

CASCABEL

Journal of the

ROYAL AUSTRALIAN ARTILLERY ASSOCIATION
(VICTORIA) INCORPORATED

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75 mm Pack Howitzers of 106 Tank Attack Regiment at their Gun Park in Lae when they were LOB in 1943.
The guns were lined up for the photo then dispersed
Photo courtesy of Mr Ron Turton Hon. Secretary 106 Tank Attack Regiment Association

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CONTENTS AND SUBMISSIONS

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The President Writes

The Gunner Dinner was again held at the Prahran Town Hall this year. We again had 100 attendees at this all ranks function. It was considered by most of the people who attended that the function was a success.

As a word of explanation, the Association has been conducting a survey relating to activities with the Victorian members. We did not include the Interstate members as we considered it unlikely that they would attend on a regular basis. 280 surveys with reply paid envelopes were sent out and 140 had been returned by the approximate due date.

I consider this to be a very good response, much better than we expected.

The results of the survey will be reported in the next copy of *Cascabel* when we have had time to properly collate them.

However, I have few comments to make about the replies. I stress that these are my comments, and not necessarily the feeling of the rest of the Committee.

The questions were generally well answered.

Some members tended to want to explain every answer in the body of the survey. This makes collating extremely difficult and time consuming. The "Any Other Comments" section at the bottom of the form was put there for this purpose.

A number of members gave a variety of very valid reasons as to why they do not attend functions, and then went on to indicate the functions they would attend in direct opposition to what they have already indicated. This is going to make a number of results difficult to validate.

I appreciate that every Member has the right of a point of view and we are prepared to listen to that point of view.

In a number of cases the concerns expressed about the Gunner Dinner have already been covered in previous editions of this magazine.

For example, it was decided that the Dinner should be an all ranks function, and the reasons for this were given. No Member at that time wrote to the Committee expressing an alternative point of view.

Victoria Barracks was ruled out of contention on two main counts: cost, and the lack of facility for an all ranks function.

At the 2005 Dinner 40% of the attendees were not officers.

If the Officers of the Royal Regiment wish to have a function, that is fine by me. I personally would probably attend, but I do not believe it should be organised or financed by the Association.

More than enough from me about the Dinner at this stage.

Perhaps a word about the Annual General Meeting. It has become increasingly difficult to hold our AGMs (and any other function for that matter) at the Chapel Street Depot for a number of reasons. Catering has become a problem due to current regulatory restraints as are the issues of insurance and security.

In summary it was fantastic to receive your comments in response to the survey about social activities like the Gunner Dinner. I would encourage all members to continue these comments at the AGM. Come and join us and have your say to ensure that this committee serves all members to the fullest.

Regards to all

Neil Hamer
MAJ (R)

Membership Report September 2005

Current Membership

Life Members	216
Annual Members	85
Affiliates	46
Others (CO/CI, Messes, etc.)	11
Libraries	4
Total	362

We welcome MAJ D C (Bob) Dennis, LT J B (Bruce) Eva and LT R B (Bruce) Rothel as Annual Members of the Association

Cpl Edmund Ingouville-Williams has transferred to Life Membership.

I would like to thank all the Members who up-dated their information recently.
Unless something changes, I do not need you to keep supplying this information.

However:

The usual reminder about the proforma on the last page below the Parade Card.

If you have not already done so, it would be appreciated if you would provide the information requested so that our files can be kept up to date. This proforma should also be used to notify us of any changes in the future.

Also the hand writing on some of the e-mail address was a little hard to read. If you think you may be in this category, please send me an e-mail at the address below so that I can check it.

Please note that my e-mail address in the last *Cascabel* was incorrect. The one shown below is now correct.



Neil Hamer
MAJ (R)
Membership Co-ordinator

Contact: Telephone: 9702 2100
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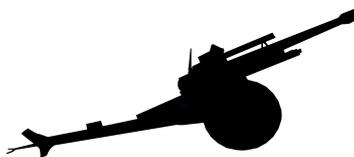


RAA Association (Victoria) Inc
Corps Shop

The following items may be purchased by mail, or at selected Association activities.

PRICE LIST

<p>Badges, etc</p> <p>RAA Assn (Vic), members \$5.00 RAA badge cuff links \$9.00 Key ring, RAA badge \$4.00 Key ring, RAA (Pewter) \$4.00</p> <p>Ties</p> <p>Blue with single red gun \$30.00 RAA Burgundy with gold gun \$43.00 RAA Navy with gold gun \$43.00 St Barbara Stripe \$43.00</p> <p>Books</p> <p><i>Kookaburra s Cutthroats</i> \$39.00 <i>Aust Military Equip Profiles</i> \$13.50 <i>AMEF Profile Leopard Tank</i> \$17-00</p> <p>ENQUIRIES:</p> <p>BRIAN CLEEMAN (03) 9560 7116 REG MORRELL (03) 9562 9552</p>	<p>Stationery</p> <p>Card, RAA badge, with envelope Christmas message \$0.20 blank inside \$0.20</p> <p>Stickers</p> <p> Bumper: <i>Gunners do it</i> <i>with a bigger bang</i> \$2.00 Square: gold badge, red and blue background \$2.00</p> <p>ORDERS: Most orders will require an additional FIVE DOLLARS packing and postage, which will cover one to several small items. If in any doubt concerning this, or availability, please contact one of the enquiries numbers above.</p> <p>Cheques should be made payable to RAA Association (Victoria) Inc, and be crossed <i>Not Negotiable</i>.</p> <p>Orders to: Mr B. Cleeman 28 Samada Street Notting Hill VIC 3168</p>
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Major General Herbert Lloyd

18 November 1883 - 10 August 1957

Herbert William Lloyd was born in South Yarra, Melbourne on 18 November 1883, the son of a police constable (later sergeant). He was educated at University High School and Wesley College. On 26 June 1902 he joined the Commonwealth Public Service as a clerk in the Treasury Department.

Lloyd was commissioned in the Australian Field artillery as a second lieutenant on 9 July 1906. He was promoted to lieutenant on 2 July 1907. He was appointed militia adjutant of the Australian Field Artillery 1908 and promoted to captain on 16 August 1909. On 31 March 1910, Lloyd quit the Public Service and joined the Permanent Military Forces as a lieutenant. He was promoted to captain again on 1 May 1914.

Lloyd was appointed to the AIF on 18 August 1914 with the rank of captain as adjutant of the 1st Field Artillery Brigade, with which he sailed for Egypt in October 1914. He landed at Cape Helles with the 1st Field Artillery Brigade on 4 May 1915, where the brigade came under the command of the *British 29th Division*. On 9 May 1915, the commander of the 1st Field Artillery Battery, Major H. St J. Sweetland, was evacuated sick and Lloyd took over as battery commander. The battery fired in support of the British until shifted to Anzac in September, Lloyd remaining in command until the evacuation of Gallipoli in December. For his services at Gallipoli, Lloyd was awarded the Distinguished Service Order (DSO).

Lloyd was Brigade Major of the 2nd Division Artillery from 1 January 1916 to 11 March 1916. In early 1916, the artillery underwent a huge expansion. In preparation for the move to the Western Front, the number of batteries per division was increased from nine to sixteen, while two new divisions (the 4th and 5th) were raised in Egypt. As a consequence, most of the original battery commanders were given brigades to form. Lloyd was promoted to lieutenant colonel on 12 March 1916 and given the new 22nd Field Artillery (Howitzer) Brigade. On 13 April 1916 he took over the 5th Field Artillery Brigade and in February to March 1917 was acting commander of the 2nd Division Artillery. He commanded the artillery in support of the advance column under the command of Brigadier General H. E. Elliott. In May he became acting commander of the 2nd Division Artillery again, operating from the shell torn Noreuil Valley in support of the attacks on Bullecourt. For his services in these battles, Lloyd was made a Companion of St Michael and St George (CMG).

Lloyd took over command of the 6th Field Artillery (Army) Brigade on 28 November 1917 and then then 12th Field Artillery (Army) Brigade in 7 February 1918. As an Army brigade, the 12th came under corps or army control and was moved from division to division as needed. It was therefore a more difficult assignment from a training point of view. Lloyd was credited with turning the 12th Field Artillery (Army) Brigade into an outstanding unit.

On 11 April 1918, the 12th Field Artillery (Army) Brigade was sent forward to assist the Scotts infantry attempting to stem the German advance on the Lys front. Lloyd went forward to Robecq where he found the cottage where the commanders of the *Scottish 153rd Infantry Brigade*, Lieutenant Colonel L. M. Dyson had his headquarters. Lloyd found the Germans visible from outside. Bullets passing through the cottage walls convinced Lloyd and Dyson that the time had come to leave. Dyson, who was lame, hobbled across the street, tapped on a window and called for his colleague, Brigadier General J. K. Dick-Cunyngham of the *Scottish 152nd Infantry Brigade*, to get going. Dick-Cunyngham replied that he was coming but did not; before he opened the door, the Germans were in the house. Meanwhile, Lloyd had gone back for Dyson's walking stick. He left Dyson's cottage by the front door as the Germans entered the back. The Germans set up a machine gun outside and men were getting hit but both Dyson and Lloyd made it to safety. His gunners remained in action until the Germans came into view, then limbered up and rode out of town, passing as they did so infantry and gunners detailed by Dyson and Lloyd to defend the canal drawbridges that were now the front line.

On 8 November 1918, Lloyd took over command of the 5th Division Artillery from Brigadier General A. J. Bessell-Browne, who was proceeding to Australia on three months furlough, and was promoted to temporary brigadier general. On 5 December Lloyd took over command of the 1st Division Artillery, holding this post until 24 March 1919. He was made a Companion of the Bath (CB) in the 1919 New Year's List for his services on the Western Front, during which time he had been mentioned in dispatches four times.

Lloyd's appointment to the AIF was terminated on 15 July 1919 and he was posted to Army Headquarters in Melbourne where he was Chief Inspector of Field Artillery from 16 July 1919 to 1 November 1919, Director of Artillery from 2 November 1919 to 31 March 1920, and general staff officer Artillery from 1 April 1920 to 3 September 1920. While serving with the AIF he had been given the brevet rank of major on 1 December 1915. He was promoted to the substantive rank of major on 1 November 1919 and brevet rank of lieutenant colonel on the same day. He was promoted to the substantive rank of lieutenant colonel on 1 January 1920. He held the honorary rank of brigadier general from 8 November 1918. Lloyd was transport officer for the 1920 visit to Australia of the Prince of Wales (who became King Edward VIII in 1936), for which he was appointed a Companion of the Victorian Order (CVO).

From 4 September 1920 to 31 January 1922, Lloyd attended the Staff College at Quetta, in India (now Pakistan). The first two classes after the war were selected on the basis of war experience rather than entering by examination and were a remarkable group. Some twenty of these entrants had, like Lloyd, been brigadier generals; some 170 had, also like him, been awarded the DSO. Five of them had even gone one better and won the Victoria Cross. Afterwards, Lloyd was posted to 1st Division Headquarters in Sydney from 1 February 1922 to 26 August 1925. Lloyd resigned from the permanent forces on 26 August 1925 and transferred to the militia's unattached list.

Lloyd took up a job with the Vacuum Oil Company (now better known as Mobil) in 1925. In 1929, he was elected as a Nationalist to the New South Wales Legislative Assembly as the member for Parramatta. He was defeated in the 1930 election but in 1932 won the seat of Mosman as a United Australia Party candidate, holding the seat until he relinquished it in 1941.

From May to July 1940, Lloyd held the civilian post of Director General of Army Recruiting. He was recalled to active duty on 1 August 1940 with the rank of brigadier (although of course he was still an honorary brigadier general) as Deputy Adjutant General at Army Headquarters. He was promoted to temporary major general on 23 October 1940 when he took over command of the 2nd Division. From 25 April to 31 July 1941, he was also Director General of Army Recruiting.

The 2nd Division was sent to Western Australia in 1942, forming part of III Corps, under the command of Lieutenant General H. G. Bennett. Lloyd joined the Second AIF on 15 January 1943 with the rank of colonel and temporary major general. On 22 September 1943, Lloyd was transferred back to Sydney to command the 1st Division, by this time a training formation. On 8 May 1945, Lloyd took over command of the Second Army. General T. A. Blamey recommended Lloyd for an active command, that of the 5th Division, then in action on New Britain, but the War Cabinet ruled that as Lloyd was now 61, the post war Army would be better served by the appointment of a younger officer. The job went to Brigadier K. W. Eather instead. Lloyd retired on 1 February 1946 as a major general. He became a director of several companies, including Adelaide Steamship. He died on 10 August 1957 and was cremated.

Sources: Australian Dictionary of Biography, 1940-1980, pp. 106-107; Horner, *The Gunners*, pp. 99, 101; Bean, C. E. W., *The Official History of Australia in the War of 1914-1918. Volume V: The AIF In France During the German Offensives 1918*, pp. 439-442; Grey, *Australian Brass*, pp. 55, 230

Reprinted from <http://www.unsw.adfa.edu.au/~rmallett/Generals/lloyd.html>

Victoria Barracks Melbourne Tours



Where?	Victoria Barracks Melbourne 256 - 310 St Kilda Rd Southbank Vic. 3006 (Melways reference 2F H11)
When?	Wednesdays 9.30 am & 1.30 pm (Duration 1.5 - 2 hours)
Who?	Pre booked groups only (10 or more people) from recognised clubs, organisations and associations and from Secondary Schools (Yr 11 & 12)
How?	Bookings are essential, For more information & bookings Phone (03) 9282 5999
Donations?	Adults \$5-00 Concession \$3-00

Victoria Barracks Melbourne has been occupied since 1856 by the British Army until 1870, by the Victorian Colonial Forces, and from Federation in 1901 by the Australian Defence Force. For nearly 60 years the Barracks was the HQ Department of Defence and during the 1939 - 45 World War was the location of Menzies and Curti's War Cabinet Room. Tours include a visit to the war cabinet room, General Blamey's office, Guardhouse Heritage Centre and the "Keep".



Waurn Ponds Memorial Park

On Sunday the 3rd of July 2005 a memorial service for servicemen and women was held at Waurn Ponds near Geelong.

The indefatigable Maj. Ian Barnes, KSj., ED, RFD. Conducted this unique ceremony, the 86th to be so held. Representatives of the RSL, Korean & Vietnam Veterans, Geelong National Servicemen, OC of 2/10 Field Regiment Battery at Geelong Maj. Craig Whitford, Legacy & the RUSI participated in laying wreaths.



Jack and Glenda Harriot of the Waurn Ponds Memorial Park Committee were praised for their unique achievement, the relocation of a 3.7 inch AA gun from the Myers Street Drill Hall to

Ponds and the erection of a shelter. Adjacent to the gun beneath the shelter are historical

a description of the ordnance and manning detachment plus ballistic data.

Photos show Mr Jack Harriot with the 3.7 inch gun, the Geelong Memorial Brass Band and the

guard in WW1 & WW2 uniforms in front of the 25 pounder gun from which five blanks were fired during the service.

Maj. Barnes and his active group are to be congratulated for their contribution in maintaining military tradition.

The only regret is that the 86 year old ceremony is held on the day that conflicts with the Reserve Forced Day in Melbourne.

It is suggested that Gunners visit the Waurn Ponds Memorial Reserve on the corner of the Princes Highway and Cochranes Road (Melways 283 E 7)

Percy Cooper
(Capt.)



Royal Australian Artillery Association
(Victoria) Inc.

Annual General Meeting

Thursday the 3rd of November 7.30 pm

*East Malvern RSL
Stanley Grosse Drive
East Malvern*

Bistro opens 6 pm

(Contact Reg Morrell 9562 9552 for bookings by 1/11/05)

Light supper provided after the meeting

S.P. 25Pdr YERAMBA **Some added remarks**

by Bruce Eva

It was interesting to note in the schedule of "Main Armaments Ammunition" (Cascabel No.84) included "16 x Super cartridges".

To my knowledge only one round of super was fired, resulting in some attention to the floor plates beneath the breech run out.

Could there have been a slight miscalculation between the angle of elevation and length of recoil? However during my time Super was a No No!

Having had the privilege of occupying the left hand seat with a well trained crew, engaging in the middle to upper end of charge 3 and enjoying the satisfaction of "two in the air" when ever the opportunity arose it was a great platform to work off.

It also seemed a paradox 29 tones of complex machinery thundering along at speeds up to 40 Km/hr being guided by a very simplistic system. Due to the roar of twin vertical exhausts located against the rear of the fighting compartment, the driver located low in the hull with limited forward, no side or rear vision, being directed by the No.1 placing his foot in his left of right shoulder a tap on the beret was to stop. I have sighted a paper, presumably prepared during proving trials, mentioning the driver was fitted with a light shoulder harness with guiding reins attached. The No.1 must have felt like an early Egyptian urging his chariot into battle.

Mention has been of "early hours driving" at Landcox St., surely this was only to prove that the Gardiner diesels were more efficient when aspirated with cool moist air found in the early hours, rather than operating in the dry and dirty air encountered on the A.F.V. ranges.

In later years, I had the occasion to meet with several of the neighbours, some managed to express a sense of humour, but all were pleased when the tank transporter, Yeramba on board, departed the depot for the last time.

Apart from driving and travelling in the tracked vehicles, shooting 25pds, and the ever demanding maintenance, time was found to train, under the watchful eye of W.O.1 Ken Hodges, and mount a guard at Government House during the Royal Visit, March 1954. To our dismay the Black beret was replaced 'Hats Fur Felt' but our Guard Commander retained the 'Cavalry Salute' which raised several senior eyebrows.

Attention has been made of the unique role of 22nd Fld Regt (S.P.) located at Landcox St. they were a very well trained and proud unit wearing the distinctive yellow and black team of dedicated officers.

The New Guard.
Government House (Mar 1954)



Guard House.

Lt Col D. Cox, Guard Commander Lt. J.B. Eva, Gnr R. Smith



Beating the Bounds
Government House.

Sgt D. Malcom, Lt J.B. Eva, 'Gunner' R. M^cClennan



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Twenty-eighth Annual General Meeting of the RAA Association (Vic) Inc
will be held at East Malvern RSL, Stanley Grose Drive, East Malvern,
Thursday 3rd November 2005, at 7.15pm (bistro open 6pm)

AGENDA

- | | |
|--------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. Apologies | 8. Other Business |
| 2. Minutes of previous meeting | a. North Fort support |
| 3. Business arising | b. Light Horse Memorial Park |
| 4. Correspondence | c. Questionnaire response |
| 5. Treasurer's report | d. Social activities |
| 6. Membership report | |
| 7. General Business | |
| a. President's report | |
| b. Regimental reports | |
| c. Election of office bearers | |

.....

NOMINATION FORM

This form is to reach the Secretary not later than 27th October 2005

<

<

a member of the Association, is hereby nominated for the position of
President / Vice President / Secretary / Treasurer / Committee member (cross out those positions
not nominated for) by the undermentioned Proposer and Seconder, who are also members of the
Association.

<

(signature of Proposer)

<

(Proposer's full name)

<

(signature of Seconder)

<

(Seconder's full name)

Signature of consenting nominee: <

.....

FORM OF APPOINTMENT OF PROXY

I, <

of <

being a member of the Royal Australian Artillery Association (Victoria) Inc, hereby appoint

<

of <

being a member of that Incorporated
Association, as my Proxy to vote for me on my behalf at the General Meeting of the Incorporated
Association to be held on 3rd November 2005, and at any adjournment of that meeting.

Signed <

Date <

RAA ASSOCIATION (VIC) INC MIXED SOCIAL GOLF DAY



To be held at the Berwick Montuna Golf Club
Beaconsfield-Emerald Road, Gu's Hill

(Melways 212 C4)

On the Friday 11th November 2005

Tee Time 0830 Hrs

This will be our third Annual Golf Day and we look forward to an even bigger and better field to compete for the coveted RAA Association Perpetual Trophy.

Golfers at ALL levels of expertise are invited to attend, including wives, husbands, partners, relatives and friends. Caddies, coaches observers and encouragers are most welcome to attend either, or both, the golf and the lunch.

Hire clubs, buggies and motorised carts are available from the Golf-Shop. These items should be booked directly with the Golf shop on 9707 5226 at least ten days prior. Photo ID and a deposit will be required for clubs and carts.

The cost for golfers is \$25.00 which covers green fees for 18 holes and trophies.

Lunch will be available in the Clubhouse at very reasonable prices.

The competition of the day will be a stableford competition for handicap golfers, and a stroke competition for non-handicap golfers. This means that you count all your strokes. Some **Special Local Rules** may be made for non-handicap golfers.

A separate competition for handicap and non-handicap golfers will be held if there are sufficient numbers in each field. If not, the non-handicap golfers will be given a stableford score calculated by the Match Committee.

Non-handicap golfers will be given a handicap at the end of the competition (by a very complicated and involved system called the Calloway System) so that all golfers have a fair chance of winning their competition. This Calloway handicap will be used to calculate the stableford points (if required). Stableford competition allocates points per hole according to handicap. This will be calculated by the Match Committee.

Trophies for the Best Score and Nearest the Pin (2) in both competitions will be given. Trophies will be awarded in the Clubhouse during lunch.

So that tee times and a number for lunch can be booked for this very busy time of the year, would you please indicate if you would like to attend, and the number of people in your group, by telephone, mail or e-mail to:

Maj Neil Hamer, 12 Marida Court, Berwick 3806;
Telephone, 9702 2100;
E-mail, nhamer@lexicon.net
Not later than 20th October 2005.

Please include your handicap, if you have one, and the number of non-golfers who will be attending for lunch.

The Red Poppy



On and around 11 November each year, the RSL sells millions of red cloth poppies for Australians to pin on their lapels. Proceeds go to the RSL welfare work. Why a red poppy?

Colonel John McCrae, who was Professor of Medicine at McGill University in Canada before WW1 (joined the McGill faculty in 1900 after graduating from the University of Toronto), first described the red poppy, the Flanders' poppy, as the flower of remembrance.

Although he had been a doctor for years and had served in the Boer War as a gunner, but went to France in WW1 as a medical officer with the first Canadian contingent.

It was impossible to get used to the suffering, the screams, and the blood here, and MAJ John McCrae had seen and heard enough in his dressing station to last him a lifetime. As a surgeon attached to the 1st Field Artillery Brigade, MAJ McCrae, had spent seventeen days treating injured men -- Canadians, British, Indians, French, and Germans -- in the Ypres salient.

It had been an ordeal that he had hardly thought possible. MAJ McCrae later wrote of it: "I wish I could embody on paper some of the varied sensations of that seventeen days Seventeen days of Hades! At the end of the first day if anyone had told us we had to spend seventeen days there, we would have folded our hands and said it could not have been done "(1).

One death particularly affected MAJ McCrae. A young friend and former student, LT Alexis Helmer of Ottawa, had been killed by a shell burst on 2 May. LT Helmer was buried later that day in the little cemetery outside McCrae's dressing station, and McCrae had performed the funeral ceremony in the absence of the chaplain.

The next day, sitting on the back of an ambulance parked near the dressing station beside the Canal de l'Yser, just a few hundred yards north of Ypres, McCrae vented his anguish by composing a poem. At the second battle of Ypres in 1915, when in charge of a small first-aid post, he wrote in pencil on a page from his despatch book a poem that has come to be known as "Flanders' Field" which described the poppies that marked the graves of soldiers killed fighting for their country. The major was no stranger to writing, having authored several medical texts besides dabbling in poetry. In the nearby cemetery, McCrae could see the wild poppies that sprang up in the ditches in that part of Europe, and he spent twenty minutes of precious rest time scribbling fifteen lines of verse in a notebook (2).

A young soldier watched him write it (written May 3, 1915 after the battle at Ypres). Cyril Allinson, a twenty-two year old sergeant major, was delivering mail that day when he spotted McCrae. The major looked up as Allinson approached, then went on writing while the sergeant major stood there quietly. "His face was very tired but calm as we wrote," Allinson recalled. "He looked around from time to time, his eyes straying to Helmer's grave." When he finished five minutes later, he took his mail from Allinson and, without saying a word, handed his pad to the young NCO. Allinson was moved by what he read:

The poem was exactly an exact description of the scene in front of us both. The word blow was not used in the first line though it was used later when the poem later appeared in Punch. But it was used in the second last line. He used the word blow in that line because the poppies actually were being blown that morning by a gentle east wind. It never occurred to me at that time that it would ever be published. It seemed to me just an exact description of the scene (3).

In fact, it was very nearly not published. Dissatisfied with it, McCrae tossed the poem away, but a fellow officer -- either LTCOL Edward Morrison, the former Ottawa newspaper editor who commanded the 1st Brigade of artillery (4), or LTCOL J.M. Elder (5), depending on which source is consulted -- retrieved it and sent it to newspapers in England. "The Spectator," in London, rejected it, but "Punch" published it on 8 December 1915.

McCrae's "In Flanders; Fields" remains to this day one of the most memorable war poems ever written. It is a lasting legacy of the terrible battle in the Ypres salient in the spring of 1915.

In Flanders Fields

In Flander'. Fields the poppies blow
Between the crosses, row on row,
That mark our place; and in the sky
The larks, still bravely singing, fly
Scarce heard amid the guns below.
We are the dead. Short days ago
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,
Loved, and were loved, and now we lie
In Flander'. Fields.
Take up our quarrel with the foe:
To you from failing hands we throw
The torch; be yours to hold it high.
If ye break faith with us who die
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow
In Flander'. Fields.

COL McCrae was wounded in May 1918 and was taken to one of the big hospitals on the coast of France. On the third evening he was wheeled to the balcony of his room to look over the sea towards the cliffs of Dover. The verses were obviously in his mind, for he said to the doctor "all them, if ye break faith with us who die we shall not sleep." That same night COL McCrae died.

Each Remembrance Day the British Legion lays a wreath on his grave a tribute to a great man whose thoughts were always for others.

The wearing of the poppy to keep faith began when an American, Miss Moira Michael, read the poem "In Flanders Field" and was so greatly impressed that she decided always to wear a poppy to keep the faith. Miss Michael wrote a reply after reading "In Flanders Field" entitled "We Shall Keep the Faith":

Oh! You who sleep in Flanders'. Fields.
Sleep sweet to rise anew;
We caught the torch you threw;
And holding high we kept
The faith with those who died.
We cherish, too, the Poppy red
That grows on fields where valour led.
It seems to signal to the skies
That blood of heroes never dies,
But lends a lustre to the red
Of the flower that blooms above the dead
In Flanders' Fields.
And now the torch and poppy red
Wear in honour of our dead
Fear not that ye have died for naught
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow
In Flanders' Fields.

Miss Michael worked for the YMCA in America and on Saturday 9 November 1918 hosted a meeting of YMCA wartime secretaries from other countries. When several of the secretaries presented her with a small gift of money to thank her for her hospitality, she said she would spend it on poppies and told them the story of McCrae's poem and her decision to always wear a red poppy.

The French secretary, Madame Guerin, conceived the idea of selling artificial poppies to raise money to help needy soldiers and their families, and she approached organisations among the countries of the world that had fought as allies in Europe to promote the concept.

In England in 1919, the British Legion was formed to foster the interest of ex-servicemen and their dependants, and the late Field Marshal Earl Haig, the first Grand President, sought an emblem which would honour the dead and help the living. He adopted the Poppy as that emblem, and since then the Red Poppy has been accepted as the Emblem of Remembrance. The day chosen for the wearing of the emblems was 11 November, a Day of Remembrance to honour the dead of both World Wars, Korea, Malaya and Vietnam.

The League adopted the idea in 1921, announcing, "The Returned Sailors and Soldiers Imperial League of Australia and other Returned Soldiers Organisations throughout the British Empire and Allied Countries have passed resolutions at their international conventions to recognise the Poppy of Flanders' Fields as the international memorial flower to be worn on the anniversary of Armistice Day.

Soldiers on the above mentioned day, we recognise that no emblem so well typifies the Fields whereon was fought the greatest war in the history of the world nor sanctifies so truly the last resting place of our brave dead who remain in France

Countries in asking people of Australia to wear the poppy; firstly in memory of our sacred dead who rest in Flanders' Fields; secondly to keep alive the memories of the sacred cause for which they laid down their lives; and thirdly as a bond of esteem and affection between the soldiers of all Allied nations and in respect for France, our common battle ground.

"The little silk poppies which are to be worn on Armistice Day are an exact replica in size and colour of the Poppies that bloom in Flanders' Fields. These poppies have been made by the war orphans in the devastated regions of France and have been shipped to Australia this year for Armistice Day.

The League bought one million poppies from France to sell on 11 November 1921 at one shilling each. Five pence per poppy was to go back to France towards a fund for the children of the devastated areas of France, with sixpence per poppy being retained by each State branch and one penny going to the national office. The League kept up this practice for several years, and of course kept the tradition of selling poppies to mark 11 November and raise money for welfare work, even when the poppies were no longer obtained from France. Poppies now sold in Australia are often made locally by League members themselves.

Although the Red Poppy of Flanders is a symbol of modern times, legend has it that the poppy goes back even to the time of the famous Mongol leader, Genghiz Khan, as the flower associated with human sacrifice. In the 12th and early 13th centuries, the Mongol Emperor led his warrior hordes on campaigns south to the conquest of India, and west to envelop Russia as far as the shores of the Black Sea.

The modern story of the poppy is, of course, no legend. It is a page of history to which many thousands still with us can testify.

Excerpt from "Welcome to Flanders Fields - The Great Canadian Battle of the Great War : Ypres, 1915", by Daniel G. Dancocks, McClelland and Stewart (Toronto, Canada), 1988. pages 250, 251 Epilogue

(1) Bassett, John. page 44, "John McCrae." Markham:Fitzhenry & Whiteside, 1984.

(2) Public Archives Canada (Ottawa), now the National Archives of Canada, MG30 E209, biographical note by Gertrude Hickmore.

(3) Mathieson, William D. page 264. "My Grandfather's War." Toronto: Macmillan, 1981.

(4) Public Archives Canada (Ottawa), now the National Archives of Canada, MG30 E133, volume 4, "Origin of 'In Flanders

(5) "Canadian Daily Record," 5/3/19

Reprinted from Traditions of the Australian Army

<http://www.defence.gov.au/army/traditions/main.htm#traditions>

LOCATING NEWS.

132 Battery to be raised again and now forms part of the latest new Regiment in the RAA.

Its now official that Locating [now known as Survey and Target Aquisition] has been raised to Regimental status. The rumours have been doing the traps for some time now but the re raising of the 20th STA Regt is official with the posting CO elect Lt Col Phil Swinsburg to the job. The 20th Locating Regiment existed in Sydney in the 1950's and encompassed ARA and CMF soldiers. Further reading on the early history can be found in the latest book "Tracks of The Dragon" by Ayliffe & Posener.

The new Regt will comprise three batteries at this time.

A. The CSS Bty [Combat Systems Support] which seems to mirror a HQ element.

B. 131 STA Bty [Survey & Target Aquisition] As is currently raised.

C. 132 UAV Bty Unmanned Aerial Vehicle] 131 has been trialling them in the Solomons

From the Locating Associations newsletter LOCREP comes news that an early trophy from 20th Loc Regt has been located at Nth Fort Museum and will be presented to the new unit as a tangible link for the Regiments history. Also "The former SI STA Wing Major Russ Hamsey is a member of the regiments Introduction Into Service [IIS] team based at Enoggera"

Maj Hamsey also says "HQ CATC in Puckapunyal have begun the detailed examination of trades and training issues. "

All bets are off as they examine everything from officer training; to resolving the training issues coming from the conduct of surveillance by 131STA Bty; to determining how AMS will link with the new UAV into one trade. Balancing all of this with the delivery of all of the new equipment coming into the Regiment is a monumental task, which will take a few years to resolve."

What an exciting time to be a "locator" now with new technologies being officially used and available. It must be at least 1970's edition of Training pams that talked about using DRONE aircraft [UAV's] for Locating data gathering.

It will also mean there is now a career structure within STA for all soldiers.

I look forward to reading more reports about our new 20th STA Regiment.

Finally a report from IRAQ, where 131 STA has a detachment in deployment.

Danny McGinley [BSM and acting CAPT, OC Det 131 STA Bty in Iraq] says that the 131 boys have settled in well. The Weapon Locating Radars have deployed and are performing well so far.

Finally I want to mention a new site up on the Internet for interested people concerning the 131 Bty Detachment in SVN. This site has been mounted through the efforts of the writers of the book "Tracks of the Dragon" I was looking for some information on the old AN/KPQ 1 radars that were in use in the 60/70's and just typed up ANKPQ using Google. Very intersting site and well put together. Not just a Locating site though so many Field gunners, especially if you were there will be interested in having a read. No names are mentioned but units are referred to when co deployed. Descriptions of attacks on the FSB are given while LP's and Surveyers were there as well as the "luck" of the Radars in gaining A accuracy Locreps. Have a look some time.

Regards now from Craig Cook [ex WO2 late 132 Bty]

20TH STA REGT

G'Day from 20th STA Regiment's Introduction into Service Team.

The Regt continues to progress to its establishment. It is now official, the Regt will be called 20th Surveillance and Target Acquisition Regiment with three sub-units: 131 STA Bty, 132 UAV Bty and CSS Bty.

A great deal of work has progressed over the last months to settle the Regt's Concept of Operations and its personnel and equipment organisations. The IIS Team have had just about enough of MS Excel Spreadsheets. Army HQ is now working through the organisation charts to find the required people and equipment to populate the new unit.

Our friends at HQ CATC in Puckapunyal have begun the detailed examination of trades and training issues. All bets are off as they examine everything from officer training; to resolving the training issues coming from the conduct of surveillance by 131 STA Bty; to determining how AMS will link with the UAV into one trade. Balancing all of this with the delivery of all of the new equipment coming into the Regt is a monumental task, which will take a few years to resolve.

We have received word from CAPT Danny McGinley and the guys in the Middle East. The Weapon Locating Radars have deployed and are performing well thus far. We wish Danny and his men all the best over the next months with AMTG.

Lastly, we are about to bid farewell to CAPT Rod Lang and his party of three (SGTs Bertram and VanDerMeer and BDR Fox) as they head across to the UK to join 32 (UAV) Regt RA for the next year. It is likely that these lads will undertake UAV training on the British Phoenix system and then deploy to the Middle East. We wish them all success. On their return, they will form the nucleus of the first UAV troop in 132 Bty.

As you can see, life remains very busy as 20th STA Regt moves towards the day of the first regimental parade. We will keep the Association in mind as we continue our work and bring you updates as we can.

This is a re print of an article from the LOCREP, the STA Assn newsletter.
Re-produced with permission from MAJ R. Hamsey, BC 132 UAV Bty.



Vale WO2 Wally Culpit

Wally Culpitt, ex WO2 [BSM] at 15Fd Regt Dandenong and ex 2/8 Fd Regt AIF.

For past three or four years he had been living in a nursing home. He will be remembered by many from the 1950/60's and was a member at the Box Hill RSL. I recall Wally telling me that he had a family history in Artillery as his Father? was born in the married quarters of the Chapel St. Drill Hall when his Grandfather was serving there as the RSM back in the 1800's.
A good gunner gone.

RIP

Craig Cook

Reminisces of an Anti Tank Regiment and Dunkirk

I was really interested to read the article on 'France, Belgium and Dunkirk 1940' in the July 05 issue of 'Cascabel' No.84 pages 18 . 22 inclusive.

It really took me back in time.

What is it? 65 years ago!

I was in an Anti Tank Regiment at that time, we arrived in France in February or March 1940. We spent most of the time training. It was the period known as the 'phoney war'.

I had my 20th birthday on the 9th of May and the next day we crossed the border into Belgium, which the Germans had just started to invade.

At the time a small group of us were transferred to another Anti Tank Regiment. On our way to join this unit we were commandeered by a French Officer to help the French defend the area around Amiens, Corbie and Albert (Somme area).

After a short time our Sergeant was permitted to resume our Journey to the Anti Tank Regiment. By this time everything was a bit of a shambles. We had no idea where this unit was. Eventually we came across a Field Regiment who took us on their strength. They were equipped with 18 pounders converted to 25 pounders. They were near a place called Louvain, which was on the River Dyle, some miles east of Brussels. The Regiment was ordered to withdraw. We couldn't understand why, we thought we were doing well.

We moved off but only travelled a few miles before the road became clogged with refugees. We eventually reached a town called Bailleul just in side France which was being heavily bombed and shelled at the time. Our convoy was driving over wounded dead people and horses. Our convoy was halted and we were ordered to spike our guns and destroy the vehicles. Then came the order 'everyman for himself'.. We said .where do we go/. we were told .Make for Dunkirk.. . Where.s that?.'See that big smoke in the distance, make for that'.

After walking for about five miles or so, the road totally packed with refugees, I came across an old school mate of mine who lived near me at home. He like me, was also battling along on his own. So we joined forces and struggled on through the refugees. At one point, when going through a town called Poperinge in Belgium, I saw a bloke sitting on a doorstep. I tapped him on the shoulder to asked the way to Dunkirk and he toppled over dead he had been shot.

All this time, we were being dive bombed by Stukas (dive bombers) and machine gunned by Messerschmitt 109's. They were slaughtering all the poor refugees. Men, women, children . dragging along whatever of their possessions they could manage. Gerry was trying to clear the road for their tanks.

Jack and I carried on and eventually reached Dunkirk oil tanks burning, Stukas bombing, fighters strafing and shell fire. We got through the town and reached the beach expecting to see ships, but couldn't see one. We went up on the dunes and settled in after finding ourselves a hole among some bushes.

I wandered through the town looking for some food and drink. We had nothing to eat for two days. I Couldn't find any food but went into one place and found some wine in the cellar. So I grabbed some of that and made my way back to Jack. But I couldn't find our hole so I didn't see him again. The next day I went down to the beach, and wandered around and came across another old mate from my first unit the anti tank Regiment Harry. We managed to stich together. Joining several queues.

On 31st May we were up to our necks in the waster for most of the day. Then in the evening we managed to get pulled into a rowing boat which took us out and transferred us to a motor launch which in turn took us out to a destroyer. We were dragged on board and bound ourselves a little space on deck. After a short while a Navy bloke came around handing out hot tea, bread and real butter, and some bully beef. It was the first food that we had, had in two or three days. When we boarded the destroyer we thought that we were safe at last. But no! The ship headed to the jetty which was being bombed and shelled, to take on more troops. Eventually however late in the evening, she pulled out and headed for home.

All this time since leaving my Battery, I had carried my rifle and ammo all the way. As soon as I got up on the ship a Petty Officer grabbed it and tossed it into the sea. 'We are over full no'. he said, 'we cant take any extra weight'. I wasn.t pleased.

We landed at Dover the next morning 1st June. We were expecting to be treated like lepers by the people because we had been chased out of France and Belgium. But no, we were treated like heroes. I have never been able to understand why.

John Woodhouse.



More than 300,000 troops were evacuated from Dunkirk and the surrounding beaches in May and June 1940. At the time the British Prime Minister Winston Churchill said it was "a miracle of deliverance". Dunkirk writer David J. Knowles explains what happened.

"A miracle" - is the best description of what happened at Dunkirk in May and June 1940. Hundreds of thousands of troops were rescued from the German advance in the nick of time. The troops were desperately needed back on the home shores to help defend against a Nazi invasion. They were rescued from the harbour and beaches near to Dunkirk by a curious assembly of many different types of craft. Many of the little ships, such as motor yachts, fishing boats and all manner of other such craft, were privately owned.

German forces underestimated

Although a large number of these ships were taken across the channel by navy personnel - many were also taken over by their owners and other civilians, all eager to help in what had become a catastrophe.

The British, French and Belgium governments had seriously underestimated the strength of the German forces in their equipment, transport and fire power - which was far superior to much of our outdated armoury. Consequently the British Expeditionary Force, as well as the French and Belgian forces, found themselves defending positions against overwhelming odds.

Desperate retreat

Before long, with the Germans effectively cutting off nearly all of the escape routes to the channel, the BEF found itself desperately retreating to the harbour and beaches of Dunkirk.

Vice Admiral Ramsay - who was in charge of Operation Dynamo - had sent destroyers and transport ships to evacuate the troops, but they only expected to have time to lift off about 30,000 troops. However, before long, the harbour became partially blocked by ships sunk in consistent attacks from enemy aircraft. It became necessary to take the troops off the nearby beaches as well - something that was thought to be an almost impossible task because of shallow water.

Seemed like a victory

This is when the little ships came to play their part. A variety of motor boats, fishing smacks, trawlers, lifeboats, paddle steamers and many other types of craft came over the channel to assist in the escape. They mainly ferried the troops from the beaches to the destroyers laying offshore - but thousands of troops came all the way back to England in some of these boats. The escape captured the minds and hearts of the British people at a time when it looked probable that we too would soon be invaded. It seemed like a victory in just getting the troops back - over a third of a million of them - to fight another day.

Reprinted from

BBC News Tuesday, 30 May, 2000

David J. Knowles is the author of Escape From Catastrophe, 1940 Dunkirk.

Sergeant Harry Garrett, was a 22-year-old anti-tank gunner with the Royal Artillery. He was with his brother throughout the war and recalls how the pair kept their spirits up on the Dunkirk beach.

Eventually we got down to the beach at Dunkirk and there were blokes lying all over who'd been killed.

You were such an easy target. There was such a concentration of fire by the enemy and we were so tightly packed that they couldn't really miss.

We built a trench, but with no ships to take us off we stayed there for three days, while they were bombing and shelling. Then in desperation - we'd had nothing to eat or drink for days - I left the trench and found a wooden warehouse up on the hill. I smashed open the door with my rifle and found an Aladdin's cave - there were hundreds of bottles of Jamaica rum and carnation milk.

We got the mess tins out and mixed them together and, I'm not kidding, we were the three bravest men on that beach that day! Later on, we saw the Destroyer Wolsey come in at the mole [landing area] and we ran like blazes and got on.



Harry Garrett: "There were blokes lying all over"

There were about 300-400 of us packed on like sardines and it only seemed like an hour and we were in Dover, but we were being bombed and shelled all the way. It was a nightmare, it really was.

You were such an easy target...they couldn't really miss

Harry Garrett

Reprinted from

BBC News Tuesday, 30 May, 2000

France Belgium and Dunkirk 1940

with

19th Field Regiment, Royal Artillery
Lt Col W.G. Mackay OBE MC RA in command.

by SP Bellmaine Lt Col (Rtd)
MB, BS (Sydney) DCH (London) FRACP

Based on an address given, by request, to the Royal Australian Army Medical Corps
5 November 1995

Continued from issue # 84

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In just over three weeks, in daily low level contact with the enemy, we, the 19th field, 750 all ranks, lost four killed by shell fire and one by infantry action. Apart from the afore mentioned casualty with major damage to his skull there was a few walking wounded.

It was sometime after we got back to England that we learned something of the big picture. It was ironic that 1 DIV, selected for the vanguard of the advance into Belgium, and selected as the centerpiece of the last resistance around Dunkirk, should have finished in good shape, whereas other divisions fought bitter battles, suffered, and inflicted grievous injury on the enemy.

I shall quote Winston Churchill¹,

“General Brooke and his Second Corps, fought a magnificent battle, attempting to fill the Belgian Gap. . orders were given to the British Artillery, both Field and Medium, to fire off all their ammunition at the enemy, and this tremendous fire did much to quell the German assault . the Germans sustained a bloody repulse. The 2nd and 5th DIV.s fought on right and left flanks of the perimeter, at Bergues and Nieuport, to prevent the enemy getting onto the beaches behind our fighting troops . the enemy.s effort to do so was foreseen and everywhere forestalled.

On June 1st, 46 DIV, 1 DIV and 50 DIV, who were in best shape, turned about to form the line. Divisions who had suffered most were held in reserve on the beaches then embarked early.”

Continuing the information which I have gained from Churchill.s writing, I now give you my summary, of Churchill.s summary, of the whole campaign.

“Hitler’s belief was that the German air force would render (the BEF’s) escape impossible, and that there fore he should keep his armoured formations for the final stroke of the campaign (against France). This proved to be mistaken.

Three factors falsified his expectations. First, the incessant air bombing of the masses of troops along the seashore did very little harm. The bombs plunged into soft sand, which muffled the explosions. In the early stages, after a crashing air raid, the troops found that hardly anybody had been killed or wounded. Presently the soldiers regarded the air attacks with contempt. They crouched in the sand dunes with composure and growing hope.

The second factor which Hitler had not foreseen was the slaughter of his airmen day after day the air battle went on, till the glorious victory of the Royal Air Force was gained. The troops on the beaches saw very little of this epic conflict in the air, often miles away or above the clouds Many of our soldiers coming back had not seen the Air Force at work; they saw only the bombers which escaped its protective attack. They underestimated it (RAF’s) achievements . I have heard much talk of this; that is why I go out of my way to say this.

¹Churchill, Winston L.S. The Second World War. 6 Volumes (1948 54)

But (thirdly) all the aid of the sand and the prowess in the air would have been in vain without the sea. Perfect discipline prevailed ashore and afloat. The sea was calm. The mosquito armada as a whole was unsinkable. In the midst of our defeat glory came to the island people, united and unconquerable, and the tale of the Dunkirk beaches will shine in what ever records are preserved in our affairs.

We must be careful not to assign to this deliverance the attributes of a victory. Wars are not won by evacuations. But there was a victory inside this deliverance it was gained by the Royal Air Force

It would be fitting to close this dissertation with Churchill's stirring prose, but I wish to tie up some loose end.

Firstly, who covered our departure when all British resistance ceased at 2359 hours on June 1st ? Elite French forces did so! On our segment, it was Zouaves, Algerian troops. I felt much admiration for them. I do not know what happened to these French Forces. I hope that they were safely evacuated to England on the 3rd or 4th June when they would be given an opportunity to join General De Gaulle's Free French Forces. Secondly what happened to my beloved 19th Field Regiment? I left them on 2nd February 1942, when I was posted, overseas to Asia. Later they were involved in very active fighting at ANZIO beachhead.

I was in England in 1972. At that time the IRA had declared the Gaelic Football Ground in Belfast a 'No G'. football ground. It struck me that this Infantry task was a curious role for Gunners. I wrote to the C.O. of the 19th Field, describing my interest and I received a reply which was the reverse of perfunctory. A year later, the troops, who had served in Ulster were in barracks at Catterick in Yorkshire. One evening, about 6pm, the Colonel responded to a knock at his front door and was shot dead by the IRA! From what I read in the Sydney papers I have always believed that the murdered officer was the C.O. of the 19th Field. Finally, in Bosnia, some months ago, when NATO forces went in with their right to start active operations, Channel 9 showed us a picture of troops of the 19th Field Regiment taking up positions. I was probably the only one in Australia who really took note.

Finally, to revert to June 1940 after our units had been reconstituted, we were sent on leave. I went to the Isle of Man. Whilst I was sitting on the beach there, my four year old daughter was heard to say to some other little children 'my daddy.s been chasing Hitler'. Her mother intervened, 'no darling Hitler's been chasing your Daddy.'



Stop Press

50th Anniversary of the 1956 Olympic Games celebrations 18 22 November 2006.

Old hands will recall our involvement in providing the spectacular Salute Troop of 25 Pounders, including members of all ranks in Blues Ceremonial uniforms.

We also had members in the Massed Bands, the Torch Relay, maybe even in the Choir and certainly personnel in the various Army responsibilities of the Olympic Games.

More information to follow next edition of Cascabel



MY SERVICE CAREER

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

Part 21 Colonel Artillery, 1978

My first activity in 1978 was to attend a dinner with MUR, while that unit was in camp at Puckapunyal. In retirement one can plan one's life with more care and not have too many commitments on any one day, but not generally while holding down a professional position. One just had to fit it all in, but then I was much younger. For instance, on Sat 14 Jan 78 I began the day by making sandcastles with my four-year-old son on the beach at Torquay. Later in the day, having locked up and loaded the car, I drove back to Braemar College, dropping Shirley and our son off in Geelong on the way. I then proceeded to Puckapunyal to attend the MUR dinner.

Does anything ever change? The adjutant had only got wind of my visit an hour earlier. But I was quickly placed in the VIP quarters in the central mess and then went to the RACT centre for the dinner. MAJ Bev Blanksby² was dining mess president. The Honorary Colonel, Sir Edmund Herring, spoke at the dinner. MUR had not forgotten that I had administered command early in 1977.

Whereas my diary had once been rather brief, I was now describing my army activities in more detail. But because of my civilian rôle as a headmaster, the actual typing could be delayed by a month or two. Memory can round out details in that time. I also saved more papers and documents from these last appointments in the reserve. As a result these instalment parts will be more detailed, but with .gaps..

During weekly parades at .Grosvenor,. I was involved in attending several committee meetings. One was the Number 3 PAC.³ This was principally for promotion within non-commissioned ranks. I was greatly assisted in my rôle by a regular officer of the field force group, MAJ Ian McDonald. He prepared many documents and, as a gunner, always kept the interests of the Corps uppermost.

The second type of meeting was that of the artillery planning committee. This would have been attended by the Colonel Commandant⁴ if he so wished, the COs of the regiments, the OC of the Div Loc Bty, members of the Arty staff and me. The agenda would have covered both social affairs (Gunner Dinner, Ball &c) as well as unit and inter-unit matters. Finally there was the Royal Artillery Association. This group of principally Second World War personnel were perhaps more nostalgic and perhaps .possessive. than their counterparts today. Quite apart from the success of the social functions, they expected to be invited to witness shoots in camp. I am not sure that the Colonel (Artillery) was always able to meet their needs, but he tried. COL .Sandy. Mair was the RAA president.

The Artillery Planning Committee (APC) meeting on Wed 22 Feb 78 discussed arrangements for the Gunner Dinner, then held annually at the Victoria Barracks Officers. Mess. The officer list was sufficiently large in those days to warrant an officers-only function. Similarly, some of us were very insistent that gunner protocol and behaviour be followed. Perhaps we kidded ourselves that we knew what was right. How many of us had dined at Woolwich?⁵ .For what we are about to receive, thank God,. was the Grace. The salutation prior to the Loyal Toast was, .Mr. Vice, the Queen, our Captain General,. to which the toast was, 'Gentlemen⁶, the Queen'⁷

Several of us endeavoured to have Greetings of Loyalty submitted to Her Majesty from the assembled officers. Sometimes in the face of discouragement from further up .the line,. we were not above fabricating a telegram that such a message had been received and graciously acknowledged.

² Later

² Later LTCOL, AM, RFD and ED. She was appointed AM in the Australia Day Honours, 1984

³ PAC stood for Personnel Advisory Committee

⁴ His Honour MAJGEN Judge Norman Vickery, CBE, MC, ED

⁵ I had dined at Woolwich in 1974 while attached to a territorial unit in the UK

⁶ When CAPT Judith Davis became our first female gunner officer changes became necessary

⁷ One 10 Mdm Regt officer became infamous for adding, 'God Bless He'. to the toast. He also wore boots with his blues!

Current members of the RA Association able to regularly read our quarterly journal, *Cascabel*, would be surprised to know of its shaky forbears⁸. Throughout my service until that year, the Corps had made valiant attempts to have a periodical news bulletin. In 1978 the APC made a more determined effort. I have two copies of the Gunner Newsletter of 1978. Three issues were published that year. Vol 1, No 1 appeared in March 1978. The Colonel Commandant wrote the first article, commending the newsletter and trusting in its continuation. MAJ Doug Perry⁹ contributed the editorial. There was a history of the 132 Div Loc Bty, together with reports from the regiments. As well, there was a calendar for the year's events. It was a well presented folded double-sided A4 document.

After attending the 10 Mdm Regt dinner on 3rd March, where the tradition of inviting nearby civic mayors had continued, I was invited to the 2/15 Fd Regt camp, (LTCOL Graham Allinson, CO), on the Labour Day holiday. MAJ Bernie Pearson¹⁰ took me up on the Sunday night, so that I could view the night deployment. There is something eerie, yet risky in such a manoeuvre, as the tractors groan away at a very slow speed as they follow the gunner wearing a towel, or some other white object to show up in the night light. I always wondered whether gunners drew lots for this privilege! Having drawn the 'short straw,' they would need to get the driver to swear that he would never run them down, but keep his foot near the brake!

I spent Monday mainly on the gun position. Hardly the place for a person with red tabs, but I must have been on very good terms with the GPO. I even joined the detachment of one gun and had the honour to fire it. No range records exist of any ricochet that day! Experience had taught me as to what correction could be expected with well-trained OPOs and gun detachments. The detachment gunners expressed surprise when I offered the correction to them some seconds before the GPO had computed the correction and passed it to the guns. My keen ears had picked up the radio transmission of the correction from the OP to the GPO.

On the night after Anzac Day, the COs and OC at the regular APC made it very clear that they sought that the *function of command*, previously exercised by a CRA in a division, be more evident. As I have mentioned earlier, .command and control of the guns. in the Field Force Group, had been allotted to the formation commander. But the gap in the command chain was perhaps now too distant. During the previous week, the FF HQ had a visit from BRIG Silverstone¹¹, who echoed much the same thoughts. However, the Colonel Artillery had no such brief and would have to walk carefully offering leadership as he thought fit at the time.

Many of these difficulties arose from the .without precedent. creation of the command structure of the Field Force Group. We were far more conversant and confident with the traditional .division.. The same situation had been experienced when the full-time army moved from area commands to functional ones¹².

In 1978 the senior CMF major-general was styled as the Assistant Commander Logistics Command. As such he commanded very little, but was recognised by the part-time members of the defence force as their general. He also carried the additional title as Senior Army Reserve Officer. In 1978 it was MAJGEN F. E. Poke. Other senior CMF officers at that time included Brigadiers K. Cooke, J. E. Barry¹³ and N. E.



⁸ The first edition of *Cascabel* is dated July, 1983, its editor was the late MAJ Rob Gaw, CAPT Judith Davis assisting

⁹ Now BRIG Doug Perry, Colonel Commandant RAA Vic. Doug was CO of 2/15Fd Regt at the time of Ex

¹⁰ Later LTCOL and CO of MUR another gunner in a key appointment!

¹¹ Director, Royal Artillery, the senior regular officer in the Corps

¹² Southern Command had become Third Military District, with the HQ of Logistics Command in Victoria Barracks

¹³ He was Commander, 3 Div FF Gp from Apr 77 to 31 Dec 79 and later as MAJGEN commanded the Third Division

Bavington¹⁴. When, a few years later, the Third Infantry Division was re-raised, a lot of these situations disappeared, but by then the numbers in the CMF had declined to the point where divisional-sized exercises were difficult to stage with any realistic meaning.

The first gunner dinner of my posting was on Fri 12 May 78 in the officers' mess at Victoria Barracks. The previous night there had been a dinner at the Naval and Military Club for BRIG Silverstone. I had little voice that night. I had even less on the 12th! I had invited my father¹⁵ to the dinner and, as I had typed out my headmaster's report, had offered it to him to read. But he wisely passed it to MAJ Doug Perry to deliver it. LTGEN Sir Edmund Herring, also a gunner, was a guest at the dinner.

From the 9th to the 11th June a FF Gp command post exercise was held at the Victoria Street depot.¹⁶ On Tuesday, 27th June, MAJGEN Jock McNeill, AO, OBE, ED, was given a farewell dinner by senior officers when he ceased as Inspector General of Army Reserves (IG ARes). Major-generals present at the dinner, in addition to many lesser ranking officers, included: Sir Robert Risson, CB, CBE, DSO, ED; R. R. Gordon, CBE, DSO, ED; S. M. McDonald, CBE, MC, ED; His Honour Judge N. A. Vickery, CBE, MC, ED; G. L. Maitland, AO, OBE, ED; F. E. Poke, ED; and J. D. Stevenson, CBE.¹⁷

On 1 Jul 78, the second recruit parade at which I was the reviewing officer referred to in the last *Cascabel*, was held. That night I attended a 10 Mdm regimental dinner. On the 19th I was driven to Geelong for an artillery meeting (APC). The Colonel Commandant was able to be present. At a similar meeting on 20 Sep 78, at which only one CO was present, the importance of the RA Association was discussed.

The RAA Tewt was held at Puckapunyal over the weekend of 28-30 Jul 78, entitled 'Braemar One'. MAJ John Griggs, who had been adjutant at 10 Mdm Regt, addressed the officers on the subject of equipment acquisition. Memory is that films of both the UK and USA 155 equipments were shown. The latter gun was to be the one that the Australian Army purchased. That 10 Mdm would be issued with the gun was indicated when contractors arrived at the Geelong depot to alter the size of the gun bays to take the larger weapon. The days of the trusted and respected 5.5" gun were numbered.



Major Perry, introducing 2 Lt. Davis to Lt. Col. Graham Allinson — Dining President at 1978 Gunner Dinner. 2 Lt. Judith Davis was the first female to attend this function.

I attended the Gunner Ball on Fri 4 Aug 78, which was held again at No. 9 Downing Street. Although asked a year earlier to attend a Senior Officers' tactics Course when just promoted, I had accepted a place on the 1978 one but it was cancelled almost the story of a reserve

officer's life.

In the middle of the month, 10 Mdm held its bivouac over the weekend, 15-17 Sep 78, both in the Brisbane Ranges and further west in Forest. I attended on the Saturday. I was due at the 2/15 Fd Regt's dinner that night at Batman Avenue. I was surprised on arrival to see the hems of dresses (under coats) in the passageway as accompanying officers arrived! I had misread the invitation and left Shirley back in Geelong!

¹⁴ Brigadier Bavington commanded 4 TF

¹⁵ E. C. Farley had been a boy bugler in an RAMC unit on the outbreak of World War I, but did not accompany the regiment to France in 1916 on account of age. In 1918 he was training as a pilot in the newly formed RAF, when the Armistice was declared, which probably meant that he lived to sire the author! Mr. Farley was an area warden in the RAP in the next conflict. His brothers-in-law were all members of the Artist' Rifles a territorial unit that later became SAS in rôle.

¹⁶ Later, if not at the time, the depot for the Recruit Training Wing, and since sold

¹⁷ Decorations correct at the date of the dinner. The last two generals named were later to receive the AO.

My face was red and I had some explaining to do on return! But wives were certainly expected to be in attendance at the Geelong Military Ball at the end of September, so I did not make that mistake twice!

The last exercise for the year was by FF Gp at Puckapunyal, entitled, Ex 'Team Effort'. It was held over the weekend of 27-29 Oct 78. I was picked up on the Friday night by COL Healey, Asst Comd, and LTCOL Philip Kudnig, SO1 Ops. A helicopter made it easier on the Saturday to get around the range. MAJGEN Maitland visited on the Sunday. The annual Beating the Retreat ceremony was conducted by Log Comd in the area of the Shrine that night.

The Freedom of Entry was granted to 10 Mdm Regt by the City of Colac on Sat 2 Dec 78. I was feeling a bit 'Grotty' that morning, but somehow MAJ Bernie Pearson had wangled a Ford LTD air-conditioned car for the trip from Geelong to Colac. His hand writing or phone call had been fortunately misread as 'COL Arky'. Had the NCO in charge of the motor pool may have thought it wiser to err on the side of luxury. The ceremony was of the usual high standard and our colours the guns were correctly saluted as they passed by the saluting base.

On St. Barbara's Day, a parade was held at Batman Avenue.

I have a copy of the third edition of the newly instituted

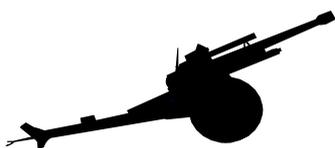
for Nov 78. A picture appears in it of MAJ Doug Perry introducing CAPT Judith Davis, our first female gunner officer at the gunner dinner. Another photo showed SGT Daryl O'Connor with his gun from 2/15 Fd Regt. There were articles on St.



Barbara and the King's Troop, Royal Horse Artillery. In those days there were smoke nights at Batman Avenue, and not to be confused with smoke shoots!

1979 was going to be even busier. Quite a number of majors were to qualify at their Tac 5 course. Plans to re-raise the Third Infantry Division were afoot. But the memorable artillery TEWT at Braemar College in September 1980 was still in the future.

Corrigenda: Page 23, LTCOL David Bullard is no longer chairman of the RACV; Page 24, BRIG Ian Gilmore is still president of the Field Marshal Sir Thomas Blamey Trust; LTCOL Graham Allinson spells 'Graham' that way, Page 25, It was GEN Sir Phillip Bennett who was Governor of Tasmania, not MAJGEN Grey, who is now LTGEN; and it should have read CAPT Geoff Rebecchi, not Graham Rebecchi. The author extends his apologies to all concerned.



Parade Card

OCT 2005

20 Committee

NOV 2005

06 RSL Springvale

10 A.G.M.

11 Golf Day

17 Committee

DEC 2005

07 St Barbara's Day

08 Committee

JAN 2006

FEB 2006

05 Church Parade

16 Committee

MAR 2006

16 Committee

APR 2006

20 Committee

25 ANZAC Day

MAY 2006

18 Committee

15 Committee

JUN 2006

07 3 DIV lunch (all ranks)

30 Gunner Dinner

JUL 2006

02 Res Forces Day

20 Committee

AUG 2006

17 Committee

?? Regt Ball

SEP 2006

21 Committee

CHANGE OF ADDRESS AND DETAILS UP-DATE

Please forward to:
RAA Association (Vic) Inc.
101 Warralong Ave
GREENSBOROUGH VIC 3088

Rank _____ First Names _____ DOB _____

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Fax and/or E-mail _____

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Serving Y/N _____ If so, Unit _____

Awards, Decorations, Medals, Etc. _____

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