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AWM 018052 (Australian War Memorial)

Gunners of the 2nd Australian Mountain Battery fire their 75 mm pack howitzer at Japanese positions on Tsimba Ridge, Bougainville, 2 February 1945. By the end of the war the Australians could call upon four field regiments of 25-pounder guns as well as a number of independent batteries like this one. This was the first time the Australian army had amassed such a large amount of artillery for a single campaign in New Guinea.

Reprinted from the Australia Japan Research Project. Remembering the War In New Guinea

<http://ajrp.awm.gov.au/ajrp/remember.nsf/popup/BouGun>

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Current Postal Addresses

All mail for **the Association**, except matters concerning Cascabel, should be addressed to:

The Secretary
RAA Association (Vic) Inc.
101 Warralong Avenue
Greensborough Vic. 3088

All mail for the Editor of Cascabel, including articles and letters submitted for publication, should be sent direct to

Lindsay Pritchard
305 Mc Donalds Road
Clunes Vic. 3370
e-mail lpritchard@schivello.com.au

**RAA Association (VIC) Inc
Committee**

President: MAJ Neil Hamer RFD
9702 2100
Vice President: Lt Col. Jason Cooke
Phone: 9705 1155
Immediate Past President:
MAJ Merv Taggart RFD, ED
Phone: 9598 8452
Secretary: MAJ Robin Smith RFD
Phone: 9435 6352
Rachel Decker
Treasurer: SSGT Reg Morrell
Phone: 9562 9552
Members:
CAPT. Peter Wertheimer RFD
SSGT Brian Cleeman

Cascabel Editor:
Bdr Lindsay Pritchard
W: 9330 8753
Representatives: WO2 Lionel Foster
(10 Mdm Regt Assn)
**Honorary
Auditor:**

MUSEUM TRUST

Curator: SSGT Brian Cleeman
Phone: 9560 7116
Members:

VIC REGT CONTACTS

2/10 Fd Regt 8 Chapel St St Kilda	9526 4222
22 Fd Bty 65 Princes Hwy Dandenong South	8710 2407
38 Fd Bty Myers St Geelong	5221 7666
38 Fd Bty Queen St Colac	5231 2056

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The President Writes

As usual, this copy of the magazine is being prepared before the end of November so that printing and postage will not be held up by the slow period over Christmas-New Year.

On behalf of the Committee and myself, I would like to wish all members a belated Compliments of the Season, as we move into 2008.

The Annual General Meeting was held on the 8th of November at the Caulfield RSL. The attendance was about the same as in past years. I realise that AGM's tend to be a bit of a pain, however a little more support for the work done by the Committee would be appreciated.

Mrs Rachel Decker has agreed to join the Committee and will assist Robin Smith with the secretarial duties. A big thank-you to Rachel.

The annual golf day held at Berwick Montuna Golf Club was a great social day for those who attended. The winner for 2007 was Gavin Duncan, who insists we acknowledge that he was from 9 RAR. Gavin is a member of the Berwick RSL.

A Regimental Family Day was held at the newly named Sargood Barracks (Formerly Chapel Street) where the Whitelaw Prizes were presented, and Association badges were presented to our recently enrolled serving members.

Winners of the 2007 Whitelaw Prizes are:

Officer:	Lt R Pandalai (38 Fd Bty)
WO/SNCO:	Sgt J L Moody (22 Fd Bty)
JNCO/OR	LCpl C J M Molesworth (HQ Bty)
Cadre	Sgt S R Neal and Sgt S T McKenzie (Dual Winners)

A new category this year,

Band	Musn E M Virag
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Maj Merv Taggart has voluntarily taken on the task of "Welfare Officer". The unit had six members in the Solomon Islands and Maj Taggart sent regular "care packs" to those members. The packages were very well received, and has resulted in other members of the Task Force receiving similar support from their Associations and Units.

The use of the e-mail to notify members about various activities appears to be working quite well. Among other things it lets us know if an e-mail address is incorrect.

Regards to all

Neil Hamer
MAJ (R)

Membership Report January 2008

Current Membership

Life Members	210
Annual Members	57
Senior Annual Members	20
Serving Concessional Members	26
Affiliates	38
Others (CO/CI, Messes,etc.)	11
Libraries	5
RSL	1
<u>Total</u>	<u>368</u>

Membership Breakdown

Officers	131
WO/Sgts	110
OR	68
Civilians	4
<u>Total</u>	<u>313</u>

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.

Would you also please let me know if you have been awarded an ADM.



Neil Hamer
MAJ (R)
Membership Co-ordinator

Contact: Telephone: 9702 2100
0419 533 067
Email nhamer@bigpond.net.au



Buna Gona Sanananda, 1942 43

Contributed by Dr John Moremon (Australian War Memorial)

The final battle in the territory of Papua was waged on the north coast, where the Japanese had established beachheads around Buna Mission, at Buna, Gona and Sanananda. Senior Allied officers believed that the battle would be relatively easy to win but it turned into one of the hardest and most costly battles of the entire war in New Guinea.

Allied intelligence suggested that the beachheads contained about 4,000 Japanese troops, mostly tattered survivors of the fighting in the Owen Stanley Range. Remnants of the 41st Regiment had indeed reached Buna, after the 144th Regiment attempted to block the Australian advance at Oivi-Gorari, but thousands of other army and naval troops had been sent to Buna to construct the forward base and to help defend. Ships had evacuated most of the badly wounded and sick men who managed to reach Buna from the mountains, and the men who remained - up to 9,000 of them - were determined to fight tenaciously and, with nowhere to retreat, even to the death.

In the four months after first landing at Gona, Japanese engineers had constructed hundreds of bunkers around the beachheads' perimeter using coconut palm logs and compacted earth that could withstand small arms fire and some artillery shelling. The bunkers, many of them housing heavy machine-guns, were camouflaged naturally by fast growing vegetation, which hid them from aerial reconnaissance.

On 14 November 1942, General MacArthur ordered the Allied forces to finish the Papuan campaign by capturing the beachheads. The Australians of Maroubra Force, who had fought across the Owen Stanley Range, were weary, with units down to one-third of normal strength. Nevertheless, they were ordered to attack and capture Sanananda and Gona, without reinforcements, although a battalion of American troops who had crossed the Jaure Trail unopposed assisted with the first attacks on the Sanananda Track. Two regiments of the American 32nd Division, which had advanced along the coast unopposed, would attack Buna.

On 16 November, three days before the Allies were to attack, the Japanese inflicted the first serious blow. A convoy of American small ships carrying artillery and supplies was detected by fighter-bombers and all five vessels were destroyed. More were sunk over the following days or ran aground on reefs or sandbars.

On 19 November, the American 128th Regiment attacked Buna and nearby Cape Endaiadere. The "green" troops were confident as they advanced through swamp and jungle but were ambushed and suffered many casualties. The Australians also came up against bunkers but delayed their opening attacks because the men were exhausted after trekking across the hot coastal plain and were short of supplies. Both the 25th Brigade, attacking Gona, and the 16th Brigade, advancing up the central Sanananda Track, attacked next day after transport aircraft dropped supplies. Dozens of men were killed or wounded for little progress.

New Guinea Force had planned to supply the attacking forces using small ships and aircraft but, after the small ships were attacked, demand for air supply soared. By 21 November, two airfields were opened behind the fronts and an "air bridge" was established to fly bulk supplies, equipment and men in from Port Moresby. The American air commander, Lieutenant General George C. Kenney, ordered a fighter "umbrella" over the beachheads so that transport aircraft were protected while flying to and from the forward area and on the ground. One of the great disadvantages for the Japanese garrison was that they did not have a similar means of resupply and reinforcement.

Inside the beachheads, Japanese troops were suffering a malaria epidemic. The "wet season" had swelled swamps and medical supplies were running low. The remaining troops were determined to hold ground and had stockpiles of ammunition, but they could not combat the dreaded anopheles mosquito. They were also short on food. An 18th Army staff officer who arrived to check on the

situation was appalled to encounter some sick and emaciated men begging for any food, medicine or cigarettes he could spare.

Japanese fighter-bombers based at Lae and Salamaua continued to patrol over the area, sometimes bombing and strafing Allied positions. The Americans had an early warning system to keep transport aircraft away while enemy fighters were present and the American fighters, mostly twin-engine Lockheed P-38 Lightning, were more than a match for the Mitsubishi A6M ('Zero') and Nakajima Ki-43 Hayabusa ('Oscar') fighters. The Allies established control of the skies over Buna.

By 25 November, it was obvious that fierce Japanese resistance had stalled the Allied attacks. Australian artillery was brought in by air and sea, but troops lacked the energy and, in some cases, determination to push on. Self-inflicted wounds were encountered amongst American casualties. Tropical diseases also emerged as a serious problem for the Allies who, like the Japanese, suffered a malaria epidemic. Although Allied scientists and medical officers had warned of the threat, troops did not have enough anti-malarial drugs and did not know the best anti-malarial measures, like wearing long-sleeved shirts and trousers. It was also hard for both sides to control the disease in a battle area because shell holes filled with water (an ideal home for mosquito larvae) and troops in the front-line could not sleep under mosquito nets in case of an enemy attack.

The Allies had an advantage in being able to call in reinforcements. New Guinea Force arranged for the Australian 21st and 30th Brigades, which had served on the Kokoda Track early in the campaign, to relieve the exhausted 16th and 25th Brigades. Later, the 18th Brigade was brought from Milne Bay to take over from the Americans attacking Buna.

Despite mounting casualties, Japanese troops continued to defend each bunker tenaciously, giving ground only after inflicting heavy losses on attacking troops. The Allies found that close air support was ineffective because it was too hard for pilots to spot targets and bomb and strafe accurately, and artillery did not give a clear edge. On 9 December, the 21st Brigade captured Gona, with artillery support, but the casualty rate among attacking troops was too heavy to sustain. New Guinea Force hoped to break the deadlock by deploying light tanks.

The first attack using tanks was effective but, once the element of surprise was lost, they began suffering high casualties as Japanese gunners began targeting the three or four tanks used in each action. Nevertheless, by 3 January 1943 the last positions around Buna had fallen to the 18th Brigade. Only fifty Japanese survived this action, most becoming prisoners of war.

The final strongpoint to hold out was Sanananda. The Japanese had skilfully located bunkers and machine-gun posts on the only dry land in the area, so the Australians and Americans in this sector had to advance through, and live in, swamp. Though now disorganised and in poor condition, the Japanese continued to resist every Allied attack. Australian troops of the 30th Brigade, poorly trained for battle, suffered over 50 per cent losses in their opening attacks. The 18th Brigade was brought over from Buna and made some progress, but again the battle came to a standstill.

On 12 January 1943, the 18th Army's commander, General Adachi, ordered the evacuation of Sanananda. About 2,000 troops escaped by sea or on foot by the end of the battle. The Allies had nearly given up hope when it became clear that most of the Japanese had left. On 22 January, the 18th Brigade finished mopping-up actions and the Papuan campaign officially came to an end the following day.

Reprinted from the Australia Japan Research Project. Remembering the War In New Guinea

<http://ajrp.awm.gov.au/ajrp/remember.nsf/pages/NT00002A92?openDocument>

1st Australian Mountain Battery In action



AWM 013973 (Australian War Memorial)

Gunners of the 1st Australian Mountain Battery fire their 3.7-inch mountain howitzer, Buna, December 1942. A two-howitzer strong section from this unit was attached to the American 128th Regiment for its initial attack on Buna in mid-November 1942. In fact, after the destruction of an American supply convoy by Japanese fighter-bombers on 16 November, these two howitzers were the only source of Allied artillery support in the area for the first week of operations.

Reprinted from the Australia Japan Research Project. Remembering the War In New Guinea

<http://ajrp.awm.gov.au/ajrp/remember.nsf/pages/NT0000248A>

The Battle for Slater's Knoll Bougainville's Long Tan Reg Kidd 4 Bty 2 Aust Fd Regt.

Each Year in August Vietnam Veterans Celebrate the battle of "Long Tan". This is held to have been a "defining point" in the Vietnam campaign and probably rightly so. In this battle a company of Australian troops was ambushed in a rubber plantation by a force of over two thousand Viet Cong Regulars.

In the ensuing fight the Australians held on to their positions tenaciously supported by artillery fire from New Zealand and American batteries. Heavy Casualties were inflicted on the attackers. They were relieved by supporting troops in Armoured Personnel Carriers (A.P.C's). The Viet Cong retired in confusion leaving over 250 dead and taking away hundreds of wounded. The Australians suffered 18 killed and 42 wounded out of the 108 Company Personnel.

Friday 14th August 2006 was the 40th anniversary of this battle. It was celebrated nationally throughout Australia with gatherings in each state and newspaper articles telling the story of the battle.

Strangely, there is a parallel to this action in the Bougainville campaign. The battle .Slater's Knoll. in South Bougainville was fought between elements of two companies of the 25th and 9th Bns. part of 7 Bde. which had fought in Milne Bay together with 5 Bty. 2 Aust Field Regt. and nearly three thousand Japanese troops assembled to inflict a major defeat on the Australians. This

battle was the largest single clash with the Japanese and opened up the way for Australian forces to advance further south in the campaign to eliminate the Japanese a result found later to be quite unattainable.

Probably no one in Australia, except those who were actually involved on Bougainville, ever heard of "Slater's Knoll" and certainly it is not celebrated anywhere. Like most fighting on Bougainville it has been swept "under the carpet" by governments unwilling to accept responsibility for this ill conceived and poorly supported campaign which cost over 2500 Australian casualties.

But let us get back to the story of the battle. We are indebted to a detailed account of this action in the book "the Final Campaigns" by War Historian Gavin Long and the Japanese account of this battle is fully recorded in the Intelligence Report prepared by 23 Aust Bde. after their discussions with the Japanese General Staff following the cessation of hostilities.

The Japanese were well aware that the Australian Troops, probably nearly two Divisions had relieved the American "Americal" and 37th Divisions at Torokina. Friendly natives had kept them informed. However, they considered that the Australians would continue to remain inside the Torokina perimeter in the same manner that the American troops had done so since November 1943.

They were quite surprised when Australian patrols started to move aggressively north towards the Soroken Peninsula, east along the Numa Numa trail towards Kieta and most importantly south towards Buin. This seemed to be their main thrust involving two Brigades and an Artillery Regiment (2 Aust Fd. Regt)

Lt. Gen. Kanda, the Japanese GOC decreed that the Australian drive to the south must be halted before they reached the "garden" areas where over 35% of the Japanese forces were cultivating tropical fruits and vegetables helping to maintain their almost total self sufficiency. It was decided that the Puriata River would be the point where the Australians would be halted and driven back to Torokina with such heavy casualties that they would not venture out again.

For this purpose an attack group of about 2600 was to be assembled drawn from the Japanese

- 13th Infantry Regiment
- 23rd Infantry Regiment
- 6th Artillery Regiment
- 4th Medium Artillery Regiment

Committed to this action by the Japanese were 1000 troops from the two Infantry and Artillery Regts

- A mobile reserve of 900 troops.
- 700 troops to act as carriers, handling munitions and supplies
- And to provide a further mobile reserve.

A total of 2600 well equipped and well supplied troops under the command of Lt. Gen. Akinaga. The Japanese redoubled their efforts to ascertain the strength and location of the approaching Australian troops with heavy patrolling throughout the area.

The Australian 25th and 9th Bns. were allotted the task of crossing the Puriata River and occupying the area known later as "Slater's Knoll". Advance companies were to dig in and prepare the way for the crossing by the rest of these two Bns.

By the middle of March 1945 one company of the 25th Bn had crossed the river and was dug in on Slater's Knoll. A company from 9th Bn had also crossed and was occupying ground near Slater's Knoll with platoons in weapon pits about 400 metres in advance of the main body.

From a captured document obtained in a patrol clash with the Japanese it was learned that the Japanese were consolidating in strength preparatory to a major assault on Slater's Knoll. On the 28th of March the eight guns of 5 Bty. 2 Fd. Regt were emplaced at the approaches to the river crossing and they were aware that enemy patrols were very active around their perimeter. The

Battery had registered targets in the Japanese area and was scheduled to cross the river once Slater

During the next few days the situation was quiet but on the 30th March (Good Friday) the 25th Bn. Position was attacked by a large party of Japanese. They were beaten off but attached again with a bayonet charge. At this stage only 16 men in the forward position were still capable of resisting so they withdrew to a new position carrying their dead and wounded with them. 25 Bn. strength at Slater's Knoll was now reduced to 83 and Japanese attacks continued unabated around this group and the positions occupied by the 25th and 9th Bns.

At this critical stage it was decided to commit tanks to the battle. Four Matilda tanks from the 2/4th Armd. Regt. had been landed at Toko near the mouth of the Puriata River after shipment by LST from Torokina and were now on the far side of the river. They were speedily waterproofed and began the crossing assisted by bulldozers. Three tanks were safely hauled across but the fourth became stuck midstream and had to be temporarily abandoned.

These three tanks moved up to Slater's Knoll just as the Japanese opened another fierce attack on the Australian defenders. When the Japanese came under fire from the tanks they fled leaving 94 dead around the defended positions killed by infantry fire and tank attack.

Five walking wounded were escorted out of the Australian perimeter. Eight Australians had been killed and fifty eight badly wounded in the fighting from the 30th of March to the 1st of April. On the night of the 4th and 5th of April nearly 200 enemy shells fell around the 5 Bty. 2nd Aust Fd. Regt perimeter. The Battery was now firing on previously registered targets, mainly Japanese artillery positions.

On the 5th of April the Japanese resumed their attack with fresh troops. Wave after wave charged forward and were repulsed. The Japanese lay dead in heaps piled up in front of the Australian weapon pits. Two tanks were again brought up and mopped up groups of retreating Japanese. The next day patrols discovered that the Japanese had completely withdrawn from the area so bulldozers were brought up to bury the Japanese dead. 290 Japanese were counted around Slater's Knoll itself piled up in front of the weapon pits and altogether about 620 were collected in the other areas where the fighting had occurred and buried in several common graves near Slater's Knoll.

The Australian casualties from the 25th and 9th Bns during the period early February to 5th April 1945 were 10 Officers and 179 Other Ranks Killed or wounded.

The battle for Slater's Knoll proved the effectiveness of tanks in a jungle situation. Their appearance was both timely and effective and helped to counter the greatly superior numerical strength of the Japanese attackers. The battle for Slater's Knoll was a defining event in the Bougainville campaign, but as stated earlier it has never been celebrated and is only known to the remaining Bougainville veterans.

Slater's Knoll was named after Private C.R. Slater of 25 Bn who was wounded on this feature during a Japanese artillery attack when during March some 600 shells were fired onto the 25 Bn positions. Although badly wounded he elected to stay at his post until relieved.

Throughout this battle the Japanese used their artillery on the Australian positions but it was mainly inaccurate and showed that they lacked trained observers to register fall of shot and adjust their barrages on to targets. The Japanese had no lack of artillery both field and medium calibre guns but did not appear to understand the principles of the use of artillery as an offensive weapon to spearhead an attack.



The Memorial and its People - An Illustrated talk

The Memorial's Principal Historian, Dr Peter Stanley presented, "The Memorial and its People", on Sunday, 11 November 2001 as part of the Memorial's 60th anniversary celebrations.

Transcript

Good afternoon ladies and gentlemen and welcome to the Memorial. I'd like to extend a special welcome to former members of staff: it's nice to see you back. That's important because this talk is not about the Memorial's architecture or its collection, but about what is often described as its greatest asset: its people.

I want to begin this reflection on the Memorial's history by looking at some views of the Memorial soon after its opening. Here are the galleries in 1944



AWM 068848

You can see the Palestine supply dioramas which are still there. What you can't see, though, are any people: no visitors, no staff. Let's try other galleries.



AWM 086856

No, not there either. They must be downstairs in the Library:



AWM 086865

Where are the people? Outside, perhaps?



AWM 123837

It looks like if we're going to find anyone here we're going to have to use our imaginations.

From time to time various directors of the Memorial have been smitten by the desire to record for posterity the people who work for the Memorial. We're dragooned into straggling outside, marshalled onto stairs of the front steps. We all say 'cheese' and we're recorded for posterity.

This afternoon I invite you to imagine a photograph of all the people who've worked for the Memorial since 1917. Think what such a photograph would look like if they could be assembled in our imagination to stand on this spot over the eighty-odd years that the Memorial has existed. Starting on the left would be the handful of members of the original Australian War Records Section, gathered around John Treloar, with Syd Gullett on his motorbike, wearing the faded khaki of the AIF. This part of the image is in black and white, but sharp, recorded forever on glass-plate negatives. As the camera moves the fashions change. By the twenties and thirties all wear civilian clothes, but on ANZAC Day and Armistice Day the medals come out, for many who work at the Memorial are what Australians used to call 'returned men'. Some of the people in the back row don't know the people in front of them. This isn't because the Memorial is a big place - there were only 28 members of staff in Melbourne in 1935; twenty men and eight women. Rather, it's because until 1941 the Memorial was located in Sydney and Melbourne, only coming together in one place after the second world war.

In the 1950's the number doesn't grow much greater, though the older men are joined by younger ones wearing 'returned from active service' badges and a few women. Most of these ladies are young women: when they marry they are obliged to leave the public service. This part of the image is in poor focus, for these are the dark years, years we still don't know much about.

And then in the 1970s the image changes to colour. Under the energetic Noel Flanagan and a supportive Board of Trustees and later Council the Memorial undergoes a renewal. The number of people both grows in number and in diversity. They begin to include people who can't recall a world war, who come from overseas, who don't have direct connections to those who belonged to the Australia that the Memorial remembers. As the camera pans around we come to the present. This is a very clear image, taken with a digital camera.

While this immense imaginary group photograph has been gathering the building behind the group has been growing and changing. For the earliest to stand before the camera there was no building, just the sheep paddock where the bush thickened on Mount Ainslie's lower slopes. Then in 1929 there was a commemoration stone. In the late 'thirties it became a building site as the brick and sandstone walls and copper dome rose over the Limestone Plains. From 1941 the building was open, but to us it would have appeared cramped until the wings added in 1971 were built. Gradually landscaping and roadworks would have appeared until we recognise the Memorial we know today.

How many people would this group photograph encompass? A few thousand, perhaps: there are about 500 personnel files dating from 1919 to 1945, though the turnover must be quite high at the end of the twentieth century. If the collection and the Roll of Honour are the heart and soul of the Memorial, these people are the muscles and nerves that make this place a living body, one that changes and reacts and continues to create and constitute the institution: the people who have given it life. Let's pick out a few of the people in this huge imaginary group photograph, a handful of the Australians who have been privileged to have worked for the Memorial.

Quite shamelessly, I'll crib from Michael McKernan's history of the Memorial, *Here is Their Spirit*, which was published to mark the fiftieth anniversary of the Memorial's opening in Canberra. I've also found inspiration in the folios of the old staff files and in the work of my colleagues Anne-Marie Condé and Ian Hodges who have recently completed research on aspects of the Memorial's early history. The personnel records especially give us priceless insights into the working of an entirely different Public Service, one that knew nothing of flextime and benchmarking or management jargon. I want to evoke the old Memorial, which I'll define as the institution which existed before the passing of the present Act. Since I was appointed on the day that Act passed its third reading in Parliament in 1980, it nicely rules off my time from their time.

Let's begin with a man who never saw the museum he helped to create: Corporal Ernie Bailey.



AWM E01085

Ernie was a Londoner who had migrated to Australia aged 23 in about 1908 and had worked as a gold assayer on the Western Australian goldfields. Was he one of those members of the first AIF who had enlisted as much to score a trip home as to serve King and Empire? He made the most of his time in Britain, marrying Emily who lived in Sunderland, in County Durham. By 1918 Ernie Bailey was working for the Australian War Records Section. One day in May Ernie began to scoop out the explosive from a French bomb. He hit the casing with a chisel and there was an explosion. Charles Bean and others came into the yard and saw Bailey 'lying amongst the straw and the shattered German packs'. Someone had thrown a blanket over his body but they could all see that he was badly mutilated, with a leg and an arm blown off.

Charles Bean wrote immediately to Emily in Sunderland. He offered some consolation: 'the Great Australian War Museum when it finally stands in the Australian capital will be a monument to him for it is his work that thousands upon thousands of Australians will see as they walk down those galleries'. Ernie Bailey is buried in the British Cemetery at Vignacourt, and is commemorated on the Roll of Honour above us.

Those who recall the old Library will remember that a memorial plaque to Ernie Bailey used to be fixed to one of the pillars: Perhaps it would be fitting to return it?

It might also be appropriate to spend a moment recalling those - surely many thousands - who would have wanted to work here.



AWM D00571

Here's someone who might be the man who briefly becomes a part of the Memorial's story. Some of their stories, especially in the early years, are poignant. In April 1920 a letter arrived at the office of the newly-established Australian War Memorial Museum. A man returned from the war sought a job. Before enlisting, he wrote,

'I was a farrier but owing to my war disabilities I cannot carry on with my trade. I am 24 years of age. The work I would like to follow is lifman or any other light work that would suit a limbless man.'

Sadly, John Treloar was obliged to explain that he was unable to offer this man work.



John Treloar

It isn't possible to speak of the first thirty years of the Memorial's history without mentioning John Treloar, the Director from 1920 to 1952. Treloar, a cricket-loving, non-drinking Melbourne Methodist, had been evacuated sick from Gallipoli. He had already proved his ability as a custodian of records as confidential clerk to Brudenell White. In 1917 Treloar was appointed to command the Australian War Records Section.

Treloar became the Director at the age of 26, an age at which most people today would be looking for a job as an APS 6. He carried a heavy burden. He was responsible for a new institution, one seeking to establish a collection, a building and a place in the hearts of the Australian people. As the head of a small staff of fewer than 40 people for most of the period between the wars, Treloar was involved in virtually every aspect of the institution, in library and archival development, publishing and marketing, museum conservation and display. He was a tireless worker, an indefatigable correspondent, and a great worrier. Except for a period in uniform during the Second World War as head of the Military History and Information Section Treloar devoted his life to the Memorial.



John Treloar and Dawn Treloar

He worked long hours, actually living in a cubby hole near his office and signing the attendance book as he walked from his bedroom to his desk. His daughter, Dawn, who worked in the Memorial's Library, ate lunch with him, a meal which he cooked on his primus stove. One day in January 1952 Dawn noticed that the meticulous Treloar had not signed the attendance book, and found him ill in bed. Taken to the Canberra Community Hospital, he seemed to be doing well, but died later in January of an intestinal haemorrhage. Contrary to persistent myth among the staff, Treloar never lived in the Memorial's tower: there is no ghost in the tower. His influence, however, lingers. Anne-Marie Condibute to him suggests how powerfully his spirit infuses Memorial staff sensitive to the evidence. Writing after reading hundreds of letters between Treloar and bereaved families, she writes that he was 'gentle and tactful with the families of men who had died in war, for he lived with his own memories of the sights he had seen and the friends who never came back'.

To be continued





COMBINED TASK FORCE 635
Regional Assistance Mission to Solomon Islands

Guadalcanal Beach Resort, Honiara, Solomon Islands

CTF 635/ 542/2007

Major N. Hamer, RFD

President

Royal Australian Artillery Association (Victoria) Inc.

101 Warralong Avenue

BERWICK VIC 3088

AUSTRALIA

Dear Neil,

I refer to your letter of September 2007 and write to you on behalf of the members of 2nd/10th Field Regiment and 48th Field Battery who are deployed on operations with the Combined Task Force 635 in the Solomon Islands.

I wish to take this opportunity to once again thank you, and the Royal Australian Artillery Association (Victoria) Incorporated, for the provision of the 'care packs' parcel that were received by the soldiers on Monday 22 October 2007. The arrival of such parcels was timely, and its contents were greatly appreciated by all of the members.

It has again drawn significant attention to other members of the Task Force, and as such those soldiers are now receiving similar support from their respective associations and units. Once again, the Royal Australian Artillery is clearly 'leading the way' and setting a high example to others.

I note that in the October 2007 edition of 'Cascabel' a significant increase in membership from the junior soldiers of the Regiment. As a result of your outstanding service, I have suggested that those deployed members of the Regiment, should now consider in becoming a financial and active member of the Royal Australian Artillery Association (Victoria) for 2008.

Once again thank you for your thoughts and upholding the traditions of the Royal Australian Artillery and please extend my gratitude to your committee during the Annual General Meeting on Thursday 8 November 2007.

Uk, gme

D.R. LEHR

Warrant Officer Class One

Regimental Sergeant Major

Combined Task Force 635

23 October 2007

OPERATION ANODE

Regional Assistance Mission to Solomon Islands (RAMSI)

Combined Task Force 635, Rotation 13 (CTF 635, R13)

3 August 2007 – TBA December 2007

By: Corporal John Harding – Transport Supervisor

On behalf of all members of 2nd/10th Field Regiment deployed with the CTF 635, R13, greetings again from the Solomon Islands! We have hit the ground running and haven't stopped since our arrival.

Following from Bombardier James Overell's August newsletter, the tempo of the deployment remains constant. All headquarters staff has settled into their roles smoothly and the Rifle Company continues to maintain its presence throughout Guadalcanal and regional provinces.

It seems to be getting hotter by the day and the humidity is ever present, particularly after good rainfall.

Bombardier Overell continues to be embedded with the Royal Tongan Marines and is enjoying his role with them. They are keeping very busy as they continue with their good work in winning the hearts and minds of the local communities.



Private 'Liz' Younan (Headquarters Battery) with a local village chiefs child

The Taskforce has been making significant improvements to all of its locations, and building on the foundations set by previous rotations. The soldiers have constructed a new recreational facility at Forward Operating Base MARITIME, improved the outdoor showers at Forward Operating Base TETERE (there are no indoor showers), and built new targetry at Guadalcanal Beach for range practices.

Our provincial patrols are visiting a lot of remote villages, some without power and running water. They are assisting the villagers with medical aid and crocodile eradication, if requested by the Participating Police Force which is helping to improve their safety and living conditions. In some places the villagers haven't seen the Army in up to four years. For some soldiers it is 'hard yakka', patrolling in marching order up to 100 kilometres over difficult terrain in harsh and wet conditions, provides a good assessment of the soldiers individual and collective skills.

At Forward Operating Base MARITIME, when there are no crocodiles in sight, the Australian lads can enjoy a swim in the ocean.

The Solomon Islands was a pivotal World War II battlefield in the Pacific Theatre - a hotly contested struggle between the Japanese and American forces for possession of Henderson Airfield on this beautiful but blood-soaked atoll. History has confirmed that the island campaign was both symbolically and strategically the turning point of the Pacific war. Japan, who had been on the offensive since Pearl Harbour, would move into defensive positions and the United States would assume the offensive that never yielded until the end of the war. The Australian Navy Heavy Cruiser, HMAS Canberra, is one of many naval ships sunk in the sea battle, in what is now known as Iron Bottom Sound. I have been fortunate enough to visit a few of the significant places of interest, such as the American War Memorial, the Japanese War Memorial and Bloody Ridge.



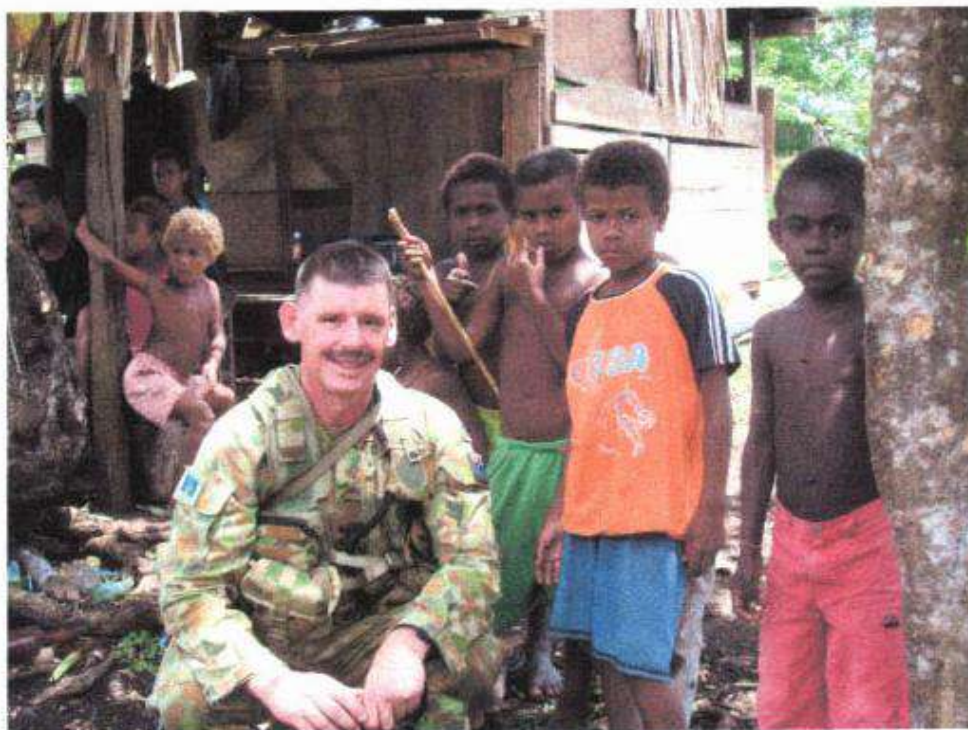
Regimental Sergeant Major, Land Command – Australia, Warrant Officer Class One Steve Ward with
Regimental Sergeant Major, CTF 635, R13, Warrant Officer Class One David Lehr

The Task Force will be visited by many ranks from Australia. Recently CTF 635 hosted the Commander, Land Command Australia, Major General Kelly and Regimental Sergeant Major, Land Command Australia, Warrant Officer Class One Steve Ward. Soon the Task Force will host a FACE concert tour that will feature Cotton, Keays and Morris less Keays, Adam Dean, Glenn A. Baker and Anneliisa Tonisson. Then the soldiers' civilian employers will visit their respective employees as part of the Reserve Employer Support Scheme and Exercise Boss Lift.

The Transport section is very busy, and its tasking is wide and varied. Apart from general vehicle maintenance and servicing, the drivers are tasked at all hours of the day and night. It seems to be a common practice that personnel arriving to the Solomon Islands, do so in the middle of the night or very early in the morning. As a bit of respite, the drivers recently spent a Saturday night at Forward Operating Base MARITIME, taking part in an early morning patrol with an Infantry section through Honiara. By their own accounts it was a very interesting experience for them, as they were able to practice their Infantry patrolling skills.

After hours, time is pretty much our own when not required for tasking, members are able to utilise the facilities at Guadalcanal Beach. Most nights there is a soccer "friendly" between the Kiwi's and 'Aussies', at the time of print the Aussies are two games ahead. Corporal Ian Burnett (38 Fd Bty) and myself have taken up tennis (I won't dignify our expertise by calling it a game) a few nights a week. For us 'oldies', the night is usually rounded off with a game of Scrabble, whilst the younger folk watch DVD's either in the accommodation or on their personal computers.

Accommodation for the Infantry Platoons at their locations is 20 x 30 tents, on stretchers with mozzie domes. Large fans are used to help cool the tents down during the day and night.



Corporal John Harding (38th Field Battery) at Gifu village with the local children, in the background is a typical house

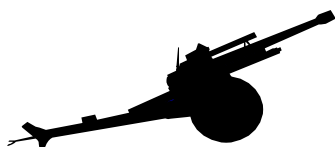
Corporal Ian Burnett's work as a vehicle mechanic keeps him busy every day. There are a wide variety of vehicle breakdowns that need his attention, as well as scheduled maintenance and servicing tasks. Recently Corporal Burnett was lucky enough to conduct a patrol by air asset to the other side of Guadalcanal, where he was able to see outer villages and enjoyed it immensely.



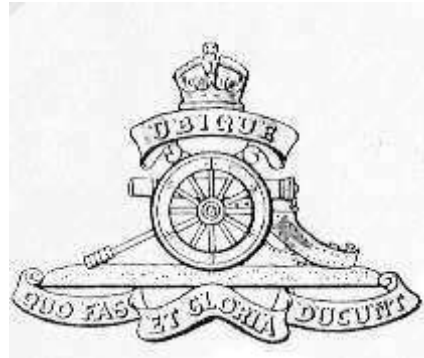
Corporal Ian Burnett (38th Field Battery) with the Civil Military Liaison team at FOB TETERE

The October newsletter will be written by Corporal Ian Burnett, and as much as we're all enjoying our experience, we are very much looking forward to getting home to our families and loved ones. This year will be a special Christmas for us all I'm sure.

'Ubique'



Annual
Artillery Church Parade
10 am, Sunday, 10th February 2008



at
Saint Georges East St Kilda Uniting
Church
4 Chapel Street, St Kilda
Chaplain Charles Green, the 2/10 Fd Regt Chaplain will
lead the Service
All Gunners, past and present, and their families are
invited to join us at our annual church parade.
Enquiries to Robin Smith on 9435 6352

Defence Reserves Association
Annual Conference 6 October 2007

Summary of Proceedings

Overwhelming support was the clear message from speakers at Randwick Barracks on the occasion of the conference conducted by the Defence Reserves Association to explore the topic **ADF Reserves Present Opportunities, Future Realities** .

The President Major General J E Barry AM MBE RFD ED (Retd) established the context for deliberations with a resume of past conferences and the current circumstances surrounding the issues of funding, organisational attitudes, structure, recruiting / retention, service conditions and capability development as pertaining to the Defence Reserves.

The Government view was put by Senator Marise Payne, who applauded the substantial contribution being made by reservists to the ADF commitments domestically and overseas, and indicated how real world realities would demand expansion of this contribution in the not too distant future. She stated plainly that despite superannuation for reservists having whole of Government implications, conditions of service are considered very much to be “work in progress”.

Alan Griffin MP Opposition defence spokesman also praised the invaluable involvement of reservists in the nation's strategic capability, but emphasized that the deployment of reserve formations was not presently envisaged. He would like to see more input by reservists to strategic planning and confirmed that under a Labour government, all military acquisitions presently in contemplation would be retained. He opposes the closure of Keswick Barracks in Adelaide, and called on the Government to release the results of the Superannuation Review that was due in July 2007. A parallel was drawn between the Labour implemented Ready Reserve Scheme and the present High Readiness Reserve and Gap Year training initiatives.

The ACDF / Head of Reserve Policy Major General Greg Melick emphasized the political bipartisan support for reserves and drew attention to the need for equalization of pay and conditions for regular and reserve Defence Force members.

The Directors General reported on the different ways being employed by the services in meeting the requirements of the High Readiness Reserve concept and in particular how integration was being achieved in pursuit of a flexible and more capable defence force structure.

The Surgeon General Rear Admiral G Shirtley described his tri service medical responsibilities and how the support by specialist reservists of the deployed ADF was growing with the assistance of the highly successful employer support payment scheme. He highlighted however, the need for expanded funding to train medical personnel in the specific needs of the ADF.

The Director of Defence Force Recruiting Captain C Mc Cracken RAN explained the extant recruiting programs and revealed the new model planned for trialling and, on success, implementation in mid 2008. The question raised is there time to wait?

The current review of the Protection Legislation was explained by the Panel chairman Major General Greg Garde. There are about 40 submissions presently being considered by the committee and it is clear that a protocol is needed to ensure that both reservists and their civilian employers receive adequate and reliable notice of training commitments. Close liaison with DRS is essential for employer feedback and support recognition.

Dr Hugh Smith from UNSW at ADFA addressed the conference on the yet to be released review of Defence Reserves. He stressed the need for change / reform, increased integration, improved

readiness levels, and for more contribution from reserves by way of diversity, synergy and variety. His theme of “Use them or lose them” emphasized the necessity for reservists to be used more in meeting operational demands abroad and appropriate domestic security duties.

A presentation on capability development by Colonel N Greet - Director Capability Ops and Plans centred on the Defence Capability Plan 2006 – 2016, and the implications of the Network Centric Warfare concept. New equipment acquisition and training systems are required to meet the needs of stabilization and transition operations, with the latter involving niche reserve capabilities.

The open forum session was introduced by Dr Alan Ryan suggesting that the “Defence” in Australian Defence Force be replaced with the word “Military” to better reflect the beyond defence role now expected of our armed forces. Neil James, Executive Director - Australian Defence Association, suggests that the Army Reserve needs rejuvenation and that the Gap Year training will probably produce a much needed new generation of junior leaders. It was also suggested that the term “Reserve”. should be discarded (although retained for individual reference) in order to reinforce the total force concept.

The difficulties being experienced by Training Command in meeting the needs of the ADF and the reserves in particular were discussed and the urgent removal of recruit training bottlenecks strongly emphasized.

The involvement of ADF reserve forces over the next 5 years was foreseen by the Deputy Commander of Joint Force Headquarters, Rear Admiral R Moffat in his after dinner address as being much more of the same. He reiterated that the ADF could not do what they are presently doing without the reserves, and that full time and part time members were indistinguishable on operations. Reservists must continue to meet Domestic Event Support Operations (DESO) requirements and whilst manning deployments such as Operation Anode (RAMSI), reservists must also be ready to provide short notice support as they are presently doing to Operation Outreach in the NT. He also stated that reservists must have an equal voice in future operational planning although no indication as to how this might be achieved was given.

In closing what was adjudged a highly successful conference, Major General Barry reminded the Association and the audience that there is much to be done and emphasized the following areas of particular concern:

- Recruiting and Retention
- Capability Development
- Conditions of Service particularly superannuation
- Encouragement of public debate on defence matters
- Importance of Reserves in current operational tasks
- Compensation and health issues for reservists
- Protection Review

Lieutenant Colonel I George RFD ED (Retd)

For the full text of the conference presentations please follow the links.

http://www.dra.org.au/html/s02_article/article_view.asp?id=174&nav_cat_id=155&nav_top_id=59&dsb=696

Defence Reserves Association Website. www.dra.org.au. (Sidebar Annual Conference: 2007)



**WEATHER BEAUTIFUL
HEALTH INDIFFERENT
PROSPECTS BRIGHT
SPIRITS HIGH**

NAME: Ronald Sinclair

DATE: 1915 - 1919

UNIT: 114th Howitzer Battery, Australian Field Artillery

LOCATION: Middle East, France, Belgium



Ronald Sinclair lived for letters from home, and wrote plenty himself during his three and a half years away at war. In particular, he wrote regularly to his long-time girl friend, Adelene, telling her about his feelings, the war and his philosophy on all sorts of matters.

Occasionally the war got in the way of his letter writing, but even in the midst of battle he would still try to make time to write. He wrote at least 66 letters to Adelene during the war. On 20 May 1918, he was in a flippant mood.

"My Darling Old Ad, Here we go again," he wrote. "This time seated in a beautiful hole in the ground. Just room for two to lie down in & it's a case of when one turns we all turn. The job is to watch the wiley Hun & see he doesn't pinch any of the villages or some equally silly thing.

"Anyhow, we're here. Two of us & being here we make the most of the opportunity to drop a line or two to our own separate 'best little girl in all the world'. Only the other chap is unfortunate, he's

married.

"However, the war has been, is, & will be carrying on much the same as a decent war should carry on. Not causing too much trouble & not interfering with the glorious weather which is gladdening the hearts of the people who want fine weather i.e the Huns.

"Personally I've been enjoying the war for the past fortnight or so. I've been a waggon line soldier & as such appropriated the jobs of 'cooks batman', linesman, telephone mechanic, Bookmaker and Poker Player.

"The first because it's better than grooming donkeys & the food is excellent as also the bed; the second two jobs I took on because they exempted me from all parades, the fourth I took on because I thought I could make some money at the sports & the last one I thought an enjoyable and profitable way of passing the evenings. The last one was the only one in which my judgement erred & by it I lost all I won at the sports, namely 200 francs, i.e about

"When the battery pulled in to its present position we found the adjacent village had been left in a hurry by the inhabitants & lots of good things were to be had for the asking.

Consequently we lived high for a while.

"Then when I went to the waggon lines I took up my residence with the cook in a caravan salvaged from the aforesaid village and there we lived like lords.

"A couple of days ago one of the lads went ransacking the cupboards & Im sure youd have like to be there. You should see all the nice frilly things we found. Our shirts had done duty for quite a considerable time and wanted a spell. They got it. Now myself & the cooks may be seen arrayed not in issue shirts but in nice lace topped garments which certainly suit us down to the ground. If we wanted to we could also change our other garments but ---. It's a beautiful caravan. Just a nice size for two. Big double bed. Stove wardrobe cupboard etc and some other bed furniture. I said a nice size for two. As a matter of fact its occupants at present number 5.

"Along with the caravan we have added the following to the battery's list.

"1 lamb blown up by a shell about three times but alive & doing well.
1 goat which has since changed to 1 goat and 1 kid, the dearest little kid in the world.
1 dog just like Bruce. He & I are great mates.

"All we want now is a few nice young ladies to come and look after us & we'd think we were at home.

"Now my fine young lady. What do you mean by inciting me to commit an offense prejudicial to good military order & discipline.

"I never thought you were a girl like that Ad. I always had you in mind as a nice loving girl who would encourage a man to do gallant deeds etc. And now I find you are false. All my ideals are dashed to the ground. Here I am over here trusting you and what do you do. Again I ask what do you do. You deliberately say in your letter that when I go to Blighty again I ought to buy a camera. Now know ye that 'any Officer Non Commissioned officer or man having in his possession a camera will be tried by court martial and the penalty will be made as severe as possible.' So saith the orders.

"So Im afraid Darling I cant oblige by getting one. I have often thought of running the risk & getting one so that from the observation post I could snap some of the beautiful barrages but the game is not worth the candle and Ive not done so.

"Never mind Ad. Ill tell you all about the different things when I get home. Just fancy a shady nook up the Lane Cove, you & I & my diary & we'll fight the war all over again.

"As I said before we had a sports day at the Waggon Lines the other day. And a Hun observation balloon looking right down on us. The squarehead must have been a sport though as he didn't interfere with us at all.

"Three days ago I saw the best sight of the war. A Hun aeroplane was about 10,000 ft over our battery & one of our planes tackled him. The fight that followed was worth going miles to see. They both used up all their ammunition and then the flying began. Two more of our chaps came along but they wanted to get the machine intact so instead of firing at him they yarded him into a paddock & forced him to land. Of course we all flew over expecting to see some grizzled old fighter step out but imagine our surprise when out hopped a lad of 20 smoking a cigarette and his first words were 'It was ver goot'. He was as game as

any man could be & the chap that brought him down landed & rushed up & shook hands with him. The machine was a triplane. If possible I will send home one of the souvenirs I took off the plane.

"Well Darling the light is failing so I will have to put a finish to this note. Oh and by the way you are making me curious. In your last two letters you said you had been dreaming about me but wouldn't tell me what it was. Now last night I was dreaming about you and for spite I wont tell you what it was & it was so nice too.

"Once again wishing you very many happy returns of my lucky day etc your birthday, I will conclude.

"With fondest love, Ron"

A week later his next letter was rather shorter and more to the point.

"Just to carry on with the good work.

I am back at the guns again now & having a pretty good time, The violin we 'bought' in Corbie is getting some hurry up.

Anxiously waiting for some mail to come to hand.

Expecting the Hun to attack any time now but not the least bit alarmed.

Weather beautiful.

Health indifferent.

Prospects bright.

Spirits High.

Best love, Ron."

Having survived all that the Germans had thrown at him, Ron found the news that Germany had surrendered to be something of an anti climax as he had other things on his mind. He had written to Adelene a month earlier confessing to an indiscretion with a young lady while on leave in Scotland. He had told Ad that he had to be honest with her and asked for her forgiveness. He anxiously awaited her reply.

On 11 November 1918, he wrote to Adelene again.

"My Dearest old Girl,

"In a deserted village, in a partly demolished house, beside a nice fire, and having just heard the glorious news that Germany had accepted an armistice under our own terms, and feeling as happy as possible under the circumstances, I am taking the opportunity of sending a chaser to my last letter," he wrote.

"I have wondered a lot how you accepted my last couple of notes and although I know what I want to tell you I can't bring myself to say it. I can quite understand what you will think of me but still Ad I think you must admit I had a big temptation to pal up with the first decent girl I met after being so long out of civilisation. What I want you to do if you will Ad is to consider what I have told you & if you think I have offended you past forgiveness, please say so.

"I did not realise till I received your letter containing the snaps yesterday what I had done.

[Ad's letter was obviously written and sent before she received Ron's confession.]

"Thanks very much for the snaps old girl, they were great. I studied them for an hour and could quite easily imagine I was back home. Then memory began to get busy and as I had just received the first letter from home since poor old Dad died I can tell you I went to bed pretty miserable. It seems hard to think that after living so long he should die just when things began to look best. Still I suppose it is for the best & we must accept the inevitable with good grace.

"Thanks very much Ad for your sympathy. I know how you feel about it old girl.

"But let us get to the good news. Isn't it simply great. 3 years and 9 days since I left Australia & now at last the end is in sight. And I can tell you Ad we've seen some fighting since June last & I can scarcely credit it that I have been able to live through it all without a scratch. Someones prayers must have been heard.

"The next thing now is the peace terms & then home. Can you realise what home means to us over here. Back to your own people & those we love, and once back I cant see them shifting me out of Australia again. Ive seen all the war I want to thank you & Ive seen all the world I want to and theres no place like Australia."

It's not recorded if Ad replied to Ron or if she met him when his boat docked. But they did marry in June 1920 and had seven children.

Life wasn't easy for them with such a large family and with Ron's inability to cope with the accumulated effects of all the trauma he had suffered - the loss of both his parents, the years of separation, deprivation, witnessing of violence and death and living with the constant threat to one's own life that were the experience of war.

Ad died suddenly following a heart attack at the age of 56. Her loss was a great blow to Ron but he lived another 16 years before dying of cancer at the age of 74.

Ron's letters have been collated by his daughter, Monica, and reprinted in a book Dear Ad...Love Ron - A personal story of love and war told in the letters of a young WWI soldier.

[No changes have been made to the spelling or grammar of Ron's letters.]

The material for this article was supplied by Monica Sinclair of New South Wales, daughter of Ron and Ad Sinclair

1/8/2002 10:46:43 AM

Reprinted from Australians at War Website

<http://www.australiansatwar.gov.au/stories/stories.asp?war=W1&id=199>

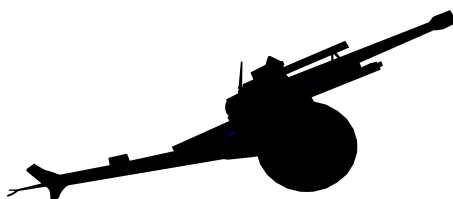


RAA Association (Victoria) Inc Corps Shop

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>	
		<i>with a bigger bang</i>	\$2.00
		Square: gold badge, red	
		and blue background	\$2.00
Ties		ORDERS:	
Blue with single red gun	\$30.00	Most orders will require an additional FIVE DOLLARS	
RAA Burgundy with gold gun	\$43.00	packing and postage, which will cover one to several	
RAA Navy with gold gun	\$43.00	small items. If in any doubt concerning this, or	
St Barbara Stripe	\$43.00	availability, please contact one of the enquiries	
		numbers above.	
Books		Cheques should be made payable to RAA Association	
<i>Kookaburra s Cutthroats</i>	\$39.00	(Victoria) Inc, and be crossed <i>Not Negotiable</i> .	
<i>Aust Military Equip Profiles</i>	\$13.50		
<i>AMEF Profile Leopard Tank</i>	\$17-00		
ENQUIRIES:		Orders to: Mr B. Cleeman	
BRIAN CLEEMAN	(03) 9560 7116	28 Samada Street	
REG MORRELL	(03) 9562 9552	Notting Hill VIC 3168	



MY SERVICE CAREER

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

Part 30 Inactive list, from retirement to present day: 1983 2007

Once he finds himself “on the shelf,” an Army Reserve officer might think that there is nothing left in life. He might also wonder in his “retirement” as to what he might do. When this is compounded with “civvie” retirement then it is more a case of working out how one ever found the time to do all that now needs to be done!

I was placed on the artillery “inactive” list at the end of 1982. I realize there are many who thought I had been in this happy state long before that! With 1983 came the Ash Wednesday bushfires and the loss of many homes in the Macedon and Macedon district amongst others. Just to add to the pressure, Shirley and I had planned to go overseas for the mid-year. I claim it was a “sabbatical;” others might have seen it as an unjustified holiday!

Be that as it may, my “shelf life” in the Army Reserve came to a legal end when I turned 55 in June, 1988. It had not been through want of trying to get back on the active list, but the Army Reserve was contracting and colonels were two-a-penny.

But I managed to remain slim enough to continue to wear my service dress and/or mess kit on the occasions that justified it but only just! Having gone through my diaries for the years since 1983, I am surprised as to how many and reasons I found for military involvement, albeit on an unpaid basis.

I thought it might be of interest to group these various activities, whether social or possibly useful, and share them. Many were of a “witness” nature, such as the annual Reserve Forces Day March. While able to provide the dates on which I attended these various functions, I have resisted the opportunity in this chapter to list them, preferring just to summarize them by type of activity.

Farewell dinners

For some reason I do not recall a farewell dinner for me other than when I ceased as CO of the 10th Medium Regiment at Geelong at the end of 1973, but I was able later to attend farewell functions for LTLCOL John Henry, COL Mike Vincent, COL McManus and LTCOL Rob Gaw in particular. These were always festive occasions at which “nice things” were said, but some horrible memories, that the retiree would like forgotten, were once shared again.

Gunner Dinners

Years ago BRIG Dick Eason assured us ‘new lieutenants’ that there were several duties of a gunner officer. Two of these were to attend both the annual Gunner Dinner and the Gunner Ball. I was not very diligent in the latter but would endeavour to attend the dinners, particularly when they were held in the Officers’ Mess at Victoria Barracks.

Having mess kit, I would often find myself on “the top table,” but often at the end of the row. Conversation was limited to one’s side colleague, while everyone else seemed to be surrounded by talkative friends.

At the Gunner Dinners I was able to invite guests such as BRIG Ian Gilmore, who had been a military friend for many years and then became chairman of Braemar College when he was in charge of the Australian Counter Disaster College at Mount Macedon. He reciprocated by asking me to an engineer’s dinner at the Swan Street depot.

More recently the Colonel Commandant, BRIG Doug Perry, has instituted ‘gunner luncheons’. I always seemed to talk myself into having a rôle in the program. For the past three years those attending these luncheons at the Naval and Military Club have had to cope with me offering a

twenty-question quiz, for which I had a tolerable knowledge of the answers, but very much based on my period in the reserves.

Firing bivouacs

These were often arranged by the RAA Association. It being only an hour's drive from home to the range at Puckapunyal my attendance was made more possible. Hence I have attended firing bivouacs of 2/10 Fd (Med) Regt RAA, and witnessed the 5." and 155 mm guns being fired.

Closer to the years of the early 'eighties I could move with some confidence about the gun area as many officers and gunners still remembered me as the COL Arty, but one had to be on one's better behavior in later years. Gun detachments would register surprise when I could calculate in my head the next likely correction during a shoot, but that did assume good procedures at the OP and the gun end.

On those visits to unit camps, the routine was invariably that one visited the gun position in the morning, had lunch at base camp and then went to the OP, until it was time for afternoon tea and home. It all helped to keep the smell of cordite in one's lungs.

Freedom of Entry parades

In 1983 there was a freedom of entry ceremony for 2/15 Fd Regt when it had a battery in Dandenong. Geelong was the setting for several. The area in that city before the town hall provided a very impressive setting. The Mack tractors, whether towing the 5.5" or the 155 mm gun, dominated the roadway and ears as they made their way through the city having received police and civic permission so to do. One such ceremony was held when LTCOL George James was CO.

Such parades provided the opportunity for swords to be brought out, even if they remained in their scabbards for those who were just onlookers. Then just before 2/10 lost their medium guns, there was a special parade in Geelong on Sun 19 Nov 00 almost an act of farewell for them. At the time, LTCOL Richard Maurice, the CO, referred to us former commanding officers as "tribal elders". The unit was very generous with its social invitations especially to its dinners.

The RAA Association

This association of currently over three hundred members, provides a very important link with the 2/10 Fd Regt, RAA, and former and current gunners. The quarterly publication, *Cascade*, contains amongst other gunner articles, stories of the Regiment over the years. The Association initiates the various social functions, such as the dinner and the ball

On one occasion, the Association arranged for its members to visit the P & E Graytown establishment. Here we were hosted by MAJ Monkivitch, who proved to be a distant relation of my wife, Shirley (née Monkivitch). When he announced his surname I sat bolt upright and then made contact with him after his lecture. Since then the two "Monkivitch" families have exchanged genealogy!

RAA Association church parades

For some years the annual service has been held at St. Bartholomew's Church, Burnley, with the Regiment's band assisting with the music in the service. These services commenced when the Reverend Barry Brown was 2 Fd Regt's chaplain and he was the vicar at that church.

2007 the service was switched to a Uniting Church which was adjacent to the 2/10 Regt's HQ in Chapel Street.

St. Barbara s Day

This opportunity to “wet the head” of our patron saint, notwithstanding that she has been “defrocke”. by her “mother” church, has not always been regularly observed by a parade. For some years the RAAF base at Point Cook provided the venue for parades, it being geographically “half-way” between the Melbourne and Geelong sub-units. Prizes were awarded. There was generally a march past. A BBQ could follow. Perhaps the date of 4th December is too close to community end-of-year festivities to hold a definite place and form on the artillery calendar.

Anzac Day

In addition to the march in Melbourne and the service at the Shrine of Remembrance, district communities hold observances for which they generally request a speaker. The furthest afield that I have been as a speaker has been to Warracknabeal, where the day was observed in some style.

Shirley and I were invited to arrive in the Wimmera town on Anzac Eve, 1998 to stay in a motel. Early on the morning of the 25th I was taken out to a small community, with tea and coffee off the back flap of a utility. Back in Warracknabeal, I was asked to lead the march through the township. Then at the local hall, there was the customary service, where I was guest speaker. This was followed by lunch in the town’s main hotel.

More locally, I have been the speaker at Romsey, Lancefield, Woodend and Gisborne. The townships of Romsey and Lancefield take it turn about each year. I was still able to wear my service dress at Romsey this year when the late LTCOL Bernie Pearson was the speaker. This was probably the last time he wore uniform before he died unexpectedly.

Under the command of LTCOL Dean Ashton, 2/15 Fd Regt, RAA, has held special dawn Anzac Day services at the Chapel Street depot



L to R: COL Farley; MAJ Hope, MAJGEN Garde

I am marching with the MURA group and either passing the Eternal Flame or the Saluting Base. 2005

COL Vincent explained to me afterwards that one does not wear gloves with summer uniform. I could not fit into uniform this year, so I wore a suit!

Reserve Forces Day marches

The first of these that I recall was down Swanston Street, with the saluting base at the town hall. On another occasion troops assembled outside the Public Library with most corps providing vehicles and towed items.

More recently, the marches have moved to a start line on St. Kilda Road just south of the Princes Bridge, and using the side road to march to the Shrine. Weather permitting; aircraft from Point Cook have marked the service with a “fly over”. Again, the opportunity is present for prizes to be awarded and for senior service personnel and politicians to attend.

DRA (Defence Reserves Association)

I offered to join the committee of the DRA over a year ago. It has met at the Naval and Military Club on the second Thursday night of each month. It is well supported by gunner representatives although it is a tri-service body. The national and state organisations consistently present to politicians and senior service personnel matters that affect the development of the reserve forces. It holds an annual conference, which I have attended at Watsonia, when it has been held in Victoria. This year's get together was in Sydney.

Under the leadership and support of the two brothers, COL and CAPT Wertheimer, the Reserve Forces' Day March has taken place on the first Sunday in July with the encouragement of DRA..

Third Division luncheons and history

I responded to the request of MAJGEN Kevin Cooke to provide material to the potential author of *Defenders of Australia*, Albert Palazzo. When it was published I found that I had been mentioned on page 174. The page said, “On another occasion, Graham Farley of the 15th Field Battery¹ (sic.) participated in the firing of royal salutes to announce a royal birth and in the visit to Melbourne of the Royal Yacht *Britannia*”. I think if COL Mike Vincent was still alive, his comment would be, “Typical”! There are worse things for which one could be remembered!

Melbourne University Regiment

Having served in MUR post national service and then commanding the unit for six months prior to my promotion and appointment as COL Artillery, it has been reasonable that I should have continued to take an interest in and attend its functions. The unit has held parades from time to time to which it invites its “old guard”.

The Melbourne University Rifles Association (MURA) is the unit's equivalent of the RAA Association. As might be expected, it convenes an annual dinner and the Herring Lecture. LTGEN Sir Edmund Herring was the unit's Honorary Colonel for many years.

Incidentally, in addition to Sir Edmund, MUR has had the privilege of having quite a number of other gunners as its CO. This list includes LTCOL John Henry and LTCOL Bernie Pearson, while MAJGEN Jim Barry and MAJGEN John Stevenson have been honorary colonels.

Cadets

As the last chapter was concerned with my association with cadet units, there seems little to be gained by going over the same ground. But I notice that I omitted invitations to attend “cadet

¹ The first occasion was when I was BC of Q battery, 15 Fd Regt, 1964, at Warragul, when Prince Edward was born. The second occasion was as 2ic of 10 Mdm Regt, Geelong, 1970, at Queenscliff.

Brigade" functions at Watsonia. At the first of these, I was present when the then Honorary Colonel of Cadets, BRIG Neale Bavington, completed his term of appointment. Then last year, the brigade held another parade at which the commander of 4 Brigade, BRIG S. Aird, was the principal guest.

The School of Artillery

Since the school was relocated at Puckapunyal in the Bridges Barracks, there have been various invitations to attend its functions. I have also had access to its personnel and resources for my RAA HSC projects.

RAA HSC

For my "sins". I was asked to be the Victorian representative on a regimental historical subcommittee. Under the leadership of MAJGEN John Whitelaw and the patronage of MAJGEN Tim Ford, the Representative Colonel Commandant, the members were asked to research certain aspects of Australian gunner history. My two projects "Moving the guns," and "Badges and uniforms". The first of these is very close to completion, a draft having been tabled at the recent get together at the Keswick Barracks in Adelaide.

Friends of the Fort

Since BRIG Ian Gilmore was, in the course of his career, the commander of the Staff College at Queenscliff, it was inevitable that he would maintain a close contact and encourage his military friends to do likewise. As a result, I have attended dinners at Queenscliff and also parades such as the "Beating of the Retreat"

Sundry

I will conclude by mentioning an invitation to be present at the Avenue of Honour in Woodend one Saturday morning a number of years ago, when the name plaques of those soldiers who are remembered, were re-affixed.

My final comment is to assure readers that attendance at these various military functions has always been pleasurable. My person and rank have always been treated with great respect. The downside of course, was that they were all honorary not a tax-free pay cheque in sight! But they have all been fun.

Graham Farley



Parade Card
(as at 30 Nov2007)

JAN 2008

APR 2008

17 Committee
25 ANZAC Day

FEB 2008

10 Church Parade
21 Committee

MAY 2008

?? Grand Arty Ball
15 Committee

MAR 2008

20 Committee
?? Arty lunch (all ranks)

JUN 2008

?? 3rd DIV lunch (all ranks)
19 Committee

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