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*1956 Queens Birthday Salute
2 Fld Regiment RAA*



Photo kindly supplied by Sgt Peter Gibson

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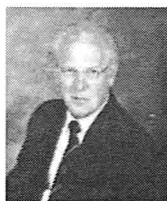
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The President Writes

I would like to wish all the Members and their families a belated Compliments of the Season

We recently held our Annual General Meeting at the East Malvern RSL, and whilst it probably went a little bit too long, I felt it was important to discuss all the items of business that needed to be covered. Also the reports from the COL COMDT, BRIG Perry and the CO of 2/10 FD REGT were very informative and well received.

Another successful golf day was held at the Berwick Montuna Golf Club. Whilst attendances are small, the enthusiasm is big. Modesty forbids me from naming the winner this year, but I will give you a clue: the initials are NH.

St Barbaras Day will have come and gone by the time this issue is printed. My congratulations to the recipients of the Whitelaw Prizes:

GNR T Burd	Best Soldier
SGT M Kennedy	Best NCO
LT T Barnes	Best Officer
PTE T Richardson	Best ARA/Fulltime

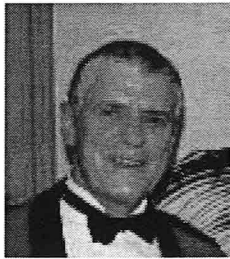
Also 10 MDM REGT Association: Best Junior NCO: BDR D Mormile and BDR G Gray.

Church parade this year will be held at St Bartholomew's, as usual, on Sunday the 5th of February. I hope to see as many as possible there this year.

Regards to all

Neil Hamer
MAJ (R)

From The Colonel Commandant



In late October 2005 I attended the Regimental Conference at the School of Artillery. The first half day was set aside for the Regimental Committee meeting where matters of property, tradition, ceremony and historical matters were discussed. The remaining two days were set aside for technical and operational presentations.

I have made some notes and observations under appropriate headings which may be of interest.

Committee matters:

The Regimental website is up and running at WWW/defence.gov.au/army/rraa. Despite being in the process of development it is an interesting site and I recommend a visit. All contributions are welcome and there is an opportunity for "Cascabel" to be published on the site. The SO2 HOR would welcome contributions, in particular historical photographs and other items of interest.

An Historical sub-committee has been formed with Colonel Graham Farley as the representative for Southern Region. As time marches on, there is an ever increasing need to preserve our written and oral history, and we must all assist Colonel Farley in gathering the basic information, which in the fullness of time will add to our formal recorded history.

The Regiment has decided to issue certificates of service for 20 and 30 years service, however for administrative purposes they will not be issued for members not in service in September 2004.

The RAA Liaison letter is issued quarterly and is a valuable organ for the dissemination of information throughout the Regiment. I encourage 2/10, the Association and individual members to contribute on a regular basis and we should ensure that the passing of every Gunner should be recorded in the Liaison Letter.

Operational and Technical Matters:

The theme of the Conference was the development of the RAA position within Army, The preparation of the RAA Plan and the selling of the Plan. This may seem convoluted, however the Chief of Army's directions for the Hardened and Networked Army (HNA) has given an enormous challenge and opportunity to RAA.

It is predicted that most modern battles will rise from a contact situation, that planned operations will be the exception and that detection will play a key role in achieving success. The rapid development of RAA doctrine to meet these new challenges will improve the chances of equipment acquisition.

The emergence of Precision Guided Munitions, new delivery platforms and the development of new surveillance and target acquisition systems will, in the fullness of time, maintain RAA's key role on the modern battlefield. Whilst the time frame for some of these developments may be many years away, the processes of acquisition are in train. In due course it is expected that M198 will return to 2/10.

Of particular interest to me, and to many others, is the raising of the new 20 STA Regt which will include the re-raising of 132 Div Loc Bty as 132 UAV Bty.

The prospect of obtaining SP guns remains a strong possibility and it is now generally accepted that 155mm will be the only calibre. Precision Guided Munitions, together with new delivery systems will increase range to 60 KM and increase accuracy to 20 M CEP. New radars will

locate guns, mortars and rockets out to 100 KM and together with UAV will significantly enhance target acquisition. GBAD will also upgrade present equipments and enhance surveillance and target acquisition capabilities. Whilst to many these concepts appear to be "Star Wars", they are supported by current technology. Money and manufacturing lead times appear to be the only delaying factors.

Whilst we are all concerned at the strength of the Reserve, the effectiveness of recruiting and training load, presentations indicate that these problems are being addressed and that in the short term present unit structures are not under threat.

On a final positive note, a series of presentations on strengths and growth indicated that 2/10 is head and shoulders over all other RAA Reserve units

D. I. Perry
Brigadier
Colonel Commandant (Southern Region)



Vale

Major I. G. White RFD ED

Major Ivor George "Chalky" White RFD ED was born in Norwich England on 21 January 1923. At the outbreak of war he enlisted immediately upon turning 18 and was posted to a HAA Regiment deployed as part of homeland defence. He was commissioned in 1944 and following the reduction in the air threat was posted to India where he served as a SO3 RA. In this posting he met his future wife Joan who was a Sergeant with the Women's Auxiliary Army in India and had been born in India.

Following the cessation of hostilities Chalky returned to his civilian occupation as a clerk with Norwich Union Insurance and continued to serve with HAA in the TA. In 1957 he migrated to Australia to open the first office in Australia for Norwich Union.

On arrival in Australia he enlisted in the CMF as a Captain. He was posted to 2 Fd Regt RAA where he served as a BK. He was appointed BC 132 Div Loc Bty RAA for four years (1963-1966), and then posted to 15 Fd Regt RAA where he was 2I/C for two years.

Following these Regimental postings he served until his retirement in 1979 in a series of staff appointment at 3 Training Group. He continued with Norwich Union until retirement in 1987.

Following his retirement from military service Chalky became an active member of the United Service Lodge and the Anglican Church. He served both of these callings with dedication and distinction.

His funeral service, held at St Francis in the Fields Anglican Church Mooroolbark, was a particularly touching ceremony, well attended by his fellow Gunners. A fitting eulogy, covering all aspects of his life, was delivered by MAJ GEN Frank Poke AO KStJ RFD ED, a fellow Lodge member with whom Chalky had served as SO2 for a number of years.



Membership Report January 2006

Current Membership	
Life Members	215
Annual Members	81
Affiliates	45
Others (CO/CI, Messes, etc.)	11
Libraries	5
<u>Total</u>	<u>357</u>

We have six unfinancial Members who are (joining date): SGT R J Street (09/08/99), GNR's J T Bakker (19/06/03), T Dunlap, D I Mac Donald, N Linnell, (20/05/04) and H F Holzer (25/11/04).

The 4th ATK REGT Assoc notified us that, due to membership numbers, it wished to be removed from our mailing list of affiliated associations.

New members:

The Defence Library Service – Melbourne requested to be placed on the mailing list for Cascabel.

Vale

It is with regret that we note the passing of MAJ James Edward Killender RFD ED.
A tribute to Jim is given later in the magazine.

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

However:

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

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

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

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



Neil Hamer
MAJ (R)
Membership Co-ordinator

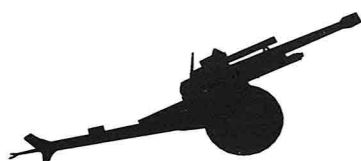
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RAA Association (Victoria) Inc
Corps Shop

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

PRICE LIST

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

Major J.E. Killender RFD ED (Retd)

Major James (Jim) Killender was born on 31 March 1935. He died suddenly and unexpectedly on 21 November 2005 at the age of 70.

Jim like many thousands of 18 year olds in the 1950's he was liable to be called up for National Service and so on 10 August 1953 he was enlisted into 14 NS Trg Bn. After his initial training period he was posted to 40 HAA Regt where he served as a gun number. He was subsequently promoted to Sgt and was commissioned in May 1956. When all AD artillery was brigaded in NSW, Jim transferred to 2 Fd Regt.

Jim served as an active member of the ARes for 32 years and retired on age in 1984. During his service he held a wide range of postings in 40 HAA Regt (as GPO), 2 Fd Regt (as GPO & 2I/C), 15 Fd Regt (as QM), 132 Div Loc Bty (as BK & BC), 3 Trg Gp (as Instr), MUR (as OC HQ Coy), RCSC (as Student & Instr) and finally HQ 3 Div (as SO2). He retired on age in 1984.

Jim's personality was quiet, abstemious, diligent and determined. The major feature of his funeral service was the surprise expressed by each element of the community, and his family, at the level of his involvement and commitment within the community and the military environment.

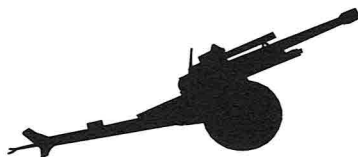
Jim only had two civilian careers. He was 23 years in the footwear industry and 19 years with Red Cross. In the latter job he particularly used his military training as an organiser of fund raising and national activities such as the Murray River Marathon.

Throughout his working lifetime he was involved with the Victorian Marching Girls Association, with over 30 years involvement, rising to Victorian State President.

He was Cadet Liaison Officer with TRY Youth, providing liaison for 10 community based Cadet Units throughout Victoria for 5 years. He was State President of the Deaf Blind Association, State President of the Neighbourhood Help Association, member of the Nunawading Community Committee, he lectured for Red Cross on International Humanitarian Law, he was a guide and a guide instructor for the Shrine of Remembrance and he had volunteered and been accepted as the Flags Marshal for the Commonwealth Games.

Three days before his death he volunteered to assist Colonel Graham Farley in his capacity as Victoria's representative on the RAA Committee History Sub-Committee.

The military component of his eulogy was delivered by Brigadier D, I Perry RFD ED (Retd) who had known and served with Jim for 46 years.



Major General Sir Charles Rosenthal

12 February 1875 - 11 May 1954

Charles Rosenthal was born in Berrim, New South Wales on 12 February 1875, the only son of a Danish born schoolmaster. He was probably educated by his father until, at the age of 15, he was articled to an architect, A. J. Derrick of Geelong, Victoria. He completed his articles in 1893 with J. E. Burke in Melbourne and was elected an associate of the Royal Victorian Institute of Architects in 1895. He then took a job as architect with the Department of Railways and Works in Perth. He was involved with the design of the Perth Law Courts, the Free Public Library and the Royal Mint. He was also an organist and choirmaster at the Coolgardie Wesley Church and his fine singing voice made him popular as a concert artist.

After going bankrupt, Rosenthal decided to return to Melbourne. He put his wife on the boat and set off across the Nullarbor Plain on a bicycle in December 1898, arriving in Melbourne in January 1899. He joined the firm of G. C. Kinslip and W. R. Butler, architects and surveyors, who sent him to manage their Sydney office in 1900. Here he prospered. He was elected to the Royal Institute of British Architects in 1904 and became a fellow of the Royal Victorian Institute of Architects in 1906. His main work was in the design of houses but his interest in music led to commissions for the design of churches. In 1906 he became architect for the Anglican diocese of Grafton and Armidale, and designed a number of churches. As a singer, he performed with the Sydney Philharmonic. Eventually he set up his own architectural practice and was organ master of the Holy Trinity Church at Dullwich Hill, Sydney, a church which he had designed. He was also one of the founders of the Aerial League of Australia in 1909 and was a pupil at W. E. Hart's Australian Flying School at Penrith.

Rosenthal enlisted as a gunner in the Geelong Battery of the Victorian Militia in 1892 but had to quit when he moved to Melbourne. On 1 January 1903, he was commissioned as a second lieutenant in the militia Garrison Artillery. He became a lieutenant on 18 June 1904 and a captain on 26 May 1908. On 1 August 1908 he transferred to the Australian Field Artillery. He was promoted to major on 5 October 1908. On 1 July 1914 he became commanding officer of the 5th Field Artillery Brigade, the first battery in the Australian Field Artillery to be armed with howitzers.

Rosenthal was appointed to the AIF on 18 August 1914 with the rank of major. On 25 August 1914 he took command of the 3rd Field Artillery Brigade. He was promoted to lieutenant colonel on 17 September 1914. On 25 September 1914 he embarked for Egypt on HMAT *Rangatira*.

Coming ashore at Anzac on 26 April 1915, Rosenthal's energy and optimism brought him into conflict with his superior, Major General W. T. Bridges. Bridges feared losing guns, and as the position was insecure, did not wish any more landed, for fear that they might be lost. Rosenthal was of the opinion that there were gun positions available, and obtained leave to place the 7th Field Battery on Bolton's Hill, under the command of Major F. A. Hughes. Stationed within a few yards of the front line, one of these guns overlooked an area known as the Wheatfield. When the Turks attacked that night, they moved through the Wheatfield and came under fire from that gun. With fuzes timed to burst at the muzzles so that the gun acted like a giant shotgun, the gunners defeated the Turkish attack. Rosenthal always remained critical of Bridges' attitude, stirring up a brief controversy in a public address in 1936.

It was also the 7th Field Battery on Bolton's Ridge which replied when, on 5 May 1915, Turkish guns from the the area south of Gaba Tepe that came to be known as the Olive Grove began firing on the Australian positions at Anzac, the Turks using high explosive for the first time. Although exposed, the 7th Field Battery fired until the Turkish shelling ceased. In the meantime, one of the Turkish shells burst in Rosenthal's headquarters dugout, wounding Rosenthal and one of his battery commanders, Major W. L. Burgess. Rosenthal, wounded in the head, back left arm and right knee, was evacuated to Egypt. En route he entertained the other wounded men on the hospital ship with a rendition of Handel's "Arm, Arm Ye Brave" from his hospital bed.

Rosenthal found time to write to his family, describing the incident that led to his being wounded, which landed in him hot water with the 1st Division chief of staff, Lieutenant Colonel C. B. B. White when it was published in the *British Australasian*, ostensibly on the grounds of a policy that casualties were not to be publicly mentioned. Rosenthal was forced to write an apology that scarcely concealed his feeling of how absurd this was, given that the casualty lists had already been published in the newspapers.

Rosenthal returned to Anzac on 22 May 1915. He was wounded a second time on 27 July 1915, a rifle bullet passing through his left leg, but he remained on duty. On 25 August 1915 he was evacuated to England with an enteric illness. He did not rejoin his brigade until 3 January 1916, in Tel el Kebir, Egypt, after the evacuation of Anzac. For his services at Gallipoli, Rosenthal was mentioned in dispatches and made a Companion of the Bath (CB) on 8 November 1915.

On 21 February 1916, Rosenthal was appointed commander of the artillery of the newly formed 4th Division, and promoted to colonel and temporary brigadier general. For brigade commanders, Rosenthal had three men who had commanded batteries on Gallipoli, Major G. H. M. King and R. L. Rabett, New South Welshmen that Rosenthal had known before the war, and F. A. Hughes. For gunners he had infantry and light horse reinforcements, some of whom had never seen a gun before, much less fired one. All told he had only about 150 trained officers and men. Getting the division artillery ready was a major challenge. Rosenthal embarked for France at Alexandria on 2 June 1916, arriving in Marseilles on 8 June 1916. The next month his guns were in action at Fromelles, supporting the 5th Division, and then at Pozieres. For Fromelles and Pozieres, Rosenthal was mentioned in dispatches in November and again in January 1917 and made a Companion of St Michael and St George (CMG). He was wounded again on 20 December 1916.

The German counterattack at Lagnicourt on 15 April 1917 found the Australian artillery well forward and M Group of the 1st Division Artillery around Lagnicourt were overrun and lost a number of their guns. At one point, Rosenthal ordered Rabett, commanding Q Group in the Noreuil Valley, to bring up his horses and prepare to remove or disable his guns by removing the sights and breech blocks. But Rosenthal left this up to Rabett's discretion and as it turned out, the infantry under Brigadier General R. Smith stopped the enemy short of Noreuil and it was not necessary. Major General C. B. B. White ordered a court of enquiry into the temporary loss of the guns (all having been recaptured before they could be destroyed). Rosenthal felt that the whole thing was ludicrous, concluding that "the day has surely gone by when the possible loss of a gun or guns is considered so serious as to curtail the usefulness of the artillery." No disciplinary action was ever taken against anyone.

Being slightly senior to the other brigadier generals of the 4th Division -- C. H. Brand, D. J. Glasfurd and T. W. Glasgow -- Rosenthal was acting commander of the 4th Division for brief periods five times in 1916 and 1917. Earmarked for the next divisional command, Rosenthal was given command of the 9th Infantry Brigade to gain infantry experience. The Official Historian, Captain C. E. W. Bean, wrote that Rosenthal was "a man with a breezy, thrusting personality, and keen, simple enthusiasms -- especially for the British Empire, its history and its traditions -- who brought to the leadership of the brigade a robustness and audacity intensely welcome to its members... Throughout he had given an example of spirited front line leadership, and he never hid his light under a bushel. He wore his heart, like his five wound stripes, consistently on his sleeve. He loved not only to be in the front line but to be seen there. To his brigade this type of leadership came like a fresh draught to a man thirsty for natural stimulant. A new life infused the force. The troops leapt at the breezy courage that was keen to test any danger before they entered it."

This came at a cost; he was gassed at Passchendaele on 18 October 1917 and evacuated, not rejoining his brigade until 12 January 1918. For Third Ypres he was mentioned in dispatches a fourth time. Rosenthal was acting commander of the 1st Division from 12 January 1918 to 13 February 1918, and then the 3rd Division from 16 March 1918 to 26 March 1918. He was made a brevet lieutenant colonel in the AMF on 1 January 1918. He was mentioned in dispatches a fifth time on 7 April 1918 in common with many other Australian commanders at a time when the Australian Army was moving to the rescue of its British counterpart, and on 3 June 1918 was awarded the Distinguished Service Order (DSO) for Broodseinde in October 1917 and his brief command of the 1st Division.

On the morning of 4 May 1918, Rosenthal was making his morning trudge around his brigade's positions near Saily-Le-Sec with his brigade major, Major W. A. S. Dunlop, and Lieutenant Colonel H. F. White, commander of the 33rd Infantry Battalion, when they came across wiring parties of the 33rd erecting posts some 150 metres short of where there had been ordered to. When Rosenthal directed the lieutenant in charge to move the posts forward, he was informed that it would then be behind the German flank. At this time there was considerable emphasis being put on securing identification of German units in order to determine the location of the next German Offensive, and Rosenthal decided to see if he could find one. They presently found a German corpse and removed his identifying shoulder strap. On returning, they found another subaltern who had placed his post too close to the white tape marking where the wire was supposed to be erected. Rosenthal and his party then moved the tape forward. While they were pegging it down, six Germans came towards them from the rear. Rosenthal and White ordered them to halt but though unarmed they decided to run. White shot one and Rosenthal another and they captured five of them. After having the wounded Germans attended to, Rosenthal started back to his headquarters. A subaltern warned him that he was walking towards the German line. "Nonsense boy -- I was soldiering before you were born!" Rosenthal told him. But then a German flare went up and Rosenthal reconsidered the situation.

On 22 May 1915, Rosenthal was appointed commander of the 2nd Division and promoted to major general. He was wounded a fifth time on 19 July 1918, this time by a sniper while performing a daylight reconnaissance of a dangerous spot, and evacuated, but rejoined his division on 6 August 1918, just in time for the Battle of Amiens on 8 August 1918. On 31 August to 2 September 1918, the 2nd Division took Mont St Quentin by storm, in what is widely regarded as the AIF's greatest achievement of the war. In October 1918, the 2nd Division punched through the German front at Montbrehain the Australian Corps' last fight of the war. For the 1918 fighting, Rosenthal was mentioned in dispatches twice more,

bringing his total to seven. In the 1919 New Year's list he was created a Knight Commander of the Bath (KCB).

Rosenthal became commander of the AIF Depots in the United Kingdom on 10 March 1919. On 22 November 1919, he embarked for Australia, where his appointment to the AIF was terminated on 12 March 1920. He commanded the 2nd Division from 1 May 1921 to 30 April 1926 and from 18 January 1932 to 1937. He was honorary colonel of the 33rd Battalion from 1 November 1924 to 31 October 1929 and of the 36th Battalion from 1 December 1923.

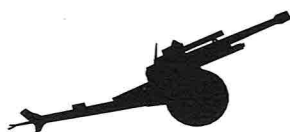
After the war, Rosenthal was faced with rebuilding his architecture practice. He briefly studied law at the University of Melbourne. He served as alderman of the Sydney Municipal Council from 1921 to 1924 and was chairman of its works committee. He was a Nationalist member of the New South Wales Legislative Assembly from 1922 to 1925 and later a member of the Legislative Council from 1936 to 1937. He was president of the New South Wales Institute of Architects from 1926 to 1930 and also president of the Federal Council of Australasian Institutes of Architects from 1925 to 1928. He was a fellow of the Royal Institute of British Architects and a life fellow of the Royal Australian Institute of Architects. He was president of the Australian Museum in Sydney from 1926, and was actively interested in native flora, reforestation and wireless communications. In 1930 he once again went bankrupt.

In 1937, Rosenthal accepted the post of Administrator of Norfolk Island, which he held until 1945. He supported tree planting and conservation of the old convict buildings. During World War II he organised an infantry unit. After he relinquished the post of administrator he lived on the island privately until 1948 when he returned to Sydney.

He died on 11 May 1954 and was cremated with full military honours after a service at St Andrew's Cathedral in Sydney.

Sources: Australian Dictionary of Biography, 1899-1939, Vol 11, p. 528; Personnel File, NAA; "Notes re German Attack April 15th", dated 19 April 1917, AWM26 170/12; C. E. W. Bean, *The Official History of Australia in the War of 1914-1918. Volume I: The Story of Anzac*, p. 507, *Volume I: The Story of Anzac*, pp. 77; *Volume V: The AIF in France 1917*, pp. 300-301

Reprinted from University of NSW ADFA website <http://www.unsw.adfa.edu.au/~rmallett>



Puddings on the Veld and kangaroos in the Gulf: Christmas in the Australian Memorial's collection

Miniature pink underwear, artistic biscuits, autographed handkerchiefs – these may seem like odd Christmas gifts, yet these are just a few of the objects that Australian soldiers have sent home while serving overseas and which are now held in the Memorial's collection. They include items from the South African War (1899–1902) and the two world wars, as well as from more recent operations, such as the Persian Gulf, and they range from the traditional to the humorous and sentimental.

One of the earliest examples is a plum pudding from South Africa. At Christmas the soldiers' rations were supplemented by plum pudding; but while his fellow troopers enjoyed their Christmas treat, Trooper Thomas Ashford of the 2nd New South Wales Mounted Rifles carefully preserved his. Ashford brought it with him on his return to Australia, and in the 1950s it was donated to the Memorial, still in its tin and covered with the manufacturer's wrapper. The pudding was placed on display and proved a source of great interest to thousands of visitors, including the Royal family.



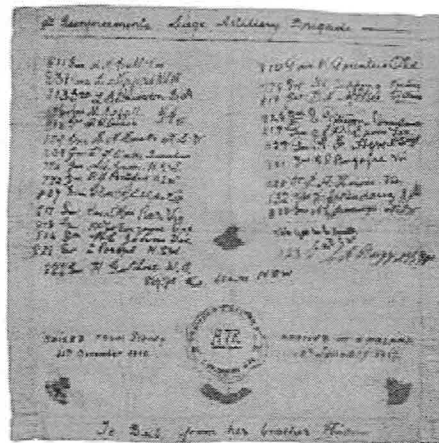
Christmas plum pudding, Trooper T Ashford, 2 New South
Wales Mounted Infantry
RELAWM15431

During the First World War thousands of Australian servicemen found themselves in Egypt and France, far from home and their families but with opportunities to send home gifts with a difference. This beautiful embroidered scarf (pictured) is an excellent example of the souvenirs available to Australian soldiers in Egypt. Scarves such as these were not intended to be worn but instead became treasured reminders of family members or friends fighting overseas. This particular one was donated anonymously to the Memorial and so, unfortunately, the identities of both "Bert" and "Gertie" are unknown.



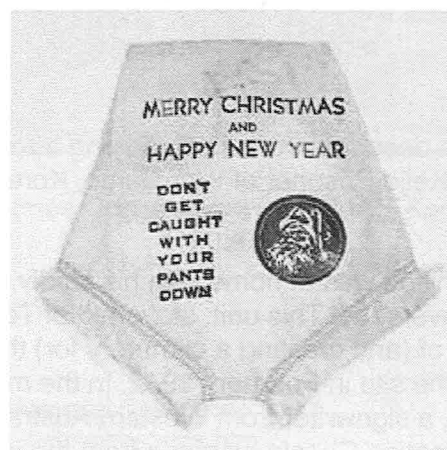
Embroidered 'Souvenir of Egypt' cloth : Christmas 1915
REL/21605

As specially made souvenirs were not always available, troops often turned to their own belongings to find presents for those at home. One such example is the army-issue handkerchief signed and decorated by members of 9th Reinforcements, Siege Artillery Brigade. Gunner Phil Clarke from New South Wales sent the handkerchief home to his sister "Bub" when he arrived in England in January 1917. His convoy had set out from Sydney late in the previous November and Christmas Day was spent at sea. Clarke got 27 of his comrades to sign the handkerchief, then decorated it with a life buoy and the words "Troopship Beltana A72 Christmas 1916". The handkerchief was also decorated with rubbings made from Royal Australian Artillery badges and an "Australia" shoulder title. Only one of the soldiers who signed the handkerchief, Gunner Gus Peterson, failed to have another Christmas in Australia. The manner of Peterson's death remains a mystery, as no official record can be traced.



Autographed handkerchief : Gunner P Clarke, Siege
Artillery Brigade, AIF
REL/18313

Just as in earlier conflicts, Second World War Christmas souvenirs also showed ingenuity and varied in origin. One of the commercially manufactured items available was a pair of miniature pink underpants bearing the printed message, "Merry Christmas and Happy New Year – Don't get caught with your pants down." The pair in the Memorial's collection was sent by Leading Aircraftman Raymond Rooke to his sister Maria. The significance of the motto – and just what Maria made of her brother's gift – has not been recorded. The little souvenir remained among her most treasured possessions until they were donated to the Memorial in the 1970s.



Miniature novelty Christmas underwear : Leading
Aircraftman R Rooke, RAAF
REL/02985

Many other servicemen were not in a position to buy novelties for their families. Christmas 1944 in the Keijo prisoner-of-war camp in Korea was instead enlivened by some hand-coloured Christmas

decorations. The cardboard figures of Santa Claus and a plump elf with an enormous roast turkey were used to add some festive cheer to an otherwise grim imprisonment. When the war ended the decorations were carefully preserved and carried home by Lieutenant Gilbert Hamilton of 3rd Reserve Motor Transport Company.



Christmas decoration of Santa Claus : Keijo Prisoner of War Camp, Korea
REL/15395.001



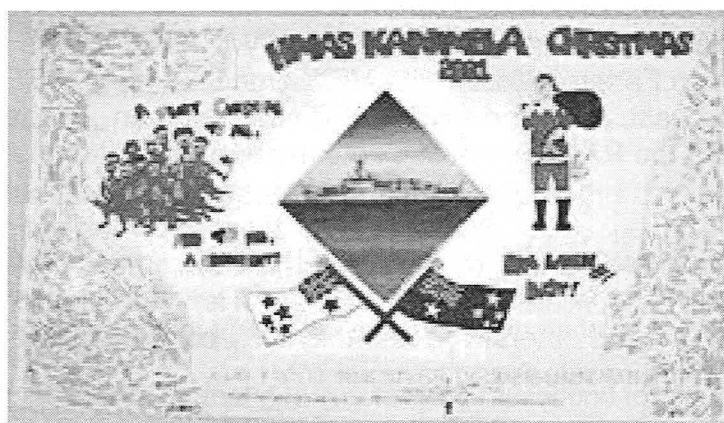
Christmas decoration of an elf carrying a roast turkey :
Keijo Prisoner of War Camp, Korea
REL/15395.002

By the following Christmas, Hamilton was at home with his family, but others, such as the men of 1st War Graves Unit, were still overseas. This unit, stationed at Tol plantation in New Britain, was involved in locating the remains of (and creating a cemetery for) the approximately 160 Australians massacred by the Japanese at the site in February 1942. In the midst of this cheerless task, Corporal Victor John Robertson, a signwriter from Western Australia, approached Captain David Keith Hanson with the idea of creating Christmas cards from the hard tack biscuits in their rations. Hanson readily agreed and Robertson created a biscuit card for each his nine unit members. Hanson sent his "card" to his fiancée; to his amazement, it arrived in one piece. The biscuit was donated to the Memorial in 1995, still in its original packaging.



Christmas card made from a biscuit: Captain DK Hanson
REL23942

Over fifty years later, more Australian service personnel were serving overseas. The crew of HMAS *Kanimbla* spent Christmas 2001 stationed in the Persian Gulf as part of the Maritime Interception Force. They decorated the ship's quarters and held a concert, for which this banner formed the backdrop. The banner, with colourful images of the ship and kangaroos with Santa hats, was designed and painted by Leading Seaman Kyra Puttifoote, Able Seaman Carl Linkenbach, and Able Seaman Stephen Montgomery. It was donated to the Australian War Memorial in 2002 – yet another example of the often unique Christmas treasures in the Memorial's collection.



Christmas Concert banner : HMAS *Kanimbla*
REL30190

Rebecca Britt
Assistant Curator
Military Heraldry

Reprinted from the Australian War Memorial Collections
<http://www.awm.gov.au/collections/stories/christmas.htm>



GUNNER HISTORY

- A Message from the RAA Representative Colonel Commandant –
Major General Tim Ford, AO (Retd)

The RAA Regimental Committee meeting on 26th October at the School of Artillery, Puckapunyal accepted the first report from their Historical Sub-Committee (HSC) which was formed on 19th August, 2005.

The HSC Report dealt with some amendments to its Terms of Reference (TOR), the concept of a series of projects covering the span of Gunner history, comments on the RAA network and publicity, contacts which may usefully assist, how the "product" may be presented, the need for oral histories, aspects of research, finance, the importance of RAA and unit associations in this endeavour, RAA museums and collections. Recommendations were made and a list of identified projects presented.

This report was accepted by the Regimental Committee.

The need to inform the Gunner community of this initiative was deemed to be a priority task. This, therefore, is an "initial release".

It is hoped that it will be given a wide exposure in our various Gunner newsletters and journals and throughout the Gunner family. It is appreciated that releases such as this will need to be succinct, informative, consistent and regular.

The HSC has a fairly wide spread from the point of view of artillery experience and geography: David Brook (field, proof and experimental, ARA and ARES, SA), Kevin Browning (locating and field, instructional, ARA, NSW), Arthur Burke (field, ARA and ARES, QLD), Graham Farley (field, ARES, VIC), Don Rae (field, ARES, WA) with John Whitelaw (field and coast, ARA and ARES, ACT) as chairman. To these will be added ex officio members from the RAA Historical Company and the National Artillery Museum (Army History Unit).

There are others who have agreed to assist with their expertise, knowledge and talents such as Keith Glyde (TAS), Alan Smith (NSW), Don Tier (ACT) hopefully to be joined by David Spethman (QLD) and others who feel they may contribute. We hope to give more about contributors in future releases.

The important message is that the HSC has taken a broad look at the history of artillery in Australia; its nature, personnel, locations, guns, equipment, technology, records, publications, museums and collections, contributors, associations, the Gunner network, lineage, dress, customs and traditions, and other aspects.

This overview was made with the intent, as expressed in its Terms of Reference, "that the history of the Australian Artillery is fully and accurately recorded." It also took account of the aims, the guidance and the provisions of Defence Instructions (Army) No 34-1 "Management of Army History" and 34-2 "Management and Operation of Army Museums and Heritage".

The HSC concluded that the five branches in the Regiment (coast, field, air defence, anti-tank, locating) each had a technical and a personal side. Some aspects were "overarching" in the sense that they affected more than one branch. HSC took the view

that the overall field should be covered by a series of manageable interlocking projects. Some duplications would be acceptable such as dealing with radar in a discrete project and with the particular application of radar in fields of coast, air defence, searchlights, locating and meteorology in other projects. Hopefully gaps would be avoided.

From this review twenty six projects have evolved and are being further defined. It is the intention of the HSC to have a team leader for each project who will contact others with a like interest to gather material and information about the designated project. Already some team leaders have been identified, the HSC hopes the interest of others will be sparked as news of this initiative spreads through the Gunner network.

A list of the Projects and contacts has been made available to the Colonels Commandant in each region, to RAA units, the RAA associations, RAA Historical Company, RAA Historical Society of WA, The National Artillery Museum (AHU), and throughout the known Gunner network. Contact and comment will be welcome.

18 November 2005

RAA History Sub-Committee (RAA HSC)

As BRIG Doug Perry, our Southern Region Colonel Commandant, has explained elsewhere in this copy of *Cascabel*, I was asked by MAJGEN John Whitelaw, AO, CBE, to be a member of a committee to trace and document the history of the Corps.

The Representative Colonel Commandant, MAJGEN TIM Ford, AO established the committee, under the direction of the Regimental Committee.

The other members to date include LTCOL David Brook, Mr. Kevin Browning, OAM, LTCOL Arthur Burke, and COL Don Rae, AM.

It is with regret that I was unable to nominate MAJ Jim Killender to this committee, due to his sudden death in November last year. Jim had, as all readers know, spent many years researching the CMF and then the Army Reserve in Victoria, whether it was the Southern Region or the Third Military District. As he had documented so much of his material, not all is lost, but his incisive historical ability and his knowledge of the sources of military material may well be lost to us.

It is all the more important, therefore, that gunners in Victoria respond to requests that the committee will make from time to time through these pages.

At this stage there has been a revision of the committee's terms of reference (TOR) and the listing by our chairman of the many projects that we might oversee. The tally to date is 26. To quote a few of them: No. 1 – RAA bibliography; No. 2 – Australian Gunners, a biographical dictionary; No. 3. Australia's forts and batteries; and No. 26 (to keep the record straight) RAA traditions and customs.

It is a daunting task but the result will be well worth the effort. Records and memorabilia have homes and memories right across our nation but they are not in a form that can be readily referenced. This work lies before us all. Roll on the future as we recall the past.

COL Graham Farley, OAM, RFD, ED

Major Norman Whitelaw Prize Honour Board

We need your help. The Committee plans to produce an Honour Board listing all recipients of the annual Whitelaw Prizes. Our records do not include several years – if you can provide the missing information (or corrections to the following list, please advise the Secretary, Robin Smith, at rasmith@melbpc.org.au.

RAA Association (Vic) Inc

Major Norman Whitelaw Prize Recipients

Year	Officer	Senior NCO/WO	Junior NCO/OR	ARA/Cadre
1983	Capt D.Collins TST, 10 Mdm	Sgt D.Ollis 37 Bty	Gnr L.Blake 23 Bty	Capt W.Barnard Adjt
1984	Capt B.Jackson 10 Mdm	Sgt S.Nugent 2/15 Fd	Bdr G.Hunter 132 Div Loc	Capt H.Mueller 10 Mdm
1985	Lt J.A.Traill 132 Div Loc	WO2 R.G.Armstrong 2/15 Fd	Bdr A.P.A.Casson 132 Div Loc	WO2 K.Walsh 2/15 Fd
1986	Lt R.S.Moorby 10 Mdm	Sgt G.J.Hunter 132 Div Loc	Bdr A.C.Wilkins 2/15 Fd	Sgt G.J.Brennan 132 Div Loc
1987	Capt J.Cole 2/15 Fd	Sgt G.Rolfe 2/15 Fd	Cpl S.Clemens 10 Mdm	WO2 M.Leonard 10 Mdm
1988	Capt S.C.Venn 23 Bty	Sgt W.G.Beale 23 Bty	LBdr Lindsay 39 Bty	Sgt Cleasby-Jones 10 Mdm
1989	Chap B.Brown	WO1 G.Browne	LBdr P.Vicars	Capt W.Goodman
1990				
1991	Capt M.Womack 22 Bty	WO2 G.Rolfe 22 Bty	Bdr P.McMillan 38 Bty	Sgt T.Kew HQ Bty
1992	Lt A.S.Pigdon	WO2 K.C.Pyke	LBdr S.A.McDonald	WO1 G.L.Carroll
1993				
1994	Capt S.A.Dutton HQ 4 Bde	Sgt G.J.Donaldson HQ Bty	Gnr P.Davison 22 Bty	WO2 C.L.Bateman HQ Bty
1995	2LT A.Jones HQ Bty	WO2 D.Mills 22 Bty	Bdr A.Eccles 22 Bty	Bdr T.Smith
1996	Capt A.Smith	Sgt K.Larsen	Gnr M.Kennedy	Bdr T.McAlister
1997	2Lt C.H.Havisham 22 Bty	Sgt P.Wainwright 22 Bty	Gnr P.G.Haysom 22 Bty	Sgt G.A.McLeish HQ Bty
1998	Capt A.J.Smith HQ Bty	Sgt R.J.Schreurs 38 Bty	Gnr T.A Benjamin 38 Bty	Cpl P.A.Hume 38 Bty
1999	Capt G.Rolfe CSC 22 Bty	Sgt K.Dancey 38 Bty	Pte H.Saloustros HQ Bty	Sgt G.A.McLeish HQ Bty
2000	Maj N.H.B.Floyd	Sgt J.Leader	Gnr R.E.Trainer	Sgt S.L.Edwards
2001	Lt M.G.Sullivan	Sgt R.C.Schreurs	Pte M.Attard	WO2 C.Triffet
2002	Lt D.Thompson	Sgt B.Munford	Cpl D.Bryant	Cpl Begg
2003				
2004	Capt M.Sullivan	Sgt K.Biggs	Bdr M.Lennox	Sgt S.Dorahy



Annual
Artillery Church Parade
11 am, Sunday, 6th February 2006



at Saint Bartholomew's Anglican Church
290 Burnley St, Burnley
Melway 2H E9

All Gunners, past and present, and their families are invited to join us at our annual church parade. Come early to hear the church bells pealing and stay for refreshments afterwards

Enquiries to Robin Smith on 9435 6352

63 years ago...

On Thursday 19 February 1942, Australia was for the first time attacked by a foreign nation. The Japanese air raids on Darwin happened four days after the fall of Singapore and only 10 weeks after the bombing of Pearl Harbour.

The Australian and American armed forces in the Northern Territory were hopelessly under-resourced.

They had no fighter aircraft.

The infantry had only five rounds of ammunition each, and the ack-ack were told to use the World War I (1916) ammunition before starting on the newer supplies.

One unit had 80 rifles between 700 soldiers.

On 19 February 1942 eight ships were sunk in Darwin Harbour, with few survivors. Thirty-four aircraft were destroyed, the post office demolished and several hundred people killed and injured, civilians and armed services alike.

The initial raids were followed by 21 months of air assaults on the Top End: Darwin, Adelaide River, Katherine and Milingimbi in Arnhem Land were bombed 64 times.

Despite a Royal Commission into the attacks, for years the Australian government suppressed the truth about casualties and damage.

Darwin Raids 1942-1943

Raids No. 1 & 2

February 19 1942

243 killed, 350 wounded.

Two ships set on fire, one blown up damaging the pier. Six ships sunk and seven more damaged; three Catalina aircraft destroyed and two US vessels destroyed. Post and Telegraph offices destroyed, Police Station, Barracks, Cable Office, and Government offices destroyed and hospital damaged. RAAF hospital, recreation hall, equipment store, many houses and living quarters destroyed.

On 19 February 1942 four of the six Japanese carriers that bombed Pearl Harbor launched another surprise attack. Eighty-one planes were launched against Darwin whose harbour was full of ships. Eight ships were sunk, two were beached and later refloated and many of the other thirty-five ships in the harbour were damaged by bomb or machine gun fire. Darwin town and the RAAF aerodrome were also heavily damaged by the raid.

Darwin would have been without any air defence except that ten Kittyhawks of the US 33rd Pursuit Squadron en route to Java had turned back to Darwin. Five of the aircraft landed while the other five remained in the air. In command in the air was Lieut Robert G Oestreicher who spotted Japanese planes diving on the Kittyhawks. He shouted a warning that Zeros were attacking. However three of the Kittyhawks were quickly shot down with two of the pilots being killed. A fourth American airman, although wounded, managed to land his damaged aircraft. Lieut Oestreicher was the only pilot who stayed in the air during the raid and was able to shoot down two Japanese planes although only one kill was confirmed. The five Kittyhawks that had landed were either destroyed on the ground or were shot down before they were able to regain combat altitude. Two of these pilots, including their Commanding Officer, Major Floyd Pell, were also killed. A second raid of 54 bombers two hours later on the same day met no resistance in the air. Antiaircraft guns that day destroyed four Japanese aircraft and probably destroyed another four.

The raids on 19 February were the first two of sixty-four raids against the Darwin area. There is no authoritative list of either allied or Japanese aircraft losses.

Defenders of Darwin

Having served fifteen years as a gunner, a recent trip to Darwin was most interesting. I remember the people of Australia being told that Darwin had only been bombed on two occasions in early 1942. In fact Darwin and surrounding areas had more bombs dropped on it than Pearl Harbour. The Japanese made seventy bombing raids between February 1942 and the 12th of November 1943.

I joined the 2 LAA Regt. In 1949 (40mm Bofors) and later relocated to the 2 HAA Regt. In the early 1950's (3.7 Guns). You can imagine my surprise when I discovered a former gun site of a 2 HAA battery used in the defence of Australia and saw action with the first Japanese attack on Darwin 19th February 1942.

W02 Lionel Foster

Quarantine Anti-Aircraft Battery Site

Established in 1941 the Quarantine Anti-Aircraft Battery Site is the only complete gun-site of its type within the Darwin area. It is highly significant as it is of a design which was discontinued by the Defence Force in the mid 1940s and one which is unique to the Northern Territory. The present structures were built in September 1942 by the Civil Construction Corps and personnel of the 2nd and 14th HAA Batteries. The site was used to defend the South West section of Darwin Harbour and was a backup for the Berrimah Station.

Local stone was used in the construction. The entry post was constructed solely of local stone with the remaining structures built of aggregate made from local stone.

The original structures consisted of four revetted emplacements, a central instrument bunker, accommodation, administration hut, mess, kitchen and rifle range. The site comprised four 3.7" Heavy AA guns, a Bofors gun, a Vickers Predictor Mark IV, a Height and Range Finder Mark IV, Lewis Machine guns and Radar Equipment. During the Japanese raids on 22 February 1942 the guns maintained fire at the enemy with one heavy bomber being shot down.

Today the site consists of the revetted emplacements, the central bunker and slabs where the administration, mess and kitchen buildings stood. The 3.7" guns were removed on 27 November 1944.



THE FORMER QUARANTINE H-3 GUN SITE DARWIN
FOUR 3-7 GUNS AND ANTI AIRCRAFT MACHINE GUN DETACHMENTS



50th Anniversary of the 1956 Melbourne Olympic Games

Are you interested?

The Chairman of the Organising Committee, on behalf of the Australian Olympic Committee (AOC) and the Victorian Olympic Council (VOC), is our member Major General Jim Barry, who in talking to our President, Major Neil Hamer, reminded him of Artillery's contribution to the "Friendly Games".

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

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

The now demolished RAA Batman Avenue Depot, along with the Engineers' Depot, was the secure transport and personnel compound, whilst the main Halls were training venues for Basketball.

Herewith an extract from a recent Media Release:

"Melbourne Australia will be the centre of excitement as it celebrates the 50th Anniversary of the 1956 Olympic Games 18 – 22 November 2006.

With 67 Nations participating in what was known as the "Friendly Games", a Golden Anniversary celebration at the Melbourne Cricket Ground (MCG) will be the showpiece in a week of planned activities celebrating the progression and achievements of Melbourne and the athletes that participated.

The Golden Anniversary celebration will be a public celebration and will honour representatives of the Australian 1956 Team as well as the contingent of international 1956 Olympians who choose to come to Australia to help celebrate the event. To date over 100 Australian Olympians including our 13 Gold Medallists have already confirmed their attendance.

In addition --- other activities --- include a major exhibition, "Melbourne 50 Years On", showcasing the development of Victoria at the Melbourne Exhibition Centre ---

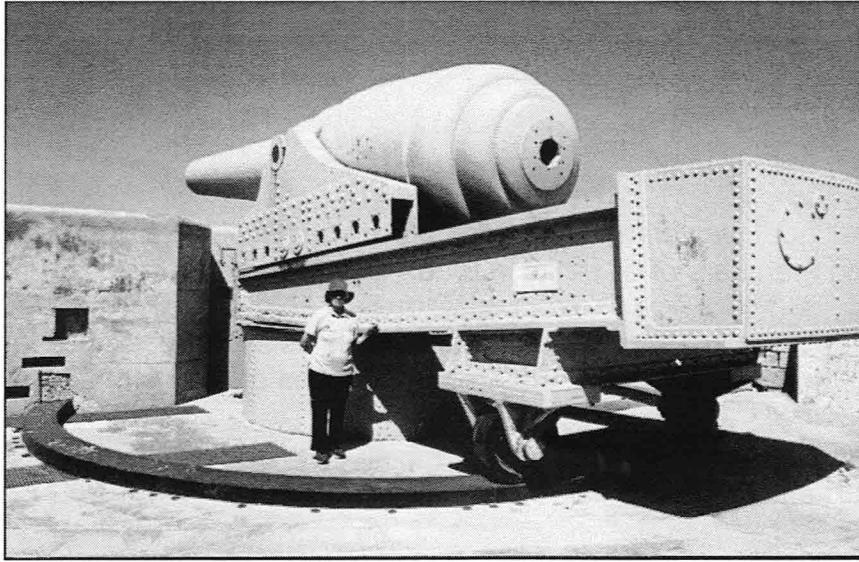
Further information regarding tickets to the Golden Anniversary celebrations at the MCG will be posted on our website www.olympics.com.au/voc in early 2006. "

We would like to hear from anyone involved in 1956 and in what capacity to gauge whether or not we should organise some celebration, or facilitation for this anniversary in November 2006. The public will be involved, so we should be part of this celebration.

Please contact Neil Hamer direct with expressions of interest and we will keep you informed in future editions.



The Armstrong 100-ton Gun.

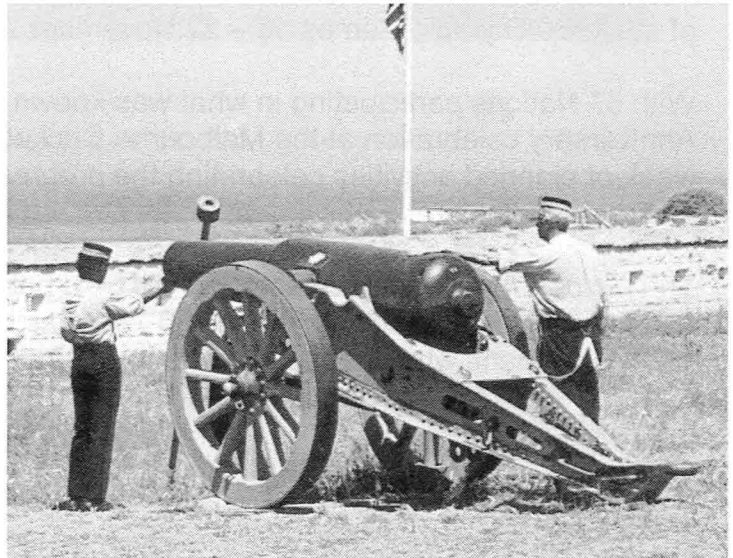


Fort Rinella is a coastal battery built by the British between 1878 and 1886. It formed part of a series of four batteries built concurrently in Malta and Gibraltar for Armstrong 100-ton guns.

The building of these forts was necessitated by Britain's growing fear of losing its naval superiority in the Mediterranean to Italy, who at the time was rebuilding its naval forces to an unprecedented strength.

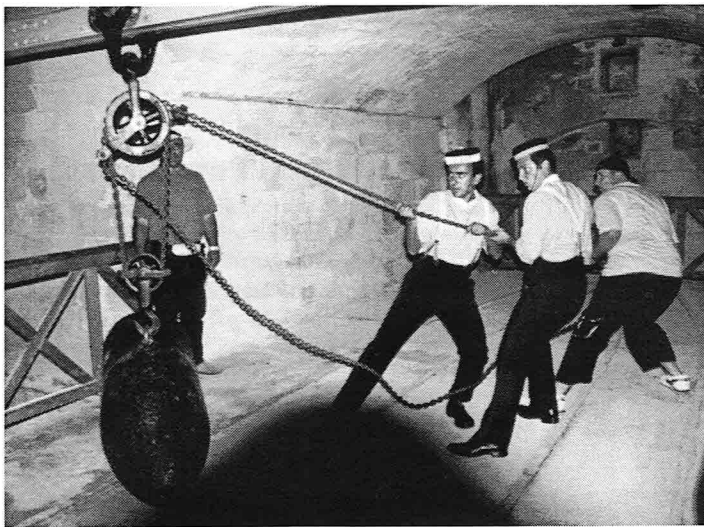
At the fore of this Italian naval re-armament were two new ships: the *Duilio* and *Dandolo*. These were ironclads built on the monitor system, protected by 22 inches of steel, which when completed became the most powerful ships of the line in existence. Their armament consisted of four Armstrong 100-ton guns mounted in twin turrets, which by being co-axially placed could provide and all round fire.

These guns, apart from being the largest muzzle-loaders ever made, were also the most powerful ones in service then. Their effective range stood as a remarkable 7,000 yards, at which distance they could penetrate no less than 15.2 inches of wrought iron armour.



The British saw the potential of these powerful ships being used against their interests in the Mediterranean and acted swiftly to bolster the coastal defences of Malta and Gibraltar with similar armament as that of the Italian ships. Consequently, in 1878, four 100-ton guns were purchased from Sir William Armstrong to be distributed equally amongst the two naval stations.

In Malta the two 100-ton guns were conveniently sited at Tigne and



Rinella, to guard the entrance into the Grand Harbour.

Given its massive proportions, it could not be effectively worked by hand.

Therefore, an ingeniously designed steam powered, hydraulic system was provided which made the gun traverse, depress and load without relying much on human effort.

After the arrival of the gun in September 1882, 100 men from 1 Bty, 1 Bde Scottish R.A.Div had to transport it into position using only a huge capstan, a wooden sled and rollers plus a number of hydraulic jacks. This took three months and the gun was finally in operation in

Jan 1884.

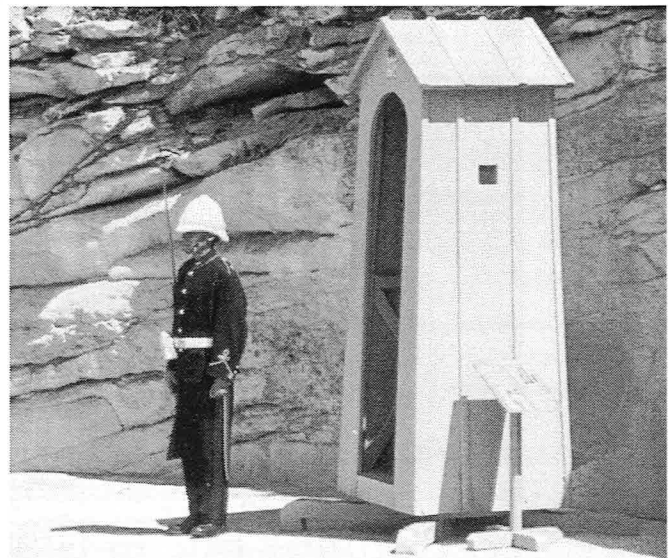
Throughout their entire service life, none of the 100-ton guns were ever fired in anger. They have instead spent their entire time acting as a powerful deterrent guarding British naval and merchantile anchorage in that region.

By 1906, after just 20 years, all 100-ton guns in British service were phased out. As a consequence, Fort Rinella was stripped of all its machinery and abandoned, not to be used ever again for the purpose for which it was originally built.

Since 1991 the fort has been undergoing restoration by volunteers from FONDAZZJONI WIRT ARTNA – The Malta Heritage Foundation who are turning it into a live museum where aspects of its history are brought back to life for the enjoyment and appreciation of the public.

If you visit Malta and are interested in history, a visit to the Medina Experience would please you. There they have illustrated the history of Malta using wax dummies in correct costumes and an audio commentary which we found to be excellent.

Robert Sealey, LtCol, RFD, ED, Retd.





2/10 Fd Regt

2005 St Barbara's Day Awards

Major Norman Whitelaw Prizes

Best Soldier – 8228817 Gnr. T Bird

Best NCO – 8242187 Sgt. M Kennedy

Best Officer – 8272786 Lt. T Barnes

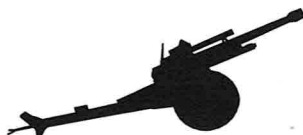
Best ARA / Fulltime – 8222191 Pte. T Richardson

10 Mdm RAA Association

Best JNCO

8237309 Bdr. D Mormile

8271461 Bdr. G Gray

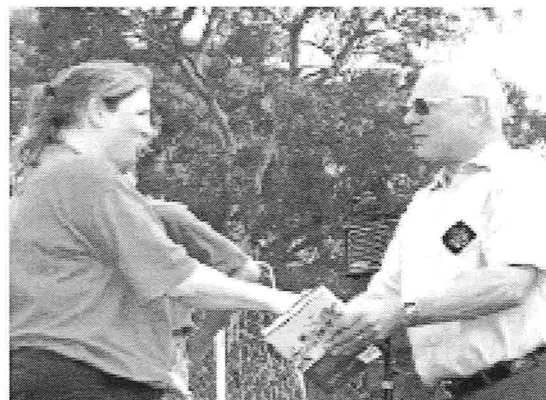


St Barbara's Day, 4 Dec 05.

St Barbara is the Patron Saint of all gunners and the Victorian Artillery celebrated her day with a picnic and sports event at Watsonia Barracks. Family and friends attended and cheered the teams in the Manhandling Gun Races and the Tug-of-War. All on "The Long Green".



Yes, that's the CO, LtCol Peter Rowley, RFD, third from the left, sweating out the last few days of his command of the 2/10 Field Regt, RAA. Coach was Cpl Mitch Evans.



The President of the RAA Association, Major Neil Hamer, RFD, Retd, presented Pte Tanya Richardson with a prize for The Best Soldier for 2005.



Other prizes were presented by (Right) Lionel Foster the President of the 10 Mdw Regt Association, and (centre) Ray Martino of the same Association, who is seen awarding a prize to Bdr Davide Mormile-Beriazzo.



The CO, LtCol Peter Rowley, RFD, the ColCommandant of Artillery, Victoria, Brig Doug Perry, RFD, ED, the RSM 2/10 Field Regt, WO1 Michael Johnson and the Battery Commander of 38 Bty Geelong Major Scott Dutton. You may note the large and highly polished mug in the centre. It is the DEFURED Trophy for the best Battery. No prizes for guessing which battery won it this year. The smile on the BC's face tells all.

The day ended with a stirring message to the Regiment on the occasion of the CO's last formal activity and the usual barbeque lunch followed. A good time was had by all who attended.

Submitted by Bob Sealey
MY SERVICE CAREER
By COL Graham Farley, OAM, RFD, ED (Rtd)

Part 22 – Colonel Artillery, 1979

Once again the first military function for the year was a dinner with the Melbourne University Regiment, but this time at its Grattan Street HQ. As many as possible of the former COs, including LTGEN Sir Edmund Herring, the Honorary Colonel, were present for a photograph. It was the 50th anniversary since Sir Edmund had been commissioned

The FF GP arty team consisted of MAJs Tony Furze and George James, as well as CAPT Bernie Pearson. WO1 Bob Millett, MBE, was to join the team before the year was out. The 2/15 Fd Regt was still commanded by LTCOL Graham Allinson, 10 Mdm Regt by LTCOL Tony Larnach-Jones, and 132 Div Loc Bty by MAJ Doug Perry.

On the weekend of 16/18 Feb 79, 2/15 were conducting a bivouac at Puckapunyal and the regular medium unit, 8/12, was also in camp. MAJ George James took me up on the Friday night and I was again allotted the VIP flat in the central mess. BRIG Silverstone visited the area over the weekend.

Professionally, I was in my fourth year as headmaster of the ecumenical Braemar College at Woodend, which had been established to meet the needs of the local community. There were still many teething problems. Furniture was often still from second hand sources in many cases and all of us, staff and governing board, were finding our feet. The school had not been going long enough for there to have developed strong patterns of routine. Hence, I could not risk being away from the school for a fortnight.

The distance between Woodend and Puckapunyal, via Lancefield and Tooboora, is about an hour's drive. I got used to timing things nicely so that I could be at either place at the time that I was needed. But both of our cars were starting to show their age. Our son turned six in 1979. Before the year was out he would have an operation on his ears – my poor little boy “under the knife” at so young an age!

But somehow I was able to keep juggling the various balls (of family, school, army and church) and endeavouring to be at the right place at the right time with the right decision or action. I always had great loyalty from the teams, particularly both the CMF and regular officers in 3 Div FF Gp.

At the time the relationship between some of the committees was probably quite clear, but the Artillery Planning Advisory Committee – APAC (Colonel Commandant, Colonel Artillery, the COs and OC 132 Div Loc Bty), the 3MD Artillery Social Committee and the RAA Association often got in each other's way! The APAC to some extent served as the coordinating group for both unit and social administration. If I was honest, I possibly ignored the other two bodies.

Readers who have worked with and “under” me, know that I tend to use a committee system in command. Now I know that a camel resulted from the committee that was asked to design a horse, but the Col Arty had no specific command powers and I have always found that the people who will have to make the scheme work have the best advice to offer.

I got to know the Colonel Commandant¹ quite well over the period of my appointment. He had tended to be rather brusque and expect a standard of response that was no longer possible with our CMF-only staff. At a meeting early in 1979 he asked me whether he had appeared to be

¹ His Honour MAJGEN Judge Norman Vickery, CBE, MC,ED

difficult in his approach to me. He went on to confess that he had battled with prostate cancer but that was now behind him.

In my rôle of being his host, and seated comfortably in the central mess lounge, I asked him as to how he had spent the war. For perhaps two hours, he replied with a fascinating account of his period in the desert, where he received the MC, and then as a naval gun fire support officer² in the Pacific. I am not sure that his story was ever formally recorded before his later death.

Memory is a variable thing. The parade at Grosvenor was always preceded with a light supper – to use the British term. I would endeavour to get there on time, but parking had to be in the street. Not even the Colonel Artillery warranted an off the street parking bay at the HQ. In the early days of my appointment, carafes of wine could be purchased. But then the mess committee switched to the sale of bottles. I will leave it to the reader to follow through the consequences of that decision when only two shared the wine! At that stage, my parents lived in Elwood and I would spend the night there, but in 1981 I got to know most of the back roads to drive back to Woodend!

The three FF Gp artillery units were in camp at the same time. As a result, the "Col Arty's" team deployed itself as a makeshift HQ RAA at Puckapunyal. As two rooms were allocated to the four of us in the central mess, we became the butt of quite a few jokes about being "in the field." To solve the problem we defined the boundaries of the camp in our favour. There were not many visitors to the camps, so that what we needed to do was done very well.

I recall spotting COL Kevin Gurney, Assistant Commander FF Gp, and the FF RSM, inspecting the toilet block for plugs in the sinks and operable pans. Two camps earlier, the chaplains' report had listed these deficiencies. Chaplains tend to fall into the categories of being "heavy" or "light." The latter could be fobbed off with the poorest vehicle in the pool and the barest of tea and drink facilities; but not so with chaplains of the calibre of the Anglican John Leaver or Fathers Maguire or O'Callaghan.

On the Sunday I went to the garrison chapel, where CHAP Alan Greenshiels took the service. On the Tuesday, I went to Grosvenor to sort out some career matters. 2/15 was coming to camp via Eildon, and I visited them on the Wednesday. MAJGEN Maitland, AO, OBE, ED, Inspector General of Reserves, came down from NSW on the Saturday and I met him in the mess. After visiting the units in turn³, we went to the Army Open day at Watsonia. There was a buffet meal for officers that night.

I have always provided every opportunity for church parades and the Sunday was no exception, the service being taken by CHAP O'Callaghan. The visitor that day was MAJGEN His Honour Judge Norman Vickery. Our tour of the range included Spectator's Hill. The COs and OC joined us for the evening meal.

On the Monday, the "old and bold," came for a visit. The Geelong party from the RAA Association included MAJGEN Jock McNeill, LTCOL Derek Austin, MAJ Ian Barnes, CAPT Peter O'Loughlin, LT Ron Dye. Their visit concluded with a BBQ behind Site 6. MAJGEN Maitland returned to Sydney that night. On the Wednesday of the second week, 2/15 conducted a direct shoot with a number of target rounds being scored. Was it on this shoot, that firing had to be suspended while a civilian contractor quietly drove across the range just behind the targets? BRIG Jim Barry was Thursday's visitor to Puckapunyal. He was accompanied by MAJ Ike McDonald. 10 Mdm Regt were being assessed, both as a unit and for the Mount Shank Trophy.

The RAA TEWT at the Army School of Health, Healesville, followed on the heels of camp, being held on the weekend, 7/9 Apr. Accommodation was civilised, as it would be again twelve months

² The NGFSO was one of those delightful titles, for which we all might have had aspirations in our dreams. I have also been advised that the initials BLO could be used – Bombardment Liaison Officer. There we would have been, Hornblower-like, reeling with the motion of the war ship, coordinating its gun fire in support of targets ashore!

³ 10 Mdm at the Classification Range; 132 at Site 1 and 2/15 at Site 6.

later. Expecting cold weather, Mt. Macedon-like, I had donned "long Johns," but they were quite unnecessary in the good weather on the Saturday. A rope hand rail had been added to the log over the river at the gun site and the Col Arty was expected to set the example. But I left my cap, wallet and watch on the bank before venturing across. I have never had a head for heights. LTCOL Graham Allinson was the conducting officer for the TEWT.

That night we sat down for a formal dinner in blues, BRIG Jim Barry being guest of honour. NCOs on the TEWT joined us. On the Sunday the weather turned against us. It was quite showery. By 1979, personnel had been issued with the "you beaut" jumper and the equally good plastic raincoat. MAJ Peter Kahler⁴ hardly paused in his stride when he said (or words to this effect), "Switch now to the wet weather program – tell the men to put on their raincoats"!

One minute we did not have enough time to complete the laid down program. The next one, we had time up our sleeves. Soon MAJ Doug Perry had everyone busy with map references and panoramas. It was then back to the School for the church parade, it being Palm Sunday. I had managed to arrange for a chaplain to be in attendance. The following Wednesday I visited 10 Mdm and presented CAPT Dave Carr with his National Medal.⁵



Lt. Sir James Darling, RA and Col. Graham Farley

The Gunner Dinner in the 3MD Officers Mess was held on Fri 4 May 79. This year I had a voice! Sir William Hall replied to the "Regiment's Toast," but my contribution was construed as a "speech night" report. That would be the pattern for two more years at least. Sir James Darling, former headmaster of Geelong Grammar School, was one of my guests, together with my father. My other guest was the acting chairman of the school. On the way home I thought something was wrong with the lights of my Capri vehicle. I was right. The battery slowly drained itself and we came to a halt in Gisborne – almost outside the RACV garage! Fortunately John Ward had left his car in Gisborne and we only had a short walk. But truck drivers

gave us friendly hoots as in cape and mess kit, we trudged along the main street.

On Sat 5th May I visited the Tac 5 coaching course, and went along the following day as well. At the end of June, Doug Perry and George James were promoted to LTCOL to command 2/15 and 10 respectively and MAJ Jim Killender took over 132. It was about this time that WO1 Bob Millett, MBE, formerly of 10 Mdm, joined the Col Arty staff, although I was never quite clear as to what posting he filled. But Bob was able to retire in due course having been in effect, the DASM. To mark the occasion, Shirley and I



Gunner Dinner 1979

SGT Buttigieg (Spelling I am not sure but this is my memory of him) with wine, Hall, Allinson, MAJGEN Jock McNeill; LIEUT Judith Davis, MAJGEN Norm Vickery, (I think it is a youthful) COL Keith Rossi, unknown

⁴ Training Major

⁵ Dave is perhaps best known for his

hosted a luncheon at Braemar College for the officers involved.

I attended LTLCOL Tony Larnach-Jones' farewell dinner at 10 Mdm on Sat 21 Jul. About the same time, LTCOLs Lee, Nunn and McManus were promoted to COL, and BRIG Neale Bavington would take over the FF GP from BRIG Jim Barry. Early in September I made a visit to the Colac depot, travelling in style by Kombi.wagon! And it rained as it had always done on visits in the past.



Brig. Sir William Hall talking with Lt. Col. Graham Allinson

During October I supervised planning for the St. Barbara's Day parade, that was to be held at RAAF Point Cook, it being equi-distant between the three artillery units. I also interviewed the officers in the rank of major for nominations on the Tac 5 qualifying course. My records list MAJs Bunnett, Christie, Freeland, Henry, Smith RJ, and Hemingway for these interviews. Despite my recommendations, politics further up the scale tried to alter my list. Why does one have to fight all the time when one is trusted to make the decision in the first place!

On the first weekend in October, the FF GP TEWT was held at Watsonia in the then poorly ventilated lecture theatre, the air-conditioning having not been installed by that stage. MAJGEN "Digger" James gave a lecture on battle stress.

MAJGEN Frank Poke sat in on a career meeting on 23 Oct 79 and I then accompanied him to visit 2/15 at Batman Avenue. That regiment had its bivouac the following weekend. It was the usual trip to Pucka to stay in the VIP flat. On the Saturday I went out to Boase Hill.

Following the extensive soil reclamation program the range could look a picture in spring with a "sea of grass" below from the OP.

The Point Cook parade then ran into some difficulties. "We" had assumed that the RAAF would be happy for us to use their parade ground, but they much preferred us to select an alternative area.



Lt Col. George James, Col. Graham Farley, Maj Dennis Bird & Mr Buck Brooksbank at an OP at Puckapunyal Sat 17 Nov. 79

This was understandable in view of maintenance. I visited Madam WGCDR Cox and clarified the position with the station commander, AIRCDRE Reed. We were receiving every cooperation otherwise. As I drove through the station's main gate, I felt I was coming home. I had attended camps here as an Air Training Corps cadet in 1947 and I had liaised with the Scout Venture in Jan 70 when the station hosted a party of scouts.

Geelong hosted a "Beating the Retreat" ceremony on 11 Nov. On the following Saturday, I invited my school chairman, Buck Brooksbank, to come with me to Puckapunyal where 2/15 had a live firing bivouac. The unit's batteries, as with those of 10 Mdm, were challenging for the Mount Shank Trophy, so the standard was high.

On 21 Nov at the Grosvenor parade, there were chaplains in abundance, as they had been called together for a special conference. My diary notes that on the 27 Nov, there was a meeting of the social committee. Fortunately my papers had been prepared for me, but despite the dedication of the RAA regular officers on the HQ, we still missed the "direct support" of the former HQ RAA staff, namely its two majors. These officer appointments had now been translated into that of "training majors," one to each main unit.

The St. Barbara's day parade was held on Sun 2 Dec 79, one day off the recognised date. LTCOL Graham Allinson was parade commander. The personnel of the units rallied with a good attendance. The weather was cool but fine. We had chosen a grassed area for the parade, which was a challenge, in the absence of a band, for good marching. The area was on the coast, so the officers on the saluting base had a fine view of the sea.



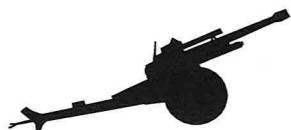
March Past Point Cook Sunday 2nd December 1979.
Col. Graham Farley, Col. Artillery, Maj Bob Muirhead on the Saluting base

I insisted on being allowed to walk on to the parade, but both MAJGENs Vickery and McNeill came on by car. If I have my details correct, the Mount Schanck trophy had been won by a composite battery from South Australia, with 2 and 23 Bty in second and third positions, with 39 Bty fourth. These "silver" and "bronze" achievements made 2/15 Regt the premier one in Australia. The RAA Association's awards were presented by MAJGEN J. McNeill to CAPT Chris Renwick, 2/15, SGT E. J. Redfern, 2/15, GNR M. B. Bellamy, 132, and WO2 J. W. Bird, 10. The Vickery trophy went to CAPT Carl Wood. MAJGEN Jock McNeill would be the next Colonel Commandant, so the occasion was a farewell to MAJGEN Vickery.

1979 had come to a close. The Regiment was in good shape considering the pressures in terms of training days and limitations on fuel and ammunition in particular. Further reductions were in store but not for a year or two. At that stage I had no idea that the APAC would come up with the concept of the 1980 RAA TEWT being at Braemar College, but it was the event that would make the year and possibly be the crowning experience of my CMF career.



His Honour Judge Norm Vickery with Col. Graham Farley, Maj. Roger Smith, Lt. Col. Doug Perry & Lt. Col. Graham Allinson inspecting the Parade



Parade Card

JAN 2006

20 Committee
25 ANZAC Day

FEB 2006

06 Church Parade
16 Committee

MAR 2006

16 Committee

MAY 2006

18 Committee

JUN 2006

0? 3 DIV lunch (all ranks)
30 Gunner Dinner

JUL 2006

02 Res Forces Day
20 Committee

AUG 2006

17 Committee
?? Regt Ball

SEP 2006

21 Committee

OCT 2006

19 Committee

NOV 2006

0? A.G.M.
05 RSL Springvale
10 Golf Day
16 Committee

DEC 2006

03 St Barbara's Day
14 Committee

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Brief Service History _____

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