

CASCABEL

Journal of the
ROYAL AUSTRALIAN ARTILLERY ASSOCIATION
(VICTORIA) INCORPORATED

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Russian 6 inch 35 Calibre naval gun 1877

Refer to the Suomenlinna article on [#37](#)

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CASCABEL



FORMER PATRONS, PRESIDENTS & HISTORY



FOUNDED:

First AGM April 1978

First Cascabel July 1983

COL COMMANDANT: Brig P Alkemade RFD

PATRONS and VICE PATRONS:

1978

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

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

1982

Patron: BRIG Sir William Hall KBE, DSO, ED

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

1999

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

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

2008

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

Vice Patron:

PRESIDENTS:

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

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

1981 COL A. (Sandy) Mair ED

1984 MAJ P. S. (Norman) Whitelaw ED

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

1991 MAJ M. Taggart RFD, ED

2004 MAJ N. Hamer RFD

JOURNAL NAME:

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

CASCABLE - English spelling.

ARTILLERY USE:

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

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

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

CASCABEL HISTORY:

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

ASSOC LOGO: LAPEL BADGE:

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



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

RAA ASSOCIATION (VIC) INC COMMITTEE

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Vice President:	Maj Merv Taggart RFD, ED 03 9773 3730
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<http://www.artilleryvic.org.au>

VIC BTY CONTACTS

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CONTENTS AND SUBMISSIONS

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

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

Submissions for the **January 2016** issue are required no later than **1 December 2015** unless otherwise arranged with the Editor.

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The President Writes

As I have mentioned before, the lead-time required between writing and posting of each issue of Cascabel is two to three months. This means that up-to-date comments are difficult.

The 2015 Annual General Meeting was held towards the end of November. The CO 5/6 RVR, LtCol Paul Middleton, and the BC 2/10 LT BTY RAA, Maj Garry Rolfe addressed the meeting. Both addresses were well presented, very informative and well received.. My thanks to the CO and the BC for their time and the enthusiastic way they treat our Association.

For the benefit of members unable to attend the AGM, I have reproduced, in part, my report on the night.

"Your Committee works very hard throughout the year to make sure that the Association functions to the best of our ability, and the assistance given to us by the Battalion, the Battery and members is greatly appreciated.

However, - there is always an however - the support for traditional activities has declined over the last few years to such an extent that we had to, regretfully, cancel or abandon a number of planned activities.

These activities include the Annual Church Parade, the Gunner Dinner, Reserve Forces Day Parade, visits to places of interest and other social activities.

I am sure that there is a variety of genuine and credible reasons for the apparent lack of interest, but we do not seem to be able to find out what these reasons are so that we can, maybe, overcome the problems.

In contrast to this the RAA Symposiums have been very well received but still the attendance is very small.

The RAA Luncheon, which is a week-day, daytime activity is also quite well attended.

Week-day activities are usually difficult for people with work commitments. I personally would like

to see some daytime activities held at the week-ends."

It is essential that the suggestions and criticisms of the members be made known to the Committee. An email, letter, phone call or even a smoke signal to any member of the Committee will be greatly appreciated.

After all this, I hope you all had an enjoyable Christmas and New Year.

Neil Hamer

MAJ (Retd)

Membership

As at 30 November 2015		As at 1 Sep '15
Honorary Members for Life	5	4
Ordinary Life	174	181
Ordinary Annual	37	36
Ordinary Annual Senior	11	12
Associate Life	2	2
Associate Annual	5	5
Affiliate		
Associations	22	24
Libraries	4	4
RSL"s	4	4
Others (CO/CI, Messes etc.)	9	9
Total	273	281

Neil Hamer

MAJ (Retd)

Membership Co-ordinator

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From the Colonel Commandant

Brig Peter Alkemade RFD



Welcome to 2016, this year represents a major advance for the Light Batteries supporting 1 Brigade as they prepare for their ready phase supporting the combined battle group. While this is the third time a reserve force has entered this phase each has built on the achievements of earlier concentrations to allow the promise of plan Beersheba to be more fully evaluated and to increase the capabilities demanded of the reserve battlegroup.

I had the opportunity to attend the RAA CPX last November and saw the exercise of the full suite of fire control available to a deployed brigade. The fire control was undertaken using the in service digital fire control system AFATDS. The exercise included command posts from a light Battery, and all of the RAA Regiments (1, 4, 8/12, 16 Air Land and 20th Surveillance and Target Acquisition). The exercise was supported by a number of simulations systems and is an fine example of the Army's drive toward a fully digital Command and Control system.

Overall the main impression was the silence in the Command Posts. Almost all communications is now computer to computer from request for fire through to data to each gun. The CP is now dominated by portable computers and large screen displays. There are still conventional maps present but they largely are for the information of visitors, the real tactical picture is live on digital displays and brings simultaneous sharing of information out of a promised future and into reality.

In addition to the CPX there were a number of

presentations on new equipment coming into service and on the challenges faced but units during the conversion to full digital operation. Overall the message was one of challenge and commitment to the embracing of technology to enhance and improved support to the combat force.

Although the Light Batteries do not yet have digital systems, each battery when deployed will have a detachment from the Brigade direct support Regt to ensure it had the full operational picture and to integrate fire support. In addition on attachment the battery receives a substantial allocation of personal protection equipment, digital communications and other items needed to allow it to become an effective part of the all arms brigade.

I was also pleased to see that the Mount Schanck trophy has been reintroduced as a competition for Reserve batteries. This has been awarded to the combined 7th and 23rd Light Batteries which was assessed during the 7 Bde Exercise Diamond Strike. Future awards will be made on a biennially schedule to allow for the varying resources available during the three year force generation cycle.

I wish everyone all the best for the new year and look forward to further challenges.

Ubique

Peter Alkemade

Brig

Colonel Commandant Southern Region

From the Secretary's Table

COL Jason Cooke



The last quarter for the year saw the committee hold an Annual General Meeting and a few other social events to round out another very busy year. Again I would offer that any member of the RAA Association would be more than welcome to attend our meetings held on the 3rd Tuesday of every month, commencing at 1530 in the JARKS Club room at Sargood Barracks.

I will be finalising the minutes of the AGM shortly and hopefully by now you would have received notification that they are complete and ready for your review. One day I would like to report that we had more in attendance than those on the apology list however those that did attend were actively engaged in the proceedings.

I would like to highlight that the AGM agreed unanimously in awarding WO2 Lionel Foster a "Member For Life" in recognition for his dedicated service as a committee member over a long period of time. Well done Lionel and many thanks. Other highlights of the night were the address from the Commanding Officer of 5/6 RVR, LTCOL Paul Middleton, and from the BC 2/10 Light Battery, MAJ Garry Rolfe CSC. Both were very informative and passionate about the role and performance of the Light Battery over the past 12 months. Please be assured that the battery is still very active and conducting vital artillery training in support of Plan BEERSHEBA. It was great to receive such an insight into their activities.

The most important aspect of the AGM was the fact that the committee will now have two new faces joining the committee for 2016 and they are both current serving members of the Army Reserve. So please welcome BDR James Overall and MAJ Carl Sarelius to the committee for 2016. This is fantastic and great to see and one that will hopefully assist the committee in bridging the gap between current serving members and those within the membership of the RAA Association.

On a sad note is the retirement of SSGT Ernie Paddon from the committee as this year he decided not to renominate as a committee member. I would like to take this opportunity in personally thank him for all of the years he has dedicated to the committee and to the RAA in general. He has always been and will always be a valued member of the committee. We wish him well for the future and hope to see him often at any of the social events. I have no doubt that he will continue to assist Brian and Reg with the memorabilia or at least get involved when he can. Thanks Ernie for all that you have done – many thanks.

The committee still would like to receive any feedback from our membership especially informing us on the type of social activities you would like us to organise. We would particularly be interested in hearing your thoughts about when and where to hold a Gunner Dinner or at least some form of social event to recognise this significant date in our Annual Calendar. The Light Battery members are keen to re-establish some form of dinner to celebrate our birthday and I would encourage all members of the association to support them in this activity.

As far as next year is concerned, I will continue to inform you as soon as I can and as often as I should with events, activities, parades and social functions. There will be of course more Gunner Symposiums, our Annual Gunner Luncheon and St Barbara's Day Parade but next year we are already planning for a Regimental Church Service to be conducted in the field and a Gunner Dinner of some sort.

On behalf of the committee and from the Secretary's Table, I hope you all had a very Merry Christmas and you are still suffering from your New Year celebrations. See you all soon but until then – good shooting.

Jason

A message from the Battery Commander
2/10 Light Battery RAA
5th/6th Battalion
Royal Victoria Regiment
Major Garry Rolfe CSC



SITREP December 2015

As the year draws to a close it is with sadness as Battery Commander I write my last Cascabel entry. My three-year posting now ends and next year I take up the posting of 2IC of the 5th/6th Battalion. The Light Battery journey commenced in 2013 under Plan Beersheba which saw the Light Battery come under command 5th/6th Battalion, Royal Victoria Regiment.

Once again and during the year the Light Battery continued to deliver ongoing Offensive Support to Battle Group Jacka during the force generation cycle through the provision of its organic 81mm Mortar capability. In addition support was provided to the ADF Public Events of Significance schedule in support of community activities. This meant the training commitment expected from all ranks was well above the training commitment of the RAINF members of the rifle companies within the Battalion.

The 2015 training year saw the release of frozen positions within the Joint Fires & Effects Co-ordination Centre (JFECC) and Joint Fires Team (JFT), which will further enhance capability. Individual readiness was originally at 29% and now rests at above the 90% mark. Development of specific Light Battery Tactics, Techniques and Procedures (TTP's) continued to be tried, evaluated and enhanced during training.

Current Light Battery posted strength includes:

A 2015 snapshot of capability included:

Off's	WO	SNCO	OR	Total All Ranks
5	2	4	44	55

Gnr Tim De La Zilwa represented the ADF, Battalion and Light Battery at the Brunei International Skill at Arms Meeting. This followed Gnr 'DZ's' exceptional performance at the Australian Army Skill at Arms Meeting (AASAM).

Sgt Wolfgang Wessner commanded the Lt Bty

Catafalque Guard in January to support the Albert Jacka Memorial at St Kilda Cemetery. The Memorial attracted local dignitaries and descendant's nation wide including descendants of the 39th Bn known as Jacka's Mob.

On the 26th January, the Light Battery was called upon to fire the 21 Gun Salute on the occasion of Australia Day at the Shrine of Remembrance. Over two thousand spectators who gathered at the Shrine and within the local gardens greeted the Salute with overwhelming applause. It was then straight into annual mandatory training including the Basic Fitness Assessment and annual weapons assessment of safe handling drills (F88 Austeyr) and qualification at the Weapons Training Simulations Systems (WTSS) facility.

During March members of the JFT supported a live fire exercise with 53 Battery (School of Artillery) and fulfilled the roles of JFT ACK and Signaller calling in fire onto targets using 155mm HE delivered by the M777 Howitzer. All reports indicated an excellent opportunity to engage targets with a different weapon system to the 81mm Mortar. The members acknowledged the timely, accurate and devastating 155mm HE effects.

The Light Battery continued to train members of the Rifle Companies in All Arms Call for Fire procedures in the IFOT at Sargood Barracks throughout the year.

During EX SOMME (Bn training activity) in March the Light Battery conducted dry deployments training and CPX at Puckapunyal with the JFECC embedded in the Bn Command Post co-ordinating the movement of the Light Battery and generating targeting products. The JFT were embedded into the Combat Team and provided well-received technical advice on employment of the OS asset.

Prior to ANZAC Day the Light Battery supported the ANZAC Day service at Haileybury College with a professional display of drill by the Catafalque Guard. The annual RAA ANZAC Day Dawn Service was held at Sargood Barracks and it was heart

warming to see members of the Light Battery, families and friends, RAA Association, local dignitaries and members of the public attend the service. The Light Battery then formed up in Collins Street, Melbourne with the Battalion and marched through the city in the ANZAC Day Parade as a formed body under the 4th Brigade. A search of YouTube will show much film footage of the professionalism of the Battalion Sub Units led by the Pipes and Drums under command of Lt Col Paul Middleton (Commanding Officer).

In May, Exercise COURTENAY'S POST saw elements of 2/10 Light Battery and 6/13 Light Battery conduct a nine-day Exercise including LFX at the Cultana Range (SA). A JFECC, three JFT, CP and Mortar line comprising four tubes demonstrated successful integration and ultimately the timely and accurate engagement of targets employing HE and Infra Red (IR) Illumination (IR Illum requires night observation devices to see the illuminated area at night as the area will be seen as darkness with the naked eye). Concluding the LFX the JFT successfully embedded into the combat teams while the JFECC integrated into the BG JACKA Battle Group HQ. Range planning for the conduct of the LFX phase of EX COURTENAY'S POST was thorough, met all audit requirements and was assessed as excellent (this is the norm for Gunners!).

June saw the Light Battery again deploy to the Shrine of Remembrance to fire the Queens Birthday 21 Gun Salute. Then it was straight into EX KOKODA where members of all ranks qualified in a range of HE weapons systems including the F88 Austeyr, F89 GPMG, grenades on the Assault Grenade Range, 9mm pistol, 84mm Anti Armour Weapon, trip flare, smoke grenade and 66mm Light Anti Armour Weapon. This exercise produced excellent outcomes with many members of the Light Battery gaining qualifications and continuation training in the full range of HE weapon systems.

The Light Battery conducted dry deployments and CPX in July during EX POLYGON WOOD with the JFT continuing to provide excellent advice to the Combat Team Leader on the employment of the OS asset in support of his manoeuvre plan. EX AMIENS in August saw additional continuation deployment training for the Light Battery at the Puckapunyal Training Area.

In the lead up to EX HAMEL 16, 8/7 RVR conducted

a Battle Group JACKA CPX training activity with a JFECC embedded into the BG HQ and JFT into the combat team. The CPX also saw a team building activity and after action brief by the CTC Training Team on lessons learnt from previous Battle Group exercises.

During September The BSM, WO2 Paul Wainwright and myself attended the 2 Division Joint Fires, RAA Light Battery Seminar held at Randwick Barracks to discuss a range of trade, training and resourcing matters. This was the first time in three years the command group of each Light Battery were assembled centrally to discuss future RAA developments, trade and training updates and distribution of resources including future ammunition allocations. Each BC was provided the opportunity to deliver a SITREP on matters specific to their Lt Bty. It is likely a new Light Artillery Trade Structure will be introduced with one ECN and two trade streams (ECN 161-1-1 Mortar Operator and ECN 161-1-2 Arty Fires Observer).

The 2 Div JF Cell re-raised the Mt Schanck Challenge Trophy competition originally linked to the Artillery Training and Evaluation Program (ARTEP) from the days of ARES Field and Medium Gun Regiments. The Trophy being awarded to the most proficient Light Battery based on the (ARTEP) standards. During EX CHONG JU (EX CHONG JU supports the Combined Arms Training Centre (CATC) fire-power demonstration for the Combat Officers Advanced Course) 2/10 Light Battery and 6/13 Light Battery again formed a composite Call Sign however ammunition was suspended at the commencement of the practice. The Light Battery withdrew from this activity including Mt Schanck Challenge Trophy competition and provided a static display to EX CHONG JU.

On November 11th, Remembrance Day the Light Battery fired two rounds from a single 105mm M2A2 Howitzer at the Shrine of Remembrance.

Once again during the RAA CPX at the School of Artillery during 16-20 November BC's from all Light Batteries (including CO's and key staff from RAA Regiments) came together to work through a series of scenarios in the JFECC, supported by an ARA AFATDS (8/12 Regiment) detachment during the Fire Missions and Fire Plan.

A final support task for the Light Battery included a Catafalque Guard to an annual service conducted

by the Jewish Community Ex Servicemen's and Servicewomen's Association.

Lt Nick Bassett graduated and marched into the Light Battery in February and Lt James Levchenko marched in concluding the mid year Graduation. In January 2016 a qualified RAA JFT Captain will transfer from interstate and one RAA JFT Captain will transfer from the ARA along with ARA JFT qualified JNCO's.

Both Monash Barracks (Dandenong) and Sargood Barracks (St Kilda) are well suited to meet the training requirements of the Light Battery. This includes training areas, storage areas vehicle parks and administration space including IT facilities in office space.

A snapshot of individual training completed by members of the Light Battery to maintain and enhance capability included: (See below left. ed)

The Light Battery conducted two social functions during the year including a Happy Hour and Trivia Night. The final 2015 parade night, dress theme was 'Onesees' and saw many members dress in their PJ's for the occasion.

Course	Pers
Melbourne University Regiment C2 Land Rover Drivers Course	2
2 Div JF Cell Basic Mortar Operators and Command Post Operators Conversion Course	2
JFT Course MOD 1	3
Basic Mortar Operators Cse	3
CP Operator Cse	3
Supervisor Light Arty Course	1
JFT Fire Planning Course	3
Junior Leaders Course	1
Support to RMC Battleblock	2
Snow Survival and Back Country Team Leaders Course.	1
Radio Initial Communications Course	14
Support to Cadets Annual camp	2
Support to RAR Pde Townsville (one member parade additionally with the Pipes and Drums)	1

The Light Battery will end the year with the annual St Barbara's Day Family Day to be held at Monash Barracks on Sunday 6th December. The BC and

SMIG Awards are to be presented to the soldiers who have made the most notable contribution to Light Battery capability along with the RAA Association Norm Whitelaw Awards. Lunch is provided and I hear a rumour a jolly big man in a jolly red suit will make a grand appearance.

In summary my time as Battery Commander has been extremely rewarding and highly successful. It has been rewarding and successful because of the support from the RAA ARA staff, the Light Battery Command Group and outstanding contribution made by the individual soldiers and detachments of the Light Battery who are currently serving and members who have since transferred to the Standby Reserve Group or posted out to other Units.

I thank and acknowledge the advice and guidance from the Commanding Officer, Lt Col Paul Middleton, previous Commanding Officer Lt Col Matt Burr, key appointments and supporting elements within the Battalion.

I extend best wishes and good luck to the incoming Battery Commander, Major Daniel Cairnes for every success in taking the Light Battery into the next three years of training and development and achievement of capability.

Recognition and sincere thanks go out to the most important people behind the scenes who support and encourage us all, being our immediate families, wives, husbands and partners who without their ongoing support would not allow us to do our job. To them, I say thank you.

Finally I wish all members of the Light Battery, RAA Association, family and friends a joyful Christmas hopefully spent in the company of family, loved ones and those close to us. I also reflect, remember and pause for those who have passed and are no longer with us. Rest up and enjoy a well-deserved break.

Take care and stay safe.

Kind regards

Garry Rolfe

Major

Battery Commander

2/10 Light Battery

Good luck in your new posting, Garry. ed

Editors Indulgence

All quiet on the home front.

Letters to the Editor

Hello ALAN,

Congratulations on a very newsy issue. A great read . What took most of my interest was the article on the US-Japan bloodbath of 1945. Some years ago a colleague who was on the faculty of the US War Collage sent me a detailed article of the US Armed Forces objectives, quantum on just about anything you like to think about (women stalking front lines with a bayonet on a bamboo stick to 3 merchant ships for the Medical corps to take plasma from the 'in-transit unhurt) and heaven knows how many statistics he quoted. It was a rivetting read – and when you think they had 40,000 casualties at Iwo Jima. And don't forget Okinawa, for more of the same.

I think they call it 'The principle of mass'. These figures have now have now been released after 70 years, and in my idle moments I read a chapter. Awesome.

While I know I am the recipient of Cascabel I am not now the editor. He/they reside in ACT/QLand/Vic. If you have reason to get in touch with the RAAHC re subscriptions for your upcoming year they are at raahcoffice@gmail.com. Steve Nichols is the editor now @ stephen.nicolls@defence.gov.au

Ubique ALAN SMITH

Dear Alan,

As a Bombardier in 15 Field Regiment's P Battery in 1964 I was selected to form part of a Demonstration Team to display the mobility and other aspects of the 105 mm Pack Howitzer. The detachment was commanded by Warrant Officer Mal Bugg and included Gunner Alan Brian. I do not recall the names of others in the detachment. We put on demonstrations at various military establishments in Victoria, including landing and deploying from RAAF Iroquois helicopters. Sadly I have no photographs of the activities of this detachment and was wondering **if any of our members may have**. Alternately could I be **advised of the location of official records, memorabilia etc. of 15 Field Regiment?** Would you be so kind as to insert my request in the next edition of Cascabel.

Regards, Bill Severino

Alan:

Another excellent Cascabel in my letter box.

Graham (Col Farley OAM RFD ED)

Alan

I am forwarding the msg below, that I recvd from David Reding, President, Royal Artillery Assoc (SA Branch); I hope that you find it interesting.

Regards,

Geoff Laurie (Maj)

I would like to draw your attention to an initiative being organised by the Royal Regiment of Artillery, called: Celebrating The Tercentenary or the Royal Regiment of Artillery 1716 – 2016. "Ubique 300". This will be involving all the Commonwealth Artillery Nations. Their web site is as follows: www.army.mod.uk/artillery/33657.aspx

More info can be found at: <http://www.ubique300.com/> ed.



From Maj David Osborne (Retd)

Hi Alan,

Hope my email finds you in better health than your recent past.

I very much value all the effort that you put into the magazine. It would not surprise me to find that most members are quite happy to receive their copy of the magazine and participate in nothing else with the Association. It's a great read and you clearly go to a lot of trouble to collect articles from all over the place. I very much enjoy the read. Well done.

On the subject of articles, I have one that you might give a run to at some stage.

Here is the story.....

Hi David

Thanks for your kind & supportive words. After 9 times in hospital in '14, the score for this year is ZERO. How about that!!

Barbara will back me up when I say that my memory is not as good as it used to be. I annoy hell out of her when I say, "I don't remember".

However, your article twigged something in the basement of my mind, so I did some research thru past issues.

I would like you to have a look at Journal No. 107, dated May 2011, #25.

Cheers Alan

Hi Alan,

I'm amazed at your recall. Please tell Barbara about this, she will be impressed I'm sure. Leone keeps telling me that I have several old gunner complaints, Gunner Ear, and having no memory.

I had no recollection of previously submitting the article Alan, so great job. Just as well I told the truth originally, because my narrative story as to how it came to be in my father's hands was the same, although I took longer to say it this time. Sorry to bother you with it again.

Keep up the great job you do with the magazine, I enjoy receiving and reading every issue. Great to hear your health is much better now too.

Ubique,

David.

2017 National Gunner Dinner

I pass on the following in case you have not received it already.

I have contacted Graham Hampton and told him that it is difficult to make a commitment at this early stage. He responded as follows-

Don't be concerned about registering too early better to wait and see mid to late next year or even early in 2017. There will always be a table/s for you no matter how late you register.

Regards,

David. (WO2 David Troedel)

You can view the details on [#38. ed](#)

Good afternoon Alan – you sent an email to Graeme Lambert (Sapper Summit Editor).

Alan, I am sorry to bother but obviously you must get emails from Graeme and I am just wondering if you can help me by letting me know if you are a member of the RAE Association or why he would be sending emails to you.

Hello Jim

I can understand your confusion.

I am WO2 Alan Halbish (Retd) & a member of the Royal Australian Artillery Association. I am also the editor of our 1/4ly produced journal, Cascabel. You may read them at Artilleryvic.org.au

Graham & I have a reciprocal arrangement to share info from each organisation & to reproduce anything that may interest our readers.

I trust this clears up any confusion for you.

Alan – please forgive my loss of memory – of course now I certainly remember who you are – excellent article in No 123 about "what will the soldier wear next".

I will pass your email onto Graeme for his attention.

Regards and keep up the good work

Jim

Jim Davis.

Hon Secretary,

RAE Association (Vic) Inc.



Tradition Continues – St Barbara's Day Parade 2015

It was great to see 2/10 Light Battery recognise St Barbara's Day on the first Sunday in December at Monash Barracks, Doveton as the Regiment has done for decades. The day was supported by family and friends where we all celebrated the commitment and efforts achieved over the past 12 months with awards and speeches, plus there were activities for the kids with a special appearance from the guy every child wants to see – Santa. It was also pleasing to see the Commanding Officer, LTCOL Paul Middleton and his lovely wife Samantha in attendance as they quietly spoke to families in a "low key" manner. And that was the theme of the day – low key, casual but smart dress where family and friends could relax and enjoy the year gone.

There were a number of faces present that I haven't seen for sometime so the opportunity in catching up with them was a real treat. Can people remember CAPT Don Shields – well it was just fantastic to see him and his wife and family after a 13 year gap. Awesome as unfortunately he had to leave the army due to a serious and sudden bout of cancer which has been thankfully successfully removed from his body. This is a great example why these days are so special and why we should continue holding them in the future. It is our traditional day where once a year we gather as a family and reflect on what makes our family as gunners so special.

Walking around meeting and talking to the current gunners, the same things we spoke about in our time are the same conversations discussed over a few quiet ales, the stories are bigger and longer than the previous years and many a laugh was had by all. I know the families enjoyed hearing the stories as they quickly came up to speed with all the exercises, weekends and camps throughout the year.

Joining in with the events of the day were a small

number of association members representing all those gunners that have gone before. We were warmly welcomed and quickly encouraged to be part of the day which was greatly appreciated. Our traditional role on the day is to recognise those battery members who have stood out over the year via the MAJ Norm Whitelaw Awards. The President Major Neil Hamer presented both the 2014 and 2015 awards to the following members with a brief explanation as to the purpose of the tradition. I know this was also appreciated by one of the families as they approached me afterwards and sought more information about the awards.

2014 Award Winners

Best Officer – CAPT David Counsell

Best JNCO/Gunner – GNR David Carroll

2015 Award Winners

Best Officer – LT Nicholas Bassett

Best SNCO – SGT Richard Lawrence

Best JNCO/Gunner – GNR Benjamin Edwards



COL Cooke, LT Bassett, SGT Lawrence, Maj Neil Hamer, GNR Carroll.

There were a number of Battery Prizes awarded to those as recognition of their achievements throughout the year as well as to farewell those being posted out of the Battery.

Continued on [page 51](#)

My trip to the Western Front.

Submitted by Ssgt Emie Paddon

For some time now I have been researching my Family Tree, and discovered that I had two Great Uncles killed in Flanders and the Somme in World War 1, and I thought it would be a good idea to try and find their resting places. I did some research through the Commonwealth War Graves Commission, and found information on both, so on a trip to the UK during the month of October 2015 I spent five day's in France, Belgium, and Holland.

I started out by ferry from Dover to Calais, and saw a sign on the French Freeway that said "YPRES"; that was the only time that I saw the name on a sign board. I put Ypres, Belgium into the vehicle GPS and got a "NIL" return, same for Ypres, France. I new that it was near the town of Poperinge so I headed in that direction, but as it was getting late I parked up for the night.

The following morning I was headed for Poperinge, when I saw a sign saying Passchendale and Museum, as I had plenty of time I headed there, and arrived at the town of Zonnebeke, where I found the museum, which is quite extensive. On entering the first building I came to there was only a young Belgian girl there. I explained that I was looking for "Ypres" and she said "Ahh" she then produced a battlefield map and pointed to "IEPER" which is how they spell Ypres in Belgium, so now I was able to programme the GPS correctly, it was all system's go.

On walking around the museum at Zonnebeke, I discovered that it is close to Passchendale, where the British and Anzac forces in WW1 launched their assault from to retake the town of Passchendale from the German's, it is also very close to Polygon Wood which I walked to, also there are a number of WW1 trenches which have been refurbished and can be walked through; you can get a very eerie feeling walking through them. I then proceeded to Ieper where the MENIN Gate is situated, and a ceremony is conducted every evening at 8 pm. I visited the "In Flanders Fields Museum" in the town square, and found it very interesting, the climb to the top of the bell tower was quite an effort, but the view from the top was fantastic, 360 degree views. Whilst in Ieper I purchased a map of Belgium and France, so no more problems with the GPS.

At 17.30 hours I made my way to the Menin Gate to watch the ceremony, where the local Fire Brigade buglers play the "Last Post" and "Rouse" hundreds of people from all over the world come here to see this every night. Whilst waiting for 20.00 hrs I spotted a gentleman wearing an Artillery beret and St Barbara's tie and blazer. I introduced myself as a fellow gunner from Australia, and we left it there, but a few minutes later the man returned and gave me a R.A. Assoc. pen and a silicon wrist band, for which I thanked him very much.

At 20.00 hrs a local official made a quick speech and the "Last Post" was played. The gentleman that I had spoken to earlier, then in company with



Comblès Military Cemetery.

(See next page)

his wife, laid an Artillery wreath on the steps of the gate. Shortly after the same man then stood in the centre of the gate area and recited Binyon's Ode to the fallen. After the Rouse was played and the ceremony concluded I spoke to the man, and we walked back to the town square together where I discovered his name is John Edwards, and that he is the President of the Bolton, Lancs. branch of the R.A. Assoc. in the UK and that his rank is Sgt. We have exchanged email addresses etc, and I will be sending copies of Cascabel to the UK. I gave Sgt Edwards an Australian Army hat badge, and some Arty Corp's patches.

The following day I headed for Waterloo, and on arrival found that as works were going on around the site I was unable to climb the mound to the Lion on top, and had to settle for taking photo's.

The following day found me heading to Arnhem in Holland, my father was a Para and wounded and captured at the Arnhem Bridge during Operation "Market Garden"

I then visited the Airborne Museum at Oosterbeek. The next day found me at Combles a small

village in France and the small Military cemetery where I found the grave of my great uncle Frank. I had to clean the headstone as it was covered in dirt from an overhanging tree, to enable me to photograph it properly. After paying my respects, it was a fairly short trip to the LOOS Memorial at LENZ where I found my other uncle William's name inscribed on the memorial panel (William was one of those never found) so for me it was "End of mission" I had finished what I started out to do, and can now fill in some blanks in the family tree.

There are many cemetery's across the Western Front, and I commend the Commonwealth War Graves Commission for the way that they upkeep these sites.

P.S. The notes for this article were written up in Flanders whilst still fresh in my memory.

I urge anyone who is able to visit these areas of battle, as you will probably never forget them afterwards. Also if travelling in Europe and using a GPS, buy maps of the area to avoid any confusion.

Thanks for your contribution, Emie



Australian Army

Royal Regiment of Australian Artillery

**Representative Colonel Commandant Colonels Commandant
Commanding Officers (Artillery Commanders)**

Regimental Sergeant Majors (Artillery Sergeant Majors)

All Ranks of the Royal Regiment of Australian Artillery

Associations and Affiliated Friends of the Regiment

SAINT BARBARA'S DAY GREETING 2015

For the next few years the Royal Regiment joins in the ANZAC Centenary and World War One commemorations that remembers gunners and their families who paid the ultimate sacrifice for the nation. Our hearts and great respect go with those who have been killed or wounded in our recent conflicts also.

As each regiment celebrate their anniversaries in their own special way, may our memories draw us back to the heroism and camaraderie our gunner ancestors exhibited starting from the

Sudan and continuing through both World Wars, the conflicts in Korea, Malaya, Vietnam, our contribution to peacekeeping and those who have served in Iraq and Afghanistan. We should also think of gunners still serving in current conflict areas in the Middle East and the everyday sacrifice their families experience.

This year, we continue to evolve well into the digitally aided fire support battle space, air land integration and impressive surveillance and target acquisition capabilities in the Unmanned

Aerial Systems. From all accounts the Regiment is a leader in Army and in some cases, the world, in these endeavours. We are also evolving within our personnel capabilities with all of our trades being subjected to review and refinement. In particular the Air-Land trade will finally be realised.

I recently attended the RAA Command Post Exercise at the School of Artillery; an event that was well attended by gunners from all over Australia. This annual event is now in its third year and fast becoming an institutional benchmark that generates professional discussion, shares ideas and challenges with one another and seeks to improve and standardise procedures. The innovation and professional development within this activity is paying off' within Army with much praise coming from independent observations of our capability on major exercises, particularly our headquarters contributions in the Combined Arms and Joint Environment.

Combined with the RAA CPX was the conduct of the Regimental Executive Committee Meeting and it is very encouraging to see participation by the Light Battery commanders throughout the Regimental community. In the midst of the week-long event the Regiment awarded the much coveted Mt Schanck trophy, after some years of hibernation, to both 7th and 23rd Light Battery. Congratulations to all within the Battery's for their efforts this year.

I would like to commend the RAA Executive in its bid to revive the interest in the Gunners Fund by instituting more meaningful endeavours in 2016 such as funding for unit awards, gunner of the year awards, and special projects such as support for historical trips and the RAA Memorial Walk pavers for members who have passed away while on duty. The Badge raffle will also be re-instituted and indeed this is an event that is well worth anticipating for.

I would ask each and everyone to support the fund as this is our one and only source of funding for our heritage endeavours. I would also like to thank all the RAA associations who have generously contributed to the Gunners Fund. The Regiment is in a much better financial position as a result of your meaningful contribution.

I encourage everyone to patronise the RAA Liaison Letter. This publication is, for all intent and purposes, the common glue that links us all. It contains valuable insight as to current Regiment mind-set, trends and contains the most

up to date information on Regimental affairs. While the RAA Defence Protected Network SharePoint site is being developed, the Liaison Letter remains a valuable tool to connect us all. Of course, this publication is also made available at the RAA Historical Company website for those who are unable to access the Defence Networks. Let us therefore continue to support the Liaison Letter with submissions on technical discussions, operational experiences, customs and traditions as well as the events around the Regiment that are of interest to us all.

The year 2016 is already proving to be a busy year. There are already many events lined up. The Memorial Gun project continues to tour the country displaying the restored 18 pounder gun and ammunition limber. The 'History Seminar Series: Firepower Lessons from the Great War' continues to educate both military and civilian interest groups and the National Gunner Dinner will be held in May in Canberra. We will be hosting the Royal Artillery delegation as part of the Ubique 300 Tercentenary celebrations as they tour the world with a message from our Captain-General in February. The tour in Australia will consist of cricket matches between RA and RAA, and a signing of the message at the RAA national }Memorial at Mt Pleasant by Head of Regiment and Representative Colonel Commandant.

Today as we celebrate Saint Barbara's Day, let us remember what we have achieved in 2015 and prepare for the challenges of 2016. I congratulate all who will be taking up appointments in January 2016 as Commanders of Units, Sub-Units and Regimental and Battery Sergeant Majors. It is also a day where many are promoted to the next rank and recognised for their service, and to you I pass on my congratulations for your ongoing commitment to the Regiment and Army.

On behalf of the Representative Colonel Commandant and Colonels Commandant, I congratulate and thank all ranks of the Royal Regiment of Australian Artillery, serving and former, for their service.

Enjoy your celebrations today.

Ubique

PC Gates, AM CSM

Brigadier Head of Regiment C/- Headquarters
School of Artillery Bridges Barracks Puckapunyal
MILPO VIC 3662

E-mail: peter.gates@defence.gov.au

24 November 2015



RAA LUNCHEON



Brigadier D. I. Perry OAM RFD ED cordially invites both serving and retired Gunners to the Annual Royal Australian Artillery Luncheon.

This is a great opportunity to catch up and renew friendships with other Gunners and especially to reunite those Gunners that we have not seen for a number of years.

The RAA Luncheon has been very successful over the past few years, so Gunners please bring along another Gunner to the Luncheon.

WHEN: Wednesday, 2nd March 2016

TIME: 1200 for 1230 hours

WHERE: RACV Club, 501 Bourke St.
Melbourne

COST: \$75.00 (2 Course meal which includes a complimentary drink)

DRESS: Jacket and tie

RSVP: 24th February 2016

TO: Reg W Morrell
6 Melissa Street, Mt Waverley 3149.
Tel. 9562 9552
Mobile – 0425 837 958
Email- morrells@morrell.org

-----Reply slip-----

RANK..... NAME:.....
ADDRESS.....
Tel. No.....
Enclosed is a cheque for \$.....(payable to RAA Association)
Additional NameRank.....
Special dietary requirements
If possible, I wish to be seated near

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

Appendix 1

BIOGRAPHIES OF SOME OF THE PERSONALITIES

Warrant Officer OSAMU KUDO - Imperial Japanese Navy

Osamu Kudo was born in 1914, in Oita Prefecture in Japan, he joined the Naval Air Force cadets in 1931, at 16 years of age, and completed his training in 1935.

He was sent to Shanghai, China, and in September 1937, during an attack on Han King, he shot down an enemy aircraft, but his own machine was hit, and he crash landed in the river. Soon after returning to Japan in September 1937, he was posted to the aircraft carrier "Kaga", where he spent a year, mainly in the South China Sea region. During this time he was credited with shooting down a further two enemy (Chinese) fighter aircraft. He later served on the carrier "Akagi", and in September 1941, he was transferred to the 3rd naval Air Group. On December 10th, 1941, Kudo and several of his 3rd Air Group colleagues were credited with shooting down a total of nine American aircraft over the Philippines.



COURTESY BROOME HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Warrant Officer Osamu Kudo. Killed during the raid

The 3rd Naval Air Group moved to Koepang (Timor) on February 24th, 1942, and on 3rd March, 1942, Kudo was engaged in operations against military targets at the Western Australian town of Broome. He managed to shoot down an American Liberator bomber, which had just taken off, but during strafing runs on other machines on the airstrip his Zero was hit by machine gun fire. His aircraft crashed into the sea, and Kudo was killed. It is claimed that his body was later washed up, and he was buried on the beach, but this has never been substantiated.

At the time of his death, Warrant Officer Osamu Kudo had a tally of 7 enemy aircraft to his credit. As was the Japanese practice at the time, all distinguished pilots were posthumously promoted - in his case to Lieutenant (Junior Grade).

Lt. ZENIRO MIYANO - Imperial Japanese Navy



COURTESY BROOME HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Lt. Zeniro Miyano. Commanded the Broome flight

Zeniro Miyano was born at Osaka, Japan, in 1916. He graduated from Navy School in 1938, as one of 65 graduates, and completed his course with the Flying Training Unit in April 1940.

In 1941 he was posted to the 12th Flying Unit, and sent to China, although he did not gain any combat experience there. In October 1941, he was promoted to the rank of Lieutenant, and became a

unit leader with the 3rd Naval Air Group. On December 8th 1941, he recorded his first aerial victory, when he shot down an American aircraft over Luzon Island in the Philippines. He continued combat operations in this region for some weeks before the Group moved to Ambon, and then to Koepang.

On March 3rd 1942, he led the raid on Broome, and his flight was successful in destroying almost two dozen Allied aircraft. In April 1942, he became flight leader of the 6th Naval Air Group, which was preparing for the Battle of Midway. Later, in June that year, he was engaged in operations against Dutch harbour, from the carrier "Hayabusa". Following that mission he was sent to Rabaul, as leader of the 204th Flying Unit, and spent almost a year in operations from that base.

On June 16th 1943, Lt. Miyano and 24 Zeros under his command engaged a superior force of Allied fighters over Guadalcanal, and he was shot down. At the time he had a tally of 16 Allied aircraft to his credit, and in accordance with tradition, he was posthumously promoted two ranks to Commander.

Captain TAKEO SHIBATA - Imperial Japanese Navy

Takeo Shibata, a crack combat pilot, was promoted to the rank of Lt. Commander on 1 December 1936, and posted to the position of Chief Test Pilot at the Naval Aircraft Establishment. In this role he had much to do with the development of the Navy's Zero fighter, and it was mainly through his efforts that the requirements for long range capabilities were built into the aircraft.

On October 15th, 1941, he was promoted to Commander, and was made second in command of the 3rd Naval Air Group. At this time the Group was in Formosa for intensive training, with emphasis being on learning special tactics to conserve fuel, and achieve maximum range (a principle stressed by Shibata years before). This training enabled the Group to attack Manila, from Formosa, on the first day of the Pacific War.

In early 1942, Shibata was promoted to command the 3rd Naval Air Group, and in February he advanced the Group from Ambon to Koepang. On learning of the large number of Allied aircraft staging through Broome, in Western Australia, Shibata ordered that an attack be mounted on

such targets as soon as possible. A raid was launched at dawn on March 3rd, with spectacularly successful results.

On October 15th 1944, Takeo Shibata was promoted to the rank of Captain (the Navy equivalent of Group Captain), and he retained that rank until the end of the war.

Takeo Shibata was still alive in Japan in the mid 1980's.



COURTESY BROOME HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Commander Takeo Shibata. Ordered the raid

Captain IVAN VASIELIYICH SMIRNOFF

Ivan Smirnoff was born on a farm at Vladimir, 200 km west of Moscow in 1895.

He joined the Russian Army in 1914, but was wounded after several weeks in combat. Whilst recuperating in hospital - which was located next to a military training airfield - he became interested in flying. He transferred to the Imperial Russian Air Force, and in 1915, he was posted to the crack 19th Escadrille at Lutak. His exploits in the air became legendary. Within a year he was the second highest scoring Russian ace (with 12 German planes to his credit), and he was awarded a string of decorations, including the Order of Saint

George - the Russian equivalent of the Victoria Cross.

With the Russian Revolution in 1917, Smirnoff was forced to flee the country, for as a member of the "officer" class he was in danger of being killed. He then joined the R.A.F. in England, and after the war was employed by a Belgian airline, with whom he broke the Brussels to London record on his first flight. In 1922 he joined the Dutch airline KLM, and over the ensuing years he broke the Holland to Batavia record on several occasions.



Capt. Ivan Smirnoff. Shot down at Carnot Bay

Smirnoff became a naturalised Dutch citizen in 1929, and for his services to aviation, and in recognition of his many long distance record flights, he was knighted by Queen Wilhelmina. KLM had wanted Smirnoff to pilot their entry in the 1934 London to Melbourne Centenary Air Race, but he declined due to his wife's serious illness at the time.

In 1940, the Smirnoffs were based at Batavia, with the Royal Netherlands East Indies Airline (KNILM), a subsidiary of KLM. With the advent of the Pacific War, Smirnoff was sworn in as a Captain in the Royal Netherlands Air Force, and was then engaged in refugee evacuation flights throughout the East Indies. It was on one such flight that he

was shot down at Carnot Bay, near Broome.

After the war Smirnoff flew a number of record flights for American interests, and in 1947 had flown a total time of 27,000 hours - more than any other pilot in the world, at that time.

Smirnoff died of cancer in 1956.

Captain JAMES WOODS M.B.E.

Jimmy Woods was born at Udney, Scotland on November 12, 1893, and was educated at Dundee.

He served with the Royal Flying Corps in Egypt during the First World War, and migrated to New Zealand after the Armistice. In 1924 he moved to Western Australia and joined West Australian Airways, flying their aircraft on both the North West and Perth - Adelaide services. His attempts at record flights did not meet with a great deal of success - his first attempt was on a solo flight record from Australia to England in 1933. After leaving Broome, he met with a number of misfortunes, and it took him three weeks to reach England, in his Gipsy Moth. His second attempt, in the 1934 London to Melbourne Centenary Air Race, met with disaster when he crashed the Lockheed Vega he was flying, at Aleppo. A third record attempt, during the 1953 London to New Zealand Air Race, did not eventuate, as Woods had difficulty finding sufficient sponsors to finance his attempt, using an ex RAAF Mosquito aircraft.

Woods joined MacRobertson Miller Aviation Co. in 1934 as Operations Manager, and for the next few years was a familiar sight in the north of the State. On March 3, 1942, he had just departed Wyndham prior to the Japanese attack on that airport, and arrived over Broome shortly after the Zeros had finished their attack on that centre. He then made a number of shuttle flights between Broome and Port Hedland, evacuating the wounded, and on one flight he carried 22 persons on his 10 seater aircraft. He was also instrumental in the rescue of Dutch refugees stranded on the Eighty Mile Beach, south of Broome. During one of the evacuation flights Woods taxied his Lockheed Electra into a concrete tie down point in the darkness, and bent the propeller tips. He obtained a hacksaw, and cut three inches off the tip of each propeller blade, and then continued his evacuation flights. For his efforts he received a severe reprimand from the Australian authorities, but Queen Wilhelmina of the Netherlands took a much more enlightened

view, and decorated him as a Knight of the Order of the Orange Nassau.



Capt. Jimmy Woods. Evacuated the wounded

After the War he crashed his Lockheed on take-off from Broome, but by skilful airmanship, he and his passengers escaped unhurt.

In 1948, he formed Woods Airways, and commenced the service for which he is best remembered - Perth to Rottneest Island - at that time the shortest scheduled airline service in the world. Using war surplus Avro Ansons, he operated his last service in 1961, having completed almost 13,000 flights on the route. Woods had 22,351 flying hours to his credit at this time.

Jimmy Woods died in Albany on May 9th 1975, and his ashes were scattered in the sea, between Perth and Rottneest Island in August of that year.

Appendix 5

JAPANESE RECOLLECTIONS OF THE RAID

Letter to the author, from Mr. Yasuo Matsumoto

Dear Mr. Prime,

Recollections of Raid on Broome

Nine Zeros, led by Lt. Miyano, staying in formation,

dashed down into the Bay from the entrance of it, in low, and destroyed the large group of flying boats. After this attack we destroyed the Allied aircraft on the land airfield.

After a while, during my last shooting, my Zero was shot through several parts, (body tank and others), by fire from the ground, and I left there for Koepang.

On the way back the engine of my Zero stopped because its fuel had run short, and my Zero was ditched in the sea nearby one small island. (I still don't know the name of this island even now!) After about two hours swimming, I reached the beach of that island.

Then I crossed over to the Island of Roti by canoe. I was rescued by the patrol boat of Japanese Guards on the 20th of March.

The instructions regarding the attack (or the target of attack) that we were given at the starting were the Allied aircraft (8 or 10) which our reconnaissance aircraft had found on the land airfield on the day before (the 2nd March).

I feel that I saw a photograph of Allied aircraft on the airfield which above - mentioned reconnaissance aircraft had taken.

I remember that any informations or instructions about the Allied flying boats on the Bay were not given till we found them at the bay of Broome, and our great fruits of battle were beyond expectations.

Yasuo Matsumoto 17 July 1978

Letters to the author from Capt. Takeo Shibata*

Dear Mr. Prime,

A reconnaissance of the Broome district was flown at 11.10 am on the 2nd March, the pilot reporting that he saw 8 large aircraft on the Broome airstrip, (but no mention was made of any flying boats on Roebuck Bay).

On searching the historical reports of the Taka-o Naval Air Group (which operated the reconnaissance flights) there was a statement that "it enforced the searching and patrolling for the enemy with the large flying boats 600 sea miles** southwest of Koepang from March 1st to the 4th", so this may have been one of several flights over Broome in early March.

As a result of this report of the 2nd March, I ordered that an attack on these military targets be undertaken without delay, and planned for a time over the target of 30 minutes. However the factual raid time was about one hour, because there were many flying boats and others by chance. One more reason of such long time air raid was the firm belief of our pilots about the great cruising power of the Zero fighter.

The fuel tanks used in the Type 21 Zero fighter were the same type as the one which had always been used in case of long range bombardment since the direct air raid of Manila airfield from Formosa dated 8th December 1941. The main wing tanks were 520 litres capacity and a 320 litre extra (drop) tank was attached under the main body.

It was strongly demanded that the Zero fighter be equipped with long range flight capacity, while it was still under testing (Mitsubishi T12 carrier fighter), and also it was me who made a strong recommendation so that the Navy deployed the usage of aircraft carriers southward stretch campaign based from Formosa and made a campaign enabling them to make successful long range attacks, and all data to support this fact is with myself.

I would point out that the biggest advantage of Zero fighters would be the long range flight capacity. I understand this is a unanimous comment from overseas too.

In the case of the Broome flight the extra drop tanks were supposed to be dropped just before the air raid. According to the Combat Reports, the said fighters left Koepang at 0705 and attacked Broome at 0930, and therefore I worked out that the fuel consumption by my calculation, in the extra tank just before dropping would have approximately 50 litres of fuel. I believe that by 0930 hours all of the Zero fighters must have dropped their extra fuel tanks regardless of the extra fuel left in them.

I should point out that at the same time as the Broome flight left Koepang at 7.05 am, another eight Zeros under Sub Lt. Toshitada Kawazois command proceeded on the Wyndham raid.

In regard to Broome, I believe some pilot - one of the pilots who belonged to the same squadron as Chief Air Sergeant Kudo (either one of both of the pilots of the No. 2 and No.3 aircraft) - reporting to me "I saw Air Sergeant Kudo shoot down two PBV

Catalinas and one B.24 with a short burst of machine gun fire by himself, and dived on the land airfield with an ultra low altitude attacking heavy aircraft on the runway".

I do not remember any accurate reports from other pilots as to how Kudo's craft became missing or where it dropped, but it seems it went missing within about 10 to 20 minutes from the start of the attacking period. I suppose the reason would be machine gun fire from the land, and the craft dropped into the ocean near to the city of Broome.

We usually received a report after mechanics made a full investigation of the craft and they were supposed to make a report to the ground Air Commander and pilots used to talk to their colleagues "I had received quite severe shots today", also the pilots who thought they had taken a few shots during the flight used to run to their aircraft and make a thorough check themselves after they had been dismissed from the report.

I remember receiving a report from Lt. Miyano and from the other pilots that "many aircraft were on the runways and flying boats floating on the water but stopped their engines and shot back at us quite gallantly". (I suppose they were relieved from the fear that they might be shot down while leaving the water). They started a formidable exchange of machine gun fire between air and sea. In fact the records show that six Zeros out of seven returned to base after the successful raid of the 3rd March were pierced with shot holes.

Two Zeros were lost on this attack. One aircraft which Osamu Kudo piloted went missing. The other was Yasuo Matsumoto's plane which was ditched near Roti Island, and the pilot was rescued on 21st March. The ditching was by want of fuel, probably caused by the longest action, and was shot through by ground fire.

According to the Combat Reports of the 3rd Air Group, only two aircraft - (aircraft No.2 and No. 3 flown by Takashi Kurano and Zempei Matsumoto) of No. 1 squadron undertook the joint shoot down of the DC.3 at Carnot Bay, which resulted in its emergency landing when it burned out.

I know other members of the raiding party of the 3rd Air Group, but most of the pilots who participated in the air raid on Broome (except for 1st Class Naval Air Private Yasuo Matsumoto who was in Miyano's squadron) were killed later in the War.

Incidentally I ordered a second attack on Broome the following day (4th March), and this was mounted with one reconnaissance aircraft and three Zeros, but they returned to base after getting about 50 sea miles*** to the north of Broome, because of bad weather.

I would advise that everyone was risen usually one rank when he was killed in a war. But men with many distinguished fine war services were risen two ranks specially when they were killed in a war, as W. O. Osamu Kudo and Lt. Zenziro Miyano.

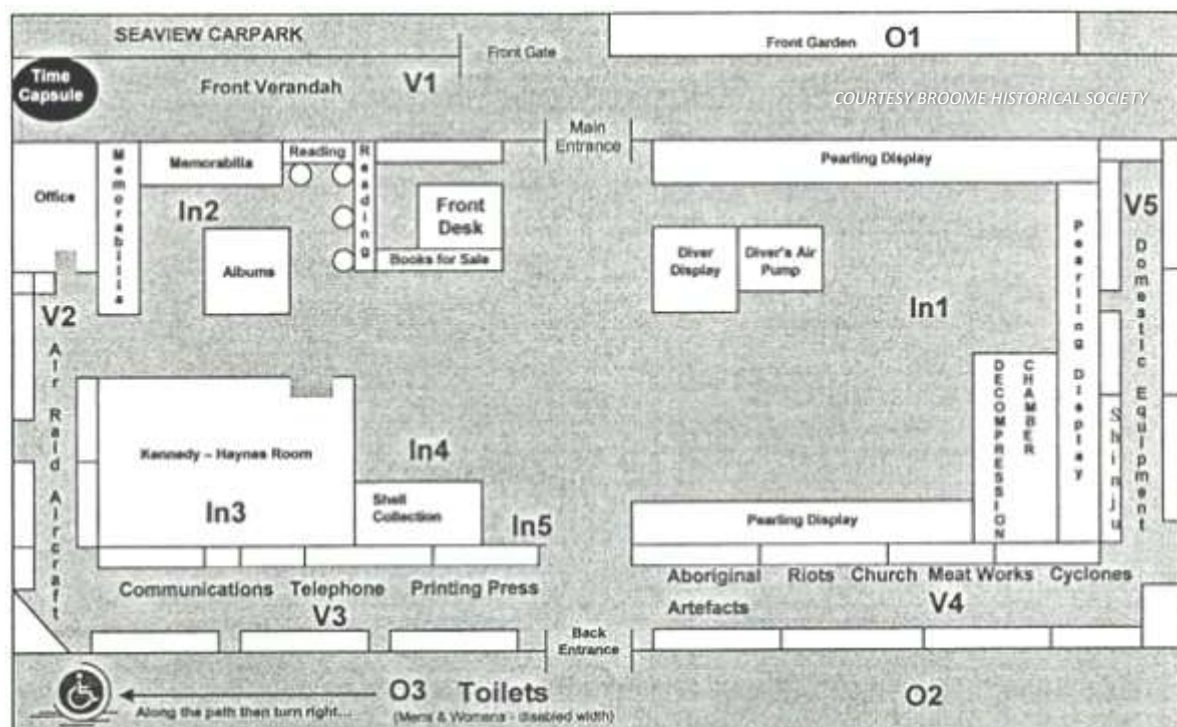
I note you have sometimes used the expression "the raid on the town of Broome", but I never issued my instruction as to the target to be the town. Please accept my apologies if some stray bullets fell into the town.

Takeo Shibata

- The above letter is actually a compilation of 5 letters written in 1977-78.
- **600 sea miles equates to slightly over 1000 kilometres
- ***50 sea miles equates to slightly under 100 kilometres

I must conclude by again thanking The Broome Historical Society and the author Mr Mervyn W. Prime for allowing me to share this very interesting and informative book with all of our readers. ed

LAYOUT OF THE MUSEUM situated at Hamersley St near the Seaview Shopping Centre



VERANDAHS

- V1** Time Capsule, various objects on display.
- V2** Air raid on Broome, Aircraft – wreckage,
- V3** Communication exhibits
Telephone exchange, Printing press, OTC equipment.
- V4** Aboriginal artefacts, Broome riots, Church organisations, Meat Works, Cyclones.
- V5** Household items and memorabilia, 'Shinju Matsuri Festival of the Pearl' memorabilia.

OUTSIDE FRONT

- O1** Outside front garden

INSIDE

- In1** Pearling History Display, Pearl diver display, Diver's air pump, Decompression chamber
- In2** Reading area, lifestyle memorabilia, Categorical albums, Photographs etc.
- In3** Kennedy - Haynes room, Family life etc.
- In4** Norman photo gallery, shell display.
- In5** Water cooler, ask at desk for cups, all welcome

OUTSIDE BACK

- O2 / O3** Outside back various exhibits & toilets

SGT Dave Morley takes a look at one of the ships with the shortest commission

First to fly new flag

COMMISSIONED for just 69 days in 1967, auxiliary vessel HMAS Boonaroo was the first to commission under the Australian White Ensign and her service provoked controversy at the time.

As the Australian National line's (ANL) MV Boonaroo, the ship completed a single return voyage to South Vietnam from May 17 to July 8, 1966, carrying supplies for Australian forces. When members of the seamen's Union of Australia refused to sail the ship for a second voyage to Vietnam with a load of Air Force ordnance in 1967, the ship was commissioned into the Navy at 9pm on March 1.

CMDR Patrick Bennett relieved Boonaroo's master CAPT P Grimanes while two engineering officers with RANR commissions remained on board and the ANL crew was replaced by RAN members

From March 3-10, the ship loaded cargo at Port Wilson. Victoria I He cargo consisted of pallets of 500 and 1000 pound bombs and tails, some general cargo including three kitchen complexes, a 10 tonne petrol tanker and a quantity of telegraph poles.

The ship's company was put together at short notice with many sailors being taken from HMAS Lonsdale.

Former engineering mechanic Jan Huscha, of Perth, who

sailed to Vietnam in the ship, said he was walking out the front gate of Lonsdale on his way home one evening when he was stopped by Dockyard Police, who asked his name.

"When I told them they instructed me to wait at the gate," he said.

"Then an officer came down and told me to go back, get my kit packed and return in an hour, when a bus would come and pick us up.

"The next morning the bus took us out to Williamstown to board Boonaroo, "I was in the minesweeper HMAS Snipe during the Borneo Confrontation, which was the highlight of my career, but the Boonaroo posting was interesting."

Boonaroo refuelled at Cairns on March 17, after passing through the fringe of Cyclone Dulcie off northern NSW a few days earlier.

The ship's company conducted snail arms firing and leaving ship drills on March 27 and arrived at Cam Ranh Bay. South Vietnam, on March 28,

where US soldiers from 24 Terminal Transport Battalion unloaded the general cargo.

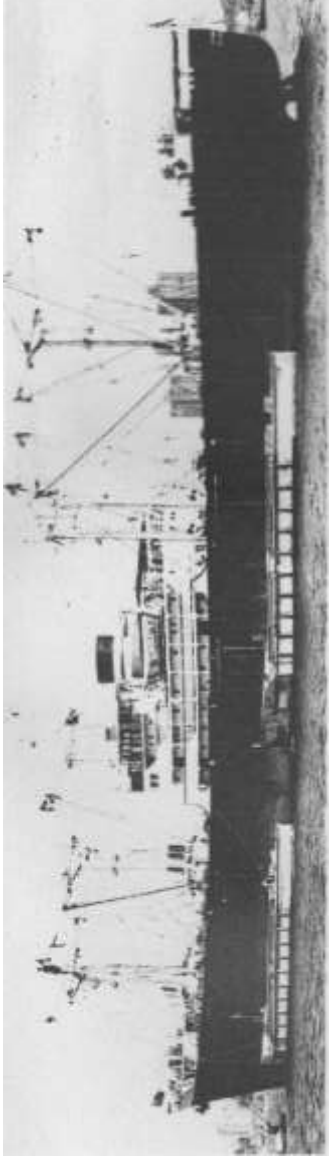
The following day the ship moved to the Ammunition Pier where 154 Terminal Transport Company unloaded the ammunition.

Boonaroo received stores delivered by a RAAF helicopter off Vung Tau on April 3 and act sail for Sydney, arriving on April 29 after stopovers in Singapore and Darwin

The ship's final voyage for Navy ended in Melbourne when she paid off on May 8, and was handed back to ANL.

For her short commission the ship remained in ANL livery and no HMAS Boonaroo tally bands were ever issued.

Boonaroo's Report of Proceedings for May 1967 indicate major engineering and maintenance work carried out during the ship's voyage ensured it was returned to ANL in better condition than when it was received 10 weeks previously.



RADM Ian Cartwright, in his covering note to the Secretary, Department of Navy, wrote, "an interesting and informative Report of Proceedings covering a successful month of operations in unusual circumstances".

INSPIRING LEADERSHIP

CAPT Lionel Matthews' George and Military Cross were donated to the Australia War Memorial (AWM) by his family on March 2.

On that day 71 years ago, Capt Matthews, known as 'The Duke', was executed by the Japanese in the Kuching POW camp on the island of Borneo.

Capt Matthews' son, David, surrounded by family and friends, presented the medals to AWM director Brendan Nelson.

"It is the most humbling and honourable of gestures that the Matthews family has allowed the AWM to preserve these awards in its display," Dr Nelson said.

Capt Matthews was posthumously awarded the George Cross for "gallant distinguished services" while a POW.

During his time in captivity between August 1942 and March 1944, Capt Matthews directed an underground intelligence organisation in Sandakan and arranged for the delivery of badly needed supplies.

In July 1943, the organisation was betrayed to the camp captors, and though Capt Matthews had devised an escape and could have fled, he remained with his men and was arrested.

Brutally tortured, he refused to divulge the names of his cohorts and even at the time of his execution defied the Japanese.

The commander of the Japanese troops on Borneo, Lt-Col Suga Tatsuji, told a group of Australian officers after the funeral, "I have just executed the bravest man I ever met."



Above, David Matthews hands over his father's WWII medals to AWM director Brendan Nelson. Below, Capt Lionel Matthews. Photos courtesy AWM



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

Xmas song at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NWF2JBb1bvM&feature=youtube_gdata_player

Sainsbury Xmas ad

Victoria Cross awarded to Lance Corporal for Afghanistan rescue

[Ewen MacAskill](#), defence correspondent

A British soldier is to be awarded the Victoria Cross on Thursday for helping rescue a joint UK-US force in danger of being overrun by the [Taliban](#) in Afghanistan's Helmand province. Lance Corporal Joshua Leakey, 27, of the Parachute Regiment, ran across an exposed hillside raked with machine-gun fire three times to arrange the evacuation of casualties, rally his comrades, return fire and retake the initiative. Eleven Taliban fighters were killed.

It is only the 15th time the military award, the highest in Britain, has been made since the second world war. It is also almost 70 years since another member of Leakey's family won the Victoria Cross.

Leakey, from Hampshire, will be at a ceremony at Lancaster House in London along with 13 others receiving medals in recognition of their courage

and service. He will receive the medal at a later investiture ceremony. Asked about his relative who won the same award, he said: "It's from my dad's side of the family. They are all very military-orientated. There's been someone in the military from every generation that I know of. "I've got a bit of a mad family, you could say. There's a lot of eccentric people."

Leakey's second cousin twice removed, Sergeant Nigel Gray Leakey, won this medal for action during the second world war in Africa in May 1945. The Victoria Cross, first awarded for bravery during the Crimea war in 1854, is for "most conspicuous bravery ... in the presence of the enemy".

According to the MoD, Leakey was part of a US-UK helicopter raid on a Taliban stronghold at Bar Now Zad in Helmand on

22 August 2013. On leaving the helicopters, they immediately found themselves pinned down by machine-gun fire and rocket-propelled grenades.

A US marine corps captain was shot and their communications were put out of action. After an hour, Leakey ran across the hillside, gained the crest and saw comrades from two machine-gun teams surrounded by about 20 Taliban and unable to provide covering fire.

He was the most junior member of the group, but he took control, gave first aid to the wounded US

captain and began the process of evacuation. He went back down the hill, took control of one of the machine-guns, even though it had bullets ricocheting off its frame at the time, and then took off again down the hillside.

Leakey, who joined 1 Para in 2007 and has done three tours in [Afghanistan](#), said:

"This award is brilliant, but it's also something I'm accepting on behalf of my regiment and my battalion, of which I'm so proud."

After the Lancaster House ceremony, Leakey is to go with other award recipients to Downing Street to meet David Cameron and other members of the cabinet.

Cameron said: "When you hear how events unfolded and the intensity of enemy fire, it is difficult to imagine how one wouldn't be frozen to the spot and yet Lance Corporal Leakey risked his life to run across that barren hillside not just once, but multiple times, to turn the battle and save the lives of comrades."

It is the third Victoria Cross awarded for action in the latest Afghanistan conflict, but the previous two were posthumous. The medal has been awarded 1,363 times, according to the Victoria Cross and George Cross Association.



CANADIAN tribute to the results of PTSD. Very touching and unfortunately true.

JP Cormier's official video of Hometown Battlefield.

To all vets and servicemen/women serving and retired (and all others who feel for our service personnel) this is a fitting and moving tribute

<http://youtu.be/Wq0X0bwMprQ>

Courtesy WO2 Max Murray



MONOPOLY!

Starting in 1941, an increasing number of British Airmen found themselves as the involuntary guests of the Third Reich, and the Crown was casting about for ways and means to facilitate their escape... Now obviously, one of the most helpful aids to that end is a useful and accurate map, one showing not only where stuff was, but also showing the locations of 'safe houses' where a POW on-the-lam could go for food and shelter.

Paper maps had some real drawbacks -- they make a lot of noise when you open and fold them, they wear out rapidly, and if they get wet, they turn into mush.

Someone in MI-5 (similar to America's OSS) got the idea of printing escape maps on silk. It's durable, can be scrunched-up into tiny wads, and unfolded as many times as needed, and makes no noise whatsoever. At that time, there was only one manufacturer in Great Britain that had perfected the technology of printing on silk, and that was John Waddington, Ltd. When approached by the government, the firm was only too happy to do its bit for the war effort.

By pure coincidence, Waddington was also the U.K. Licensee for the popular American board game, Monopoly. As it happened, 'games and pastimes' was a category of item qualified for insertion into 'CARE packages', dispatched by the International Red Cross to prisoners of war.

Under the strictest of secrecy, in a securely guarded and inaccessible old workshop on the grounds of Waddington's, a group of sworn-to-secrecy employees began mass-producing escape maps, keyed to each region of Germany or Italy where Allied POW camps were regional system). When processed, these maps could be folded into such tiny dots that they would actually fit inside a Monopoly playing piece.

As long as they were at it, the clever workmen at Waddington's also managed to add :

1. A playing token, containing a small magnetic compass
2. A two-part metal file that could easily be screwed together
3. Useful amounts of genuine high-denomination German, Italian, and French currency, hidden within the piles of Monopoly money!

British and American air crews were advised, before taking off on their first mission, how to identify a 'rigged' Monopoly set -- by means of a tiny red dot, one cleverly rigged to look like an ordinary printing-glitch, located in the corner of the Free Parking square.

Of the estimated 35,000 Allied POWs who successfully escaped, an estimated one-third were aided in their flight by the rigged Monopoly sets. Everyone who did so was sworn to secrecy indefinitely, since the British Government might want to use this highly successful ruse in still another, future war. The story wasn't declassified until 2007, when the surviving craftsmen from Waddington's, as well as the firm itself, were finally honoured in a public ceremony.

It's always nice when you can play that 'Get Out of Jail' Free' card!

Courtesy Ssgt Reg Morrell

Yank's and their stuff ...

Its no wonder they rank themselves as the World's Policeman & they want to send troops anywhere and this is just a few of their toys ...
and it's good that we're friend's with this lot



USNavy - Shortcut.Ink

If you have any problems with this shortcut, just keep left clicking & you will be asked if you wish to open the file. OK.

Courtesy Sgt Gordon Hepburn

They are only getting better. Brilliant new technology.

Should be standard issue to all military and police forces.

<http://www.israelvideonetwork.com/brilliant-huge-boom-tiny-bullet>

Courtesy WO2 David Troedel

Skunk: A Weapon From Israel

Brilliant!

We should use this here.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_embedded&v=H4_XZE3r3oU

Courtesy WO1 John Mottershead

Army Remembrance Pin

The Australian Army has today introduced the Army Remembrance Pin to commemorate the valued service of members who have died while in the Army; during both times of peace and war, since 3 September 1945.

Speaking at the Australian War Memorial, Lieutenant General David Morrison, AO, highlighted the need to remember their contribution.

"In appreciation of the men and women who have died while in the service of our nation, we have introduced the Army Remembrance Pin to acknowledge and commemorate their contribution to our Army," Lieutenant General Morrison said.

"This Pin is gifted to the families of deceased members as a symbol of their ongoing connection with the Australian Army."

"Our Army is built on history, traditions and the service of those who have come before us. The Pin is intended as a family keepsake to be handed down through the generations to ensure the memory of the member and their service continues."

The Army Remembrance Pin continues the tradition of the Mothers' and Widows' badges distributed to the loved ones of World War One and Two veterans who were killed in action, or who died of wounds on active service or after discharge.

Courtesy Defence News & Media



African pouched rats

Courtesy Sgt Mike Prowse

Everyone's least favourite rodent has been tasked with cleaning up the lethal leftovers of war.

Land mines kill thousands every year, but these rats have been trained to save lives by sniffing out the scent of explosives.

The group responsible for training the rodents is APOPO - which stands for Anti-Persoonsmijnen Ontmijnende Product Ontwikkeling in Dutch, or Anti-Personnel Landmines Detection Product Development in English.

Using positive reinforcement that is respectful to



detectors five days to cover the same area.

Since 2000, they have found over 9,000 buried land mines and bombs all across Tanzania and Mozambique.

They've also found thousands of small arms and ammunitions stashed in the ground.

The rats normally live for up to eight years, but are retired when they turn six. They live out the rest of their days as hero's, munching on avocados, apples and bananas, and being loved and cared for by their handlers.

the animals, these African pouched rats are taught to identify explosives and then alert their handler.

They're perfect for the job - they're highly intelligent and have a keen sense of smell. They are small enough not to trigger mines, yet large enough to be easily identifiable in the field.. No rat has been killed in a minefield.

They can clear two hundred square meters in just 20 minutes. It would take humans with metal



Collections of engraved Zippo lighters from soldiers of the Vietnam War recently sold at auction for over \$30,000.



Flying sisters take flight



The first matron-in-chief of the RAAF Nursing Service, Margaret Irene Lang.

THEY cared for the sick and wounded during World War II and soon became known as the flying sisters.

They were members of the RAAF Nursing Service (RAAFNS) which was established on July 26, 1940, with 40 or so nurses.

When the Empire Air Training Scheme started at the end of 1940, 52 sisters from RAAFNS were attached to the RAAF Medical Staff escorting parties of trainee aircrew personnel on ships to US, Canada and Britain, and by December 1945 the service had grown to 616 members.

The RAAFNS was modelled on the Princess Mary's Royal Air Force Nursing Service in Britain.

At the time, all nurses were appointed to four-year short-service commissions with a maximum extension of three years, and only the principal matron was permitted to hold a permanent commission.

Pay scales were about two thirds of the male rate. Nurses also had to resign if they married.

Unlike the WAAAF, members of the RAAFNS also routinely worked overseas, often in combat zones, side by side with their male counterparts.

Also, despite the WAAAF disbanding soon after the war, the RAAFNS was retained as a continuing and valuable service.

In November 1942, Senior Sister Jean Wheatley led the first group of RAAF nurses into a combat zone, arriving with five other sisters to staff the No. 3 Medical Receiving Station at Port Moresby.

The station operated under canvas close to Ward's Strip in June Valley, and was in a direct line for enemy air raids.

The Japanese attacked the airfield the second night after the nurses arrived.

For her deeds, Senior Sister Wheatley became the first member of the RAAF Nursing Service to be decorated when she was appointed an Associate of the Royal Red Cross on March 10, 1944.

During the Korean War, RAAFNS members flew in RAAF Dakotas conducting aeromedical evacuations.

From 1951, 12,000 casualties were air-lifted to Iwakuni in Japan.

The last medical evacuation flight from Korea to Iwakuni and then to Australia was in July 1956, when the entire RAAF contingent returned to Australia.

During the 1950s RAAFNS had a change in rank titles.

From 1955 senior sisters became flight officers and sisters became section officers.

From July 1965 until 1972 the conflict in Vietnam necessitated aeromedical evacuation of casualties from Vietnam to Butterworth, with the last aeromedical evacuation flight in 1972.

Over these years more than 3000 service casualties were evacuated, escorted by nursing sisters and medical orderlies from Vietnam to Australia.

On May 1, 1977, the RAAF Nursing Service was integrated into the RAAF Medical Branch and from this date male nursing officers became eligible for appointment to the RAAF.

On January 1, 1978, female nursing officers received pay equal to that of their male counterparts.

Support to our neighbours in 2002 included RAAF nursing officers sent with a contingent in response to the Bali bombings, to assist with patient care and repatriation to Australian capital cities.

In 2004, following the tsunami in Indonesia, RAAF nursing officers provided medical and evacuation services for those affected by the disaster, and in 2005 again responded promptly to another Bali bombing with medical and retrieval services.

Today, nurses work side by side with surgeons and other medical staff, both in Australia and overseas on deployment.

A variety of links for your enjoyment

This should be useful.

http://www.boeing.com/defense-space/ic/des/hel_md_0514_vid.html

ONE HUNDRED YEARS OLD AND LOOK JUST LIKE NEW

WW1 vehicles

Amazing GDSF WW1 Steam Convoy - 'Gigantic' bounces around the roundabout!

An excellent 11 page story with photos of the Holsworthy internment camp during WWII.

<http://www.migrationheritage.nsw.gov.au/exhibition/enemyathome/holsworthy-internment-camp/>

Subject: Fw: Norwegian Royal Guard Regiment

Video takes 8 minutes and gets better and better and it is all done in an ice ring on ice; amazing.

Turn up your sound, enlarge the screen, sit back and enjoy some great precision from the Norwegian Royal Guard Regiment (equivalent to the British and Canadian Guards regiments).

It is interesting how a cheesy Hollywood theme (from "The Good, The Bad, and The Ugly") can sound so impressive when played by an elite military band.

All of this is being performed on ICE!

The rifles are US made Garand M-1 rifles (WWII), and they are heavy weapons (9 POUNDS EACH) also, known for its balance!!

YOU'VE NEVER SEEN A RIFLE SPUN THAT FAST!

<http://sorisomail.com/email/16993/exibicao-de-banda-militar--um-espectaculo-imperdivel.html>

Veteranweb Network

raypayne@veteranweb.asn.au

Veteranweb Network providing information to Australian veterans and service personnel. Reaching more than 12,000 readers daily and growing.

All of the above courtesy of WO1 John Mottershead

This is a video on how the USS Pennsylvania works. It is a nuclear powered submarine powered by a lump of uranium the size of your fist that provides all of the power to navigate and provide power for all of the daily operations. It has been running since 1989 without having to refuel. Ever wonder how they get fresh air under water to last for months? How do they launch a nuclear warhead? How they can make the submarine quiet to avoid detection? This is *fascinating!!*

<http://www.chonday.com/Videos/pen1usnav1>

Courtesy of Sgt Michael Prowse

The Government announced the signing of a multi-million dollar acquisition and support contract for a Light Weight Automatic Grenade Launcher capability for the Australian Defence Force.

This contract, between Defence and Australian company Nioa Pty Ltd, has an estimated value of \$47 million.

As part of project Land 40 Phase 2, the acquisition of this new Light Weight Automatic Grenade Launcher represents a key step in modernisation of the ADF's lethality and capability.

Nioa Pty Ltd is based in Brisbane and will oversee the delivery and support of the Light Weight Automatic Grenade Launcher to the ADF.

Under this contract more than 200 Light Weight Automatic Grenade Launcher systems will be delivered to the ADF from the third quarter of 2016 until mid 2017.

NEW GRENADE LAUNCHER APPROVED



Vale Luke Worsley

The 23rd of November has just passed. For some it's just another day. Unfortunately for others it is not. I was there on the ground that day when one of our finest, Luke Worsley from 4 RAR Commando, was knocked. We were out in the middle of the Afghanistan Dasht and a long way from Australia. This story from within the SF community needs to be told to the Australian public but most of all the parents, wives, sons daughters and family.

What the boys from Bravo Company 4 RAR (now 2 Commando Regiment), Special Operations Task Group (SOTG) rotation V (Roman numeral for 5), did for one of their own over an 18 hour plus period is something I will never forget. His mates did everything they could for him and then some.

We harboured up the vehicles, created the Vehicle Drop off Point (VDO) and the decision was made to move in on foot. Harboursing the vehicles was no easy feat as there were Land Rover SRVs, 4 and 6 wheel All-terrain Vehicles, Bushmasters and the Mother Ship. The Mother Ship was an up

armoured 4 x 4 Mercedes Unimog that looks like something out of Mad Max. It had a pintle mounted 50cal HMG mounted on top and a 7.62 Mag58 LMG mounted for the passenger.

The boys took off around dusk and started the stomp of about 3km (3.5hrs) over the mountainous terrain to the objective. Overwatch was established over the village, and the boys went in. All seemed to be going well until the call of TIC (Troops in Contact) came over the radio. Echoes of rifle and intense machine gun fire could be heard across the valley.

Then we heard the words that no one wants to hear. Just after midnight on the 22nd and going in to the early morning of 23rd November, I can remember hearing over the radio that we had a man down. All of us who were listening to the contact over the radio couldn't believe it, we were waiting to hear who it was. The call sign of the soldier was sent over the radio and eventually we worked out it was Luke .

We were in our harbour securing the vehicles, a few of us started to prepare to roll in and give them a hand. We could still hear the heavy fighting going on. Thankfully the boss made the call not to send us forward as we found out later on that the

vehicle route in to the village had been mined with IEDs. The boys had been on target for about 8 plus hours and dawn was not that far away. So the call was made to move out and that they would have to stretch carry Luke back to the VDO some 3km away.

This paragraph I'm trying to give you some idea of the mind set and some of the setbacks the boys faced and overcame.

We also had Close Air Support, more commonly known as CAS. The boom and the shock wave from the explosion was massive. It broke the silence and even lit up our valley. When the CAS was called in we were in the VDO 3km away and we thought the boom and the shock wave from the explosion was massive. The main group were still in the vicinity of the village, they were only 700m to 900m away when the missile hit the target.

Choppers were called in to come and pick up Luke. The Chinook, along with Gunship support, had to come from TK Airfield and were provided by the Dutch. They were requested to pick Luke from the village and take them back to TK Airfield for processing. As it turned out, we were told the chopper was on its way from TK. Then the call came over the radio informing us it was being diverted to Forward Operating Base (FOB) Anaconda for another task. We were then told it was not coming directly to us from FOB Anaconda but now diverted to Kandahar. Once again we were then informed that the chopper did not have enough fuel to come to us from Kandahar, so it returned to TK airfield then finally on to our location.

Back to the story: I can remember standing there listening to the Company who were coming back, calling in and updating their position. Once we knew they were about 20 to 30 minutes out from the VDO, I told every spare body to go around to the vehicles, dig out the gas bottles and stove and boil some water. This was so they would have hot water for a brew when they returned.

Then I saw the first of two things that day that I wish every Australian could have seen. I can remember looking up and seeing the first member of the Company coming over the hill, then another and another. Then the rest of the boys who were carrying Luke on the stretcher. Every man wanted to carry Luke. They had been at it for over 12 hours by now, they were all tired and

they were hurt, but in true Grunt fashion they were not bloody beaten and at no time would they give up. At that very moment I was thinking, how proud I was to be there. I just witnessed something un-bloody believable.

Before Luke was to be taken off the battlefield by chopper, he was placed in one of the Bushmasters. Everyone from the Company had the opportunity to go in, pay their respects and say goodbye, which they all did. Me personally, I held his hand and said a prayer Psalm 23:4 (Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me). I also told him that one day we will all be reunited in Valhalla and that he would not be forgotten.

In addition to this there was a young Mortar man. He was one of the boys that had just been out all night. He helped carry and was good friends with Luke. Unfortunately he could not bring himself to go in to the Bushmaster and say good bye. I tried to convince him at the time that it was the right thing to do; however, he still could not bring himself to do it. I said to him that I completely understand. 30 minutes later at around 9 or 10ish we received the call that the evac chopper was inbound.

Finally, we could hear the sound of the Chinook off in the distance. At this point I picked myself up and went over to where the Mortars were. As I approached him I said, mate this is the last chance you will get to say good bye. He was also religious man so I told him, this is the last chance to go in and say a prayer for him. To his credit we both walked to the Bushmaster together and I told him I would be right outside. He went in and farewelled his mate. Once we were back in Camp Russell, he came up to me and thanked me for what I had done. So we loaded Luke on to the chinook and made sure everything was good to go. This is where I saw the second thing that the Australian public should know about.

I was facing the chinook with the company spread out behind me in the defensive position. The position was spread out over approximately 500m on a slight hill that was running up from where we were. The CSM pointed behind me and said "hey DAZZ have a look at that." I turned around and this is what I saw.

I looked up and I could see the whole company, all

standing to attention. They were next to their cars, some were standing by themselves, some were standing on Bushmasters, this was truly an amazing site. These boys were paying their respect to a mate that they would never see again but would live on in their memories.

On our return to Camp Russell we had a service and we were allowed a few beers. We were all in the building which is normally used as a recreation room and one of the blokes, whose name I cannot recall, played the Dire Straits song Brothers In Arms. Every one stopped what they were doing and there was complete silence. Everyone banded together and paid their respect to Luke in their own way.

Once the Dire Straits song was finished a young man grabbed his guitar and went up the front of the recreation room. He was a strapping young lad who was already a legend within Bravo Company and 4RAR (2 Commando Regiment).

Now you have to remember that this is in November of 2007. This man and his guitar started to play

a song, a song that, funnily enough, still haunts me today. The song was "I hope you had the time of your life", by Green Day. It was a pretty good rendition of the song that would give any musician a run for their money.

A few months after the events of the 22nd – 23rd this man with his guitar was awarded the Medal For Gallantry for his actions on that fateful night. A few years after that in 2013 this man went on to become a legend. He went on to become forever immortal.

The man with the guitar was Cameron Baird VC MG and he is the 100th recipient of the Victoria Cross. A man truly worthy of this honour.

The same spirit that the ANZACs took with them to the shores of Gallipoli is still alive and well today. Up until now this story of the boys was just a personal memory that now will be hopefully told to the Australian public, but most of all the parents of these brave young lads.

Cheers

Darren Peters SOTG V

Congratulations!

Defence of Darwin Experience won a 2014 Travellers' Choice Award:

Top Museums — South Pacific

Top Museums — Australia

Travellers' Choice Awards are based on millions of reviews and opinions from TripAdvisor travellers.

Greetings from the Top End! Advice has been received today from the NT Government Department of Land Resource Management that the Defence of Darwin Experience has won two 2014 Trip Advisor for Business Awards in the categories of Top Museums – (1) South Pacific and (2) Australia.

Congratulations also go to Museums and Arts Galleries of NT who have also won two Trip Adviser for Business Awards in the same categories. RAAANT manages the Defence of Darwin Experience on behalf of MAGNT. Any media inquiries in respect of the Defence of Darwin Experience should be directed to Norm Cramp, Manager, Darwin Military Museum, East Point – Telephone: (08) 8981 9702.

UBIQUE!

John Johnston

RAAANT National Liaison Officer and Treasurer

0419 836 669



Two Hundred and Fifty Years of H M S Victory

Ordered to be built in 1758 and launched in 1763 HMS Victory was commissioned in 1778, thirteen years after launching. She cost more than 62 thousand pounds, approximately 50 million in today's money and used about 6000 trees of various types in her construction. Victory measures 230 feet long and has a beam of about 50 feet and was capable of 11 Knots. She is still

pounders at a mile could penetrate 2 feet thick oak. There were 3 main types of shot. Round shot for hull penetration, Dismasting shot for masts and rigging and Grape for anti personnel shooting.

The Crew consisted of 821 men, most of whom about 500 were the seamen who ailed and fought the ship. They were rated and paid as such according to skills and experience. They were led by 70 Petty Officers, 212 Able Seamen 193 Seamen and 87 basic Landsmen. Approximately 40 percent were under 24 years, youngest 12 and the oldest, the purser who was 67.



in commission and is the Flagship of the First Sea Lord and is the oldest commissioned ship in the world.

At the battle of Trafalgar, she carried 104 guns over four decks. The weight of all the cannon balls fired in her first broadside weighed 1.25 tons. As a First Rate ship she had to carry at least 100 guns.

She had a captain and nine commissioned officers in overall charge of the crew. Whilst boatswain, gunner, carpenter, surgeon and purser were warrant officers and had these specialist roles. Royal Marines were the ship's fighting force and consisted of 11 officers and 135 privates. Most of Victory's guns today are wooden replicas, as the ship could not bear the weight of the originals in dry dock. One of the original guns is a 24 pounder weighing more than 3 tons and is displayed on the middle deck where visitors enter the ship. A shot from one of the 32

Vittles: mainly boiled beef, suet pudding or boiled pork and peas.

Over 26 miles of flax and hemp rope was used in her rigging the largest being 19 inch (old measurements) The ship had 37 sails which gave her a total 6,500 square yards of area.



Courtesy WO2 Jock Macdonald

Suomenlinna Island Fortress

Helsinki

Finland

Courtesy MAJ Garry Rolfe

On a recent trip to Finland I took a day out to explore the now inhabited island Fortress of Suomenlinna (or Sveaborg in Swedish) which is built on six islands (Kustaanmiekka, Susisaari, Iso-Mustasaari, Pikku-Mustasaari, Länsi-Mustasaari and Långören) and which now forms part of the city of Helsinki.

Sweden started building the fortress in January 1748 under direction of Lieutenant Colonel Augustin Ehrensvärd when Finland was still a part of the Swedish kingdom. By September around 2,500 men were building the fortifications. Due to the repeated Russian threats in 1749 more effort was placed on the fortifications on the islands at the expense of the land fortifications to secure a safe base of operations for the Swedish naval units along the Finnish coast.

There are two main aspects to Ehrensvärd's design for the fortress: a series of independent fortifications on each of the linked islands and, at the very heart of the complex, a navy dockyard. Initially the soldiers were housed in the vaults of the fortifications, while the officers had specially built quarters integrated into the overall plan. As the construction work progressed, more residential buildings were built, many following the shape of the fortification lines.

Using the military garrisoned in Finland as the workforce, construction continued with over 6,000 workers in 1750. Fortifications were completed in 1751 and the main fortifications on Vargö were ready in 1754 fully operational. By 1755 there were 7,000 workers constructing the fortifications.

Naval officer training was started by Ehrensvärd by his own expense at Sveaborg in 1770. It took until 1779 before a naval military school was formally founded on Sveaborg.

Sveaborg was formed and stocked according to the needs of the Swedish fleet and was unable to repair and refit the Swedish battle fleet after the Battle of Hogland. Facilities were found lacking at Sveaborg especially in the areas intended for tak-

ing care of the sick and wounded. Russian control of the waters outside of Sveaborg practically blockaded the Swedish battle fleet to Sveaborg.

Following a pact between Alexander 1 and Napoleon, Russia launched a campaign against Sweden and occupied Finland in 1808. The Russians took Helsinki in early 1808 and began bombarding the fortress. Its commander, Carl Olof Cronstedt negotiated a cease-fire. When no Swedish reinforcements had arrived by May, Sveaborg, with almost 7,000 men, surrendered. It is believed as a result of psychological warfare by the Russians and bribed advisors, fearing for the lives of a large civilian population and lack of gunpowder, combined with their physical isolation, were some likely causes for the surrender.

By the treaty of Fredrikshamn in 1809 Finland was ceded from Sweden and became an autonomous grand duchy within the Russian Empire. The Swedish period in Finnish history, which had lasted some seven centuries, came to an end.

Under Russian rule - after taking over the fortress, the Russians started an extensive building program, mostly extra barracks, and extending the dockyard and reinforcement to the fortification lines. The long period of peace following the transfer of power was shattered by the Crimean War of 1853–56.



The allies decided to engage Russia on two fronts and sent an Anglo-French fleet to the Baltic Sea. For two summers the fleet shelled the towns and fortifications along the Finnish coast. The bombardment of Suomenlinna lasted 47 hours and the fortress was badly damaged. The bombardment was unable to knock out the Russian guns.

After the Crimean War, extensive restoration work was begun at Suomenlinna. A new ring of earthworks with artillery emplacements was built at the

western and southern edges of the islands. The next stage in the arming of Suomenlinna and the Gulf of Finland came in the build-up to World War I. The fortress and its surrounding islands became part of Peter the Great's Naval Fortification designed to safeguard the capital, Saint Petersburg.



Augustin Ehrensvarð's grave at Suomenlinna

The fortress became part of an independent Finland in 1917, following the Russian Revolution. After the Finnish Civil War a prison camp existed on the island. No longer practical as a military base, Suomenlinna was turned over to civilian administration in 1973. An independent government

department (the Governing Body of Suomenlinna) was formed to administer the unique complex.

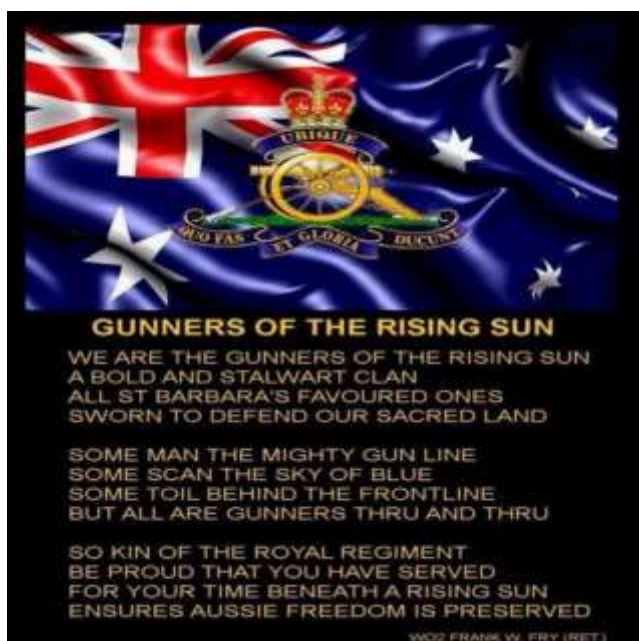
Today the Suomenlinna garrison houses the Naval Academy of the Finnish Navy. Suomenlinna still flies the war flag, or the swallow-tailed state flag of Finland.

Suomenlinna is now one of the most popular tourist attractions in Helsinki as well as a popular picnicking spot for the city's inhabitants. In 2009, a record 713,000 people visited Suomenlinna. A number of museums exist on the island, as well as the last surviving Finnish submarine, Vesikko.

There is a minimum-security penal labour colony in Suomenlinna, whose inmates work on the maintenance and reconstruction of the fortifications. Only volunteer inmates who pledge non-use of controlled substances are accepted to the labour colony.

For the general public, Suomenlinna is served by ferries all year, and a service tunnel supplying heating, water and electricity was built in 1982. From the beginning of the 1990s, the tunnel was modified so that it can also be used for emergency transport.

In the mid-1980s the Nordic Arts Centre was established on the island and several buildings have been converted into artists' studios.



Following the success of our 2014 National Gunner Dinner and the, what could only be described as an avalanche of enquiries with regards 'when is the next one' that followed, the Australian Artillery

Association has decided to hold another National Gunner Dinner on the 27th May 2017. The dinner will once again be held at The Event Centre in Caloundra given the suitability of the facility to hold such a large catered event; the close proximity of the 1st Regiment and 20th Surveillance and Target Acquisition Regiment and Royal Australian Artillery Band of the 1st Regiment and one of our principal organizer's is a local which enables the event to be well managed in the lead up and execution of the 2017 National Gunner Dinner. The full details of the dinner can be found on our website at www.australianartilleryassociation.com.

Our aim on this occasion is not only to bring the Gunner community together again, and this time we are hoping for a turnout of between 400 and 600, we intend to use the event to raise funds for the Regiments. All monies raised by the dinner will be donated to each of the Regiments, inclusive of the School of Artillery and the Royal Australian Artillery Regimental Fund. Once again all

promotional material used at the dinner such as banners (which will be of a generic type, themed Artillery) and other items will be gifted to the Regiments at the completion of the event.

To enable us to get the word out there to as many people as possible it would be greatly appreciated if you would place a notice in your next few Newsletters using the attached image and place an ad on your associations website (should you maintain a website).

The Australian Artillery Association recently designed and had made a Lapel Badge featuring the logo "Once a Gunner Always a Gunner". The profits from the sale of this Lapel Badge are all to be returned to the Regiment in one form or another and to date we have made the following donations:

- a. \$500 has been donated to the RAA Regimental Fund,
- b. \$500 has been donated to the 'Veterans of the Street Australia' appeal, and
- c. We are currently in the process of providing assistance to one of the Batteries by way of designing and gifting them a number of pull up banners. With the continued sale of the Lapel Badges coupled with other initiatives we hope to be able to outfit all of the Batteries within the Regiments over time (should that be permitted and they so desire to be outfitted).

Your assistance in helping us get word of the 2017 National Gunner Dinner spread as far and wide as possible is sincerely greatly appreciated.

Should you have any questions in relation to the above information, that contained on the webpage advertising the 2017 National Gunner Dinner or the Australian Artillery Association in general please do not hesitate to give me a call.

Kind Regards,

Ubique,

Kim

Mr Kim McGrath

President

Australian Artillery Association

WHEN is a veteran not a war veteran?

For decades that question has generated heated arguments in RSL clubs, pubs and lounge rooms across the nation.

Finally the Returned and Services League (RSL) appears to have drawn a line in the sand and decided that anyone who has served in a military uniform can be referred to as a "veteran".

Given that the full term is actually "war veteran" some who served in harm's way overseas are offended that even those who have never left Australian shores can adopt the hallowed moniker.

The law as defined by the 1986 Veterans Entitlement Act is quite clear and divides service categories into "defence", "war" or "warlike."

Ask many veterans who have seen action against the enemy and they will say that the term "veteran" should be reserved for them and their ilk.

Others don't care and are happy to march alongside other "veterans" on Anzac Day who served exclusively in Australia or on relatively benign deployments such as Kashmir or the Sinai.

According to the South Australia, Queensland and Victorian State Branches of the RSL the following is the official line:

"The definition favoured at the moment is that anyone who has served in any of the services at any time is a Veteran — this is to ensure that no one is excluded from membership of the RSL or from receiving entitlements assistance through DVA. Entitlements are a completely different matter and being called a 'Veteran' does not immediately transfer entitlements to the individual. The RSL has not wanted to discriminate between service members because it is important to us that we engage with everyone who has served regardless of where, when and for how long."

RSL National President Ken Doolan told News Corp that the term "veteran" had meaning under the Act, but many younger veterans don't like it because it makes them sound old.

This is an edited version, Courtesy WO2 Max Murray, taken from News.com.au

Report: British Sniper Saves Boy, Father From Islamic State Beheading With Half-Mile Shot

Aug. 10, 2015 10:30am Sharona Schwartz

A British special forces sniper saved the lives of a boy and his father who were about to be beheaded by Islamic State jihadists by firing a shot at the head of the executioner from his position more than half a mile away, a British newspaper reported.

According to the Daily Star, a unit of Britain's special forces Special Air Service carrying out covert patrols on the Syrian-Turkish border was tipped by an Iraqi spy to the execution site where Shiites accused of being "infidels" were going to be beheaded.

An unnamed military source told the newspaper

Soon, a man and his young son were pulled from the crowd, blindfolded, and placed on their knees.

"A tall bearded man emerged and drew a long knife," the source reportedly said. "He began addressing the crowd and slapping the father and his son around the head and kicking them onto the floor."

The knife-wielding jihadist was flanked by two men toting AK-47s.

That's when the SAS sniper killed the executioner using a .50-caliber rifle shot from 1,000 meters away, more than half a mile. The ISIS thug who was about to decapitate the father was shot in the



that "there were several decapitated bodies already lying on the ground" in the village where the field trial and punishment were underway.

An SAS ground unit had moved into position just outside the village where the gruesome punishment was being meted out.

"Through binoculars, the soldiers could see that the crowd were terrified and many were in tears."

head and collapsed," the unnamed source told the Daily Star. "Everyone just stared in confusion. The sniper then dispatched the two henchmen with single shots – three kills with three bullets."

After the militants were killed, the boy and his father were untied and ran away toward the Turkish border.

"It was a good day's work," the source told the Star.

Courtesy Ssgt Mick Prowse

GPCAPT Catherine McGregor delivered the **14th Annual Vivian Bullwinkel Oration** at the Nurses Memorial Centre in Melbourne on August 20.

GPCAPT McGregor, from AFHQ at Russell Offices in Canberra, spoke of the enduring legacy and strength of then-LT Bullwinkel and her miraculous survival as a prisoner of war of the Japanese in WWII.

"I was delighted and surprised in equal measure to be invited to deliver the oration," GPCAPT McGregor said.

"It was a celebration of the finest qualities of Australian womanhood and of heroism in war." In 1941, LT Bullwinkel volunteered as a nurse with the Air Force, but was rejected for having flat feet.

She was able to join the Australian Army Nursing Service and was assigned to the 2/13th Australian General Hospital (2/13th AGH).

In September 1941, she sailed for Singapore. After a few weeks with the 2/10th AGH, LT Bullwinkel re-joined the 13th AGH in Johor Bahru.

Japanese troops invaded Malaya in December 1941 and forced the 13th AGH to evacuate to Singapore.

On February 12, LT Bullwinkel and 65 other nurses boarded the SS Vyner Brooke to escape the island, but two days later the ship was sunk by Japanese aircraft and she and a score of her colleagues were washed ashore on Banka Island.

GPCAPT McGregor said what followed must have seemed like a waking nightmare.

"The Japanese marched two groups of men out of sight and soon returned cleaning their bayonets," she said. "They had bayoneted them to death. They then ordered the female nurses to enter the water and machine gunned them from behind. Vivian Bullwinkel felt a bullet pass through her back and exit her abdomen.

Miraculously, she survived. All 21 of her colleagues perished." GPCAPT McGregor said then an ordeal began that was simply beyond our comprehension and our 21st Century sensibilities.

"She lapsed into unconsciousness for two days," she said.

"On awakening she found a British soldier who had also survived the massacre on the beach. She did her best to take care of him, but ultimately they decided to surrender." Throughout her captivity LT Bullwinkel continued to minister care to her fellow prisoners.

"That she survived such privations and brutality at all says a great deal about her resilience and the depth of her spirit," GPCAPT McGregor said.



Above, Sister Vivian Bullwinkel and Matron Irene Drummond, of the 2/13th Australian General Hospital, in Johor Bahru. Matron Drummond was one of the 21 nurses killed in the Banka Island Massacre.

"She witnessed repeated beatings and lived in the midst of appalling sanitation. The buildings, in which the prisoners were held, were designed to hold four people, yet ultimately accommodated up to 40.

"She returned to Banka Island in 1992 to unveil a shrine commemorating those who died there. She was, it seemed, ultimately at peace with her experience."

GPCAPT McGregor said in remembering Vivian Bullwinkel we paid homage to the best qualities that Australians have displayed, not just in war, but in the face of any adversity or calamity.

"On any measure, Vivian Bullwinkel was an authentic Australian hero," she said. "She was worthy of our respect and our remembrance. Nurses are standing vigil when we enter the world and they are there when we leave. In so doing, they see things from which most of us avert our eyes." GPCAPT McGregor said our young soldiers, sailors and airmen and women were sometimes called upon to see things that no human being should see, "and so it was with Vivian".

Courtesy Air Force News

I welcome back one of our more prolific writers, Col Graham Farley, OAM RFD ED with another look back at his past recollections. ed

SOME OTHER MILITARY REFLECTIONS

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

10. Keeping one's nose clean – pay sheets, mess accounts and Q

Survival

I would like to think that all of us when we became CMF officers wished to survive unblemished in our military experiences. I suppose it is difficult to stand in the shoes of others, but I wished to “keep my nose clean” and climb the promotion ladder should my skills seem worthy of such advancement.

There was no room for playing Snakes and Ladders!

Early in my commissioned career, a close friend, close enough to be my best man at my wedding and god-father to my son, advised me to make sure that whatever else I did, I should make sure the pay sheets, the Q records and the various mess books were always correct. After that, training the men might be considered!

I thought I had been commissioned to assist in the firing of guns so that the rounds landed at the time and the place in the manner that the supported arm required them. But, no! As the years passed I knew that my friends' advice was correct. Many were the aspiring officers who fell by the wayside or became permanent in their rank through the loss of some controlled items or unexplained mess losses!

One never wanted to think that there was a hit list, but COs were likely to both “punish” slack officers by appointing them paying officer, spot check officer or mess book auditor, but equally there were keen and experienced officers who, if given these tasks, discharged them with minimum effort to the benefit of their careers.

Pay parades

Deviating for a paragraph or two, the method of pay in my early service years was the (in)famous “Pay Parade.” The unit would be drawn up to face a group of paying officers seated at a table, which bore the cash, the pay sheets, an upturned officer's cap, but also a revolver.

The revolver always used to fascinate me. Was it loaded? Would the paying officer fire it? If he did, would he hit the “thief” or incur collateral damage? It reminded me in later years of Jim Hacker in Yes, Prime Minister when he was faced with the question as to whether he could ever bring himself to push the atomic button on his desk.



Between 1941 and 1945 the Royal Army Pay Corps in Leicester produced a monthly magazine entitled Pay Parade. This is the Victory Edition with a cover drawn by the pre-war journalist and talented Private Jimmy Mercer. ed

Later, when I was a paying officer, I would be issued with the revolver but also given strict instructions never to use it as the paper work for its discharge (and subsequent effects) would never be worth the loss of money that might have taken place. That I had never fired, let alone handled a service revolver prior to the rank of colonel, was beside the point.

Returning to those early pay parades, the troops would be called out in alphabetical order. The soldier would march smartly to the front of the table and salute. He would then be advised of the amount he was to be paid. This amount would be placed on the table for him to check. Having

confirmed it was the agreed amount, the soldier would then be asked to contribute to regimental funds.

But how much should he or she give? Theoretically the money would be spent for his or her benefit, such as sports equipment. A good pay officer would suggest the amount, which in later years would be a sliding scale against rank. Equally, like a waiter in a restaurant returning with change, there was always the expected amount in readily available coins or notes in the pay packet. Having sorted out these transactions, the paid person would salute again and march back to the ranks.

My surname initial being "F," I always knew that I would be called about a third in the line of the troops on parade to be paid. I was sympathetic for those soldiers named Woods or with names starting with "X, Y or Z," as not only would they be last, but they might have had every reason to ask whether there would be enough money left on the table for them to be paid.

With experience, paying officers obtained a supply of envelopes and made up the pay packs the night before, thus ensuring that cash equalled the individual totals on the pay sheets. To do it any other way courted disaster and likely to result in a black mark against them.

Until I was posted to 10 Medium Regiment, RAA, Geelong, I do not believe that I had much to do with the compilation and proving of the actual pay sheets. Perhaps the adjutants or the Q staff of the day, fearing for the effect of pay errors on their own professional careers, supervised this task themselves.

But in the Geelong battery, and later the regiment, I had a CMF warrant officer who was an expert in compiling the pay sheets. This was WO1 Bob Millett, MBE. He had an excellent knowledge on a range of army matter. He also looked after the ammunition in camp just as efficiently. He would excuse himself for a day or two and then present me with the accurate and cross-checked pay sheets for me to sign.

Army pay has always been complex. One would assume that the Bombardier would receive more per day than the Gunner, and in turn the Sergeant and this would be so, but did the soldier need to be a substantive or just a temporary Sergeant to receive the pay for the rank? But Bob understood

it and he was never wrong while we served together, for which I was very thankful.

Depending on the politics in Canberra, CMF pay was from time to time tax free. As one rose through the ranks, it seemed to be very generous – well, to a bachelor! I recall clutching (proverbially) my pay packet to my chest and not relaxing until it had been paid in at a bank. Then the system was upgraded to payment by cheque by mail and I presume today it is by direct bank debit. The revolver could now be returned to the Q-store, its ammunition unspent!

Mess books

During the years when I was on the active list (1956 to 1983), it was CMF practice to have messes for both the officers and warrant officers/sergeants. In the latter part of that period, gunners' clubs made their appearance. There could be up to three sets of mess books to audit as a result. Few units could pass the test of having them ticketty boo. Rarely was the treasurer of a mess a Certified Practising Accountant (CPA).

I can only speak for officers' messes. The weakness tended to be the small group that stayed on for some time after the conclusion of the parade and, despite their best intention, their ability to record their drinks drunk was challenged by the number that they had consumed!



The only way to keep on top of this situation was to have a nightly acquittance on paper and signed off. I have seen this done successfully, but it requires a strong resolve and much time. Whether it was my Commerce Degree or my innocent face, I seemed to regularly be appointed President of the Audit Board. And nine times out of ten, the books were in a mess. In most cases, the mess was

trading profitably – it was just that receipts to payments were difficult to match.

ASCO (army canteens) was situated in Spencer Street if I recall and I used to plague them with requests for copies of invoices for alcohol delivered. These were always very accurate and provided a basis upon which to re-write the mess books to be in an acceptable state for 3 Divisional Artillery HQ to accept them without further query.

As I have suggested, there was only one way to keep the mess accounts under control and that was to check and audit them far more regularly than the six-month or yearly basis that was required. The reduction in the number of messes in a depot nowadays may help this situation but this should not be interpreted as support from moving away from the time honoured army system of separate rank messes.

Q

The second cadre officer in a CMF regiment was the Quarter-Master (QM). He had often come up through the ranks and granted a PSO commission. As a consequence there was little that the QM had not experienced in all those maturing years and he was always very confident in carrying out his task.



The Q-store was a secure building or part of one. In Geelong the second (or brick) depot was very much the QM's domain. A Q-store is fitted out with shelves, drawers and hooks. Stores would be issued on a day book system with the signature of the person drawing the store item in it.

Without being too facetious, a QM would regard it as a good day if he had not had to issue any stores. He could then lock up, knowing that there would be no discrepancies as nothing had been issued! But this hardly assists the unit's training. But to be

a good store clerk, one had at least had to learn to count to ten as everything seemed to be issued in that quantity.

During my period as a BC or CO I learnt that as a result of regular stock checks, these discrepancies would be found. If the store cards said that there were say ten of an item issued to the regiment and only nine could be located, then the matter had to be immediately addressed.

The QM was allowed a number of ways of doing this. One was to "convert" an item in excess for the one that could not be found – a conversion voucher. I could never keep a straight face if I was told that a left GP boot had been converted into a white lanyard, but this was the system and it worked.

Another approach to the matter was the CO's power of "write-off," which in my time was fifty dollars a day. If this system was used, everyone seemed to be happy, especially those on artillery and divisional headquarters. But the QM needed the CO's signature on the day of that \$50 and he could easily become frustrated if a backlog developed. Being a high school teacher, I made it my practice to regularly call in at the depot on the way home and in this manner assisted the QM to keep his records and stores correct – with my neck still on my shoulders!

Even forty-two years later, I am not prepared to detail some of the write offs that took place – but all were legal within the parameters of the time.

Attractive stores could be defined as those having a serial number stamped upon them, such as binoculars, compasses. One did not want any of these to go astray. I got accustomed to my 2ic having a roster of duty officers to check the attractive stores on a methodical basis each parade night. If they did, an Investigating Officer had to be appointed, which was a thankless task.

On one of our camps when we deployed in the high country, such as the Big River camp, our guns arrived at the RV, but one arrived without its sight clinometer in its spot on the gun. I was quick to appoint an investigating officer, whom I knew would be thorough and could write! The missing clino was never found, but the investigating report was completed so quickly and so thoroughly that it was accepted by HQ's higher up without further query.

Summary

So if the reader, an aspiring junior officer, wishes to rise through the ranks to Field Marshal, he or she would be wise to take note of the above advices. The methods of acquitting pay, auditing mess audits, and checking Q may have changed in detail, but I cannot imagine that the reward for doing them well is other than selection for promotion with the alternative being the slippery slope down to a life as a permanent orderly officer, investigating officer, safety officer or dog's body. The maxim (with tongue in cheek) is Administration First; Training second! Has any reader spotted any allusion to the Ruler of the Queen's Navy in Gilbert and Sullivan's HMS Pinafore?

©



AUSSIES UNDER FIRE "LIKE RAIN ON WATER" IN AFGHAN AMBUSH

On 26 August 2008, 1 Troop SASR, made up of four six-man patrols, flew 80km to American Forward Operating Base Anaconda near Khas Uruzghan intent on finding a Taliban leader they thought was in the area.

No sooner were they on the ground than intelligence came in that their target had been spotted elsewhere – and the Aussies were stuck at Anaconda for several days waiting for a return flight. Rather than kick back and relax, however, the Aussies asked their American hosts if there was anything they could do to help.

Among those Aussies was SAS team leader Sergeant Troy Simmonds.

In truly understated Aussie fashion, Sergeant Troy Simmonds, a veteran of Somalia, East Timor and Iraq, recalls asking the soldiers from the American 7th Special Forces Group, "We're here for a couple of days – where's your hot spots?"

"Well, we have these two valleys we can't get into," came the reply.

Up for anything, the Aussies said, "We'll have a go at them – make ourselves useful while we're here".

So, 'a plan was hatched' Sergeant Simmonds says.

The plan would see a sniper patrol clandestinely sent out on foot under cover of darkness to reconnoitre and set up an ambush and wait for a vehicle patrol that would overtly go out the next day.

As planned, five Humvees set out for one of the troublesome valleys, heretofore designated a no-go zone, to stir things up.

It didn't take long.

The snipers spotted three Taliban moving into what was thought to be a command position some 500m away, and took them out.

When a heavily armed 'technical' arrived to collect the bodies, the combined Aussie/American patrol fought through using rifles and grenade launchers, aided by the snipers.

A follow-up battlefield clearance confirmed 11 enemy down.

That night, with the tactic proven, the SAS sent out two foot patrols to the second valley.

At 0400hr on 2 September, 12 SAS plus two Aussie engineers and explosives detection dog Sarbi joined 10 Americans aboard the middle three of a five-Humvee convoy. The first and last vehicles contained 10 Afghan soldiers each.

Near the mouth of the valley, the Aussies hopped out of the vehicles and clambered up into the hills to set up yet more ambush positions while the vehicles waited in the green zone before moving into the narrow valley.

The convoy quickly attracted attention, but their movement in turn only brought the enemy to the attention of the waiting Aussies – as planned.

Another seven enemy were killed in short order.

Sergeant Simmonds' patrol spotted another nest of Taliban, armed with rifles and RPGs about 800m away, but this group had children among them, so they were not engaged.

As the day wore on, the decision to return to base was made. The 12 Aussies who rode out with the vehicles married up with the Hummers while the two sniper teams went back over the mountains and started their long walk back to base.

The valley was so narrow and rough that the vehicles had to simply turn around and go back along the same track they had used to get into the valley

– tactically not an ideal choice, because the hornets’ nest had been well and truly kicked.

It was 3pm and the Taliban were pissed. Enemy radio chatter rallied all available men to, “Kill them – kill them all”.

Mortars began to rain down, quickly followed by hails of bullets and rocket-propelled grenades.

On foot, using the vehicles for cover, the allied patrol returned fire with everything they had – rifles, grenade launchers, 7.62mm and .50cal machineguns, and 66mm and 84mm anti-armour weapons.

But the enemy were in much better positions – high ground, good cover and concealment, estimated at about 200 strong and “pouring a shit-tonne” of ordnance down on the convoy.

The rough ground and the dismounted troops meant progress was agonisingly slow.

An American soldier firing a .50 cal machine gun was hit in the arm early in the fight and, after rendering first aid, an Aussie jumped up behind the weapon to keep the big gun going.

Close air support was called and 500lb bombs silenced the mortars and slowed the bullets just a little.

But the convoy was far from saved.

Having moved just 1km from the start point, they were still under heavy fire from at least two directions.

American Sergeant Greg Rodriguez was next to go down – shot in the head and killed outright. Even while two Aussies carried his body to a Humvee the already-dead sergeant copped another two rounds in the back, missing his Aussie aides.

About then, a Chinook helicopter was spotted flying past at some distance and everyone knew it would have Apache escorts.

Australian joint terminal attack controller Corporal Gibbo attempted to call them in, but the Dutch Apaches were reluctant, citing rules of engagement.

Corporal Gibbo decided to move to higher ground to assist the pilots to pinpoint targets, but he was shot in the chest and was in a bad way.

The Apaches were eventually and unceremonious-

ly told to “Fuck off then” if they wouldn’t help.

About now, the lead Afghan Hummer stopped, the Afghan soldiers trying to use its bullet-proof glass for cover – effectively halting the entire convoy in the kill zone.

Another American went down with gunshot wounds to the legs – then another Aussie – and another.

Sergeant Simmonds was on one knee, beside an American, returning fire in the direction of muzzle flashes, which was all he could see of the enemy on his side of the vehicle.

“At that stage we were getting shot at from all directions, so there wasn’t anywhere you could really hide,” he says.

“Bullets were landing all around us – it was kind of like rain on water in the dust.

“One of those bullets landed very near me and ricocheted into my calf.

“I turned to the guy next to me and I said, “I just got shot”.”

“God damn, so did I,” the Yank yelled back.

Sergeant Simmonds stayed upright however – thanks to adrenaline, training and a desperate desire to live through this.

Moments later, while ordering two of his men to go forward to get the lead vehicle moving again, an RPG landed directly between Sergeant Simmonds and the two other Aussies.

The explosion blew all three off their feet and everyone who witnessed the explosion were certain their sergeant and colleagues were dead.

Lying on the ground, peppered with shrapnel all up his left side and with a massive ringing in his ears, Sergeant Simmonds says he couldn’t feel his left arm, like it was numb from sleeping on it.

“I couldn’t see a thing with all the dust the RPG had kicked up and I was actually afraid to feel for my arm because I was scared it wasn’t there.

“But I eventually reached over and was relieved to find my arm was still attached – and the feeling started to come back into it.”

The other two Aussies, although also wounded by shrapnel, got back on their feet and went forward to the lead vehicle as instructed. One banished the Afghan driver to the back and jumped into the

driver's seat, taking direct control of the situation.

Sergeant Simmonds got up and attempted to move to where the American commander was, to appraise him of the situation and why his men were going forward, but was shot at from close range by two Taliban behind some rocks.

He began to shoot back.

Suddenly, his own rifle, which he had in his shoulder with his cheek on the stock, carefully aiming, kicked up and smashed him in the face. It had caught a round in its ejection port, undoubtedly saving the sergeant's life.

His weapon was now useless.

Seconds later Sergeant Simmonds felt another massive pain in his lower body, which again knocked him down.

"I didn't actually know where I'd been hit because I was already covered in blood anyway.

"What had happened, I found out later, was the bullet went through my right bum, past my bowels and my bladder and lodged in my left hip joint.

"In surgery later they had to leave it where it was – it would have been too complicated and dangerous to take it out.

"The surgeons said I was extremely lucky with that shot. They said they tried to push a rod through the entry wound to where the bullet was, without going through my bowel or vital organs – but couldn't.

"But somehow the bullet had gone through one side of my body to the other without nicking anything vital.

"Anyway, at the time, I thought I was just winded, so I got up and went to the American captain in the Humvee.

"I was sort of dodging bullets all the while because there were bullets hitting the car all over.

"I opened the door and the captain was sitting there with a radio to both ears, talking to two different people.

"I told him that my guys were going forward to get the lead vehicle moving and assured him that everyone else was on or near a vehicle and ready to move.

"As I closed the door, a burst of machinegun fire hit the back of the car, so there was no way I could

go that way.

"So I dropped on my back and actually shuffled underneath the car.

"I was surprisingly calm under there and had a little time to go over our situation in my head."

Suddenly the Hummer started to move and Sergeant Simmonds grabbed a hold of something to go with it.

But the ground was too rough to get dragged over, and he eventually had to let go – and try to avoid being crushed between the rear diff and the jagged rocks.

Clear of the vehicle, which was still moving at walking pace, badly wounded in the both hips, with the rain of bullets still dancing in the dust all around him, Sergeant Simmonds "hobbled like an instant old man" after the Hummer.

As he got close, another RPG burst above the vehicle knocked him down again and sprayed the men inside with shrapnel.

Some shrapnel from this RPG also sliced through the leash tethering Sarbi to her handler, Corporal David 'Simdog' Simpson.

Sarbi took off – and 14 months later stamped her own pawmark on the pages of Australian military history when she was recovered during an American SF raid on a Taliban compound, returned to her super-grateful owners and eventual retirement in Australia.

Catching up with the Hummer, Sergeant Simmonds found there was no room for him inside the vehicle nor were any of the men in it in a fit state to help him, so he staggered around the front where he managed to lodge himself in the gap between the radiator and the bullbar.

Just then, another RPG airburst above the back of the vehicle peppered those inside with even more shrapnel.

One of those wounded this time was an Afghan interpreter, who was badly hit in the head and thrown out of the vehicle – and saved by Trooper Mark Donaldson who was later awarded the Victoria Cross for his actions.

Four other gallantry medals were to be awarded for surrounding events, including a Medal for Gallant-

ry to the Aussie who took control of the lead vehicle.

Curled in a foetal position on the front of the Hummer, Sergeant Simmonds became a deliberate target again. Rounds started peppering the bonnet and the bullbar, inches from the badly wounded, almost deaf, covered in blood, armed with a useless weapon and all but helpless Aussie, who was wearing only the shredded remnants of what was once a uniform.

"I thought it was just a matter of time before I got hit again," he says.

"I remember actually thinking, 'I've been hit in the body already and I think I'm alright, but if I get hit in the head then it's all over'".

"I didn't have a helmet on so I was quite worried about my head.

"Then I spotted the heavy tow chain wrapped around the bullbar, so I unravelled that and wrapped it around my head – while bullets were still pinging on metal all around me."

But now a new danger seeped into his mind. The patrol had a strong suspicion that the enemy may try to cut them off by planting an IED in the pass up ahead, which would really finish them off.

"It was a very narrow pass – not much more than a vehicle width, with rock on either side.

"Anyway, my guy who was now driving the front vehicle did a bit of a dynamic move and went through the pass sort of up on an angle, with one set of wheels up on the rocks, and he got through.

"So all the other vehicles did the same thing, following in his tracks, and we all got through – under a huge amount of fire.

"They had machineguns on us from every angle, but we got through and gradually the fire started to ease off – and that's when I got really nervous.

"I was thinking, 'OK we got away with that – now we'll probably hit an IED or something'".

"And riding behind the bullbar is probably not the best place to be when a vehicle hits an IED."

Reflecting on the ambush years later, Sergeant Simmonds says it was probably a bit selfish worrying about himself instead of his men, but concedes it was probably human nature too – and there wasn't a lot he could have done for anyone in his

precarious, exposed position anyway.

But, as luck would have it, there was no IED on the route back to base and the convoy rumbled into FOB Anaconda to the waiting arms of a plethora of colleagues eager to triage the wounded and get the worst of them evacuated as quickly as possible.

"The triage all went very well. They grabbed us and put us on stretchers and took care of us really well.

"They flew me and a couple of others to Tarin Kot, where there had just been a turnover of surgical teams and so the surgeons who worked on us were a collection of top people from Melbourne and Sydney – all reservists.

"The bullet in my lower leg wasn't a big issue. It was a ricochet so it had broken up before going in. So they took out all the pieces easy enough.

"Those wounds took a while to heal up though. "Like I said, the bullet in my hip had to be left in place – and I was also shitting blood for about 12 months from all the trauma around that area – but otherwise my recovery was fairly OK."

Sergeant Simmonds made a good recovery and was posted to the training squadron at Campbell Barracks, Swanbourne, home of the SAS, to help on the SASR selection course and train new guys in the basic skills of the SAS soldier.

He says he really enjoyed that role for a couple of years. He also enjoyed plenty of time recuperating and spent lots of time with his wife, who had only seen him for three or four months a year since he joined the SAS.

Inevitably, however, he was posted back to an operational squadron and again deployed to Afghanistan.

"I had some trepidation going back there, but this time I wasn't going outside the wire.

"My job on this trip was helping to plan missions and assist and advise young officers in how the SAS does business."

Now retired from the SAS, Troy Simmonds says he feels no ill effects from his service generally nor from the ambush that almost took his life.

"I saw some pretty bad stuff over there, but I think I have the capacity to put things in perspective and to compartmentalise them.

"It's almost like I can look back on that part of my life and see that I was like acting a role at that time, and now I'm in a different role.

"I know some blokes do suffer from psychological issues after something like that, but I don't – or I don't think I do.

"I can think about it and talk about it and look at photos or videos from over there and it doesn't have a massive emotional affect on me."

Troy Simmonds spent 22 years in the Australian Army and did six tours of Afghanistan with the Special Operations Task Group.

The Battle of Ana Kalay lasted about two hours and resulted in one US KIA, with one wounded. Of nine Aussies wounded, one was considered life threatening at the time, but all survived.

After-action assessments put the enemy death toll at about 80.



It's something most of us never hear / think much about...

We see lots of pictures of wounded male veterans but women vets get wounded and maimed too. You may need to take a second, closer look though... The first thing I saw was a bunch of beautiful smiles.

Courtesy Sgt Eddy Evans

Is this Green Beret the last Vietnam vet on active duty?

By James K. Sanborn, Staff writer 4:17 p.m. EDT June 29, 2015



Sgt. Maj. Michael Jarnevic, seen here in 1995, will retire from the Army on July 8. He is believed to be the last Vietnam War veteran serving on active duty. (Photo: Courtesy Michael Jarnevic)

In the 1970s, he was among the last Marines sent to Vietnam.

In the '80s, as an Army Green Beret, he deployed into Honduras during the Contra Wars.

In 1991, he was gassed in Iraq.

And after 9/11, he fought terrorists in Afghanistan.

He's an environmental conservationist and holds a master's degree in creative writing.

He is *not* the Most Interesting Man in the World.

But with 42 years in uniform, 59-year-old Michael Jarnevic is likely the saltiest sergeant major serving in the U.S. military. And when he retires July 8, he'll likely be the last person in uniform whose service record includes a tour during the Vietnam War.

"I don't know how you could actually prove it," Jarnevic told Marine Corps Times, "but the onus would be to disprove it."

He knows of a few warrant officers serving until recently who also had Vietnam deployments. And the last Vietnam War draftee, Chief Warrant Officer 5 Ralph E. Rigby, retired in November.

Jarnevic is now on terminal leave, having fulfilled a 16-month assignment as the senior enlisted adviser for the U.S. Joint Reserve Intelligence Support Element, part of U.S. Special Operations Command, at MacDill Air Force Base in Florida. There, he was involved in one last war effort — coordinating analyst work against the Islamic State group.

During a recent phone interview from his bucolic Montana home, he reflected on a life of service. His story begins long before he stepped on the yellow footprints at Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego in 1973.

"When I was a kid in the late '50s, I was at our post office and spotted a Marine Corps recruiting kiosk," he said. "I said I wanted to be a Marine"

That became the "driving force" that shaped his young life.

From Vietnam to Honduras

A decade later Jarnevic was completing boot camp as part of the last platoon to go through recruit training using the Korean War-era M14 rifle, not the M16 troops use today. Soon after, he was aboard the super carrier Ranger, on his way to Vietnam.

During that tour, while heading for leave in Hong Kong, Jarnevic and his buddies heard that Richard Nixon, embroiled in the Watergate scandal, had resigned as president. That emboldened the Viet Cong, who interpreted it as weakness, he said.

The Ranger was redirected to the waters off the coast of Da Nang in preparation for a potential evacuation as communist forces began shelling the city. The evacuation never came, and by October

the Ranger was heading back to California with a crack in its hull. Had it not been for that, Jarnevic thinks his unit would have been part of the Saigon evacuation in April 1975.

After returning to California, he retrained as an armorer before transitioning to the Marine Corps Reserve, where he worked as a military policeman in Colorado. While there he made friends with a few Green Berets. They convinced him he was a good fit for Army Special Forces, and he was drawn by their unique mission, which combined his love of travel and teaching.

"I liked the mission. I liked working with foreigners and the whole idea of training them. I think I had always been naturally inclined to be a teacher," he said.

After getting his master's degree in the 1990s, Jarnevic taught history and military science at the University of Montana.

There was a bit of culture shock when he joined the Army, but he adjusted quickly.

"It was certainly a transition, because you know the Marines are so steeped in tradition, have their own ways of doing things and lingo. So when I transferred to the Army it was a different language, a different world."



After graduating Marine Corps boot camp in 1973, Michael Jarnevic went to Vietnam.

(Photo: Courtesy Michael Jarnevic)



His career in Special Forces would take him all over the world during the next few decades, including to Central America as part of a proxy war that pitted Soviet-backed fighters against U.S.-backed Contras. It was a war defined as much by cloak-and-dagger and hit-and-run tactics as it was by conventional open combat. Green Berets were there as advisers, training local allies to fight. It was the bread and butter of Special Forces' foreign internal defense mission and the reason Jarnevic joined.

Michael Jarnevic was a special forces medic during the first Gulf War. Seen here in Kuwait, he experienced the biggest scare of his career when his unit believed it was under a chemical weapons attack. (Photo: Courtesy Michael Jarnevic)

A scare in the Gulf

But the single experience that most stands out in his mind was a 1991 chemical weapons attack in Iraq, where he was deployed as a medic with the 7th Special Forces Group's mobile training team. They were attached to the Egyptian 3rd Mechanized Division.

Jarnevic described the Egyptian forces as sub-standard. When U.S. forces pushed into Kuwait, the Egyptians refused to cross the border in their own tanks. Instead, he said, they rode as passengers in Army Humvees, with their tanks trailing behind.

During a pause in their advance, the Egyptians were listening to rock music and dancing. Suddenly, two men appeared, racing towards Jarnevic. They had rags covering their mouths, but their screams were clear. "Gas!!!"

"That was a moment of terror that will always stick out in my mind," he said.

They immediately transitioned to "MOPP 4," or Mission Oriented Protective Posture 4, donning full

protective suits, boots, mask and gloves. Unlike a conventional enemy, you can't fight chemical weapons, he said. You can only have faith your equipment will do its job.

The attack was declared a false alarm, but after having removed some of their protective gear, they discovered there were in fact chemical weapons contamination in their area. Jarnevic never suffered symptoms, but he suspects Iraqi forces had spread chemicals on the ground so they would "get on your skin as you drove around," he said. "You would breath it, eat it."

After the Gulf War Jarnevic held a number of assignments in joint billets within the special operations community. In 2004, with 34 years of service, he was notified he was on the verge of being forcibly retired. Jarnevic secured a waiver, though, granting him approval to serve through age 60. He promptly re-enlisted — for 11 years.



Sgt. Maj. Michael Jarnevic deployed to Afghanistan for the first time in 2012.
(Photo: Courtesy of Michael Jarnevic)

A big help, he suspects, was his specific Special Forces specialty, known as "18 series." Shortly after 9/11 there was a stop-loss put on the specialty, meaning the Army was in such dire need of Green Berets that it was preventing some from leaving.

The extension gave him the chance, finally in 2012, to deploy to Afghanistan as an analyst attached to Special Operations Task Force-East.

The next chapter

Jarnevic is now formulating plans for retirement. And while it still hasn't entirely sunk in, he said, the fact that his time as a soldier has come to an end has started to hit him in unexpected ways. He was clearing out his medicine cabinet recently and was reminded of the change ahead when he tossed into the trash anti-malarial medicines prescribed for past deployments that have taken him to 38 countries. He

plans to double that number, but not by traveling to the boonies in malarial climes.

"I want to go to nice places for a change," Jarnevic said.

He cherishes his experiences in Central America, Southeast Asia, Africa and elsewhere, but he said he has no desire to head back to Nigeria, for example. Paris sounds good, he said.

Apart from traveling, he plans to embrace one of his greatest passions — wildlife and environmental conservation. Jarnevic has been active in conservation efforts for years, working with groups including the Sierra Club and sitting on the Montana Wilderness Association's state council. Now he plans to leverage his degree in writing to author stories for environmental publications.

He was first inspired to support conservation after moving to Montana in the 1980s and seeing what he described as one of the last pristine ecosystems under attack. Some seem perplexed by a Green Beret conservationist.

"Some say it is a contradiction, my military service and conservation. But part of what I'm fighting for as a soldier," he said, "is conservation of the planet we are living on."

Continued from [page 13](#)

GNR Sean McKellar was awarded the BC Prize for his outstanding year whilst PTE "Tankie" Young and BDR Ronc were recognised for their long service to the Battery. SGT Bird and WO2 Wainwright were farewelled, only temporarily, as they are being posted at the end of the year.

This year's St Barbara's Day was the last for out going MAJ Garry Rolfe CSC whom finishes up as BC. I would like to thank Garry, on behalf of all members of the Association for his leadership and guidance as he has again successfully commanded the Battery over the last three years. Garry has been able to guide and nurture the Light Battery always improving it's capability over this period. We wish him and his family all the success in his new posting as 5/6 RVR Bn Second-in-Command.

The day highlighted that the Light Battery has had another stellar year where they have been able to maintain the very high temp of training and operational commitments, as well as retaining the additional responsibilities of the important and necessary ceremonial gun salutes throughout the year.

Well Done.

Courtesy COL Jason Cooke

HQJOC is located near Bungendore, NSW, about half an hour east of Canberra.



Operational nerve centre

A posting to HQ Joint Operations Command puts you in the middle of the ADF's operational organisation, Cpl Mark Doran reports.

NESTLED in the rolling hills near Bungendore lies Headquarters Joint Operations Command (HQJOC) where Defence personnel are at the nerve centre of the ADF.

In the secure two-storey facility, ADF members, Defence civilians and a whole-of-government team provide 24/7 year-round command and control of ADF operations worldwide.



Lt-Col Simon Hunter at work at HQJOC. Photo by Cpl Aaron Curran

Lt-Col Simon Hunter has a background as an artillery officer with 8/12 Regt and 4 Regt RAA and operational experience from deploying on Operation Slipper with Combined Team Urzgan and Mentoring Task Force Two as the battery commander in 2010.

He also deployed on Operation Philippines Assist during the Typhoon Haiyan recovery assistance mission, Operation Southern Indian Ocean during the search for missing Malaysia Airlines flight MH370, and Operation Hawick in the aftermath of Malaysia Airlines flight MH17.

Lt-Col Hunter is the leader of a small team called Global Operations One, which enables the continuation of operations by leading, controlling and monitoring specific operations and responding to short-notice operational requirements.

"We are responsible for Operations Accordion, Manitou, High Road and Palate II," Lt-Col Hunter said.

"A normal day is never the same and it was particularly demanding when Operation Okra, Operation Hawick and Ebola kicked-off last year.

"CJOPS doesn't get a vote on when these world events happen, so we have to be on stand-by and react accordingly for short-notice contingencies."

Lt-Col Hunter said it helped to have operational experience at the tactical level in his role at HQJOC.

"It gives us an understanding of the issues the subordinate call signs are experiencing," he said.

"We try to keep an open dialogue with all stakeholders and an open flow of consultation to ensure everyone is well-informed and achieve the required output of the mission."

Lt-Col Hunter said he expected working at HQJOC to be demanding, depending on the operational tempo.

"It has been demanding, but we are the first link back in Australia, which means if the operations are happening we need to continue our efforts here," he said.

"The work is operationally relative, actively employs the skills we learn on Army courses on the military appreciation process and is very interesting.

"The posting has exposed me to a joint headquarters that demonstrates how the different services interact to bring together joint and whole-of-government operations.

"Working with personnel from the other services and the various government agencies is a positive aspect and it gives us the opportunity to be intimately involved in and have up-to-date knowledge of all ADF operations."

Lt-Col Hunter said one of his pleasures was to see an issue successfully resolved.

"I get particular satisfaction when a problem presents itself, the team across HQJOC and possibly other government agencies are drawn together to work through and ultimately solve it," he said.

"A recent example of this was the management of an issue with the catastrophic failure of a piece of major military equipment.

"It required a protracted and concentrated effort to work through the problem, identify a solution and execute that solution and prevent an operational impact."

At the end of the year Lt-Col Hunter will transfer to Global Operations Two and lead, control, monitor, as well as respond to contingency missions as part of ADF operations supporting Operation Okra and the UN and Multinational Force and Observers in Africa, Israel, Lebanon, Syria, Iraq and the Sinai.

Hitler's food testers 'cried like dogs' after every meal because they were glad to be alive.



Margot Woelk was one of 15 young women who sampled Hitler's food to make sure it wasn't poisoned.

Margot Wölk was no Nazi, but she was one of 15 young women who were employed at Adolf Hitler's heavily guarded Prussian "Wolf's Lair" headquarters during the Second World War. Her job was to taste the Nazi leader's food before it reached his lips, to make sure it wasn't poisoned. She was the only one to survive.

All her colleagues were rounded up and shot by the advancing Red Army in January 1945. Now a frail 96-year-old widow, Margot Wölk has overcome feelings of shame and broken decades of silence about her time as Hitler's food taster to tell her story to German television.

"The food was always vegetarian," she told Berlin's RBB television channel, for a program about her harrowing and sometimes horrific experiences.

"There were constant rumours that the British were out to poison Hitler. He never ate meat. We were given rice, noodles, peppers, peas and cauliflower," she recalled.

But she added: "Some of the girls started to shed tears as they began eating because they were so afraid. We had to eat it all up. Then we had to wait an hour, and every time we were frightened that we were going to be ill. We used to cry like dogs because we were so glad to have survived."

The mayor of the town, an ardent Nazi, forced Mrs Wölk to become a food taster. Every day an SS guard picked her and the other girls up in a special bus and took them to a school building, where they had to taste the Nazi leader's meals. Security was draconian, but one night she was raped by an SS officer. *Extract of article. ed*

Courtesy WO2 David Troedel

PARADE CARD

As at 1 December 2015

January 2016 - December 2016

January 2016	May 2016	October 2016
4. Cascabel Issue 125 Released	17. Committee Meeting	3. Cascabel Issue 124 Released
26. Australia day Salute	27. Gunner Symposium	18. Committee Meeting
		28. Gunner Symposium
February 2016	June 2016	
16. Committee Meeting	1. Reservist Luncheon	November 2016
19. Gunner Symposium (Fri)	21. Committee Meeting	3. Annual General Meeting
		4. Golf Day
March 2016	July 2016	15. Committee Meeting
2. RAA Luncheon	4. Cascabel Issue 123 Released	
15. Committee Meeting	19. Committee Meeting	
	29. Gunner Symposium	December 2016
April 2016	August 2016	4. Annual Church Service
4. Cascabel Issue 126 Released	?? RAA Gunner Dinner (TBA)	4. St Barbara's Day
19. Committee Meeting	16. Committee Meeting	4. 2/10 Bty Family Day
25. Anzac day (Mon)		13. C'ttee Xmas Breakup
	September 2016	
	20. Committee Meeting	
* For up to date details visit the Website http://artilleryvic.org.au/calendar.html		
Note: This Parade Card is subject to additions, alterations and deletions.		

Change of Personal Details

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

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