

CASCABEL

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ROYAL AUSTRALIAN ARTILLERY ASSOCIATION
(VICTORIA) INCORPORATED

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What will they have a soldier wear next?

The Ratheon XOS 2 is a second generation exoskeleton design for US army use. It allows the wearer to enhance his strength to carry heavy equipment much easier and for much longer.

Article

Pages

Assn Contacts, Conditions & Copyright	3
The President Writes & Membership Report	5
From The Colonel Commandant	6
Editor's Indulgence and Letters to the Editor	7
Veterans March	10
LT COL Paul Middleton	11
EX COURTNEYS POST 2015	12
Ron & Lynette Ludeman from South Africa	13
Broome's One Day War	14
Diverse stories to be told	18
Artillery Anniversaries by Decades - 2015	20
THE HON DARREN CHESTER MP	22
RAA Luncheon - 2015 and Moving Last Post Ceremony	23
Anzac spirit on song	24
Defence Force Notes (Intelligence)	26
Interview with Mr. Norman Whitelaw	27
A different take on WWI Diggers and Our anonymous BC	31
I Bde commemorates bombing of Darwin	36
Empire of the dead	37
FAR-SIGHTED: Major General Sir Fabian Ware	38
Australia—Land of the free	40
9 Bde Commemorates	41
Celebrations at Jezzine	42
The hero who was stripped of his VC	43
Tribute to fallen Aussie	45
Why? A Damn Good Question?	46
This Marine Was The 'American Sniper' Of The Vietnam War	47
VC Recipients meet the Queen	51
Army 2020: The Army Reserve	52
A history of service	53
Parade Card/Changing your address? See cut-out proforma	55

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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

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KCMG, KBE, DSO, MC, ED

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

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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

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CONTENTS AND SUBMISSIONS

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

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

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The President Writes

Things have been quiet lately now that the New Constitution is operating and the membership requirements in the Constitution have been met.

The latest information about the visit to HMAS Cerberus is that it may take place on Thursday 24th September. Final details will be available later on.

I received no responses to my request made in the last Cascabel about the future of our traditional Gunner Dinner and Church Parade. I must admit I am not surprised as attendance at these functions in the recent past has been very small.

Two changes to dates in November. The Annual General Meeting will now be held on the 19th of November and the Golf Day will be held on the 20th.

Neil Hamer

Membership Report

I realise that the following information was in the last Cascabel, but I thought it might be a good idea to list again the changes required by the new Constitution (Model Rules).

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 13 Feb 2015	285
As at 29 May 2015	
Honorary Members for Life	4
Ordinary Life	181
Ordinary Annual	36
Ordinary Annual Senior	12
Associate Life	2
Associate Annual	5
Affiliate	24
Library Affiliates	4
RSL Affiliates	4
Others	9
	281

New Members

We welcome LBdr Barry Yanner as an Ordinary Annual Member.

Vale

We regret the passing of WO2 James Breeze OAM, SSgt Ian Rogers JP and Sgt Piers Foa.

Neil Hamer Contact: Telephone: 9702 2100
MAJ (Retd) 0419 533 067
Membership Co-ordinator
Email nhamer@bigpond.net.au

From the Colonel Commandant

BRIG Peter Alkemade RFD



Welcome to another issue of Cascabel.

I had the enjoyable experience of the first of the Fire Power presentations in the RAA Symposium series on the First World War on Friday evening. Mike Buckridge delivered a well researched paper on Counter Battery developments during the war and while a few questions (what is a string galvanometer) went unanswered, he did a sterling job in covering both the technicalities and the higher level benefits of the developments.

Although the weather was somewhat unkind, I would warmly encourage more members to attend subsequent presentations and expand the discussion and debate around the bar.

Once again the ANZAC dawn service was well attended and I was happy to meet old acquaintances on a cool damp and sombre morning. It was appropriate to consider the feelings and expectations of those gunners 100 years ago as they disembarked to land on a hostile and forbidding shore. I recently had the opportunity to read an account of the landing written by a young gunner under the title "Straits Impregnable". Much of his experience was consistent with other accounts, however I understand his was the first published account and slipped past the censor by being described as a work of fiction. Sadly his second edition did not and so few members of the Australian public will have read this account. The internet can provide access to a copy of the UK edition which was passed by the censorship board unedited in that country.

On another topic I am encouraged by the continuing development of opportunities for reserve units to exercise at higher levels than has been

possible for many years through the integrated training between ARA and ARES brigades.

In my own experience while individuals could often get positions on higher level exercises, the inclusion of formed ARES elements were infrequent and when they did occur often it was as isolated sub units. The experience of high intensity manoeuvre training both motivates those who participate and those still training at a basic level to see added relevance and purpose to their service, while still being able to continue their civilian career.

I was also encouraged to recently see the posting of a new young officer to the Battery, our first for some years and also to see some development in opening up additional positions within the Battery to allow it to operate at a higher level.

A final point. Recently the RAA museum has been able to open a small annex at Puckapunyal within the RAAC museum. Although access to the museum requires a degree of diligence with the current security levels in place, a visit would be worthwhile. I'm hopeful that the association will be able to arrange this as the weather improves. There isn't much positive news on the full museum development, however a display of interest and patronage would at least demonstrate ongoing community support for what in these days is a large project for the Army in the South.

Ubique

Peter Alkemade

BRIG (R)

Editors Indulgence

I trust that those of you who took part in this years Anzac Day's activities had a successful time attending the many Centenary celebrations. I must admit I stayed home and didn't even watch anything on television. I'm afraid the saturation in the press and on television for the Anzac 100th Anniversary activities turned me off.



Un-Australian. I certainly don't think so but there you have it. Send me a letter, if you wish.

Letters to the Editor

Hi Alan,

I read the letter in the last edition on the awarding of the MSM.

I have been listing the Honours and Awards for 101 Battery, Malaya members and as the criteria was very unclear for the LS&GCM & MSM so I emailed Honours and Awards.

Regards

David (WO2 David Troedel Retd)



Forwarded by Ssgt Ernie Paddon

1 REFER to the letter by Steve Hills of Victoria, Australia, and his comment about Sir Michael Caine and the film Zulu.

A few years ago I read an article about Sir Michael and his Cockney accent problem and it mentioned he sought help by attending dinner invitations at the Officers Mess at Wellington Barracks. London, home of Her Majesty's Regiments of Foot Guards.

Mr Hills also mentions Sir Michael's autobiography, I wonder if he noticed the faux pas on page 148 where it mentions the Battle of Rorke's Drift was fought by a Welsh Regiment. It was in fact fought by an English Regiment, a Company from the 2nd Battalion Warwickshire Regiment of Foot, which two years after the battle for Rorke's Drift, became the South Wales Borderers (24th Foot).

Hi Alan,

Remember John Profumo, he visited 26 Fd Regt. RA at Terendak when we were there and some members of 101 Bty were on the guard the Guard.

Sadly Gavin Andrews, Jim Craig and Tom Simpson have all passed on.

Regards

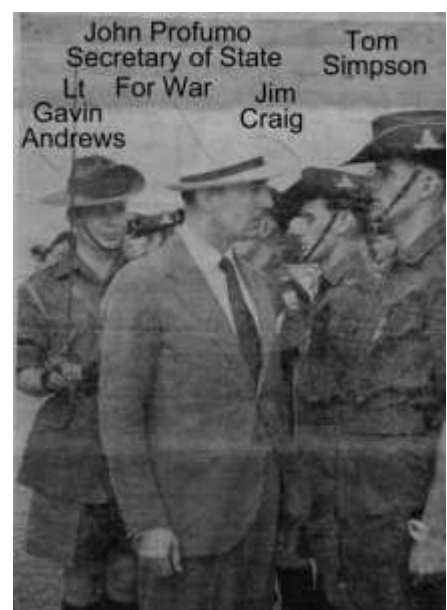
David (WO2 David Troedel)

Sadly as a result of publishing our 101 Battery Malaya Newsletter, I have been informed that 3 more of our members have passed on; this brings the total on the Honour Roll to 103.

There are 26 members that we have lost contact with and I am sure that some of them are deceased.

There were 220 that served in the Battery in Malaya between 4th October 1959 and 29th October 1961.

I have found the RO's Part 2 on the National Archives site, all 568 pages.



Our Battery strength on 4th October 1959 when the main party arrived in Butterworth was 12 Officers and 171 OR's.

Not bad for an 8 Gun Battery (Independent)

All the best,

David & Pat (*WO2 David Troedel*)

Good evening

Firstly, may I introduce myself, my name is Philip Jobson, I am a member of the Royal Artillery Association, here in England, as well as being a member of the Royal Artillery Historical Society, and the first (I Believe) overseas member of the Royal Australian Artillery Historical Company.

I have authored a book, which you may have heard of called the "Royal Artillery Glossary of Terms and Abbreviations – Historical and Modern". I am currently working on a revised edition and would like permission to reference Col Farley's article on Artillery Pamphlets in the current issue.

With very best wishes

Phil

Philip Jobson

Secretary – National Artillery Association

Secretary – Friends of Firepower – The Royal Artillery Museum

Secretary – Woolwich and Plumstead Branch, Royal Artillery Association

Secretary – South East Region, Royal Artillery Association

Chair – South London District, Royal Artillery Association

Member – Royal Artillery Historical Society

Historian – Arracan Veterans Association (88 (Arracan) Battery Royal Artillery OCA).

Author – Royal Artillery Glossary of Terms and Abbreviations – Historical and Modern

Dear Philip:

The answer of course is yes.

I have read many of your well researched and argued articles and am glad that we have in the Regiment someone who has great respect for the Regiment and for accuracy.

I used to get the UK gunner magazines and often there was a light hearted article in them, which some of my Military Reflections try to be. But I was surprised at the collection of pamphlets that I had accumulated over the years.

I have retained one or two, but the bulk were sent to a keen collector, David Brook in South Australia.

I will attach the article as sent to Alan.

You are probably aware that over the years I documented my artillery experiences starting with National Service in infantry in 1954, but hijacked by the Regiment, and wasn't that a blessed day for me.

At mess functions I used to get quite irritated when the protocol was mucked up. A well run kangaroo court can be most entertaining; a poorly run one can be something to forget.

Graham Farley (*Col Graham Farley OAM RFD ED*)

Hi Alan,

Good to hear that you are up and about, I can relate to your recent illness having been there.

Yes, there has been a bit of a drought, especially for us from interstate who look forward to reading your fine newsletters.

The Vale article for J. H. Breeze, current edition, made me recall and compare my experiences which are similar but a different time span.

Of particular interest, the section on page 12, "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"

Likewise I did National Service, but in 1958, and I was also posted to HAA, namely 9HAA Regt in Sydney. I was chosen to be a Fire Control Radar operator, eventually becoming the Fire Control Radar Number 1 (FC1).

The two Sydney Regiments, 9 & 16 were still equipped with 3.7 HAA guns until the early 1960's when the Regiments were amalgamated and the combined Regiment converted to LAA role. Live shoots were conducted out to sea from behind the School of Artillery at North Head. The instructors at the school performing Safety Officer roles as well as instruction on Guns, Radars and Predictor.

A brief history is on the NSW RAA Association site.

http://www.artillerynsw.asn.au/arty_322_9HAA_LAA_ASSN.htm

A bit if trivia which may or may not be of interest.

UBIQUE

Regards Jack Tattis

Hi Alan,

I should have added, that likewise I also ended up as a Field Gunner on 25 Pounders when I transferred to Queensland, 11 Field Regiment and had to do a quick crash conversion course to Field Artillery. Fortunately a lot of the drills, Fire Discipline and terminology were similar and easy to pick up. My detachment however, knew more about 25 pounders than I did, so I bowed to my 2IC's knowledge.

Whilst in HAA, although I was FC1, (Radar AA No3 Mk7) I also qualified as TC, (Tactical Control) Radar Operator. That being Radar AA No4 Mk1 as well as qualifying as Predictor Operator. Back in those day everyone was multi-skilled as it is called today. We trained two positions above and on bivouacs filled those positions to prove the concept. So nothing new with multi-skilling.

On another matter I have written far and wide, RAEME, RAA, museums, Australia to the UK, trying to obtain Plans/Drawings of Radar AA No3 Mk7 to make a 1/35 scale model.

Have obtained a scale model of the 3.7in HAA gun but can't locate any radar drawings. The "drill" book is all about Test and Adjustments and operating procedures but not about the "cabin" and its size etc. The Historical Company only have drill/operators manuals. Never thought about Victoria as was of the impression that HAA was only in NSW. On one occasion we were to deploy the Regiment to Darwin after a successful deployment from Sydney to Newcastle.

UBIQUE

Regards

Jack

VETERANS' MARCH AND ANZAC DAY NATIONAL MEMORIAL SERVICE

A crowd of more than 30,000 attended the National Ceremony and Veterans' march at the Australian War Memorial.

This year's march along Anzac Parade was led by a [restored 18-pounder artillery piece and horse-drawn gun carriage](#).

Named after the weight of its artillery, the 18-pounder was used extensively on the Western Front and in Gallipoli.

It was restored by a team based at Goulburn in southern New South Wales in preparation for the 100th anniversary of the Gallipoli landing.



Introducing the newly appointed CO of 5/6 RVR

LIEUTENANT COLONEL PAUL MIDDLETON

COMMANDING OFFICER

5TH/6TH BATTALION, THE ROYAL VICTORIA REGIMENT

Lieutenant Colonel Paul Middleton was born in Melbourne on 7 November 1972. After completing his secondary education at Melbourne High School in 1989, he enrolled in a Bachelor of Economics at Melbourne University and later enlisted into the Army Reserve on 13 Nov 1990 and completed Full Time Commissioning Course at Canungra in February 1991 graduating into the Royal Australian Corps of Signals.

Lieutenant Colonel Middleton was initially posted as a Troop Officer to 126th Signal Squadron, 1st Commando Regiment and after completing the Commando Officer Selection Course was later posted to 2nd Commando Company, where he completed a number of commando skills qualification courses in parallel to his Bachelor of Economics; graduating in 1993.

Between 1993 and 1995, Lieutenant Colonel Middleton temporarily relocated to Western Australia and was posted as the Intelligence Officer and Recon Platoon Commander to 11th/28th Battalion, The Royal Western Australia Regiment and later transferred to the Royal Australian Infantry Corps. Other regimental appointments held include Heavy Weapons Platoon Commander, 1st Commando Regiment; Second in Command and later Officer Commanding A Company (2001-2004) and Officer Commanding Support Company (2005-2007), 5th/6th Battalion, The Royal Victoria Regiment, and Officer Commanding Staff Cadet Company at Melbourne University Regiment in 2008.

Between 2010 and 2012 Lieutenant Colonel Middleton was appointed as the Officer Commanding 4th Reserve Response Force where he led the 4th Brigade's response to three consecutive major flood events in North and Western Victoria, for which he received a Forces Commander's Silver Commendation.

Lieutenant Colonel Middleton is a graduate of the Australian Command and Staff College (2009) and is also extensively read on Peace Keeping topics having completed a large range of UNITAR courses. In 2012 he was promoted to Lieutenant Colonel and appointed SO1 Training at HQ 4th Brigade where he led the Monash TEWT series on Foundation War Fighting to prepare the Brigade's officers for Battle Group and sub-unit command appointments during Exercise HAMEL 2016.

Lieutenant Colonel Middleton's civilian career has spanned numerous senior appointments including Supply Chain director for Smith & Nephew Australia/New Zealand, Sales Director and Supply Chain Manager L'Oreal Australia, Supply Chain Manager at Ridley Agri-Products, Customer Business Manager at Procter & Gamble, and Assistant Director at the Australian Food and Grocery Council. He has also led a number industry projects to publish industry guides with the Consumer Goods Industry.

Out of hours, Lieutenant Colonel Middleton is a keen outdoors enthusiast enjoying camping, skiing and is a qualified civilian Dive Master. Through Army White Water Association he has been a raft guide for numerous adventure training activities both domestic and international. He also enjoys reading military history and complex decision making and fiction books around adventure.

Lieutenant Colonel Middleton is married to Samantha and lives in Kew.



LTCOL PAUL MIDDLETON

CO 5/6 RVR



EX COURTNEYS POST 2015 - Lt Bty Delivering Capability

EX COURTNEYS POST 2015 saw the combined Lt Bty from 4 and 9 BDE's successfully deployed in the field for the first time since the implementation of the paired brigade concept. The combined Light Battery (Lt Bty) was drawn from 2/10 Lt Bty in Victoria and 6/13 Lt Bty drawn from Tasmania and South Australia and deployed to Cultana Training Area for 9 days. The exercise construct allowed for full Reception, Staging, On-Forwarding and Integration (RSO&I) followed by both live fire and tactical phases for the Bty and proved to be a strong construct in developing an integrated capability.

MAJ Garry Rolfe (BC 2/10 Lt Bty) said "Overall it was the first full call sign activity and

Cultana proved to be an excellent training area, enabling us to achieve technical and tactical objectives. The integration of the teams both at the Joint Fire Teams (JFT) and on the Mortar line was strong and the two sub-units complement each other on manning and skills very well."

The Lt Bty achieved a number of technical competencies using the 81mm Mortar. Capability outcomes included the demonstration of High Explosive (HE) missions by day and night; adjustment of HE using Night Fighting Equipment (NFE) only; illum and Coord illum missions adjusting with the aid of NFE, and the execution of an Final Preparation Fire (FPF).

The opportunity to conduct HE adjustment at night using NFE can be particularly

difficult given the loss of depth perception; despite this targets were successfully engaged on a consistent basis.

For many this was either the first time conducting this range of technical missions over a number of days. GNR Mitchell (6/13 Lt Bty) commented "Working together as a full Bty was excellent and this exercise was the first time I'd fired and observed a close FPF with HE".

LTCOL Middleton (CO 5/6 RVR) commented "I am very happy with the technical skills tested and also the consistent focus on safety, especially among JNCO's. We have a good standard of operator and an excellent depth of knowledge among the BC's, IG's and SMIG's and these staff used the activity to consistently enhance knowledge across the Bty".



The SMIG demonstrating his loading and ducking capabilities

Ron & Lynette Ludeman from South Africa

What a delightful evening the committee had spending time with Lynette and Ron Ludeman from Johannesburg on their recent visit to Australia for a family catch up. Luckily for us, Ron knew about the Royal Australian Artillery Association of Victoria as he keeps up to speed with our activities by reading Cascabel off our website. Who would have thought but we are very grateful he does as we would never have had the wonderful opportunity in meeting them.

As secretary, I received an email back in early February from some random bloke from South Africa introducing himself as an avid Gunner since 1948 and wishing to catch up with other Gunners during his visit to Melbourne around ANZAC Day. Well, I said to myself, that doesn't happen every-day, who is this bloke and why is he contacting me? It was all a bit strange really as we never get contacted by anyone outside Australia and we don't have any members in South Africa. So what do I do now!!

So that was the backdrop behind our initial contact with Lynette and Ron from Johannesburg who have the auspicious privilege of being our first website International Gunner visitors.

LTCOL Ronald Ludeman has been an avid Gunner since 1948 and spoke passionately of his career in Artillery, recalling many a good "warie" throughout the evening. It was fascinating talking to him about the subtle differences between our two armies but also noting the similarities with equipments, structures, exercises and opportunities in serving our countries. Upon retiring from the Army, he has been active in the Gunners' Association of South Africa, so much so that he was their National Chairman for three years and upon stepping down from that role, was awarded an Honorary Life Vice President of the Gunners'



Association of South Africa.

On behalf of the President and all members of the RAA Assoc of Victoria, we would like to thank Ron and Lynette for taking the time to track us down as we really enjoyed meeting both of you. We hope that we get the opportunity to meet again in the future and that you remember us with fond memories.

Ron has also very kindly offered that if any of our members ever visit South Africa and find themselves in or near to Johannesburg, please take the time to say "Hello" as you would be more than welcome.

Ubique

COL Jason Cooke.

This puts to shame the output of a number of Hollywood producers and/or directors.

All I can say is WOW!!!!!!!

This film was made by a 15 year old girl. It is the hottest thing on the internet and on Fox News today. Lizzie Palmer who put this YouTube program together, is 15 years old. There have been over 3,000,000 hits as of this morning. (As at 26/11/14. ed) In case you missed it, here it is.

<http://www.youtube.com/v/ervaMPt4Ha0&autoplay=1>

Courtesy WO2 Max Murray

BROOME'S ONE DAY WAR, courtesy of the Broome Historical Society, continues with episode two.

The other Empire Class flying boat, was an RAAF machine serial A18-10, on lease from Qantas. In charge of the "ground crew" was Cpl. Andrew Ireland, who was one of the few RAAF ground crew to ever receive a citation for bravery. His citation read as follows -

"At about 9-30 am Jap fighters attacked the flying boat. Cannon and machine gun fire set the aircraft on fire. The crew jumped overboard, but Ireland made his way to the flight deck to the rubber dinghy.

The Japs made their third run against the aircraft and Ireland was slightly wounded, and his face and chest were scorched from the flames. He reached the front door while the attack was at its height, when a petrol tank exploded - there were 5,800 litres of petrol aboard. Ireland was thrown into the water, but he managed to keep hold of the dinghy.

Inflating the rubber dinghy, Ireland picked up the crew and rescued four Dutchmen and a wounded Dutch woman who were in the water. As the flying boats were anchored nearly two kilometres offshore and a strong ebb tide was running, most of those lives might have been lost, but for Ireland's courage and presence of mind".

Capt. Lester Brain of Qantas, on hearing the gunfire from the attacking Zeros had run to the beach, and joined by Malcolm Millar, a company representative, had launched a small rowing boat and headed out to the scene of carnage in Roebuck Bay. About a kilometre from the shore they heard cries for help, and came upon two Dutch aviators who were supporting a young Dutch woman, who was on the verge of collapse. Nearby was another Dutch serviceman, who was swimming on his back, and supporting a young baby on his chest.

As the rowing boat would only hold Capt Brain and Millar, the young Dutch woman and the baby, another four of the survivors had to cling to the boat whilst it was rowed ashore. After depositing the refugees on the beach. Millar headed back out into the Bay to effect further rescues.

Capt. Brain recorded his recollections of this eventful day, in his diary. The entry for Tuesday March 3rd read as follows



Brain and The United States Army Air Corps lost 4 aircraft in the raid. Two were Boeing B.17 Flying Fortresses (top) and the other two were



Consolidated Liberators (bottom)

9.30 am - "Corinna" is being refuelled and 25 passengers and crew are waiting on the wharf with their baggage ready to go aboard.

Ambrose is ready to take this service and I am writing a letter to the Managing Director. Am interrupted by the unmistakable sound of machine guns and pop outside the hotel to see a number of Jap fighters diving on and shooting up the flying boats in the harbour. Got over to the shore and stood by watching it. There are 15 boats, and 3 of them are already alight and burning furiously.

The Jap fighters are not camouflaged but are bright silver with red spots under their wings. As they take it in turn to dive down on another flying boat, the tracers can be seen flashing into the water and the slower speed of the cannon shells can be heard.

As there is no defence or opposition it is apparent that pretty soon they will burn and sink every flying boat and probably the refuelling luggers and other water-craft nearby.

Shouts and screams can be heard coming across

the water from the burning boats and it appears that when the Japs have finished there will be nothing left afloat to rescue the survivors. The natives are in a state of panic, and will not assist me to drag a row-boat down the mud to the water. I find I am not strong enough to do this alone owing to fever and absence of food for some days past. Malcolm Millar (Mansfield and Co.) appears at the right moment, and between the two of us we get the row boat into the water. The Japs have finished off all the flying boats and are now proceeding over to the land aerodrome.

The Japs destroyed 6 big land planes on the aerodrome, including 2 Flying Fortresses and 2 Liberators. Only one of the Liberators succeeded in taking off and was promptly shot down into the sea in flames.

I would estimate the total casualties today as being 35-40 killed or drowned and an approximately similar number wounded. Quite a number of those killed are known to have gone



down with the burning wrecks and their bodies were not recovered.

Short Empire flying boat, serial A18-10, leased by the RAAF from Qantas, was destroyed in the raid.

Whilst there were many acts of heroism, by both the townspeople and the aircraft crews in attempting to rescue the survivors, the death toll was still quite high. It is estimated that about 50 Dutch personnel - men, women and children - perished in the flying boats, many of them trapped in the sinking hulks, and others being taken by sharks as they attempted to swim ashore. In all only about 30 bodies were recovered from Roebuck Bay.

Meanwhile other Zeros had been strafing the bombers and transports on the Broome airstrip, and before long these too were burning furiously, but fortunately there was no loss of life. By co-incidence, a Dutch pilot- Fl. Lt. "Gus" Winckel - had taken a machine gun from his Lockheed

Lodestar aircraft and was servicing it when the raid began.

Firing from the hip, with the barrel resting over his arm, Winckel managed to hit several of the low-flying enemy fighters, and was successful in shooting down the Zero flown by Warrant Officer Osamu Kudo. The Zero crashed into the sea, and Kudo was killed.

Some other resistance was offered by members of the 50 strong Broome Volunteer Defence Corps, under the command of Gallipoli veteran Harold McNee, firing their .303 rifles at the attacking formations, but with little results.



Two Australian soldiers sit on one of the 320 litre Zero drop tanks, which were jettisoned just as the raid commenced.

By 10.30 am all of the Allied aircraft at Broome had been destroyed, and the remaining eight Zeros and the "Babs" headed north to return to their base at Koepang. The attacking force had been operating at extreme range, and as they had spent much longer over the target than had been planned - due to the greater than expected number of Allied aircraft at Broome - fuel consumption was critical. Fuel exhaustion in fact caused Private Yasuo Matsumoto to ditch his Zero near a small island south of Rod Island, however he managed to reach the shore after a two hour swim. Later he was taken by canoe to Roti and then rescued by a Japanese patrol boat on the 20th March, rejoining his squadron the next day.

The story now returns to the two sergeants from the Liberator that was shot down into the ocean. Donoho and Beatty had swum to within a few hundred metres of the shore, but were washed out to sea by the outgoing tide. Beatty was tiring badly, and Donoho managed to keep him afloat during the night of the 3rd. They were separated during the morning, but on the afternoon of

Wednesday 4th March, after more than 36 hours in the water, Donoho managed to stagger ashore. He then dragged himself off in the direction of the aerodrome, and at about 9 pm was found by two American servicemen who took him to Colonel Legg, the American commanding officer.

Legg ordered a search of the beach, and Beatty was found early next morning, washed ashore and in an utterly exhausted state. He lapsed into unconsciousness soon after, and was flown to Perth for hospitalisation, but died there a few days later, without regaining consciousness.

Immediately after interrogating Donoho, Legg asked Capt. Brain to delay the departure of one of the Qantas flying boats until after first light the next morning, to search for other possible survivors from the downed Liberator, but Brain argued that the search could better be undertaken by sea, and in any case he was loath to risk an unarmed civilian flying boat to possible further attack.

As a consequence of Legg's request, Brain organised to borrow one of the refuelling launches, and before first light he, Qantas engineer Bennett, Shell Company coxwain Maurie Carseldine and RAAF doctor Fl. Lt. Smith set off from the Broome jetty to the site of the Liberator crash, to search for survivors. Before long it looked as if these four men might also be victims of the sea, as the vessel was not built for open sea work.

After leaving the relatively protected waters of Roebuck Bay, and rounding Entrance Point, the launch struck heavy seas. Before long the vessel was almost swamped, and the engine was saturated and stalled. It was only furious baling and the dumping overboard of three full 200 litre drums of fuel that kept the launch afloat, and luck that they managed to coax the engine back to life. After a few hours they reached the crash site, and after a thorough search of the area, all that could be found were a few items of wreckage, burned seat cushions, life jackets and the like. There were no survivors. It was a very tired launch crew that finally returned to the Broome jetty in the early afternoon.

The first aircraft to land in Broome after the raid was a MacRobertson Miller Aviation Company Lockheed 10A, en-route from Wyndham to Perth, and piloted by Captain Jimmy Woods. The

Lockheed arrived at Broome at about 11 am, some 30 minutes after the Zeros had departed, and Woods immediately crammed some of the wounded, and Mrs Biddy Bardwell (the only white woman resident in Broome at the time of the raid) into his machine and departed for Port Hedland. There were 22 people jammed into his 10 seat aircraft!

Whilst overflying the Eighty Mile Beach, some 150 km south of Broome, Woods sighted Dutch Dornier flying boat, serial X.36, stranded on the beach. (This machine, bound for Broome had missed the town the previous night, and set down on the sea near Anna Plains Station, and was stranded in the mud when the tide receded. The crew burnt the aircraft, thinking that otherwise it might fall into enemy hands). Woods dropped written instructions to the crew and passengers, and later dropped supplies to them when he returned to Broome later that evening.

Whilst landing at Broome, Woods taxied his Electra too close to a concrete tie-down drum and bent the tip of his propeller. In normal circumstances this would have grounded the aircraft, but this was wartime and Woods was made of sterner stuff. With RAAF Sgt. Harry Simpson, Woods went rummaging through some of the deserted homes until they found a hacksaw, and a couple of spare blades. The two of them then sawed about 75mm off each propeller tip, and then with a file cleaned up the tip. Woods then overloaded his machine with more refugees and headed off to the south. Harry Simpson witnessed the take off, and reports that the engine on the Electra was simply screaming on take off, and the wheels of the aircraft only just cleared the ground at the end of the airstrip.

Another aircraft that was lucky to escape destruction was the Qantas flying boat "Camilla" under the command of Capt. Sims. It arrived in Broome at 11.15 am, with 25 passengers and crew from the stranded State Shipping Service vessel "Koolama".

Broome residents were told by the American military authorities that they should evacuate the town, as previous experience had shown that Japanese air raids were usually followed by troop landings, and such could be expected shortly in Broome. As a result of this advice, Mr. A. S. Male, the Broome Road Board Chairman, sent the following telegram to State Premier Willcocks in

Perth -

"We demand that aerial transport be sent to Broome to evacuate civil population who desire to leave. Alternatively adequate Australian fighter protection be afforded to avoid repetition this mornings occurrence. Roads impassable. "

Many of the residents did not wait for a response to the telegram, and Bell Bros. (who were the contractors working on the airstrip) placed their vehicles at the disposal of the townspeople. A convoy was formed, and many of the residents headed south. Because of floodwaters (it was the "wet" season in the North), they could not proceed past Anna Plains Station, and many in the convoy turned back, returning to Broome on March 5th. For some time after the raid, it was the practice of the civil population to leave town early each morning and "go bush", returning in the afternoon when it was thought the danger from possible air raids would be passed. Perhaps this was a sound practice as another raid was launched on the 4th March, but had to turn back, when only 80 km from Broome, due to bad weather !

It is interesting to note that on March 4th, 1942, the Australian Prime Minister, Mr. John Curtin, made the following press statement.

"The rumours to the effect that loss of life in the Broome raid yesterday, were very heavy is utterly untrue. It is not in the national interest to make any statement giving details of casualties at any particular place, as this would give valuable information to the enemy. I can assure the Australian public however, that while some losses have been incurred - whether they be of life or property - the raid was not of a kind to give that satisfaction to the enemy which he expected. "

On March 6th, 1942, Radio Tokyo announced that Japanese Naval planes which had attacked Broome on Tuesday had destroyed 28 Allied aircraft. This report was published in the "West Australian" newspaper the next day - only a few days after the Prime Minister's statement - and gave a much more accurate assessment of the damage caused in the raid. So much for the peculiarities of Australian wartime press censorship!

COURTESY BROOME HISTORICAL SOCIETY



COURTESY BROOME HISTORICAL SOCIETY



Dutch machines destroyed in the attack included the Dornier DO.24 serial X-1 (left) and the Lockheed Lodestar serial LT9-18 (right). It was from the Lodestar that "Gus" Winckel took the machine gun and shot down Kudo's Zero fighter.

COURTESY BROOME HISTORICAL SOCIETY



Photo taken soon after the raid, shows the wreckage of the Boeing B.17 serial 41-2448



Photo taken in the late 1970's shows one of the flying boat wrecks in Roebuck Bay.

Diverse stories to be told

Learn lessons from WWI artillery battles with the Royal Australian Artillery Historical Company, Sgt Dave Morley reports.

IN LINE with Centenary of Anzac events being held across Australia over the next four years, the Royal Australian Artillery Historical Company (RAAHC) will be hosting a series of seminars titled *Firepower: Lessons from the Great War*.

Deputy Director Joint Concepts Lt-Col Nick Floyd has been president of the RAA Association (ACT) since 2011, and is also a board member of the RAAHC, as well as the project director for *Firepower*.

"Not only does the RAAHC want to get people to come along to the first event on May 13 at ADFA, we also want to make them aware of the entire seminar series over four years," he said.

"We'd also like to get some interest from people who can contribute material to the series."

He said the main thrust of the *Firepower* seminar series would be in Canberra, with 11 events scheduled.

"One of the other directors of the RAAHC is based in Melbourne and has already started organising a parallel series of events there, and we are looking to organise similar series elsewhere, including Sydney," he said.

An added highlight of the seminars will be the appearance of RAAHC's recently restored WWI 18-pounder gun at each event.

Lt-Col Floyd said the RAAHC was hoping to get as broad a cross-section of individuals involved as possible to contribute.

"We want to treat each of the different topics

with as much diversity as we can," he said. "So people who might be interested in leadership and command will get that, while people who are interested in soldier stories will get that."

He said some of the more technical topics such as technology in artillery, artillery tactics,



Troops try to get an 18-pounder gun out of the mud in October 1917 during the Third Battle of Ypres. Photo courtesy Australian War Memorial

combined arms tactics, and even tactics involving naval gunfire support and airpower, would be included.

"We will also be looking at the logistic train right

through from factory to arsenal to gun line,” he said.

“We recognise the stories that need to be told about all the parts that make up firepower.”

Lt-Col Floyd said a rich and diverse group of experts and academics who were passionate about the subject would be needed to cover the large range of topics.

“We already have many people who have come on board from the heavy-hitter top end of town, but equally we’re engaging directly with cadets from ADFA,” he said.

“They have a military history vocational group and we’re quite keen to get the young ADFA students to start their journey of discovery into Australia’s history and heritage.

“Equally, we’d be delighted to see young bombardiers, sergeants or captains from the regiments contribute a paper they might think is worthwhile, particularly if it is relevant to their unit.

“A lot of today’s batteries claim their lineage from the reorganisation of the Australian Field Artillery in 1916.”

Lt-Col Floyd said stories of an exploit by a gunner, a bombardier, a lieutenant or a forward observer from WWI, if told by a member of a unit that drew its lineage from that time, would be of interest.

“Defence Attaches are also being engaged as it could be a great opportunity for their country to send out an expert to tell their country’s story at the seminars,” he said.

“If an overseas expert is unable to attend in person we’d still be delighted to have a paper submitted by their Australia-based representatives.

“Even if we can’t have it presented on the day, we can put it into the collection and add it to the anthology of the work we’re collecting for this.

“Each contribution we receive will be published on our website.”

Lt-Col Floyd stressed that both officers and soldiers would benefit from attending the seminars because of the lessons focus of the series.

“It’s not just a study of history but, as the name suggests, we’re trying to ensure we’re true to the topic,” he said.

“The aim is to look carefully, objectively and analytically at things that exist in our past and that of our allies and opposition.

“We need to incorporate these lessons in today’s, and even tomorrow’s artillery - that’s our key purpose.”

Lt-Col Floyd said young soldiers and young subalterns would get an understanding of context out of the seminars.

“Like every corps or regiment, artillery has a proud tradition, and it’s important to understand why we and our comrades in arms have the pride each of us do in our corps and regimental histories,” he said.

“Where they came from, why they’re important and why we should continue to hold them in high esteem is an important aspect of a soldier’s character and a young officer’s character.”

The seminars will be podcast on the RAAHC website, ADFA website and regimental websites for those unable to attend.

Courtesy Army News



I wish to thank the editor—Vic Rae— of GUNFIRE, The newsletter of the Royal Australian Artillery Association [NSW] Inc for his kind permission to publish the following historical information. ed

Artillery Anniversaries by Decades - 2015

Anniversary	Date/Year	Action or Item of interest
130	1885	Gunnery School Middle Head established under MAJOR EGH Bingham RA and CAPT W St Pierre Bunbury RA
	3/3/1885	A' Bty - contingent departs Sydney and arrives in Sudan on the 29th. They were re-equipped with 9-pdrs. The contingent returned to Sydney on 23 June
	1885	Bare Island Fort, Botany Bay consisting of 1*RML 10 inch in casemate, 2* 9 inch, and 2*RML 80 pdrs. One of the 9 inch guns were replaced with a 6 inch MkV BL gun. It was operational from 1885 - 1910
120	1895	Gunnery courses at Middle Head are moved to South Head
	1895	Henry Head; 1895-1918 consisted of a two gun 6 inch MkV Battery
110	27/02/1905	NSW School of Gunnery at Middle Head is moved to Victoria Barracks
100	3-Feb-1915	Turkish forces attack Suez.
	19-Feb-1915	The Dardenelles Campaign opens
	April 1915	Battery of 4.7" naval guns installed at Rabaul. Initially manned by navy then permanent artillery
	25-Apr-1915	ANZAC landing at Gallipoli
	29-May-1915	Attack on Quinns Post Gallipoli
	6-Aug-1915	Battle for Lone Pine and Sari Bair begins
	20-Dec-1915	Evacuation of ANZAC & Suvla completed
90	7-Apr-1925	Army permitted to purchase Anti-Aircraft & Medium guns
	1925	1st Medium Artillery Brigade raised in NSW and the 2nd in VIC. Equipment included Hathi Tractors (Thornycroft – with permanent 4WD)
	1925	Two Arty Survey Companies raised
70	5-Mar-1945	Aust take Saposa, Solomon Islands
	1-May-1945	Landing Tarakan, Borneo
	7-May-1945	German hostilities ceased in Europe and Germany surrenders.
	8-May-1945	VE (Victory in Europe) Day
	11-May-1945	6th Div captures Wewak, New Guinea
	8-Jun-1945	Aust land on Bonis Peninsula Bougainville
	10-Jun-1945	9th Div land at Brunei, Labuan and Muar, Borneo
	1-Jul-1945	7th Div landed at Balikpapan

Anniversary	Date/Year	Action or Item of interest
	6 & 9-Aug-1945	Atom bomb dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki
	14-Aug-1945	Japan surrenders and hostilities ceased in the Pacific
	15-Aug-1945	VP (Victory in the Pacific) Day
	2-Sep	Japan signs the instrument of surrender
	13-Sep-1945	Japan surrenders at Wewak, New Guinea
60	Feb 1955	Regular artillery batteries renumbered: 'A' Bty became 100 (A) Bty 3rd AA Bty became 103 Bty 4 Locating Bty became 104 Bty As the guns in use were gun/howitzers it was decided to rename the batteries following the convention of the howitzers in the WW1 Artillery Brigades
	24-May-1955	105 Bty raised for overseas duty
	12-Sep-1955	Australian advance guard arrives in Penang
	19-Oct-1955	105 Bty arrives in Penang to join 28 Commonwealth Brigade Group
50	7-Mar-1965	Operation Sarawak commences, 102 Fd Bty is deployed from 27 April - 14 August
	27-May-1965	1 RAR departs Sydney by sea for SVN supported by 161 NZ Fd Bty
	9/1965	105 Bty deployed to SVN
	9/1965	131 Div Loc Bty reformed as an all regular unit. The CMF personnel moved to 133 Div Loc Bty
40	1975	Last of the CMF units receive and complete conversion training on the 105mm M2A2 howitzer
	April, 1975	Commander Field Force Artillery, Brig Peter Norton assumes command of all artillery units for the first time since WW2
20	11-Nov-1995	Army conducted a Mini- Tattoo at Victoria Barracks, Paddington, the first since 1953
10	Apr 2005	The Network Centric Warfare Roadmap for development was announced that would enable troops to receive real-time information and imagery relevant to their mission or situation
Current		Army reorganisation Plan Beersheba planned from 2011 and reaffirmed by government in 2013 is in a phase where each combat brigade is being hardened with the re-rolling of existing units as Armoured Cavalry Regiments 7 Bde this year will test the Light Artillery Battery implementation during EX HAMEL Centenary of ANZAC and the deployment of Australian artillery, both men and equipment throughout the AIF



THE HON DARREN CHESTER MP

Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Defence

Republic of Vietnam Cross of Gallantry with Palm Unit Citation awarded to the 1st Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment



Australian Defence Force (ADF) members who served with the 1st Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment (1RAR) in Vietnam 50 years ago have been recognised with the Republic of Vietnam Cross of Gallantry with Palm Unit Citation (CGWP).

The Governor-General, His Excellency General the Honourable Sir Peter Cosgrove AK, MC (Retd) has formally approved the awarding of the Citation in recognition of the military assistance provided to the former Republic of Vietnam while under the operational command of the United States 173rd Airborne Brigade.

Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Defence, Darren Chester welcomed the decision.

"I am delighted to confirm that the Republic of Vietnam Cross of Gallantry with Palm Unit Citation will be awarded to members of 1 RAR," Mr Chester said.

"This decision follows a three year review by the Defence Honours and Awards Appeal Tribunal who determined that the awarding of the Cross of Gallantry with Palm Unit Citation was intended not only for the 173rd Airborne Brigade, but also the Australian forces who operated under their command."

"This award finally acknowledges those Australian soldiers and recognises the important contribution they made 50 years ago."

In May 1965, the Australian Government agreed to provide military assistance to the Republic of Vietnam. Initially, 1 RAR was restricted to operating in the Bien Hoa tactical area of responsibility (TAOR). When the 173rd Airborne Brigade deployed to operate away from Bien Hoa, 1 RAR was left to conduct operations within the Bien Hoa

TAOR and to provide defence for the air base. However, on 30 September 1965 the Australian Prime Minister agreed to lift the restrictions on the deployment of 1 RAR. For the remainder of their tour of duty in Vietnam, the members of 1 RAR served alongside the other units of 173rd Airborne Brigade on every operation and became the third battalion of the Brigade.

1 RAR participated in seven operations with 173rd Airborne Brigade between 5 May 1965 and 31 May 1966 that were referred to in the citation that awarded the Republic of Vietnam CGWP to 173rd Airborne Brigade.

About the Republic of Vietnam Cross of Gallantry with Palm Unit Citation

The Citation was awarded by the former Government of the Republic of Vietnam (South Vietnam) to specific military units that distinguished themselves in battle.

To be eligible for the CGWP members must have served in Vietnam under the command of 173rd Airborne Brigade from 5 May 1965 to 31 May 1966 in one of the following units;

- 1st Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment
- 1st Armoured Personnel Carrier Troop RAAC
- **105th Field Battery, RAA**
- 3rd Field Troop, RAE
- 161st Reconnaissance Flight, AAVN
- 1st Australian Logistic Support Company
- Battery Section, 4th Field Regiment Light Aid Detachment RAEME (and redesignated in country to 105th Field Battery Section, 12th Field Regiment Light Aid Detachment RAEME.

RAA Luncheon - 2015

The 2015 RAA Luncheon 2015 was another great success where 81 Gunners all enjoyed catching up with old mates over an excellent two course meal. It was held at the RACV Club in the city on Wednesday 4th of March 2015 in our usual spot upstairs. Brigadier D. I. Perry OAM RFD ED cordially invited serving and retired Gunners in general but especially thanked those World War 2 Veterans and Vietnam Veterans who attended the Luncheon. Major General J. Barry AM MBE RFD ED was present and he invited Reverend Father Robert (Bob) Maguire (Lieutenant Colonel Chaplain) of 2 Field Regiment to start the Luncheon with our Gunner Grace.

Colonel G. Farley OAM RFD ED provided us with another one of his Gunner Quiz challenges and luckily he had the answers. I believe that we all had the correct answers! It was great to see Reverend J. Leaver AO RFD ED (Lieutenant Colonel Chaplain) up and about after some health concerns, so well done on the great medical recovery to attend the Luncheon. Apart from the traditional attendees, I would like to make special mention to the honoured Veterans from 2/4 & 4 Field Regiment Associations and in particular Sgt Semple from 2/12 Field Regiment (Rat from Tobruk). We were also honoured to have some Vietnam Veterans from 131 Divisional Locating Battery, 104 Field Battery, HQ Battery from 1 Field Regiment, and A Battery from 12 Field Regiment, RAA. We hope that future luncheons will include more Veterans.

Ubique

Ssgt. Reg Morrell



Moving Last Post ceremony

Cpl Mark Doran

AS ONE of his last official acts, CA Lt-Gen David Morrison recounted the story of Australia's 100th Victoria Cross recipient, Cpl Cameron Baird, of 2 Cdo Regt, at the Australian War Memorial's Last Post ceremony on May 13.

The most important guests at the ceremony were Cpl Baird's family, Doug, Kaye and Brendan Baird, who were met by Prime Minister Tony Abbott and presented with Army's new Remembrance Pin by Governor-General Sir Peter Cosgrove (retd).

Cpl Baird was serving with the Australian Special Operations Task Group at the time of his death, and was the 40th Australian to be killed in action in Afghanistan.

Other VC recipients Keith Payne, Ben Roberts-Smith and Daniel Keighran also attend the ceremony, as well as many of Cpl Baird's 2 Cdo colleagues.

Lt-Gen Morrison said he could not think of a more fitting way to conclude his career as the Chief of Army than to be at the Last Post ceremony remembering a fallen Australian.

"In this case a fallen Australian soldier who died while I was the Chief and who was also the recipient of the Victoria Cross for Australia and the Medal of Gallantry," Lt-Gen Morrison said.

"It was wonderful to be a part of the ceremony."



CA Lt-Gen David Morrison salutes during the Last Post at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra.

Courtesy Army News

Anzac spirit on song

Country music legend Lee Kernaghan's tribute to Aussie diggers

Cpl Mark Doran

Courtesy Army News

IN HONOUR of the 100th anniversary of the Anzacs' landing at Gallipoli, Lee Kernaghan has released his inspirational album *Spirit of the Anzacs*.

Recorded in Sydney with producer Garth Porter, the album is a tribute to those who have given their lives, served and today step into the unknown to serve their country.

Mr Kernaghan and Mr Porter were granted access to the Australian War Memorial (AWM) archives where they researched precious war letters penned by diggers to their loved ones at home.

Each song on the 16-track album was inspired by the letters, diaries and stories from the battlefields of WWI to present conflicts.

Mr Kernaghan said it was some of the most powerful material he had the privilege to record during his career.

"I've always had a deep interest in all things military, especially the history of the Anzacs," he said.

"When I started reading the precious documents at the AWM I could almost hear songs coming out of them.

"The album takes you on a real journey, from the trenches of the Western Front to the bombing of Darwin, Kokoda, Long Tan and the dust of Uruzgan province in Afghanistan.

"They are not just songs about war - they are songs about the human spirit, courage, loss and mateship.

"It is a project that goes to the heart of who we are as a nation."

The evocative letters of Pte Roy Denning, of No. 1 Fd Coy, Australian Engineers, who survived battles at Gallipoli and the Western Front, inspired the opening pieces *For King and Country* and *To the Top of the Hill* on the album.

Pte Denning first saw action on the beach at Anzac Cove. The great adventure had begun. In a letter



home he wrote, "Give me Australians as comrades and I will go anywhere duty calls, and I hope to be pardoned for saying so, being one myself.

Denning survived Gallipoli and the Western Front, returning to Sydney on October 18, 1918.

He was physically intact, but permanently changed by his experience. He lived until the age of 89.

The lyrics for */ Will Always Be With You* come from the sealed letter written by Pte Benjamin Chuck, of 2 Cdo Regt, before he went on an operation in Afghanistan, to be read by his partner in the event of his death.

Pte Chuck, 27, died in a helicopter crash in Afghanistan on June 21, 2010. He was on his third deployment to Afghanistan.

AWM Director Brendan Nelson said Mr Kernaghan had created albums that told Australian stories throughout his career - from the struggles and hardship of life on the land, to the great and sometimes terrible beauty of our country, to the resilience, pride and good humour of our people.

"Every nation has its story - this is ours," Dr Nelson said.

Spirit of the Anzacs features Lisa McCune, John Schumann, Sara Storer and Fred Smith, as well as Guy Sebastian, the band Sheppard, Jon Stevens, Jessica Mauboy, Shannon Noll and Megan Washington.

Cpl Ben Roberts-Smith VC recites Lest We Forget and Australian Army Band musicians LCpl David Wood and Cpl Adam Cameron-Taylor play horns and bagpipes respectively for the recording.

The Spirit of the Anzacs single is based on former Prime Minister Paul Keating's moving eulogy at the entombment of the Unknown Australian Soldier.

Mr Kernaghan said Mr Keating's immortal words, "He is all of them. And he is one of us," led him to write a song that paid tribute to all the men and women who had served and sacrificed on behalf of our country over the past 100 years.

"The artists, songwriters, ABC, record labels and publishers will donate their proceeds from the song Spirit of the Anzacs to Soldier On and Legacy," he said.

"During my career I've always tried to give a voice to the bush through my songs. Looking back on this album I feel everything I have done has been preparing me for the sacred privilege of singing the voice of our Australian servicemen and women.

"When I listen to the album I go from having shivers up the spine and goose bumps up the arm to wiping away the odd tear."

Soldier On and Legacy will also share a donation of \$3 per ticket sold to the Spirit of the Anzacs - The Arena Tour. Jack Thompson, Lisa McCune, Mr Kernaghan and John Schumann will lead the cast in a musical and theatrical journey based on the true and personal stories of those serving abroad and their loved ones at home.

Tickets go on sale on March 21 for the arena tour, which opens in Newcastle on August 21 then plays in Brisbane on August 28, Wollongong on September 2, Sydney on September 4, Tamworth on September 8, Melbourne on September 11,

Adelaide on September 15 and Perth on September 18. To purchase the single or album, visit spiritoftheanzacs.umusic.com.au The limited deluxe edition features 20 tracks plus a 64-page booklet which includes the letters, stories and images behind each song.

To view this fantastic presentation, go to:

[HTTPS://www.youtube.com/embed/Q20DUalzYJg](https://www.youtube.com/embed/Q20DUalzYJg)

The following is an edited version of a poem published courtesy of Ssgt Reg Morrell

He was getting old and paunchy
And his hair was falling fast,
And he sat around the R.S.L.,
Telling stories of the past.

Of a war that he once fought in
And the deeds that he had done,
In his exploits with his mates;
They were heroes, every one.

And 'tho sometimes to his neighbours
His tales became a joke,
All his mates listened quietly
For they knew where of he spoke.

But we'll hear his tales no longer,
For ol' Jack has passed away,
And the world's a little poorer
For a Digger died today.

When politicians leave this earth,
Their bodies lie in state,
While thousands note their passing,
And proclaim that they were great.

The Media tell of their life stories
From the time that they were young,
But the passing of a Digger
Goes unnoticed, and unsung.

Is the greatest contribution
To the welfare of our land,
Some smoothie who breaks his promise
And cons his fellow man?

He was just a common Digger,
And his ranks are growing thin,
But his presence should remind us
We may need his likes again.

For when countries are in conflict,
We find the Digger's part,
Is to clean up all the troubles
That the politicians start.

If we cannot do him honour
While he's here to hear the praise,
Then at least let's give him homage
At the ending of his days.

Perhaps just a simple headline
In the paper that might say:

"OUR COUNTRY IS IN MOURNING,
A DIGGER DIED TODAY."

When I joined the CMF in 1965, it was at Landcox St, Brighton. Thankfully, the depot was manned by Artillery.

However, in previous years the occupants were quite different. The following is reproduced from:

DEFENCE FORCE NOTES (Intelligence) 46TH BATTALION (BRIGHTON RIFLES).

Frankston and Somerville Standard (Vic. : 1921 - 1939) Friday 10 June 1938

46TH BATTALION (BRIGHTON RIFLES)

Amongst the important promotions announced at the end of last week, are two that will meet with the unqualified approval of the "Rifles," their Divisional Commander, Brig Gen. E. A. Drake-Brockman, C.B.C. M.G., D.S.O., V.D., having received his promotion to the rank of Major General, and their Brigade-Commander, Colonel E. P. Lind, moving up to the rank of Brigadier. Both officers are well known to all ranks of the 46th., and both have found numerous occasions on which to express their approval of fine work carried out by the troops.

During the recent Trooping the Colours, Major Gen. Drake-Brockman announced his appointment as Honorary Colonel of the 46th., his promotion is therefore an added honour for the regiment. Brigadier Lind's bluff and breezy manner is well known amongst the troops, and what he says to them is always straight to the point. He has no time for frills and affectation. Both commanders will carry with them the best wishes of all the 46th officers, n.c.o.'s and men.

The following arrangements for the King's Birthday march through Melbourne are taken from a Divisional Circular, dated 1/6/88: 46th Battn. Brighton: Troop train movements are: Depart Brighton "Beach 9.53 a.m., Mid Brighton 9.55, North. Brighton 9.57, Elsternwick 9.59, Rippon-lea 10.1, Windsor 10.4 a.m. (Special troop train). Frankston line: Accommodation has been arranged for troops on the 9.1 a.m., ex Frankston.

: On - disembarkation in Melbourne, the parade will fall in on No. 9 platform, facing St. Kilda road, in the following order: Band, A. coy, B. coy, D. coy, H.Q. Wing.: Battalion will move through race-course gate to St.-Kilda road and Alexander avenue intersection. Markers at assembly point must be in their places by 10.15 a.m., and the Battalion by 10.35, the march commencing, at 11 a.m. Dress: Full service dress, waist belt, side arm, and rifle only to be carried.

This will be the first march of the combined services for a very long time, and citizens who want to fill in the morning prior to cheering, on their favorite football teams in the afternoon, should avail themselves of the opportunity of seeing our volunteer forces on parade.

Members of the Sergeant's Mess had a wonderfully successful night last Saturday, over sixty sergeants and friends assembling in their palatial rooms at Landcox street. Dancing, competitions and games made the hours speed only too quickly. Vocal items were ably rendered by Sergt. Jack Lewis, Sgt. J Boyd (Long Tack Sam), and C.O. Bill Delves. The latter, whose business transfer to Euroa last year caused his resignation (after having qualified for the Efficiency Medal) has now re-enlisted with his old outfit, and probably has a bar to his E.M. as an objective. Good luck and welcome home, Bill. Excellent music was supplied by Rozan's orchestra, and kept the dancers moving rhythmically.

Speaking of music, the sergeant's old radio was valued for trade in purposes at £2. Treasurer Merv Cunningham had other ideas, however, and briefly his idea resulted in the sum of £8/17/6 being raised, and President Frank Riding quite unexpectedly acquired the old set for a very modest outlay. By the way, the worthy treasurer is also the regimental "Quarter Bloke."

Still on the subject of music, tenor horn player "Bill" Cook, of the band, has again got the wanderlust, and will be an absentee for the next two or three months. Not for the first time, he has left instructions that his regimental pay be donated to the band's "tour fund." A stout fellow.

START OF TAPE 3 - SIDE A Identification: This is side five, in other words side one of the third cassette of the interview with Mr Norman Whitelaw. End of identification.

We were talking about Subic Bay.

Well, it was from there that this task force sallied forth to reduce the Japanese force in Cebu down south. There are plenty of Japs still in the Philippines when the Subic Bay base was reoccupied. There were even some Japanese elements in ... in Manila Bay which were causing a bit of worry.

What, people living on ships I'm told?

Yes, people were living on ships; people ... living in villages.

Japanese?

Japanese, yes. But they were gradually rounded up one after the other. I went down to Manila Bay on board the Phoenix to bombard a concrete battleship on a reef which was placed there before the war by the Americans. It was shaped like a ship but they'd built a concrete platform to carry two turrets, each with two guns in them - I don't know what size guns they were but they were pretty big - they might have been fifteen-inch guns or something like that. But the Japs were still in this jolly thing and they were taking pot shots at the passing craft and they decided they'd have to reduce this and I went down with the Nashville - did I say Nashville - Phoenix I think, Phoenix. And she was ultimately sunk as the General Belgrano in the Argentinean war of the Falklands. She was the Belgrano - funny - she had five turrets of three guns each, fifteen six-inch guns and she couldn't fire a broadside because it was too much for her.

Right. It would pull her over?

Yes. But any rate, the Japs were still down in Cebu and this operation which they code named V2 was launched and we went down there with American ships - I don't know whether I've got the names of them - but, however, the Hobart was there and we fired quite a number of rounds and, ultimately, having done the job, the American marines were ashore and we went back to Subic Bay. And things were hotting up then for the Australian 6th and 7th Divisions because we were getting intelligence that we were going to be ... I thought, sidelined. I wasn't for it because the Americans were driving straight for Japan and the Australians were left to do the cleaning up on the flanks and ... but still it had to be done I guess. I would rather have left the Japs there.

Well, that's a very common comment. I mean, the number of people who regard those campaigns as political rather than military, that I've interviewed - I mean, they might have been wrong - but it seems to be in a fairly widespread feeling among the ranks.

I'm sure it was. When they saw their own being killed on these islands such as Tarakan and Balikpapan and when the Japs could have been left there to stew in their own juice until ultimately peace came. But I guess it's not a soldier's way to leave anybody behind who could disrupt lines of communication. They didn't have any aircraft; they were certainly in poor shape too. But, I guess one of the influencing factors was the fact that in Borneo they did have prisoners-of-war of ours and there was that horrible march in Borneo as well as our Singaporean friends, they had been there for three and a half years. (5.00) But I used to think it was a great pity to get the casualties every evening that the landing troops suffered. I used to think they were all unnecessary. But, however, it was done. You couldn't help but to feel it was unnecessary. But dangerous; it was completely dangerous. I mean, Tarakan was a devil of an operation. My brother was engaged in that. He was a heavy ack-ack commander and I saw his landing craft go past my ship in the middle of the night.

You knew it was his?

Didn't like it much. However, he got out of it. And very interesting operations though and very fully documented before we went in and I'm sorry I haven't got all the intelligence here. I thought I was going to be given it, but all I got was my reports. However, what ... can I tell you now about Tarakan was the next one. These were interesting because the ship was always sent first to a little bay off the north-east cor-

ner of Borneo called Tawitawi and it was there that we anchored for ... on three occasions I think and troops were given recreation leave to either go ashore - very few went ashore - most of them swam around the ship amongst all the water snakes and things. I went off on one occasion with the gunnery officer and the torpedo officer and we dropped charges over on the reef and we came back with about four fish for the troops which was very good. And another time, which was again, one of the sad time. We were steaming down to Balikpapan, I think, and steaming through these same waters off Tawitawi and there were Japanese floating themselves on logs across between Tawitawi and the main island of Borneo. And as each ship approached a group of five or six Japs, they'd blow themselves up on these log rafts. Dreadful to see. No fun at all. I mean, ...

so you can kill yourself fighting but you don't blow yourself up.

We did have ... we got two on board the Hobart. They were picked up by some ship or the other that was going elsewhere and put them on board Hobart. They were locked up till we got back to Subic Bay. I don't know what happened to them. But I was terribly sorry for everybody landing on those islands, they were bad ... bad news. Tarakan was an oil base. I think Balikpapan, they had oil too. Brunei didn't; Brunei was a pretty place. But however.

So that all culminated eventually, of course, and the bombs and Hobart going to Tokyo Bay for the signing, didn't it?

Yes, indeed, yes. I can't tell you much about that because ... there's an old saying in the army, 'Never volunteer'. Never try to change the course of events. Well, by the time war was finished and the bombs had been dropped on Nagasaki and Hiroshima I was itching to get home and I was sending messages down to Flinders Naval Depot, 'For God sake rescue me from here. I've been away for six years and I have a daughter I've hardly seen'. So back came a message saying that ...

Just wait for that plane.

We were talking about the surrender and you were saying you were trying to get back.

Oh, that's right. We were ... my party was requested to board this Duntroon [sic. Kanimbla] that was coming through from somewhere - I don't know where it was coming from - but we were the only troops on board. Just me and my four blokes with all our equipment and we ... we had just left the Hobart having heard of the peace and having experienced the most colossal party of the war and I went over the side very hung-over the next morning to board the Duntroon which was allegedly sailing for Townsville for some reason or another.

Sorry, this was before the signing? No, a ... (10.00) After the signing?

No, before the signing, yes, at the cessation of hostilities. So Whitelaw landed himself in this pretty pickle of getting on board the Duntroon. Duntroon proceeding to Morotai and being turned back to pick up POWs which were being released from Singapore and from Borneo and other places and we were put ashore. I pleaded to stay on board but the captain of the Duntroon said, 'Four or five extra people, we can bring four or five prisoners back. Over the side you go'. So, any rate my shore fire control parties had all assembled in Morotai and the unit was together for the first time during the whole of the war when war finished and we all assembled on Morotai, all itching to get home. And I eventually begged the CO, I said, 'If I can get a ride out of this place - I've got more points to get ashore than anybody else round here because I joined the first day war ... enlistments were called for - and I'm married and I have one daughter and I've been away for six years. I've been out of Australia for four and a half of those six years'. He said, 'Well, you can go and do what you can do'. I thought I'd find some naval bloke, I'd met up, and I'd get on his ship and I'd go south. But, ultimately, there was a bloke by the name of [Hawsrey?], [Ron Hawsrey?], and I ... we were sitting in a jeep on the aerodrome in the streaming rain under a verandah trying to keep ourselves cheerful amidst the downpour of rain and out of the rain came a Dakota - an RAF Dakota - who was lost. So we informed him where he was and eventually we found he was going for Parafield which was outside Adelaide and he had three Rolls Royce engines welded into the centre of this plane and that's where they were going to be delivered - to Parafield. And I said, 'What troops can

you take down with you?'. He said, 'I'm not a troop carrier'. I said, 'But we can sit all round you', I said, 'How many can you take? You must be able ...'. Any rate he said he'd take twenty. So back to the camp.

How many did you have?

Well, I found twenty blokes, I tell you, very smartly with high priority to get out. And I wasn't letting this bloke out of my sight. I slept on the ground that night and he had my bed. His name was Sparks, Flying Officer Sparks, that's all I know about him. But any rate we flew to Biak next day and flew to Townsville and I thought, 'Well, some army bloke's going to heave me off this plane now I'm in Australia. I don't care, I'm in Australia'. We went down to Brisbane and I still was going well. Got out of Brisbane and I got to Sydney and I thought, 'I'll get to Melbourne and my wife's living at Point Cook and this is where this plane is going to land'. But I was hauled off at Point Cook ... at ... in Sydney and I was told to catch the train down. But the funny part about it was when I was travelling in this plane over Sydney Harbour there was the Hobart. She had taken General Blamey to Tokyo, done all the signing, had all that fun and games and steaming back, she got back on the same day that I did.

So you don't change the course of events by volunteering or doing anything. Just sit and do what you're told. However, I was pleased to get back and that would be about ... I don't know ... Subic Bay ... Must be November? Turn it off for a minute. Perhaps if you just make that correction. Yes, I have a correction to make. It was not the HMAS Duntroon it was the HMAS Kanimbla which took us from the Hobart in Subic Bay to Morotai.

Right. So you got back to Australia. How did you get out? Or is that what you wanted to do? You were a regular army officer anyway aren't you?

No, I was never a regular army officer. Both my brothers have been and all I wanted to do was to shake myself clear of the army and get back into civil life. And my dad, who was then major-general commanding Southern Command Military District, was posted to Western Australia and I knew that I could have his house which was more important to me than anything else at that time because no houses had been built and materials weren't available to build them. So I had a house to go to happily and so I set myself out to get out of the army as soon as I could and I did just that. To go back in the army when the CMF was formed ... reformed after the war. (15.00)

So you rejoined the CMF after the war?

Mmm.

So looking back and ... oh well, just to follow that on. In a very brief form could you just tell me what you've done since the war, the sort of career that you've followed since the war?

Yes. I joined a company which was importing floor coverings from Britain and Canada and I became very wrapped up in this but - I did very well too which is good fortune I suppose because I didn't know much about it - but I always had a slant towards the rural side of things and my father-in-law had a farm which interested me greatly and it was in Gippsland, a very productive part of Victoria, and ultimately I left this importing firm and bought my own property down on the Tarwin River in Gippsland. Unfortunately, that came to an end because I rolled a tractor over myself and I was in diabolical straits for about six months and when I was able to get into work I rejoined this importing firm again. And ultimately I became a member of Myers in Geelong and looking after their furniture and carpet section and ultimately their electrical and furniture section. And when the first of the outer city centres were planned, I joined the staff to build the first at Chadstone and I stayed there for quite a number of years and a friend of mine - another gunner bloke who I met in New Guinea, we'd become very firm friends - he was a man of the land and he was wondering how we could get rid of loads and loads of skimmed milk powder from which butter is separated. Butter was selling well; skimmed milk powder wasn't and he wondered how we could marry up dairy calves to skimmed milk to rear more dairy calves and he went abroad to find out how he could do it and he came back, he said, with the whole secret. So in 1963 we formed a company which sold a Dutch product under licence or we ultimately made it under licence in Australia and New Zealand and it's called [Dankavit?]. And that means young animals can be reared artificially without

mothers' milk but this milk replacer. And it's still going strong in Australia and I was managing director for about twenty years. I remember as a boy I used to see the signs all around the country areas ... In country areas. ... that I grew up in.

Looking back at the war, you had a varied war. What did it mean for you that whole experience?

Well, six years out of any span ... lifespan is a fair time and you can't leave it without impressions and memories and most of them are good. I think that they are good because you forget the bad ones, especially after a span of years, you forget the bad times and when you gather as unit friends or just artillery friends you talk about the good times and the experiences that you had. I have ... I made very lasting friendships. Unfortunately they're knocking themselves off these days because we're all in our seventies which is a sad thing but, I suppose, our span of life is reasonably reached when we reach seventy and everything else is a bonus. And I'm enjoying that bonus at the moment talking to you.

Right. Tell me a bit more about Hobart?

Well, I mentioned before that one of the worries of the Hobart was the supply of ammunition. Apparently American six-inch ammunition was not suited to the ship whereas there's plenty of American ammunition around. The Hobart was dependent upon her supply from Sydney and I think it came up in a destroyer called the Stuart which was a demilitarised destroyer made into a supply vessel. But she had speed and as a destroyer and could deliver things quickly to the four or five Australian ships which were in this task force based on Subic Bay. (20.00) I have a record here that during that whole commissioning the Hobart fired 3,586 six-inch rounds in support of the army ashore and fired 1,114 four-inch rounds. Now, they were the only ones that Hobart fired during that commission and everyone was for the army. There was no ship to ship operation at all in that commissioning. So you can really say that I fired the last shot in anger on the Hobart, or in the Hobart. During my stay on board Hobart I had a great rapport with the warrant officers' mess. The warrant officers were pretty senior men on board a cruiser. They had their own mess and then the petty officers had their mess and other ranks messed in where they slept. But the warrant officers rigged up a big map and I was able to get intelligence through my net more so than they could and I marked this map up every ... every day for them because of those exciting days when the Russians were rushing across the face of Asia and Europe - the situation changes every day and I could move the pins in this map further and further towards Berlin. And with listening into what wire-less was available to us we were able to add more information to it. I had some very happy nights with the warrant officers. I think that they were freer and a more happy lot than the officers who were weighed down by responsibilities. An interesting point regarding gunnery on board ...

Sorry, just wait for the [clock]. ...

ship.

Right.

An interesting point regarding gunnery and care of the guns on board ships. We ... at Cebu, we had to engage targets with a four-inch ack-ack battery. They were two turrets on each port and starboard side, each having two guns. And the gunnery officer wished to engage half the ammunition from one side and half on the other. Now the ship was at anchor so to keep the wear of the gun barrels more or less even, halfway through our task, the navigating officer was asked to turn the ship 180 degrees so the other battery would bear. And that took precisely eight minutes. The ship was re-anchored and the other side - I can't recall whether it was port or starboard but it doesn't matter - continue the task. Do you want to go through this?

Yes.

From the ammunition stand point it is very interesting to note that the six-inch ammunition fired during this commissioning was 3,586 rounds. The four-inch, total number fired, other than in practice, was 1,114 rounds. The biggest expenditure was fourteen hundred and ninety-one six-inch rounds at Balikpapan where no four-inch was fired at all. We fired them all from anchor and the four-inch was out of range. *Good. END OF TAPE 3*

A different take on WWI diggers

Book tells of criminals in First Australian Imperial Force

KHAKI CRIMS AND DESPERADOES

Author: Russell Robinson Publisher: Pan MacMillan Australia 2014 Price: \$33

THERE are dozens of books telling of the courage and chivalry of our WWI diggers, but this book goes in the opposite direction.

As the name suggests, not all our diggers were heroes.

Russell Robinson has done an exceptional job researching the backgrounds of the criminals who chose to hide in the Army and those whose Army service taught them the skills needed for a life of crime.

He said his research was exhaustive, using military records and cross-referencing everything with newspaper accounts, police records and court documents.

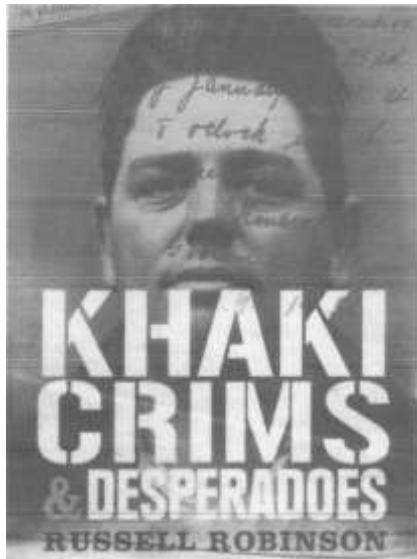
"As well, many of the battlefield accounts had to be researched, including the official versions and first-hand accounts," he said.

Mr Robinson focused his book on WWI partly because of the centenary of that war.

"But there is also a fascination with Australian crime of the 1920s-30s," he said.

"Many of the major players were returned soldiers, although the majority failed as soldiers, spending much of their time in khaki going AWOL, in custody, or in jail with venereal disease."

Even our VC winners were not unblemished, with two of them spending time in venereal disease hospitals.



The book also tells of a criminal who had spent 16 of his 34 years in jail, but the NSW Attorney-General saw good in him and reduced his sentence. The man joined up and became the perfect digger, before being killed in action a few months before the end of the war.'

For those who want to read WWI history from a different perspective, this book is well worth a read.

The happenings of our anonymous BC continues where he is now a Lance Bombardier in the CMF.

World events seeped Southwards some months later. Anxieties arose because President Nasser of Egypt was threatening to 'Nationalise, then close, the Suez Canal. Politicians blustered about threats to our trade routes to Europe. Britain and France warned of military action to keep open the Canal. Australia pledged to support the "Mother Country", again. Our Regiment was ordered to increase its combat readiness. In the event of action I would be sub-ordinate to a Bombardier.

In my assessment he was barely competent. My thinking may have been partly naive and partly conceited but I felt if I were to go into battle then I would rather trust my own judgement rather than trust my life to the judgement of someone in whom I had little confidence.

On the advice of a friendly Sergeant, I enrolled in an Advanced Signaller's Course to enhance my chance of promotion to Bombardier, a two stripe NCO. The Army system responded and facing the prospect of combat in the North African desert ordered me to the Jungle Warfare Training Centre at Canungra in Queensland. Several incidents of interest occurred there but before telling of one I digress to explain a little of my philosophy of life.

Not being a futilitarian means never denying

evident truths. When I was called “vindictive” I readily admitted it. I do not subscribe to the New Testament “turn the other cheek” tenet. Rather I am wedded to the more rugged Old Testament “an eye for an eye” doctrine. Indeed if I am fortunate enough to foresee an impending slight I incur no self-reproach in implementing pre-emptive retaliation.

However I find coarse revenge unattractive. I like to inject subtlety. It adds satisfying spite thereby enhancing the quality of vengeance. With relish I recollect the retaliation I wrought on a school teacher who imposed after school hour’s punishment on me. I deserved it but that didn’t prevent me from resenting it. I had to assist in the printing and later distribution of the annual report of the school. In her class report the teacher wrote that she had “genial relations with the parents of all her pupils”. After proof reading and before printing I sneaked the letter “t” into her word “genial”. She nearly lost her job and was a laughing stock amongst her peers for years. No one ever suspected what I had done. Some may think me despicable but I feel no remorse. A subtle job well done.

Due to inauspicious conjunctions of limited transport from Victoria to North Queensland I arrived at the Jungle Warfare Training Centre two days before the Course started. The Sergeants and Bombardiers, true to the Military dictum that never allows soldiers to remain idle for long lest it encourages thinking, gave me every dirty duty they could think of. And they thought of a lot. As a cook’s helper, a sentry woke me at 0430 hours. I washed trays and cooking utensils in the kitchen until 0730 then washed cutlery and dishes in the Officer’s and Sergeants’ Messes until 0930. Working in the meal area I heard the many related stories such as the alleged time an angry Orderly Officer, on behalf of a peeved cook, demanded of a group of troops “Who called the cook a bastard?” to which an unidentified voice yelled back “Who called the bastard a cook?” Other, supposedly World War Two occurrences, were the time a new cook served a meal to a General and was immediately promoted to the front line Infantry. A variation was that the new cook was commissioned as an Officer at the Chemical Warfare Regiment.

With hands softened by dishwater, I was handed an axe and ordered to cut wood for the kitchen and ablutions block boilers until near noon. After a

quick meal I was seconded to the Hygiene Corporal to clean toilets and showers. He repeatedly asked me “Are you nervous in the service?” He was the only NCO I saw whose Army uniform fitted perfectly. Obviously he was deformed.



Hygiene duty completed, I was returned to the kitchen until 1930 hours, half an hour to check my equipment then on sentry duty at 2000 hours for four hours until midnight. The main gate was closed and locked. Alone, I sat on a hard chair beneath the galvanised iron roof of the verandah of the Guard house. Above me was a weak electric light surrounded by a multitude of flying insects. My only weapon was the bayonet on my belt. My only relief from boredom was to read the printed booklet of instructions

provided for the Guard commander.

As an official endurance test I could accept that work load without complaint. But gradually it dawned on me that the work load was not part of assigned duties.

Rather a couple of Sergeants were dumping work on me, the new boy, to allow their mates to have a bludge. Quietly, my vindictive characteristic erupted. For a lowly Lance Bombardier to tackle experienced senior Sergeants directly would be futile. Watch, learn, seek subtle retribution in a form that precludes their retaliation. No complaints, smile, apply myself industriously all that long Friday. That was my implementation of the tactics of camouflage and inducement of complacency which I read about in the Military manuals.

Much the same on Saturday except that on Saturday night I heard that two truckloads of the Regular Army staff members were driven to a nearby town for a * grog-on and entertainment. Prior to departure, each member was required to write their name on a list on a clip board. And as the main gate was left unlocked and opened, the sentry, me, was issued with a weapon. The Army’s standard 7.62mm self loading rifle (SLR) with a 20 round capacity magazine.

A young Lieutenant who had drawn duty as the Orderly Officer (OO), gave me a lecture on the

importance of protecting the Jungle Warfare Training Centre from possible invasion by the “Yellow Hordes” of Asia. He gave me the SLR and had me remove the magazine and open the breach so he could inspect that the weapon was empty. With a degree of solemnity he handed me one live bullet and watched as I followed his order to load it into the magazine and click the magazine back into the SLR. “Don’t cock it so there’s no round in the breach” he ordered before checking that the safety catch was on. “If you fire the bloody thing with-



out being told that World War Three has started we’ll both be filling in forms for the next twenty years”, he said before pausing for my agreement and salute and marching off.

One round to save JWTC from Asian invaders. Hilarious. Discharge of the bullet from the SLR would initiate mountains of paperwork. As soon as the OO was out of sight I released the magazine and took out the bullet. I put it in the top pocket of my jungle green uniform shirt. Then it was back to the hard chair on the insect infested front verandah for several hours of unmitigated boredom.

Half an hour before the end of my sentry duty shift at midnight, the first truck returned. I stood in the bright light over the main gate and beneath a myriad of whirling insects checked off on the clip board the names of the well lubricated NCO’s and soldiers who disembarked and staggered towards the barracks.

The exhaust from the first truck had just settled in the hot humid air when the second truck arrived and it was time for my act. The Sergeants raggedly climbed out. Some tumbled onto the road. One staggered into the knee high decorative shrubs and urinated, another vomited onto the close cut lawn border. A couple supported a third as they headed toward the pedestrian gate next to the Guard house.

With rifle at the high port I barred their way. The clip board hung on a nail in the gate post. I demanded that each Sergeant tell me his name. The first four checked out OK. Then came my prime targets “Names!” I demanded. “Adolf Hitler” said one and inspired the others to shout “Joe Stalin” and “Mao Tse Tung”. “Halt!” I shouted, “You

can’t be them. They all come in five minutes ago”. “Bullshit” the leading Sergeant shouted. “Halt” I again shouted back. But they didn’t, they weaved forward.

In the hot, humid, still air the noise of my pulling back the cocking bolt and slap of its return under the pressure of its spring seemed very loud. The Sergeants were battle hardened veterans. They recognised the sound. They clearly understood the damage a 7.62mm bullet could inflict. They also understood that a novice soldier had loaded a live round in the breach of a weapon that was pointed at them at short range with a novice finger on the trigger. They stopped.

“Hands up” I ordered, trying to sound as authoritative as I could. They complied. They started to protest. Each took a step forward, “Halt” I shouted. The SLR safety lever clicked as I thumbed it forward. They knew what the sound indicated. A novice, nervous finger on a trigger. A three millimetre twitch could kill. All stopped. Silence. With my left hand I used the telephone to call the Duty Officer who grumbled and promised to come immediately when I told him I was pointing the cocked SLR at three Sergeants. He sped up in a Jeep. The Sergeants complained loudly to him of my behaviour. I gave him a copy of the printed booklet of Instruction to the Guard Commander, with which I told him I had conscientiously complied.

The Duty Officer asked me for the SLR. I handed it to him in the manner laid down in the drill book. He immediately checked to see if it was loaded. The Sergeants watched. The main gate light carved a cone of brightness in the oppressive blackness of the night. Above me fluttered in futility a circling halo of hordes of tropical insects. Conspicuously I took the single live round from my shirt pocket and gave it to the Officer. The volume of swearing from the Sergeants increased. The relief guard arrived. My shift was finished. The weapon and round were passed to the new sentry. I was formally relieved and dismissed to my barracks.



Next day, Sunday, in the breakfast line-up, the Bombardier who took over the sentry post from me said that an incandescent aura lingered above the barracks of the Sergeants for half of his watch.

Although well versed in cursing himself, his education in profanity and blasphemy was elevated to a new level. He also told me that the three Sergeants disagreed wildly about what they would like to do to me. Their impediments were that I had acted totally in accordance with the Guard Instructions and that the Duty Officer had warned them against retribution. The only point upon which the Sergeants agreed was that I was such filthy, rotten, devious piece of low life that I was ideal Officer material. I had no duties whatsoever allocated to me that day.

On Monday my eight day Course started. I had no problems, passed with a good mark. I returned home just as the Suez Crisis was resolved. The prediction of the Sergeants was fulfilled. A few years later I was Commissioned as a Second Lieutenant. However for the rest of my time in the Army Reserve I was accompanied by the story, which I allowed to be embellished, that I was the mad bastard who nearly shot three Sergeants.



Napoleon, an Artilleryman, stated that an Army marches on its stomach. During my Officer Training Course I learned that the Australian Army marches on a raft of paperwork. Truly the pen proved mightier than the sword. To initiate anything, a paper form was required. Our alpha / numeric form identification system was designed by the School of Psychological Warfare of an enemy and secretly

slithered into our services by a subversive sadist with the subliminal motive of inducing suicide.

Fellow OTC cadets disdained to learn any of the system other than the minimum forms essential to obtain leave, vehicles, weapons and ammunition. Many considered form filling beneath the dignity of a fighting man. Maybe because I had worked my way up through the ranks rather than enlisting from a Private School at the elite Officer level, I lacked their fascination for inflicting mass slaughter.

Contrarily I was attracted by the power of paper-

work and at the risk to my sanity I mastered a fair percentage of the system.

Conceit at my comprehension of the system combined with an over estimation of the privileges conferred upon me at my newly acquired Officer rank got me into trouble a few times. But even trouble can be a learning experience. A weekend bivouac was planned and I was given the job of obtaining ration packs for the Regiment. I saw on the ration availability chart that kosher rations existed and, on impulse just to be smart, I ordered kosher packs for my Artillery Signallers Troop. I reckoned that chicken would be a change from pork based rations.



Sixteen months later I received my second "pip", became a First Lieutenant and simultaneously received notification of a posting to a slightly more senior position with another Regiment. As I cleared up on my last day the mail pouch arrived. I checked it to see if there was anything for me. There wasn't. But there was a signal from the Army Quartermaster General demanding that the Regiment explain why 24 kosher rations were indented from a Regiment that had no one on the roll listed as a member of the Jewish religion. I left it on a pile of correspondence in the Adjutant's office and sauntered casually to the Officers' Mess for a farewell drink with my colleagues.

Seconds slid swiftly by as we sipped our icy beers. A few drinks later the Adjutant appeared. Over the top of his foaming glass he said he was sorry I was transferred because he had just received notification from the QMG about an old illicit indent for kosher rations. As an acknowledged "paper" person he would have given the task of a response to me.

I was saved from feigning innocence by a Captain. He interrupted to say "What's this about kosher rations?" the Adjutant explained. The Captain laughed, "I'm half Jewish you know. It's futile to investigate anything trivial after so long". The Captain was from another Corps, I can't remember

which one, maybe Engineers and was billeted in our Depot for a few days whilst in transit. We found it interesting that he was half Jewish because a few of us were guessing about his religious affiliation. His Army Records had not arrived yet so we couldn't check.

Officers shared an open space six shower head ablutions block so we confirmed that the lower bit of the Captain was obviously Jewish. The upper half was a puzzle.

Fish was on the Friday menu but he ordered a pork dish. Not Catholic. He drank copious quantities of anything alcoholic. Not Islamic or Methodist. Mess etiquette debarred discussions of politics, sex or religion so we refrained from asking him directly. Mess members concluded that the characteristics of the Captain indicated he was a lapsed Anglican who joined the Masonic Lodge at an early age.

Activity associated with the transfer-in to my new Regiment sublimated any thought of the Captain's commentary about the kosher rations enquiry. Modern aircraft now fly higher than World War Two anti-aircraft guns can shoot a shell, so our AA



guns were retired. The AA Regiment was re-equipped with long range Medium guns for engaging land targets. As an ex-gun Sergeant and Troop Officer on Medium guns, the objective of my transfer was to retrain Officers, NCO's and Gunners to shoot the new ordnance. Combined with that training task I studied and passed exams for my next promotion. Twelve months passed very quickly. After a series of live firing "shoots" to confirm the successful Regimental mastery of new weapons I was transferred to Artillery HQ in my new rank of Captain.

The desk in my office was awash with files, one of which dealt with an incorrect indent for kosher rations. Several junior Officers had left notes saying that because the original documents were lost,

no responsibility could be assigned to one person.

I unearthed the appropriate NFA (No Further Action) form, printed the words "At this late stage further investigation was futile". The CO countersigned it and the form was dispatched to the QMG. Someone from the office of the QMG phoned with the words "We agree. Matter is closed. To chase the Gentile is futile".



When the pile of paperwork was cleared away I was posted to a Field Regiment of the new 105mm guns as a Forward Observation Officer, a FOO. Often the troops under command would refer, for sake of clarity, to their Officers by his rank, posting and name. I found it acceptable to be referred to as Captain Foo _ Most of the other Captains had no objection. The only Subaltern who vehemently objected was a Captain with the surname of King. My promotion to Major arrived at the same time as my promotion to an overseas position in my civilian occupation. With a wife, three children and a Mortgage to maintain, I could not refuse the civilian promotion and its attractive remuneration. It was with deep regret that I resigned my Army Commission after almost 20 years wearing the khaki uniform of my country as had my Father, Grandfather and Great Grandfather.

Thank you BC. Your input is most appreciated. Ed.



1 Bde soldiers commemorate bombing of Darwin

Maj Felicity Hamblin reports.

ABOUT 24 members of 103 Bty, 8/12 Regt RAA, brought 3000 spectators to a standstill on Feb. 19 as they re-enacted scenes from the bombing of Darwin.

An air raid siren sounded at 9.58am to mark the time Darwin came under attack. More than 240 people died and dozens of military ships and aircraft were destroyed in the Japanese raids on Australia in 1942.

An AP-3C Orion flew over the Darwin foreshore as the members of 8/12 Regt RAA, dressed in period costumes, fired 21 rounds from three 105mm M2A2 Howitzers from the Cenotaph, with coloured smoke filling the air.

Capt Chris D'Aquino said the high-light of the day was talking to one of the veterans who was still attending the service 73 years on.

"I had the privilege of meeting one of the actual veterans who was here during the air raids and he was very impressed by the whole event," he said.

"He was quite old and in a wheel-chair, and it meant a lot to me that he was able to come out and watch the display."

A triservice catafalque party took part in the service, which was attended by veterans, school children and members of the Darwin community.

In his fourth year participating in the event, Bdr James Thatcher said it was important to show the spectators what it would have felt like to be in Darwin at the time of the bombings.

"I do feel a great attachment to being part of the re-enactment as it gives people an understanding of what it might have been like to actually experience the attacks," he said.

"It's a really meaningful thing to be a part of and I have a lot of respect for those who were here at the time."



FORBY Sutherland was a gunner with the 2nd Heavy Anti-Aircraft Battery when the Japanese bombed Darwin on February 19, 1942.

"We watched the planes flying over, but we didn't receive any fire instructions until after the bombs started falling," Mr Sutherland said.

"We had four 3.7-inch anti-aircraft guns and we fired about 100 rounds in that first raid."

Mr Sutherland was part of a 100-strong group of veterans and family members who toured Robertson Barracks as guests of 8/12 Regt RAA, the day before the 73rd anniversary of the bombing of Darwin.

One of Mr Sutherland's comrades was Wilburt Hudson, who used a Lewis machine gun to shoot down a Japanese Zero during the first raid.

He was represented by his widow, June, who proudly wore her husband's miniature medals.

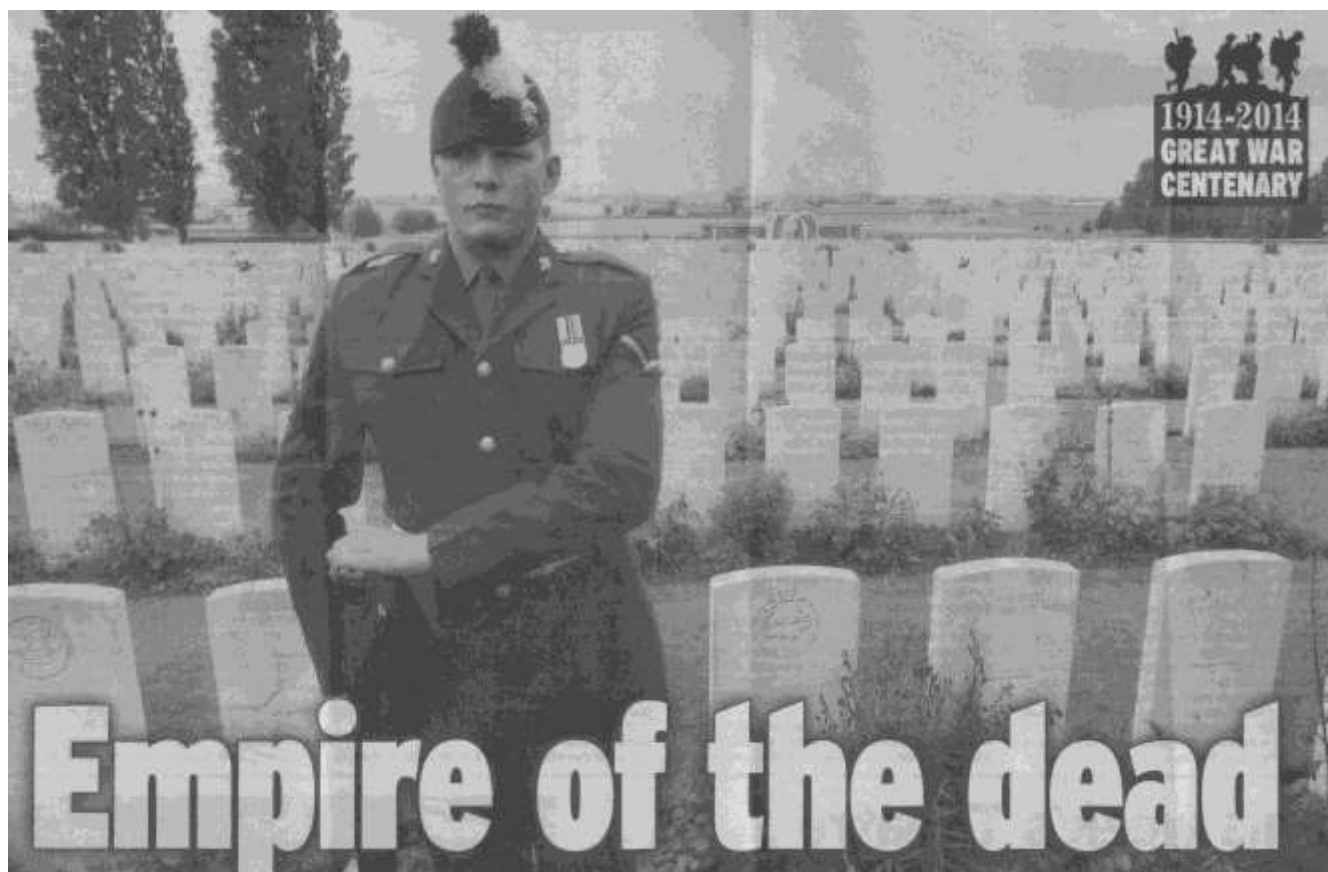
"He was in the shower when the bombing started," Mrs Hudson said.

"He grabbed his boots and helmet raced out wearing only a towel.

"He couldn't raise the gun high enough, so he ran out into the open and rested the gun on his mate's shoulders."

Mr Hudson, who died 12 years ago, was decorated with the Military Medal for "gallant and distinguished service at Darwin on February 19, 1942".

To commemorate the centenary of the First World War, JOHN LEWIS-STEMPEL has spent the past year giving us a fascinating insight into the "war to end all wars". In this final instalment he looks at one man's personal campaign to create lasting memorials to the fallen



THERE are no cemeteries for those who fell at Waterloo, at Blenheim, at Agincourt. Dead soldiers used to be, to borrow the indignant words of the Victorian novelist William Makepeace Thackeray, "shovelled into a hole...and forgotten".

Occasionally, military VIPs were carried home for burial in a family plot, or in Westminster. After Trafalgar, the corpse of Admiral Nelson was placed in a wooden cask filled with brandy (to act as a preservative) and ferried back to Britain. For the ordinary Jack Tar and Tommy, however, there was merely featureless oblivion beneath sea or sod.

The First World War brought a revolution in the treatment of our war dead. Every soldier who could be found received a headstone and interment in specially created, intensely beautiful cemeteries, nearly a thousand of them in a necklace of death along the old Western Front.

There are pearls of necropolises, too, in Greece, Gallipoli, wherever British and Empire men fought and fell. For the half million soldiers who were missing there were magnificent memorial monuments on which their names were carved in stone.

One man was largely responsible for the new way of honouring the military dead. This was Sir Fabian Ware, a most unlikely revolutionary.

When the shooting started in 1914 Ware, at 45, was too old to fight, too young to do nothing. So the Tory former editor of the *Morning Post* left for France to become the commander of the Mobile Ambulance Unit of the Red Cross. His Unit not only transported the wounded from the battlefield but, at his urging, searched for the graves of the killed. Fighting for its life, the British Army had little time to deal with its dead. Fallen soldiers lay in hasty shallow graves, often identified with nothing but a cross whittled from branches, or a Huntley & Palmer's biscuit lid with some scrawled words.



FAR-SIGHTED: Major General Sir Fabian Ware pushed for a permanent solution to makeshift cemeteries

Finding soldiers' graves, marking them with a wooden cross and a metal identification plate, soon became the sole job of Ware's unit, whose name was changed to the Graves Registration Commission. Between May and October 1915 alone, it found nearly 27,000 British graves in the French and Belgian countryside. It was a piece of detective work Miss Marple would have marvelled at. The to-ing and fro-ing of troops, ploughing by farmers and the effect of battle had obliterated many ad hoc burial sites. Sometimes the only clue was a spoon lying on the churned earth.

REGISTERING the graves was not enough, however. As the war continued, Ware became preoccupied with finding a permanent solution for the commemoration of the fallen. The ultimate back-room boy, Ware won numerous friends in powerful places. In 1917 the Imperial War Graves Commission (IWGC) was founded by Royal Charter, with Ware as vice-chairman. Lord Derby acted as figurehead.

Despite the toff at the top, the IWGC committed itself to utterly radical policies. It determined that all war graves should be FAR-SIGHTED: Major General Sir Fabian Ware pushed for a permanent solution to makeshift cemeteries uniform, because "private initiative" would lead to the well-to-do erecting "costly monuments" which would "contrast unkindly with those humbler ones which

would be all that poorer folk could afford". Some families, notably that of the former prime minister Gladstone, had already disinterred the bodies of relatives and repatriated them. Ware stopped this because it smacked of privilege. Soldiers would be buried in a corner of the foreign field where they fell.

In no mood to skimp in honouring the war dead, Ware insisted that the cemeteries and the monuments to the missing, wherever they were on the globe, were constructed from the finest materials and designed by the greatest architects of the day. Sir Edwin Lutyens, Sir Reginald Blomfield, and Sir Herbert Baker led the distinguished list of those employed by the IWGC. Rudyard Kipling observed that the British war cemeteries was: "The biggest single bit of work since any of the pharaohs - and they only worked in their own country."

Not much is known of Ware's early life. Born in 1869, he grew up in Bristol among the austere Protestant sect the Plymouth Brethren. Later he studied at university in Paris, before becoming a teacher. During a sojourn as an administrator in South Africa, he fell under the imperialist spell of Viscount Milner, the British High Commissioner.

NO ONE but an evangelical Francophile believer in Empire could have founded the cemeteries. Courtesy of his Calvinist upbringing Ware had an ardent democratic belief that all men are equal in death, hence his insistence that all the headstones should be uniform in size and shape, regardless of the rank or religion of the dead. The Major should lie down with the Private, the Anglican next to the Jew.

With his admiration for France, Ware was well suited and linguistically equipped to persuade French politicians to pass legislation permitting the expropriation of French land for cemeteries for the "perpetuity of sepulture". As an imperialist, Ware believed the Empire should honour its dead no matter their race, not to mention fund the upkeep of the cemeteries indefinitely. It was memorialising on a scale the world had never seen.

Arrayed against Ware were some of the titans of the times. The Anglican Church wished the cross to be the defining symbol of remembrance, not Ware's non-denominational oblong head-stone; generals wanted a triumphalist tone to the cemeteries, so that their victories would be written in

stone. A vociferous lobby opposing Ware's egalitarian views set up in press and Parliament. The Countess of Selbome put elegant fingers to type-writer to accuse Ware of "socialism of the most advanced school", and roundly deplored his policy of burial abroad as "tyrannical" because no one could exempt their relation's body.

She had a point. The state now controlled the fate of corpses.

The angry matter reached the Commons. Churchill weighed in on the side of Ware and the IWGC. They won the day.

Ware was channelling the Zeitgeist. The opposition were men and women out of touch, out of time. Men of all classes had come forward to serve as volunteers in Kitchener's New Army. They had been brothers in arms; they would be brothers in death.

When one colonel at Passchendaele asked his battalion to discuss the IWGC's proposals, "the unanimous and emphatic desire of everyone, officers and men" was to be buried together in uniform graves. It was a sentiment many at home, especially those clinging to class stratification like Titanic survivors to a life raft, failed to understand.

So, Ware and the IWGC won. Only one dead soldier was given special treatment: the Unknown Warrior, Britain's most sacred relic. A small amount of individuality was also allowed on the headstones. Along with name, rank and regiment, a short epitaph, paid for by the dead's family, could be inscribed.

Great pains were taken to ensure that the dead of the Chinese Labour Battalions should have headstones inscribed with Chinese characters.

For the gravestones of unidentified soldiers the Commission's wordsmith, Rudyard Kipling, chose the device: "A soldier of the Great War...Known unto God". Understanding the

desperate need of grieving relatives to visit the graves of the fallen, Ware and the IWGC spurred on the building work. By 1927 there were more than 500 permanent cemeteries and 400,000 headstones. One admirer told Ware: "You have created a new Empire within and without the British Empire, an Empire of the Silent Dead."

From the outset the cemeteries were to be gardens of remembrance, not merely depositories for the deceased. They were planted with trees and flowers; to preserve a special British feeling snowdrops and crocuses were allowed to push up through the grass.

A Stone of Remembrance, designed by Sir Edwin Lutyens, acted as a sort of inoffensive altar, acceptable to all spiritual tastes, and was placed in the cemeteries. For this, Kipling chose a quotation from Ecclesiasticus: "Their name liveth for evermore."

The war graves that made all men equal



TRIBUTE: Makeshift cemeteries, such as the one on the Somme, above, were replaced and memorials, including the Whitehall Cenotaph, right, were designed by Sir Edwin Lutyens



Yet the cemeteries were not identikit Golgothas.

Part of the genius of the IWGC, later to become the more right-on Commonwealth War Graves Commission, was that the cemeteries were sensitive to the micro-geography of mortality.

The tiny graveyard of the Devonshire Regiment in the Somme is situated on their old frontline. A stele at the entrance declares: "The Devonshires Held This Trench: The Devonshires Hold It Still". Sir Herbert Baker, gentlest of the IWGC's principal

architects, designed Le Trou Aid Post Cemetery to be a place of reflection, overhung with weeping willows, ringed by a moat, reached through a cottage gate. Etaples Cemetery devastates the heart by its serried ranks of headstones, standing as silent soldiers on parade.

The IWGC's acute feeling for the geography of death extended to monuments to the missing.

The tower of vertical arches at Thiepval, designed by Lutyens, dominates the Somme battlefield, just as the Battle of the Somme dominates our collective memory of the Great War. It was Lutyens, too, who designed the Whitehall Cenotaph, centrepiece of ceremony on Remembrance Sunday. After contemplating whether the ruins of Ypres should be preserved as a memorial the Commission plumped for an arch which managed magnificence without triumphalism. The Menin Gate, on the interior of which are carved the names of 58,896 Commonwealth soldiers who died in the Ypres Salient, is located at the eastern exit of the town. It is a place through which those same soldiers would have marched to the front-line.

For a decade or more the Great War has wound itself around my life like barbed wire. In those years, the number visiting the graves and memorials has risen exponentially. They come clutching poppies, plaques, wreaths, letters. "Well done lads", reads one recent note attached to the Red Dragon memorial to the Welsh Division at Mametz Wood. Poignant, inclusive, they are three words which tie present to past across a century.

Sir Fabian Ware did more than give the dead a decent resting place. He gave future living generations the opportunity to grieve and to honour.

He gave British soldiers immortality.

See a soldier's name and he lives for ever.

- *The War Behind The Wire: The Life, Death And Glory Of British PoWs 1914-18* by John Lewis- Stempel, published by Orion in paperback (£9.99) or hardback (£20) is online at expressbookshop.com

Courtesy SSgt Ernie Paddon & the International Express Nov 26, '14

*I am the flag of
Australia
My name is
"Southern Cross"
I fly atop tallest
buildings.*



*I stand watch in
Australia's halls of justice.
I fly majestically over institutions of learning.
I stand guard with power in the world.
Look up and see me.
I stand for peace, honour, truth and justice.
I stand for freedom.
I am confident.
I am arrogant.
I am proud.
When I am flown with my fellow banners,
My head is a little higher,
My colours a little truer.
I bow to no one!
I am recognized all over the world.
I am worshipped - I am saluted.
I am loved - I am revered.
I am respected - and I am feared.
I have fought in every war for 100 years. I was there
at Gallipoli, the trenches of Turkey,
World War 2, Korea, Vietnam and the war on Islamic
Terrorist know me as we are the ones that are going
to send them all to Hell.
I'm presently in the mountains of Afghanistan and
the hot and dusty deserts of Iraq and wherever
freedom is needed.
I led my troops, I was dirty, battle worn and tired,
But my soldiers cheered me and I was proud.
I have been burned, torn and trampled on the streets
of countries I have helped set free.
It does not hurt for I am invincible.
I have been soiled upon, burned, torn and trampled
in the streets of my country.
And when it's done by those Whom I've served in
battle - it hurts.
But I shall overcome - for I am strong.
I have borne silent witness to all of Australia's finest
hours.
But my finest hours are yet to come.
When I am torn into strips and used as bandages for
my wounded comrades on the battlefield,
When I am flown at half-mast to honour my soldier,
Or when I lie in the trembling arms of a grieving
parent at the grave of their fallen son or daughter,
I am proud.*

Courtesy Sgt Eddy Evans



WELL-WISHERS turned out on the streets of Hobart to see members of 12/40RTR mark the launch of Centenary of Anzac commemorations in Tasmania on October 20.

More than 120 members of the battalion took part in a freedom of entry march, commemorating the embarkation of troops on that date in 1914.

Three months after the outbreak of WW1, members of 12 Bn boarded the troopships HMAT Geelong and Katuna in Hobart.

After docking in Adelaide and Fremantle, the troops headed west to Egypt where they trained for the Gallipoli landings on April 25, 1915.

RSM 12/40RTR WO1 Sean Ransome said the battalion still traced its lineage to those 12 Bn soldiers today.

"The march commemorates the forefathers of 12/40RTR who also marched through the City of Hobart in October 1914 before they deployed to Gallipoli," he said.

MEMBERS of 9 Bde participated in Centenary of Anzac commemorations with a service of remembrance at St Peter's Cathedral in North Adelaide hosted by the RSAR Regiment Association on October 20.

The service marked the centenary of the embarkation of 10 Bn troops in South Australia on October 20, 1914. It was led by 10/27RSAR's Chap Neil Mathieson.

Based at Keswick Barracks, 10/27RSAR is an infantry unit of 9 Bde and traces its lineage to the 10th Bn of the Australian Imperial Force.

CO 10/27RSAR Lt-Col Graham Goodwin said the unit was proud to commemorate a century of service.

"We have worked closely with the wider community in South Australia to mark this significant historic event," he said.

"Members came from the north and north-west of the state to take part in the historic commemorations."

Under clear skies, members of 12/40RTR followed

in the footsteps of their for-bears, parading the Queens and Regimental Colours of the battalion through the centre of Hobart.

CO 12/40RTR Lt Col David Hughes said it was an historic day for the unit and 9 Bde as it marked a century of service from WWI until the present day.

"It is always a privilege for any CO to have the battalion parading with the Colours," he said.

"It was a large parade, but one which fittingly commemorated those young men of 12 Bn and other units who marched through Hobart's streets 100 years ago on their way to war. Many never returned."

Lt-Col Hughes was challenged by the OIC of the Hobart Division of Tasmania Police, Inspector Glen Woolley, as he marched the battalion through the city.

The battalion was then inspected by the Lord Mayor of Hobart, Alderman Damon Thomas, as it exercised the right of freedom of entry into the city.

The parade featured two parts. The first was the challenge by the police representative and the inspection at the Town Hall, while in the second part the battalion marched to the Hobart Cenotaph for the official launch of Tasmania's Centenary of Anzac program by the Tasmanian premier.

Together with representatives from state and local government, members of 12/40RTR also planted a tree propagated from pines of the Gallipoli Peninsula.

Pte Duncan Luttrell, of 12/40RTR, said it was a privilege to march as part of the same battalion as his great-grandfather, Horace Luttrell, who joined the 12th Reinforcements in 1916.

"Today feels special," he said. "I think he would be very proud if he could see this parade today."



Celebrations at Jezzine

Sgt Dave Morley

QUEENSLAND'S Australia Day celebrations were focused on Townsville for the first time this year, with the annual flag-raising ceremony held at Jezzine Barracks.

Battery captain 109 Bty, 4 Regt RAA, Maj James Groves said the unit continued its proud association with 3RAR, as it supported the battalion's parade by firing a 21-gun salute from Kissing Point saluting station.



109 Bty fires a 21-gun salute from Jezzine Barracks on Australia Day. Photo by Sgt Cayle Berman

"As 3RAR raised the Australian flag at Jezzine Barracks, the battery of four M2A2s fired out over the open water," he said.

"The provision of a salute battery is a great honour for serving members and this event was particularly poignant for gunners."

Maj Groves said the site of the salute was adjacent to the same piece of ground Australian coastal gunners held for the defence of Australia during WWII.

Following the impressive reaction from the crowd, which included senior ADF members, Townsville Mayor Cr Jenny Hill and regional politicians, the parade ended with an Air Force C-17A Globemaster conducting a low-altitude flyover.

THE HERO WHO WAS STRIPPED OF HIS VC



James Collis won the Victoria Cross in an earlier Afghan war, only to have the honour taken from him. LORD ASHCROFT, who has just purchased the medal, tells the remarkable story behind it.

IT IS a gallantry decoration with a rich and fascinating history behind it, quite apart from the incredible act of bravery for which it was awarded more than 130 years ago. I have just completed the private purchase of the Victoria Cross awarded to Gunner James Collis in 1881 for an act of courage the previous year during the Second Afghan War.

Yet it is the events that took place after the medal was awarded that make it so rare - and that eventually led to the rules and regulations relating to the VC being amended and in my opinion very much for the better.

For the Collis VC is one of just eight in existence that were forfeited for the subsequent criminal behaviour of their recipients. Yet a sense of injustice over this led to King George V seeking to revise the guidelines that were first introduced when the medal was instituted by Queen Victoria in 1856.

The extraordinary tale of this particular VC winner begins on July 28, 1880, when Collis, who was serving with the Royal Horse Artillery, and his comrades were making their way back to Kandahar after the disastrous British defeat at Maiwand, Afghanistan (then, as now, a desperately difficult country in which to fight a war against the inhabitants). During the battle an estimated half of the

2,000-strong British force was lost against a vastly larger army.

Cambridge-born Collis, who was then 24, was part of the force that was attacked by the Afghans as it retreated. The officer commanding the battery was attempting to bring in a limber (a two-wheeled cart designed to support the trail of an artillery piece) carrying already wounded men who were under a crossfire.

Seeing the dangers and difficulties faced by his comrades Collis raced forwards and in doing so drew the enemy's fire on to himself, thereby taking the snipers' attention away from the limber.

Collis survived his daring act of bravery and his VC was announced "for conspicuous bravery" on May 16, 1881 - though rather carelessly his surname was misspelled as "Colliss" in his citation.

After being discharged from the army Collis joined the Bombay police in India in 1881, rising to the rank of inspector. Furthermore in March 1882 he married Adela Grace Skuse, a widow, in Bombay. In 1884 Collis returned to the UK and in 1887 he reenlisted in the army, this time joining the Suffolk Regiment. He returned to India in 1888 as part of his service but in 1891 was invalided home suffering from rheumatic fever, returning without his

wife. At some point he met and in 1893 married Mary Goddard who was apparently unaware that he had a wife in India.

In 1895 his deception was discovered and Collis was convicted of bigamy and sentenced to 18 months hard labour. Later that year his VC was declared forfeit for his crime under the original statutes of the Royal Warrant of 1856, which created Britain and the Commonwealth's most prestigious gallantry decoration.

By this point Collis had already pawned his VC for a mere eight shillings (40p) having apparently hit hard times. The decoration was retrieved by police for the same sum of eight shillings from a pawnbroker's shop for the Crown on the instructions of the Home Office.

After leaving prison and settling in Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk, Collis pursued a number of jobs but in 1914 after the outbreak of the First World War he re-enlisted in the Suffolk Regiment, aged 58, as a drill instructor. However he was dogged by poor health and was invalided out of the army on medical grounds in August 1917. Collis died at Battersea General Hospital in London on June 28, 1918, aged 62.

Two years later his sister Hannah Haylock petitioned the War Office on behalf of the family for the forfeiture to be cancelled. George V was sympathetic to the family's wishes but Winston Churchill, then secretary of state for war, opposed the reinstatement. He believed that because Collis had pawned his medals he placed little value on them. Furthermore Churchill noted that the family had not kept in contact with Collis and it was only 25 years later that they had decided to raise their grievance with the authorities.

Yet the King and others won the day on the wider issue and Churchill approved amendments to the rules relating to the VC which stated that henceforward only "treason, cowardice, felony or any infamous crime" should lead to forfeiture.

The King also insisted that Collis' name should be inscribed, along with all the corps' other VC recipients, on the Royal Artillery Memorial in Woolwich, south-east London.

THE precise whereabouts of the Collis VC between late 1896 and 1938 are not known although it would seem that it went initially, as was required at the time, into the possession of the solicitor

general, a later holder of which office had an interest in gallantly medals.

When that solicitor general died unexpectedly and the VC was found at his home it was decided to sell it.

The Collis VC was sold at auction by Glendining's on June 10, 1938, to Colonel HJP Oakley, who was himself a recipient of the Military Cross. After his death the VC passed to his daughter who resold it at auction in 1980. The buyer at that auction, having kept it for 34 years, has recently decided to sell it and this has enabled me to buy this fine award with such an intriguing history.

I am delighted to have become the guardian of this particular VC, which will soon go on display in the gallery bearing my name at Imperial War Museums, London. My VC collection, the largest in the world, now totals 187 decorations.

I am equally delighted that VCs are no longer forfeited for minor crimes. A man or woman who displays great gallantry should not have their medal taken away just because of some relatively low-level misdemeanour.

Soldiers from past eras and indeed soldiers today are not always angels, but if they have shown great bravery then that act cannot be denied simply because of a crime committed months or years later.

James Collis was an extremely brave individual and I will always do all I can to champion his gallantry.

Lord Ashcroft KCMG PC is a Tory peer, businessman, philanthropist, author and pollster. He is the author of *Victoria Cross Heroes*, first published in 2006. Visit victoriacrossheroes.com

Lord Ashcroft's VC and GC collection is on public display at Imperial War Museums, London. Visit iwm.org.uk/heroes



This excellent article was published in the International Express, 3/12/'14 and submitted by Ssgt Ernie Paddon.

Tribute to fallen Aussie

People gather in Sydney to remember one of the first Australians killed in WWI, Michael Brooke reports.

ONE of the first Australians killed in action in WWI was honoured at a commemoration service in Sydney, 100 years to the day that he died in the Great War.

Lt William Chisholm was serving with the 1st Bn East Lancashire Regt when he was killed at the battle of Le Cateau, which inflicted 9000 British casualties in just a few hours.

Lt Chisholm was killed on August 27, 1914, in a gallant rear-guard action that enabled the French and British armies to prepare defensive positions at the River Marne, where the German drive on Paris was halted.

Lt Chisholm was born in Australia, but moved to London in 1911 to pursue his dream of a career as a military officer. At that time, RMC was still being established.

Such was the significance of his sacrifice that more than 100 people attended the service at the St Stephen's Uniting Church in Sydney, including NSW Governor Marie Bashir, Commander 17 CSS Bde Brig Andrew Bottrell, and representatives of the consulates of Britain, Canada, New Zealand and France.

More than 20 descendants from all around the country attend the ceremony, which Lt Chisholm's great-grand niece Rowena la Fleche said honoured not only the first Australian killed in WWI, but all Australian military personnel who have served their country.

There was no military academy or college in Australia in the early years after Federation, so he went to London where he earned a commission with the East Lancashire Regt and studied at the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst.

- Lt-Col Brad Robertson, C01CSSB

CO 1CSSB Lt-Col Brad Robertson, who is married to a great-grand niece of Lt Chisholm, said the desire



to be a professional military officer took the young Australian to France, two years before the Australian Imperial Force in 1916.

"There was no military academy or college in Australia in the early years after Federation, so he went to London where he earned a commission with the East Lancashire Regt and studied at the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst," he said.

"At the turn of the century, Britain was part of who we were and most Australians back then - like Lt Chisholm - had a huge allegiance to the 'Motherland'."

Lt Chisholm led his men into battle on August 26, when he sustained shrapnel wounds to the abdomen.

A letter of condolence from a regimental officer to Lt Chisholm's parents, said: "During all that Wednesday he was coolness personified, and directed his men in the way I knew he would - perfectly. The chum, with whom I had some conversation, said Lt Chisholm was very badly hit.

He said to the men near him: 'They've done for me all right. Don't bother about me. Let my people know that I died fighting like a soldier'."

Lt-Col Robertson said the soldiers made a stretcher out of their coats and rifles, which they used to carry him to the first-aid station.

Lt Chisholm died the next morning, aged 22, and was buried with honour by German soldiers in the town of Ligny- en-Cambresis, which named a street after him in the post-war years.

Although Lt Chisholm's sacrifice is not well known, in the months following his death the family received a wreath from Queen Alexandra, as well as letters of condolence from the King and Queen, and the NSW government, expressing sympathy.

Why? a Damn Good Question



Why has no one been able to explain to me why young men and women serve in the British, Canadian, Australian, or U.S. Military for 20 years, risking their lives protecting freedom, and only get up to 50% of their pay on retirement? While Politicians hold their political positions in the safe confines of all of our nation's capitals, protected by these same men and women, and receive full-pay retirement after serving one term. It just does not make any sense. In the UK some soldiers & their families come home only to be put out onto the streets - Homeless..! Whilst immigrants and asylum seekers who have done nothing for our countries are treated to Free Housing, Medical Care & Benefits of every description..!

Your desire for Freedom will never die, so please have the will to allow our retired soldiers to live out their lives in peace, comfort & a little happiness.

Courtesy WO2 Max Murray

This Marine Was The ‘American Sniper’ Of The Vietnam War



Carlos Hathcock taking aim in Vietnam. (Photo: USMC archives)

Long before Chris Kyle penned “American Sniper,” Carlos Hathcock was already a legend.

He taught himself to shoot as a boy, just like Alvin York and Audie Murphy before him. He had dreamed of being a U.S. Marine his whole life and enlisted in 1959 at just 17 years old. Hathcock was an excellent sharpshooter by then, winning the Wimbledon Cup shooting championship in 1965, the year before he would deploy to Vietnam and change the face of American warfare forever.

He deployed in 1966 as a military policeman, but immediately volunteered for combat and was soon transferred to the 1st Marine Division Sniper Platoon, stationed at Hill 55, South of Da Nang. This is where Hathcock would earn the nickname “White Feather” — because he always wore a white feather on his bush hat, daring the North Vietnamese to spot him — and where he would achieve his status as the Vietnam War’s deadliest sniper in missions that sound like they were pulled

from the pages of Marvel comics.

White Feather vs. The General

Early morning and early evening were Hathcock’s favorite times to strike. This was important when he volunteered for a mission he knew nothing about.

“First light and last light are the best times,” he said. “In the morning, they’re going out after a good nights rest, smoking, laughing. When they come back in the evenings, they’re tired, lollygagging, not paying attention to detail.” He observed this first hand, at arms reach, when trying to dispatch a North Vietnamese Army General officer. For four days and three nights, he low crawled inch by inch, a move he called “worming,” without food or sleep, more than 1500 yards to get close to the general. This was the only time he ever removed the feather from his cap. “Over a time period like that you could forget the strategy, forget the rules and end up dead,” he

said. "I didn't want anyone dead, so I took the mission myself, figuring I was better than the rest of them, because I was training them." Hathcock moved to a tree line near the NVA encampment.

"There were two twin .51s next to me," he said. "I started worming on my side to keep my slug trail thin. I could have tripped the patrols that came by." The general stepped out onto a porch and yawned. The general's aide stepped in front of him and by the time he moved away, the general was down, the bullet went through his heart. Hathcock was 700 yards away. "I had to get away. When I made the shot, everyone ran to the treeline because that's where the cover was." The soldiers searched for the sniper for three days as he made his way back. They never even saw him.

"Carlos became part of the environment," said Edward Land, Hathcock's commanding officer. "He totally integrated himself into the environment. He had the patience, drive, and courage to do the job.

He felt very strongly that he was saving Marine lives." With 93 confirmed kills – his longest was at 2500 yards – and an estimated 300 more, for Hathcock, it really wasn't about the killing. "I really didn't like the killing," he once told a reporter. "You'd have to be crazy to enjoy running around the woods, killing people. But if I didn't get the enemy, they were going to kill the kids over there." Saving American lives is something Hathcock took to heart.

"The Best Shot I Ever Made"

"She was a bad woman," Carlos Hathcock once said of the woman known as 'Apache.' "Normally kill squads would just kill a Marine and take his shoes or whatever, but the Apache was very sadistic. She would do anything to cause pain." This was the trademark of the female Viet Cong platoon leader. She captured Americans in the area around Carlos Hathcock's unit and then tortured them without mercy. "I was in her backyard, she was in mine. I didn't like that," Hathcock said. "It was personal, very personal. She'd been



Carlos Hathcock at work in the fields of Vietnam. (Photo: U.S. Marine Corps)

torturing Marines before I got there.”

In November of 1966, she captured a Marine Private and tortured him within earshot of his own unit. “She tortured him all afternoon, half the next day,” Hathcock recalls. “I was by the wire... He walked out, died right by the wire. “Apache skinned the private, cut off his eyelids, removed his fingernails, and then castrated him before letting him go. Hathcock attempted to save him, but he was too late.

Carlos Hathcock had enough. He set out to kill Apache before she could kill any more Marines. One day, he and his spotter got a chance. They observed an NVA sniper platoon on the move. At 700 yards in, one of them stepped off the trail and

A Five-Day Engagement

One day during a forward observation mission, Hathcock and his spotter encountered a newly minted company of NVA troops. They had new uniforms, but no support and no communications. “They had the bad luck of coming up against us,” he said. “They came right up the middle of the rice paddy. I dumped the officer in front my observer dumped the one in the back.” The last officer started running the opposite direction. “Running across a rice paddy is not conducive to good health,” Hathcock remarked. “You don’t run across rice paddies very fast.”

According to Hathcock, once a Sniper fires three shots, he leaves. With no leaders left, after three



Hathcock took what he calls the best shot he ever made.

“We were in the midst of switching rifles. We saw them,” he remembered. “I saw a group coming, five of them. I saw her squat to pee, that’s how I knew it was her. They tried to get her to stop, but she didn’t stop. I stopped her. I put one extra in her for good measure.”

shots, the opposing platoon wasn’t moving. “So there was no reason for us to go either,” said the sniper. “No one in charge, a bunch of Ho Chi Minh’s finest young go-getters, nothing but a bunch of hamburgers out there.” Hathcock called artillery at all times through the coming night, with flares going on the whole time. When morning

came, the NVA were still there. "We didn't withdraw, we just moved," Hathcock recalled. "They attacked where we were the day before. That didn't get far either."

White Feather and The M2

Though the practice had been in use since the Korean War, Carlos Hathcock made the use of the M2 .50 caliber machine gun as a long-range sniper weapon a normal practice. He designed a rifle mount, built by Navy Seabees, which allowed him to easily convert the weapon.

"I was sent to see if that would work," He recalled. "We were elevated on a mountain with bad guys all over. I was there three days, observing. On the third day, I zeroed at 1000 yards, longest 2500. Here comes the hamburger, came right across the spot where it was zeroed, he bent over to brush his teeth and I let it fly. If he hadn't stood up, it would have gone over his head. But it didn't." The distance of that shot was 2,460 yards – almost a mile and a half – and it stood as a record until broken in 2002 by Canadian sniper Arron Perry in Afghanistan.

White Feather vs. The Cobra

"If I hadn't gotten him just then," Hathcock remembers, "he would have gotten me." Many American snipers had a bounty on their heads. These were usually worth one or two thousand dollars. The reward for the sniper with the white feather in his bush cap, however, was worth \$30,000. Like a sequel to *Enemy at The Gates*, Hathcock became such a thorn in the side of the NVA that they eventually sent their own best sniper to kill him. He was known as the Cobra and would become Hathcock's most famous encounter in the course of the war.

"He was doing bad things," Hathcock said. "He was sent to get me, which I didn't really appreciate. He killed a gunny outside my hooch. I watched him die. I vowed I would get him some way or another." That was the plan. The Cobra would kill many Marines around Hill 55 in an attempt to draw

Hathcock out of his base.

"I got my partner, we went out we trailed him. He was very cagey, very smart. He was close to being as good as I was... But no way, ain't no way ain't nobody that good." In an interview filmed in the 1990s, He discussed how close he and his partner came to being a victim of the Cobra. "I fell over a rotted tree. I made a mistake and he made a shot. He hit my partner's canteen. We thought he'd been hit because we felt the warmth running over his leg. But he'd just shot his canteen dead."

Eventually the team of Hathcock and his partner, John Burke, and the Cobra had switched places. "We worked around to where he was," Hathcock said. "I took his old spot, he took my old spot, which was bad news for him because he was facing the sun and glinted off the lens of his scope, I saw the glint and shot the glint." White Feather had shot the Cobra just moments before the Cobra would have taken his own shot. "I was just quicker on the trigger otherwise he would have killed me," Hathcock said. "I shot right straight through his scope, didn't touch the sides." With a wry smile, he added: "And it didn't do his eyesight no good either."

1969, a vehicle Hathcock was riding in struck a landmine and knocked the Marine unconscious. He came to and pulled seven of his fellow Marines from the burning wreckage. He left Vietnam with burns over 40 percent of his body. He received the Silver Star for this action in 1996.

After the mine ended his sniping career, he established the Marine Sniper School at Quantico, teaching Marines how to "get into the bubble," a state of complete concentration. He was in intense pain as he taught at Quantico, suffering from Multiple Sclerosis, the disease that would ultimately kill him — something the NVA could never accomplish.

Courtesy WO2 David Troedel

This is probably one of the best videos on Vietnam that I've seen. It certainly brought back memories.

https://www.youtube.com/embed/6_5gJVXK0gI

This video is 28 minutes long , so be sure you have time to watch it all the way through. There are thousands of similar accounts of those who served in Vietnam, and this video does a great job of accurately expressing many of those experiences.

VC recipients meet Queen



Soldiers and families meet royals at Buckingham Palace during reunion

Capt Darren Elder

AUSTRALIA'S four surviving Victoria Cross (VC) recipients and the families of fallen VC recipients converged on London for four days in late October to join other Commonwealth VC and George Cross (GC) recipients as part of a biennial reunion.

Joining Vietnam War veteran Keith Payne and Afghanistan War VC recipients Cpls Mark Donaldson and Ben Roberts-Smith for the first time at the reunion were Cpl Dan Keighran, VC, and Doug and Kaye Baird, representing their son, Cpl Cameron Baird, VC, who was posthumously awarded the medal in February.

They attended receptions at Buckingham Palace and St James's Palace, and a memorial service at St Martin-in-the-Fields.

Mr and Mrs Baird were invited to Buckingham Palace for a private audience with the Queen. They presented her with a 2 Cdo Regt engraved Australian Army stiletto letter-opener to mark the occasion.

"The Queen was very gracious, asking about Cameron, his VC action and his mates at 2 Cdo Regt," Mr Baird said.

"We would have loved it if Cameron was able to be here himself, but, under the circumstances, we hope we've done him proud.

"I'm sure he'd be up there laughing about all the fuss - he was never one for the spotlight."

Mr and Mrs Baird also presented Prince Harry with a Cam's Cause T-shirt, the charity created in Cpl Baird's name to raise funds for the Commando Welfare Trust.

"Prince Harry knew all about Cameron and 2 Cdo Regt and, being a big supporter of veterans' charities, he was thrilled to be given the T-shirt," Mr Baird said.

The 28th VC and GC Association reunion drew together eight VC and 15 GC recipients from Australia, Malaysia, Nepal, New Zealand and the UK.

Awarded the VC in November 2012 for his actions at Derapat in southern Afghanistan, Cpl Dan Keighran attended his first reunion.

"It's incredibly humbling to talk to all the other recipients and hear their stories," Cpl Keighran said. "It has been really great to be here this year and to meet everybody."

This year's reunion was the second for Cpl Mark Donaldson, VC, since he was awarded the honour in January 2009. I missed the last reunion because I was serving in Afghanistan, so 2010 was the last one I've been to, but it honestly feels like only a couple of months since I saw most of these people," Cpl Donaldson said.

"It's a bit like Christmas time, when family all gets to come together, share stories, have a catch-up,

and it's just like it was the last time you saw them."

Other Australians to attend the 28th VC and GC Association reunion were Michael Pratt, GC, a Victoria Police officer who intervened in a bank robbery unarmed, and Lady Cutler, the widow of Sir Roden Cutler, VC.

Only 100 Australians have been awarded the VC since it was created by Queen Victoria in 1856.

The GC was created in 1940 and is the highest award for gallantry by civilians and military personnel when not in the presence of the enemy.

The following is a copy of a Ministerial brief that the CGS delivered. The British Army is moving ahead to comply with the direction to increase the number of Reserves and have recognised that Regular Army courses need to be analysed and reduced to bite sized bits and focused on must know.

"ARMY 2020: THE ARMY RESERVES – MINISTERIAL NARRATIVE

1. The British Army contributes to the nation's security by fighting its enemies, preventing conflict and dealing with disaster. All personnel, regular or reserve, share this purpose. It is the same soldier who is ready to respond whatever the call of duty, on behalf of the nation and at unlimited liability.

2. The Army must continually evolve to meet new threats, which is why it is forging itself into an adaptable and integrated force at new levels of readiness. The Army 2020 structure represents a fundamentally different way to organise resources to deliver best effect within the available budget. It sets out a new whole force concept - one Army, regular, reserve, and civilian – creating an integrated capability that adds up to more than the sum of the parts.

3. Reserves are essential to this military capability – providing access to skills and expertise all the time; greater mass in the short term and acting as a platform for expansion in the medium term. They also provide value for money as they can deliver capabilities safely held at longer readiness and provide access to skills that are best developed and maintained in the civil sector or are too costly to retain in full time military service. Reserves are also crucially important for linking the Army to civil society. Whatever the size of the Army and whatever the roles of the Army, it must have reserves and Army 2020 is giving them the focus they deserve.

4. Members of the new better-resourced Army Reserve will train alongside their full-time counterparts and have access to the same modern equipment, which ensures complete interoperability in times of national need. Their training will be high quality and challenging enabling them to gain new skills and experience which provides wider benefit to them and society.

5. The Army recognises that reservists must balance the demands of the Army, their families and employers. Consequently, it expects their principal commitment to be training and whilst there will often be some members of the Army Reserve on overseas operations alongside their regular peers, the majority are unlikely to be mobilised for lengthy periods. Furthermore, when mobilising, the Army will take into account individual reservists' personal and employment circumstances, though the degree of flexibility clearly depends on the scale, urgency and nature of the threat to our national security.

6. Of course many reservists want the opportunity to do more and the Army, recognising that the breadth of opportunity is part of the attraction of reserve service, will support those who wish to do additional training or to go on operations either as individuals or in formed bodies, depending on the role.

7. To help reservists balance their lives and contribute to it, the Army will provide enhanced support to reservists' families by establishing dedicated Welfare Officers in each reserve unit. The Army also recognises that an assured and sustainable reserve capability requires the support of employers, with whom it seeks to develop a close and honest relationship built upon the benefits that reservists bring to employers, and wider society, through the service they deliver, the skills, qualifications and experience they gain and by embodying the Army's values and standards."

A history of service

With five great uncles serving in WWI, Sgt Chris Brown is following in the footsteps of a long line of soldiers, Sgt Dave Morley reports.



An instructor at the School of Artillery at Puckapunyal can claim a fascinating military background - five of his great uncles served in WWI.

Sgt Chris Brown said four of his uncles served in the AIF and one in the Canadian Expeditionary Forces.

"Two served in German New Guinea as part of the Naval and Military Expeditionary Force in 1914, two were awarded the Military Cross, one was killed in action and three were returned to Austral-

ia as a result of wounds or sickness," he said.

"The oldest of the brothers, Brig Francis Heritage, served as a Lieutenant in the 1st Tasmanian (Mounted Infantry) Contingent to the Boer War in South Africa from October 1899 to December 1900.

"On his return he joined the Permanent Force of the Australian Army where his service was marked by keen specialisation in musketry and small-arms training."

In September 1911, he was appointed Commandant and Chief Instructor of the School of Musketry at Randwick, where his work contributed greatly to the Army's high standard of training in small arms.

He went on to serve in German New Guinea and later the Western Front with 2 Div at Bullecourt and 4 Div at Messines, where he was awarded the French Croix de Guerre.

Lt-Col Heritage was evacuated from the front with rheumatic fever in February 1918 and invalided back to Australia.

After the war, he served two appointments as the RMC Commandant, including when it moved to Sydney in 1931, and was appointed a Member of the Royal Victorian Order and Commander of the Order of the British Empire for his service.

Sadly his remarkable career was cut short when he died of peritonitis in a Melbourne hospital on July 9, 1934, after being operated on for acute appendicitis.

Sgt Brown said another of his uncles, Capt Keith Heritage, had been identified as the first Australian to sign up for WWI, giving him the title of the first Anzac.

"Keith served in German New Guinea with his brother Francis as part of the Naval and Military Expeditionary Force, and later with the 19th Bn on Gallipoli for five months, being commended for his part in the evacuation," he said.

"He served on the Western Front where he was awarded the Military Cross, and was killed in action a week later, on July 26, 1916, after relieving two soldiers from duty in Pozieres.

"Capt Heritage was doing his rounds when he came across two of his soldiers on guard duty.

"Characteristically, he gave them some food and told them to turn in and he would take over."

Later the two men stated that within about 10 minutes of lying down they heard a large explosion and found Capt Heritage had been hit in the head with a piece of shrapnel.

Sgt Brown said the family's second Military Cross was awarded to Lt Austin Heritage, a former bank clerk, who enlisted in the 12th Bn in May 1915.

"He received his Military Cross for gallantry in

France, leading his men in the face of heavy fire and driving the enemy out of their position with heavy losses," he said.

"He later rallied his men under heavy mortar bombardment and re-established the position.

"Austin was sent home with a serious gunshot wound to the leg in July 1917.

"His MC and other medals are in the Military Museum of Tasmania, along with Frank's miniature medals and sword from the Tasmanian Mounted Infantry."

Sgt Brown said one of the five brothers, Stanley Heritage, was working as an engineer in Nevada, US, when war broke out.

"Instead of going back to Australia to enlist, he headed north to Canada where he enlisted with the 99th Canadians as part of the Canadian Expeditionary Force," he said.

"It's very hard to find out much about his service except he served in France as a sapper.

"He eventually returned to Australia and settled in Brisbane, dying in 1934 at the age of 50."

Sgt Brown said the youngest brother, Spr Robert Heritage, served as an engineer in the Militia before the war.

"When he enlisted in the AIF he was allocated to Field Company Engineers, but was transferred to the 19th Bn, the same as his brother Keith, and finally the 2nd Pioneers," he said.

"He served in France, but was evacuated from the front line with a severe septic infection, to a hospital in Rouen, Normandy, and then back to Australia.

"In the era before antibiotics, the healing process was long and slow, so for this reason it was decided that he should return to Australia and be discharged from the AIF on March 17, 1917."

Sgt Brown joined the Army as an artillery air defender in 2002, and deployed on Operation Astute in 2006 and Operation Slipper in 2010.

"I guess I joined the Army for the same reason these guys did; to get out of Tassie and see other parts of the world," he said.

Courtesy Army News

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	17. Committee Meeting
		19. Annual General Meeting
March 2016	July 2015	20. Golf Day
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		

ROYAL AUSTRALIAN ARTILLERY ASSOCIATION
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