

CASCABEL

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ROYAL AUSTRALIAN ARTILLERY ASSOCIATION
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Fire for effect:
Sgt Nathan Swindell
fires the M777A2
Lightweight
Towed Howitzer at
Puckapunyal range
in Victoria.
Photo by LS Paul Barry



NEW GUNS

Gunners put M777A2
Howitzer to the test at
Puckapunyal

Centrepiece

[See pages 17-18](#)

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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.
8 Alfada Street
Caulfield South Vic. 3167

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

Alan Halbish
115 Kearney Drive
Aspendale Gardens Vic 3195
(H) 9587 1676
ahalbish@netspace.net.au

RAA Association (VIC) Inc
Committee

President: MAJ Neil Hamer RFD
9702 2100
Vice President: Lt Col. Jason Cooke
9705 1155
Immediate Past President:
MAJ Merv Taggart RFD, ED
9773 3730
Secretary: **Rachel Decker**
9578 5205
Assistant Secretary: MAJ Robin Smith RFD
9435 6352
Treasurer: SSGT Reg Morrell
9562 9552
Members:
CAPT. Peter Wertheimer OAM, RFD
LT. Tom Mc Lean
WO2 Lionel Foster
SSGT Brian Cleeman
SSGT Ernie Paddon
Cascabel Editor: WO2 Alan Halbish
9587 1676
Representatives: WO2 Lionel Foster
(10 Mdm Regt Assn)
Honorary
Auditor: Major David J Osborne
Shepard Webster & O'Neill Pty Ltd

MUSEUM TRUST

Curator: SSGT Brian Cleeman
9560 7116

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

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The President Writes

In my last column in *Cascabel* Number 107 I asked that any members of an RSL Sub-branch notify me if the sub-branch would like to receive a copy of this magazine. I did not receive any feed-back about this, which was a little disappointing.

I recently attended the Reserve Luncheon (formerly the 3 Div Luncheon) at the RACV Club.

The artillery was well represented with three tables. This is a very pleasant way to meet old friends and acquaintances from other corps.

The Association will be attending the Reserve Forces Day March which will be conducted by the Reserve Forces Day Council. Maj Merv Taggart has been our representative at the march committee. This activity will of course be well and truly over by the time this edition reaches you, so I will try and encourage Merv to give a report of the day in Number 109.

Just a few reminders to save you reading the Parade Card on the last page.

Gunner Dinner to be held at the Caulfield RSL on Friday 7 Oct.

Annual General Meeting to be held at Caulfield RSL on Thursday 3 Nov.

Annual Golf Day to be held at Berwick Montuna Golf Club on Friday 4 Nov.

Bairnsdale/Gippsland week-end visit on 19/20 Nov.

Annual Church Parade to be held at St George's Church on Sunday 4 Dec. followed by the 2/10 St Barbara's Day Parade and Family Day.

We have 114 members on our email contact list. These all appear to be up-to-date. Please do not forget to notify me if you change your email address, (as some people appear to do with great regularity,) so that you stay informed about the Association.

Of the 114 members only 40 have agreed to have their copy of this magazine sent to them by email. Also a small number have replied that they would prefer to continue to receive their copy by post.

If you have not yet let me know whether you prefer to receive your copy of *Cascabel* by email,

post or both would you please let me know.

I look forward to seeing you at the next Association function.

Regards to all

Neil Hamer
MAJ (Retd)

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Current Membership as at 25 Jun 11

Life Members	197	(198)
Annual Members	44	(46)
Senior Annual Members	13	(12)
Affiliates	31	(33)
Others (CO/CI, Messes, etc.)	12	(12)
Libraries	5	(5)
RSL's	2	(2)
<u>Total</u>	<u>304</u>	<u>(308)</u>

New Members

We welcome WO2 H (Harry) Petriw, Life Member, to the Association

Vale

It is with regret that we note the passing of LtCol D B (David) Ellson RFD ED (joined Aug 96) and Capt B K (Brian) Grutzner (joined Nov 83).

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

Neil Hamer Contact: Telephone: 9702 2100
MAJ (Retd) 0419 533 067

Membership Co-ordinator
Email nhamer@bigpond.net.au

From the Colonel Commandant

Alan,

I will have to be an apology for this edition of Cascabel. I had intended to write something, but as always I left it until late. However, yesterday my mother-in-law passed away and I have been caught short on time.

Please encourage readers to put the Gunner Dinner in their diaries.

Regards

Neil Graham

Condolences from our members, Neil Ed



Reserve Forces Day Council (Vic.)



RECOGNISING THE VALUE OF RESERVE SERVICE TO THE NATION ON JULY 1
Patron in Chief Her Excellency Ms Quentin Bryce, AC
GOVERNOR-GENERAL OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA
Victorian Patron His Excellency, The Honourable Alex Chernov, AO QC
GOVERNOR OF VICTORIA
National Chairman the Honourable Sir Laurence Street, AC KCMG QC
Victorian Chairman Brigadier Neale Bavington, RFD ED Ret'd



Along with the Reserve Forces march held at the Shrine on Sun. 3 Jul, a presentation of a medallion was made to the wives (approximately 110) of long serving (former) members of the CMF/ARES. This award was to recognize the services given over many years of support to their spouses. Unfortunately, my camera malfunctioned (the batteries ran out!) & I don't have any photos of the ladies. However, I did manage a couple of the march & 1 of WO1 Darby O'Toole who is well on the way to recovery after his recent heart valve replacement surgery. The weather was lousy, the speeches too long, but the medallions presentation ceremony was extremely well organised, with a number of presenters each looking after a group of wives.



RAA Association recipients.
Mrs Mina Taggart
Mrs Barbara Cleeman
Mrs Rachel Decker
Mrs Sylveen O'Toole
Mrs Jan Smith
Mrs Beryl Sealy
Mrs Barbara Halbish
Ms Deborah Coker-Godson
(Brig Doug Perry)

[Editors Indulgence](#) (Click to return to index)

I was fortunate to be able to attend a lecture at the Shrine given by Mr Christopher Jobson. He is the Customs and Traditions guru from whom I have been using articles in this and previous Cascabel journals. As an ex WO1 reporting directly to his CDF, **what he doesn't know isn't worth knowing.** I direct you to [p36](#) where you will find another, some will say controversial, article.



I'm sure you will all have noticed I have been including articles that focus on both our Navy and Air Force. I have also used material from the USA, UK. And other countries. On [p14](#) we switch to Armour where SSgt Barry Irons commences another series of articles, this time on the origins of the Tank.

Despite these journals being focussed predominately towards Artillery - as they should be - I am taking the liberty of diversifying the content. After all, we are from the same Defence Force and share great relations with other countries military.

On the next page you will see an invitation to the next all ranks Gunner Dinner. I attended last year for the first time in many years and Barbara and I thoroughly enjoyed ourselves. Although a formal occasion, the rules are now far more relaxed than what we knew from our serving days. I am not a wine drinker, but was able to enjoy a beer or two during the dinner. As we age, so can our bladder capacity decrease. **Don't let that bother you. No bottles/carafes under the table any more, just unobtrusively leave the table for a much needed relief.**

So, no excuses members. Let's have a bumper attendance this year. (See next page).

Being the refined gentlemen that we artillerymen are, I am sure that many of you will enjoy viewing a superbly different presentation of Swan Lake by the Great Chinese State Circus performing in NZ. [Click here](#) - courtesy of Sgt Gordon Hepburn - to witness this brilliant cast or type in: <http://www.nzwide.com/swanlake.htm>

While you are enjoying (hopefully) the refined entertainment, [click here](#) to view and listen to 'Il Silencio' (The Silence) played by 13 year old Melissa Venema with André Rieu and his orchestra at the Amsterdam Arena. Brilliant.

<http://www.flixy.com/trumpet-solo-melissa-venema.htm>

At the conclusion of this superb performance, scroll down the screen a little & click on "Diamonds - '57 & '04 to bring back some great memories from the past.

As usual, I welcome any feedback re content. Enjoy.



Members of the band who played at the National Service Day Commemoration at Puckapunyal, March 20th, 2011.

SSgt Alan Kirkman,
LCpl Sean Nihill,
Musr Christine Savage,
Musr Jason Povey



Royal Australian Artillery Association (Victoria)



INVITATION GUNNER DINNER 2011

The President and Committee of the RAA Association (Vic) extend to you, your partners and guests a warm invitation to attend the 2011 All Ranks Gunner Dinner.

The Dinner will be held at the Caulfield RSL, 4 St Georges Road, Elsternwick
on Friday 7th October, 2011 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 Wednesday 28th September, 2011.

The Association looks forward to your support for this year's Gunner 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 2011

Rank _____ Name _____

Address _____

I accept your invitation to attend the 2011 Gunner Dinner.

Enclosed is a cheque for \$ _____ which includes entrée for my guests:

Rank _____ Name _____

Rank _____ Name _____

Special dietary requirements _____

If possible I wish to seated near _____



LTGEN David Morrison, AO



Hand over - OLD TO NEW

By Sgt Andrew Hetherington

LT-GEN Ken Gillespie handed over the leadership of the Army and its banner to Lt-Gen David Morrison at Blamey Square, Russell on June 24.

More than 300 personnel braved cold Canberra conditions to witness the parade, the end of a 43-year career and the enhancement and continuation of another.

"As I reflect on my 43 years of service, I couldn't be more proud of the men and women I've served with nor the direction the Army has taken," Lt-Gen Gillespie said.

"I started as an apprentice brick layer in 1968. Since then, I've learnt there are parallels between the principles of building and the development of an Army.

•**They both need a detailed plan,** strong foundations and the hard work of talented people to keep them in working order."

He said the Army was a fine, 110-year-old institution and the best small Army in the world.

It has not needed to be rebuilt, but it has certainly needed renovations along the way." Lt-Gen Gillespie said.

It has been an honour serving with you and a unique privilege to lead the talented men and women, both military and civilian, of our Army.

"Thank you for your hard work and dedication. I encourage you to continue striving to provide the best possible support for our greatest resource; our soldiers and their families."

Before departing the parade Lt-Gen Gillespie received three cheers, led by Australia's Federation Guard.

Lt-Gen David Morrison, who was promoted to the job in his new office on June 23, began his three year term by reflecting on past Army chiefs and the responsibility he would face.

"They are men of the highest calibre, great soldiers and great Australians, who have led the **Army in times of peace and war,"** Lt-Gen Morrison said.

"It's understandable, indeed desirable, to ask myself how will I compare? I am more among their number, but not yet among their midst. Only time and actions I will take will determine where I will stand in history."

Lt-Gen Morrison took time to praise the selfless dedicated service his predecessor had put into his Army career and the Army.

"Ken Gillespie is not just in their (previous Army Chiefs) midst, he's in the front rank of their number," he said.

"He has won his place through years of dedicated service to the nation, the capacity to make the toughest of decisions when they counted most, balanced always by his compassion, his deep understanding of those with whom he soldiered and his love of the service."

To finish his first address as CA, Lt-Gen Morrison made a pledge.

"I can do no more than make one simple promise to the nation, the Defence Force and the Army," he said.

You have my all, you can count on my commitment to put service before self to ensure this magnificent institution, peopled by the finest Australians, will continue to be a force for good, joint in its outlook, conscious of the need to be both effective and efficient, buoyed by a strong, open and supportive culture.

"An institution proud of its history, committed to answering all of the current operational demands it faces, with a keen eye to being able to meet the future defence needs of this wonderful nation."

Courtesy Army News

Myths & Legends by Brian O'Toole

Dr Brian O'Toole from the ANZAC Institute is an epidemiologist with a long interest in the health of Vietnam veterans and the health consequences of war service. He has worked on the Australian 'agent orange' scientific studies, was a member for 18 years of the

NAC to the Minister for Vets affairs on the VVCS, and conducted the first cohort health study of any returned service group in Australia, the Vietnam Veterans Health Study. He has conducted this longitudinal study over two waves of assessments, 14 years apart, of a random sample of Vietnam veterans, making the study unique in Australia and one of only a few such studies worldwide. He has recently conducted a companion study of veterans' wives, and is one of the few people in Australia with an expert knowledge of the long term effects of war service on veterans and their families. In this article he addresses some of the myths and legends.

Research can only report what is found; I can't make it up and can only report what I'm told by the diggers and the data that they give me. But there is some false knowledge out there which frequently prevails and pervades, such as claims of **"20,000 veterans commit suicide"** which are clearly nonsense and call into question the motives of the perpetrator, be it the editor or the journalist. What I'd like to do today is to address some of the more common myths and legends that surround Vietnam veterans and let you know what my research is showing. Here are 10 myths that I have encountered over the years that I would like to shed some light on, using the data from my research studies.

Myths and Legends About Vietnam Veterans

1. **"It was safer in Vietnam than in Australia for the Nashos"**

Only 1-in-16 young men who were called up actually got enlisted in the Army. From the 63,745 NSM who were enlisted in the eligible time period, 19,450 were sent to Vietnam. That's 30.5%, less than a third. So even if you were called up, there was actually only a 1.9% chance that you would be sent to Vietnam.

During the conflict there were 215 deaths of NSM in Vietnam; the mortality rate of NSM veterans in Vietnam was about 1.1%, very similar to the Regular mortality rate and very similar to the overall

American mortality rate. Australia's contribution was exactly proportional. But during the war years there were 188 deaths of NSM in Australia, where most of the deaths occurred on the roads. This is a mortality rate of less than 0.3%. So the relative risk of death, if you were a Nasho and were sent to Vietnam, was 4 times higher than the risk if you were a Nasho who stayed at home. So it wasn't safer in Vietnam at all, and there was no-one actually trying to kill you in Australia.

2. **"Only the ones dumb enough not to get out of it were sent"**

The Army had a screening Psych test administered on enlistment called the AGC that basically measured intelligence. It was scaled, or "normed" on a general Regular population to have an average of 10.5 on a scale of 1-20. Several Army Officers have told me they "lifted the whole standard of the Army". Indeed, the average AGC score of the Nasho veterans was 13.5, much higher than the background Regular Army population of 10.5. But, when compared with the Nasho veterans, the Regulars were not different; this means that the Regs who went to Vietnam were significantly brighter than the ones who stayed at home. Australia sent its best, fittest and brightest of both Regulars and Nasho's to Vietnam and it's more likely that the dumb ones stayed home.

3. **"The Nasho had it easier than the Regs"**

The study measured the potential for combat exposure in several different ways, from interviews with the diggers using an American questionnaire and from Army sources. Both showed that the average level of exposure was indeed slightly higher for Regs than for Nasho's, but looking at the extent of the exposure showed that Regs and Nasho's together had very similar risks of high intense combat, but that Nasho's had slightly more who experienced low levels.

But it's not just direct combat that hurts. When you look at the rate of Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) and other mental disorders in Regs and Nasho's, there is absolutely no difference. This means that you don't need lots of direct combat or be a Regular enlistee to be vulnerable to PTSD and depression. Eight months in a war zone alone will do it for you, whether you were a Nasho or a Reg. Sometimes, it can only take one day.

4. **"The blokes who came home by sea have less PTSD"**

This was a common myth heard around DVA and military senior ranks for some time; that a nice sea voyage home, fuelled by lots of beer, would leave PTSD behind, much like the line of cans that floated behind the Vung Tau Ferry on the return trip. Controversy raged and was fed by the image of men fighting in the jungle one day, and the next finding themselves discharged at the airport and alone late at night on the way home. But when I looked at the different rates of PTSD for those who came home by sea and by air, there was absolutely no difference. **That doesn't mean that the homecoming is not important – our research clearly shows it was important to veterans' later adjustment, particularly in the weeks and months after RTA, when they were reluctant to talk about their experiences, bottling them up, hitting the deck when a car backfired, and then hitting the booze, in an atmosphere of government neglect and hysterical media opposition.** From a humanist point of view, return to Australia by a leisurely means is surely a good thing for unit cohesion, for morale, and so forth, but it has no direct bearing on the issue of protective factors for PTSD and other conditions.

5. “Just get over it, son; it'll get easier as you get older”.

Population evidence shows that the prevalence of most mental disorders actually reduces as people age – older people have better overall mental health, except for the dementing disorders, of course. The ages of 15-25 are dangerous for schizophrenia and the psychotic disorders, and the ages of 35-55 are dangerous for anxiety and depression, with the peak age of suicide in men occurring in their mid-50s. In my study, at Wave 1 the veterans were aged between 39 and 73, with an average age of 46, and at wave 2 the spread was 46 to 87, with an average age of 60. We would expect that the prevalence of psychological disorders would decrease with time, but that is not what was found. The veterans had many times higher rates of depression and anxiety than expected based on population figures. Although it is a rare condition, imagine rates of recurrent, severe, chronic depression at literally 40 times higher, not just 40% higher, than for the same age groups in the Australian population. And this is 3 decades after the war.

6. “You didn't fight in a real war”.

How many Vietnam veterans heard this, just before they were chucked out of an RSL? It comes from the

old view of what types of activity occur in a war that sees army upon army, as occurred in previous conflicts. American studies of World War II have shown that only about 15% of soldiers actually fired their weapon; in the American Civil War they found flintlock rifles on battlefields that had been muzzle-loaded up to 8 times but not fired, because of reluctance on the part of often very young combatants. Anecdotes about war often repeat the **idea of “95% sheer boredom and 5% sheer terror”** that often characterised former conflicts. But Vietnam was different. In Vietnam we found that less than one-quarter of the veterans did not fire their weapon, and 17% reported firing a dozen times or more. This alone distinguishes Vietnam from other conflicts.

Vietnam was a war without fronts, where non-combatants could easily become targets, where the friendly local by day could become a most unfriendly cat in black pyjamas by night, where you could get into trouble walking down the wrong alley in town. It was a conflict of counter insurgency, fought among a civilian population, all the time on TV. Where the military historian (Major) McNeill wrote that Vietnam placed Australian men into longer periods of risk of contact with the enemy than at any time in Australia's history since Gallipoli.

Scientists are beginning to untangle the causes of PTSD and other war-related disorders by looking at the environmental assaults experienced by combatants. The obvious ones – direct combat, being wounded, etc – do not completely explain the rates of PTSD, particularly among non-combatants. This issue also arose with the Australian Gulf War study, conducted at the behest of DVA, that showed that about 15% of Gulf War veterans qualified for a diagnosis of PTSD, yet there was not a shot fired by or against the Aussies. Being trapped below the water line is a major fear for Navy personnel. The **concept of “malevolent environment” is becoming** heard these days, to describe non combat-related mental health conditions that can arise from just being present in a war zone.

It is probably impossible, or at least unsatisfactory, to try and compare wars – but you can extrapolate. From what we know about Vietnam and subsequent conflicts, the veterans of World War I, World War II, Korea, and other conflicts will have had similar rates of psychological problems as a result of their war service. We can extrapolate that the peacekeepers in nasty places like Rwanda would have similar rates of reactions to their experiences and require the

same levels of support. The same goes for the Iraq and Afghanistan theatres, which certainly qualify for **the soubriquet of “malevolent environments”** and which can be expected to result in similar levels of psychological problems after RTA. All wars and conflicts are traumatic and nobody's war is more traumatic or less traumatic than anyone else's war; the same level of human suffering can be expected after any military conflict.

7. “Veterans have multiple unstable marriages”

This common myth is definitely not supported by our data: 79% of veterans had been married once only – compare this with up to 40% of Australian marriages ending up on the rocks. At the time of interviews, 3% had never married, 4% were separated, 3% were widowers, and 10.5% were divorced. When these are compared with Australian population (Bureau of Statistics) data, it shows that there is no essential difference between the marital status of veterans and the marital status of the population.

Moreover, the level of domestic violence is exactly the same among veterans as in the general Australian population. While about 25% of veterans admitted to marital punch-ups, this was almost exactly the same as my study a few years ago of domestic violence in the general community showed. Most of it was a single incident, mostly many years in the past. Veterans are not necessarily **“walking time bombs”**. But they can be challenging to live with, particularly if PTSD, depression and alcohol come into the picture.

The data shows that PTSD is in fact clearly linked to the risk of domestic violence, and men with PTSD have less marital satisfaction than men without PTSD, as do their wives. However, the average length of marriage was more than 31 years and, in spite of veterans' struggles with alcohol and PTSD, their wives **‘hang in there’**. Even despite differences between PTSD veterans and non-PTSD veterans, **their wives' measures of marital satisfaction do not fall within the so-called ‘clinical range’, which means they are within ‘normal’ limits when it comes to marital adjustment.**

8. “They would have been like that anyway”.

This is one of the most insidious, arrogant and destructive myths that I have heard expressed around DVA and Defence. From our paper that examined the risk factors for PTSD (that was published in 1998), we took information from

different time periods – at school, between school and the Army, in the Army before going to Vietnam, and in Vietnam. **We tested 100's of items. We asked veterans if their father was in the military in World War II, in combat, and whether he was affected by his service.** Interestingly, father being affected by his WWII service came up as a predictor of PTSD, so much so that I had a long exchange with a journal editor and an anonymous journal referee who wanted to emphasise the possible genetic influences on PTSD. Our psychiatric assessments showed that a few veterans had symptoms of depression and agoraphobia before going to Vietnam. And there was some association between having depression and agoraphobia before going overseas and later development of PTSD. So it seems the myth may be correct. But we are talking very small amounts, although statistically significant.

The in-Vietnam variables that were the most strongly predictive of PTSD were: corps group, being wounded, and the amount of combat trauma experienced. These items swamped the other variables. Corps group in particular is interesting: the highest rates of PTSD found in the study were among RAE. This is in spite of their having lower mortality rates in Vietnam and having generally lower scores on the various combat measures we used. This suggests that their role is inherently dangerous – **that's a bit bleedin' obvious, for a bomb and mine disposal team** – and that direct enemy attack and combat is not the full story about PTSD, particularly for non-combatants. There is some small indication that there may be predisposing risk factors for PTSD, but without the experiences of Vietnam and combat, they would not have been like that anyway. The threats faced by Field Engineers **would certainly qualify as a “malevolent environment”**.

9. “Veterans biggest problem is PTSD”.

No, the veterans' biggest problem is not PTSD. In wave 1 we found PTSD to have occurred in 20% of veterans and it was current (i.e. symptoms in the past month) to the level of 10%. But alcohol abuse and dependence were much more prevalent – in wave 1 it was approximately 47% of veterans with alcohol disorders, more than double the PTSD rate. In wave 2 we found PTSD had increased to about 25%, while alcohol disorders had come down to about 28%, but they were still the highest prevalence of the psychological disorders and were many times more prevalent than the background Australian population. High cholesterol,

hypertension, deafness, haemorrhoids, osteoarthritis, gout and back pain were all at much higher prevalence's than PTSD, as was general anxiety disorder. The good news is that, in spite of the Army teaching men to drink and smoke, the current smoking rates of veterans were no different from the general population, but there were far more ex-smokers than the population, so this tells me that veterans have often heard the health message about smoking and given up.

10. "We don't have to worry about the wives until they become widows".

It seems important to governments to gather data about veterans, and so it should be, but **veterans don't exist in a vacuum; most have wives and children who might be at risk of "ripple effects" of their veteran's service.** In our study of **veterans' wives and partners, we found that the partners of veterans are not just struggling with their impaired partner but are suffering elevated rates of serious psychiatric illness, especially severe, recurrent depression, even 3 decades after the war.**

A statistical analysis of factors associated with **wives' depression showed that veteran combat, PTSD and ongoing depression were clear and strong risk factors. That is, aspects of veterans' war service seem directly predictive of their partners' rates of depression. There is also a disparity between the wives' rates of psychiatric disorder and their rates of healthcare utilization.** In particular, wives who have veterans with PTSD have lower rates of health service utilisation than other wives. This suggests that greater attention is needed to ensuring adequate assessment and treatment of veterans partners, particularly if the veteran has PTSD.

Concluding Remarks:

Our results reinforce the need to continue surveillance of veteran health and to take into consideration the impact of war service and **combat exposure on veterans' intimate partners** when future studies of veterans are undertaken. Higher rates of mental ill-health in both veterans and their partners may have major implications for the mental health of their offspring.

The ANZAC Institute is pressing ahead with plans **for a study of the veterans' children** – to get whole families into the study would be a unique

resource to study the long term effects of war service on veterans and their families and to pinpoint ways in which interventions might be put in place in a timely way to head off the problems that I am now seeing in the veterans of Vietnam and their wives. I would urge you to get behind this effort and tell governments and possible sponsors that studies of this nature are not just political exercises to assuage the cries of the strident masses, but have the potential, not just for saving money in compensation, but for improvement of the lives of the men and women **who serve their country as part of Australia's defence commitments.**

Courtesy of WO2 Max Murray

Technology for new forms of flight. Set new goals!!!

Pretty cool...it is NOT a helicopter. It has a rotor that is used just to take off and land. In flight, it's held up by its wings and the rotor turns very slowly. To take off, you put your foot on a brake pedal...which brakes the aircraft AND engages a clutch from the motor to spin up the rotor. The rotor ends have weights...and when it's spun up, it has a lot of energy stored in the blade. To take off, you take your foot off the brake and the blade takes on some angle and creates lift while the engine pushes the plane forward...and the wings develop lift and off it goes.



A movie of it in flight can be viewed by double clicking the link below or by typing into your web browser:

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=D9_aiDG0Ru8

[Click here](#)

US ARMY UNVEILS REVOLUTIONARY XM25 RIFLE - IN CAMO

U.S. Army Unveils 'Revolutionary' XM25 Rifle in Afghanistan

Since the dawn of modern warfare, the best way to stay alive in the face of incoming fire has been to take cover behind a wall. But thanks to a game-changing "revolutionary" rifle, the U.S. Army has made that tactic dead on arrival. Now the enemy can run, but he can't hide. After years of development, the U.S. Army has unleashed a new weapon in Afghanistan -- the XM25 Counter Defilade Target Engagement System, a high-tech rifle that can be programmed so that its 25-mm. ammunition detonates either in front of or behind a target, meaning it can be fired just above a wall before it explodes and kills the enemy.

It also has a range of roughly 2,300 feet -- nearly the length of eight football fields -- making it possible to fire at targets well past the range of the rifles and carbines that most soldiers carry today.

Lt. Col. Christopher Lehner, project manager for the semi-automatic, shoulder-fired weapon system for the U.S. Army's Program Executive Office Soldier, said that the XM25's capability alone is such a "game-changer" that it'll lead to new ways of fighting on the battlefield, beginning this month in Afghanistan. "With this weapon system, we take away cover from [enemy targets] forever," Lehner told FoxNews.com on Wednesday. "Tactics are going to have to be rewritten. The only thing we can see [enemies] being able to do is run away..."



Soldier saves Air Force Officer in Horse-Back Riding Mishap

CANBERRA

A Royal Australian Air Force Officer serving in the Defence Department narrowly escaped serious injury recently when he attempted horseback riding with no prior experience. After mounting his horse unassisted, the horse immediately began moving. As it galloped along at a steady and rhythmic pace, the Officer, who has not been named, began to slip sideways from the saddle.

Although attempting to grab for the horse's mane the Officer could not get a firm grip. He then threw his arms around the horse's neck but continued to slide down the side of the horse. The horse galloped along, seemingly oblivious to its slipping rider.

Finally, losing his grip, the Officer attempted to leap away from the horse and throw himself to safety. However, his foot became entangled in the stirrup, leaving him at the mercy of the horse's pounding hooves as his head and upper body repeatedly struck the ground.

Moments away from unconsciousness and possible death, to his great fortune a Soldier, shopping at K-Mart, saw him and quickly unplugged the horse!

Courtesy Maj Merv Taggart

HONOURING THE BRAVE

Why is it that some understand what matters about America ... and they respect it so deeply that they are willing to make the ultimate sacrifices for it? And too many others ... have no clue?

This slide show consists of photos taken at a formal dinner at the National Museum of the Marine Corps in Quantico, VA.

[Click here](#) or type the following into your browser

<http://www.jensensutta.com/slideshows/RTB/>



Courtesy WO2 Max Murray

Following on from SSgt Barry Irons brilliant series of articles on the 25 pdr, he has turned his attention to the Tank. As would be expected from Barry, another comprehensive series follows. Ed.

Origins of the Tank - Part 1

Preamble

Since the dawn of time, Man has struggled with his very existence to survive. With that struggle, has been the introduction of rudimentary tools for hunting and gathering. With these tools he set about to provide for the three basics, food, shelter and clothing. Combining with tools to enable fire making, digging for fundamental foods, and hunting primitive animals for food and skins necessary for shelter and clothing.

Along with that progression, perhaps evolution may be a better word, came the development of then primeval defensive and offensive weapons. For since that dawn of time, Man has been involved in disputes and conflicts from varying causes, perceived or imagined, religious or political to this very day.

From those far-off days, we have arrived to the level of sophistication of weaponry in use today. Achievable only in the ever fertile minds of inventors, advances of science and physics, technology and electronics, manufacturing and mining, and the list goes on.

Where does this leave us, with the myriad of weapons and their variants today? Sometimes we can get a bit smug with ourselves with our self-belief of advanced knowledge, but were did it all start. It is all too easy to overlook the origins of what we have today, without any true consideration of who did what, where and how.

This smugness is not just restricted to weapons, look around at the many things we use every day without a thought of how it came to be. Things like the Biro, felt tipped pens or markers, kitchen appliances, tinned goods, heating and cooling, transport, the very buildings we live and work in, and you could go on and on, and how could you forget the TV, Computer and Video games et al.

We could go on, but we will narrow it down to one item. The Tank. The very mention of this name can conjure all sorts of mental pictures, seen on the early films clips of WW 1 and the WW 2 documentaries, to start. And the mysteries of its value and use today, and in the past. Like all things we have encountered within our military

service, we would have most likely have seen one, and certainly heard one.

No mistaking the squeaking rumble and clanking of the tracks, coupled with the sound of the .50 cal and main armament being fired. Once heard never forgotten, even at a distance. Even the M113 carriers, who have a distinct sound of the engine and the rubber padded tracks chattering along.

So where did it all start, as the Tank is a relatively new comer to the battle field, still less than a hundred years old. But how it has progressed. If you want an example of technical and modern changes and advances in design and development throughout its history, then look no further.

Historians and Academics of the scientific and engineering persuasion, generally agree that Leonardo da Vinci has been credited with the invention of the Tank. That may well be the case, for no one could deny the genius of this great man, who could seemingly do just about everything he set his mind to. His legacy remains today, not only in science, engineering, art and inventions, and his work on determining his works of discovery on the human body.

It has been said that the Royal Family have one of the largest collection of his manuscripts in private hands. His drawings of the human body showing the complex network of muscle tissue, with the layouts of blood veins and bone structure were still being used by the medical profession not so very long ago.

Everything has to start somewhere with a beginning, and what has become known as the Tank, may have had its origins before Leonardo, albeit by a different name. This may be considered by many as treading a dangerous path, but evidence is slowly emerging from the past to suggest at least perhaps.

It is now being argued that Leonardo had in his possession manuscripts or at least copies of works by the ancient Greek masters. Also the exploits of the Romans were fairly well known, in **that they had used a great variety of "War Machines" including "Towers" or what the Greeks called "Helepolises" which was moved up**

to the enemy fortifications' and fired various weaponry from it. One thing you can't take away from the Romans is that they were innovated, and used whatever was to hand or built to carry out their missions. Often with a deadly result to anyone who got in the way.

The modern Tank of today is a far cry from the ones that were first introduced to the battle scene all those years ago. The level of sophistication in weapons, armour, electronics and engine types is at the very edge of technology as it stands today. But it had to start somewhere, and it was (Sir) Winston Churchill who did it. How and why will be revealed later on.

The Main Players (Not in any order)

Sir William Ashbee Tritton, M.I.Mech.E., J.P. was an expert in agricultural machinery, and was directly involved, together with Major Walter Gordon Wilson, in the development of the tank. Early in the First World War he was asked to produce designs for caterpillar tracked tractors for moving naval guns, the result being eventually **of what we would call the first "modern" tanks.**

He was the son of a London stockbroker, educated at Christ's College Finchley and King's College London. In 1906 he joined William Foster & Co. Ltd in Lincoln, and from 1911 until 1939, he was chairman of the company, after which he became managing director.

He passed away in 1946.

Major Walter Gordon Wilson was an engineer and member of the British Royal Naval Air Service. He was credited by the 1919 Royal Commission on Awards to Inventors as the co-inventor of the tank, along with Sir William Tritton.

Walter Gordon Wilson was born in Blackrock, County Dublin on 21 April 1874. He was a naval cadet on Britannia. In 1894 he entered King's College, Cambridge, where he studied the mechanical sciences Tripos (Note 1) graduating B. A. in 1897.

Interested in powered flight he collaborated with Percy Pilcher and the Hon Adrian Verney-Cave (heir to the 5th Lord Bray) to attempt to make

an aero-engine from 1898. After Pilcher was killed in a gliding accident, Wilson built the Wilson-Pilcher¹ motor car which used epicyclic gears. After marrying, he joined Armstrong-Whitworth to design their car. This was followed by a lorry for the Hall Company of Dartford.

¹ *The Wilson-Pilcher was an advanced car for its time, originally with a 2.4 litre engine, that had been made in London from 1901 until 1904. An example of a 1904 model exists in the Coventry Transport Museum UK.*

With the outbreak of the First World War, Wilson rejoined the navy and the Royal Navy Armoured Car Division, which protected the RNAS in France. When the Admiralty began investigating armoured fighting vehicles under the Landships Committee in 1915, 20 Squadron with Wilson was assigned to the experiments.

He transferred to the British Army in 1916 becoming a Major in the Heavy Branch of the Machine Gun Corps - the embryonic Tank Corps. He was mentioned in dispatches twice and was appointed companion of the Order of St Michael and St George in 1917.

Designing several of the early British tanks, he incorporated epicyclic gearing which was used in the Mark V tank to give it one person steering rather than the 4 previously needed.

In 1928 he invented the Preselector gearbox, and formed Improved Gears Ltd with J D Siddeley to develop the design commercially. Improved Gears later became Self-Changing Gears Ltd. His work on gears was used in many British tanks.

He passed away in 1957.

Tripes Note 1. The University of Cambridge, England, divides the different kinds of honours bachelor's degree by Tripes, a word which has an obscure etymology, but which may be traced to the three-legged stool candidates once used to sit on when taking oral examinations.

An apocryphal legend says that students used to receive one leg of a stool in each of their three years of exams, receiving the whole stool at graduation. Another tradition holds that the name is due to the three brackets printed on the back of the voucher.

Major General Sir Ernest Dunlop Swinton, KBE, CB, DSO, RE was a military writer and British Army officer. Swinton is credited with influencing the development and adoption of the tank by the British during the First World War. He is also known for popularizing the term "no-man's land".

Swinton was born in Bangalore, India in 1868. He was educated at University College School, Rugby School, Cheltenham College, Blackheath Proprietary School and the Royal Military Academy, Woolwich. He became an officer in the Corps of Royal Engineers in 1888, serving in India and becoming Lieutenant in 1891.

He received the Distinguished Service Order during the Second Boer War. After the war, he wrote his book on small unit tactics, *The Defense of Duffer's Drift*, a military classic on minor tactics that has been used by the United States military to train its officers. In the years leading up to the First World War, he served as a staff officer and as an official historian of the Russo-Japanese War.

In 1919 Swinton retired as a Major General. He subsequently served in the Civil Aviation department at the Air Ministry. He thereafter joined Citroën in 1922 as a director. He was Chichele Professor of Military History at Oxford University and a Fellow of All Souls College, Oxford from 1925 to 1939; he was also Colonel Commandant of the Royal Tank Corps from 1934 to 1938.

He passed away in 1951

William Foster & Co Ltd was an agricultural machinery company based in Lincoln, Lincolnshire, England and usually just called "Fosters of Lincoln." The company can be traced back to 1846, when William Foster purchased a flour mill in Lincoln. William Foster then proceeded to start small scale manufacturing of mill machinery and threshing machinery. The mill was converted to an iron foundry by 1856, thus becoming the original Wellington Foundry. During the First World War they built the first tanks for the British Army.

Foster's, as builders of agricultural machinery, were involved in the production and design of the prototype tanks, which were, in effect,

agricultural tractors with armoured bodies. The company was known for producing threshing machines, regarded as among the best available. They also made traction engines, steam tractors such as the Foster Wellington and showman's road locomotives.

Foster were briefly involved in a deal to market tractors built by Daimler in Britain but this was dropped after the war. (Little is known about the Daimler tractors which mainly were exported).

After the First World War, The Royal Commission on Awards to Inventors decided that the inventors of the Tank were Sir William Tritton, managing director of Fosters together with Major W G Wilson. (What reward was given, if any, is not known).

Barry Irons
Armament Artificer (R)

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If you love our military please watch

Please watch and forward: The goal is 10,000,000 views. Watch for the Marine who bends down to shake a little girl's hand. See what she does. Please watch to the end of the program so it counts as a viewing and then please forward!

http://media.causes.com/576542?p_id=92681239

Courtesy WO2 Max Murray

BREAKING OUT THE BIG GUNS

LS Paul Berry heads down to the gun line for the first Australian firing of the new M777A2.

THE M777A2 is capable of firing four rounds per minute for two minutes, then two rounds per minute sustained.

At 4500kg, the M777A2 is about half the weight and is smaller than the M198 it is designed to replace, without sacrificing the range, stability, accuracy or durability.

The M777A2 is currently in service with the Australian Army, US Marine Corps, US Army and Canadian Forces.

Effective range is 24km with standard 155mm ammunition, 30km with Rocket-Assisted Projectiles and up to 40km with Excalibur precision guided projectiles.

The Excalibur precision guided projectile is a precise GPS-guided munition capable of being used in close support situations with friendly units.

Fired up: Bdr Matthew Nunn prepares to load charge rounds into the M777A2 Howitzer.



The bombardier's sharp commands precede a deafening boom, shattering a crisp Puckapunyal morning and signalling a new age for the Royal Australian Artillery.

The inaugural firing of the M777A2 155mm Lightweight Towed Howitzer on April 1 was a first for Australian gunners, bringing the ADF a complete joint fires capability.

OC New Equipment Training Team Maj Pete Wiles said the M777A2 matched the firepower of current generation 155mm towed systems at about half the weight of the M198 it was designed to replace.

"The lightweight design allows the gun to be deployed by fixed wing or rotary aircraft," Maj Wiles said.

"The on-board GPS, inertial navigation system and digital fire-control system allow it to be brought into action more quickly than other towed howitzers.

"The digital transmission of fire orders and gun data can greatly reduce the possibility of human error."

The firing was the culmination of the pilot M777A2 operator's

course, conducted by the School of Arty's Gunnery Training Team (GTT). The three-man team spent six weeks with the US Army training on the gun.

Senior SM Instructor Gunnery WO2 Darrin Free said the US instructors were very experienced, each with more than 20 years in artillery.

"The instruction was thorough," WO2 Free said.

"It was used as a base for us to develop drills required of an Australian detachment, deploying and using artillery the Australian way."

GTT instructor Bdr Matthew Nunn said it was an eye-opener to work with the US gunners and that exposure was handy for introducing the gun into Australian service.

"It's been hard work right up to the first course and it's rewarding to finally get through it and fire the gun."

Bdr Nunn made history as the first qualified Australian artilleryman to fire the M777A2.

"I've only been in the Army four years and to have the rank of

bombardier and to be the number one of a new piece of kit, it's quite a privilege," he said.

The decision to replace the current indirect fire support fleet was taken in the 2005 Defence White Paper and confirmed by subsequent white papers. The M777A2 was identified as the ideal solution in 2008.

In 2009 the government decided to further enhance the indirect combat power available to the Army's com-bined-arms teams with the acquisition of new 155mm artillery systems able to fire precision munitions at very long ranges with high rates of fire.

Combined Arms Training Centre Commandant Col Sean Ryan said the Army had moved into the 21st century in terms of combat power.

He said a person on the forward edge of the battle could give data to the gun almost instantly, gaining the protection of indirect fire sooner.

Col Ryan said when combined with other state-of-the-art technology such as the Excalibur round and the computer-based Advanced Field Artillery Tactical Data System

(AFATDS), the M777A2 provided Australia with a capability that would lead it into the future.

He said with the AFATDS "capacity to link into Air Force and Navy systems, we've now truly got a joint-fires capability for the ADF."

Some trainees from the first course on the gun will work with the GTT as required to develop and deliver training to other instructors from the School of Arty and the regiments of the RAA.

WO2 Free said the qualified soldiers would also help the GTT train other soldiers from 53 Bty and instruct initial employment training courses within Joint Fires Wing.

"Overall we have achieved the aim of the course, but there is a little bit of room for improvement," he said.

"It's very early days for the gun so we're still learning as we go, getting better every day."



AFGHANISTAN

[Double click to play this Power Point Show.](http://xa.yimg.com/kq/groups/19817151/168085799/name/Afghanistan.pps) Or type in <http://xa.yimg.com/kq/groups/19817151/168085799/name/Afghanistan.pps>

Executing a Plan

Major W.J. Francis Instructor Combat Command Wing

The purpose of this article is to outline some of the key lessons being dealt out in the world of the Joint Fires and Effects Coordination Centre (JFECC) Execution activity. This is not a solo effort by any stretch of the imagination as the training vehicle is the offensive actions against the Musorian Army during COAC. I could sub title these thoughts, paraphrasing Monty Python, 'What have the Musorians ever done for us?'

In days of yore, the mark of a Field Gunner Officer was the flare with which he drafted, briefed and dispatched his Battery Commander's (BC) Fire Plan. Usually it was in support of the Direct Support Battalion's attack. There were three adjusted targets, five Defensive Targets and an On Call smoke activity. Potentially, one fire unit was only General Support and yet another did not share the same Survey State. On a good day, there was Close Air Support (CAS) that was sent in early so we could empty the battle space and get closer to those splinters.

*There were three adjusted targets,
five Defensive Targets and an On
Call smoke activity.*

The considerations of the Instructor-in-Gunnery (1G) setting the BC's Fire Plan varied from the methodology of solving the problems of met and survey of the guns to the inevitable time compression and nasty, unanticipated mine fields. In my own experience, this model produced a methodology of considering many facets of the gunnery problem rapidly. It also produced the ability to interpreting the current situation in terms of a time continuum.

Later in my career, when I was integrating effects to a manoeuvre plan, the over arching consideration was to understand the purpose of the manoeuvre to achieve the Commander's Intent of the next higher echelon. BC's Fire Planning is an important component of the Combat Officer's Advanced Course. In an effort to re-focus the role of the Battery Commander in the 21st Century, BC's Fire planning has been re-badged as the JFECC Execution activity. The focus on solving the

gunnery problem has shifted to aligning the prosecution of targets to the purpose of the offensive or defensive activity.

*The leap that has to be made
between bottom up fire planning;
where the technical calculations
to achieve an effect; to
understanding how this action
supports a higher commander's
intent, is the sport of COAC.*

A BC often years ago operating in a contemporary Battle Group would find an embarrassment of riches at his disposal. He may be allocated UAS, GSR, WLR, and precision strike weaponry previously owned at Brigade or Divisional levels. This has stretched the horizon well and truly beyond the close fight, while our enemy appears for shorter periods above the detection threshold. While we have learnt to employ our assets, there is no prescribed methodology that informs our approach to applying tactics at a Battle Group level, in the context of the formations purpose.

The leap that has to be made between bottom up fire planning; where the technical calculations to achieve an effect; to understanding how this action supports a higher commander's intent, is the sport of COAC. In the absence of a specified approach, I have recognised the utility of the Royal Artillery methodology for the integration of Joint Fires articulated by combat functions to: *Find, Fix and Strike*. The fires integrated to fight the close battle are controlled by the observer, as resourced by the BC in accordance with the Manoeuvre Commander's intent. It is the deep fight where the Musorians are susceptible to interdiction. More over, it is the key decisions required to push the Musorians off balance that consume exponentially greater depth of thought than the scheduling of fires.

This contrast between the effort of scheduling coordinating fires versus the effort to find the enemy and determine his intentions, I have paraphrased '*The Fire Plan versus the Find Plan.*' COAC Trainees generally experience a good deal of friction when it comes to integrating 1SR plans to the scheme of manoeuvre. Not until Intelligence,

Manoeuvre and Joint Fires planners interact is there any real notion of how tight Corps allegiances are held. The combined effort of all stakeholders is required to confirm the enemy commander's decisions. While this may be a generally accepted fact, the powers of influence one preserved for the convincing the manoeuvre commander that he should sequence his assault to optimise concentration of fire are adapting to influencing the staff as to the optimal coordination of the ISR assets.

There is another layer of complexity ... the impact of the Laws of Armed Conflict (LOAC).

There is another layer of complexity that has to be considered, closely aligned with understanding and supporting the purpose of the activity and that is the impact of the Laws of Armed Conflict (LOAC). I argue that many of the considerations for LOAC have been ingrained in how we have judged ourselves in terms of accuracy, timeliness and safety. Because of this familiarity, the role of the Joint Fires and Effects Coordinator is definitely the key observer and advisor to the manoeuvre commander on LOAC in particular the Six Step Targeting Process.

The Musorians present themselves time after time, some times above the detection threshold, some times below. This provides a framework for developing the 'Find Plan' and real opportunities to prod an enemy to see how it will react. Ultimately, the Musorians have their vulnerabilities that, if exploited, can un-hinge their numerical superiority.

In conclusion, I present these three areas for your consideration as key developments in the maturity of the BC commanding a JFECC. *Find, Fix, Strike; Find Plan versus Fire Plan*; and elevating LOAC Six Step Targeting procedure in the Command team consciences bring the Musorians apart every time. Take what you like from these collective experiences and enhance or leave the rest.

'What Have the Musorians Ever Done For Us?'

I keep a running tally of the training lessons identified from JFECC Execution activities which I have included for the benefit of all. These issues are very important to us coordinators of joint Fires.

CAS, consider the following:

- How will the target be 'detected'?

- Is there a 'find' phase required prior to CAS?
- Have you set the conditions? Requirement for there SEAD.
- What is the likely method of separation of fires?
- Give a description of the targets to be reported as acquired eg 2 x AFV.
- Give windows for engagement and not a specified time.
- CAS is a mutually exclusive activity to the Fire Plan where time is NOT the separation method.
- BDA- task an asset to acquire - requirement of ROE in many cases.
- The target should cover off either the ME or MDCOA or HPTL

Orders to Tactical Group, consider:

- Detail tasks.
- Primary and alternative tasks.
- Action on re-organisation.
- Back brief from observers.
- Once on the objective, focus on DF tasks.
- Continual situation reports.
- Use request modify to inform the plan wherever possible.
- Who has authority to use the super imposed call sign, who has to request it?
- Who are the primary and alternative observers for tasks?
- Pass FP planning info to the observers.

Smoke:

- Is a sub optimal way to achieve suppression.
- Is optimally used in conjunction with HE.
- When scheduled, must come with the 5 smoke questions details.

Flexibility, consider:

- Keep an ammunition reserve not a Call Sign.
- Remember lead in times to make decisions and to send modifications.
- Couple dwells with a change to the rate.
- If you are using L hour, consider a pre-L timing to

cover the overlap.

- Give each phase of the plan a phase in the fire plan.

Commanders Intent:

- Remember that at BG you are looking to the Brigade Commander as the One up for intent.
- There are both offensive and defensive phases to an attack and orders and plans need to be developed for both.
- The deep battle needs a plan to Find Fix and Strike the High Payoff Targets (HPTs).
- Have a methodology for dealing with targets as they are detected, allocate a target number and a response and task an observer/ agency to deal with the target.
- 6 Step LOAC Targeting process is here to stay, confirm that you have a target.



New Chief of Joint Operations announced

The Chief of the Defence Force, Air Chief Marshal Angus Houston, today announced the appointment of Major General Brian (Ash) Power to the position of Chief of Joint Operations



effective from 20 May.

Major General Power will be promoted to Lieutenant General tomorrow prior to taking up the role.

"I am delighted to announce the appointment of Ash Power to this very important and demanding position," Air Chief Marshal Houston said.

"Major General Power has held several key operational and senior staff appointments including: Commander of the 1st Brigade; Commander of the 1st Division; Director, Coalition Planning Group at Central Command in the USA; and Head of Military Strategic Commitments.

"His active service deployments have included Colonel Operations, Headquarters International Force East Timor (INTERFET); Chief of Staff Headquarters Peace Monitoring Group in Bougainville; and most recently in Afghanistan as the Deputy Chief of Staff, Strategic Partnering (Ministry of Defence), Kabul.

"I know all our military operations will benefit from the experience Ash brings to this position. I congratulate him on his appointment and wish him well in his new role."

Air Chief Marshal Houston also thanked the outgoing Chief of Joint Operations, Lieutenant General Mark Evans, for his work in the position over the past three years.

"Mark has done a remarkable job and deftly led ADF operations throughout his tenure," Air Chief Marshal Houston said.

"He oversaw the implementation of our new command and control arrangements with the opening of the integrated Headquarters Joint Operations Command organisation at Bungendore.

"As a result, we now have a much more effective and efficient operational level command and control capability for all ADF operations and major exercises around the world.

"Mark is also a former Commander of Australian forces in the Middle East; Head Personnel Executive; Deputy Chief of Joint Operations; and Commander of the 1st Division. I wish him all the very best for the future and I pass on my gratitude for a job well done."

Taiaroa Head and Armstrong Disappearing Gun

Otago Peninsula, New Zealand

Taiaroa Head (known to the Maori people as Pukekura) has served as a natural refuge and defensive position guarding the entrance to the Otago Harbour since the beginning of human occupation. Located at the tip of the Otago Peninsula, it is approximately 33 km from Dunedin city.

The first Maoris visited this coast approximately 1,000 years ago in seasonal food forays. Eventually, occasional visits turned into permanent occupation and a fortified village (Pa) was built on the headland.

Otago was formally settled in 1848, but sealers and whalers had operated from the harbour from the early years of the century.

As a consequence there had been considerable contact between the Maori inhabitants and the ship's crews. The shore-based whaling stations became trading centres. One of these was located at Otakou only a short

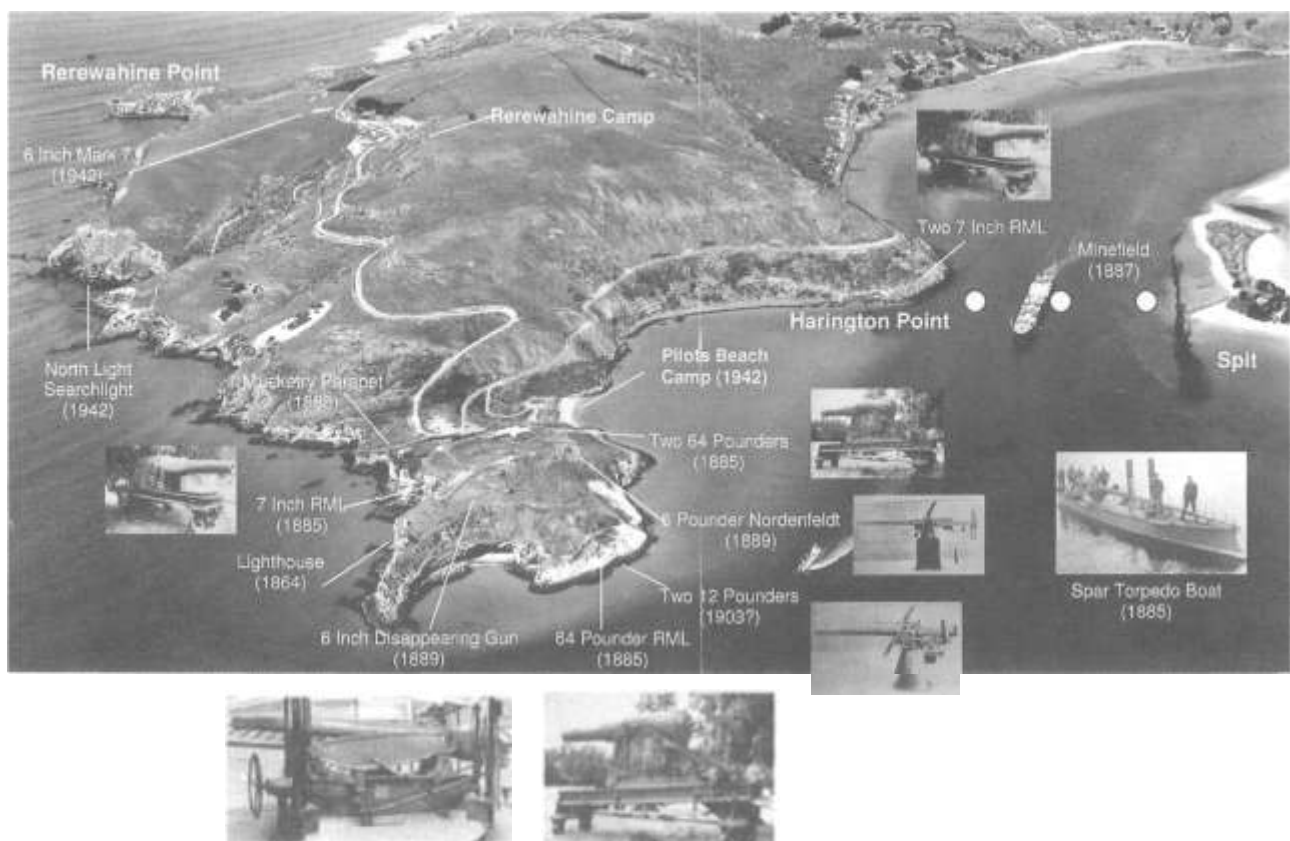
distance from Taiaroa Head.

From the early days of European settlement, signalmen and pilots were based at Taiaroa Head. In 1864 a lighthouse was built and lighthouse keepers joined the growing community.

New Zealand became a British Colony in 1840 and England was expected to provide protection from enemies. However in the 1870s, New Zealand was made responsible for its own land defence and a scheme of coastal defence was prepared to cover major ports.

As a result of the threat of war between Britain and Russia over Russian incursions into Afghanistan, a financial commitment to defence was made in 1885 and construction of Fort Taiaroa began.

The addition of a barracks and militiamen meant that by the turn of the century there were over 100 people living permanently at Taiaroa Head.



Fort Taiaroa

Armaments

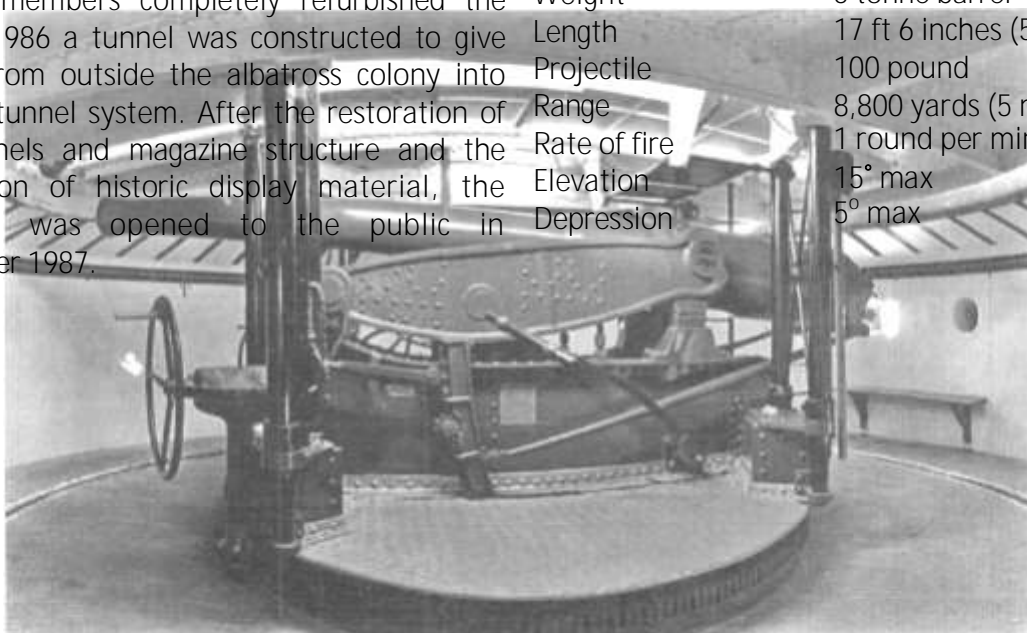
Six gun batteries were installed between 1885 and 1905. The batteries were equipped with eight guns, including three 64 pounder Rifled Muzzle Loaders (RML) with a range of 3,500 yards; one seven inch, seven ton RML with a range of 4,000 yards; the present six inch Armstrong Disappearing Gun with a range of 8,800 yards and to combat fast enemy torpedo boats, one 6 pounder and two 12 pounder quick firing guns.

Construction

These Taiaroa gun emplacements were carefully concealed with earth parapets. Earlier gun emplacements constructed overseas in the classical stone fort style had proved to be vulnerable. First, they were easily visible and with recent advances in optics the enemy gun layers could get an accurate range by focusing on the sharp outlines of the structure. Secondly, the old style forts of stone and masonry construction proved under bombardment to be less efficient in minimising casualties to defenders than earth parapets around emplacements. With the new concept, incoming shells penetrated the soft earthen material and caused much less injury when exploding.

Restoration

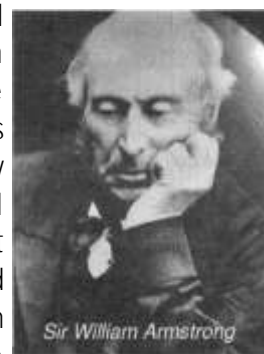
In 1972 the Otago Antique Arms Association gathered support for the retention of the Armstrong Disappearing Gun in its original gun pit. Its members completely refurbished the gun. In 1986 a tunnel was constructed to give access from outside the albatross colony into the old tunnel system. After the restoration of the tunnels and magazine structure and the installation of historic display material, the complex was opened to the public in November 1987.



Armstrong Disappearing Gun

Manufacture & Operation

This six inch, five tonne breech loading gun on a hydro-pneumatic carriage was manufactured in 1886 by W. G. Armstrong & Co. at Newcastle-on-Tyne, England and tested in its present gun pit in June 1889. The retracting carriage was invented in 1879 by Moncrieff and Armstrong improved on it by using a hand pumped water and air ram system to raise the gun to the firing position above ground level. On firing, the ram system was recompressed as the gun recoiled into the gun pit for reloading. Such was the pace of change in armaments at that time that, despite being the latest technology in 1885, the Armstrong Disappearing Gun was quickly overtaken by more effective guns and was virtually obsolete by 1912.



Technical Information

6 Inch Rifled Breech Loading Armstrong Gun and Hydro-Pneumatic Carriage. Gun detachment of 10 personnel.

Serial No.	4809
Manufactured	1886
Calibre	6 inches
Weight	5 tonne barrel
Length	17 ft 6 inches (5.3m)
Projectile	100 pound
Range	8,800 yards (5 miles)
Rate of fire	1 round per minute
Elevation	15° max
Depression	5° max

The History of the Emu Plume and the Australian Light Horse

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**“And you’ll know him by the feathers in his hat!”
(Banjo Paterson, “Queensland Mounted Infantry”, 1900)**

The habit of embellishing the truth and creating a **“good story” or highlighting some point of difference** and holding it up as an identifying mark is a carry over from 19th Century Queensland when the colony was seen as a marginal frontier by those from Southern Colonies. The story of the Emu Plume first worn by Queensland Light Horsemen, and later by all Light Horsemen in Australia, is an example of the habit which possibly raises that habit to a level rarely seen.

The 1891 strike by workers in the wool growing industry had its genesis in the growing labour movements of the era and the fierce opposition to change among the squattocracy that controlled the main industry in Queensland. Having won an agreement in 1890 that precluded the use of non-union labour and payment of an agreed rate, the unions were not impressed by the rescission of this agreement by the squatters for the 1891 season. On the 6th January 1891, 200 shearers and rouseabouts were present at Logan Downs (East of Clermont) when the new shearing agreement was read and the roll called and George Taylor, representative of the men, said they were all members of the **Queensland Shearers’ Union and would shear only under the verbal agreement of that union.**

By January 31st the Brisbane Courier was reporting that labour was being recruited in southern states by the Pastoralist Union and sent to Queensland by ship to break the strike and the Queensland Police began to despatch police to the areas of concern in central and south-western **parts of the state, with a “body” of police arriving in Roma on February 11th.** By 20th February, the Colonial Government had grown concerned to the extent that it called out the defence force to provide a show of force to the union movement, to prevent the breakdown of public order and maintain the peace.

Moreton Mounted Infantry were mobilised on

21st February and sailed for Rockhampton on the Steamship Wodonga under the command of Major Percy Ricardo. This initial call out of troops was followed by an escalation of military involvement and by April 29 all mounted units except Redcliffe had been posted to areas of conflict or those where large groups of unionists were based. In total 1442 members of the Queensland Defence Force were posted for special service. These included the Wide Bay Mounted Infantry, Mackay Mounted Infantry, A (Warwick) and B (Toowoomba) Companies of Darling Downs Mounted Infantry, Charters Towers Mounted Infantry, Ipswich Mounted Infantry, Rockhampton Mounted Infantry and Townsville Mounted Infantry, in addition to other non-mounted units of the Queensland Defence Force.

The tension reached its peak when 200 troops swooped on the strike committee's headquarters at Barcaldine and arrested twelve of the leaders, charging them with conspiracy. The strikers were outraged, some men calling for revolution. At Gympie soldiers fixed bayonets to disperse a menacing crowd, while at Rockhampton 200 strikers heckled police guarding the twelve arrested at Barcaldine, when they came to trial. During the trial, the judge Mr Justice Harding was scarcely impartial, stating that he would have shot the strikers if he had been one of the police. He sentenced the twelve including George Taylor and William Hamilton, who later became members of the Queensland Parliament, to three years hard labour each. These severe sentences provoked another outburst of violence.

Although the strikers voted to stay out on strike, signs of weakness began to appear. The first crack came when threats of long-term sanctions by the squatters forced wool carriers back to work. On 11 June 1891, union leaders announced that the strike fund was exhausted and that the strike was over. Although they had been defeated by the combined forces of the Government and the Pastoralists many claimed that in the long term it had led to victory because the unions were convinced of a need for a political Labor Party to fight their cause in Parliament.

There are many stories regarding the inception of the tradition of the Emu Plume worn by Light Horse units. One story from Capella suggests that

it was Rockhampton Mounted Infantry that first wore the plume. It has been suggested by researchers from the area that this group, under the command of Provisional Lieutenant William Joseph Kelly, rode from Rockhampton to Capella (Between Emerald and Clermont) and that during the trip the troops ran short of rations and shot emus for food, placing the plumes in their hats. This is refutable on a number of grounds; firstly, Rockhampton Mounted Infantry, in conjunction with the Mount Morgan detachment, were called out for service on 20th February 1891 and travelled by train from Rockhampton to Clermont. On arrival, Unionists jeered them when they attempted to ride horses provided by pastoralists. They left Clermont at midnight and rode immediately to Wolfgang Station so it is unlikely that they were short of rations. Secondly, provisional Lieutenant William Joseph Kelly was appointed to that rank on 23rd April 1891, precluding any possibility of his having been in charge of the troop at that time.

Another version has it that the habit arose from the actions of Major Percy Ricardo and Captain Harry Chauvel when they were serving in the West Moreton Mounted infantry together. It has been suggested that these two were socialising at **“Franklyn Vale”, and then managed by Ricardo.** A pet emu had died and its hide had been nailed to the saddle shed by some of the stockmen. According to the story, they picked up some of the feathers that were nearby and placed them in their hats. Mrs Ricardo commented that they looked smart and so began the habit.

The difficulties with this story arise from the fact that Ricardo served in the Moreton Mounted Infantry (based in Brisbane) and Chauvel was part of the Darling Downs Mounted Infantry (A Company, based in Warwick) There is also the added problem that the officers of all Queensland Mounted units had been wearing Green Cocks Plumes in their hats since 1884, as part of their official uniform, and not until 1897 did officers wear Emu Plumes. This story also suggests that **the only unit to wear them during the Shearers’ Strike** was the West Moreton Mounted Infantry, which even if we ignore the error of the additional West in the name, the Queensland Government Gazette quoted below points out the error of that suggestion. However a major

negative point of the story is that there were two **Mrs Ricardo’s and the Mrs Ricardo referred in this case** is presumably the second marriage which did not occur until 1898 well after the time period of the events discussed.

Yet the most damaging evidence to this story is the fact that Percy Ricardo was working in Brisbane as manager of the Brisbane Ice Works at the time of the formation of Brisbane Mounted Infantry on 2nd April 1884 (renamed Moreton Mounted Infantry, 23rd May 1885), not managing Franklyn Vale.

The most common story reports that a patrol of Wide Bay Mounted Infantry under the command of **Lieutenant Vivian Tozer was near “Coreena”** Woolshed when they met another patrol of the same unit under the command of Captain W Shanahan. This group were chasing an emu. Bill Leishman claimed to have been in the Tozer patrol and is reputed to have shot the emu, He and Terry Rogers pulled feathers from the emu and placed them in their hat bands, and the rest of the Patrol followed suit. This is reported in Starr & Sweeney however the two references given in that volume, for what is presented as a quote from Mr Bill Leishman, are his obituary and a report of a reunion in Gympie in 1961 in which **Mr Leishman’s daughter repeated his claims** in slightly varied form.

While there is conjecture about the origin of the emu plumes, the Leishman version appears to be less fanciful than some of the other versions which speak of horseman galloping down emus and pulling feathers from their tails while on the run, a very skilful act and almost impossible under the wet and boggy conditions of the time of the strike. Yet it is in the obituary of the officer that Leishman refers to that the most likely story appears.

Vivian Hoyles Tozer died on 5th September 1954, after a career as a citizen soldier, solicitor and Member of Parliament. Vivian Tozer was the son of Horace Tozer, the Chief Secretary of the Colonial Government. Tozer junior was working in Gympie and studying to become an Articled Clerk, passing his exams in July 1892. According to the Gympie Times of September 11th 1954, he joined the Wide Bay Mounted Infantry in 1889. He was appointed provisionally as a Lieutenant in

the Queensland Defence Force on 3rd March 1891; 9 days before the call out of the Gympie **Company for special service during the Shearers' Strike**. The obituary continues:

Mr Tozer was in charge of a group of men returning to base camp when a mob of emus was sighted. The men all wanted to shoot, which was against regulations. Mr Tozer compromised by granting one shot which was successful. The men rode up, dismounted, and in their elation decorated their slouch hats with feathers from the fallen bird. On return to camp, Mr Tozer incurred the displeasure of his commanding officer who ordered the feathers to be removed.

Some discussion took place among the men and as a result Mr Tozer approached his commander to ask General Headquarters to have the emu feathers as part of the dress of this regiment.

The wearing of the emu plume was initially **restricted to the "other ranks" of the Wide Bay Mounted Infantry**. Officers of all mounted units in **Queensland had for some time worn Cock's Feathers** in their hat and GO No 719 of 1892 gives a full list of the dress regulations of that time and **specifies that the Cock's Plume worn would be green in colour**. While that order stresses the need for uniformity across all troops in the Queensland Defence Force, and the dress regulations of 19th September 1893 confirm the **wearing of the Cock's Plume by officers**, the details for the non-commissioned officers and men of the Mounted Infantry Listed in G.O No 743 of 1892 specifies the hat worn in detail (height of crown, width of brim, colour) and when compared with the officers hat specification it is clearly without a plume.

A special correspondent to *The Queenslander* at the Lytton Encampment provides the first printed record of the wearing of plumes by the other ranks of the Wide Bay Mounted Infantry in the report of March 1894.

The horses this year are better than usual, and the Gympie division as usual bear the palm in this respect, the fine company of the Wide Bay men with their attractive plumes of emu feathers being a credit to their district and their officers.

This small comment is the beginning of a major part of the history of the Australian Light Horse. From here the plumes spread in a steady flow through the Queensland Force. In September 1894 the privilege of wearing the plumes was extended to all non-commissioned officers and men of all mounted units in Queensland. It is here that the earlier recognition is alluded to when the Plume is referred to in G.O. No 159 as being to *Sealed Pattern No 68, as worn by Wide Bay Mounted Infantry*. It should be noted that the plume was provided to the men but they still had to pay for them. Three years later (probably to ensure a uniform presentation at the **Celebrations of Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee** in London during that year). General Order No 265 extends the privilege of wearing the emu **plume in place of the green cock's plume to all officers of Queensland Mounted Infantry**.

The plume became a major focus of the Esprit de Corps of the Queensland Mounted Troops. This spirit was an important part of the strength of the troops recruited to serve in the South African War and formed such an attraction to other member of the Queensland Defence Force that they began to wear the plume without permission, prompting a notice in the Gazette pointing out that it was to be worn **ONLY** by members of Queensland Mounted Infantry. The attachment of the men to their plume was such that they were immortalised by Banjo Patterson in his poem, *Queensland Mounted Infantry*, where he makes much of their unique style and dress and their distinguishing emu plume and Harry Chauvel, then serving as the unit Adjutant, stresses the attachment of the troops to their plumes when writing to his family about General Hutton; *"He has put us into helmets so we have quite lost our individuality and our interest in further proceedings"*.

When the Colonial forces were reorganised to form the Commonwealth Military Forces, many changes were required. These entailed changes to command structures and the amalgamation of purchasing and supply groups. Yet the biggest change was the reformation of the units. But for the strenuous efforts of the Queensland commanders and politicians, the name of Queensland Mounted Infantry and the plumes that identified it would have faded into history.

Federal politicians were lobbied and Major General Edward Hutton was pressured to ensure that some individuality was retained (It was **Hutton who bore the brunt of Chauvel's ire in South Africa** when he ordered the wearing of helmets in place of the plumed slouch hat!).

Hutton concurred and although he renamed all mounted troops Australia wide *Australian Light Horse*, he recommended the retention of local titles (in parentheses) within the new name. Thus the new Queensland based units were known as 13th, 14th and 15th Australian Light Horse (Queensland Mounted Infantry). As well as retaining their name, they had also retained their emu plumes as part of their uniform.

It was during World War One that the pride that Queenslanders held for their origin and the distinguishing marks that had carried since the 1890s showed at its strongest. After having been permitted to retain their plumes as part of the new Commonwealth Forces uniform officially in the 1903-1912 dress manual and unofficially after the 1913 revisions, the Queensland raised 2nd Light Horse Regiment set out to have an exception made to the basic uniform of the Australian Imperial Force. When each new unit of the Australian Imperial Force was raised following the declaration of war in August 1914, one of the first items mentioned in the Regimental Histories of 2nd, 5th and 11th Regiments is the design and manufacture of a banner. These items were usually made by the wives of the senior officers and in the case of 2nd Light Horse the banner was presented to the unit by the young daughter of the Commanding Officer.

It was this officer, Lieutenant Colonel Stodart, who then began a campaign to have the beloved Emu Plume of QMI approved so that the Queenslanders could stand out from the crowd. Stodart wrote to Government officials and Ministers, pressing his case without success until he was able to organise a meeting in Melbourne with Prime Minister Fisher and Defence Minister Pearce in September 1914. During this meeting he was able to present his case using the effect on the esprit de corps of the Regiment of such an emblem as his main argument. Fisher finally acceded to the request and when he announced to the Regiment the next day at Flemington

Showgrounds that they were to be permitted to wear the plume, he was greeted with deafening cheers. This privilege of wearing the plume was granted exclusively to the Queensland units on the grounds of their previous active service use in South Africa.

During March 1915, the 3 regiments of the 3rd Light Horse Brigade (8th Regiment from Victoria, 9th Regiment from South Australia and the 10th Regiment from Western Australia) arrived in Cairo and marched into the Heliopolis Camp with **Emu Plumes in their hats. This "gross assumption of privilege" raised the ire of the Queensland units** (2nd and 5th Regiments) already in that camp and Stodart, in his letter to the Commander of 1st Light Horse Brigade (Colonel Harry Chauvel, a most sympathetic ear!) demands an inquiry.

Chauvel's reaction was to add a supporting letter of his own, dated 23 March 1915, and forward the two onward to Major General W.T. Bridges, Commander of the 1st Australian Brigade. In his letter Chauvel clarifies and expands on the claims on exclusivity expressed by Stodart, adding his personal knowledge gained while serving with Darling Downs Mounted Infantry and Queensland Mounted Infantry prior to Federation and during the South African War.

Bridges prevaricated and passed the decision further up the line of command with Major General A.J. Godley, Commanding Officer of the Australian & New Zealand Army Corps, supporting the Queensland claim with the **comment that the "emu plume conveys the idea of Queensland Mounted troops"** and expresses the hope that their wish can be arranged. However Bridges dodged the issue and referred the matter back to Prime Minister Fisher, who in the manner of politicians, took the easy option, approving the wearing of plumes by all Light Horse Units, as long as they paid for their own plumes.

While some units of the A.I.F never took up the option of wearing Emu Plumes in the field or on parade (notably 6th & 7th Regiments from New South Wales and 4th Regiment from Victoria according to records and interviews conducted with members of the units by Ian Jones that are now held in the A.W.M.) in 1923 Military Order No 90 stated:

APPROVAL IS GIVEN FOR THE WEARING OF EMU PLUMES AND HAT PUGGAREES BY MEMBERS OF LIGHT HORSE UNITS, PROVIDED SUPPLIES CAN BE ARRANGED REGULARLY WITHOUT EXPENSE TO THE PUBLIC.

And so it came to be that all light horse units in Australia wore the Queensland emu plume that is still worn today by Armoured units of the Australian Army.

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Interviewed 25.04.02

Ted Knauer, Darra, Qld, ex 2nd/14th LHR (QMI)
Interviewed 30.05.02

Jane Poll, Capella, Qld, local history researcher,
30.05.02

David Feez, Eidsvold, Qld, Grandson of Percy Ricardo
13.10.2002.

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VALE

Former long serving member, Malcolm Bugg recently passed away suddenly. The following is a tribute to Mal from the RSL.

BUGG
Malcolm OAM JP
(3147638 15th Field Regt RAA)
Passed away Apr. 16, 2011

The Victorian Branch of the RSL expresses its deepest sympathy to Moria and her family on the sudden passing of Mal, a committed Christian and a loving, devoted husband, father and grandfather. Mal joined the RSL in 1974 at Dandenong and transferred to Morwell in 1980, where he held the distinguished honour of being President for 29 years.

Mal was appointed to the State Executive in 1986, elected Country Vice President in 1988, State Vice President in 1993 and Senior Vice President in 2002 until 2006. He was Deputy Chairman of the State Membership Committee for 10 years and Chairman for six, and the founding Chairman of the Future of the League Committee. A State Councillor for 16 years and appointed a Permanent Councillor in 1997. Mai represented the Victorian Branch on the National Membership Committee, the National Ethics Committee and Delegate to National Congress for six years.

His voluntary work with welfare/pensions (29 years), hospital visitation (33 years), ANZAC/Poppy Appeals (36 years), Latrobe Valley WAA and Legacy, National Servicemen's Association, the Hazelwood House Hostel is also acknowledged.

Mal was awarded Life Membership in 1990, Life Membership with Gold Badge in 1997 and the League's highest honour, the Meritorious Service Medal, in 2006. He was inducted into the RSL Licensed Sub-Branches 'Hall of Fame' in 2001 and the recipient of a Medal in the Order of Australia in 1995.

We gratefully acknowledge the part Mal played in the implementation of Affiliates in Victoria in 1998. His passionate argument to the National Congress in 1997 ensured its success and, without his determined input, this form of membership which will carry the League long into the future would not have reached fruition.

The State President, current and former colleagues on the State Executive, the former State Council and District Boards, the No. 10 Region, and his friends at ANZAC House extend their deepest sympathy to Moira and her family on the loss of a true Australian and a staunch RSL man who made a world of difference to the League in Victoria

God Bless our friend "LEST WE FORGET"

MAJ GEN D McLACHLAN AO State President

MANNETT CSC Chief Executive Officer

Commendation for Gallantry Awards for WWII Prisoners of War

Senator David Feeney, Parliamentary Secretary for Defence, today announced that twenty servicemen who were killed while escaping from Japanese forces during World War II will be posthumously awarded the Commendation for Gallantry.

Senator Feeney accepted the unanimous recommendations of the independent Defence Honours and Awards Tribunal and called on the next of kin of those honoured to come forward and receive the Commendation for Gallantry.

The Tribunal inquired into recognition of Australian prisoners of war who were killed while escaping from Japanese forces during World War II. Among the twenty servicemen are the **'Tavoy Eight'**, members of the 4th Anti-Tank Regiment who were executed by firing

"The Commendation for Gallantry recognises the bravery and courage of these World War II



Recognition: Gnr Albert Cleary, 2/15 Fd Regt

servicemen.

"Each has his own story. Some were killed while trying to escape, others executed after being recaptured. But what is common to all twenty men is the Australian spirit that they showed before their deaths.

"Gunner Cleary was one of approximately two thousand Allied prisoners of war held in the Sandakan POW camp. The retribution he experienced after an attempted escape was brutal. The 'Tavoy Eight' were refused last rites and final messages to their families before their execution in Burma," Senator Feeney said.

"Today, we recognise and remember these heroic escape attempts.

The Tribunal recommended that the Commendation for Gallantry should be presented to the family member in possession of the **deceased's World War II medals.**

Name	Number	Date Executed	Execution Location
Private Alexander John Bell	VX73838	16 Mar 43	Thambyujayat, Burma
Sergeant Joseph Kenneth Bell	VX34637	16 Sep 42	Kuala Lumpur
Private Joseph Bell	VX50944 and VX18156	18 Jun 42	Malaya
Gunner Albert Neil Cleary (aka: Gunner Albert Neale Cleary)	VX52128	20 Mar 45	Ranau, Borneo
Gunner Thomas Stephen Cumming	VX31670	6 Jun 42	Tavoy, Burma
Sergeant Clifford Edmund Danaher	VX31946	6 Jun 42	Tavoy, Burma
Warrant Officer Class II Leslie George Davies	NX66447	22 Mar 42	Sumatra
Gunner Keith Johnson Dickinson	VX57167	2 Mar 43	Thambyujayat, Burma
Lance Bombardier Aubrey Alfred Emmett	VX38444	6 Jun 42	Tavoy, Burma
Private Victor Lawrence Gale	VX62289	2 Sep 42	Changi
Gunner Alan William Glover	VX57043	6 Jun 42	Tavoy, Burma
Signalman Howard Frederick Harvey	NX49419	11 May 43	Sandakan
Lance Bombardier Arthur Henry Jones	VX46835	6 Jun 42	Tavoy, Burma
Sergeant Caryle Benjamin Jones	NX45920	22 Mar 42	Djambi Camp, Sumatra
Signalman Theodore Rutland Brydon Mackay (aka: Private Daniel Seaforth McKenzie)	QX15656	11 May 43	Sandakan
Major Alan Mull	NX12243	10 Mar 43	Thambyujayat, Burma
Warrant Officer Class II Matthew Wallace Quittenton	VX45344	6 Jun 42	Tavoy, Burma
Gunner Arthur Reeve	VX27292	6 Jun 42	Tavoy, Burma
Private William Forges Schuberth (aka: Private William Forbes Schuberth)	NX2567	30 Jul 42	Malaya
Gunner James Alexander Thomas Wilson	VX47903	6 Jun 42	Tavoy, Burma

Coming to a sky near you

By Sgt Andrew Hetherington

SOLDIERS from 20 STA Regt are in the US training on the ADF's newest and most advanced Unmanned Aerial System (UAS) -the Shadow 200.

The first of two systems purchased is due to come into service at the end of this year, replacing the ScanEagle.

They will be operated by 20 STA Regt, based at Gallipoli Barracks, Enoggera, by 100 personnel in two troops consisting of five aircraft each.

Capability Implementation Manager Joint Project 129 Maj Keirin Joyce said 17 personnel from 20 STA Regt were taking part in three different courses with US counterparts at Fort Huachuca in Arizona.

Maj Joyce said warrant officers, lieutenants and captains would complete a six-week platoon leader course and ORs a 17-week operator course.



Maintenance staff will complete a 14 week technician maintainer course.

"Some of the guys participating in the training are qualified ScanEagle instructors and will stay on to complete an additional four week Shadow 200 instructor course," Maj Joyce said.

During the next 18 months, 100 personnel will have rotated through the US training programs.

By the end of 2012, Army aims to be running its own training courses.

Bdr Damian Young started the operator course last October.

"So far we've completed an unmanned ground school qualifying us to fly the aircraft in US air-space under US Federal Aviation Administration rules," Bdr Young said.

"We've also completed an emplace and displace module covering how to bring into action the seven pieces of equipment of a UAS detachment, to get the aircraft into the air.

"So far the course hasn't been difficult and my favourite component was the unmanned ground school and how well the flight rules were explained."

He said he was looking forward to operating the aircraft on deployment to Afghanistan.

"The two best things about the Shadow 200 are its versatile sensor payload for day and night operations and the laser designating capabilities," Bdr Young said.

"It's a big improvement over the ScanEagle."

The Shadow 200 UAS is collectively used by 115 platoons of the US Army and Marines.

Maj Joyce said the aircraft, which US forces had flown extensively in Iraq and Afghanistan, would greatly enhance the ADF's UAS capabilities.

"It's a massive step up in capability, as ScanEagle at the moment only carries one camera at a time on each mission," he said.

"The Shadow 200 has a more extensive payload consisting of multiple sensors."



Gunner Luncheon Quiz 2011 Solutions

Source: BC's Notebook, Provisional, North Head, Feb 68
And other specious references and clouded recollections

1. Which Corps is represented by the appointment title, 'FOXHOUND'? *Infantry*
2. Expand the fire order, "TOT." *Time on Target*
3. What was the call sign for the 2ic of the field regiment? *98*
4. Give one implication for a unit being in DS to an infantry one. *DS Unit supplies Obs, Comms Liaison, Fire support is priority. They are your guns but can be taken away at priority to another unit*
5. What sized unit or sub-unit would fire a "MIKE TARGET"? *Regiment*
6. In previous phonetic alphabets, what was the phonetic for "B"? The present one of course is "BRAVO." *Baker, Beer*
7. There is a vehicle coming towards you with the Tac Sign, "Z2." Whose is it? *The 2ic's*
8. For use in New Guinea, the 25-pr was redesigned to reduce its weight. The barrel was shortened, the wheels modified and the shield was often dispensed with. What was its name? *The Short 25-pr; Ord QF 25-pr Short (Aust) Mk 1 on Carriage Light (Aust) Mk s 1 & 2*
9. If you were ever issued with a training pamphlet, what would almost inevitably be issued at the same time? *The amendments!*
10. Brigadier rank is a crown and three pips. What did a Brigadier-General have in WW1? *Crossed swords*
11. What was a "TIDDLER"? *A Quick Fire Plan*
12. Apart from the carriage, the Yeramba had one distinctive feature from the towed 25 Pr of the day. *A muzzle Brake*
13. What are/were the number of mils in a hand span at the OP when indicating targets? *350*
14. On Queen Elizabeth's accession the shape of the "crown" was altered. It's name? *Edwardian*
15. How many mils in a "four knuckle" hand subtension? *150 Mils 8 Degrees*
16. Give the rate of fire at "Intense" for any of: 25-pdr, 105 mm L5, 105 mm M2A2 . *5 RPM*
17. If for Artillery it is SHELDRAKE, what is it for Signals? *Pronto*
18. If the OPO said to his ACK that he wanted his AB 545, what would he be given? *The deliberate Fire Plan Proforma*
19. Can you give a plausible origin for the "red tabs" on the collars of Colonels and above? *A gorget patch was the piece of armour that protected the throat and the tabs reflect the means by which this important piece of defence was held in place. The real presence of red tabs is for the person observing them to prepare to kneel and genuflect.*
20. A call for a "Mike Target" rates how many firing units? *A Regiment*
21. What was the power rating of the generator for the 3 MK 7 Mor Loc Rdr? *17 KVA*
22. The BP card AF B 250 was two sided. What was on the back? *A diagram showing the BP's location in relation to local topographical detail*
23. What is the imperial diameter of the 25 pr bore clearance gauge? *3.440 inch*
24. Who was "Arses Baggy" and what did he call the LAD? *Don Malcom called the LAD "Lima Alpha Drongos"*
25. Many of you were collectors of licences for your G2. What was a GT Licence? *Gun Towing.*
26. If you really had a good G2 score, what was an R licence? *Rollers Road Powered*



The Navy values of Honour, Integrity, Loyalty, Courage and Honesty define what is important to Navy as a whole and to its people individually.

To help live out these values, Chief of Navy has endorsed 10 [signature behaviours](#) (pdf 116KB). These behaviours reflect the Navy's desired culture, which supports people during and beyond their service, makes and executes decisions, and empowers everyone to make a respected contribution.

The 10 signature behaviours are:

People

- Respect the contribution of every individual
- **Recognise the value of each person's contribution to Navy**
- Be respectful of role, experience and background
- Value diversity
-
- Promote the wellbeing and development of Navy people
- Develop Navy people to their full potential
- Know and care for people
- Keep people at the core of all decisions
- Build the team – provide guidance and challenge their abilities
-
- Communicate well and regularly
- Keep your team informed
- Be clear, consistent, timely and accurate
- Engage thoughtfully and check for understanding
- Express and receive feedback graciously
-

Performance

- Challenge and innovate
- Challenge, question and be open to change
- Generate new ideas
- Support creative solutions
-
- Be cost conscious
- Understand the cost implications of the decisions you make
- Find solutions that are enduring, efficient and add value
- Use it like you own it
-
- Fix problems, take action
- Seek and accept responsibility
- Take ownership of what you say you will do
- Turn your ideas into actions
- Be a part of an effective solution
-
- Drive decision making down
- Make sound, timely decisions based on principles not just rules
- Drive decisions to the appropriate level
- Trust and support people to make good decisions
-

Professionalism

- Strengthen relationships across and

beyond Navy

- Work together to identify and achieve common purposes and objectives
- Build inclusive partnerships
- **Deliver on Navy's promises, and do it well**
- - Be the best I can, and
- Strive for professional excellence
- Know yourself and seek self-improvement
- Maintain your personal wellbeing
- - Make Navy proud, make Australia proud.
- Lead by example
- **Value Navy's identity and reputation**
- **Live Navy's values**
-

The Navy Values booklet "[Serving Australia with Pride](#)" (pdf 1.52MB) was launched by Chief of Navy, VADM Russ Crane AM, CSM on 14 September 2009. It not only describes the values in more detail, it also provides more information on the signature behaviours and how they can be implemented.

Vice Admiral Crane's Leadership Day video can be viewed at:

http://www.navy.gov.au/Leadership_Day

Navy opens high-tech warship simulator

Junior officers in the Royal Australian Navy will learn to pilot the next generation of warships, in an upgraded \$10m training facility at HMAS Watson, Sydney, which will be officially opened tomorrow.

The new high-tech simulator uses computerised virtual-reality software to simulate a working warship's bridge, complete with a 240-degree view of a computer generated 2D scene through the bridge windows.

The bridge training faculty, one of the most advanced simulators in the world, will be opened by Commander Australian Fleet Rear Admiral Steve Gilmore.

"This facility is at the cutting edge of simulator technology and provides junior Seaman Officers with very realistic training so they will be capable

of carrying out the duties of the Officer-of-the-Watch before heading out to sea," Rear Admiral Gilmore said.

"Our Navy is the first in the world to use multi flex touch screens in a warship bridge simulator, which increases functionality without cumbersome hardware," Rear Admiral Gilmore said.

The simulators replicate the full range of maritime operations likely to be experienced while on the bridge of a warship and can be reconfigured to match most classes of ship in the **RAN's current fleet. New functionality includes** boat operations, interdiction, and docking and beaching evolutions pertinent to the new Landing Helicopter Dock ships, the first of which is due to enter service in 2014.

"An example of a complex scenario is manoeuvring a 3500-tonne warship within 2000 yards of a number of other ships while under air attack, or ships within 50m of each other conducting replenishment-at-sea approaches" Rear Admiral Gilmore said.

With two full-mission simulators and four part-task simulators, the facility allows up to six warship bridge teams to train for specific scenarios in a joint exercise environment or, conversely, run six independent scenarios.

The graphics system can replicate different environmental conditions, from a clear day through to a raging storm, detailed land-and sea-scape features as well as dynamic models of aircraft, tugs and other ships, including the Canberra Class LHDs and Hobart Class AWDs.





'Yea, Though I Fly Through the Valley of the Shadow of Death, I Shall Fear No Evil. For I am at 60,000 Feet and Climbing.'

Sign over SR71 Wing Ops



'There is no reason to fly through a thunderstorm in peacetime.'

Sign over Squadron Ops Desk at Davis-Monthan AFB, AZ.



'You've never been lost until you've been lost at Mach 3.'

Paul F. Crickmore (SR71 test pilot)

Australian Herons achieve record flying hours.

The fourth rotation (ROT 4) of Australia's Heron Remotely Piloted Aircraft (RPA) Detachment in Kandahar, Afghanistan, has set a unit record for monthly flying hours. Commanding Officer Heron RPA Detachment - ROT 4 Wing Commander Greg Wells said his personnel had achieved 475 hours during April.

"This exceeds the efforts of previous Heron rotations and means we have reached a point where we are able to achieve a significant amount of time on station providing an all-important 'eye in the sky' for our troops," Wing Commander Wells said.

"One of the advantages of Heron is it can stay airborne for a very long time. We deliver enhanced situational awareness to our soldiers, which is vital in helping them achieve their mission on the ground."

"The success of Heron is a combination of both smart technology and people. A typical Heron mission involves a lot of work from a very small team of specialists, ranging from engineers to intelligence officers, imagery analysts and pilots."

The Heron team comprises 28 Australian and New Zealand Defence Force personnel. The tri-service unit has logged more than 4600 total flight hours since beginning operations in January last year.

Dubbed 'Bluey' by the Australians, the Heron can fly for up to 24 hours and is a key asset in the conduct of intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance missions in the Afghanistan theatre of operations. It helps to protect Australian and Coalition forces, as well as Afghan civilians, from insurgent activity, including the laying of improvised explosive devices.

Information collected by the Heron is analysed and processed in real time. This means the commander has the benefit of having eyes on a target to build a more accurate picture of the battlespace.

"Every suspicious activity we investigate and every improvised explosive device activity we identify is potentially a life saved," Wing Commander Wells said.

"We are very proud of the record-breaking milestone the team has achieved this month, and we will continue to push our performance to exceed this in the future."

Heron ROT 4 currently operates three airframes forming part of a larger International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) RPA capability in Afghanistan. The Australian Heron RPAs are unarmed.

I'm sure many (all) of you would have read about the passing of our oldest WW1 veteran recently. However, you may not be aware of his service history. Ed

Navy's oldest WWI veteran passes away

Claude Choules Navy Background:

A former Royal Navy World War I and Royal Australian Navy World War II veteran, Claude's life has spanned the existence of the Australian Navy, which came into being on 1 March 1901, only two days before his birth.

Born in Pershore, England on 3 March 1901, Mr Choules joined the Royal Navy as a Boy in 1916, and served in the Naval Training Ship HMS *Impregnable* situated at Devonport dockyard. The *Impregnable* had been a 140 gun square-rigged wooden battleship prior to becoming a training ship.

In 1917, Claude joined the battleship HMS *Revenge*, Flagship of the First Battle Squadron. While serving in *Revenge*, Claude witnessed the surrender of the German Fleet at Firth of Forth in 1918, ten days after the Armistice and later the scuttling of the German Fleet, by the Germans, at Scapa Flow.

A 'big ships man', Claude served in the battleship *Valiant* with the Mediterranean Fleet between 1920 and 1923. A subsequent posting saw him stand by the construction of the RN's first purpose built aircraft carrier HMS *Eagle*, which was followed by a two year posting as a Petty Officer onboard *Eagle*, again in the Mediterranean Fleet.

In 1926 along with eleven other RN senior sailors, Claude came to Australia on loan as an Instructor at Flinders Naval Depot. Taking a liking to the Australian way of life, Claude decided to transfer permanently to the RAN.

After courses in the UK for Chief Torpedo and Anti Submarine Instructor, Claude stood by the building of the RAN's heavy cruisers *Australia* and *Canberra*. Claude was a commissioning crew member of HMAS *Canberra* and served in her until 1931.

Claude took his discharge from the RAN in

1931, however he remained in the RANR and rejoined the RAN in 1932 as a CPO Torpedo and Anti Submarine Instructor.

During World War II, Claude was the Acting Torpedo Officer, Fremantle and also the Chief Demolition Officer on the western side of the Australian Continent. Early in the war Claude was flown to Esperance, on Western Australia's southern coast, to identify a mine washed ashore nearby. Eventually the mine was identified as German and Claude then disposed of the first mine to wash up on Australian soil during WWII.

As the Chief Demolition Officer, Claude had the task of destroying facilities and oil storage tanks in Fremantle harbour rendering them useless in the advent of a Japanese invasion.

For a number of weeks during the dark days of 1942, explosive charges were in place to carry out this task. Claude had depth charges placed in ships that had been unable to sail from Fremantle for safe harbour in Albany during this period, with the intent of sinking them should the Japanese invade.

Claude remained in the RAN after WWII and transferred to the Naval Dockyard Police (NDP) to allow him to remain in the service until 1956, as retirement from the RAN for ratings in those days was at 50 years, while personnel could serve until 55 years old in the NDP.



DECORATED SAILOR:
Claude Choules at his
retirement home in
Perth, 2009.
Photo: LSIS Nadia Montezh

After retirement from the Naval Dockyard Police, Claude purchased a Cray fishing boat and spent ten years fishing off the Western Australia coast.

At the bottom of page 13, Journal 104 it was stated by WO1 Chris Jobson that the number of Australian VC recipients listed - even by the AWM - was wrong. He explains his reasoning behind such a statement in the following article.

Courtesy RAA Liaison Letter 2011. Ed.

Australian Victoria Cross Recipients

There exists amongst the Australian Defence Force and a number of Australian defence-related organizations (such as the Australian War Memorial and the Department for Veterans' Affairs) a misunderstanding with regard to the number of Australian Victoria Cross (VC) recipients. The current stated figure of 98 recipients is, to put it bluntly, wrong and the problem is that Australians, particularly school children learning about our Defence history and visitors to the War Memorial, are being taught and informed about a distortion of facts. The correct number of Australian VC recipients, as at 2011, is in fact 93.

An Australian VC recipient is a person who was in the Australian defence force, as an Australian serviceman, at the time of the action for which he was awarded the Cross, regardless of his country of origin or citizenship. It is interesting to note that of the Australian servicemen awarded the VC eight were English, four were New Zealanders, two were Irish, two were South African and one was Danish (an 'English' Australian Serviceman was awarded the Cross during the South African War and during The Great War the Australian recipients included the other seven Englishmen, the four New Zealanders, the Irishman and the Dane).

The incorrect number of 98 includes four Australians and an Englishman who were NOT Australian servicemen at the time of their relevant actions. These men were as follows:

Sergeant James Rogers. Rogers initially served in the South African War in Australia's 1st Victorian Mounted Infantry Company; however, when the Unit returned to Australia in 1900 Rogers stayed behind, discharged from the Australian colonial unit and joined the South African Constabulary. It was for his actions in this South African unit, as a South African serviceman, that Rogers was awarded the

Victoria Cross.

Lieutenant Wilbur Dartnell. Dartnell was in South Africa in 1914 and, with the outbreak of The Great War, he sailed to England and joined the 25th Battalion, the Royal Fusiliers. It was for his actions, as a British officer in this British Army Regiment, that Dartnell was posthumously awarded the Victoria Cross (as a point of interest, Dartnell never, at any time, served in an Australian armed service).

Sergeant Samuel Pearse. Pearse was born in the United Kingdom (he was not an Australian); however, he served in the AIF's 1st Machine Gun Battalion on the Western Front. In 1919 he took discharge from the Australian Battalion as it prepared to return to Australia and enlisted into the British Army's 45th Battalion, the Royal Fusiliers. It was for his actions as a British soldier in this British Army Regiment, serving in the British North Russia Relief Force, that Pearse was posthumously awarded the Victoria Cross.

(Pearse was not Australian born and he was serving as a British soldier in the British Army at the time of his relevant action)

Corporal Arthur Sullivan. Sullivan served in the Royal Australian Artillery and was posted to the United Kingdom, as a reinforcement, in July 1918. However, the War ended before he could be allotted to a unit on the Western Front. Sullivan discharged from the AIF in June 1919 and enlisted into the British Army's 45th Battalion, the Royal Fusiliers. It was for his actions as a British soldier in this British Army Battalion, serving in the British North Russia Relief Force, that Sullivan was awarded the Victoria Cross.

Wing Commander Hughie Edwards. Edwards transferred (was not detached) from the Royal Australian Air Force to the Royal Air Force in 1936. It was for his actions, as a (British) Royal Air Force officer, serving in the RAF's 105th Squadron, that Edwards was awarded the Victoria Cross (Sir John Smyth, in his book *Victoria Cross 1856 - 1964*, also accredits Edwards as being a British (RAF) VC recipient).

The only persons entitled to be on the Australian Honour Roll of Victoria Cross recipients are those whose actions were undertaken whilst serving as an Australian serviceman. Those who discharge

or transfer from the Australian armed forces and join the armed forces of another country, and then carry-out an action that results in the awarding of a Victoria Cross, are not Australian servicemen; therefore they are not Australian VC recipients (Flight Sergeant (acting Pilot Officer) Rawdon Middleton, on the other-hand, was an Australian serviceman on attachment to the RAF and was therefore technically an RAAF serviceman when he carried-out the actions for which he was posthumously awarded the Victoria Cross).

One has to be very careful with the use of the term 'Australian'. As already mentioned, not all the Australian VC recipients were technically Australians (i.e. native-born or naturalized Australians), particularly during the South African War and The Great War, but they were, nevertheless, Australian servicemen and are rightly referred to as Australian VC recipients.

The five Victoria Cross recipients listed above were NOT Australian VC recipients. Rogers' name appears on the South African Constabulary's list of VC recipients; Dartnell, Pearse and Sullivan all appear on the Royal Fusiliers' VC Honour Roll, and Edwards appears on that of the Royal Air Force. They cannot be listed on both the Rods of these countries (and their relevant services/regiments) and on that of Australia. As already stated, Rogers, Dartnell, Pearse, Sullivan and Edwards are NOT Australian Victoria Cross recipients.

To argue that the figure of 98 is correct because the five recipients in question were Australian, regardless of which country they were serving at the time, doesn't stand-up either; Pearse was not an Australian (he was English and was awarded the Cross for actions as a British soldier in a British Army regiment). If original nationality is the criterion then one must remove up to 17 names from the Australian VC figure (93), because these 17 Australian servicemen were a mixture of nationalities (eight Englishmen, four New Zealanders, two Irishmen, two South Africans and a Dane); leaving a figure of 76 'Australian recipients'. If previous service within the Australian defence forces is the argument for inclusion then Dartnell's name must be removed, as he never served in the Australian Army. There is only one criterion for classification as an

Australian VC recipient and that is to have been serving as an Australian serviceman at the time of the relevant action. Therefore the correct figure of Australian VC recipients is 93.

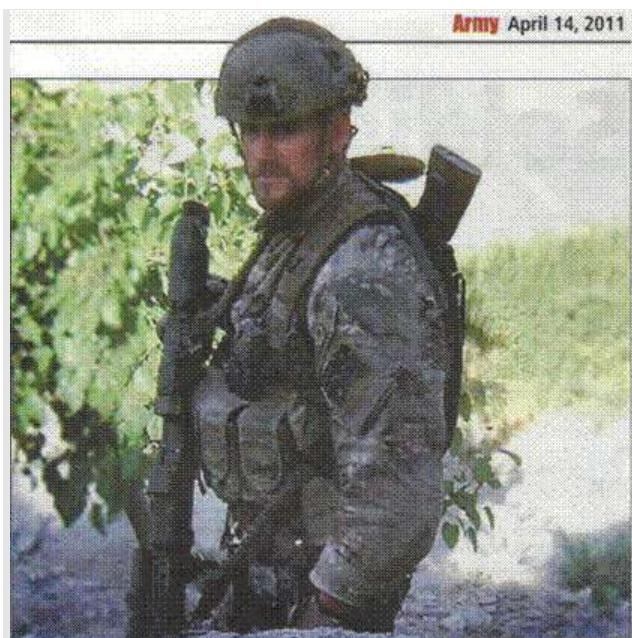
The incorrect number of Australian VC recipients also appears in Lionel Wigmore's book *They Dared Mightily* (written prior to the Vietnam War it details 92 recipients instead of the then correct figure of 87); however, as stated in the book's credit information, this publication was '...edited for the Board of Management of the Australian War Memorial (one of the organizations that persists in distorting the facts in regard to this subject).

A British publication, entitled *Ribbons & Medals Naval, Military Air Force and Civil*, written by H. Taprell Dorling, correctly lists, by countries, the total number of Victoria Crosses awarded as of its date of publication (1963), and accurately records a total of 87 Australian VC recipients; add to this figure the four Crosses awarded during the Vietnam War and the two Crosses awarded in Afghanistan, and you have a total of 93. Rogers' VC is included in the South African awards, and those of Dartnell, Pearse, Sullivan and Edwards are included in both the British Army and RAF statistics.

Claiming that there are 98 Australian Victoria Cross recipients is wrong and by doing so both the Australian War Memorial and the Department of Veterans' Affairs are providing people (particularly school children) with inaccurate (wrong) historical information; there are only 93 Australian Victoria Cross recipients.



Your comments are invited. Ed.



In action: This image of Cpl Ben Roberts-Smith, which features in the Australian War Memorial's Hall of Valour, was taken not long after the action for which he was awarded the Victoria Cross. Provided by AWM

By LCpl Mark Doran

AUSTRALIA'S most highly decorated serving soldier, Cpl Ben Roberts-Smith VC MG, visited the Australian War Memorial on April 4 to view his newly installed medal group and photo panel in the Hall of Valour.

The medal group includes his Victoria Cross and Medal for Gallantry. The pane features an image of Cpl Roberts-Smith taken shortly after the combat action for which he was awarded the military's highest award for valour in the face of the enemy.

"I will be marching in Sydney this year, mainly to be with my old battalion, 3RAR, which will be commemorating the 60th anniversary of the Battle of Kapyong on April 24.

"I wanted to make sure I was involved so people knew I hadn't forgotten where I came from and where I started my infantry life," Cpl Roberts-Smith said

When asked if being awarded the VC placed an extra burden on his shoulders for returning to Afghanistan, Cpl Roberts-Smith said he did not consider it a burden - just an extra responsibility.

"It is my responsibility to portray myself, the ADF and my unit in the best possible way - as far as the job itself goes, there will be no change - it will always be 100 per cent [effort]."

Counter-rocket radar system rolls out to Forward Operating Bases in Afghanistan

Mr Smith and Mr Clare also announced that **Australia's Counter-Rocket, Artillery and Mortar (C-RAM)** radar had now been rolled out to a number of patrol bases and Forward Operating Bases (FOB) across Uruzgan Province.

The C-RAM system provides vital warning of impending rocket attacks and mortar attacks against bases, providing precious seconds for our people to take cover, rather than being exposed in the open.

Defence Minister Smith said that during his visit to Afghanistan in April, Australian Defence Force (ADF) Commanders in Uruzgan reported that the C-RAM system was working well.

Since it began operation in December last year the C-RAM system has provided ten warnings against rocket and mortar attacks resulting in no ADF casualties.

Most recently, the C-RAM system successfully detected and provided warning against indirect fire attacks on the Tarin Kot base early on 12 June and again on 14 June.

Additional Bushmasters to support our Troops

Mr Smith and Mr Clare also announced that Defence has signed a contract with Thales Australia for an additional 101 Bushmaster vehicles.

The vehicles, together with associated support, are being purchased at a total cost of \$133 million.

This is for the vehicles and fitting Middle East Area of Operations protection kits including protected weapons stations.

It also includes funding to evaluate a range of enhancements to the Bushmaster vehicle to increase the level of protection it provides to ADF personnel. If these enhancements are viable they may be applied to the 101 vehicles.

The addition of these vehicles will take the total number of Bushmasters ordered by Defence to 838.

31 Bushmasters have been damaged beyond repair in recent years and their replacement plus a further 70 vehicles will support current and future operations.

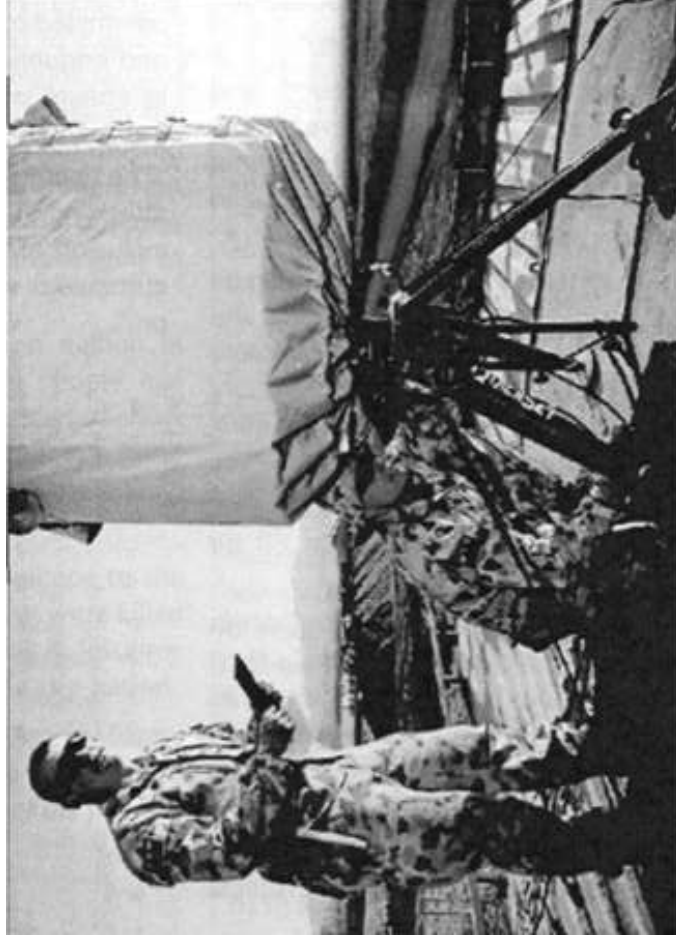
Battlefield tested

By Sgt Andrew Hetherington
SOLDIERS from 16 AD Regt have already proven the new counter-rocket artillery and mortar (C-RAM) system, providing early warning against a number of rocket attacks since deploying to Multinational Base Tarin Kot late last year. C-RAM provides advance warning of indirect fire attacks, allowing time for personnel to take cover.

The new system's presence in Afghanistan was recently announced by Defence Minister Stephen Smith.

The personnel operating the new equipment undertook extensive training in Sweden and the UK.

CO 16 AD Regt Lt-Col John McLean said the new capability and deployment would expand the skill-sets of his soldiers.



Threat detection: Gnrs Scott Perry and Luke Fidnock set up the light weight counter mortar radar at Multinational Base Tarin Kot, Afghanistan.

Photos by Cpl Christopher Dickson

"C-RAM is a new mission for us and represents a broadening of our current force protection role," he said.

The newly deployed C-RAM equipment - which is based on proven systems used by other International Security Assistance Force members including the US and the UK - will also improve the unit's future air-defence capabilities.

"One of the two radars as part of the C-RAM sensor suite is arguably one of the world's best tactical air defence radars," Lt-Col McLean said.

"Coupled with a state-of-the-art, lightweight weapon-locating and surveillance radar, this will give Army capability benefits well beyond the immediate C-RAM mission.

"While C-RAM 1 contingent personnel are already working in Afghanistan, the second C-RAM contingent is participating in an intensive training program at Fort Sill in Oklahoma.

C-RAM 2 contingent OC Maj Marc Bryant said the soldiers had adapted well to the training and the new role.

"Nine trained in Sweden on the Giraffe radar in the September-October period and 15 went to the UK working with 16 Regt and 5 Regt Royal Artillery to train on the command and control systems,

warning sirens and, lightweight counter-mortar radar," Maj Bryant said.

"As the guys are used to working with radars and command control systems, we found they took to the new equipment very well and their British instructors commented on how quickly they picked it up.

"The training packages in Sweden and the UK were invaluable before our visit to the US." The C-RAM 2 personnel are half-way through a three-month training package at Fort Sill, which will culminate in a mission-rehearsal exercise.

More than 40 personnel from 16 AD Regt will deploy in the middle of this year as the C-RAM 2 contingent.

Maj Bryant said the C-RAM role was an exciting new capability for the regiment and would lead to more deployments.

"It's putting a lot of responsibility on the junior NCOs' shoulders to make the right decisions in seconds in order to get out early warning of any incoming indirect fire," he said.

"It's great for the regiment and everyone's confident we will do a good job."

VIETNAM TRIP WITH ANZAC DAY AT LONG TAN

Arrived in Ho Chi Minh City (formerly Saigon) on Wednesday 20th April 2011.

Spent two days exploring the sights and sounds including a visit to the War Museum and the Presidential Palace, with its famous gates where the Soviet tank was driven through as the Americans evacuated the city.

A lasting memory of the city is the thousands of motor scooters that zip around with no thought of safety of pedestrians or themselves.

From there we headed 1 hour north to Vung Tau on a hydrofoil. This coastal city is much quieter and similar to a holiday town. Fishing is the major activity in the region, but there is massive development underway to harvest the natural gas and oil in the South China Sea.



On the Saturday, an expat's Aussies Rules footy game was held on the ground where our soldiers played footy during the Vietnam War. The game was played between the Vietnam Swans and the Hong Kong Dragons on a hot & humid day that is nothing like the days that footy is played back here. About 1,000 Australians & locals attended and raised a large sum of money for the local orphanages.

Sunday saw us travel from Vung Tau into Phuoc Tuy province where we visited the Long Hai Hills and then on to Nui Dat where the 1ATF Base was located during the war. The base was about 6km square in size and was home to the Australian task force. Our guide, Glen, was **actually a member of "D" company 4RAR and provided a lot of** interesting information. We visited the Long Tan Memorial that day even though we were attending the dawn service the following morning. I was honoured to be asked to recite the Ode at the Memorial Cross at 6pm Aussie time – a very moving moment.



ANZAC Day began for us at 2am approx. with our journey back to Long Tan in time for the service. Hundreds of Australians and New Zealanders joining with many others. Among the Australians were many Vietnam Vets **remembering their mates. What an emotional occasion.** On Caulfield RSL's behalf, I laid an Australian and a New Zealand Poppy in the sand at the front of the memorial and handed out ANZAC badges that the club had provided.

John Decker – Member Caulfield RSL

Thanks for this excellent article, John. Ed



VALE SGT BRETT WOOD

It is with deep regret the Australian Defence Force announces the death of Sergeant Brett Wood during operations in Afghanistan.



Sergeant Wood was serving with the Special Operations Task Group in Afghanistan when he was tragically killed in action as a result of the explosion of an Improvised Explosive Device on Monday 23 May 2011

(Afghanistan time).

Thirty-two year old Sergeant Wood was from the Sydney based 2nd Commando Regiment.

Sergeant Brett Wood leaves behind his loving wife and family, who are currently receiving support from Defence.

Sergeant Brett Wood was born in Ferntree Gully, Victoria in 1978. He joined the Army in 1996 and after recruit training joined 6th Battalion the Royal Australian Regiment. Sergeant Wood successfully undertook Commando Selection and Training and joined the then 4th Battalion Royal Australian Regiment (2 Commando) in November 1998.

Sergeant Wood has significant operational experience. His first deployment was to Bougainville in 2000. In 2001 he deployed to East Timor on Operation Tanager and in 2003 to Iraq on Operation Falconer. In 2006 Sergeant Wood deployed to Afghanistan as part of Operation Slipper. He was awarded The Medal for Gallantry for leadership in action as a Team Commander during this tour.

Sergeant Wood received a Special Operations Commander – Australia, Commendation for service with the Tactical Assault Group – East in 2007 and in 2009 he returned to Afghanistan as a Section Commander.

Sergeant Wood deployed to Afghanistan, for the third time, in March this year.

Sergeant Brett Wood was awarded the Medal for Gallantry, the Australian Active Service Medal with clasps: East Timor, International Coalition Against Terrorism (ICAT) and Iraq 2003; Afghanistan Campaign Medal; Iraq Campaign Medal; Australian Service Medal with clasps: Bougainville, Counter Terrorism and Special Recovery Clasp; Defence Long Service Medal; Australian Defence Medal; United Nations East Timor Medal; NATO ISAF Medal; Special Operations Command Australia Commendation and Unit Citation for Gallantry. He has also been awarded the Infantry Combat Badge.

During Sergeant Brett Wood service in the Australian Army, he deployed on the following Operations;



OPERATION BEL ISI II (Bougainville) – Mar 2000 – Aug 2000.

OPERATION TANAGER (East Timor) – Apr 2001 – Aug 2001.

OPERATION FALCONER (Iraq) – Feb 2003 – May 2003.

OPERATION SLIPPER (Afghanistan) – Apr 2006 – Sep 2006.

OPERATION SLIPPER (Afghanistan) – Jul 2009 – Nov 2009.

OPERATION SLIPPER (Afghanistan) – Mar 2011 – May 2011.



V A L E



A FIERCE FRIEND. A portrait of LT Marcus Case and his flying brevet and medals.



MARK OF RESPECT: Soldiers from 9 FSB provide an escort for LCPL Andrew Jones after the service.



SAD FAREWELL: The coffin of SPR Rowan Robinson is carried into St Anthony's Church in Kingscliff, NSW

By CPL Zenith King and LCPL Mark Doran

LT MARCUS Case, LCPL Andrew Jones and SPR Rowan Robinson. Three Army personnel recently killed in Afghanistan, were farewelled by family, friends, military and political representatives at funerals earlier this month.

St Bede's Catholic Church over-flowed as more than 1000 mourners farewelled combat aviator LT Case in a moving ceremony on June 10 in Balwyn, Victoria.

Friends and family retimed on LT Case's life, sharing memories of an outgoing man who took every opportunity in life.

Commander 16 Aviation Brigade BRIG Gregory Lawler spoke of LT Case as a dedicated pilot and the life of the party.

"Earlier this year Marcus was training to be an unmanned aerial vehicle operator in preparation for his role in Afghanistan." BRIG Lawler said.

"He had completed a few weeks of training at RAAF Base Amberley when 173 Aviation Squadron arrived to support the Queensland flood relief operation,

"Marcus turned up ready to start flying. He didn't have his flying clothes but that didn't stop him. He squeezed into his mate's flying suit and said 'I want to go flying'."

BRIG Lawler said LT Case would be remembered as a fierce friend who genuinely fun and made light of every situation.

LT Case was killed in action during operations in Afghanistan (on May 30 where he was deployed as a Heron Unmanned Aerial Vehicle operator.

In an intimate service at the Darebin Arts and Entertainment Centre in Melbourne, family and friends of LCPL Jones gathered to farewell the soldier on June 11.

LCPL Jones., of 9 Force Support Battalion, was walking within the perimeter of Patrol Base Mashel in the Chora Valley when he was shot by an ANA soldier in a guard tower on May 30.

Commander 17 Combat Service Support Brigade BRIG David Mulhall spoke of a soldier who would go out of his way to help others.

"His support to our combat soldiers was at the most basic of levels, where he sought to sustain the existence and morale of soldiers enduring incredible personal hardship and demand." BRIG Mulhall said.

"In so doing, Andrew displayed a level of selflessness that can only come from a man of character, a man of genuine moral strength and commitment, and a man who understood the importance of his role in support of a team."

Mourners lined the streets and **St Anthony's** Catholic Church in Kingscliff, NSW. was overflowing for the funeral of SPR Robinson on June 17.

SPR Robinson, of the Incident Response Regiment was killed on June 6 during a small arms engagement with insurgents in southern Afghanistan.

His father, Peter, spoke of a proud family and a son who had performed far beyond the expectations of a combat engineer.

"He gave his life so others could survive." Mr Robinson said.

"Every now and then someone special comes along - someone with the X factor. Rowan was such a man. With a devil-may-care attitude, he was a highly intelligent, self-motivated man with a steely resolve for himself and someone I could talk to when things got tough."

LEST WE FORGET

Parade Card
Commencing August 2011

Jan 2012	Jun 2012	Nov 2011
	13 Reservist Luncheon	3 AGM
Feb 2012	21 Committee	4 Golf Day
8 Issue 110 Cascabel Posted	Jul 2012	15 Committee
21 Committee	1 Reserve Forces Day March	19/20 Bairnsdale Gippsland W/E
	19 Committee	
Mar 2012	Aug 2011	Dec 2011
1 RAA Luncheon	8 Issue 108 Cascabel Posted	4 Annual Church Parade
15 Committee	16 Committee	4 St Barbara's Day and Family Day
	21 Church Parade Healing the Wounds of War	6 Committee
Apr 2012	Sep 2011	
17 Committee	20 Committee	
25 Anzac day		
	Oct 2011	
May 2012	7 Gunner Dinner	
9 Issue 111 Cascabel Posted	10 Issue 109 Cascabel Posted	
15 Committee	18 Committee	

Change of Personal Details

Rank	Surname and Post Nominals	DoB
Address		
Telephone Mobile Email		
Additional Information		

ROYAL AUSTRALIAN ARTILLERY ASSOCIATION (VIC) INC
101 Warralong Ave GREENSBOROUGH VIC 3088
Reg No A13889Z

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