

# CASCABEL

Journal of the

ROYAL AUSTRALIAN ARTILLERY ASSOCIATION  
(VICTORIA) INCORPORATED

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L to R: MAJ Neil Hamer, RSM WO1 Scott Driscoll, CO LTCOL Rob Crawford, and BRIG Doug Perry.  
Taken at Sargood Barracks after the RAA Association Church Parade 10 Feb 2008

Courtesy MAJ Robin Smith

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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 lritchard@schivello.com.au

# 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

## PATRONS and VICE PATRONS: 1978

**Patron:** LT GEN The Hon Sir Edmund Herring

KCMG, KBE, DSO, MC, ED

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

## 1982

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

**Vice Patron:** MAJGEN N. A. Vickery CBE, MC, ED

## 1999

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

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

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1978 MAJGEN N. A. Vickery CBE, MC, ED

1979 MAJGEN J. M. McNeill OA, OBE, ED

1981 COL A. (Sandy) Mair ED

1984 MAJ P. S. (Norman) Whitelaw ED

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

1991 MAJ M. Taggart RFD, ED

2004 MAJ N Hamer RFD

## JOURNAL NAME:

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

**CASCABLE** - English spelling.

## ARTILLERY USE:

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

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

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

## CASCABEL HISTORY:

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

## ASSOC LOGO:

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.

**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  
**Assistant Secretary:**  
Rachel Decker  
9578 5205  
**Treasurer:** SSGT Reg Morrell  
Phone: 9562 9552  
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**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 9526 4222  
8 Chapel St  
St Kilda  
  
22 Fd Bty 8710 2407  
65 Princes Hwy  
Dandenong South  
  
38 Fd Bty 5221 7666  
Myers St  
Geelong  
  
38 Fd Bty 5231 2056  
Queen St  
Colac

**CONTENTS AND SUBMISSIONS**

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

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

Submissions for the **July 2008** issue are required no later than **1<sup>st</sup> June 2008** unless otherwise arranged with the Editor.

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# The President Writes

It is becoming increasingly difficult to keep the Association information in this magazine up to date. The main reason for this is the increased lead time now required for printing. This has been caused by a re-structuring of the defence printing system. For the notification of any activities to be included, before they have actually occurred, it is necessary for the information to be in the hands of the Editor two months before publication date. This also means that the email is becoming increasingly popular as a means of promulgating information. If you have access to email and know of members who do not, it would be much appreciated if you could pass on any relevant information.

I recently took the opportunity to visit the Vietnam Veterans Museum on Phillip Island. I would recommend to all that is time and money (a small cost) well spent.

Our Annual Church Parade was held on the second Sunday in February with the usual attendance by the members, and was supported by 2/10. The Queen's Banner was paraded, and the band performed to the high standard to which we have become accustomed. After church the ColComdt, Brig Perry, presented a number of medals and awards to members of the Regiment. This was followed by a meal worthy of any better class eating establishment. "It was great".

I would like to congratulate Brig Perry, on behalf of myself and all members of the Association, on recently qualifying for membership of the "Over Seventies Club".

Regards to all

Neil Hamer  
MAJ (R)

## Membership Report April 2008

### Current Membership

Life Members	210
Annual Members	59
Senior Annual Members	20
Serving Concessional Members	26
Affiliates	37
Others (CO/CI, Messes, etc.)	11
Libraries	5
RSL	1
<u>Total</u>	<u>369</u>

### New Members

We welcome Capt Chris Renwick AM as a Life Member and Sgt Brendan Breen as an Annual Member to the Association.

I would remind Annual Members that once you attain the age of 80 years your membership becomes free of charge (no annual subs).

It is necessary for you to register your date of birth with me so that you can be placed in the no subs category. Twenty members (YS) are currently registered.

**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](mailto:nhamer@bigpond.net.au)



## **The Day St Kilda Was Bombed**

The St Kilda Historical Society gratefully acknowledges the research for this extraordinary article, which was collated from newspapers by Pearl Donald and then typed by SKHS history recorder Alison Burnett in 2002.

### **The Argus November 10th 1877**

#### THE DANGERS OF SHOT AND SHELL PRACTICE

##### TO THE EDITOR OF THE ARGUS

Sir,- This afternoon about 3pm, a solid conical shot (weighing, at a guess, a hundred weight) came whizzing into St.Kilda, and as I have taken some trouble to investigate the course and direction traversed by this projectile and the damage done, I here with give you the particulars, trusting that you will use your influence to prevent any chance of further visitors from the guns of Nelson.

The shot first struck the sand not far from the water's edge, then crashed through some palings, and taking an upward direction went clean through Mr. Stone's organ workshop, and just missed the roof of a house close by; it afterwards again struck the earth on the flat, nearly killing a Chinaman; again bounding up, it next visited *terra firma* outside the door of the St.Kilda railway station, frightening a cab horse, who bolted. Glancing upwards once more, it crossed Fitzroy street, narrowly missing some lady friends of mine, who were covered with dust and stones raised by the ground being struck as before mentioned. Passing over Mr. Thomas Taylor's palings, it finally struck Mr. Dare's house of business in Grey Street, and being spent, rebounded on to the waste ground adjoining. The shot is now to be seen at the George Hotel, and a formidable thing it is.

It is a little less than a miracle that no lives have been lost and that so little damage has been done, and the manner in which several houses and people in direct line have escaped through the eccentric ricochets could not fail to surprise greatly any one who investigates the matter.

I think that the real wonder is, considering the continual firing shorewards at short distance, that there should so seldom, if ever, be an event of this kind to report.

### **The Age November 10th 1877**

#### ST.KILDA BOMBARDED

The inhabitants of St.Kilda were considerably startled yesterday afternoon by the advent of an unwelcome stranger, in the shape of a large shell, which appears to have been unwittingly discharged from H.M.S. Wolverine. The missile first struck the fence of Mr. Stone's premises, in Patterson Street, and thence passed through his workshop, within a very short distance of Mr. Stone, who was engaged there at the time, damaging in its transit the pipes of a new organ, which he is building. After passing over two houses it alighted on the cabstand, near the St.Kilda railway station, whence it scattered fragments of road metal on to the roof of Wimpole's Hotel, a distance of about 100 yards, and finally spent itself against Mr. Dare's house, making a hole in the eighteen inch wall, of about eight inches in diameter. As the shot passed over Fitzroy Street at an elevation of about five feet, it may be considered most providential that no persons were passing at the time, as had it happened, just after the arrival of the train the consequences might have been

disasterous. Sir G Brown & Governor Weld may be considered to have had a narrow escape, as they passed the spot shortly before or after the occurrences. The shell, which weighs about 100 pounds, being 21 inches in height and 8 inches in diameter, was picked up by Mr. A. C Armstrong, who intends exhibiting it today in Bourke St.

### **THE AGE November 12th 1877**

It appears that the shell that paid such an unexpected visit to St.Kilda on Friday last, was fired from the Nelson, and obtained its direction in a very extraordinary manner. It was fired from a gun with a 24lb. charge of powder, at a target set up in the Bay, but it fell short, and, striking the water, ricocheted at a tangent and passed over to St.Kilda. The man who laid the gun was an experienced gunner, a recent arrival from England, and the eccentric flight of the projectile cannot be accounted for except by the supposition that the elevation of the piece must have been radically wrong.

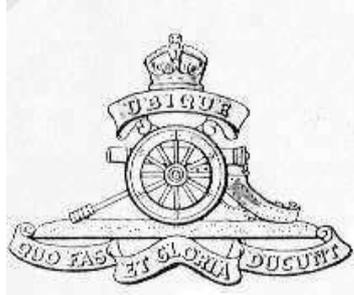
### **THE ARGUS November 13th 1877**

consideration yesterday the necessity of appointing a board to inquire into the circumstances under which a shell was fired from the Nelson during the drill of the Naval Reserve on Friday last. It appears that the shell was an unfilled one, and was fired from one of the bow guns towards the target which was fixed in the direction of Brighton. These guns are old 68 pounder smooth bores converted into rifled guns. It is considered a most extraordinary circumstance that the shell should have become so deflected to the left as to reach St.Kilda. Rifled guns, as a rule, always deflect to the right, and the shell apparently took the usual course after it first struck the sand on the beach. The subject was brought under the notice of the St.Kilda Council last evening by Councillor Wimpole, who was desirous of having an official letter sent to the Chief Secretary, pointing out the danger likely to arise, and the damage already done by the shell being thrown into the borough. The members of the council were, however, of the opinion that it was the duty of the party aggrieved, or his agent, to take the necessary steps to bring the matter under the notice of the Government. Accordingly, no official action was taken by the council.

Reprinted from St Kilda Historical Society Website

[http://www.skhs.org.au/~SKHSarticles1/articles/St\\_Kilda\\_Bombed.html](http://www.skhs.org.au/~SKHSarticles1/articles/St_Kilda_Bombed.html)





# NATIONAL GUNNER DINNER

A National Gunner Dinner will be held in conjunction with the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Battles of Coral and Balmoral Ceremonies and Events in Canberra 12<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> May 2008.

Firstly truly National Gunner Dinner held since the opening of the RAA National Memorial on Mount Pleasant in 1977.

It should be noted this National Gunner Dinner is not part of the Official 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Battles of Coral & Balmoral Activities.

It is being hosted jointly by the Representative Colonel Commandant, Major General Tim Ford and Head of Regiment, Brigadier Phil Winter in conjunction with the occasion.

- Format Traditional Gunner Dinner with Key Note Speaker(s)
- Attendance All Serving and Retired Gunners are welcome and encouraged to attend
- **Date Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> May 2008**
- Location Federal Golf Club Canberra
- Timings 1900 for 1930
- Dress Winter Mess Kit or Black Tie with miniature Medals
- Indicative Cost - \$80.00
- RSVP NLT Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2008

## **MAXIMUM ATTENDANCE TO LEAVE A LASTING IMPACT ON THE 40<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF THE BATTLE OF CORAL EVENTS**

The goal of the RAA coordinators of the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Battle of Coral in Canberra on 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> May 2008 is to make the biggest gathering of Serving and Retired Gunners in Australia since the opening of the Vietnam Memorial.

All Regiments and Independent Sub Units are strongly encouraged to send multiple representatives to the Battle of Coral public events in Canberra. Likewise the wide range of RAA state, unit and sub unit associations from across the country are urged to ensure a representative body of their membership support events and bring their banners and display them where and when appropriate.

RSVP and/or more Information Contact  
Major Terry Brennan 07 4651 0939 or 0419 179 974  
or email [stratford01@bigpond.com.au](mailto:stratford01@bigpond.com.au)  
or Captain Tom Adams 03 5735 6465 or 0407 921 328  
or email [Thomas.adams@defence.gov.au](mailto:Thomas.adams@defence.gov.au)

# **Royal Australian Artillery Official program**

**13<sup>th</sup> MAY 2008**

## **❖ 1000hr National Combined Battles of Coral & Balmoral Memorial Service**

- 1) Combined Arms Ceremony
- 2) Location Vietnam Veterans Memorial , ANZAC Avenue
- 3) Attendance Unrestricted Open to Public

## **❖ 1130hr 12<sup>th</sup> Field Regiment Plaque Dedication**

- 1) RAA Event
- 2) Location Australian War Memorial
- 3) Attendance Unrestricted Open to Public

## **❖ 1900hr 1930h RAA NATIONAL GUNNER DINNER**

- 1) Location Federal Golf Club Canberra
- 2) Attendance All Serving & Retired Gunners are welcome and encouraged to attend
- 3) Dress Winter Mess Kit or Black Tie with Miniature Medals
- 4) Indicative Cost - \$80.00

**14<sup>th</sup> MAY 2008**

## **❖ 1000hr RAA National Battle of Coral Commemorative Ceremony**

- 1) RAA National Event
- 2) Location Royal Australian Artillery National Memorial, Mt Pleasant
- 3) Attendance Unrestricted Open to the Public

Gunners are encouraged to stay at:-  
Eagle Hawk Holiday Park, 1246 Federal Highway, SUTTON. Hotel and Bistro on site  
Rates from \$80.00 per night. Book ASAP to avoid disappointment



## The Ballarat Avenue of Honour



The Ballarat Avenue of Honour is significant as the earliest known memorial avenue to have been planted in Victoria, and appears to have stimulated similar plantings throughout Victoria in the years 1917 to 1921. They predominate in Victoria with the greatest concentration in the Central Highlands around Ballarat. These avenues represent a new egalitarian approach in the commemoration of soldiers where service rank was not a consideration and are illustrative of a peculiarly Australian, populist and vernacular response to the experience of the First World War. They had declined in popularity as a means of commemoration by the time of the Second World War (Criterion A.4) The Ballarat Avenue is the longest avenue of honour in Australia and, composed of exotic trees planted along a major road, is a dominant landscape feature in the low farming country with a powerful social message.

### History of the Avenue

The idea for the Ballarat Avenue of Honour in 1917 was attributed to Mrs W.D. (Tilly) Thompson, a director of a local clothing manufacturer, E. Lucas & Co. Between June 1917 and August 1919, a tree was planted for each soldier who enlisted as a resident of the urban area of Ballarat. The trees were planted in order of the soldiers enlistment, and stretched some 22km along the Western Highway, consisting of 3,771 trees.

This concept created the beginning of a cultural landscape peculiar to Australia. At least 128 Avenues of Honour were planted throughout Victoria between 1917 and 1921, the majority concentrated in the Central Highlands.

From the beginning, the Ballarat Avenue was grand in concept, culminating in the official opening of the Arch of Victory by the Prince of Wales in 1920. The 500 staff of E. Lucas & Co. (known as the 'Lucas Girls') not only raised the money required, but then proceeded to plant all the trees themselves on weekends.

To this day, the Avenue continues to present a vast and memorable leafy gateway to the City of Ballarat, and a grand living monument to those who volunteered for active service.

## Location

The Avenue of Honour is located along the Ballarat Burrumbeet Road (former Western Highway) approximately 4 kilometres north west of the Ballarat City Centre. The Avenue is presently comprised of a total of 3,332 trees, and covers a distance of approximately 22km in length. It begins at the Arch of Victory in Alfredton, runs westward to Lake Burrumbeet where it changes direction and heads north, crossing the Western Freeway Bypass and continuing along Avenue Road to Weatherboard Learmonth Road. It is a continuous Avenue except where the Western Freeway Bypass has recently been constructed across it, and just south of this point where only a single row of trees lines the road on the east side.

## Tree Planting and Species:

On 3 June 1917, the first 1,000 trees in the Avenue were planted by staff from the local textile mill E. Lucas & Co. Just over two years later the final planting took place on 16 August 1919, with a total of 3,771 trees extending over a distance of approximately 14 miles along the Ballarat-Burrumbeet Road. There were eight plantings in all, which took place sometime between June and August each year and usually consisted of around 500 trees. The trees were planted in single lines along either side of the road at a regular spacing of 35-40ft apart, and set back from the edge of the carriageway approximately 15-20ft. Each newly planted tree was protected by a substantial timber guard, to which a plate bearing each soldier's name, rank and unit was attached.

Originally 23 different species of trees were planted in the Avenue including American Ash, English Ash, Mountain Ash, North American Maple, Scarlet Oak, Norway Maple, Broadleaf Maple, English Maple, Alder Trees, Lime Trees, Ontario Poplars, Silver Birch, Deciduous Cypress, Oaks (Sailors), Purple Leaf Elm, New Silver Poplars, Tulip trees, Huntingdon Elms, Canadian Giant Elms, Oriental Planes, Black Italian Poplars, Sugar Maple and Chestnut Oak. Individual species were usually planted in blocks of about 50 trees (25 either side), however during the last two sections of the Avenue a slight change was made and two different species were used alternately and planted in blocks of around 100 trees). Many of the original species used in the Avenue did not flourish and were soon replaced by several different species of Elm *Ulmus* sp. and Poplar *Populus* sp.

## Bronze Memorial Plaques:

In 1934 the original Avenue name plates fixed to the tree guards (most of which were lost or missing) were replaced with the permanent bronze name plaques in the Avenue today. Manufactured by the local Ballarat firm of Mann Bros., the plaques were hand cast in gunmetal and bolted to mild steel straps set in concrete footings at the base of each tree.

The previous Avenue name plates fixed to the tree guards between 1917 and 1919 originally recorded each soldier's name (including full Christian name), unit and rank. However, in 1934 the Arch of Victory Avenue of Honour Committee decided that no reference to any title or rank should be included on the new plaques, and that full Christian names would be replaced with an initial. Consequently, each bronze plaque records a soldier's name (surname with up to three initials), tree number and battalion. When known, many of the plaques also included a cross below a soldier's name to indicate that they were killed in action.

Reprinted from the Ballarat Accommodation & Tourism Directory

<http://www.ballarat.com/avenue.htm>

*To be continued* ..



## **Unit Histories**

### **2/11th Field Regiment**

The 2/11th Field Regiment began to take shape on 1 July 1940 when Lieutenant Colonel Leonard Stillman was appointed commander of the regiment and set up a temporary headquarters at the 22nd Field Brigade Drill Hall on Swan Street, Richmond, Victoria. Initial volunteers for the regiment came from depots at Geelong, Caulfield, Balcombe, and Royal Park, and were concentrated at the military camp at Seymour. The 21st and 22nd Batteries were formed. In October 1941, while the regiment was in Syria, a third battery, the 61st, was formed.

The regiment was formed as part of the 8th Division and in September moved to Bonegilla, where it joined other units of the division. While at Bonegilla, the regiment received its first allocation of guns – 18-pounders from the First World War. In October the 2/11th was allocated to the I Australia Corps and moved to Puckapunyal. It was an allocation that saved the regiment from the fate that befell the rest of the division.

In February 1941 the 2/11th moved to the Sea Lake area of Mallee country, Victoria, where it carried out exercises in the desert. It was the first time an artillery regiment received desert training in Australia. The exercises emulated the conditions of the Libyan desert and in April the regiment embarked for overseas service.

Having travelled by troopship, the regiment arrived at Suez, Egypt, in May and went on by train to the camp at Hill 95, Palestine. Hill 95 was just one of a number of camps accommodating the Second Australian Imperial Force (2nd AIF) in Palestine, and where the 2nd AIF could organise and train away from distractions. Other camps were at Gaza Ridge, Kilo 98, Hill 95, Deir Suneid, Dimra, Beit Jirja, Barbara, Julis, and Qastina. In June the 2/11th received 4.5-inch howitzers and then 18-pounders.

In June the Allies – British, Australian, Indian, and the Free French – invaded Syria and encountered heavier-than-expected resistance from the Vichy French forces. Late in the month the 2/11th received word it would relieve the 1st Field Regiment of the Royal Artillery and that it would be attached to the British 6th Division, then in action near Jabel Mazar, in the Damascus Sector. The 2/11th was given little time to familiarise itself with the 25-pounders. It was soon under hostile artillery fire from the Vichy French but quickly returned fire. The 1st Field Regiment, assisted with personnel from the 2/11th, supported the 4th Indian Division capture of Mezze, on 21 June. Mezze was captured after three days of heavy fighting. The campaign continued for several weeks, but the Vichy French surrendered on 12 July.

Now part of the occupation force, in mid-July the regiment moved by train to Damascus, by bus to Qatana, and finally to Rayak airfield, home to 3 Squadron, RAAF, in the Bekaa Valley, Lebanon. The 2/11th was responsible for airfield security. In September the 2/11th moved to the Qatana area, about 20 miles from Damascus, where the men were able to spend their leave and also in Beirut. The unit remained in the Middle East until March 1942, when it and the 6th and 7th Divisions returned to Australia. However, rather than return as a single body, the regiment was divided into five groups and travelled to Australia on five different troop ships: Andes, Laconia, Skjelbred, Dorset, and Melbourne Star. The 2/11th did not come together until June when, after having been granted leave, it concentrated in Woodford, north-west of Brisbane.

In December the regiment received orders that it would move to Darwin to relieve the 2/14th Field Regiment. Leaving Woodford on 4 January 1943 the 2/11th travelled by truck, train, and then truck again, and finally reached the Darwin fortress area 19 days later. The regiment established its headquarters at Larrakeyah Barracks and became the Fortress Defence Field Regiment. During this time, Darwin was bombed periodically by Japanese aircraft, with last raid taking place in November. The regiment remained in Darwin until September when it again embarked for overseas service, this time in New Guinea.

The 2/11th moved by troopship to Lae, New Guinea, and was trucked to Nadzab, in the Markham Valley. The United States 5th Air Force had developed Nadzab into a major air base. While at Nadzab, men from the regiment helped develop the base and regiment's quarters, trained in the jungle, and provided working parties to help load and unload ships at Lae.

After seven months in New Guinea, in April and May 1945 the regiment moved to Torokina, on Bougainville, the main Australian base on the island and headquarters to II Australian Corps. The

Australians had been fighting an offensive campaign against the Japanese on the island and had divided the island into three sectors: Northern, Central, and Southern Sectors. The main focus of the campaign was in the Southern Sector, where the 3rd Division was advancing towards the main Japanese base at Buin.

After spending some time in Torokina, the 2/11th moved south to support the 15th Brigade's advance from the Hongorai River. By mid-May the regiment's 21st and 61st Batteries were situated in the Hiru Hiru area, east of Slater's Knoll. (22 Battery remained at Torokina until it was brought forward at the end of May.) The brigade advanced along a two-battalion front, one battalion moved along the Buin Road while the other advanced down the Commando Road, towards the Hari and then later the Ogorata and Mobiai Rivers. The brigade's ultimate objective was the Mivo River. The regiment bombarded Japanese positions and provided artillery support for patrols. Each battery supported a battalion. The 2/11th was also engaged in counter-battery fire, as the Japanese had numerous guns in the Southern Sector.

By the beginning of June the regiment, including its three batteries and headquarters, were together in the Southern Sector. However, on 14 June the 2/11th's commanding officer, Lieutenant Colonel John Hayes, was killed in an ambush. Hayes was the only member of the regiment killed in action.

With the support of artillery, armour, and air strikes, the Australian infantry reached the Mivo River by July. It had not been an easy advance. Between 17 May and the end of June, the 2/11th fired 18,000 rounds. However, by July torrential rain, which flooded rivers and turned the Buin Road into a "sea of mud", stopped the Australians.

Following Japan's surrender in August and the end of the war, the 2/11th returned to Torokina. Over time the ranks of the regiment thinned, as men were either discharged or transferred to other units. At the end of the year, the 2/11th Field Regiment was disbanded.

#### **Battle Honours**

- nil

#### **Casualties**

- 12 died
- 13 wounded

#### **Commanding Officers**

- Entink, Hubert James
- Hayes, John Michael
- Samson, Brian Eric Gerard
- Stillman, Leonard Robert

#### **Decorations**

- 2 MC
- 2 MID

#### **References**

- *AWM52: 4/2/11 2/11 Field Regiment war diary*
- Hocking, Patricia, *Twice a digger : Leonard Roberts Stillman, MC. ; OBE. barrister, solicitor, soldier, 1893-1972*, (Richmond, Vic.: Spectrum, 1995)
- Lewis, Bill; 2/11 Field Regiment Association History Committee, *Observation post : six years of war with the 2/11 Aust. Army Field Regiment*, (West Essendon, Vic.: 2/11th Australian Army Field Regiment Association, 1989)



**Australian War Memorial**

Australian Tourism Awards  
Major Tourist Attraction  
HALL OF FAME

-2008 Australian War Memorial

[http://www.awm.gov.au/units/unit\\_10382second\\_world\\_war.asp](http://www.awm.gov.au/units/unit_10382second_world_war.asp)

## The Australian Ex Prisoners of War Memorial Ballarat



Between the Boer War at the turn of the last century and the Korean War in the 1950's, 34,737 Australian servicemen and women were incarcerated in Prisoner-of War (POW) camps. Many suffered inhumane and atrocious treatment from their captors. To this day there is no Memorial in Australia such as this dedicated to these Australians or any recognition of their pain and suffering endured in the service of our nation. The motto of these brave prisoners was "When you go home, tell them of us and say that we gave our tomorrow for your today"

A memorial has been built in the Botanical Gardens in Ballarat.

The monument has been designed by well known sculptor Peter Blizzard with the intention to provide ex-prisoners of war, their descendants, visitors and future generations with a reflective experience where they can pay homage to those who endured so much.

The POW monuments' design uses the basic idea of a journey through and an experience of time and place. The start of the pathway is long and straight heading off into the shape of railway sleepers, a reference to the Burma Railway. Running parallel to the pathway is a polished black granite wall, 130m long etched with the names of all the Australian POW's. Standing in a reflective pool are huge basalt obelisks up to 4.5m high with the names of the POW camps. The columns are out of reach and across the water symbolizing that all the POW camps were away from Australian shores. Further on there is another wall with the words Lest we Forget engraved, allowing for an area of contemplation and reflection after the "journey".

Reprinted from the Ballarat Accommodation & Tourism Directory

<http://www.ballarat.com/memorial.htm>



From: MAJ N Hamer RFD  
For: Convening Committee  
Gunner Dinner 2008



# INVITATION

## Royal Australian Artillery Association (Victoria)



### ***Gunner Dinner 2008***

The President and Committee of the RAA Association (Vic) extend to you, (and a guest if you so desire) a warm invitation to attend the 2008 All Ranks Gunner Dinner.

The Dinner will be held at the **Caulfield RSL**, 4 St Georges Road, Elsternwick on Friday 1<sup>st</sup> August 2008 at 1900 for 1930 hrs.

Dress is Mess Dress, Black Tie with Miniatures, Lounge Suit, or Jacket and Tie. Serving members may wear polyesters.

The Banner of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II will be paraded if it is available to us on this date.

The Band of the 2/10 FD REGT will provide music.

Entrée is \$60 per person and includes pre-dinner drinks, hors d'oeuvres, three courses, table wines, port, coffee and cheese.

After dinner drinks will be available at bar prices.

Please return the form below, together with a cheque made payable to the RAA Assoc (Vic) **not later than Monday 14<sup>th</sup> July 2008.**

The Association looks forward to your support for this year's Gunner Dinner.

The Commanding Officer and the Presidents of the Mess Committees have kindly made the Sargood Barracks (Chapel Street) messes available at the conclusion of the Dinner.

Any member who requires assistance with transport should contact Lt Col Jason Cooke on Home: 03 9705 1155. Work: 03 9282 6900. e-mail: jason.cooke@defence.gov.au

Carers are also welcome to attend, but the entrée must be paid.

Enquires and return address: Ssgt Reg Morrell 6 Melissa Street Mount Waverley 3149,  
Phone: 9562 9552 Email: morrells@morrell.org

### **GUNNER DINNER 2008**

Rank \_\_\_\_\_ Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

I accept your invitation to attend the 2008 Gunner Dinner.

Enclosed is a cheque for \$ \_\_\_\_\_ which includes entr

Rank \_\_\_\_\_ Name \_\_\_\_\_

Rank \_\_\_\_\_ Name \_\_\_\_\_

Special dietary requirements \_\_\_\_\_

If possible I wish to seated near \_\_\_\_\_

# 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

Continued from Issue 94



Bazley and Bean  
P00326.015

An awareness of history - of a town, a ship or a nation - can truly be said to inspire. As one of the Memorial's historians I can say that I am often mindful of the example of Arthur Bazley. 'Baz' played a major role in shaping the official records of the Great War, arguably the core of our collection. Here he is with a sinister-looking Charles Bean in Egypt in 1915. One vignette of Bazley is all I can spare, but I believe that it is a telling one. At the outbreak of war in 1939 Bazley was asked to move from Sydney, where he worked with Charles Bean, to Canberra to become Acting Chief Clerk and Librarian. Bean wrote to Tas Heyes, who took over as Director when Treloar joined the AIF. He wrote to record his appreciation of what Bazley had contributed. Bazley, he wrote

*has been responsible from the first for the war records side of my work. He probably knows more about the war records of Australia than any other man; certainly more than I do. He is accustomed to making quick researches and setting them forth in clear style, & is extraordinarily thorough. In addition he has the ability to write and edit, as his work for Reveille, & the editing of many regimental histories show*

*As you know, he is tireless, & the work that he has done out of office hours is probably nearly as valuable as that which he has done in them. He is completely loyal, & an unselfish companion to work with, & we will miss him more than I can say*

Arthur Bazley remains an inspiration to those of us who aspire to follow his example. He reminds us of what we find worthwhile by spending our working lives in proximity to the collection that he

created, and how we need to continually touch it - and not a digital version of it - to refresh ourselves and remain mindful of what it means. Bazley's departure from the Memorial in 1946, after finding that he and Treloar were incompatible, reminds us that the Memorial has not always been as kind as it ought to have been to accommodate those who sought to serve it.

There is another Bazley in the Memorial's history: Fred, Arthur's brother. His story reminds us of the larger setting of the first twenty years of the Memorial's existence, years dominated by the aftermath of the Great War and the great depression which blighted the lives of institutions as much as individuals. Late in 1931 an obviously embarrassed Arthur interceded with Treloar and Tas Heyes to seek a position for his brother. Treloar described the problem to a colleague. Fred Bazley, he explained,

*Was obviously very distressed and the strain and troubles of unemployment, etc. during the past two years or so have left their mark upon him. He enlisted probably as soon as he was old enough to do so and served in the A.I.F. without any trade or fixed occupation to return to upon his discharge. I feel that he is especially deserving of assistance.*

Fred Bazley had enlisted in 1916 and had returned in 1919. He had been employed by the Memorial before, as a watchman in the early 1920s, when his reputation for unreliability obliged Treloar to let him go. Now, married and with a child he was needy. All Treloar could offer, however, was a couple of months' work as an attendant, and during that time Fred borrowed from workmates in funds. Early in 1932, with the casual job over he walked and hitched from Melbourne to Sydney to look for work there, perhaps to lean again on his brother. Imagining that long tramp and the waiting by the side of the road at Wangaratta, Albury, Junee or Goulburn, evokes the world of that classic novel of depression Australia, My Brother Jack.



AWM 087645

Fred Bazley's story reminds us that not all who worked for the Memorial in offices like this devoted their lives to it. But even those who remain for a short while make a contribution. Representative of them is, perhaps, Miss Alma Brown, whose file I plucked at random from the series AWM 93. Miss Brown - as she would have been known in those more formal times - began work as what was described as a Stenographer-Typiste in October 1929. She was a Fund Employee: that is, like the salesmen her work involved the 'Fund' which supported so much of the Memorial's activities, and which still does. Miss Brown's personal file is devoid of much of interest until in October 1931 she became very ill and had to take six weeks off work. As a Christian Scientist Miss Brown refused to consult a doctor, but fought it out and eventually returned to work. The problem was of course, that then as now the Public Service could not grant sick leave without a medical certificate. Miss Brown stoutly held to her convictions and would not see a doctor. John Treloar, acted with a characteristic combination of tact and Methodist rectitude. He could have docked her pay, but did not, instead allowing her to draw on the following year's recreation leave. This, he decided, was the 'fairest course to take'. Three years later Miss Brown left, perhaps in dramatic circumstances. She later wrote to thank Treloar for a reference that secured her a job in Defence, but also to 'apologise for the manner in which I terminated my service with the War Memorial'. Whatever the circumstances -

and one of the frustrations of these files is that so much is left undocumented - Treloar praised Alma Brown as an efficient, punctual and most willing worker.

While we're gathering to mark the anniversary of the opening of the Memorial in Canberra we should recall too that not all of its staff made the shift.



AWM 132995

Norm Baglin had served with the 14th Field Artillery Brigade on the Western Front. Almost exactly the same age as John Treloar, he began work in 1920 as a storeman and later an attendant in the Exhibition Building. He soon became a 'temporary clerk', and remained temporary for nearly twenty years, possibly through the workings of the old Public Service rules for Third Division Officers, for he later went to night school to complete his Intermediate Certificate and qualify for permanency. Norm's the portly, white-haired man with the RSL badge accepting the papers, a picture from 1947.

Though the old Memorial was a small workplace it manifest a curious compound of formality and informality, especially under Treloar's sober hand. A week before Christmas in 1935 Treloar, who had worked closely with Baglin for fifteen years, wrote to him in a letter headed 'PERSONAL', but began 'Dear Mr Baglin'. Treloar continued 'with the completion of our transfer from Melbourne to Canberra, I feel I ought to thank you for the splendid way in which you have carried out your duties'. How far is this from today's tick-in-the-box 'Business Management Performance Feedback Scheme'? Not until 1938 did Treloar address Baglin as 'Norman'. He seems to have preferred 'Norm', and he comes across as a more racy character than one might expect from the old Memorial.

Norm hadn't followed Treloar and his colleagues to Canberra. He preferred to remain in Melbourne, not, it seems for family reasons, but perhaps because he revelled in the sporting life of the southern capital. He swapped duties with a salesman willing to become a clerk and, equipped with a motor car and a mileage allowance he grew into the job. In requesting an allowance Norm asked Tas Heyes to send him 'a cheque that I can cash at "Young & Jacksons" - the celebrated Melbourne pub - & not one of those beastly cheques which has to be paid to my Banking a/c (when I have one)'. His file includes allusions to the fortunes of his VFL team, Geelong, and to horse racing. Norm's personal file is full of complicated calculations for mileage allowances. In October 1940 a colleague suggested that the sudden submission of a claim 'makes me wonder if possibly it has some relation to your following the sport of kings'. 'I never think of sending in a claim', Norm breezily wrote to Arthur Bazley, 'until I have a severe attack of the "shorts"'. Given a special dispensation by the Public Service Board to work on after turning 65, Norm retired at the age of 68 in 1962.

The Memorial has always been closely associated with the writing and publication of the official histories. A glimpse of Gavin Long's troubles in the 1950s gives an insight into the old Memorial through the eyes of the medical historian, Dr Allan Walker. [insert photo 12 106066]. These are the Second World War official historians, with Allan Walker the silver-haired gentleman to the left of the doorway.

The early 'fifties were the Second World War official history's busiest years, with drafts arriving from authors, to be edited or circulated for comment. Bound by Public Service regulation Long was able to obtain approval for two evenings of overtime per month. The dominance of the Public Service Board (located across what is now the lake in Barton) is apparent in the matter of Mrs Glynis Pope's re-classification. From 1948, Long repeatedly reported that lack of typing assistance was 'very seriously impeding production of the war history'. He sought approval from the Board for Mrs Pope, a typist working for Allan Walker, to be re-classified from Typist Grade 1 to Typist Grade 2. To achieve this promotion, which involved an increase in Mrs Pope's salary of twelve pounds a year, Long had negotiated for a year with a Mr Peverill and a Mr Laird, Public Service Board inspectors. The story is taken up by a satirical parody in Allan Walker's hand, entitled 'Peverill' and placed on the file in retribution.

*One day with buds on every tree  
The Laird of Barton came,  
An angel from the PSB  
Pervasive, shy and tame*

*He held within his clutching hand  
A bunch of formal files,  
With regulations neatly planned  
To beat Departments' wiles*

*He sat and tried with furrowed brow  
Things medical to imbibe,  
Deciding if he could endow  
Promotion on the scribe*

*The Editor long and wordily  
The angel then engages,  
But still the end could not foresee  
As controversy rages*

*And as he watched the angel go,  
And kept the faintest hope  
That he may kindly yet bestow  
A blessing on our Pope*

This delightful vignette illuminates the administrative atmosphere in which Long and his colleagues worked, and beyond it the little world of old Canberra. It's a world conjured up for me by this photograph



AWM 133671

which is the sit-down farewell tea for Dr Graham Butler in 1948: quite different to the informal gatherings of today. Much in this world, and especially within the Memorial, prompts nostalgia. There was the camaraderie of those who had literally devoted their lives to its service, of the morning tea-cum-smoko, with cakes and slices baked by the ladies, of offices open to old diggers

to wander in for a chat. Bill Gammage once touched affectionately upon this world in his recollection of 'the last days of the library's prehistory', in an article in the Memorial's Journal. The contrast with today's Public Service is striking. I was fortunate to have seen its last, baroque phase: in 1980, an overseas letter could only be sent after applying for the requisite aerogramme to the head of the typing pool. She would dispense it from the stores cupboard personally.

Though all the Memorial's founders were men, women have always performed important work in it. Indeed, some of the most long-serving staff have been women and they became the mainstay of the institution, embodying the dedication and self-sacrifice so characteristic of the old Memorial.



Elizabeth Southern

The Memorial's service could entail foregoing opportunities and reward. Elizabeth Southern joined the Memorial in 1933, for much of that time working as the Director's secretary. In 1944, under the operation of the Women's Employment Board, she was paid at the male rate for Clerks Class 1 - the base grade of the old Third Division. When male and female pay rates were made equal, Miss Southern actually saw her classification, and perhaps her pay, reduced. All this time her duties became heavier. She was not only the Director's secretary but was also responsible for ceremonies and for visits, performing duties today undertaken by several people. She personally organised every ANZAC Day and Remembrance Day ceremony for thirty years. Not until 1974 was she promoted for the first time, to Clerk Class 4. She missed out on the upward drift in classification through which the Public Service began to pass in the 1970s. Miss Southern retired in 1977, aged 65. Her friends on the staff presented her with a farewell gift of a canteen of cutlery and she later received a British Empire Medal: both doubtless cherished in the long years of retirement before her death in 1999.



Vera Blackburn

Miss Vera Blackburn worked in the Library for over fifty years. She had commenced as a temporary typiste in August 1920 when it was housed in the old Money Order Office of the Melbourne GPO. She too waited a long time for promotion, being appointed Senior Assistant

(Female) in 1945. She would have known many of those smiling at our imaginary camera, including Alma Brown, Arthur Bazley, Norm Baglin and Glynis Pope. By 1969 she was, as Bruce Harding observed, 'the last member of the original staff'. Miss Blackburn was evidently a redoubtable and demanding librarian of the old school, formally unqualified but steeped in the idiosyncrasies of her unique collection. The file records her exasperation at a succession of librarians and clerical assistants who did not share her commitment to the records that she had nurtured. Her knowledge was irreplaceable. In ordering the Bean papers, for example, (a task which Michael Piggott completed in 1982) she was able to draw upon Arthur Bazley's advice, one of the last links with the Memorial's founders. She looked apprehensively toward her farewell as an 'ordeal'. Bill Sweeting, who had known her and worked with her for more than thirty years, sensitively counselled her to accept that she had reached the end of her service. 'The time to drop your burden has arrived', he wrote, 'the step is harder the more deeply one is absorbed in one's work'. When in 1971 Miss Blackburn was awarded the Imperial Service Medal she reflected that 'my work was not just a job but a privilege to be able to take part in the building of Australia's history'.

I'm conscious that there are a great many individuals I ought to have mentioned, people on the staff and also in other, equally important roles. I could have talked about our voluntary guides - I'm thinking of ladies like Nan Whitelaw, Joan Whitaker and Norma Wrigley, who've given so much time to the place over so many years. And there's those who've served the Memorial in other roles such as Council. Again, in my time alone I'm recalling distinguished Australians such as Bryan Gandevia, David Ride and Yvonne McComb-King, all of whom did so much to make the Memorial a centre of research. Above all, I'm conscious that I haven't done justice to the people who represented the old Memorial for me when I began here: Elsie Smith, Don Evans, Geoff McKeown, Dorothy Percival and Peter Burness.

The Memorial that they knew has passed. There have been many changes. Alma Brown would today have been offered counselling and sent on a careers management course. We would hope that Fred Bazley's trauma will never again be suffered by an Australian returning from serving in war. Vera Blackburn would be surprised to find that she would not need the foot-warmer she asked for in the winter of 1950. Norm Baglin would now submit his mileage claims by MIBIS, our electronic finance system, though whether he'd be paid with a cheque he could cash at Young & Jackson's is less certain. More importantly, though all these people served in or were closely touched by the Great War, over one in ten of the Memorial's staff today have never met someone who lived through the Great War. But if we have seen many profound changes, we retain many strong connections to those people and the institution they served. The women of the Memorial - and some men - still bring in cakes and slices for morning teas. We try to know our collection as well as they did; perhaps we even take it less for granted. More importantly, we still guard the record that they themselves made, here in the heart of the land they loved; in the shadow of Mount Ainslie, with the sound of the cockatoos and magpies echoing around the Cloisters.

Reprinted from the AWM Website

<http://awm.gov.au/aboutus/60th/peter/index.htm>



## ARMY MUSEUM OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

### ARTILLERY BARRACKS

The Artillery Barracks is located on the southern side of Cantonment Hill, a prominent limestone rise near the mouth of the Swan River and overlooking the Port of Fremantle.

Between 1906 and 1908, coastal defence batteries were commissioned at Fort Arthur Head near the port and Fort Forrest a few kilometres north. The barracks were built between 1910 and 1913 to provide a home for the gunners from the Royal Australian Garrison Artillery (RAGA) who manned these forts.

The first buildings constructed on the Cantonment Hill site in those years were two double storey accommodation blocks housing up to 100 gunners, four houses for married Non-Commissioned Officers, two larger houses for married officers, a Gymnasium, a small hospital (later converted into the Sergeants' Mess), a Quartermasters Store, a horse and cart shed (the Artillery was not mechanised until 1939), an Orderly Room and Guard Room (with two cells) flanking the entrance gate. A large grassed area on the northern side of the hill was used for agistment of the horses.



Artillery Barracks c 1914-1919

At the outbreak of war in August 1914 there was no general military hospital in Western Australia. A section of 22nd Field Ambulance, an Australian Army Medical Corps militia unit, was stationed at Artillery Barracks and a small clearing station and hospital was established. It could only accommodate around 50 cases and was soon overtaxed, treating dozens of young recruits from the training camp at Blackboy Hill sick with infectious diseases such as mumps and scarlet fever. During 1915 8th Australian General Hospital (8 AGH) was established in Fremantle and commenced to receive patients from overseas. The clearing station and hospital at the barracks were discontinued and personnel and patients transferred to 8 AGH.

In July 1916, when hundreds of casualties from the Western Front were being returned to Australia, the barracks became a "Details Camp" and a rehabilitation hospital. This was for the reception of men discharged from hospital and awaiting discharge from the AIF or return to full duty. Accommodation limits were soon reached and this facility was transferred to Karrakatta in December 1916.

From January 1919 until 1920, the 26th Australian Auxiliary Hospital (26 AAH) was established at Artillery Barracks and specialised in the treatment of soldiers, mainly Light horsemen, who had contracted malaria on service in the Middle East. 26 AAH was controlled by 8 AGH.



Group of gunners near front entrance to Artillery Barracks, c1911-1914

During World War One, the barracks was also the site of an internment camp. Enemy aliens, mostly men from countries of the Austro-Hungarian Empire and not naturalised as British citizens, were brought to the barracks for assessment by staff of Army Intelligence. They were retained at the barracks temporarily before being moved to an internment camp established on Rottnest Island. After the Rottnest Island Camp closed in November 1915, most of the internees were transferred to camps in the Eastern States or released on parole. The barracks was then used as the site of internment of those subsequently arrested.

By 1920, the gunners returned to the barracks. It was not until the 1930s that changes were seen on the site. When Government funding was significantly increased after the lean years of the depression and as a result of a review of coastal defence, new artillery batteries were established at Oliver Hill and Bickley Point on Rottnest Island and at Swanbourne. Artillery Barracks was the centre of activity for this work and a number of additional stores buildings were constructed around the parade ground, including the Anti-Aircraft (AA) Gun Park. This was an indication of the development of defence technology since World War One.



Gunners from 6th Heavy Battery on parade c 1930s



Recruits from 3 Heavy Brigade man handling a coast gun (Armstrong MkIII) at the rear of the barracks c 1936

During World War Two, with Fremantle Harbour the home of the biggest submarine fleet in the Southern Hemisphere, the barracks was a main base of work and accommodation for home defence personnel, now including women soldiers. An underground command post with a number of tunnels was constructed under Cantonment Hill. From 1944 to 1945 the barracks was the Headquarters of Fremantle Fortress.

By 1950 missile and aircraft technology had made coastal guns redundant as a form of defence. The guns were put on a "care and maintenance" basis (all guns except Oliver Hill were removed in 1963) and the barracks by the early 1950s no longer housed soldiers. The former dormitories became lecture rooms for units of the Citizen Military Forces (CMF) bolstered by the numbers of National Servicemen after the scheme was introduced in 1951.



National Servicemen from 24 HAA Regiment, RAA, with a 3.7 inch anti-aircraft gun on the parade ground at Artillery Barracks 1954

### **Artillery Units located at the Barracks**

- 1911 Royal Australian Garrison Artillery (RAGA)
- 1921 11 Battery, RAGA
- 1927 11 Heavy Battery, Royal Australian Artillery
- 1936 3 Heavy Brigade, Royal Australian Artillery (Comprising of 6 and 11 Heavy Batteries)
- 1950s 27 Coast regiment, 25 Medium Coast Battery, 24 Heavy Anti-Aircraft Regiment, RAA

There were no Artillery personnel serving at the Barracks after 1963.

### **Other Units located at the Barracks between 1950 and 1995**

These include units of both CMF (later Army Reserve) and Regular Army

- 3 Transport Squadron, Royal Australian Engineers
- Western Command Fortress Signal Troop, Royal Australian Corps of Signals
- Western Command Field Survey Section (later 5 Field Survey Squadron), Royal Australian Survey Corps
- HQ 5 Cadet Brigade and HQ 32 Cadet Battalion
- 4 Water Transport Troop, Royal Australian Engineers
- 113 Infantry Workshops, Royal Australian Electrical and Mechanical Engineers.
- 10 Company, Royal Australian Army Service Corps
- Australian Army Canteens Service

- 11 Field Security Section (later 11 Counter Intelligence Section), Australian Intelligence Corps
- 7 Field Ambulance, Royal Australian Army Medical Corps
- 5 Dental Unit, Royal Australian Army Dental Corps
- 5 Pay Corps Unit, Royal Australian Army Pay Corps
- 5 Electrical and Mechanical Engineer Services, Royal Australian Electrical and Mechanical Engineers.
- Western Australian University Regiment

The Artillery Barracks site was placed on the Register of the National Estate in 1982.

At the present time, the Barracks are shared by the Army Museum of Western Australia and the Western Australian University Regiment (WAUR), an Army Reserve Officer Training unit.

After relocating to Artillery Barracks, The Army Museum opened its first gallery in the barracks in 1995 and in 2004 was granted a licence by the Department of Defence to occupy the site for 25 years with an option to renew for a further 25 years.

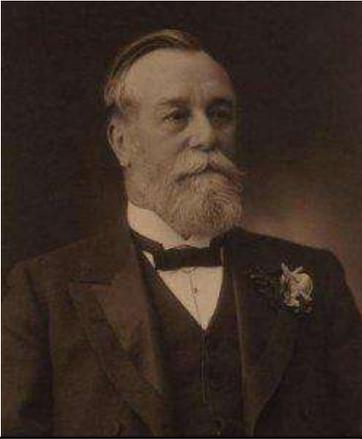


Reprinted from

[http://www.armymuseumwa.com.au/Artillery\\_Barracks\\_history.html](http://www.armymuseumwa.com.au/Artillery_Barracks_history.html)



## Sargood, Sir Frederick Thomas (1834 - 1903)



Sir Frederick Thomas Sargood (1834 - 1903), by unknown photographer, courtesy of National Library of Australia. nla.pic-an23504847.

Birth: 30 May 1834, Walworth, Surrey, England

Death: 2 January 1903, New Zealand

Occupation:

- colonial militia (Australia)
- federationist
- free trade politician
- goldminer
- Member of Upper House
- softgoods merchant

SARGOOD, Sir FREDERICK THOMAS (1834-1903), merchant and politician, was born on 30 May 1834 at Walworth, London, son of Frederick James Sargood (d.1873), merchant, and his wife Emma, née Rippon, daughter of a chief cashier of the Bank of England. Young Sargood, his education at 'private schools' in England presumably complete, arrived with his parents and five sisters in Melbourne in the *Clifton* on 12 February 1850. He worked briefly as a clerk in the Public Works Department before joining the wholesale

softgoods business of Sargood, King & Co., which his father had already established. He spent some time on the Mount Alexander goldfields in 1852-54, and managed the firm's business in the Bendigo-Castlemaine district. In 1858 he married Marian Australia, daughter of George Rolfe, merchant and later a member of the Legislative Council; next year he became a junior partner in the firm. His father, a radical in politics and a voluntarist in religion, was member of the Legislative Council for Melbourne in 1853-56 and of the Legislative Assembly for St Kilda in 1856-57 before returning to England. Meanwhile the firm had prospered, extending its operations to other colonies, including New Zealand in 1863. Partners came and went, but the Sargoods remained dominant. Sargood entered the Legislative Council in 1874 at a by-election for the Central Province, and a merger in 1879 with the firm of Martin, Butler and Nichol gave him more time for public affairs. His wife had died in childbirth on 6 January and in March 1880 he resigned from the council to take his nine children to England. On 2 December at the Independent Chapel, Ventnor, Isle of Wight, Sargood married Julia Tomlin, aged 34, and the family returned in October 1882.

Sargood held the Legislative Council seat of South Yarra in 1882-1901. On 13 November 1883 he joined the Service-Berry ministry as Victoria's first minister of defence. He had long had an interest in the subject, having joined the Victorian Volunteer Artillery in 1859 as a private, rising to the rank of lieutenant-colonel. Described as 'one of the best shots in Victoria' he was also closely involved in the rifle club movement; he had formed the St Kilda Rifle Corps in 1859. As minister Sargood backed an energetic programme to build up the Victorian navy, local fortifications and armament supplies, especially during the Russian war scare in March-May 1885. His task of organizing the change-over from volunteer to paid militia forces involved him in controversy with the new commandant, Colonel Disney, who believed that he should report direct to the governor. Sargood quickly disabused him and in 1885 appointed Major-General M. F. Downes as departmental secretary. This issue forced the Colonial Office to accept local control of defence. Many of Sargood's admirers considered the formation of the school cadet corps in 1884 his greatest monument. Commissioner of water-supply from April 1884 to 18 February 1886, he again held the defence portfolio, together with public instruction, in the Munro government in 1890-92 and for three months under Turner in 1894, when he was also vice-president of the Board of Land and Works. Created C.M.G. in 1885 he became K.C.M.G. in 1890.

In 1888 Sargood had succeeded W. E. Hearn as unofficial leader of the Legislative Council. Like many other free traders in Victoria he became reconciled to a lost cause, and 'did not trouble to state whether he was a Conservative or Liberal'; his opposition to 'One Man One Vote' and to land

taxation reveal his conservatism. Nevertheless, when introducing the factory bill in the council in 1885, he deplored the long hours he had worked as a young man, and praised his father's part in the early closing movement. In 1895-96 he was a leader in the consensus supporting legislation to set up the first wages boards; and in 1900 he persuaded the council temporarily to accept new boards, thereby ensuring that the system would become the basis of industrial relations in Victoria. A firm believer in the role of the Upper House, Sargood was tactful and reasonable in his dealings with the assembly; indeed, by avoiding constitutional crises he consolidated the council's authority. A supporter of Federation, he was omitted from the *Age* list, and missed out on the 1897 Convention but, appropriately, was elected to the first Senate in 1901.

Sargood was a commissioner of savings banks in 1874-80 and of the Melbourne Harbor Trust in 1877-80, also a director of the Commercial Bank until about 1895. By the 1880s he was very wealthy, with land-holdings in New South Wales including Ellerslie (Tumut) and Jerilderie (Urana). Although he has not been identified as a 'land boomer', as president of the Melbourne Chamber of Commerce in 1886-88 he did not doubt the sound basis of 'this unprecedented wave of prosperity'. His firm actually expanded in the depression of the 1890s. He was closely involved with the Melbourne Centennial International Exhibition, but his appointment as executive vice-president of the organizing commission provoked the resignation of Chief Justice Higinbotham from the presidency. Under Sargood the exhibition was a success but expensive.

Sargood was dapper and of medium height, with conventional beard and moustache and more than a suggestion of military style. With common sense, cool judgment and grasp of detail, he combined kindness and a sense of duty. Sidney and Beatrice Webb found him pleasant and sensible. Although a prominent supporter of the Congregational Church he refrained from joining, reputedly because he held opinions on rites and ceremonies similar to those of the Quakers. As a philanthropist he was 'not ostentatious in his charity, but large in his gifts'. He was also renowned as a generous host at his exuberant and famous mansion, Rippon Lea, designed by J. Reed, built in 1868-69 and set in superb gardens and grounds, complete with miniature rifle range.

Sargood died suddenly on 2 January 1903, on a holiday in New Zealand. On a scorching day in Melbourne thousands watched his funeral procession, which included eight massed bands, 1200 cadets and a firing-party of 300. He was buried in St Kilda cemetery, where members of the Metropolitan Liedertafel, of which he had been president, sang Sullivan's 'The Long Day Closes'. He was survived by Lady Sargood and their daughter, and by five sons and four daughters of his first marriage. His estate was valued for probate at £680,000; he also had substantial property in New South Wales, Western Australia and New Zealand.

### Select Bibliography

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More on the resources

**Author:** John Rickard

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<http://www.adb.online.anu.edu.au/biogs/A060099b.htm>



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## **MY SERVICE CAREER**

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

### **Part 31 1947 to 2007 in Revue**

For something like sixty years I have been associated with some form of military service. I will probably maintain that interest until I die. I had the good fortune never to have to test my preparedness in battle, yet I knew that I could have been so called on in a national emergency and not found too wanting.

I found the circumstances of a military life to be congenial right from the time I joined the Air Training Corps in 1947 as a school cadet. Whether I would have maintained such an interest if I had not been called up for National Service in 1954 I do not know.

Was this interest in my genes? My father's father had been in the medical corps in the First World War. My father as a 'boy soldier' had been with him in the band of the same regiment, but had been too young to serve when it went to France. Just before his 18<sup>th</sup> birthday he enlisted in the RAF to train as aircrew. Thankfully the Armistice was declared before he learnt to fly. In the Second World War he was an area warden in the ARP (Air Raid Precautions). On my mother side my uncles were members of the Territorial Army in The Artists' Rifles, a unit that became a parachute regiment, but after their period of service. So there were precedents. But I never had any interest in serving full-time.

#### **ATC**

I was 14 in 1947 when my school announced it would start an Air Training Corps flight. I was in the first group to volunteer. I had little success in sport and hence glad to find an activity that suited my interests.

I had no difficulty with drill, although the instructors may have thought otherwise. I attended camps at weekends and in school holidays. Here was more drill but also useful service subjects about flying. The highlight of such camps was when flights were arranged in Dakota aircraft (DC3).

I steadily rose in rank, although at no stage exactly meeting the formal requirements for promotion. As an acting Flight Sergeant, I was at the pinnacle until Cadet Warrant Officers and Pilot Officers were introduced. For those ranks I was thus ineligible. Lesson: sit for and pass promotion examinations!

But I did have the fortune to be awarded one of the first flying scholarships. I do not think this pleased my mother at all! Instruction was on Tiger Moth aircraft at Moorabbin. After thirteen hours of dual instruction<sup>1</sup> it was realized that on landing, I either nose-dived into the ground or stalled far too high. Why did the hair of the instructors appear to go white! It was decided that it would be healthier and cheaper all round for me to surrender the scholarship and keep both feet on the ground. Later a sight defect was diagnosed in that I had difficulty in determining horizontal objects, such as how far were clothes lines away!

#### **National Service**

My ATC membership marked my card for me to serve the then six months NS requirement in the RAAF. But I was now at university. I was deferred twice as the RAAF (as with the RAN) required continuous service. The 'system', rather than generously deferring me altogether, roped me in for the army. I entered Puckapunyal in January, 1954, at the age of twenty.

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<sup>1</sup> Nine hours is more the norm for "going solo"

I arrived at Dysart siding<sup>2</sup> to be issued with uniform. We stripped off and were issued with our greatcoats. Wearing these on a hot January day, we moved through the Q-store sheds having parts of uniform and gear “offered” to us. We placed these in our duffle bags. I then had my first encounter with bush flies as I tried to do justice to the lunch that was served in the open.

On that first day, after swearing allegiance to Her Majesty, I had the privilege of being immediately put on fatigues. My job was to make sure that a set of sawyer stoves were always ready with boiling water for the troops therein to wash their dixies before and after their meal. Reveille was very early, the wood was hard to chop, and the work rather demanding. As a consequence the army took four stone off me in a matter of days.

Although a good rifle shot in the ATC, I had great trouble when on the army range<sup>3</sup>. I was in “A Company”, (the company with all the “bolshie” university students) in 15<sup>th</sup> Battalion, the infantry one. We were perhaps rather naughty at times in baiting the army NCOs and hence had to cheerfully accept the extra duties that were meted out to us.

Two years earlier I had become a scoutmaster. The experiences gained in looking after myself in the bush and other such skills, as map reading and knot tying were invaluable when on army bivouacs.

## **MUR**

The balance of my NS commitment was served in CMF units. I was predictably posted to MUR and attached, I think owing to my proven rifle shooting ability, to the MMG platoon. Was this on the basis that I could spray the target until eventually getting the bulls’ eye!

Promotion seemed to be very liberal. Some of my friends were walking around with pips on their shoulders. Why shouldn’t I be like them? So I sat for all the promotion examinations that I could and attended the available courses. As a result I twice entered annual camps to find that I was wearing the wrong rank insignia.

MUR set up a Support Company with some non-infantry corps platoons. Against my wishes I was allotted to the artillery one. MUR conducted 20-day courses following the university examinations at the end of the year. 1955 I found myself as a result parading at the 2 Fd Regt RAA depot at Batman Avenue on the banks of the River Yarra.

I was now introduced by a CAPT Don Baker to the Ford/Chevrolet “quaddie,” the artillery director, the artillery board and the art of “fire discipline”. I also learnt that my voice had an upper range which, if I went beyond it, squeaked!

In the subsequent annual camp, which was at the Seymour site, the guns were fired at Puckapunyal from gun pits dug by us. As a newly commissioned infantry subaltern, I was challenged in many new ways, but in particular with a pick and shovel!

## **RAA**

My first school posting was to the Mirboo North High School in South Gippsland. I found myself in the centre of “gunner land”. Now I knew why I had been trained in artillery on that 20-day course! The nearest depot was at Korumburra and I became a proud member of the 22 (SP) Fd Regt, RAA. Its equipment on paper was the “Yeramb”. 25-pr gun mounted on a Grant tank chassis. I never saw one fired. I have since seen them in military museums! The towed 25-pr was our reality.

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<sup>2</sup> The railway sidings have been lifted but the huts still stand forlorn and neglected

<sup>3</sup> Clearly it was the rifle that was at fault! I could hardly cite my “horizontal” sight defect for the target was round!

CAPT Derek Stone, a close church and scout friend and an officer of the regiment, replaced my infantry cap with a black beret and the gun badge with the officer's rotating wheel. I also found that the CO was LTCOL Dick Eason<sup>4</sup>, who had a Churchillian personality. He nominated us for the Naval and Military Club. He directed us to acquire white mess jackets. He lectured us on what he perceived to be the pillars of our society – constitution, the judiciary, the executive and parliament. He had no compunction in having us on all-night exercises!

The "22" had élan and dash. Most officers had a firework<sup>5</sup> placed behind their beret badge. The regiment would fire its guns on the first day in camp. At a formal mess function one watched one "P.s and Q"s.. CAPT<sup>6</sup> Bob Sealey escorted me when I was orderly officer and really showed me how to carry out this function.

I was an ACPO at that first camp. It was not enjoyable. On the range in the dugout I seemed to be always grovelling on my knees to find which of the field telephones on the ground was ringing and peering at the artillery board by a dim hurricane lantern! The CPO and I just did not have the gear we needed to make ourselves efficient and comfortable.

### **15 Fd Regt, RAA**

Eighteen months later came the first big reorganisation<sup>7</sup>. The AA branch in the CMF and "22" went off the order of battle. Instead, I was to parade at Warragul where the "31 Medes" had just given place to 15 Fd Regt, RAA. I now swapped Dick Eason for another wonderful character in Warragul's BC, MAJ Lloyd Baxter. Highly experienced in the Second World War, Lloyd often talked about the time that his guns in the desert were deployed with the order, "Aiming Point, Moon"! He had excellent man management skills. His sense of humour was special to him.

Under Lloyd I enjoyed a camp as a battery leader or the spare lieutenant who would round up the gun convoy and try to make sure it got to its destination more or less intact and on time. I learned that if a vehicle broke down, one did not stop the convoy but let RAEME handle the problem. Lloyd Baxter taught me about "examination-manship". .On Subject B (the one in the field) the first question will be map reading; the second question will be quick deployment, &c." And Lloyd was always right. I qualified for my captain's examinations.

### **Dandenong**

Having transferred to Princess Hill High School (to do a university course that I never fully completed), I stayed with 15 Field but transferred to the Dandenong battery. It was not a hard drive out to Dandenong in my 11-seater Austin van.

Here I was a CPO. Remembering the earth crawling experience of being an ACPO, I made sure that the task was going to be easier. I signed for and converted a "Tables GS 6 x 3" by adding a hinged back flap to it. The field telephones could now be clamped to the table and the flap in front of me would carry the various clip boards and their proforma. One could now "command" the gun position in some comfort. No one mentioned anything about digging in!

But I had not reckoned with the approach taken by two of my friends, Bill Bolch and Norm Cathie, who were the two GPOs. Initially they made it clear that I had no command rôle, but that I was a computing centre when they chose to call upon me! By the end of the fortnight that situation was corrected and we cooperated fully in the coordination and command of the battery with its two four-gun troops.

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<sup>4</sup> Later a brigadier as CRA.

<sup>5</sup> In my youth I would have referred to them as "a penny banger"

<sup>6</sup> Now LTCOL, Bob has always claimed that he was a major at the time!

<sup>7</sup> Some might suggest - "contraction"

## **A BC**

LTCOL Peter Turner, now the CO, asked me to be BC at Warragul. But that was miles further on from Dandenong! To persuade me to take on the task, he even provided a “ute” and driver to take me down and back each week from Wesley College, where I was a resident master by night. But it seemed to work. Goodness knows what the driver thought when he eventually returned the vehicle to Dandenong sometime mid-morning.

I was still a captain. At my first attempt to qualify at a “21 A” for major, I failed to satisfy the DS. But I did the second time round. This time my tanks were not used in “penny packets” but preceded the infantry in the open country, &c. I also .dominated. “no-man’s land”!

I think some strings were pulled, for the following year I was transferred to Warragul High School about the same time that my promotion to major came through. LTCOL Keith Rossi<sup>8</sup> had by then replaced Peter Turner as CO. Traralgon was the other depot in the battery, but Korumburra was also placed under my command. Someone then in their wisdom decided Warragul was too far away to maintain guns and converted the unit to RAEME. Back I went to Dandenong to parade, once again travelling to get there.

## **1966**

On a year’s leave in the UK in 1966, the system arranged for me to parade with the 263<sup>rd</sup> Surrey Yeomanry Queen Mary’s Field Regiment, RA, TA. This unit was already an amalgamation of three others and before the year was out it went into “suspended animation,” as Britain reviewed its military commitments and responsibilities. Was I having this “closing dow”. effect on units? First it was the .22<sup>nd</sup> ., then .15<sup>th</sup>. at Warragul, and now the .263<sup>rd</sup>!

The BC of the battery of the depôt at which I paraded was a very busy man with the BP company. I not only “shadowed” him but on occasions was the BC on his behalf when he was away on business. The unit had even considered me as the acting 2ic in a camp exercise, but sanity prevailed.

I came to understand that the British army placed much more responsibility on its senior NCOs than perhaps we did. I recall on one occasion in camp being escorted from the gun park when I thought it was my duty to be seen by the gunners, as was the custom in Australia.

## **Geelong**

Once again I had a school change and I found myself in Geelong. This time I was a BC with the 10 Mdm Regt, RAA, which had previously been AA. Many of its officers still seemed to be remembering their days of civilised living at Port Fairy; of leisurely camps with daylight shooting only and beaches upon which to swim at the end of the day.

I now astounded myself by qualifying Tac 5 -- mainly through understanding that in the defence question one had the battalions “back to back” on the position to be defended, and certainly surrounded with minefields covered with observation and fire!

My three years as CO commenced in 1971 and consisted principally of three memorable camps. The first was in Tasmania, the second a combined camp at Puckapunyal and the third was with the regular 8 Medium Regiment at Tianjara. I even married in uniform! That my son was born the day that I flew back from that camp in New South Wales just cemented those happy memories.

In the combined camp in my second year, 10 Medium, demonstrating gun drill on 25 pr equipments, out-marked the other two field regiments in much the same way that Geelong won the AFL in 2007. But it was not by quite the same margin.

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<sup>8</sup> Later BRIG, appointed AM and currently the RSL historian

## **COL (Arty) and (Personnel)**

After two years as principal quietly in Birchip, but with still the opportunity to attend annual camps, (the first with CSTU and the second as an artillery chief safety officer), I came to Woodend in 1976, when I accepted the foundation headship of Braemar College.

A year later I had the opportunity to administer command MUR for six months. Then all of a sudden I was promoted to colonel on 3 Div FF Gp HQ with the posting of COL (ARTY). Without the responsibility of a CRA to command the guns, I could concentrate on the social and visiting side. I was particularly pleased when some seven of our majors qualified their Tac 5 "half- colonel" Suddenly the corps was truly "Ubique".

Four years later I passed the artillery baton on to COL Mike Vincent. After two more years as COL (Personnel) I was placed on the inactive list. Part 30 in this series more than adequately summarised my military experiences after that date and they do not need repeating.

## **Conclusion**

I feel privileged to have been able to spend part of my life in uniform with some outstanding units under first class commanding officers and also alongside some very fine officers and gentlemen and, of course, the soldiers. . That I became through circumstances not of my own choosing a experiences and, at times, great fulfilment.

I have always been able to ignore the teasing of being called a "drop short". Instead I point out that gunner officers always ride to battle! There is always room on a truck for a "munga box". I was glad that I was once in the RA Inf Corps. At least I knew what infantrymen (or is it infantry persons now?) thought about the guns! It used to be suggested that colonels no longer fit enough for the battlefield would generally be made commandants of POW camps, but I think the chances of that for me have also faded.

My OAM citation mentioned the four main activities of my life, outside of marriage and home life of course! These were Braemar College, the Scout Association, the Army Reserve and of course, my church. To keep up my obligations in these four areas it required some very nimble diary work. The four areas always seemed to complement each other and I have never regretted getting deeply involved in any of them.

To be a successful gunner one must reach for very high standards. As Lloyd Baxter would have it, no marks have ever been awarded for a round that did not match "the time on target" or the requirements of the supported arm. Gunnery tests its personnel in a way that few other corps can. To achieve Lloyd's aim, the unit must be proficient in many essential skills, such as fire discipline, survey, observation, signalling, movement of guns and vehicles, to mention just a few. Without them, men die and battles are lost.

To quote Lloyd Baxter again, I have been and still am a member of the most exclusive gun club in Australia. I have been proud to be in the Corps that can toast "The Queen, our Captain General."

Graham Farley



**Parade Card**  
(as at 14 Feb 2008)

**APR 2008**

17 Committee  
**25 ANZAC Day**

**MAY 2008**

**?? Grand Arty Ball**  
15 Committee

**JUN 2008**

**03 Reserves lunch** (all ranks)  
19 Committee

**JUL 2008**

17 Committee

**AUG 2008**

**01 Gunner Dinner**  
**?? Res Forces Day**  
21 Committee

**SEP 2008**

18 Committee

**OCT 2008**

**?-? DRA Nat Conf**  
16 Committee

**NOV 2008**

**06 A.G.M.**  
**07 Golf Day**  
**0? RSL Springvale**  
20 Committee

**DEC 2008**

**04 St Barbara's Day**  
11 Committee

**JAN 2009**

**FEB 2009**

**08 Church Parade**  
19 Committee

**MAR 2009**

19 Committee  
**?? Arty lunch** (all ranks)

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