

CASCABEL

Journal of the

ROYAL AUSTRALIAN ARTILLERY ASSOCIATION
(VICTORIA) INCORPORATED

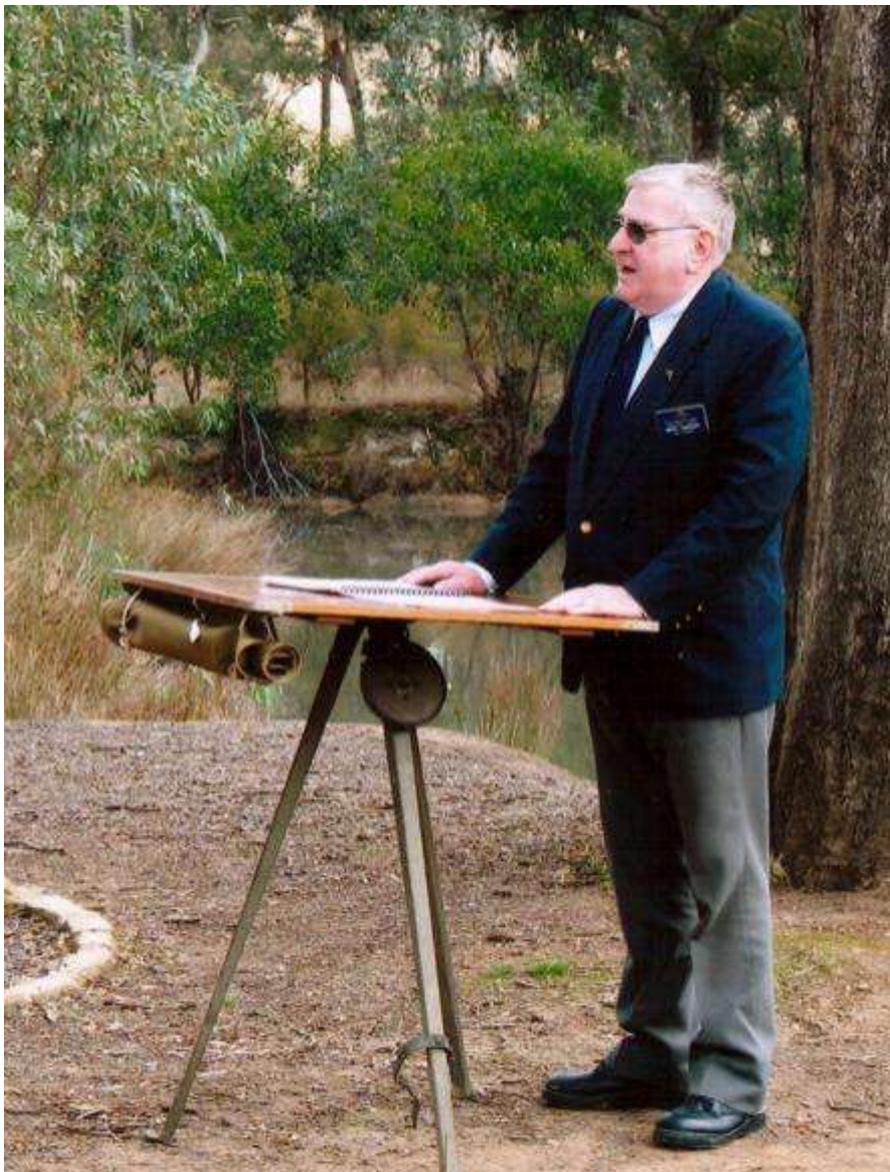
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Maj. Merv Taggart addresses members of the Association at the unveiling of the Association plaque at the Light Horse Memorial Park Site 17

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CASCABEL

Journal of the

----- ROYAL AU STRALIAN ARTILLERY ASSOCIATION (VIC) INC -----



FOUNDED:

First AGM April 1978
First Cascabel July 1983

COL COMMANDANT:

BRIG D.I.Perry RFD, ED

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1978

Patron: LT GEN The Hon Sir Edmund Herring

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

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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:

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:

Our Assoc Logo 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.

LAPEL BADGE:

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. Selected by MAJ Warren Barnard, 1984 Assoc Committee.

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The President Writes

I am writing this column one week before the Gunner Dinner. I realise that when you read this the Dinner will be well and truly over. However, I feel that I must comment on the fact that to date we have received only 43 acceptances to the Dinner. We have also received a number of apologies, but the indecision about holding the Dinner with such a few acceptances is causing some considerable angst. The amount of organisation required for the Dinner is considerable, and information is required by the due date. I thank you for your co-operation in the future.

I believe that this column should be used to keep the membership abreast of the decisions and proposed activities of the Association.

It was noticed in the recent Honours List that Chris Renwick, who some of you may remember as a GPO, was awarded an AM.

The Annual Golf Day has been booked for Friday 12 November at the usual venue; the Berwick Montuna Golf Club.

The AGM will be held at the East Malvern RSL on Thursday 9 November.

It is intended to change our Annual Church Parade from the first to the second Sunday in February to better accommodate the requirements of 2/10 Regiment. It was also decided to hold the Parade at St George's Church, next door to the depot. This will enable the Regiment to more readily support the Parade, and for us to use the Depot for a family lunch.

A request has been made for the Association to make available name badges for all members. Some preliminary enquiries have been made to produce a smaller laser etched badge. These should be available to all members for a small fee.

It has been suggested that the Association could organise a group of people who are interested in places. It was noticed that the condition of some of these displays needed of a little TLC. If any members, or others, are interested in donating some of their time to this cause could you please contact me. My contact details are shown near the front of the Magazine.

On the 6th May we travelled to Seymour and Puckapunyal. The Plaque at the Light Horse Memorial Park, at the old Site 17, was unveiled and MAJ Merv Taggart gave a very interesting and well researched address to the gathering. We then moved across to Puckapunyal where we were welcomed by LTCOL Dean Ashton and the members of his Regiment to watch the live firing from the gun position. I would like to thank LTCOL Ashton and the Regiment very sincerely for making this visit possible.

The Shrine of Remembrance has made a request to the Corps that a large Artillery flag be made available for them to fly on specifically Artillery occasions. The cost for such a flag is about \$2500. BRIG Perry has taken on the task of organising this venture and is asking for donations to help defray the cost. The Association Committee has decided to start the donations with a \$500 grant. If any member would like to contribute, donations can be sent to the Treasurer, SSGT Reg Morrell so that we can co-ordinate the handling and banking of the money.

A number of Affiliated Associations have been disbanding lately due to a lack of numbers. Concern has been expressed that some of the Banners and other items from these Associations

are not being properly housed and stored after the disbandment of the particular Association. We would therefore like to stress to the Affiliated Associations that procedures are put in place to ensure the ultimate result is what the Association wants. These Banners and other items must be preserved as they are the history of the Regiment.

Talking about History, COL Farley is forming a Committee to research the history of Artillery in Victoria. We are expecting more detailed information from COL Farley in the not too distant future.

Regards to all



Neil Hamer
MAJ (R)

Membership Report July 2006

Current Membership

Life Members	214
Annual Members	85
Affiliates	42
Others (CO/CI, Messes, etc.)	11
Libraries	5
<u>Total</u>	<u>357</u>

Two Affiliated Associations have been archived: 2/8 FD REGT Assoc and 8 FD REGT Assoc. The last issue of *Cascabel* was returned.

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. It would also help if you could provide any information about your occupation, achievements and other service to the community.



Neil Hamer
MAJ (R)
Membership Co-ordinator

Contact: Telephone: 9702 2100
0419 533 067
E-mail: nhamer@bigpond.net.au



Expressions of Interest



Visit to ADI Benalla

Weekday Visit Mid October at a date to be confirmed

Possible shared transport arrangements.

Limited numbers

Contact Reg Morrell 6 Melissa Street Mount Waverley 3149, Phone 9562 9552



RAA Association (Victoria) Inc
Corps Shop

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

PRICE LIST

Badges, etc		Stationery	
RAA Assn (Vic), members	\$5.00	Card, RAA badge, with envelope	
RAA badge cuff links	\$9.00	Christmas message	\$0.20
Key ring, RAA badge	\$4.00	blank inside	\$0.20
Key ring, RAA (Pewter)	\$4.00	Stickers	
		Bumper: <i>Gunners do it</i>	
Ties		<i>with a bigger bang</i>	\$2.00
Blue with single red gun	\$30.00	Square: gold badge, red	
RAA Burgundy with gold gun	\$43.00	and blue background	\$2.00
RAA Navy with gold gun	\$43.00		
St Barbara Stripe	\$43.00	ORDERS:	
Books		Most orders will require an additional FIVE DOLLARS	
<i>Kookaburra s Cutthroats</i>	\$39.00	packing and postage, which will cover one to several	
<i>Aust Military Equip Profiles</i>	\$13.50	small items. If in any doubt concerning this, or	
<i>AMEF Profile Leopard Tank</i>	\$17.00	availability, please contact one of the enquiries	
		numbers above.	
ENQUIRIES:		Cheques should be made payable to RAA Association	
BRIAN CLEEMAN	(03) 9560 7116	(Victoria) Inc, and be crossed <i>Not Negotiable</i> .	
REG MORRELL	(03) 9562 9552	Orders to: Mr B. Cleeman	
		28 Samada Street	
		Notting Hill VIC 3168	



1956 Olympic Games Salute

2nd Field Regiment Royal Australian Artillery



Bdr English has provided us with names of Gunners on the Gun in the foreground.
Left to right WO Maca, Bdr Davis English, Bdr Edward Herd, Sgt Ivan Whittington.

He also provides us with the following snippet

Morning First day

Fired a salute for the Duke of Edinburgh arriving in Melbourne

Afternoon

The salute was fired for the opening of the Games

One Week Later

Travelled to Queenscliff staying the night at the fort. Next morning a salute was fired for American Ships coming through the Heads.

Closing of the games

The salute was fired at the MCG. I've never seen so many people jump so high.

After the opening salute, we went into town for a beer or two. While walking up Swanston Street due to the Duke arriving we were wearing a white webbed belt on our ceremonial uniforms. Two ladies passed and said "look! English Marines". One of our group, Ivan Whittington, replied."don't be silly. We're Australian Artillery". They looked at him as though he was a nut case as we all started laughing our heads off. This coming from a Pom.

Bdr English D.M. 2nd Field Regiment RAA Driver Loader No.1 Gun

The forgotten man: Lieut.-General Sir Frank Berryman

Peter Dean

{1} The name "Berryman" does not rank in the annals of famous Australian generals. It is not spoken of with reverence on ANZAC Day, nor is his name associated with the deeds of great Australian military men. It does not conjure up the same romantic, heroic or controversial images of contemporaries such as Lavarack, Rowell, Morshead or Bennett, and yet the achievements of this unassuming, yet forthright, general stand alongside, and in some cases above, his contemporaries who enjoy greater fame in popular memory and history. He appears in most histories of Australia in the Second World War as a footnote, but this greatly belies his importance and achievements.

{2} There are a number of reasons why Lieutenant-General Sir Frank Horton Berryman has not been a celebrated figure in Australian military history. First, Berryman made his career as a regular soldier. This had a distinct disadvantage as regular soldiers were often placed in the understated, yet no less important, roles as staff officers. It was within this field of staff work that Berryman came into his own. Both Generals Lavarack and Blamey thought of him as a pre-eminent staff officer. Even those of his peers who were not always on cordial terms with Berryman at a personal level paid homage to his professional abilities.¹

{3} Berryman shunned the spotlight. He was an intensely private, loyal and assiduous man who did not seek fame and "avoid[ed] publicity, being too busily occupied loyally serving his command and army."² He was, as one newspaper reporter described him in 1945; "a soldier's soldier, cool, ruthless, upright, [and] without a single trick of showmanship."³ In fact, Berryman thought that those generals and officers who sought notoriety among the press did nothing to help get the war won. They were, in his words, not acting "in the best interests of the service."⁴

{4} His efficiency as a staff officer and his skills in coordinating the relationship with Australia's allies have resulted in Berryman assuming the role of a "man behind the scenes". His identity is subsumed by the very staff work that he completed in such an authoritative manner, the dominating personalities of Blamey and MacArthur and the role that the US held within in the Australian-American alliance.

{5} Then there is the question of command experience. Berryman was only given the opportunity to command troops on two occasions during the Second World War. His first command was at Merdjayoun in Syria in 1941, a campaign that is little known, despite the magnificent achievements of the Australian forces, and his second was as a corps commander in the Huon Peninsula, New Guinea, in 1943-44. He held his corps command at a time when the strategic emphasis of the Allied campaign was no longer on the Australian forces, as the apparent threat of invasion had diminished and the Allied counter attack was well developed and on the way to securing victory. That is not to say that Berryman lacked the desire nor the talent for command; in fact, David Horner argues that "he had an important impact on Australian operations and strategy .[and] he showed courage and leadership of a high order."⁵ Berryman did not, however, command in "the Battles that 'saved' Australia"⁶ and despite his significant efforts in the war, specifically in the defeat of Japan, his work was largely unknown at the time and remains even more so today. There has been little written of this period in Australia's military history and the events of this time have largely disappeared into what some historians in recent years have described as "the Green Hole"⁷

{6} Arguably Berryman's most significant achievements came not only as a commander, but as an administrator, staff officer and as a mediator positions that are generally not showered with praise by journalists and historians alike. An idea persisted among the press that he was "not a fighting soldier, not an inspired leader of men in the field."⁸ Berryman took such comments and views in his stride, contenting himself with the hard-won and endearing professional reputation that he held within army circles, who to Berryman were the harshest critics and of course the only ones in which he placed any credence.

The career soldier

{7} Born in Geelong, Victoria, in 1894, son of William Lee Berryman and Annie Jane Horton, young Frank showed talent and aptitude in his schoolwork. He gained a place at Melbourne High School where he won the Rix prize for academic excellence.⁹ This prestigious start to his academic pursuits was a reflection of his intelligence and this was maintained throughout his life and career.

He went on to graduate from the Royal Military College at Duntroon and the Staff College at Camberley, England.

{8} Berryman's military career began with his graduation from Duntroon in 1915 and his subsequent posting as an artillery officer to the Western Front. In France, he served in a number of staff and command appointments, receiving temporary promotion to captain in April 1916. He was again promoted in September 1917, this time to major while in command of the 18th Battery where he remained until January 1918. He spent the last year of the war in a mix of staff and command positions, receiving a gunshot wound to the right eye in September 1918 while he was commanding the 14th Battery, 2nd Division, Australian Imperial Force (AIF). He returned to Australia in October 1919 with a mention in dispatches and the Distinguished Service Order.¹⁰



Major F. H. Berryman, DSO, in 1918 when he was brigade major of 7th Infantry Brigade, AIF.
AWM P02543.001

{9} Following his return, Berryman served as commander of the 2nd Battery, Royal Australian Field Artillery, and then as Inspecting Ordnance Officer - North East Area (1923-27). Then followed attendance at the very prestigious course at the British Army's staff college at Camberley. A report by Major General Charles Gwynn, the commandant at Camberley (who had also been director of military art at Duntroon during Berryman's cadet days), provides some very perceptive comments about Berryman's character. He was described as "possessing a considerable strength of character very zealous and hardworking [and] completely devoted to the interests of his service."¹¹ The instructors at the staff college, while aware of his talents, also noticed that he was "highly strung [and] might have done even better if he had not been almost over anxious."¹² Berryman graduated in 1928 and stayed on in London to work at the Australian High Commission, which was then headed by the esteemed First World War commander in the Light Horse, Major General Sir Granville Ryrie. Berryman's immediate superior, however, was Major General J. H. Bruche, who was the senior military representative at Australia House until May 1931, when he returned to Australia to become (briefly) commandant at Duntroon and then Chief of the General Staff.¹³

{10} In early 1932 Major Berryman also returned to Australia, where he took up the post of Brigade Major of the 14th Infantry Brigade at Marrickville, in Sydney's inner west. This posting was a typical reflection of the army between the wars. With a small Staff Corps and a restricted budget, opportunities for employment and promotion were exceptionally slow. The cut backs of the depression limited the experience of the post-war Staff Corps and placed enormous pressures on its officers. Berryman's postings and experience followed closely those of fellow Staff Corps members: George Vasey, Sydney Rowell, Alan Boase and Horace Robertson. Opportunities were restricted in Australia and many sought postings overseas in England, as Berryman did, or India like George Vasey. They were, in essence, fulfilling not just Australian but Imperial service as well.

{11} The realities of peacetime Australia had brought only disappointment to many career soldiers. Promising young officers such as George Wootten, Jim Broadbent and David Whitehead resigned during the 1920s and even Brigadier General Blamey sought better prospects in civilian life.¹⁴ Berryman had been a brevet major since 1917 and he was, in 1932, occupying the same position

which he had held in October 1918 with the 7th Brigade. In reality, he was still a captain, a rank that he held for nineteen years until he was confirmed as a major in 1935!

{12} Berryman's commanding officer in the 14th Brigade was the Militia brigadier and well-known Second World War general, A. S. ("Tubby") Allen, under whom Berryman was to serve in Syria in 1941. In 1935-39, Berryman served as General Staff Officer Grade One (GSO1) Operations at Army Headquarters under Generals Sturdee and Lavarack. Both these officers made repeated recommendations for his promotion and attendance at the Imperial Defence College. His hard work was rewarded with a promotion to the rank of brevet lieutenant colonel in 1938. In fact, Berryman had been so devoted during his time at Headquarters that in his efficiency report, dated August 1938, Colonel Sydney Rowell stated that as he had been "under continuous mental strain [without] the same opportunities for relaxation as many others. I feel it would be *in the best interests of the Service and himself* that he should be released for duty with troops as soon as conditions permit."¹⁵

"A soldiers' soldier"

{13} "Berry"¹⁶ was sent to Melbourne to be the senior staff officer of the 3rd Division at the outbreak of the Second World War. With the raising of the Second AIF, his hard work, perseverance and talents as a staff officer were recognised with his appointment as GSO1 of the 6th Division, in succession to Rowell who in March 1940 stepped up to become chief of staff of the 1st Australian Corps. Berryman's talent for operational staff work now came to the forefront. As senior staff officer of the 6th Division, he was responsible for completing the operational staff work for the attacks at both Bardia and Tobruk, Libya, in 1941. It was in this operational role that he was again recognised when he was appointed C.B.E.



Leit.-Colonel Berryman (left) with Colonels S. F. Rowell and S. R. Burston, and Lieut.-Generals Blamey and Lavarack, at the embarkation of the second AIF convoy from Melbourne in April 1940.

AWM 001389/28

{14} This period of Berryman's career, however, was not as harmonious as it seemed. There existed a considerable degree of friction between Militia and Staff Corps officers in the AIF and it reached its nadir in the period 1939-41.¹⁷ Second World War generals like Leslie Morshead, Edward ("Ned") Herring, Gordon Bennett and Tubby Allen, were all Militia officers during the inter-war period and there existed a considerable degree of competition between the officers of Australia's "two armies". Berryman was not immune to these events and it seems that he felt contempt for many of the Militia officers at this time, referring to them as "mere weekend soldiers".¹⁸ In fact, personal rivalries within the upper echelons of the army transcended those between Militia or Staff Corps service. During this period Berryman was involved in a feud with fellow Duntroon graduate and Staff Corps member Colonel George Vasey, who accused Berryman, as GSO1, of being "unco-operative selfish too independent [and] a slave to procedure."¹⁹ Berryman also had a run-in with his former brigade commander, Tubby Allen, as well as the CRA (Commander, Royal Artillery) Brigadier Herring and Brigadier Stan Savige of the 17th Brigade.²⁰

{15} Stuart Sayers (Herring's biographer) noted that "jockeying is endemic in an[y] hierarchical organisation such as the Army. Jealousies and professional differences seemed more than ordinarily marked in the 6th Division under Mackay."²¹ This, it seems, is unfortunately true. Vasey and Berryman obviously had a clash of personalities which they were unable to resolve; instead, this was exacerbated by the rivalry that existed between the two men. Both had graduated from Duntroon in 1915 and Vasey remained bitterly critical and jealous of Berryman, largely because he

was senior to him and Vasey often filled Berryman's positions after he had been promoted.²²

However, Sayers argues that Herring blamed much of the discord at 6th Division Headquarters on Berryman, observing: "He was a brilliant staff officer, but a trying colleague. He was obsessively secretive, [and] woundingly sarcastic."²³

{16} It is easy to see how Berryman got his nickname in some circles of the army as "Berry the Bastard". Certainly he must accept some responsibility for this awkward atmosphere, but jealousy and rivalries worked in both directions. This was simply a reflection of Berry's character. He was known as a ruthless operator and he could be cold and sarcastic with his juniors and contemporaries. It was said that "His astringent tongue will wither a subordinate who has made a mistake, but he would, if necessary stand by the same erring subordinate before the combined Allied General Staffs."²⁴ To many soldiers and officers, Berry "was a warm and engaging character, possessing a hard streak but one tempered by humour and a sense of the practical."²⁵ Despite the personnel problems evident among senior officers in the 6th Division, Berryman was recognised by both his divisional and corps commanders as having considerable talent. He was rewarded in January 1941 with a promotion to brigadier and command of the artillery of the 7th Division, AIF.

{17} Berryman's service in Syria ranks as his only time in command of troops in direct action during the Second World War,²⁶ and it was a time in his career that he looked back at fondly.²⁷ His personal relationships had improved, and many of the misapprehensions he developed about Militia officers had been dispelled by the battles of 1940-41. He also got along well with Lavarack (GOC 7th Division, 1940-41), who he had known in the 1930s, and their relationship in the division again proved to be built on mutual respect and admiration for each others' professional qualities. Lavarack's calm and professional demeanour and intellectual abilities fitted well alongside Berryman's temperament. Berryman also worked in admirable accord with Tubby Allen during the campaign, but his forceful personality was contrary to others, and he found himself at professional odds with Brigadier J. E. S. Stevens. Lavarack observed that "he [Berryman] and Jackie Stevens struck off a few sparks between them, as was only natural when two such good hard bits of stuff came into contact."²⁸

{18} The Syrian campaign of June-July 1941 began in an air of unreality. The area was strategically important, especially since the pro-Axis coup in Iraq, but the British High Command optimistically believed that the Vichy French forces occupying Syria and Lebanon would offer only token resistance. Unfortunately, this was not so, and the well-equipped French determinedly opposed the invasion. The assault on Syria and Lebanon was under the command of the British General Maitland Wilson who had recently commanded the ill-fated Greek campaign.

{19} Wilson's plan called for three equal-strength thrusts into Syria, even though he recognised the coastal area as the significant sector. The bulk of the force was comprised of the Australian 7th Division (of two brigades), which were responsible for the advance on the coastal strip and in the central sector. British and Free French Forces were provided for the inland drive to Damascus.²⁹ Wilson's command arrangements were unnecessarily complicated; he was to command the operation from Jerusalem with the 1st Australian Corps taking over only after the troops had reached the Damascus-Rayak-Beruit line. These plans simply meant that, like in Greece, Australian commanders would take control in the middle of a desperate battle.

{20} The campaign was fought under trying conditions. Not only was the terrain especially suited to defence, but Vichy forces outnumbered the attacking Australians, British and Free French. Furthermore, the Vichy French had considerable armoured assets and a supporting force of over 100 aircraft. The Allied forces were allotted no armour and they could rely on the support of only 60 frontline aircraft. The assault began well, but on 16 June the Vichy French forces counter-attacked and threw the whole operation into jeopardy. There was ferocious fighting along the entire front and in particular around the town of Merdjayoun in the central sector. The Vichy French forces were held and then thrown back. The Australians and their allies were eventually successful and the Vichy French surrendered on 13 July. Syria had been a close run campaign and success had more to do with hard fighting, operational and tactical planning than with the organization and planning on the part of the British High Command.

{21} Berryman relished his time in Syria. He had profited from his desert experience with the 6th Division, and as 7th Division CRA he trained the artillery regiments to a peak of efficiency in open

warfare, focusing on operations that supported the infantry, engaging enemy tanks and operating while isolated and cut off from other forces.³⁰ Above all, he fostered the ideals of self-reliance and support for the infantry. During the campaign he displayed considerable courage and tenacity under fire. Berryman, along with his Brigade Major, John Wilton,³¹ took fourteen prisoners in Khirbe on 11 June, and later that day he personally led the troops into Merdjayoun with Lieutenant Colonel Selwyn Porter.³² In the assault on Jezzine three days later it was Berry, at the head of an infantry company, who led Australian forces into the town.

{22} Berry's inspired leadership of troops came to the fore during his time in Syria and especially as commander of "Berry Force" at Merdjayoun. There were numerous incidents that demonstrated his coolness under fire and his ability to lead from the front. These qualities were even more needed, given that the 7th Division was as yet untested in action. When his headquarters came under shell fire for the first time, Berryman sat calmly eating his breakfast "among the flying brick dust and bursting shells",³³ simply telling the men to shut the door "so [that] they can eat breakfast without being covered in dust."³⁴ Berryman's displays of steadfastness were characteristic of the artillery in Syria as a whole.³⁵ He also believed in moving forward and conducting personal reconnaissances and spending as much time with the men in the front line as possible. It was "by reconnoitring from the most forward posts, through the bold use of artillery and personal drive, and by his constant presence forward [that] he maintained the morale of the troops."³⁶



Syria, June 1941: Major General A. S. Allen, Brigadier Berryman and Brigadier A. R. Baxter-Cox.
AWM 128436

{23} During the Vichy French counter attack, Berryman was given command of the Australian forces in the centre of the position around Merdjayoun. For two weeks, outnumbered and outgunned, he battled to retake the strategically important town and to stop the Vichy French from penetrating into the rear of the Allied positions. It was during this engagement, and later at Damour, that Berry recommended Lieutenant Roden Cutler for the Victoria Cross, the only such award ever received by a member of the Royal Australian Artillery. Berryman took a great interest in his junior officers' careers and Cutler received numerous mentions in the Brigadier's diary. Berryman wrote that: "In my experience, the best junior officer from either World War I or World War II was Cutler."³⁷

{24} Despite some initial setbacks,³⁸ Berryman was successful in his recapture of Merdjayoun. "Berry Force" was subsequently disbanded, but both Berryman and his artillery continued to perform superbly throughout the remainder of the campaign and were a major factor in the Australian success. Berryman continued to show versatility and lateral thinking during the campaign with his raising of "The Kelly Gang", which was comprised of Australian soldiers from the divisional cavalry regiment mounted on captured horses. They proved to be excellent in the rugged terrain and worked very proficiently while operating on the flanks of Australian main force units.³⁹

{25} Berryman's contributions to the Syrian campaign were not overlooked and he was rewarded, not with the fighting command that he desired but with the important position of BGS (Brigadier General Staff), or senior staff officer, of the 1st Australian Corps. It was during this period that the Japanese bombed Pearl Harbor and much of the South Pacific was being overrun.

{26} Along with the headquarters staff of the 1st Corps, Berryman arrived in Batavia, Java, on 26 January 1942. With an eye to training and a thirst for knowledge about his new opponents, he was instrumental in organising a long interview with Colonel I. M. Stewart of the British Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders Regiment, who had just fought the Japanese in Malaya. This interview became the basis of a paper on Japanese tactics that Berryman and Major General Allen

developed and had widely distributed throughout the Australian army; this was compulsory reading not just for officers, but for sergeants and corporals as well.⁴⁰

{27} On his return to Australia, Berryman was promoted and made MGGS (major general, general staff) of the First Australian Army, again under Lavarack. In September, however, he became Deputy Chief of the General Staff under the Commander-in-Chief, General Sir Thomas Blamey, who also called on him in December to simultaneously act as chief of staff of New Guinea Force, the principal Australian army formation in the South-West Pacific Area. It was from this time onwards that Berryman formed a very close professional and personal relationship with Blamey, and, with the exception of his time in 1944 as a corps commander, Berryman was able to operate as Blamey's chief of staff and head of operational planning. This made him "one of the most important officers in the Australian Army in its struggle against the Japanese."⁴¹ Blamey and Berryman remained close for the rest of the war and Blamey came to rely heavily on Berryman for advice.⁴²

{28} Berry was not passive in his approach as a staff officer in New Guinea and as Blamey's virtual deputy. He often set out for the front to encourage both troops and commanders, and to carry out personal reconnaissance. In 1943 he went to Wau on two separate occasions when this position was in danger, and on one of these, while venturing forward with another officer, he was subjected to small arms fire. Berryman remained in Wau, taking virtual command until ordered back to Advanced Land Headquarters in Brisbane.⁴³

{29} Berryman, however, was not just a favoured colleague or protégé, nor was he simply a "yes" man. He frequently opposed Blamey on a number of operational and strategic issues and Blamey often changed his mind on the advice of Berryman and others such as Major General Charles ("Gaffer") Lloyd.⁴⁴ Blamey was endeared to Berryman's predilection for secrecy as well as his candid and loyal demeanour. One of the main reasons that Blamey respected Berryman so much, and was so reliant on him for advice, was that he saw Berry not as a rival but a trustworthy and very capable subordinate, one who at all times made paramount the interests of the army and gave loyalty to his commander-in-chief above his own ambition. As a consequence, Berryman's personality and achievements have been overshadowed by Blamey's. His role as a planning and operations officer in the Pacific has been lost, not just in the ascendancy that Blamey had over the army and its personalities during the Second World War, but also in the dominance that Blamey's role subsumes in the post-war history and literature of the Pacific campaigns. As a result, Berryman's role and importance has been largely overlooked.

To be continued

The Author

Peter J. Dean is currently writing a biography of Lieutenant General Berryman as his PhD thesis with the School of History at the University of New South Wales. He holds a Bachelor of Arts (Hons) and a Diploma of Education in History and Sociology from the University of Newcastle. Peter has taught history from high school through to university. In 1999 he was a recipient of a NSW government *Access Asia* scholarship to conduct research in Vietnam and has served as a Director of the Professional Teachers Council of NSW and President of the NSW Society and Culture Teachers Association. He has been a member of the Australian Army (Reserve) since 1993.

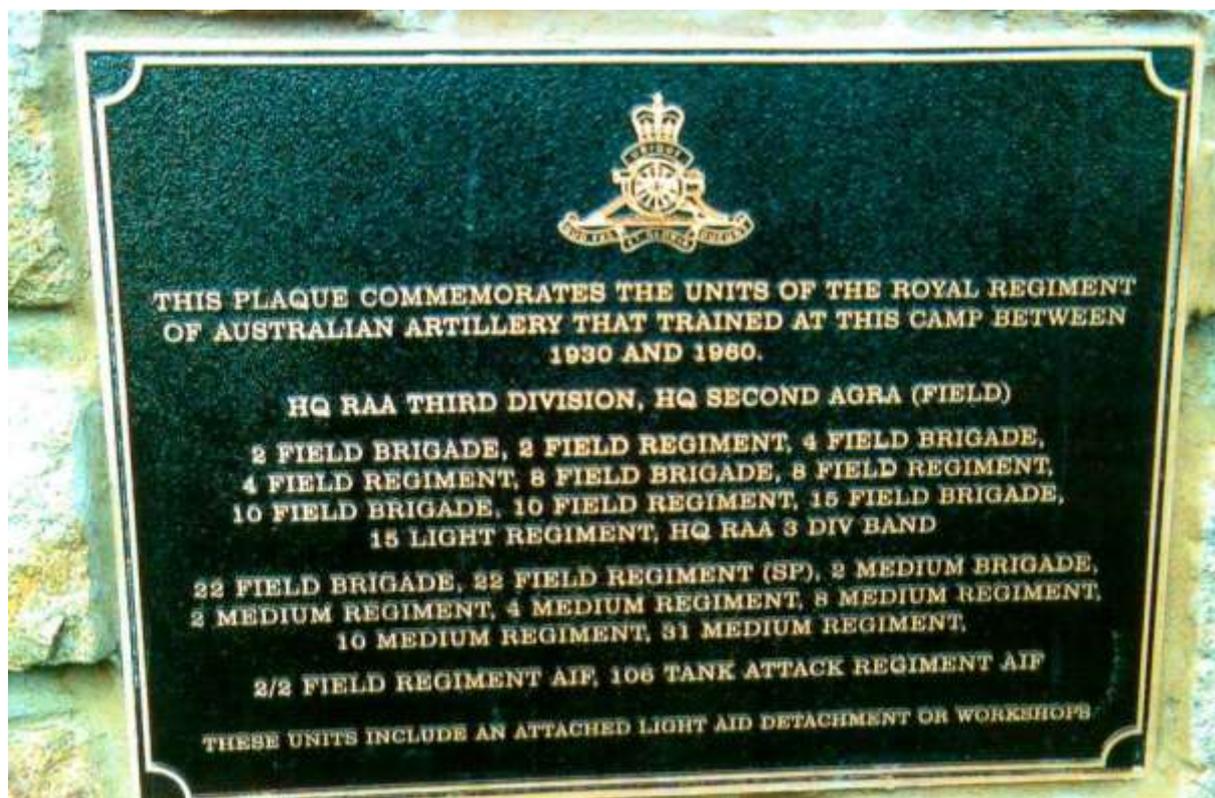
Endnotes

1. Peter Dennis (et al) *The Oxford Companion to Australian Military History* (Melbourne: Oxford University Press, 1999), p.96.
2. AWM PR 84/370. *Berryman papers*. This extract comes from a 1945 report on General Berryman in his personnel file.
3. Unsourced newspaper article, 1945, "Berryman known as 'Soldier's Soldier'.", by a 'Special Correspondent' as appears in the *Berryman family papers*, p.16. These papers are a collection of newspaper articles, letters and private papers, in the possession of Sir Frank's son Richard. The page numbers refer to an archive book which Sir Frank and his family used to catalogue a large volume of the collection.
4. AWM PR 84/370. *Berryman papers*, 21 November 1944, Berryman to Lt-Col A. G. Fenton, Assistant Director of Public Relations, LHQ, p.2.
5. D. M. Horner (ed.), *The commanders: Australian military leadership in the twentieth century* (Sydney: Allen and Unwin, 1984), p.4.
6. David Horner (ed.), *The battles that shaped Australia: The Australian's anniversary essays* (Sydney, Allen & Unwin, 1994). I have used this title as an example of popular memory and remembrance of WWII to emphasis the lack of publicity that the command roles that Berryman had during the war.
7. John Coates, *Bravery above blunder* (Melbourne: Oxford University Press, 1999), p.9.

8. "Berryman known as 'Soldier's Soldier'." , p.16.
9. *Ours* (newsletter of Melbourne High School), September, 1911, p.3. The Rix prize was awarded for the best all round achievement for a boy and a girl at Melbourne High. It was named after Henry Finch Rix, inspector of the Victorian Education Department.
10. Australian Army service record, *Lt-Gen Berryman, F. H.*, 1919.
11. AAF A26. *Confidential Report on Officers*, Brevet Major Berryman, D.S.O., Australian Staff Corps, 12 April 1929.
12. Ibid.
13. Joan Beaumont, *Australian defence: sources and statistics*, vol.6 of *The Australian Centenary History of Defence* (Melbourne, Oxford University Press, 2001), p.142. See also the entry on Bruce in the *Australian Dictionary of Biography*, vol.7 (Carlton: Melbourne University Press, 1979), pp.462-3.
14. David Horner, *General Vasey's war* (Carlton, Melbourne University Press, 1992), pp.21-22, and Peter Dennis (et al), pp.103, 504, 506, 606.
15. Lt-Col S. Rowell quoted in AAF A26 *Confidential Report on Officers*, Brevet Lt-Col Berryman, DSO, Australian Staff Corps, 31 August 1938 (italics added).
16. Frank Berryman was more often than not known to friends and family simply as 'Berry'. He signed the letters to his wife throughout the Second World War in this manner.
17. Horner, *The commanders*, p.9.
18. Stuart Sayers, "Lieutenant-General the Honourable Sir Edmund Herring: Joint and Allied Commander", in Horner, *The commanders*, pp.247-8.
19. Horner, *General Vasey's war*, pp.65, 72.
20. Ibid, pp.67, 70.
21. Sayers, p.247.
22. It is interesting to note that when Berry was given command of 2nd Corps in New Guinea, Vasey's 7th Division was removed from his operational responsibilities and reported directly to New Guinea Force HQ. It was also widely known that Vasey thought little of Berry's appointment.
23. Sayers, p.247.
24. Berryman family papers, p.16.
25. Dennis (et al), p.96.
26. Berryman had considerably less command experience during his career than many of his contemporaries. He had commanded a battery during the First World War, but never commanded a battalion, brigade or a division. In Syria he commanded the artillery and for two weeks an ad hoc brigade task force. In New Guinea he commanded a corps.
27. AWM PR 84/370, *Berryman papers*, 21 November 1944. This is reflected in a letter Berryman wrote to Lt-Col A. G. Fenton, Assistant Director of Public Relations at LHQ, after a press article in which Berryman felt he was unfairly treated. In a ten-page autobiography of his military career in the Second World war up until late 1944 he spent no less than four and a half pages describing his time in Syria. He also remained in close touch with many of his subordinates from this time and after the war he took an active interest in the unit associations involved in the fighting in Syria.
28. AWM 67 3-30 part 2. *Records of Gavin Long*, Lt-Gen Lavarack to Long, 14 February 1945.
29. Gavin Long, *Greece, Crete and Syria*, vol.2 of *Australia in the War of 1939-1945* (Canberra: Australian War Memorial, 1953), pp.333-40.
30. Berryman was also well known for his belief in training and he gained a reputation as being particularly apt in this area.
31. Later General Sir John Wilton, Chief of the General Staff, 1963-66, Chairman of the Chiefs of Staffs Committee, 1966-70.
32. Lt-Col Porter was the commander of the 2/31st Battalion. These troops formed the bulk of the forces involved in this action. In 1943 Porter accompanied Berryman to New Guinea to take a brigade command when Berry became GOC 2nd Corps.
33. Berryman family papers, p.16.
34. AWM 67 3-30 part 2, *Records of Gavin Long*.
35. Ibid.
36. Ibid.
37. Colleen McCullough, *Roden Cutler, V.C.: a biography* (Sydney: Random House, 1999), p.11.
38. Most of these setbacks could be attributed to Berry's 'overzealous' personality, recognised way back at Staff College in England, and his desire to 'prove' himself as a competent commander of troops in action.
39. AWM 52 1/5/7 7th Australian Division report on operations, campaign in Syria. See also Merdjayoun Report on the Operations of 'Berry Force: 16 June-29 June 1941', June 1941, AWM PR 84/370 Series 5, items 75, 76 & 77.
40. L. Wigmore, *The Japanese thrust*, vol.4 of *Australia in the War 1939-1945* (Canberra: Australian War Memorial, 1957), p.443.
41. Dennis (et al), p.96.
42. John Hetherington, *Blamey: controversial soldier* (Sydney: Australian War Memorial, 1973), p.312.
43. PR 84/370, Berryman to Lt-Col Fenton, 21 November 1944.
44. Ibid.

Reprinted from the Journal of the Australian War Memorial
<http://www.awm.gov.au/journal/j37/berryman.htm>

Photos from the unveiling of the Artillery Plaque at the Light Horse Memorial Park - Site 17



History of Seymour - The association with the Military

Prior to European settlement, the region was occupied by the Taungurung people who continued to camp and hold corroborees on the town site into the 1860s. In 1824, explorers Hume and Hovell were the first white men to come to the area, but more significantly Thomas Mitchell's party crossed the Goulburn River to the north of the town site in 1836 and were followed soon after by overlanders & settlers. The mail service between



Melbourne and Sydney was established in 1838 and followed Mitchell's route. In 1839 it was found that 16km could be saved by fording the river at a site to the south which became known as the "New Crossing Place"- the future town site of Seymour.

Inn Keeper, John Clarke, moved his business from the "Old Crossing Place" at Mitchellstown and set up a punt service and an inn at the new ford known as the Robert Burns Inn. The government regarded the new location as a more promising town site than Mitchellstown and so carried out a survey in 1843. Thomas Mitchell named the hamlet after British parliamentarian Lord Seymour, the son of the 11th Duke of Somerset. Town allotments went on sale in 1844.

The association of the area with army training camps really began in 1887 with the formation of the Seymour Troop of the Victorian Mounted Rifles. After Federation this troop became part of the 7th Australian Light Horse camped at Site 17 (now the Australian Light Horse Memorial Park).

The rail connection, local terrain, good water supply and agreeable property owners made the area a convenient assembly point for inspections. Thus, when Lord Kitchener came to Australia in 1910 to advise the government on military matters, he



inspected a major encampment at the racecourse and recommended it as a permanent military training area. When World War 1 arrived, a few years later, the permanent camp was set up and, in 1920, Seymour Shire became the chief military area in the state. This ultimately led to the establishment of the Puckapunyal camp in World War 11.



Today, Seymour is still a growing and thriving community.

Reprinted in part from

<http://www.seymour.org.au/history.htm>

Seymour Business & Tourism Inc. Website

Australian Defence Medal

Guidelines for completion

The Australian Defence Medal (ADM) has been established to recognise serving and former Australian Defence Force (ADF)

Regular and Reserve personnel who have demonstrated their commitment and contribution to the nation by serving for at least four years, or, completion of their initial term of engagement, whichever is the lesser from 3 September 1945 onwards.

Who is eligible?

In addition, eligibility for the ADM will be extended to ex-service personnel who: have died in service; have been medically discharged with a compensatory impairment at the time of their discharge, thus rendering them unable to serve the required minimum qualifying period; or have honourably served but, due to some Defence workplace enlistment policies of the time (as determined by the Chief of the Defence Force), were unable to serve the required minimum qualifying period.

Documents required for verification of service

All applications for the ADM will need to undergo a verification process to ensure that all information provided is true and correct.

This process will be greatly assisted by applicants providing documentation that verifies all service in the ADF. **Certified true copies (no originals please)** of documents will be accepted as proof of service, eg:

Certificate of Service

Certificate of Discharge

Extracts of service records

Details of any Long Service Awards received.

These documents should be certified by a Justice of the Peace or other authorised person (see Certification of Documents page).

Please note that if these documents are NOT provided, there may be significant delays in assessing the application.

If an applicant does not have supporting documentation, the Directorate of Honours and Awards (DHA) will check applicants service records to verify an entitlement (or otherwise) to the ADM.

Information for those with Reserve service

Members of the Reserves (serving and ex-serving) will need to supply supporting documentation with their application. They may provide documentation signed by their unit Commanding Officer that certifies their service as efficient and in line with the medal regulations. **Please note that failure to do so will mean the applicant may incur lengthy delays due to the amount of manual checking required to verify Reserve service.**

Non-Effective Service

Non-Effective Service of 21 days or more will not be counted towards the ADM, as will any other Non-Effective Service as determined by Defence policy. Normally, only service rendered under Defence conditions of service and remunerated at Service rates of pay may be taken into account as qualifying service for awards awarded by time. Service in the Standby Reserve or Ready Reserve where no training commitment applies will not be taken into account as qualifying service.

Application forms for further medal entitlements

The application forms for the ADM can only be used to apply for the ADM. All other medal applications must be made separately.

Application forms for the Anniversary of National Service 1951-1972 Medal, the Pingat Jasa Malaysia, and the generic application form (for all other service medals and long service awards) can be obtained by calling the DHA on 1800 111 321, or can be downloaded from the Honours and Awards website at the following link:

http://www.defence.gov.au/dpe/dpe_site/honours_awards/resources/forms/forms.htm

Completing the Australian Defence Medal application form (Form AD 497)

Please use BLOCK letters only.

Some fields on each form are **mandatory** and **must** be completed as appropriate.

Please complete the entire form and provide details of ALL ADF service, and **provide documents to verify service.**

There is enough room for listing two separate periods of mixed service on the form; if more room is needed, attach additional pages. This is in relation to service in two or more arms of the ADF. Applications will be processed in order of receipt and are subject to verification by the Department of Defence. However, applicants who do not include documents to verify service will experience delays with their application.

Please attach certified true copies (no originals please) of Certificate of Service or Certificate of Discharge etc.

Posthumous and unclaimed Medals or Awards for deceased ex-serving members will be issued to the beneficiary of the estate of the deceased member.

The application form (AD 497) must be witnessed and certified by a Justice of the Peace or other authorised person.

Fraudulent claims

Persons who submit fraudulent applications based on a statutory declaration may be subject to prosecution under Section 11 of the *Statutory Declarations Act 1959* as amended, which states in part that:

A person must not intentionally make a false statement in a statutory declaration.

Penalty: Imprisonment for 4 years.

Falsely claiming entitlement to the ADM, and then subsequently wearing the award, is an offence under Section 80B of the *Defence Act 1903* - Improper use of service decorations. This offence is also punishable by fine and/or imprisonment.

Application for the Australian Defence Medal

Certification of Documents

A Justice of the Peace or other authorised person must certify current and posthumous ADM application forms (AD 497), as well as documents provided as proof of service for applications. A Statutory Declaration under the *Statutory Declarations Act 1959* as amended may be made before:

Dentist

Legal practitioner

Medical practitioner

Nurse

Pharmacist

Veterinary surgeon

Agent of the Australian Postal Corporation who is in charge of an office supplying postal services to the public

Australian Consular Officer, or Australian Diplomatic Officer, (within the meaning of the *Consular Fees Act 1985*)

Building Society officer with five or more years of continuous service

Chief Executive Officer of a Commonwealth court

Marriage celebrant registered under Subdivision C of Division 1 of Part IV of the *Marriage Act 1961*

Clerk of a court

Commissioner for Affidavits

Commissioner for Declarations

Bank Officer or Credit Union Officer with five or more years of continuous service

Holder of a statutory office not specified in another item in this list
Judge of a court
Justice of the Peace
Magistrate
Member of the Australian Defence Force who is an officer; or a non-commissioned officer within the meaning of the *Defence Force Discipline Act 1982* with five or more years of continuous service; or warrant officer within the meaning of that Act
Member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in Australia, the Australian Society of Certified Practising Accountants or the National Institute of Accountants
Member of Engineers Australia, other than at grade of student
Member of the Parliament of the Commonwealth; or the Parliament of a State; or a Territory Legislature; or a local government authority of a State or Territory
Minister of religion registered under Subdivision A of Division 1 of Part IV of the *Marriage Act 1961*
Notary Public
Permanent employee of the Commonwealth or a Commonwealth authority; or a State or Territory or a State or Territory authority; or a local government authority; with five or more years of continuous service who is not specified in another item in this list
Permanent employee of the Australian Postal Corporation with five or more years of continuous service who is employed in an office supplying postal services to the public
Person before whom a Statutory Declaration may be made under the law of the State or Territory in which the declaration is made
Police Officer
Registrar, or Deputy Registrar, of a court
Senior Executive Service officer of the Commonwealth, or of a State or Territory, or of a Commonwealth, State or Territory authority
Teacher employed on a full-time basis at a school or tertiary education institution

Posthumous applications

Posthumous applications for the Australian Defence Medal (and other medals) will only be considered from the following:

A letter from your solicitor stating that you are legally the sole beneficiary.

- (a) Executor of the Will of the deceased member
- (b) Public Trustee Administrator appointed by the State in cases of intestacy
- (c) A person who can provide legal proof to their status as the sole beneficiary to the claim being made for posthumous issue of the Service award(s) (if such proof cannot be tendered, the entitlement remains unclaimed and may lapse).

Please note that Statutory Declarations, birth certificates or marriage certificates tendered in isolation do not equate to legal proof of your beneficiary status.

A letter from a solicitor identifying you as the Executor of the estate or Public Trustee Administrator in the case of intestacy of a deceased members estate;

Examples of acceptable legal proof are as follows:

A Certified True Copy of the Will (or extract thereof) identifying you as sole beneficiary to the deceased person's estate; or

Note: The above list is not exhaustive. Please refer to the Honours and Awards internet site at www.defence.gov.au/dpe/ for a complete list of authorised persons before whom a Statutory Declaration can be made.

Application for the Australian Defence Medal

AUSTRALIA

STATUTORY DECLARATION

- To be completed by the FORMER Service members and current serving Reserve members of the ADF.
- All deletions or corrections are to be initialled.
- Fields marked with an asterisk (*) are mandatory and must be completed.

I, (Full name) _____
Here insert the title and full name of person making this declaration.

of, (Full address) _____ Postcode _____

Telephone _____ Mobile _____ Date of birth _____
Include area code

Email _____

do solemnly and sincerely declare that I am serving/served in the Regular/Reserve forces of the Australian Defence Force and that my details are/were as follows: (Delete as applicable)

Details of Service (Complete box (2) only if service was mixed).

Rank	Service number(s) *	Date of enlistment *	Date of discharge *
Branch of Service (1) *		(Specify)	Type of Service *
Navy <input type="checkbox"/> Army <input type="checkbox"/> Air Force <input type="checkbox"/> Other <input type="checkbox"/>			Regular <input type="checkbox"/> Reserve <input type="checkbox"/>
Rank	Service number(s)	Date of enlistment	Date of discharge
Branch of Service (2)		(Specify)	Type of Service
Navy <input type="checkbox"/> Army <input type="checkbox"/> Air Force <input type="checkbox"/> Other <input type="checkbox"/>			Regular <input type="checkbox"/> Reserve <input type="checkbox"/>

Defence Long Service Awards

<p>Have you been awarded a Long Service Medal?</p> <p>Yes (Please specify below) <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Defence Force Service Medal <input type="checkbox"/> Reserve Force Medal <input type="checkbox"/> Long Service and Good Conduct Medal <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Defence Long Service Medal <input type="checkbox"/> Reserve Force Decoration <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Other long service medal <input type="checkbox"/> Please specify, with date qualified</p>	<p>Did you render National Service? *</p> <p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/></p>
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Use and disclosure of personal information

DHA may contract out to third party entities the assessment and despatch functions of certain Defence medals. In the future, some despatch functions may be undertaken by overseas entities. Accordingly, DHA will disclose some of your personal information such as name, postal address and service number to these contracted third parties. However, it is only for the purposes of assessment, engraving, despatch and correspondence in regards to medals entitlements. By signing this application form you acknowledge this disclosure.

Declaration

I declare that the information provided above is true and correct regarding my service, and I am aware that if awarded the ADM on the basis of a false application, that I may be subject to penalties under the *Defence Act 1903* as described in the instructions. I also make this solemn declaration by virtue of the *Statutory Declarations Act 1959*, and I am subject to the penalties provided by that Act for the making of false statements in Statutory Declarations, conscientiously believing that statements in this declaration to be true in every particular.

Signature of person making declaration _____

Declared at _____ on the _____, 20 _____

before me,

Signature of person before whom the declaration is made _____

Title of person before whom the declaration is made _____

<p>Return form to: Directorate of Honours and Awards T-1-49 Department of Defence Reply Paid 4455 Kingston ACT 2604</p>	<p>You may elect to have your service recognised at a bi-annual presentation arranged by Defence in your region. You may also receive your medal through the post.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Presentation. My Federal electorate is _____</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Mail (Registered Post)</p> <p>This form is to be used for the Australian Defence Medal only. For further information please visit our website at www.defence.gov.au/dpa or call 1800 111 321.</p>
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Peaceful Penetration

The months of April - July 1918 were a hiatus for Australian troops from any major battles. Fresh troops from the United States arrived in France and joined British and French forces in launching a counter-offensive in response to the Germans' March offensive. However, this did not stop Australian troops from remaining active! They engaged in tactics known as "peaceful penetrations" along lines where they had held the Germans' attack.

Peaceful penetration involved aggressive patrolling and capturing pockets of German prisoners and small positions on the front lines at Amiens, Hbuterne and Hazebrouck, slowly and steadily advancing the Allied front line. Such penetrations were spontaneous and independent. Although these were small scale operations, by 8 July, almost 3 miles had been added to the front, and 1,000 German prisoners had been captured, as well as weapons and supplies. Working in small groups and on their own initiative, Australian soldiers demonstrated their strength and skill in this type of attack. It would seem that Australian soldiers believed all they needed was a cocky attitude, and Germans would readily surrender to them!

In mid-July 1918, Gunner J.R. Armitage wrote:

Stories were coming in of German dawn patrols going out to relieve their night outposts and finding them deserted. There seems to have been quite a bit of this most mysterious and demoralising things happening and it appeared that blackened Australian infantry parties would sneak out, surprise these outposts and, at the point of cold steel, bring them back without firing a shot!



An outpost near Merris, 17th June 1918. View from one of the front-line posts established by the 1st Australian division in pushing forward east of Hazebrouck. From posts such as this, small parties of Australian brigades constantly raided the posts opposed to them. (AWM E02493)

In an example of "peaceful penetration" on 9 July 1918, Captain John Herbert Farrell MM, 6th Battalion, single-handedly captured a German gun crew of eight men and their machine gun near Merris.

Just before going into the line at Merris, Captain Carne said to Blue (Farrell) - "I am going to send you to a N.C.O. School when we come out of the line." Bluey dropped his bundle and said - "Cripes, don't do that Captain." Captain Carne humourously replied- "Well Farrell, if you bring me in a little Fritz for identification purposes, I won't send you."

That night Captain Carne was sitting in his dugout, when to his surprise there arrived five Fritzes and Bluey with a Fritz Machine Gun on his shoulder. He grinned, saluted and just said "No School." From Ce Ne Fait Rien [No Worries], Magazine of the 6th



Captain John Herbert Farrell MM. (AWM A03535)

Battalion.

Tragically, Farrell was later killed in action on 28 September 1918.

Reprinted from 1918 Australians in France

<http://www.awm.gov.au/1918/peacepen/index.htm>



MY SERVICE CAREER

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

Part 24 Colonel Artillery, Sep Dec 1980

In the previous instalment I outlined the steps that led up to the 1980 3 MD FF Gp RAA TEWT being held at Braemar College, Woodend, the school to which I had been appointed headmaster in its foundation year in 1976. Further, I provided a brief summary of the history of the building that had been opened in 1890 and how it had passed from being a guest house to that of Clyde School in 1919.

The TEWT was to be named, "In Direct Support.. In addition to the papers for the exercise, I gathered together a number of articles about gunnery, which were made available in a plastic spiral bound booklet. The pages were typed by Mrs. Bradley, the commander's secretary at *Grosvenor*, and bound at Braemar by a group of volunteer students. The booklets have become collector's items.



In front of Braemar College, renamed for the TEWT, Artillery House, with COL Graham Farley, MAJGEN Jock McNeill and LTCOL Doug Perry.

The exercises for the TEWT were to cover all four phases of war and would be conducted at three levels: lieutenant, captain/major, and lieutenant-colonel. A general invitation was sent to all gunners and other corps were asked to send a representative. The South Australian and Tasmanian batteries also responded and sent "observers". It was unfortunate that both 2 MD and 3 MD clashed with their TEWTS or exercises for the same weekend. So "ambassadors" were exchanged, MAJ John Henry travelling to Sydney and MAJ K. Broadhead, OC of 133 Div Loc Bty coming from NSW.

On Sun 14 Sep 80, the directing staff joined me for a reconnaissance at the school, complete with lunch at the nearby Mount Macedon hotel. On the following Monday, members of the cadre staff visited the school to check facilities. This was followed the next day by the regular army artillery staff of the FF HQ. With a week to go the weather was fine. Would it hold? In any case, wet or fine, at 800 metres elevation in September, Braemar would be cold. Visitors, DS staff and syndicate members were warned to bring their woolly comforters, &c.

I look back on those days and wonder how I both ran the school and kept up a senior army reserve appointment, particularly during these weeks. During the week before the TEWT I had been at army in Melbourne on the Wednesday night at OCTU. On Thursday, army vehicles began to arrive unloading kitchen stores, tables and other items. College staff and students took it all in their stride. For some it was just a real life session of "Dad's Army". For others it was

stimulation to consider the forces as a career.

It had been planned to open and close the exercise by firing a blank round from an M2A2 105 mm howitzer. I had assumed this would not arrive until after school on the Friday. While all the Braemar students were angels, there are angels and angels! But here it was on site at lunchtime on the Thursday, because it had been easier to "hook it on" to one of the trucks that day. It arrived complete with its firing mechanism in place. None of my 25-pr knowledge could help me to remove it. My imagination started to see all sorts of scenarios. I had planned to retire quietly from the army not at the pleasure of a courts martial! Further, what if the explosion was enough to shatter the plate glass windows in the front of the school building! But I did feel that Woodend, seven kilometres away, was relatively safe.

On the Friday the last of the two hundred copies of the handbook were bound. All day there were preparations taking place with the issuing of stretchers and checking of showers and other facilities. Everyone seemed to have entered into the spirit of the thing. Staff work had been excellent. I had little to do except look busy. The word, "Artillery House", adorned the entrance to the main building.

The buses and other transport arrived in the evening and the building took on a new note of excitement and organisation. Despite it now being a day school, the building still maintained its "boarding capacity"¹. I could not quite produce *en suite* accommodation for visiting generals, but offered the next best thing rather like a real boarding house with the bathroom at the end of the corridor. Much to my pleasure we had acceptances from many in the senior echelons, together with the opportunity to bring together nearly all the senior artillery officers, including LTCOL Graeme Standish who had been up in Papua-New Guinea with Shell.

Saturday, 20th September dawned and it dawned fine. CAPT Bill Spriggins sounded the reveille by waking everyone up with his bagpipes. Breakfast was served in Jackson Hall. The vehicles were lined up. The gun fired without any windows shattering. The TEWT had commenced.

The ¾ ton GS vehicles moved off down to the golf course position, a tract of land sold back to the State by Braemar. It had once been the scene of many golf matches in the days of the guest house and Clyde school. The officers de-bussed at the map-reading stand. Unlike some map reading exercises, this time the features were visible and a recently published 1:50,000 Lancefield map facilitated the answers. There in the centre of the panorama was Hanging Rock, the scene of the fictional story of the lost girls on St. Valentine' day back at the turn of the century.

BRIG Neale Bavington arrived mid-morning and we awaited the two generals MAJGEN Kevin Cooke and MAJGEN Gordon Maitland. Their driver had overshot the Braemar turn off but they found their way back and were all accommodated in rooms in what Clyde knew as the Memorial Wing. Lunch was served for the red caps on a piece of land near the golf



In the field on the Saturday afternoon. The two generals are MAJGEN Gordon Maitland and MAJGEN Kevin Cooke. At the right in the front rank is COL Mick Crawford,

course and I am sure many careers were cemented that day.

The sky became overcast after lunch and DS and students alike were glad of their warm clothing. Mr. Gordon Scholes, MHR for Corio and Shadow Minister for Defence, joined us. He had always shown a great interest and support for Geelong CMF/Army Reserve regiment. The army photographer had also come for the weekend and the photographs show it all.

Meanwhile I had to fight off the objections to one of my statements in the "In Direct Support" booklet relating to strict definition of that actual term. A gunner officer is brought up on the clear definition of this term that the regiment in direct support is all but owned by the infantry unit to which it is allocated. But my sparing partner LTCOL John Griggs pointed out that the term had been slightly redefined. I did not issue an amendment or even a corrigendum, but was glad that at least one officer had read the document that far!

I have always considered that the protocol of a formal mess in the army is very important. Hence a lot of effort went into the function that was held on the Saturday night in Jackson Hall. Over a hundred and twenty officers and senior NCOs sat down in a gala atmosphere wearing their blues.

Cr. Ron McKenzie represented the Shire of Newham and Woodend. BRIG Ian Gilmore, OBE, then commandant of the then styled Australian Counter Disaster College and later chairman of Braemar's board for six years, was able to attend. Mr. Buck Brooksbank, chairman of Braemar's board of Governors, and Mr. John Ward, his deputy, were also invited, as was Mr. Ken Baird, president of the Parents and Friends Association. Mr. Marcel Nyeholt, my assistant, represented the teaching staff.

¹ The National Emergency Services College, now Emergency Management Australia, had leased the boarding facilities from Jul 76 to Dec 78, while its Mount Macedon building was demolished and rebuilt. EMA had begun as the Civil Defence School and had various other names over time.

CAPT Bill Spriggins warmed up his bagpipes to lead in the top table group. LTCOL George James said Grace. Considering that the kitchen facilities had lain dormant for nearly three years, it was a tribute to the army catering team that the meal was served quickly, hot and tastefully. A five-minute stand down was observed at the appropriate point.

Re-assembled, the diners found that the tables had been cleared and that the port glasses were in place. I acted as the dining mess president, with LIEUT Schrieber of 2/15 Fd Regt as Mr. Vice. LIEUT Davis was present, so the toasts were preceded with, "Lady and Gentlemen". The Loyal Toast was majestically proposed.

It was inevitable that the Colonel Artillery would provide a quasi "speech night report" with his toast to The Royal Regiment, and I believe that COL Mick Crawford replied on behalf of the Royal Regiment as MAJGEN Jock McNeill, Colonel Commandant, could not attend until the Sunday



COL Graham Farley welcomes guests at the Dining In night at the TEWT at Braemar College. Seated are Mr. Buck Brooksbank, chairman of the Board of Governors of Braemar College, MAJGEN Gordon Maitland, CRES, and MAJGEN Kevin Cooke, Assistant Logistics Commander and senior ARES officer, 3 MD.

MAJ Jim Killender offered the toast to the guests and MAJGEN Gordon Maitland replied on their behalf. MAJGEN Kevin Cooke seconded Gordon Maitland's remarks. Opportunities for training should never be missed and LTCOL Doug Perry then screened two training films. A full-time officer remarked that the

up to date than the one set in north-west Europe with a farm girl walking through the set and taking the minds of the OP party off their duties! The other film was on the Rapier missile system.

LTCOL Perry then had the idea of having CAPT Spriggins pipe the senior officers to their quarters. BRIG Bavington reopened the mess. Fortunately the Farley residence was some distance away from the main building and it was relatively quiet there. I did not ask questions. It was also just as likely that Doug Perry and Bob Collins would go for a run through the forest before turning in.

Sunday dawned. Following breakfast in Jackson Hall, a voluntary church parade was held in the college library. This was led by the Reverend Geoff Glass, who has also been the chaplain to the motor bike riders. MAJGEN Maitland and BRIG Bavington read the lessons, but the singing was limited to well known tunes, such as *Morning Has Broken* and *Kum By Yah*.

The morning's training was indoors in the school's classrooms. Lunch was buffet style. Then all the officers and support personnel gathered on the steps at the front of the main building prior to departure to their homes. By now MAJGEN Jock

McNeill had arrived and he spoke to the gathering. WO1 Brian Miller, who had headed up the A and Q side of the TEWT was presented with a Braemar College tea towel. A message from COL Quinn, the Director of Artillery, who was then in New Zealand. was read out.

The command was then given, "Detachment, take post". When this was completed, I was followed up with

kilometres to the west or of other damage. The expended cartridge case was to find a new home. The troops departed and peace was once again restored to the school set in its bush environment. It had been a memorable experience and I understand is still talked about by those who attended.

"One round fire for effect, fire".. Again, no property owner complained of an unexplained explosion some One might have thought that the rest of the year would have been an anticlimax, but there was still the Field Force Group TEWT to go. 10 Mdm Regt were given the task of hosting this exercise. It was held on the weekend of 3 - 5 Oct 80, titled Ex Southern Crucible. The setting was down the coast beyond Geelong near Anglesea along the Great Ocean Road. Transport would be by helicopter for many of the participants, a helipad being established at the Geelong showgrounds.

Accommodation was at the Geelong Travelodge, with army Kombi vehicles transporting personnel to and from 10's training depot. The DS were then briefed before they retired on the Friday night. I was awake on

he Saturday before the courtesy wakeup phone call. In minutes we had been whisked to the depot for breakfast.

My syndicate included Shirley Croxon from the WRAAC, two sappers, an armoured corps officer and Jock Burns. After initial discussions, the party was then transported to the showgrounds where our helicopter awaited us. Considering my previous performance in a Chinook at Puckapunyal, I thought they would have put anyone else but me in command of our helicopter, but there I was with headset on and the helicopter heading in a south-westerly direction to the exercise area.



In the field. COL Graham Farley, MAJ Doug Knight, and the Hon. Gordon Scholes, MHR for Corio, with unidentified personnel.

The RAAF had removed the side panels of the helicopter. There I was sitting side on with my legs all but dangling out of the helicopter, my sole link with safety being the (clearly absolutely reliable and safe) seat belt attachment, which seemed rather sparse compared with airliner safety belts. At three thousand feet I confess to keeping one hand locked around the tubular seating rather than test the safety harness.

The pilot was very cooperative and offered diversions on the way. Foolishly, I suggested that we might look more closely at a reef out to sea. How was I to know that the pilot would then circle the reef with my side of the helicopter steeply banked towards it!

Like following a railway line, it was not hard to navigate down the coastline. Then one could see clear military activity below and visual helicopter pad signs laid out on terra firma. I looked forward to return transport to Geelong being by road vehicle! The rest of the day and its exercise were almost a minor occurrence. Vehicles took us back to the depot.

The evening meal endeavoured to follow the traditions set at Braemar, but we did not wear blues. Following the meal, there were lectures, before personnel departed for their accommodation or, in the case of Geelong personnel, their homes.



At the end of the TEWT, COL Graham Farley present WO1 Brian Miller with a Braemar College tea towel in recognition of his r catering support for the weekend. LTCOL Doug Perry looks on.

It was then Sunday, but I lost out on the church parade. My main bargaining counter, MAJGEN Maitland, had returned to Sydney to attend his daughter's confirmation. The weather was quite bleak at Anglesea. Why had I left my raincoat with my gear at the depot? Eventually the rain caused the exercise to be transferred back to the depot for completion.

MAJGEN Kevin Cooke gave the assembled troops what my diary states as a stirring and memorable address. Clearly the proposal to re-establish the division was gathering steam and the general was right behind it. After the personnel departed from the training depot, I stayed behind to compliment the

members of 10 Medium Regiment for the outstanding way in which they had hosted the exercise.

It was following the two TEWTs, that the word came from Canungra of the success of our artillery Tac 5 students. The successful candidates were brought together on the following parade night on Tue 14 Oct 80 at Batman Avenue so that

they could be congratulated. Gunners in 3 MD were on "a roll".

On 25th there was a firing bivouac at Puckapunyal, which I attended during Saturday and overnight. With the commencement of daylight saving, I "lost" an hour. But I was always grateful for the reverse situation in March, particularly if in camp.

On 1st November, I attended an OCTU graduation parade. Having become used to Braemar weather, I had both raincoat and umbrella, although I know that the latter is hardly "army". MAJ Ian George assured me the parade would be outside and we took our seats. My prediction was right. The new lieutenants were soaked, but the sun came out for the presentation of certificates. LTCOL Larnach-Jones was CI of OCTU.

The following day, 10 Mdm Regt exercised its Freedom of Entry in the City of Geelong. Everything went well for the troops, the vehicles and their guns as they passed the saluting base. Again COL Mick Crawford was able to fit this parade into his schedule.

Two sad events were to take place that month. On Wed 5 Nov 80 COL Kevin Guerney died suddenly. He had been a very popular and competent member of the FF Gp staff. He was very much missed. Unfortunately, I missed Kevin Guerney's memorial service the following night. Similarly I had to miss a dinner for MAJ Merv Taggart dining-out the following Saturday night.

On Mon 17 Nov I set off for Tullamarine to fly to the Artillery Conference at the School of Artillery, North Head, Sydney². Arriving at the airport I was informed by the ticket officer that my colonels were waiting for me in the bar. Here were the two COs, Doug Perry and George James, both looking very fresh from the various artillery ploys of the previous month or so. I rang back to Braemar about a matter and then did not have time to ring Elwood. We boarded the flight for Sydney.

On arrival at Sydney airport, there was a car for LTCOL James. He quickly found himself with two extra passengers! At North Head, there was a dining-out night for COL John Salmon, the CI. LTCOL John Griggs was at the dinner. Our small party was asked to join the gathering for port and afters.



MAJ Storen completes a task with the director.

The conference commenced on the Wednesday, but I have recorded little about it. That night, we were the guests of my opposite number in 2 MD, COL Rod Fay³. On the Wednesday the conference wound up and we were due to fly back on the Thursday morning. In view of a train strike, our transport left very early to pass through Sydney to Mascot airport.

Arriving in Melbourne I was surprised to be met by Shirley and my son, Roger. Shirley was to quietly inform me that my father had died suddenly that morning at home in Elwood. His funeral service took place the following Saturday, which would have been his 80th birthday. What would have been a birthday party became a wake, but there was still much to celebrate. Our fathers are incredibly important people in our lives.

ST. Barbara's Day parade was held at Batman Avenue on a reduced scale from the previous year. MAJGEN Kevin Cooke and Mrs. Cooke were guests at the luncheon that followed the parade. I had finally received my "colonel's issue" of a new service dress and was able to wear it that day. I suppose I am not pushy enough in some matters. Many years later, BRIG Doug Perry regaled a gunner luncheon with the story of the provision of his uniform. Sometimes nothing changes in the service.

At the final HT parade for the year, I shared with LTCOL Mike Vincent the challenges that were facing the corps. One commander desired to split 2/15 Fd Regt. Another sought officers to staff the reserve command and staff college. Another challenge was that 3 MD artillery be as efficient as possible in the defence structure of the nation. One of these aims was possible to achieve, two at a pinch but not all three. On this note 1980 closed, with the knowledge that it was only to be a couple of months before my successor took over my rôle. Further, that with the likely re-establishment of the division, Mike's appointment would be that of Commander, Divisional Artillery, and carry with it command of the guns. 1981 lay ahead of us.



² Now of course located at Puckapunyal, Victoria

³ COL Fay in his later career was later a MAJGEN

Parade Card

JUL 2006
02 Res Forces Day
20 Committee

AUG 2006
17 Committee
19 Regt Ball

SEP 2006
21 Committee

OCT 2006
19 Committee

NOV 2006
9 A.G.M.
05 RSL Springvale
10 Golf Day
16 Committee

DEC 2006
0? St Barbara's Day
14 Committee

JAN 2007

FEB 2007
11 Church Parade
15 Committee

MAR 2007
15 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 _____

Surname and Post Nominals _____

Address _____

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Phone (Home, Mobile, Work) _____

Fax and/or E-mail _____

Do you wish to receive Association information by E-mail Y/N _____

Serving Y/N _____ If so, Unit _____

Awards, Decorations, Medals, Etc. _____

Brief Service History _____

Additional Information (Committee, Unit Rep, Etc) _____

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