took out this other one but we somehow swapped and I've been with her ever since.

Right. How long did the courtship go on before the marriage?

Um. By mail - two and a half years. I became engaged to her on that seven day leave when we came back. So I didn't really know her did I? She didn't know me.

That was a fairly common situation, wasn't it?

Yes, it was regarded as a fairly scary marriage situation but I think forty-six years has proved that it was

the right decision. (laughs)

But at the time, what sort of things were said? I mean, you said it was regarded as a fairly scary marriage situation. What sort of things were said about ... because there must have been a lot of it going on, this courtship by mail.

Well, it was literally a courtship by mail because she kept all my letters and I've just recently been filing them in order and it's a perfect history of my life during the war and I think that I wrote something like 700 letters, six years. And they're in the process of being ... I couldn't put any name places in them because of censorship but I'm adding them now if I know them. I also kept an illegal diary and that helps me.

Right. So, coming back to Brisbane, it's what, mid-43? What's the date?

Well, I was in hospital in January '42. January '43. No, sorry. December '42, January '43, yes. I think I was released from hospital about the first week and I was sent to a terribly run rehabilitation camp and I prayed that I could be lifted out and I asked a regimental commander who had an ack-ack regiment on the Brisbane River would he take me on strength until I could get better and he did. And ...

And what did you do? You were convalescing essentially but ...

I just lay around and got myself better because I was very weak. I'd lost a lot of weight; it was a horrible disease to have. But ultimately I was sent back to Melbourne for a bit of leave - I think it was seven days or eight days - and I got myself married on 28th January, '43. So I've been married forty-six years, yes, forty-six years.

And from there? ...

Well, I went back to my unit for a while, it was in Moresby. And ...

This is your first time into Papua New Guinea?

Yes. And we were in camp in a bivouac situation waiting for ships to arrive. Which we had two false starts, I think we were all entrained and had to get off again because ships were directed elsewhere where they were more urgent. The measure of the whole seriousness of the situation could be told very easily or seen very easily by the amount of shuffling of equipment and ships mainly - and aircraft. I mean, the Americans were here in strength. The battle of the Coral Sea was to be fought and mainly air strikes from Mareeba up in the tablelands, the Atherton Tablelands, helped the naval action because they sent Flying Fortresses out from Mareeba to the battle of the Coral Sea. But ... I didn't see any action with the 2nd Field Regiment as such but I was very sorry to leave them. They were a very fine regiment, and I still go to their reunions but then I took up this other course at Flinders Naval Depot. (10.00)

Right. So when you took up this course at the Flinders Naval Depot, what was the background to the course? Why had the course been set up?

Well, there were several reasons for it. ... Firstly, artillery was not manageable in the jungle. Firstly, you couldn't see ... you couldn't see and you couldn't get your guns into position - you might get one or two but you couldn't get any ... there was no deployment ability with our tractors and our guns in the jungle. Two or three guns were flown in and parachuted in the Wau Valley. They were from the 2/4th Field Regiment I think. But that wasn't a success either. So, here we were with infantry island hopping, no support from artillery possible, guns on ships offshore wanting contact with the army ashore in the army language translated to naval language and ... so following the experiences ... well, the navy in Syria supported the 7th Division up the coast in a very rough shod way; the army landings on the shores of France, like Dieppe, and other raids on radar stations, they were supported by ships of the Royal Navy. And they found it necessary to have an interpreter between the arm ... or the services and the navy is so different to the army.

Ah, the way they speak; they have their own jargon, more than we do. But I think the navy reckoned we had a jargon.

Well, we didn't notice that we had a jargon whereas we did theirs. We noticed that their jargon was very different to ours.

Was it basically interpretation or was it a more complicated meshing of tactics?

No. The tactics were there. If the navy was supporting the army they had to fall in line with the army tactics. If the army called for fire on a certain target area the navy had to know where it was. They had to have the maps, they had to have the intelligence of where our troops were, what they were shooting at, what sort of ammunition to use. So it became necessary to put army people on naval vessels and it really started in the UK. They had the rudiments of it but I think it was really developed with the One [1st] Australian Naval Bombardment Group to a fine degree. And we had about ten or twelve BLOs - they are bombardment liaison officers - on ships and then we had a similar number of what we call Shore Fire Control Parties and they went with the infantry ashore and we had direct wireless link. And the BLOs were able to interpret what the target's worth was, where it was falling in relation to our own troops, whether it was safe to fire even. One time I was doing a job on Shropshire at Brunei, and we were anchored to do this ... this job. A particularly close target to 49th Battalion. And the eight inch rounds from the Shropshire were clipping the trees above our blokes and causing disturbance and mayhem and whatnot and I said to the gunnery officer, I said, 'Look, what we've got to do is to go out and we'll bring the rounds down steeper rather than this way'. So we went out to about 19,000 yards which is in here - in this diary in here - and we satisfactorily engaged that target and next morning that gunnery officer and I went ashore to see Colonel Norman of the 49th Battalion and he said it was good shooting.

The Shropshire, wasn't that the earlier name of the Hobart?

No. The Hobart was a six-inch gun cruiser and it was originally named Apollo and gave the name to the Apollo class but it became the Hobart. It was the same as the Sydney.

Right.

It was lost. And the Shropshire was passed over to the Australian Navy after the Australia was kamikazed in Lingayen Gulf. (15.00)

Right. So your first contact with the navy, could you describe what it was like because, normally, most of the descriptions we get of naval life come from naval people?

Well, I marched in as an army officer, I was a captain at the time, I had to do a course at the navy gunnery school at Flinders Naval Depot. It was run by the navy but the unit was an army unit and ... there were artillery officers from all divisions sent down there to do this naval course because the artillery was being left behind by a factor of not being able to do a job in the jungle. We did ultimately land at Tarakan and Brunei and all those places, and Balikpapan, and we did the support job that we were meant to do but there was a time when we were in New Guinea that there was a surplus of artillery officers and they sent them down - or a lot of them - down there and some of us were picked to join this one Australian Naval Bombardment Group. And I had a Shore Fire Control Party, I think it was No. 5 Shore Fire Control Party and went up to the tablelands and I exercised - when I knew how to do it - with the 6th Division and we did landing exercises ex Trinity Bay on the Manoora which was a transport ship in those days. I scrambled up and down that side so many times I knew every rivet in the side of the Manoora I reckon. (laughs) But ultimately I was promoted to BLO and I joined the ship while she was in dock.

This is the Hobart?

Mmm.

Could you describe what she was like?

Well, when I first saw her she was a real mess. She was in dockies' hands in Cockatoo and they make a mess everywhere. They leave cables and gas bottles and everything is untidy while the dockies are about. She doesn't become a naval ship until the last dockyard hand goes over the side, I don't think. But by that time I knew quite a lot about ships and I'd done the course and I'd spent my time with a Shore

Fire Control Party and doing exercises and, ultimately, I took my small party on board consisting of an assistant - an artillery assistant - two signallers to man my wireless sets, and a scallywag, batman, who became a very proficient naval gunner, I might say (laughs) in B turret of Hobart.

Right. So how did that group mesh in with the naval group? I mean, for example, in terms of routine discipline type situations?

Well, they were under my discipline but they had to meld with the ship's crew and, ultimately, I found that instead of being in their allocated mess - the two wireless blokes, they stuck together - but I found that the assistant, who was a very a eminent ... a member of a very eminent family in Hobart - a legal family - he had found a like soul somewhere else and he was messing somewhere else and so was the ... the batman bloke. He'd gone off somewhere; he'd made friends with somebody on the ship. But, I mean, they knew where to go when the bells rang for action stations and that was all that was necessary.

But how could your batman be a naval gunner? I mean, wouldn't ... isn't the naval gunner fitting into a formal naval structure?

Sure, yeah. But I didn't want him ... I mean, a batman doesn't polish your shoes when you're in action (laughs) and we all had to have action stations. And during my time on the Hobart I was a relieving radar operator and Colin Burnside, in whom house we are, he was the radar officer on board the Hobart. So he told me where I went wrong. But we all had second jobs. While we weren't supporting the army ashore we were passengers on board a cruiser, well, we were made use of. It would have been a terrible situation if we had not been. I mean, I had a job running part of the mess as well. And ... but I loved it. The navy was so different in their management of their own units. For instance, after a couple of years or less - far less - we didn't know who was a permanent army officer or a Militia bloke or a bloke joined the AIF as a royal rookie. After a short time we were all one. (20.00) But it always mystified me why the navy had three ranks. I mean, you could have a commander straight striper who was the permanent navy, and you could have a commander who is a merchant seaman - he was a rookie navy, no, I think he was a seagoing sailor - but the rookie navy were the ones that joined up for the war and they had a wavy stripe. So we knew who we were talking to, whether it was a pucker naval gentleman or one of the others. (laughs)

One of the rough necks?

And I could never understand it. Why didn't they put the same badges of rank, I mean, we were fighting the same war. But still, that's a small criticism of the navy, I suppose. And any naval officer will laugh his head off when he hears this. (laughs)

Right. Could you perhaps take a significant action, a significant landing - you have already mentioned one action on the Shropshire - and, perhaps, just describe how your unit would work as a group? You've mapped it out fairly ... a fair bit of detail but if you could just systematically cover the ground.

Well, as far as the cruiser Hobart was concerned, she had eight six-inch guns in four turrets, they were twin gun turrets. She also had eight twin mounting four inch ack-ack all low angle. They could fire, engage targets ashore if they were suited for that. And my station when we were liaising with the army was in the fire control below the bridge. I was in the bridge structure and, oh, about four or five decks down there was another part of the ships gunnery control which is called the transmitting station. Now, my wireless sets came ... were in that fire control and I could ... I had the map of the area and behind me was the plot for the guns for the ship and I could translate target areas from map references given to me by the people ashore to the gun plot. And we could engage from there and we did ranging much the same as we did ashore. In other words, we'd fire one gun and our spotter ashore would say, 'You have to go west 500 yards and north 200 yards', and we'd fire another one. And if we got a round in the area we'd let a salvo go.

One thing that strikes me as a bit difficult about this is that ... I mean, a naval ship is a moving platform, it's not ... You can see if you're on land, you know, where you are is not going to move and the target's not going to move but it's a bit difficult when you're moving around.

No, it wasn't difficult because the navy carried its own peculiar fire control means on board and I think the biggest part of it was the plot which was behind me and the transmitting station down in the boughs of the ship and that took ... made all allowances for speed and direction of the ship and they could maintain that range on that target.

Current; wind?

That had to be fed in - tide, too. Set of water as it is often stated in my diaries here. But I had to interpret what the army wanted ashore. And don't forget this, the navy was only rigged up, unlike artillery ashore, to fire from surface to surface. They weren't rigged up in their machinery of putting in the range and line and to fire up a hill because they don't do that. So we had to interpolate that and the gunnery officer on board the Hobart - he'll laugh at this because I often see him and I often bring him to mind that he could never fire up a hill - and one target we engaged at Balikpapan and a ranging shot towards the top of a hill on which sat blatantly three Japanese anti-aircraft guns and we wanted to give them a hiding. (25.00) The first round landed at the bottom of the hill and I reckon the hill was about five or six hundred feet high and I said to guns, I said, 'Up them about 3,200 guns', and he said, 'But I'll lose my round'. I said, 'All right, we'll that's all right, lose it. You know it's over the top, don't you, and come down halfway then - sixteen hundred'. And he said, 'Oh, I can't do that. The commodore would slay me if I lost a round', and I said, 'No he wouldn't'. Any rate, we fired the round and over the top she went and I said, 'Come on quickly before I'm called up to the commodore. Down sixteen hundred' and that went over too. So we knew we had those guns between 800 at the bottom and 800 over the top. So it was easy then. I was called up to the commodore. He sent his flag lieutenant down to me who was Lieutenant-Commander John Robertson of Melbourne fame - he commanded the Melbourne when they sliced this destroyer in two - but ...

The Voyager?

Any rate, I used to have to go up to the commodore and he used to say, 'Now look soldier, don't forget our next lot of ammunition's way back in Sydney and you're wasting it'. I said, 'Look Sir, all those rounds are giving us vital information'. And he [I] said, 'Please let me go on my way because this is the way will get onto that target with least number of rounds'. But another time George Fowle said, 'I'll engage this target' and that was on a hillside too and he went up 400 yards thinking it was a very great step to take but the round fell in the same hole. However, they're all little reminiscences.

But why did it fall in the same hole?

Because he didn't go up far enough. It was on a hill. There's not much difference between ... it would have gone on 400 yards if there'd been no hill but it went up fifty feet on the hill. It looked as though it had fallen in the same hole.

Right.

Right.

Good fun.

Right.

And, so, as I understand it at that time there was no shore leave on the Hobart for about nine months?

Mmm. We did get ashore in Subic Bay and places like that. We used American ... we were only ashore for an afternoon because American ships were dry and our ship was not a dry ship so the American sailors are far more keen to get ashore just to get a bellyful of beer than we were - or bourbon, whatever they liked to drink. (laughs)

Remember Subic Bay?

Oh I remember Subic Bay very well.

Can you describe it?

Yes, Subic Bay was a very long inlet into the northern island of the Philippines, whose name I can't remember ... but on one side of the island ... of the bay was a large naval establishment and it is still there and this is the one that the Americans are renting now. But, it was a ... I think it had a couple of floating docks; it had gunnery facilities for replacement of guns and barrels of guns; it had a lot of American people there; it had American PXs, which is the store for personnel to shop at; and it was a very busy place. It was also very close to the airfield - I forget the name of the airfield ...

Clark.

Clark airfield. So we saw a lot of activity there.

You were only there about one day, weren't you?

No, no. We were there often; often. Every time the task force to which we were attached - there was Shropshire and Hobart, then there was Warramunga, Bataan and the Warramunga's sister ship which I can't remember. Now there were the five ships: three destroyers and three cruisers and every time this task force went out, we went out with them.

Right. But there was ... I think other people have described to me a visit to Subic Bay when it had only just been freed ... Yes, yes. Do you remember that particular time?

Yes, I do. We were ... I think we were there. The Americans very rapidly built up a base there because the base was there before the war. All the jetties and the concrete shoreline was still there.

And so after the Philippines were captured the Hobart went down to Wewak ...

Yes.

And were you involved there particularly?

Yes, yes.

Actually let me put a new cassette in. END OF TAPE 2 - SIDE B

To be concluded in 123



Married to SASR

An SASR member's wife told her story of being married to the Army at a recent unit ball. The following is an edited transcript of her speech:

I met my husband through mutual friends on Boxing Day in 1986 when he was a private with 6RAR's recon platoon in Brisbane. Two weeks after meeting, he went back to Brisbane to prepare for the SAS selection course.

I knew then that our immediate future together would be a long-distance one.

Little did I know that over the next 28 years our relationship would involve numerous and lengthy separations, which still occur to this day.

I've been part of the regiment's family since 1988 when my husband completed selection. Over the years since he joined, we have seen roughly 13 CO's come and go. Essentially we have been part of the regiment and the regimental family for half of its life.

We have experienced the many and varied operational tempos of this unit. We have witnessed the regiment go from over a decade of peace-time exercises and training, followed by well over a decade of wartime operations and deployments.

During those peace-time activities, I used to tell close friends that it must be like training for a rugby match and never getting a game. In retrospect, I actually should have been more careful saying that because shortly after 9/11, and before any infrastructure had been set up, my husband deployed to Afghanistan.

The spouses of those soldiers endured the initial three months with no communications. There were no phones, no Skype, simply no comms.

It was our husbands and loved-ones who were there before anyone knew - and we, the wives - were at home, remaining silent to keep them safe. We were finally seeing our men play their game.

When someone asks what your husband does for a living, the answer can be varied, depending who you are talking to because what our husbands, partners, fathers, brothers and loved-ones do is simply not normal; it's not a traditional way of

married life.

It's not normal to wave your loved one off to war.

It's not normal to be married and yet be a single-mother, raising children with an ever-absent father, in an occupation that poses constant threat to their personal safety.

It's not normal to explain to your child that Daddy's gone to work, but you don't know for sure when he'll be home.

It's not normal to observe your child see the Army uniform flapping on the washing line and then try to help them understand if they happen to catch a glimpse of the evening news.

It's not normal to witness the pain of your husband losing a mate, not once, but multiple times, with 15 in one accident alone.

And it's really not normal to have that constant worry about your loved one's safety overshadowing your everyday life.

And yet, we put a smile on our face and tell friends "everything's fine".

This is a world that we, as wives and family, live and breathe as well, for the love of our husbands and partners, and for the love of this regiment and the amazing work they do.

I can honestly say I love this regiment as much as my husband does. The ADF has been very good to us over the years and has provided a solid and secure foundation for our family.

May we, the wives and partners of SAS soldiers, continue to remain the backbone of this regiment, continuing to support them, whether on operations or in training, to do the job that they do so willingly.

May all of us, who love one of these blokes, continue to be the pillar of strength upon which they may rest, while they uphold the ethos of this regiment in their (and our) "relentless pursuit of excellence".

Courtesy Army News

Cost of Australian combat soldier's kit soars to \$27,700



THE value of an Australian combat soldier's personal kit has jumped from \$3700 in 1999 to \$27,700 in Afghanistan in 2013.

Never again will Australian troops be sent to war with inferior gear thanks to an organisation that acts on soldier feedback and cuts through the red tape to quickly procure the right stuff.

"Diggerworks" was established in 2010 with a simple mission to stop soldiers complaining about inferior gear by purchasing and developing the best available.

The improvement has been dramatic and the Diggers' basic combat ensemble from East Timor in 1999 that cost \$3700 has morphed into a high-tech \$27,700 outfit in Afghanistan today.

The 1999 version included a large field pack, Somalia-era flak jacket, old style webbing and camouflage uniform and Vietnam era combat boots.

The 2013 outfit includes multicam uniform, ballistic glasses, tiered body armour, GPS, pelvic protection system, stretch pants, knee pads and high-tech fitted boots.

A collaboration between battle hardened soldiers, defence scientists and the purchasing body - the Defence Materiel Organisation, Diggerworks - has abandoned methods where quantity was king and price was paramount, and streamlined the link between feedback and production.

With a long history of crook boots, overweight body armour, inferior clothing and dodgy packs and pouches, the organisation had plenty to work on and in three short years it has made some big strides.

According to a recent progress report Diggerworks was established to ensure that "the individual components of the soldier combat system were most appropriate given current knowledge, current technology, the soldiers mission, and budgetary trade-offs."

The report highlighted a long list of problems such as the 2010 purchase of 17,000 sets of inappropriate body armour and it includes solutions and positive projects to further enhance digger safety and comfort.

These include:

- * Soldier Combat Ensemble
- * Blast gauge system to measure the impact of explosions
- * Pelvic protection system
- * Ballistic helmets
- * Individual water purification systems
- * Gunshot detection system to identify the source of enemy fire
- * Lightweight ballistic plate
- * Improved pistol holster
- * Vehicle lumbar support
- * Cold weather ensemble
- * Medic packs

Work on the soldier combat ensemble includes separate designs for mentoring troops and special forces operators and body armour designed specifically for female troops.

Diggerworks has trialled gunshot detection systems in Afghanistan including one attached to the weapon and two to the body of the soldier.



"These are lightweight items designed to detect and localise the source of incoming high velocity rounds," the report says.

CAMOUFLAGE UNIFORM

The army uses three kinds of camouflage, each of which is tailored to certain conditions. The first is a Disruptive Pattern print, which has been around since the 1980s and was developed using aerial photographs of Australian terrain.

Then there's a Disruptive Pattern Desert print, which incorporates different colours and is used in, you guessed it, desert conditions.

MORE: [Soldiers dress for futuristic battlefield](#)

Finally, there's the Multicam uniform, which has seven different colours and works in a wide range of environments. It also has built-in knee and elbow pads to help reduce the number minor injuries our soldiers suffer.

I've included this article as one of general interest. Ed

For those of you who are going to see the movie "Sniper," which is in most of our movie theatres now, this is the story in addition to the story in the film.

A TEXAS GOODBYE

This is why America will remain strong. We take care of our own as well as others who may not deserve taking care of. I just wanted to share with you all that out of a horrible tragedy we were blessed by so many people.

Chris Kyle was Derek's teammate through 10 years of training and battle. They both suffer/suffered from PTSD to some extent and took great care of each other because of it.

2006 in Ramadi was horrible for young men that never had any more aggressive physical contact with another human than on a Texas football field.

They lost many friends. Chris became the armed services number #1 sniper of all time. Not something he was happy about, other than the fact that in so doing, he saved a lot of American lives.

Three years ago, his wife Taya asked him to leave the SEAL teams as he had a huge bounty on his head by Al Qaeda. He did and wrote the book "The American Sniper." 100% of the proceeds from the book went to two of the SEAL families who had lost their sons in Iraq .

That was the kind of guy Chris was. He formed a company in Dallas to train military, police and I think firemen as far as protecting themselves in difficult situations. He also formed a foundation to work with military people suffering from PTSD. Chris was a giver not a taker.

He, along with a friend and neighbour, Chad Littlefield, were murdered trying to help a young man that had served six months in Iraq and claimed to have PTSD.

Now I need to tell you about all of the blessings.

Southwest Airlines flew in any SEAL and their family from any airport they flew into ...free of charge.

The employees donated buddy passes and one lady worked for four days without much of a break to see that it happened.

Volunteers were at both airports in Dallas to drive them to the hotel.

The Marriott Hotel reduced their rates to \$45 a night and cleared the hotel for SEALs and family.

The Midlothian, TX Police Department paid the \$45 a night for each room. I would guess there were about 200 people staying at the hotel, 100 of them were SEALs. Two large buses were chartered (an unknown donor paid the bill) to transport people to the different events and they also had a few rental cars (donated). The police and secret service were on duty 24 hours during the stay at our hotel.

At the Kyle house, the Texas DPS parked a large motor home in front to block the view from reporters. It remained there the entire five days for the SEALs to congregate in and all to use the restroom so as not to have to go in the house. Taya, their two small children and both sets of parents were staying in the home.

Only a hand full of SEALs went into the home as they had different duties and meetings were held sometimes on a hourly basis. It was a huge coordination of many different events and security. Derek was assigned to be a Pall Bearer, to escort Chris' body when it was transferred from the Midlothian Funeral Home to the Arlington Funeral Home, and to be with Taya. A tough job.

Taya seldom came out of her bedroom. The house was full with people from the church and other family members that would come each day to help. I spent one morning in a bedroom with Chris' mom and the next morning with Chad Littlefield's parents (the other man murdered with Chris). A tough job.

George W Bush and his wife Laura met and talked to everyone on the Seal Team one on one. They went behind closed doors with Taya for quite a while. They had prayer with us all. You can tell when people were sincere and caring

Nolan Ryan sent his cooking team, a huge grill and lots of steaks, chicken and hamburgers. They set up in the front yard and fed people all day long in-

cluding the 200 SEALs and their families. The next day a local BBQ restaurant set up a buffet in front of the house and fed all once again. Food was plentiful and all were taken care of. The family's church kept those inside the house well fed.

Jerry Jones, the man everyone loves to hate, was a rock star. He made sure that we all were taken care of. His wife and he were just making sure everyone was taken care of...Class... He donated the use of Cowboy Stadium for the services as it was determined that so many wanted to attend.

The charter buses transported us to the stadium on Monday at 10:30 am. Every car, bus, motorcycle was searched with bomb dogs and police. I am not sure if kooks were making threats trying to make a name for themselves or if so many SEALs in one place was a security risk, I don't know. We willingly obliged. No purses went into the stadium!

We were taken to The Legends room high up and a large buffet was available. That was for about 300 people. We were growing.

A Medal of Honour recipient was there, lots of secret service and police and Sarah Palin and her husband. She looked nice, this was a very formal military service.

The service started at 1:00 pm and when we were escorted onto the field I was shocked. We heard that about 10,000 people had come to attend also. They were seated in the stadium seats behind us. It was a beautiful and emotional service.

The Bagpipe and drum corps were wonderful and the Texas A&M men's choir stood through the entire service and sang right at the end. We were all in tears.

The next day was the 200-mile procession from Midlothian, TX to Austin for burial. It was a cold, drizzly, windy day, but the people were out. We had dozens of police motorcycles riders, freedom riders, five chartered buses and lots of cars. You had to have a pass to be in the procession and still it was huge. Two helicopters circled the procession with snipers sitting out the side door for protection. It was the longest funeral procession ever in the state of Texas. People were everywhere. The entire route was shut down ahead of us, the people were lined up on the side of the road the entire way. Firemen were down on one knee, police officers were holding their hats over their hearts,

children waving flags, veterans saluting as we went by. Every bridge had fire trucks with large flags displayed from their tall ladders, people all along the entire 200 miles were standing in the cold weather. It was so heart-warming. Taya rode in the hearse with Chris' body so Derek rode the route with us. I was so grateful to have that time with him.

The service was at Texas National Cemetery. Very few are buried there and you have to apply to get in. It is like people from the Civil War, Medal of Honour winners, a few from the Alamo and all the historical people of Texas. It was a nice service and the Freedom Riders surrounded the outside of the entire cemetery to keep the crazy church people from Kansas that protest at military funerals away from us.

Each SEAL put his Trident (metal SEAL badge) on the top of Chris' casket, one at a time. A lot hit it in with one blow. Derek was the only one to take four taps to put his in and it was almost like he was caressing it as he did it. Another tearful moment.

After the service Governor Rick Perry and his wife, Anita, invited us to the governor's mansion. She stood at the door, greeted each of us individually, and gave each of the SEALs a coin of Texas. She was a sincere, compassionate, and gracious hostess.

We were able to tour the ground floor and then went into the garden for beverages and BBQ. So many of the Seal team guys said that after they get out they are moving to Texas. They remarked that they had never felt so much love and hospitality. The charter buses then took the guys to the airport to catch their returning flights. Derek just now called and after a 20 hours flight he is back in his spot, in a dangerous land on the other side of the world, protecting America.

We just wanted to share with you, the events of a quite emotional, but blessed week.

Punch-line:

To this day, no one in the White House has ever acknowledged Chris Kyle.

However, the President can call some sport person and congratulate him on announcing to the world that he is gay? What the hell is happening to our society, our honour and our pride??

Daring night-time “Quad Squad” Raids by UK Special Forces Leave 200 Enemy Dead in Just 4 Weeks

SAS troops with sniper rifles and heavy machine guns have killed over 200 Islamic State extremists in a series of deadly quad-bike ambushes inside Iraq.

In daring night-time raids The British Special Air Services (SAS) “Quad Squads” kill up to 8 jihadis each day for the past 4 weeks. Using Chinook helicopters to drop highly trained snipers on quad-bikes deep into enemy territory, the SAS snipers sneak in silently and leave their enemy “lying dead on the ground” without anyone knowing what happened. The numbers may not be high, but the strategy is leaving the IS in a state of terror as allies prepare to wipe them off the map.



STRATEGY

In preparation for the attacks, SAS commanders listen to secret enemy communication intercepts and study hours of landscape footage of potential target sites recorded by drones. Once the targets have been identified, the soldiers gather to receive their classified orders. They then climb aboard a fleet of Chinook helicopters and leave their secret base with the quad bikes already loaded in the cargo hold. Each quad bike four-wheeled all-terrain vehicle is equipped with frame-mounted machine guns, general-purpose machine guns, and of course, sniper rifles.

The helicopter engines are so loud, the Chinooks take the SAS soldiers to a drop off point as far as 50 miles from the target to avoid detection. The snipers then head across the desert seeking out IS units and attacking the terrorists using the element of surprise under the cover of darkness.

An SAS source said:

“Our tactics are putting the fear of God into IS as they don’t know where we’re going to strike next and there’s frankly nothing they can do to stop us.”

Defense sources indicated last night that “soldiers from the elite fighting unit have eliminated ‘more than 50 terrorists each week’ in the

daring raids carried out over the past month. “We’re degrading their morale.” said one soldier. “They can run and hide if they see planes in the sky but they can’t see or hear us. Using so many snipers takes the fear factor to another level too;

“the terrorists don’t know what’s happening. They just see their colleagues lying dead in the sand.”

The SAS’s night-time guerrilla raids are targeting IS’s main supply depots and vehicle checkpoints the IS terrorists use to extort money or kidnap travellers.

Middle East military analysts question the UK’s strategy to defeat IS.

The Quad-Squad may not defeat the IS on their own, but you can be certain that they are taking their toll, not only in soldiers, but by leaving the survivors in a state of fear that is sure to diminish their military prowess!

Dumped World War II gun shield to be refurbished and displayed in Perth

A seven-tonne World War II-era navy gun shield dumped at a tip on the Mornington Peninsula has been refurbished and will go on display in Perth. The shield is one of two that sat unmoved since the Mt Eliza tip was turned into parkland more than 30 years ago.

The Australian Army and private defence contractors donated their services towards the refurbishment of the shield.

It will be transported more than 3,000 kilometres to the Leighton Battery Heritage Site, north of Fremantle, where it will be fitted to a gun barrel from HMAS Sydney (1).

Peter Anning from defence contractors BAE Systems said they had attempted to bring the gun shield back to its original condition.

"It's been out in the elements for quite some time," Mr Anning said.

The Australian Army transported the shield to the Williamstown shipyards, where Mr Anning and his team removed some metalwork before sending it to fellow defence contractors Eptec for blasting and painting.

Originally from the HMAS Adelaide (1), the shields were dumped at the Moorooduc reserve at Mt Eliza after a refit of the ship in 1943.

The Royal Australian Artillery Historical Society of Western Australia holds a MKXI gun barrel from HMAS Sydney (1), and had been searching for more than 20 years for a matching shield.

The society's Don Rae said a colleague spotted the shields while riding his bicycle through the Moorooduc reserve.

The society wrote to the Mornington Peninsula Shire, who contacted the Royal Australian Navy, to determine who actually owned the shields.

"[The navy] said that they had no further claim on them," said Mr Rae.

Courtesy Brig Doug Perry OAM RFD ED



Photo: BAE Systems' Peter Anning stands inside a World War 2 gun shield recently refurbished in Williamstown, Melbourne. (774 ABC Melbourne: Simon Leo Brown)

Mr Rae said the process of establishing ownership of the shield "took naturally quite a bit of time", however all the organisations involved had done their best to help the project.

"It's been painless, there has not been any real frustration," he said.

The shield will be shrink-wrapped before leaving for Western Australia on Friday.



Photo: When fitted the gun barrel and shield will look similar to this gun on display at the HMAS Cerberus base in Victoria (Supplied: Commander Cameron Eastman)

He bought a Jeep

Vietnam veteran restores WWII vehicle

Sgt Dave Morley

A FORMER Vietnam War tunnel rat has put his retirement to good use by restoring a 1944 Willys Jeep.

Darryl Lavis, a National Service sapper who served with 1 Fd Sqn in Vietnam from 1968-69, found the Jeep on a farm at Goolwa in South Australia.

"It was not in good condition and had a lot of rust, but I'd just retired so restoring it was a good hobby," he said.

"I had to rebuild the gear box and my son helped me with some welding that had to be done."

Mr Lavis said he didn't know much about the vehicle's history except that it served with the US Army in Australia during WWII.

"I decided to rebuild it in the same way it would have been configured for the European theatre of war because I've always been a fan of old war movies like *Battle of the Bulge* and *Kelly's Heroes*," he said.

"I made the machine-guns out of wood and plastic."

Mr Lavis said the Jeep was used to transport WWII diggers in the Adelaide Anzac Day march every year.

"My wife Janice drives it while I march with my mates," he said.

"The old blokes love riding in it."

During Mr Lavis's Vietnam service he was involved in clearing and demolishing enemy bunkers, as well as operating plant equipment to construct fortifications inside the base area and rebuild culverts blown up by the enemy.

Mr Lavis is a member of the National Military Vehicle Museum of South Australia, which is

based in a former WWII explosives factory on six acres near RAAF Base Edinburgh.

He encouraged those with an interest in old military vehicles, regardless of whether they own one, to join as a member of the museum.

For more information, visit

www.military-vehicle-museum.org.au



Barking to attention

Regiment welcomes newest recruit

A CHEEKY golden Labrador with special skills has joined the ranks of 16ALR after being sworn in as the unit's official mascot at Woodside Barracks on January 30.

In a unique 'K9' enlistment ceremony, two-year-old Murray took his oath of allegiance and was awarded the rank of gunner in front of a packed crowd of 16ALR colleagues, local media and representatives of the RSL -SA and the Royal Society for the Blind (RSB).

The assistance dog is a graduate of Operation K9, a joint initiative of RSL-SA and the RSB, which partners dogs with military veterans experiencing combat stress-related conditions, such as PTSD.

Under the Australian-first program, dogs are trained to recognise and respond to heightened anxiety and depression in their companions, providing a level of comfort only a dog can.

Gnr Murray became the first graduate of Operation K9 to be allocated to a group instead of an individual, with 16ALR identified as the lucky candidate.

CO 16ALR Lt-Col Berni White said it was a perfect fit.

"The program organisers decided Murray was better placed with a group because of his sociable nature and his ability to make an ideal companion to soldiers, so the partnership was easily formed," he said.

"The regiment, in its current form, was looking for more identity and a new mascot and the Labrador dog was chosen by the unit members as it is a fitting metaphor for what we do in as far as a Labrador is a gun dog, a retrieval dog and a working dog.

"We have a great relationship with RSL-SA and the RSB and are very grateful for the opportunity to take on Murray as a recruit. He is already an extremely popular member of the unit and we're looking forward to many years of loyal service from him."

When not participating in PT or representational

duties during the day, Gnr Murray mixes with members around the barracks, providing a morale and mental health boost to those who need it.

At night, he bunks in the guard room with up to seven other soldiers on duty.

He has been known to wake members experiencing a nightmare in the communal sleeping area by laying his head on their pillow.

His supervisor, 16ALR RSM WO1 Brendan Fox, said they did not anticipate the effect he would have on the unit.



"Gnr Murray has the attention of everybody," WO1 Fox said. "You can see the bold adjust in members of a room when he enters. "Everyone puts their hand out for a pat, a lick or just an acknowledgement from him. "That's the type of impact on a minority in a small room, so you can imagine 180 personnel standing on parade when Gnr Murray is brought on.

"Considering that 87 per cent of our unit is aged between 19 and 25, many of our soldiers are learning to become members of the Army away from home, so the presence of a dog helps them through that stage - by just having someone there who will listen and not answer back."

But according to Gnr Murray's current handler, Sgt Matt Kelsey, he would answer back if he could.

"He's a really well-tempered dog and he's got quite a personality, but he tends not to listen sometimes like other young soldiers," Sgt Kelsey said.

"He is just like a teenager after all."

The following article was sent to me with a note attached. It read:

"A DO'NASHO'N TO CASCABEL FROM A SHY FORMER BC".

Thank you sir for your contribution. However, your attempt to remain anonymous may be futile as I'm sure some of our readers will be able to recognise you. Readers, let me know, please.

FUTILITY CAN BE FUN

It is futile to whinge about the inevitable. I'm not a futilitarian. Like any ex-Ward of the State, I'd learnt that whingeing is unprofitable. So when I accepted the personalised invitation from the Minister of the Army to fulfil the 'Nasho'nal Service obligation of every male eighteen year old Australian, I did so phlegmatically.

As directed I attended, sorry, paraded, at a Drill Hall for a free physical and psychological assessment. I was handed an I/D card and ordered not to lose it. Standing stark naked with four hundred other teenagers was both an initiation into the surrender of personal privacy endemic in all military, and an opportunity to assess one's hanging in the pecking order.



The white coated, stethoscope adorned, MO, took my I/D card. Through heavy framed glasses he looked me up and down and rasped "Who sent you, the enemy?" (It was his personal joke, he asked that of about every 20th). Before I could work out a reply, he grabbed my scro-

tum and ordered "Turn your head to the left and cough". Then "Turn around, grab your ankles". Another brief inspection indignity followed by "OK", move along".

My I/D card was handed back with a few ticks against some lines but before I could read any of them the short, thin, bald-headed, chain-smoking MO at the next table snatched it from me. He made me bend to facilitate him checking my scalp, eyes, ears, teeth and throat. He too ticked my card and handed it an NCO (Non-commissioned Officer, anyone in a uniform with stripes on the arm) at

the next table, who boredly looked at my card, asked me my name then told me to get dressed and go home. Apparently the fact that I still remembered who I was and showed no signs of frothing at the mouth after the prolonged nakedness and intimate inspections meant I was psychologically sound. Another personalised invitation arrived six weeks later inviting me to spend three months at the 14 'Nasho'nal Service Battalion luxurious tented accommodation establishment at Puckapunyal. (The Valley of the Winds, in Aboriginal).

Totally oblivious to missed potential commercial opportunities, survivors of a prior 'Nasho'nal Service intake regaled fellow work mates with funny stories about their experiences. One was about the Army dictum on hair. Hair covered by a badged black beret belonged to the grower. Hair apparent was Army property. The Army insisted its property be cut very short. The only barber in the Military Camp was a forty minute march from the Battalion. Once given the abrupt order "Haircut" you made the march after the day's work in your own "off duty" time whether or not the weak winter sun shone or you paddled through pelting rain. Usually that also entailed a half-hour wait in the queue. The official barber charged three shillings and sixpence for a 30 second crew cut.



I listened intently to what those survivors said, bought a pair of hand clippers, two pairs of barber's scissors and a few combs. I acquired an aluminium malted milk container and a bottle of antiseptic. Every lunch hour for a week I spent looking through the street windows of barber shops to see how hair was cut.

On the appointed day, resplendent in my fashionably worn leather jacket, pockets stuffed with toilet articles the Army ordered me to bring and hair-dressing equipment for my own venture, I strode towards the ramp leading to the platform of the 'Nasho'nal Service train. An elderly couple, both clad in voluminous black overcoats moved to block my path. Terrified but resolute they pointed at a big youth sitting on a bench and weeping. Their only child, obviously born late in their lives, the

boy had never been away from home before. Parents and son were devastated at this imminent three month separation. It seemed strange to see such a hulk crying. And even stranger to be crying over something that seemed so insignificant to me. With trembling hand the elderly gentleman offered two Pound notes if I would "look-out for Adrian". A princely sum. My weekly wage at that time was Five pounds.

Being away from home held no fear for me. I had been a Ward of the State due to family disintegration and Two Pounds was bountiful, so I took it, made promises, grabbed Adrian and led him past the MP's (Military Police) onto the country train. I stuck Adrian in a corner and his tears eventually dried up. Whistles shrilled everywhere and the train moved smoothly off. I went for a walk through the inter-connected carriages and met up with several friends from school and the boxing gym. Adrian's crying seemed less strange because on my travels I saw at least six other youths who were crying. At the risk of brutalising chronology I mention that the Army made a new man of the boy Adrian. By the time he was discharged, Adrian had found out, the hard way, that he could fight. A couple of fellow 'Nasho's thought he looked like a soft touch and several times stole his money and other items. He challenged them and beat both in fair fist fights. Adrian discovered cigarettes, alcohol and made a few visits to Seymour Sal's Girl Guide Golf Course. Eighteen holes, open all hours. God know what his parents thought when he got home. I'm reminded of that wartime song popularised by Eddie Cantor, "How'yer goin" to keep 'em down on the farm, after they're seen Pareel!"

Returning to the train. We de-trained at Dysart Siding, a roofless platform on a spur line adjacent to the main interstate Melbourne / Sydney line. Fortunately the weather was warm because we were ordered to strip for a final "Short Arm" inspection designed to prevent VD (today STD) being introduced into the camp of trainee killers. 1300 teenagers were lined up and several MO's worked along the line of naked bodies. We were facing the interstate rail when the civilian passenger train, The Spirit of Progress, glided slowly past. Some passengers waved. The line of naked 'Nasho's responded. There were some shy teenagers in the line. They waved their hands.

Three months at Puckapunyal passed profitably for me. I had never given anyone a haircut. Menda-

ciously I declared myself to be a barber and offered the first six victims a free haircut. Crew cuts were the style. They were easy so I had practice and established a reputation. Fellow 'Nasho's were nearly all ordered to get a haircut. To obey the order they had two choices. Me, on site at two shillings or a three mile hike to the Brigade HQ barber "Lightning Lennie" at three shillings and sixpence. It was a lay-down no brainer.

A few haircuts were mucked up. One on a long haired red head would have made a rabid dog hide in shame. All up about nine or ten were terrible but the atrocities were hidden under the beret and the hair grew back to normal before the first weekend leave. After a fortnight I was getting pretty good. A Regular Army Corporal made an appointment for the first cut after the last parade on a working day. No waiting for the Training Staff. Next night a Medical Corps Corporal from the RAP (Regimental Aid Post) made an unexpected appearance. He sniffed at the milk shake container into which I soaked one set of scissors and comb of the two utensils that I used alternatively. He read the label on my bottle of antiseptic and uttered his only words "Use another teaspoon of this" and walked off. Apparently I had passed the unofficial medical inspection because after each end of day parade I now got a couple of Corporals from my Battalion and later from the adjacent Battalions.

That Medical Corporal gave the Battalion a period of immense merriment over a misheard diagnosis. A 'Nasho' presented at the RAP Sick Parade on the Friday morning of the day the Battalion was about to get its first weekend leave. He complained of



sore gums. The MO examined him and told the Corporal of the remedy then left. The Corporal searched the medical cabinet and couldn't find the

ointment described.

Army Standing Orders prohibited the sending off on leave of any medically impaired soldier. The 'Nasho' was desperate not to miss his first home leave in over a month so he and the Corporal reached an agreement. The Corporal issued a medical clearance slip on the 'Nasho's' promise that when he got home he would buy the ointment at his local chemist and religiously apply it as per the directions on the packet.

That way the 'Nasho' would have his home leave and if the MO decided to check his gums on Monday, the Corporal would not get into trouble for not dispensing the curing ointment. It seemed like a practical common sense solution. Unfortunately the 'Nasho' misheard the Corporal's naming of the ointment. Instead of Oralgesic the 'Nasho' bought a tube of Analgesic.

When he returned from leave on Sunday night he had a bewildered expression and puckered lips. Someone in his Platoon twigged what went wrong. The story spread throughout the Battalion of the 'Nasho' who spent two days rubbing hemorrhoid cream on his gums.

Weekend leave was granted to 'National Servicemen' three times in the 14 weeks at Puckapunyal. I devised a method to get more weekends off. Without disclosing all of my system, suffice it to state that the NCO's of our Battalion worked a five day week and another shift of NCO's worked the weekends. And it was not necessarily the same weekend shift each week, so the weekenders knew not our faces. At the 2200 hour bed checks on Friday and Saturday nights, so long as a pyjama clad male was in the metal framed bed allocated to me, I was ticked in the roll as present. Similarly at the pre-breakfast parade on Saturday and Sunday, provided a male responded when my name was called and the body count matched the roll book record, then I was deemed to be present.

Only once out of the nine temporary AWL's was my absence more-or-less proven and more-or-less penalised. As became my accustomed practice, I departed Puckapunyal at 1800 hours on Friday night arriving home around 2130 hours for a late tea. After a sleep-in I spent Saturday morning doing a few odd jobs for Mum, meeting with mates then off to a local footy match. More often than not I could get a young lady to come with me to a dance that night.

In civilian terms, I had a great night with an attractive girl, at a Saturday dance and later (innocently by today's standards) in my car as I drove her home. Militarily it landed me in a bit of trouble. The dance was the Mayoral Ball at the Dandenong Town Hall. A photographer took a photo of the Mayor and Mayoress as they danced the "light fantastic". The photo appeared front page of the Dandenong Journal newspaper a couple of days later. Unfortunately the photo clearly showed other couples flanking the Mayor and Mayoress. Full frontal in a fashionable tight legged suit and an appallingly patterned tie was I.

My National Service Battalion recruitment area was around Dandenong so copies of the Dandenong Journal were sent by doting parents to their sons. Inevitably a copy was seen by an NCO and I was arrested by a Regimental Policeman, marched to the Orderly Room, charged with being Absent Without Leave then told to "Buzz Off". When I returned to my Platoon I was a minor hero. The first in my 28 man marquee to be arrested, however briefly.



Along with four other defaulters, next day I was the last paraded before the Battalion Commander, a Major. I was a bit disappointed that I did not hear the apocryphal call from a Regimental Sergeant Major, "March the guilty bastard in". Instead it was the rather weak "You're next" accompanied by a wave of a hand. I marched in the BC's office and stood to attention in front of his desk. A copy of the Dandenong Journal was on his desk. A Staff Sergeant read the charge, pointed at the paper and loudly demanded "How do you plead?" Primed by my Platoon mates, quite a few of whom had civilian criminal records for minor crimes, I plucked up my courage and answered equally loudly, "Not Guilty". It took them by surprise after each of the four previous defaulters had sheepishly mumbled "Guilty".

The Major pointed at the picture in the paper and said "That's you!" I replied "No Sir, it's just someone who looks like me Sir. I was here all weekend Sir, check the roll book please, Sir." The "Sirs" just saved me from being insolent. Insolence to an Officer is a crime. The Staff Sergeant smirked but the Major said something about justice must be

seen to be done otherwise some bloody politician will come grizzling and the Staff Sergeant went and collected the weekend roll book. His smirk vanished when he saw the ticks against my name. Both he and the Major tried several times to get me to admit that I was the person in the picture but I stuck to my story.

Faced with the contradictions of the photo, my denial and the evidence in the roll books, the Major had a difficult task. Justice, in the Military, is an elastic term. It is used to set examples and enforce discipline by punishment. Appeals are very restricted, i.e. if your CO says you are drunk, then you are. No breathalysers, and 99.9% of the time the CO is right. If the Major opted for "Guilty" I had the limited right to demand an appeal to an Officer of higher rank. Majors don't become Colonels by bringing problems to Senior Officers, especially not as the Army's own records appeared to verify my "Not Guilty" plea. On the other hand it was obvious that I was lying and a 'National Serviceman could not be allowed to be seen to prevail over the Regular Army. It could encourage other Nashos to try and that could undermine discipline.

I was marched outside while the Major and the Staff Sergeant conferred then marched back into the Major's Office to be told that my charge was reduced. What it was reduced to I was not game



enough to ask. My fine was Two Pounds. Did I accept the decision? Two pounds meant ten haircuts of tonsorial travail, say 50 minutes compared to two days at home. I straightened further in stance and managed to say "Yes, Sir" without breaking into a laugh before being marched out. With only a fortnight before discharge I elected not to tempt fate or any trap that the Major might set so I didn't go AWL again.

One of my Corporal haircut clients made sure no one was in listening distance before telling me that the Staff Sergeant was given a stern dressing down by the Major for being slack and idle in not checking the weekend rolls before charging me with being AWL. And the Major must have figured out how I managed to get my name recorded as "present" when I was "absent" because the weekend shift of NCO's began to examine pay books before ticking the rolls. Another Corporal told me the Major knew of my barber shop but permitted it because it was hygienic and kept "our" 'Nasho's from leaving the Battalion area. 'Nasho's who wandered around caused trouble with 'Nasho's from other Battalions. In a small way I was an asset.

That stood in my favour and moderated my penalty.

Eventually the 14 weeks ended with a marching out parade and my transfer to a Citizens Military Forces Artillery Regiment. With the money I made as barber I paid cash for a four year old sports car. I liked being an Artillery signaller, studied, passed some exams and was promoted to Lance Bombardier, the Artillery equivalent to a one stripe Lance Corporal in the Infantry.

To be concluded in the April journal.



I trust you will enjoy this excellent Christmas Tribute to the fallen.

<https://www.youtube.com/embed/1JzYnmYQFtA>

Wonders of a world's wars

JOHN INGHAM visits the revamped Imperial War Museum in London

A SPITFIRE reaching for the sky jostles for space with a Nazi doodlebug, while a Harrier jump jet which saw action over Afghanistan patrols above a wrecked white 4x4 once used by journalists in war-torn Gaza.

As an introduction to the wars of the past 100 years, this extravaganza in the vast, naturally-lit atrium of the Imperial War Museum is a formidable way of announcing that it is open for business again. After a £40 million revamp, which meant a lengthy closure, the museum, an easy stroll from London's South Bank, has reopened and is back doing what it does best - telling the history of conflict.

Among the star exhibits is the casing of an atom bomb dropped on Japan, one of the most sinister weapons ever made by man. When you see the bomb, it is hard not to consider how small it is compared to the devastation it wrought.

Other new displays include the wreckage of an X7 midget submarine sent to attack the Nazi battleship Tirpitz in a Norwegian fjord and a Japanese Zero fighter abandoned in 1943 only to be recovered 50 years later in a jungle.

A poignant legacy of the Holocaust is the trunk of a Jewish couple, Leonard and Clara Wohl, who saved their children from the Nazis before trying to escape themselves. They sent their two youngest to Britain in 1939 and were ready to flee Hitler's Germany for South America when the war broke out. Unable to make their bid for freedom, they eventually died as prisoners in Auschwitz in 1943.

But it is the exhibition which marks this year's centenary of the First World War that really catches the eye. It kicks off in the atrium with an artillery gun whose team won three Victoria Crosses in two hours of fierce fighting in September 1914.

The First World War Galleries on the ground floor lead the visitor through 14 "chapters," from how the world crashed into conflict to the aftermath of Germany's defeat.

There are uniforms and howitzers, stunning battle footage, recruiting posters and displays showing how women helped make the munitions.

THERE is also a mock-up of a trench which is less impressive, perhaps, than those I saw last month at the Memorial Museum Passchendaele in Zonnebeke, Belgium, but comes complete with a Sop-

with Camel fighter "flying" overhead and a Mark V tank looming above the parapet, its machine-guns primed.

As machine-guns chatter and whizzbangs scream over, you get an infantry soldier's view of No Man's Land via the periscopes which helped them cheat the snipers waiting for a head to pop up.

I particularly liked the trench signposts such as Hellfire Corner and one riddled with bullets advising soldiers not to stand nearby.

And I was moved by the horrifying images of Private Thomas Mann whose nose was blown off by shrapnel. He underwent

five years of primitive plastic surgery, including one phase which gave him what looked

like an elephant's trunk, but the ordeal was so painful that he gave up.

He became a nurse at Queen Mary's Hospital at Sidcup in Kent where he met hospital cook Minnie Blows. She had lost her soldier fiancé and resolved to love a wounded serviceman. She and Thomas married and they went on to have four children, proof positive of the resilience of mankind in the face of the world's first ever total war.

Imperial War Museum London: iwm.org.uk.

Courtesy Ssgt Ernie Paddon and the International Express Aug 13, '14



Spectacular display of fighting machines fills atrium

As Air Force marks the 100th anniversary of the first military flight in Australia, RAAF Historian Martin James continues to look at key events in our history.

THE beginning of September marks 69 years since the end of hostilities in World War II. With peace achieved in Europe during May, it was only in the Pacific area of operations that the war continued.

That came to an end on September 2, 1945 when the Japanese surrender was formally signed on the deck of the USS Missouri.

The Australian contingent present at the surrender ceremony was headed by GEN Sir Thomas Blamey, who signed the surrender document on behalf of Australia.

The RAAF was represented by Chief of Air Staff AVM George Jones and Air Officer Commanding RAAF Command AVM William Bostock.

Fighting in the Pacific region had ceased as early as August 15 as word of the Japanese surrender was transmitted throughout the region.

In the case of No. 100 Squadron RAAF, that message was received while its aircraft were returning from what is considered to be the last bombing mission of World War II.

Because of the need to finalise the wording of the instrument of surrender and the necessity of gathering representatives from all of the Allied powers in Tokyo, more than two weeks elapsed before the final ceremony was carried out.

As the Allied representatives gathered in Tokyo, the USS Missouri, the flagship of ADM William Halsey, entered Tokyo Bay on August 29.

ADM Halsey was reported to have been concerned about the possibility of kamikaze raids even though the ceasefire had been announced.

He was reputedly the originator of the signal in August that stated: "Cessation of hostilities. War is over. If any Japanese airplanes appear, shoot them down in a friendly way." While celebrations marking the news of the war's end were held across the RAAF, it was soon evident that much was still to be done.

With thousands of Allied personnel still detained in deplorable conditions in prisoner-of-war camps, the RAAF began an intense series of air-drops, aeromedical evacuation and repatriation flights in an attempt to ease the suffering of these prisoners as much as possible and to bring them home.

In one case, RAAF Catalina aircraft delivered 4500kg of blood plasma, penicillin and quinine to the 5000 Australians detained in Singapore.

Among the first of the ex-prisoners to be repatriated to Australia were the 24 survivors of the Malaya and Java campaigns captured at the very beginning of the war.

All 24, mostly from No. 1 Squadron, had been held in the forced labour camps on the Thai-Burma Railway.



GEN Sir Thomas Blamey signs the Japanese surrender documents on the deck of USS Missouri on September 2, 1945.

Photo: Office of Air Force History

SOME OTHER MILITARY REFLECTIONS

By COL Graham Farley, OAM, RFD, ED (Retd)

9. Pamphlets

Pamphlets, or books of military information, were integral features of the lives of us post World War II CMF members, particularly in the artillery. I thought it was worth a “reflections” to remind us about them, although I believe they have changed significantly with computers and standardised A4 stationery.

Textbooks in the army have always been known as “Pams,” being short for pamphlets. When the word, “pamphlet,” as it was used in the past, a person might have envisaged a several-paged document extolling the virtues of a particular function, often about the size of a normal program.

No doubt there is a very good historical reason for the use of the term, “pamphlet,” but it was as part of the army “milieu,” as was palliase, duck boards, dixies and the like. If a member of the army needed to increase his knowledge then he needed to obtain the relevant pamphlet.

Until a date in the nineteen-sixties, the Australian Army used the United Kingdom range of “pams”, a term that will now be used without inverted commas in the remainder of this article. These booklets (in size 130 by 210 mm) came with a standardised format. The cover would indicate the War Office Code Number., together with a “restricted” classification advice. At the foot of the cover page would be the signing-off authority, such as “By command of the Army Council,” or “Prepared under the direction of the Chief of the Imperial General Staff.” The pam would already have been pre hole-punched with three holes.

The understanding was that the war office would submit a draft to a set of Oxford and Cambridge dons who would check them for clear and simple English but not for their tactical accuracy.

For the Royal Artillery, the series of pams would bore the title, “Artillery Training,” the volume number, the sub-heading, “Artillery in Battle,” the number of the specific pam, its title, the year of issue and the name of the pam that it had superseded.

In the same way that pamphlet has been abbreviated, so has “volume” to “vol”. Hence a pam

would be referred to as, “The Arty Vol I Pam 1, Organization, Command and Employment, 1948.” The pedantic officer might add, “with amendments 1, 2, 3 and 4.” The “volume” was always expressed in Roman useage.

The internal format of the pams followed a predictable pattern. There was always a page for amendments. Then there was the Distribution List, followed by Contents. The pam would be divided into chapters and sections. Each paragraph would be numbered with a combination of numeral and alphabetical characters. Finally, there would be a list of “Appendix” items, or Appendices.

Amendments were issued generally in a stapled pad format. There were three types of amendments: line, paragraph and page. The page amendments were always preferable, but it did presume that the discarded page could be removed easily and the new one inserted. This became much easier when pams were later issued in loose-leaf form.

Lest one be cynical, it seemed rare for a pam to have any life-span without an amendment being issued. In hindsight, it might have been preferable for the pam to have been re-printed in its entirety and re-issued, as, with the best will in the world, errors inevitably creep in. A well-amended pam could take on the nature of one of those “creations in paper”. If the paste was not strong enough, the subsequent document was often a mess. To find the right answer to a problem required considerable turning over of bits of pages.

Life in the army, and probably all military forces, lends itself very much to “one-upsmanship” or “gamesmanship.” A situation would occur where a superior officer would deem the action to be contrary to the pam. The offending officer could always deflect the potential criticism by asking his superior as to whether he had the latest amendment! At the very least this would defer any further comment until the adjutant or some person like that, who would always have a perfect set of amended pams, could adjudicate.

Depending on the appointment of the officer concerned, the number of pams to be held in readiness in the field or otherwise could be quite considerable. Appointments, such as the GPO, could necessitate a brief case not unlike the size of the ones that civil aircraft pilots take on board their

aircraft to cover every eventuality.

Certain pams in the artillery were “must haves.” One was Vol I Pam 1. Then there was the “complete set” of Vol III Pams – an essential set for any artillery officer to have in his (or now her) early years. The only way that the eight or nine pams could be kept together was by string through the binding holes. While in the UK on attachment to a Yeomanry artillery regiment, the author spotted that the UK officers had a smart blue booklet for Vol III rather than an inch or two inches (5/6 mms) of bound pams. He found that the British Army had consolidated the Vol III pams into one, named “Surface to Surface Artillery, Pam No. 2, Technical Duties in Action, 1962.” He set out to equip himself with a copy. He was successful. But the fly-leaf shows that the unit’s 2ic might once have been the owner. The author denies the charge of theft but applauds the act of his sacrificial generosity! The pam included pams 2 to 6 inclusive. A very sensible and usable way of providing needed information. The size was that of a slim novel and could be slipped into a SD pocket with ease.

Back in Australia the author used a set more resembling a pocket dictionary. On the home shelves could be kept “Staff Duties in the Field,” and the “law book,” AMR&O (Australian Military Regulations and Orders). The army provided a whole range of pams dealing with map reading, mess etiquette and topics such as “Aid to the Civil Power.” The enthusiastic collector of pams could always justify such collective behaviour with the words, “Well, one never knows when that pam will not come in useful.”

Pams had to be jealously guarded. One lent them, but on pain of death, to be returned. It was the generosity and trust of WOII Joe Monahan, later DASM, in the late fifties that marked him out as one member of the cadre staff as having a very positive attitude to helping CMF officers. I was teaching in Mirboo North and needed the National Service pamphlet. Joe drove up from the depot in Warragul to make sure I had access to a copy. It was typical of this man. Joe also trained a team of marching girls which were in vogue in the fifties and sixties. He was a real gentleman.

The production of pams must have been a major cost in the defence budget. Each unit had to have a library and a librarian, generally a member of the cadre staff. The issuing and signing for pams was

quite a formal affair. The librarian had to be able to account for all pams issued by stocks on the shelves or in the form of signatories.

There was little difficulty in the Australian Army using the UK pams as to all intents and purposes our establishments, equipment and doctrine of war were based on theirs. After all, our forces had fought in Europe in the First World War and both nations had fought together in the desert and Middle East in the Second. Jungle fighting in Burma was not all that different from New Guinea. Australians fought alongside the “Brits” in Korea. On the whole it was a “catch up” effect, although the Pentropic Division might have been the first major deviation in unit structures where USA doctrine began to be followed.

But with the withdrawal of the UK from east of Suez and Australia’s greater involvement in the Pacific with forces of the United States of America, it became apparent that Australia would have to assume responsibility for producing its own pams. The situation became even more important with the ABCA standardisation procedures being adopted in the Sixties. Finally for artillery, the replacement of the Ord 25-pr with the 105 mm towed and L5 pack howitzers, rendered many of the earlier pams obsolete.

Initially there was a vacuum when the UK pams were not readily available or applicable. This was followed by a process of drafts being written by the various Australian military schools. CMF officers got accustomed to the word, “provisional,” being superimposed on these A4-sized documents.

The Australian pams when issued in their more permanent form were in grey coloured hard cardboard covers often in loose leaf form. These dealt in turn with each corps in the army. Thus there was an overall artillery pam, supplemented by pocket book or A4-sized documents from the School of Artillery at North Head (now located at Puckapunyal).

But wise officers did not throw away the superseded UK pams. For instance, with “air defence” being the term to replace the former “Ack Ack” or “HAA/LAA” pams, there were nation-wide appeals for holders of World War II era AA pams to surrender them to the newly established formations.

Training Information Bulletins (TIBs) were issued to fill gaps in the pam series or to provide interim

doctrine until a more formalised document could be produced. The writer has a copy of TIB No 26, "The Enemy", and also a 1970 pam with the same title. The latter advises that it replaces "The Enemy, 1964." The TIB surprisingly does not bear a date.

The next printing of Australian Army pams came in green covers. As the writer ceased his military activities to all intents and purposes at the end of 1983, this review of military "pams" also ceases at that time.

The writer believes that he once acquired a set of an interesting documents that were published in the early nineteen-fifties. They were in yellow covers and published in coffee-table size. They probably filled a void in doctrine about the time of the Korean War. But one day when he went to find them they had gone "the way of all flesh." Someone had probably spotted them and "knocked them off," as army jargon would have it.

Libraries of UK and Australian pams, booklets, pocket book aide-memoirs reflect in turn the developments in the Australian Army, both regular and CMF/Army Reserve, since the end of the Second World War. The advice must be to any person clearing out their sets of pams – would the military district, your Corps (school) or former unit have a use for such documents? The best advice is to still find space for them on your bookshelves. They make interesting reading as we reach our dotage and they bring back many memories, happy and sometimes otherwise.

The following is a list of pams once held by the author. Many of them have found a new home with LTCOL David Brook in South Australia.

AT Vol I, Artillery in Battle, Pam 1, Organization, Command and Employment UK 1948

AT Vol I, Artillery in Battle, Pam 1, Command, Control and Employment UK 1963

AT Vol I, Artillery in Battle, Pam 2, Counter Bombardment UK 1954

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AT Vol I, Artillery in Battle, Pam 3, Anti-Aircraft Artillery in the Field UK 1954

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AT Vol III, Pam 10, Calibration UK 1961

AT Vol III, Pam 11, Gun Regiments, Part 1, Organization and Deployment AMF 1971 (Prov.)

AT Vol III, Pam 11, Gun Regiments, Part 3, Survey Within the Unit AMF 1971 (Prov.)

AT Vol VII, Pam 1, An Introduction to Guided Weapons UK 1957

AT Vol VII, Pam 2, Guidance and Control UK 1962

Directions for the Use of Artillery Instruments (DUAL)

Pam 2, Artillery Boards UK 1956

Pam 4, The Plotter Fire Control Field Artillery UK 1964

Pam 6, Directors Nos. 7 to 7c and 7, Marks 4, 5, and 6 UK 1956

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Notes for Operators, Regimental Radio Equipments AMF 1961

Range Tables, Part 1, for QF, 25-pr Guns, Marks 2-4 UK 1953

Range Table, Par 2 UK 1955

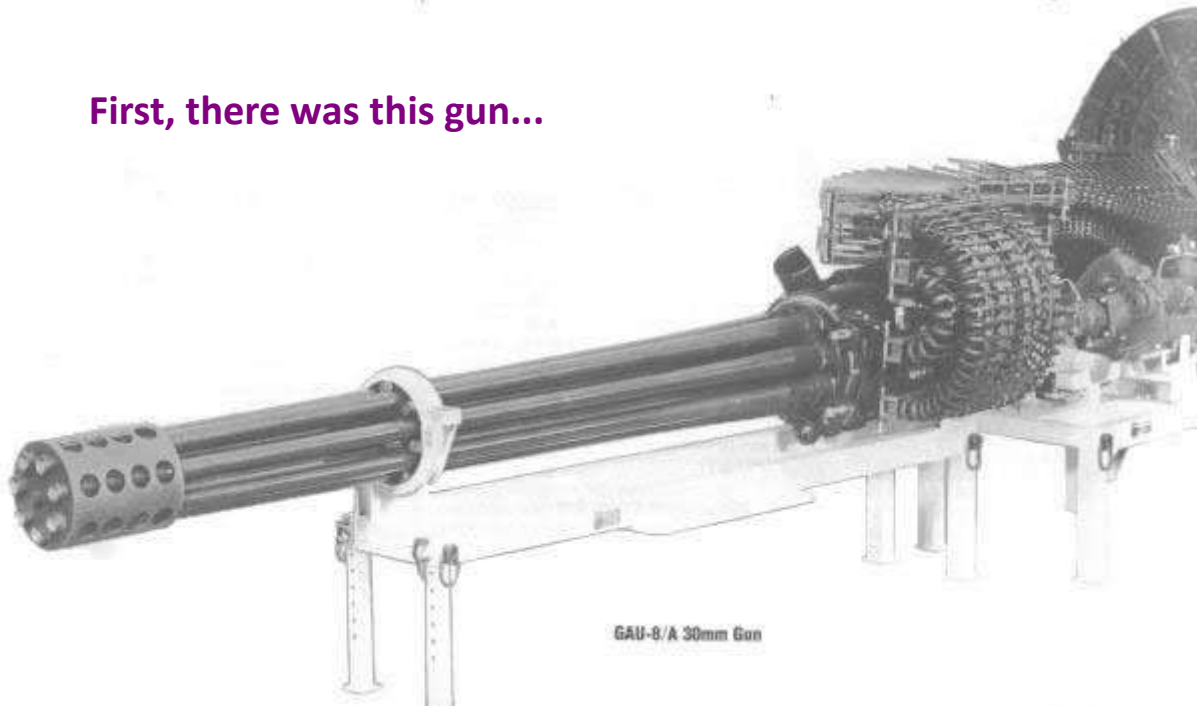
Mils Annexure to Range Table, Part 2, UK 1955

Supplementary Range Tables for QF, 25-pr Gun, Mark 2, 1942 UK 1948

Supplementary Range Tables (Prov) for QF, 25-pr Gun Mark 2, 1944 UK	1944	Manual of Map Reading &c, Part 1, Map Reading UK	1955
Range Tables for BL, 5.5-inch Gun, Mark III UK	1943	Manual of Map Reading &c, Part 2, Air Photo Reading UK	1958
Battery Commanders' Notebook	School of Artillery AMF 1968	Manual of Land Warfare, Part 1, Vol I, Pam 1, Fundamentals of Land Force Operations	AMF 1977
Gun Position Notebook	School of Artillery AMF 1970	MLW, Part 1, Vol 1, Pam 2, Command and Control	AMF 1977
Forward Observer Notebook	School of Artillery AMF 1969	MLW, Part 1, Vol 1, Pam 3, The Arms and Services	AMF 1977
Sigs Trg, (All Arms) Pam 6, Artillery Fire Orders	AMF	MLW, Part 1, Vol I, Pam 4, Formation Tactics	AMF 1977
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Staff Duties	AMF 1970	MLW, Part 1, Vol 1, Pam 8, Air Support	AMF 1980
Infantry Training, Vol I, Infantry Platoon Weapons, Pam 2, Fieldcraft and Target Detection (All Arms)	AMF 1967	Manual of Land Warfare, Part 1, Vol 3, Pam 3, Peacekeeping	AMF 1980
Infantry Training, Vol I, Infantry Platoon Weapons, Pam 3B, The 7.62 mm Self-Loading Rifle, Bayonet,... (and) Automatic Rifle	AMF 1971	MLW, Part 1, Vol 6, Pam 1, Staff Duties in the Field	AMF 1979
Infantry Section Leading	AMF 1970	MLW, Part 1, Vol 6, Pam 2, Aide-Memoire	AMF 1981
The Division in Battle, Pam 2, Administration	AMF 1966	MLW, Part 3, Vol 2, Pam 2, The Musorian Armed Forces (pocket size)	AMF 1980
The Division in Battle, Pam 4, Armour	AMF 1970	As above but in pamphlet form.	AMF 1980
The Division in Battle, Pam 5, Artillery	AMF 1969	Manual of Land Warfare, Part 3, Vol 3, Pam 1, Drill	AMF 1979
The Division in Battle, Pam 6, Engineers	AMF 1966	The Land Battle, Parts 1, 2 and 3	UK 1964
The Division in Battle, Pam 7, Signals	AMF 1970	The Enemy	AMF 1970
The Division in Battle, Pam 8, Infantry	AMF 1969	Military Training Pamphlet, Leadership (Prov)	AMF 1957
The Division in Battle, Pam 9, Intelligence	AMF 1965	Handbook on Leadership	AMF 1973
The Division in Battle, Pam 10, Air	AMF 1967	Ceremonial	AMF 1958
The Division in Battle, Pam 11, Counter Revolutionary Warfare	AMF 1965	Aid to the Civil Power	AMF 1964
		The Systems Approach to Training, Pam 1, Introduction to	AMF 1974
		Infantry Training, Vol IV, Part 1, The Battalion	AMF 1967
		Administration in the Field (Non-Divisional)	AMF 1966

Survival (grey cover)	AMF	1969	Elementary Field Defences, All Arms	AMF	1969
Patrolling and Tracking	AMF	1965	The Special Air Service Regiment	AMF	1967
Ambush and Counter Ambush	AMF	1965	A Guide to the Content of Standing Operating Procedures for Infantry Battalions	AMF	1969
Training Command, Pam 6, Army Training System, Instructor's Notebook	AMF	1981	Standing Operating Procedures, Divisional Artillery	AMF	1979
Training Information Bulletin (TIB) No 11	AMF	1969	Standing Operating Procedures, For Field and Medium Regiments, Part 1	AMF	1979
TIB No 13	AMF	1966	Standing Operating Procedures, For Field and Medium Regiments, Part 2	AMF	1979
TIB No 14	AMF	1967	Standing Operating Procedures, Tenth Medium Regiment	AMF	1973*
TIB No 15	AMF	1966	Notes on the British Army	UK	1962
TIB, Laying, Recording and Marking of a Minefield No 18	AMF	Not given	Directions for the use of the 14.5 mm Artillery Trainer	AMF	1966
TIB No 19	AMF	Not given	Aide Memoire, Army Training System	AMF	1980
TIB, Map Folding No 20	AMF	Not given	Aide Memoire for Regimental Officers and NCOs	AMF	1971
TIB No 22	AMF	1972	Aide Memoire, Map Reading	AMF	1973
TIB, The International System of Units and Its Application in the Army, No 23	AMF	1973	Data Booklet, Ex THINK THROUGH, Comd 3 Div FF Gp	AMF	1977
TIB No 24	AMF	1973	ARP, The Training of Air Raid Wardens	Vic.	1942
TIB, The Enemy No 26	AMF	Not given	Maps, 1:25,000, Puckapunyal Range Area Special,	AMF	1976 (1958/9)
TIB No 27	AMF	1975	One last comment: the BC's Notebook (provisional of course) remains on the author's shelf as a reference text for the quizzes offered at the annual Gunner Lunch at the RACV Club sponsored by BRIG Doug Perry, OAM.		
TIB, The Infantry Division No 28	AMF	1975			
TIB, Aircraft Recognition Training in the Aust. Army, No 30	AMF	1978			
TIB Nos 40 to 46	AMF	1980			
TIB Nos 47 to 48	AMF	1980	<i>Thank you Graham. Just reading the number of pams you had, no wonder I declined the offer of a Commission.</i>		
TIB, In-service Chemical/Biological Protective Ensemble &c No 55	AMF	1981			
Nuclear Handbook, Part 1	AMF	1960	<i>Ed.</i>		
Air Ministry, Precautions Against Nuclear Attack	UK	1957	<hr/>		
The Iroquois Helicopter	AMF	1970	I accidentally came across this clip while looking at some you tube stuff. This is a sensational clip, about twenty minutes all up.		
Adjutant's Pocketbook (CMF)	AMF	1979	Check it out. Very sad but very exhilarating. Check it out I think you will be glad you did.		
Training Information Notes, CGS Exercise, Post Exercise Report	AMF	1979	Last to leave, the fall of Saigon		
Recruiting Officers Handbook, 3MD	AMF	1982	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zuYaKVcYLyM		
Field Engineering and Mine Warfare, Pam 1, Basic Field Engineering	UK	1950	<i>Courtesy WO2 Max Murray</i>		
Field Engineering and Mine Warfare, Pam 2, Field Defences and Obstacles	UK	1951			

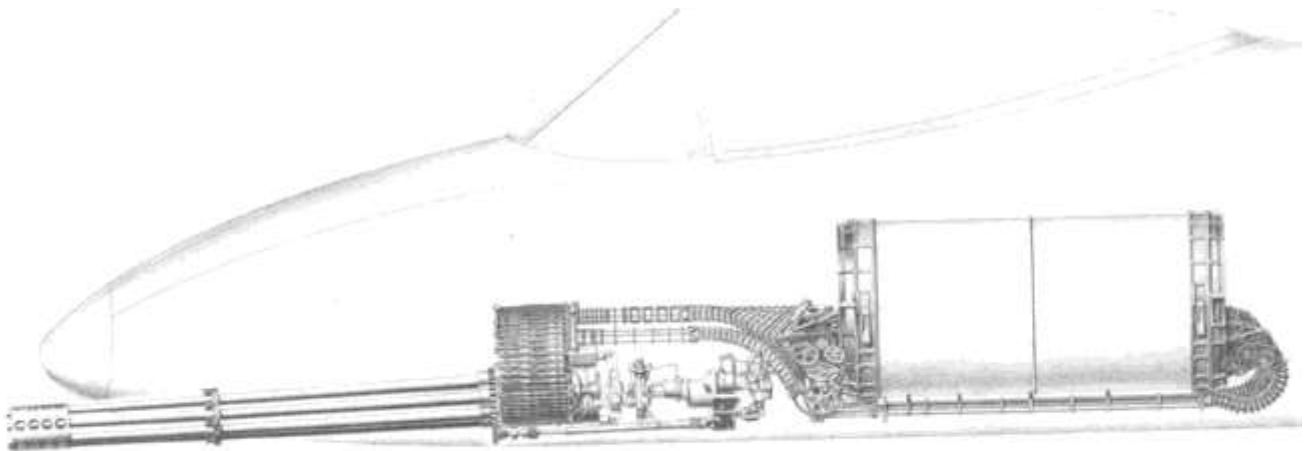
First, there was this gun...



It was developed by General Electric, the "We bring good things to life" people.

It's one of the modern-day Gatling guns. It shoots very big bullets. It shoots them very quickly

Someone said, "Let's put it in an airplane." Someone else said, "Better still, let's build an airplane around it."



So they did. And "they" were the Fairchild Republic airplane people. And they had done such a good job with an airplane they developed back in WWIIcalled the P-47 Thunderbolt!

They decided to call it the A10 Thunderbolt. They made it so it was very good at flying low and slow and shooting things with that fabulous gun. But since it did fly low and slow, they made it bulletproof, or almost so.

It's not sleek and sexy like an F18 or the stealthy Raptors and such, but I think it's such a great airplane because it does what it does better than any other plane in the world. It kills tanks.

Not only tanks, as Saddam Hussein's boys found out to their horror, but armoured personnel carriers, radar stations, locomotives, bunkers, fuel depots...

Just about anything the bad guys thought was bulletproof turned out to be easy pickings for this beast.



See those engines. One of them alone will fly this plane.

The pilot sits in a very thick titanium alloy "bathtub." That's typical of the design.

They were smart enough to make every part the same whether mounted on the left side or right side of the plane, like landing gear, for instance. Because the engines are mounted so high (away from ground debris) and the landing gear uses such low pressure tires, it can operate from a damaged airport, interstate highway, ploughed field, or dirt road. Everything is redundant.

They have two of almost everything. Sometimes they have three of something.

Like flight controls, there's triple redundancy of those, and even if there is a total failure of the double hydraulic system, there is a set of manual flying controls.



Capt. Kim Campbell sustained this damage over Bagdad and flew for another hour before returning to base. But, back to that gun. It's so hard to grasp just how powerful it is.



At the bottom right is the bad boy we're discussing. Let's get some perspective here: The .223 Rem (M16 rifle round) is fast. It shoots a 55 or so grain bullet at about 3300 feet/sec, give or take.

It's the fastest of all those rounds shown (except one).

When you move up to the .30 calibre rounds, the bullets jump up in weight to 160-200 grains. Speeds run from about 2600 to 3000 FPS or so. The .338 Lapua is the king of the sniper rifles these days and shoots a 350 grain bullet at 2800 FPS or so. They kill bad guys at over a mile with that one.

The 50 BMG is really big. Mike Beasley has one on his desk.

Everyone who picks it up thinks it's some sort of fake, unless they know big ammo.

It's really huge with a bullet that weighs 750 grains and goes as fast the Lapua. I don't have data on the Vulcan, but hang on to your hat. The bullet for the 30x173 Avenger has an aluminium jacket around a spent uranium core and weighs 6560 grains (yes, over 100 times as heavy as the M16 bullet, and flies through the air at 3500 FPS (which is faster than the M16 as well). The gun shoots at a rate of 4200 rounds per minute, Yes, four thousand.

Pilots typically shoot either one- or two-second burst which set lose 70 to 150 rounds.

The system is optimized for shooting at 4,000 feet. OK, the best for last. You've got a pretty good idea of how big that cartridge is, but I'll bet you're like me and you don't fully appreciate how big the GA GAU-8 Avenger really is. Take a look.



Each of those seven barrels is 112" long.

That's almost ten feet. The entire gun is 19-1/2 feet long.

Think how impressive it would look set up in your living room.

Oh, by the way, it doesn't eject the empty shells but runs them back into the storage drum.

There's just so dang many flying out, they felt it might damage the aircraft.

Oh yeah, I forgot, they can hang those bomb and rocket things on 'em too, just in case.

After all, it is an "airplane"! Like I said, this is a beautiful design.



I'm glad it's ours.

Courtesy WO2 David Troedel

The picture is of the five first line US nuclear carriers docked together in one place.



Just like Battleship Row, Pearl Harbor , December 7, 1941. This picture was taken the February 2014 in Norfolk , Virginia ... Obama ordered 5 nuclear carriers into harbor for "routine" (?) inspections. Heads of the Navy were flabbergasted by the directive but had to comply as it was a direct order from their Commander-in-Chief.

The carriers were all pulled out from the MIDDLE EAST and the Afghanistan support role leaving our land forces naked and exposed!

NORFOLK, VA. (February 8, 2014). This is the first time since WWII that five nuclear powered aircraft carriers were docked together. USS Dwight D. Eisenhower (CVN 69), USS George H.W. Bush (CVN 77), USS Enterprise (CVN 65), USS Harry S. Truman (CVN 75), and USS Abraham Lincoln (CVN 72) are all in port at Naval Station Norfolk , Va. , the world's largest naval station.

Knowledgeable sources stated that this breached a long standing military protocol in the Navy meant to avoid a massive enemy strike on major US forces.

(U.S. Navy photo by Chief Mass Communication Specialist Ryan J. Courtade/Released).

This ordering of most of the Navy's capitol ships into one place is unprecedented since Pearl Harbor!

Courtesy Capt. Peter Wertheimer OAM RFD

PARADE CARD
As At 5 March 2015
April 2015 to March 2016

January 2016	May 2015	October 2015
4. Cascabel Issue 125 Released	19. Committee Meeting	5. Cascabel Issue 124 Released
26. Australia day Salute	29. Gunner Symposium	21. Committee Meeting
		30. Gunner Symposium
February 2016	June 2015	
16. Committee Meeting	3. Reservist Luncheon	November 2015
19 or 26. Gunner Symposium (Fri)	16. Committee Meeting	5. Annual General Meeting
		6. Golf Day
March 2016	July 2015	17. Committee Meeting
2. RAA Luncheon	6. Cascabel Issue 123 Released	
15. Committee Meeting	21. Committee Meeting	
	24. Gunner Symposium	December 2015
April 2015		?? St Barbara's Day
6. Cascabel Issue 122 Released	August 2015	?? 2/10 Bty Family Day
21. Committee Meeting	18. Committee Meeting	6. Annual Church Parade
25. Anzac day	?? RAA Gunner Dinner (TBA)	15. C'ttee Xmas Breakup
	September 2015	
	15. Committee Meeting	
Note: This Parade Card is subject to additions, alterations and deletions.		

Change of Personal Details

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

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