CASCABEL

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ROYAL AUSTRALIAN ARTILLERY ASSOCIATION

(VICTORIA) INCORPORATED

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Wolfgang Kahrau, of the Victorian Re-enactment Society, gives the order for a gun salute. Photo: Mark Smith

Slide 9 of 10

The canon fires. Photo: Mark Smith

Courtesy Williamstown Local Rag

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Article	Pages

Current Postal Address

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

Lt Col Jason Cooke

(03) 9282 6900 0409 043 165

CASCABEL

FORMER PATRONS, PRESIDENTS & HISTORY

FOUNDED:

First AGM April 1978

First Cascabel July 1983

COL COMMANDANT: BRIG P Alkemade RFD

PATRONS and VICE PATRONS:

1978

Patron: LT GEN The Hon Sir Edmund Herring KCMG, KBE, DSO, MC, ED

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

1982

Patron: BRIG Sir William Hall KBE, DSO, ED

Vice Patron: MAJ GEN N. A. Vickery CBE, MC, ED

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

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

2008

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

Vice Patron:

PRESIDENTS:

1978 MAJ GEN N. A. Vickery CBE, MC, ED

1979 MAJ GEN J. M .McNeill OA, OBE, ED

1981 COL A. (Sandy) Mair ED

1984 MAJ P. S. (Norman) Whitelaw ED

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

1991 MAJ M. Taggart RFD, ED

2004 MAJ N. Hamer RFD

JOURNAL NAME:

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

CASCABLE - English spelling.

ARTILLERY USE:

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

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

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

CASCABEL HISTORY:

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

ASSOC LOGO: LAPEL BADGE:

Our Assoc Logo and Lapel Badge is the 1800 AD 9 Pdr Waterloo Field Gun. Copy is taken from Device, Badge and Motto of the Royal Regiment of Artillery, as approved in 1833, by HM King William IV.

The Badge is a copy of the left arm brass gilded gun once worn by GUN SGTS above the chevrons on each arm. Brassards worn by IGs at North Head were embroidered with this insignia. It differs from the logo in that the badge has been cast with the rammer in a different position and the end of the trail has been reduced in length. Selected by MAJ Warren Barnard, 1984 Assoc Committee

RAA ASSOCIATION (VIC) INC COMMITTEE

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Vice President:	Maj Merv Taggart RFD, ED 9773 3730
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Ex-Officio:	Col Comdt Brig P Alkemade RFD Maj Garry Rolfe 2nd/10th Light Bty RAA
Honorary Auditor:	Maj David J Osborne

VIC BTY CONTACTS

2/10 Light Bty 9526 4222
38 Light troop
8 Chapel St
St Kilda

22 Light Troop 8710 2407
65 Princes Hwy
Dandenong South

Association web site:
http://www.artilleryvic.org.au/

CONTENTS AND SUBMISSIONS

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

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

Submissions for the **April 2014** issue are required no later than **1 March 2014** unless otherwise arranged with the **new** Editor.

ISSN 1322-6282

Note from the RAA Committee

At the time of this edition being printed, WO2 Alan Halbish made the decision to resign as Editor of Cascabel as per his editorial comments on page 7.

In accordance with our Constitution and therefore the intent of the Model Rules regulated by Consumer Affairs, WO2 Alan Halbish was able to present his concerns at a Special Committee Meeting which occurred in early Dec '13.

Thankfully all concerns have been adequately addressed and Alan is happy to be reinstated as Editor of Cascabel.

The committee regrets any impact this may have caused any member of the Association during this period.

President
Maj Neil Hamer (Retd)

Cascabel Editor
WO2 Alan Halbish (Retd)

Editors Indulgence

I am using my usual space to insert the following tributes to our recently departed mate from 23 Bty.

Sergeant James Alfred (Jim) Heggen aged 54 years died at Palliative Care Frankston on 03 Oct 13.

He was a Gun Sergeant at 23 Fd Bty at Frankston Depot.

The Funeral Service for Jim was held in the Western Port Christian Family Church, 99 The Crescent, Tyabb on THURSDAY 10 Oct 13, at 1400 hours. At the conclusion of the Service, the cortege proceeded to Crib Point Cemetery. Many mourners then attended Jim's Wake at the Crib Point RSL.

The service was conducted by ARA Chaplain Andrew Robinson. Jim's second eldest son ??? read eulogies on behalf of his sister ?????, mother Cheryl and himself in what were extremely loving and funny anecdotes of his father. WO2's Jack Bohmer and Eddie Redfern spoke about their special relationship with Jim re his carpentry work and service on the Guns in 23 Bty.

I was BSM of the Bty when Jim joined the ARES. My earliest recollection of him was when I ordered "Heggen, get your hair cut". Jim was a superb member of Eddie's Delta Gun for three years. Loved the work and especially when the Bty headed for the bush on ex's. Despite not being particularly fond of parade ground work, he nevertheless adapted well to the "spit and polish" requirements to successfully complete promotion courses for Bdr and Sgt at Pucka'.

Cancer is a particularly insidious disease and Jim fought hard for the 11 months it took from diagnosis. Sadly surgery and radiation were to no avail and Jim passed peacefully in the company of his family.

RIP Jim

WO2 Alan Halbish

The following is the eulogy WO2 Jack Bohmer gave at the service.

My first memory of Jim was on parade night at 23 Fd Bty 2/15 Fd Regt RAA at Frankston which had 4 M2A2 105 mm howitzers in the late seventies. He was tall and fit looking, but what struck me most was the whitest hair I have ever seen. After recruit course at Puckapunyal, he was posted to Sergeant Redfern as a gun number who was No 1 on D sub where he layed the gun for elevation. He quickly gained a reputation of being one the quickest in the Battery.

Jim and I had a lot in common as we both worked in the building industry and very quickly formed a bond and shared many beers in the OR's mess. Jim progressed quickly and was promoted to Bombardier. On one of his postings as my 2IC. I was having trouble with one of my gunners and Jim said "don't worry SGT, I'll fix it". The next day I noticed this particular gunner looked like he had been run over by a bus. I asked him what happened and he said that he fell over. I never had trouble with that gunner again.

During an extended exercise we were stood down for a make and mend for 24 hrs and we could have 2 cans per man. Half of my gunners didn't drink but Jim instructed all of them to get their 2 can allocation. He then collected them all so he and I could have a six pack each, but that's what Jim did, always thinking of others.

One night Jim and I were on the graveyard shift on sentry at one of the strong points on the gun line. It was freezing cold so we decided to share a port in the storm. At about 0100 hrs our local defence was probed by the ARA Cadre staff. I quickly buried the just opened bottle when a young LT came to our strong point to observe and take charge. After a patrol returned and we were stood down we couldn't find where we buried it

One weekend the Bty was doing maintenance around the depot and Jim had to bring in his new Senco nail gun to show the boys. I think we shot off about 100 3in nails. We had a great time. The

section commander didn't approve, but it didn't wipe the smile off Jims face

Jim was promoted to Sergeant and did get a gun to command on his own. He led by example and was tough but fair and never gave a task to his gunners that he would not do himself. His detachment in turn would follow him to hell and back.

Work

On my return from overseas l was broke and didn't have a job. Jim asked me to help him and Mick for a few days on a house frame in Maxwell Court ,Mornington. Just out of my apprenticeship l had limited experience in domestic construction. It was a hardwood frame on stumps and after 7 months of not working it nearly killed me. l remember the owner took $50 off the invoice because of a few newspapers and wrappers left on site. Jim was going to kill him. The few days went for 4 years and he taught me everything l know in framing until l was able to run my own crew . Jims crew grew up to 10 framers and we built hundreds of units in the Frankston ,Seaford ,Langwarrin and Mornington area for D Henwood and under his leadership we became the lean, mean framing team. We cut all our roofs out of hardwood; it was very heavy work and in all types of conditions.

There was a time at work with Jim l was cutting off ceiling joists on a double story when one snapped off while l was cutting it. l fell straight down and hooked my arm over the top plate and Jim said "don't drop my saw". I finally made it to the ground as white as a sheet. Jim said "I'm not paying you to be a spectator, replace that joist you broke and get back up there and finish it" I didn't have time to think and we all had a laugh and a beer later on when we knocked off.

We got paid weekly by cheque and as l was still working at home l didn't bank it straight away. One time l think l banked 4 weeks at once. Jim ripped into me because l drained his account. Every week after that he asked me whether l'd banked my pay

On a job in Frankston he sent the 2 apprentices to get something for smoko. One of them had just got his licence and his dad dropped his first car off which had just been reregistered. So off they went. On their return he lost control and ran into the back of a parked truck. The result was he broke his jaw and the other kid broke his arm. Jim walked up as cool as a cucumber and said "I hope you didn't squash my pie".

Jim was never afraid to try anything. One warm Sunday afternoon after a few beers he decided to paint his work truck. By the end of the day he painted his truck his dog, both his kids and managed to run over his false teeth, so the story goes

My family and l moved out to the country and over the years we lost contact. You don't make many good mates in your lifetime and I'm saddened to lose one last week.

Jim's two eldest sons assist in carrying their father from the hearse and with their mother Cheryl at the graveside.

It was pleasing to see that these old WO2's were there to represent the Artillery. We did our best to farewell Jim as he heads off to that 'Great Gun Park in the Sky'

L to R at the Wake, they are:

WO2 Tony Wilkins, WO2 David Green, WO2 Alan Halbish, WO2 Jack Bohmer, former WO2, Maj Gary Rolfe and WO2 Eddie Redfern

You were done proud, Jim.

I wish to advise you all that my time as your editor is over. This journal is my final contribution to your association and it will consist of completing the American Civil War and the Sandakan series. I have also received another article from Col Graham Farley and that will be included too, along with WO2 David Gibson's recollections of his time with A Fd Bty in Vietnam. Other bits and pieces will round off my presentation.

Why am I giving it away? **Total Disillusionment.**

The committee have made some decisions during the course of the year, of which I totally disagree with: therefore leaving me in a position where I feel most uncomfortable in continuing to serve them in any capacity. The final straw for me was a decision taken by the President and Secretary at the association's AGM on 7/11/13.

They are quite entitled to make that and their other decisions throughout the year, but I don't necessarily have to agree with, nor do I have to be a part of them.

I have really enjoyed my time as your editor and have been heartened by your letters of support.

The biggest losers from this debacle are **you and I**, certainly not the hierarchy of the committee.

Ubique

WO2 Alan Halbish (Retd)

Your former editor.

The following are some of the articles I had prepared for future publication.

Making Anzac Day special in Gallipoli

Col. Bud Day dies at 88

Maj Gen Walter Adams Coxon "the boss gunner"

Major-General John Charles "Jock" Campbell

THE NATIONAL BOER WAR MEMORIAL

First World War heroes laid to rest...96 years on

The above were all to be included in Journal 119.

I also had other journals up to 125 partially completed. 122—125 were to be about Broome's One Day War.

I've deliberately attempted to be diplomatic re my demise If any one has any comments or would seek further clarification of my reasons, (there are plenty) please contact me direct at ahalbish@netspace.net.au

Operation Anode. Rotation 30 Solomons.

There have already been two articles written about "Operation Anode", one in the Army News and comments by Lt Col Jason Cooke, both of which appeared in the last edition of Cascabel.

This article is to fill in a few gaps and help complete the story. On Friday 20th September at the "Gunner Symposium" held at 1800hrs at the Chapel St depot, with an attendance of approx twenty person's, Capt Reed Powney and some of the gunners who were on Operation Anode in Honiara on the island of Guadalcanal in the Solomon Islands, gave a very interesting talk on their experiences while on the operation. Rotation 30 lasted from the end of March until the beginning of August 2013.

Seventeen members of 2/10 Lt Bty, led by Capt Powney, who was part of a three man team (CIMIC) made up the Civil Military Liaison group, which was responsible to the area Commander. The rest of the gunners went as riflemen, placed in rifle platoon's. Prior to embarkation they all undertook (IMT) Infantry Minor Tactics training with 5/6 RVR.

The Mission Statement for the unit was to reinforce the civilian police force under a mandate. Whilst on Operation Anode the gunners conducted (IMT) jungle training, with soldiers from New Zealand, Tonga, and Papua new Guinea, and in true gunner tradition, acquitted themselves very well, and all this in an environment which was new to them.

Capt Powney, L/bdr Gavin Hunt, Gnr Thomas Patterson, Gnr Sean Me Kellar, Gnr Ross Williams, Gnr Andrew Prentice, Gnr Bosnjak, (Hope I have the spelling correct) were in attendance at the Symposium, some of whom recalled their experiences and answered questions afterwards. Well done to you all, you are a credit to the R.A.A.

Ubique.

Ssgt Ernie Paddon. (Retd)

Thanks Ernie. ed

Letters to the Editor

Alan:

I am not sure whether I have already sent you the attached "reflections." Unfortunately I only have the one photo that has come to mind. It is entirely up to you of course, whether you use these "reflections" or any others that I have in draft form.

In the meantime Cascabel continues to be a first class publication.

Graham *(Col Graham Farley. They'll be used. Ed)*

On behalf of RAAANT President Colonel Jeff Dunn OAM CSM RFD (Retd) and Dr Tom Lewis OAM Director Darwin Military Museum greetings from the RAAANT & DMM teams. The attached newsletter highlights the Opening of the Darwin Military Museum New Vietnam Gallery which occurred yesterday. Since 18 February last (1st Anniversary of Defence of Darwin Experience Opening) some 37 000 people have visited the Museum.

Feedback from anyone is most welcome. Regards.

Captain John R Johnston RFD ED (Retd)
National Liaison Officer/Executive Committee Member Royal Australian Artillery Association (NT) Inc

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Dear Alan,

I'm sorry my response has been delayed. I have been away on annual leave and neglected to get back to you before I left.

The Committee has agreed in principal for you to publish Broome's One day War in the Royal Australian Artillery Association of Vic Inc Journal.

However, they have asked that you provide a proof of the article before publication for final approval. If you require any images I will also provide you with clear, watermarked images.

I hope these conditions meet with your approval. Look forward to hearing from you.

Kindest Regards, Kylie Jennings

Administration Officer

Broome Historical Society Museum

*This book **was** to have been published in 2015. Ed*

Hi Alan.

The Symposium went well, had a good turn-up, about 38-40 in all. The CO of 5/6 RVR seems like a nice guy, should do well. He certainly knows his stuff. Picked up a hard copy of Cascabel from Reg while I was there, (fantastic) you really did a good job on that issue, well done.

Ubique. *Ernie (Ssgt Ernie Paddon)*

Great reading — my Army service was RASC-Army Survey Regt. We occasionally had Artillery Battery men receiving training at Fortuna and Field Survey Companies in Computing for Azimuth/Range etc. You may remember my farther Bill Atkins (Capt. RAE Ret.) who was well known to the RAA Assoc. Members

Regards. David Atkins

Did you miss viewing this documentary on ABC's 4 Corners.

Australia's War In Afghanistan | ABC War & Military Documentary

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2-PIAzotXTA&feature=player_embedded#t=71

View an $80,000 Excalibur round being fired

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nfESvQIpdz8

Former RSL boss Godfrey Eugene 'Rusty' Priest will be honoured with a state funeral.

Mr Priest, who died on Wednesday aged 86, served as NSW RSL president from 1993 until 2002 after retiring from a distinguished military career spanning more than two decades.

The World War II veteran was also instrumental in creating the Kokoda Track Memorial Walkway at Concord and getting the Glebe Island Bridge renamed the Anzac Bridge.

He was made a Member of the Order of Australia in 1997.

Japan's Super Sub

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q5-ijBs8iJA

Capt Peter Wertheimer OAM RFD attended the Paynesville P. S. with Geoff.

Hi Alan,

Have just received Cascabel 117 and I wish to put it on the record that I believe as far as Corps magazines etc go, quarterly or for that matter any, this edition has surpassed all expectations and is second to none.

Congratulations editor extraordinaire and thanks for the tireless efforts you continuously strive for excellence.

I knew Jimmy Breeze received a BEM many years however I inquire what is an AOM and what was Jim's citation.

Congratulations Jim - sorry I missed the latest honour!

Cheers to all my friends from the Riviera of Victoria,

Ubique,

Peter Wertheimer

My apologies to WO2 Jim Breeze. A typo which should have read OAM. ed

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Alan:

I am not sure whether I have already sent you the attached "reflections."

Unfortunately I only have the one photo that has come to mind.

It is entirely up to you of course, whether you use these "reflections" or any others that I have in draft form.

In the meantime Cascabel continues to be a first class publication.

Graham (Col Graham Farley OAM RFD ED)

Col Farley has been a wonderful contributor over the years and his latest in included in this journal.

Another magnificent display of precision drumming and formation changing. Go to full screen. *Courtesy Ssgt's Morrell & Paddon.*

http://www.youtube.com/embed/HW3QVLlK-kE?feature=player_embedded

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Capt Geoff Rebbechi RFD with school children and a teacher from Paynesville Primary School on the occasion of Remembrance Day 2013.

BENEFITS OF RSL MEMBERSHIP **Are YOU a member?**

- A great way to contribute to the role of the RSL in support of Veterans, Service Personnel and your Local Community
- The opportunity to represent your Sub-Branch and volunteer throughout your community
- A strong membership base provides us with the means to continue the RSL tradition
- Member loyalty program and benefits
- Regular newsletters to keep you in touch with issues relevant to the RSL and its members
- **RSL · share the spirit of mateship**

The third mammoth instalment of the American Civil War by Ssgt Barry Irons continues.

Model 1861 3-inch Ordnance Rifle

Unquestionably the best rifled gun of its day was the 3 inch Ordnance Rifle. Originally called "Griffin Guns," after their designer, John Griffen, the Ordnance Rifles were often mistakenly called "Rodman Guns" because of their superficial resemblance to the large Rodman coastal defense smoothbores. In fact, however, there was no connection.

Figure 6. Restored 3 inch Griffin Gun.
Note the spiral hook fittings (more about this later)

Wrought iron was expensive and had been difficult to work with, which explains why it was not successfully developed earlier for artillery. But in 1854, Griffen modified a procedure then being used in the production of wrought iron for lighthouse construction.

The new technique resulted in an enormously strong gun tube. When first tested in 1856, the Griffen Gun amazed the representatives of the Ordnance Department. Griffen himself challenged them to burst the piece. After more than 500 rounds with increasing charges and loads, they finally succeeded only by firing it with a charge of seven pounds of powder and a load of 13 shot which completely filled up the bore!

The bursting problem was solved. What plagued the Parrott was virtually nonexistent in the wrought iron gun. Only one Ordnance Rifle is known to have burst during the entire Civil War (a gun in a Pennsylvania battery burst at the muzzle - the safest place for a gun to burst if it must do so) while firing double canister during the Battle of the Wilderness.

The "3 inch wrought iron rifle" had a slightly greater effective range than the Parrott and compared favourably even with the British Whitworth for accuracy. "The Yankee three-inch rifle was a dead shot at any distance under a mile," said one admiring Confederate gunner, “and it was quite effective at a mile and a half”.

On top of all of this, the gun was a hundred pounds lighter than the Parrott (800 lbs to the Parrott's 900) which made it highly mobile. For just this reason, it was the preferred weapon of the Horse Artillery (that is, those batteries working with cavalry and therefore requiring maximum mobility).

The Ordnance Rifle, not to put too fine a point on it, was a nearly perfect field piece. The absolute epitome of muzzle-loading artillery, it remained the primary rifled field gun in the U. S. inventory well into the 1880's when it finally gave way to steel breech-loaders.

About a thousand of these remarkable guns were produced for the Union army. Lacking the technology, nor indeed the resources, the Confederates did not produce them.

In summary, then, there were but seven pieces of artillery which did the bulk of the cannoneer's work during the Civil War. These were the Model 1841 6 pdr and 12 pdr guns, the Model 1841 12 pdr and 24 pdr howitzers, the Model 1857 Light 12 pdr gun-howitzer, the Model 1861/1863 Parrott (which, for our purposes, can be considered as a single type), and the Model 1861 Ordnance Rifle.

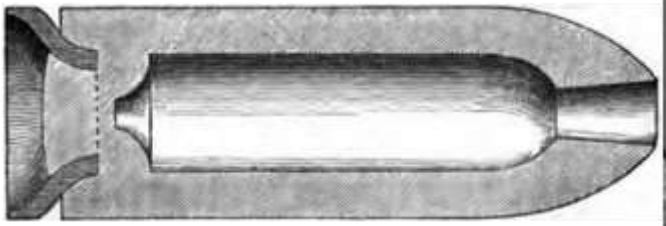
The last two of these, in particular, demonstrate the tremendous advancement in artillery made during the four years of the war. The leap from smoothbores to rifles was the first necessary step in the development of modern artillery.

Indeed, the gap between even the best of the smoothbores and the least effective of the rifles serves to illustrate the old truism that our great l9th century bloodletting was, at one and the same time, the last 18th century war and the first 20th century war.

The British Connection

The first Blakely rifled gun sent to the South
The 3¾ inch piece used to fire on Fort Sumter in April 1861

Ammunition: The Blakely rifled field guns used by the south were all designed to use the patented shell design of Bashley Britten, made for him by Maudslay, Sons & Field in London. This had a lead flange or skirt sweated onto the base of the hollow iron body of the projectile, which was forced into the rifling on firing. These shells, and their patent metallic fuses, were imported from England. Attempts to manufacture Britten shells in America all failed as the process was complex.



Read Patent Shell 1861

Read Patent Shell 1861 - A wrought-iron base cup cast into the body of the projectile Made at Richmond as a substitute for the imported Bashley Britten shell.

Instead the Richmond Arsenal began making John B Read's shell in 3½ inch Blakely calibre. This had been patented in 1856 and had a wrought-iron cup inserted into the "butt" (as the patentee put it) of a cast-iron shell when still molten to act in the same manner as Britten's lead skirt.

Read was an Alabamian and had licensed his design to the cannon founder Robert Parrott prior to 1861. The unprincipled Parrott immediately found ways to avoid paying royalties to Read, just as he had pirated Blakely's banding concept.

3½ inch, 12 pounder Blakely "standard" gun.
Note the stowage of accessories.

Made in several sizes, all with the large trunnion ring, between 1861 and 1866, eight were made in 1861 for Major-General John C Frémont for use by the United States Army in the Western Department

3½ inch, 12 pounder Blakely Field Gun 186

(Only manufactured for the Confederate States Army. Note the Screw adjustment device, a standard used on most Civil War cannons).

The 12-pounder "Confederate" Field Guns 1861 - 62

For the Confederate States Army Captain Blakely and Fawcett, Preston & Company together developed a unique design of field gun that was not offered to any other purchaser. They are the commonest of all Blakely guns. It was to have an unusual bore of 3½ inches and a short barrel, having a cast-iron tube over which was shrunk a substantial steel cup or sleeve with a cascabel knob

at the breech end and an elevating screw, the sleeve reaching to a flush-fitting trunnion ring.

The rifling was of seven grooves to Bashley Britten's square pattern, the piece intended to fire his patent lead-skirted cast-iron shells of 12 pounds weight. In theory this short gun could fire a solid bolt of much greater weight.

The novel visible feature of this piece was the flush -fitting trunnion ring, which merges almost seamlessly into the reinforcing breech sleeve.

The "Confederate 12 pounder" had a barrel 58 inches in overall length, with a maximum diameter on the steel sleeve of 9 ½ inches. It weighed 600 pounds. The barrel was not entirely satisfactory and several were later fitted with an iron band in front of the trunnions to counter act a perceived flaw in its preponderance (A quant name for weight distribution.), in that it was found breech-heavy in working. The Blakely serial numbers of these guns range from 24 to 36, and almost certainly to other ranges.

The Britten Projectile. Note Grove (Lands) markings on Base

Bashley Britten, of Great Britain, patented a method of attaching the lead sabot to the base of a projectile dated March 17, 1855, British patent #604. He describes this method in detail in his British patent #585, dated March 8, 1861, and states that "I apply a coating of lead formed in such a manner that on the gun being (Lands) markings on Base fired, the lead expands into the rifle grooves, and is acted upon by the rifling so as to produce a rotatory motion in the shell.

I unite the lead to the iron shell by means of solder, zinc, or tin. At the base of the shell I attach a coating or sabot of lead; this is done by first removing the impurities on the cast surface of the shell either by tools or by subjecting the iron to the action of a strong pickle of sulphuric or other acid.

This portion of the shell is then immersed in a bath of melted zinc, tin, or solder, to become coated with such metal. The shell is then taken out, and as quickly as possible placed in a mould of the required form containing melted lead, which on cooling becomes firmly attached to the projectile."

The purpose of his invention was to increase the range and accuracy of rifled projectiles fired from cannon. The propellant charge would force the lead sabot forward, expanding the circumference of the lead around the rounded iron base.

During this movement, the lead edge or wall at the circumference would expand into the grooves of the rifled (circumference would expand into the grooves of the rifled cannon during the explosion of the propellant charge.

In between the iron base and the lead or sabot, is a thin layer of tin. The tin, when applied properly, almost always bonded to keep the lead sabot fuzed to the bottom of the iron base of the projectile.

The percussion fuzing system shown was also patented by Bashley Britten, British patent #585, dated March 8, 1861. The fuze is made up of three components: a cylindrical case open at one end, and having a somewhat contracted aperture at other, a metallic cap or cover that is screwed onto the case (left-hand threads), and a movable striker which is formed with a nipple so as to retain a percussion cap.

According to Britten's patent, in order to hold the striker in place to prevent an accidental discharge of the round, a ring of lead or other material is tightly driven into the space between the outer case and the striker base.

Upon ignition of the propellant charge the inertia of the striker pushes the ring into the cavity of the projectile. This action released the striker so that upon impact the striker moves forward crushing the percussion cap, thus setting off the inner bursting charge. This ring of lead may sometimes be left out and the striker remaining free.

This ring of lead may sometimes be left out and the striker remaining free. Often the slider would bind or wedge itself slightly at an angle inside the case, preventing forward movement. The interior was manufactured in the following manner: A core of loam or sand was formed to make the inner bursting charge of the projectile.

Around this core numerous pieces are placed in a similar form to the divisions of an orange. Each wedge or section has thin iron dividers that are cast into them so as to weaken them at those places. This allows the 9 long wedges to break into 54 segments and the outer shell body into numerous pieces as well.

The surfaces of these wedges are dressed over with a coating of loam or suitable material, and they are bound round with a wire. The wire secured the segmented-pieces around the inner core of loam or sand. The surface dressing on the outer segments serves to help prevent the inner shell body from adhering to them during the casting process.

The outer shell body is cast around this combined bound core of segments, with a rod or mandrel holding the combined core in place, thus leaving a space for the fuze opening. After cooling, the inner core of loam or sand is removed, leaving a chamber for the bursting charge. After this process the lead sabot was cast on the base in the manner as described by Britten.

Figure 7. That the above is a "posed" shot is not in question. They are all Officers. What is significant is the array of gun stores and how they are stowed. You have the lowly, but equally important "swab" bucket, with the various bore cleaning, tamping and swabbing rods. Along with the just as equally important hand spike, shown on the left of barrel mount. In Figures 3,4,5,6, look at the array of metal fittings mounted forward on the axle tree, which also mounts the gun barrel itself. The spiral hooks and other brackets start to take some meaning, and not just for horse attachments for towing.

Most 3.5-inch caliber Britten projectiles, for the imported 12-pounder English Blakely rifle, were fired by the Confederates, and have been recovered from many well-known battle sites by collectors and/or enthusiasts.

Ancillary Equipment's

Sighting Methods.

For centuries, sighting was what you could see, you could hit. No different in the Civil War, even though tremendous advances had been made in the manufacture of guns, and supply of ammunition, the same principle applied.

What we now accept as standard, what we call the traditional dial sight did not appear until the early 1900,s Even with the larger and longer range and navel guns, it was still a procedure of direct line of sight.

Most had a rear sighting bracket not unlike the basic bridge rear site of the early rifles. Some employed a centre sight marker along the barrel, dependent on the make. If you look closely at some barrels, you will notice a "flat" or slightly machined section about the middle section, where a line of sight mount could be used.

Others used a simple blade sight, not unlike a 6 inch metal ruler affixed to a round dowel at the bottom, which in turn was inserted into the appropriate drilled mount to the rear of the barrel. The application was simple, when you trained the gun onto the target, when the site blade appeared at the thinnest cross section, you were on target by direct line of sight. So goes the theory.

Front Sight for a Civil War Cannon

Figure 8 gives an example of a larger cannon sight blade. In this instance, it resembles towards the top, a conventional rifle front blade sight. Crude

perhaps, but simple, as modern sighting technology of indirect fire was yet to happen for the next 35 – 40 years


Figure 8

This is a great piece of Civil War artillery history. It is an original blade-style sight for a Civil War cannon. This one stands 3-1/2 inches tall and is about ½ of an inch across. The side of the sight is marked "8.IN.S.C.H.". This marking was to quickly identify the style cannon that it would fit on; an 8 inch bore diameter sea coast howitzer cannon.

You may have observed that the civil war cannons of all makes, did not fire at any noticeable elevation. The ballistics to engage in "plunging fire" had yet to evolve and was for the time reserved to the mortars. By the very design of the piece themselves, little provision was allowed in the standard designs of the day, for any appreciable elevation.

The range specified was the range achieved, and no degree of elevation was going to improve, or indeed, alter it. Incidentally, the design of limited elevation carried over to the first word war.

It wasn't until the more modern pieces began to enter service, with improved performance and range until about 1916. By then the indirect sighting method had become commonplace, and the range had markedly improved due to, then, modern technology in gun making and the projectiles themselves.

Limber

The limber was a two-wheeled carriage that carried an ammunition chest. It was connected directly behind the team of six horses and towed either a gun or a caisson. In either case, the combination provided the equivalent of a four-wheeled vehicle, which distributed the load over two axles but was easier to manoeuvre on rough terrain than a four-wheeled wagon. The combination of a Napoleon gun and a packed limber weighed 3,865 pounds (1,753.1 kg).

Caisson

The caisson was also a two-wheeled carriage. It carried two ammunition chests and a spare wheel. A fully loaded limber and caisson combination weighed 3,811 pounds (1728.6 kg). The limbers, caissons, and gun carriages were all constructed of oak. Each ammunition chest typically carried about 500 pounds (226.8 kg) of ammunition or supplies. In addition to these vehicles, there were also battery supply wagons and portable forges that were used to service the guns.


Figure 9. Restored example of a Limber, (front) with a Caisson (rear) ready for the horse team of six.

Mortars

Mortars were stubby weapons which fired heavy projectiles in a high arc. Only a small powder charge was needed to project the shot or shell to its maximum elevation.

When a mortar shell exploded, fragments weighing as much as ten or twenty pounds could fall with extreme velocity on the enemy. Combatants and non-combatants alike, became adapt at constructing bomb-proofs to protect themselves from fragments and solid shot.

Bomb-proofs were shelters dug into the side of a bank, away from the enemy, or constructed inside breastworks as small huts with heavy layers of dirt on the top side. The morale of a besieged city or of troops waiting to go into battle was severely affected by a mortar attack.

At night, the lighted fuses of the shells were easily observed and the path of the shell could be traced during flight. During the day, the muzzle fire was difficult to detect since the weapons were masked from view of the opposing forces by the topography (ravines, woods, hills, etc.) of the battlefield. Mortars were most beneficial when the target was above or below the level line of sight. These conditions caused elevation problems for the long barrelled weapons but allowed the short mortars to operate with efficiency.

Elevation adjustments were accomplished by means of a ratchet and lever mechanism. Occasionally mortars were mounted on the decks of ships, on special barges, or on railroad flatcars.

Most mortar projectiles can be recognised by tong holes, or tong ears, which are cast into the metal on either side of the fuse hole. This allowed the ball to be centred properly in the short tube.

Seacoast mortars were designated as 10 and 13 inch and were made of iron. Also known as heavy

mortars, these weapons were primarily used for the defense of the rivers and coastal waterways. These mortars had a lug cast over the centre of gravity to aid in mounting the heavy weapon.

Siege and garrison mortars were constructed to be light enough to be transported by an army on the march. They were also used in the trenches at sieges and in defense of fortifications. These 8 and 10 inch weapons were also made of iron.

The familiar bronze Coehorn mortar was classified as a siege and garrison weapon. Named after its Dutch inventor, Baron Menno van Coehorn (1641-1701), it was usually designated as 5.8 inch, but was also commonly referred to as a 24 pounder.

The Coehorn was light enough to be carried by two men along the trench lines. The Confederates also produced a 12 and 24 pounder size made of iron.

Perhaps the most famous mortar used during the war was the "Dictator." This weapon was a 13 inch Model 1861 seacoast mortar which was mounted on a specially reinforced railroad car to accommodate its weight of 17,000 pounds.

Company G of the 1st Connecticut Heavy Artillery, served the "Dictator" at the siege of Petersburg, Virginia in 1864. The mortar could lob a 200-pound explosive shell about 2 ½ miles. The "Dictator" was usually positioned in a curved section of the Petersburg & City Point Railroad and was employed for about three months during the siege.

Figure 10. Modern photo of a 13 inch Costal Mortar

Figure 11. The Dictator" 13 inch Mortar on site

Continued on 19?

Know your Regiment — 2nd/15th Field Regiment

The Challenge of Army Reserve

Firing the salute for Sir Robert Menzies funeral.

The Army Reserve gunner meets many challenges, there is the challenge to achieve technical proficiency. At present the Regiment is based in the South East to ARES, especially during periods of financial restriction and there is the continuing challenge to reconcile family commitments and civilian career with the demands of ARES training. Our Regiment successfully confronts these challenges by a variety of means.

In the first place 2nd/15th Field Regiment draws upon a fine tradition. From 1870 when the first artillery unit was formed in Victoria, Gunner units have been both prominent and respected. The pre -decessors of 2nd and 15th Field Regiment was granted the Freedom of Entry to the City of Dandenong in 1961 typifying the close ties with the civilian community established by both regiments. Following a major reorganization of Army Reserve Units in line with the Millar Committee recommendations, 2nd/15th Field Regiment was created in 1974 by the amalgamation of 2nd and 15th Field Regiments. At present the Regiment is based in the South East areas of Melbourne; RHQ and 2nd Battery is located at the Artillery Depot, Batman Ave., HQ Battery and the Technical Support Troop is located at Dandenong and 23rd Battery is located at Frankston.

The Unit's Commanding Officer, LTCOL Graham ALLINSON and Training Officer, MAJOR Peter KAHLER have met the challenges of the Reserve by a varied and demanding training program. Camp 1978 is an example of a training program which interests and challenges the soldier, yet is also designed to ensure technical proficiency. The first week was spent in a deployment exercise in the Snowy Plains region of the Victorian Alps. All members of the unit appreciated the diverse and interesting terrain during an advance phase over a five day period. There was, however, considerable discussion among members when they arrived at the first RV to be welcomed by a Forests Commission sign which said:

"WARNING - ALPINE CLIMATE BLIZZARDS MARCH TO NOVEMBER FREEZING CONDITIONS YEAR ROUND"

In fact, apart from near zero temperatures on the first night the weather gradually became warmer and warmer as East Gippsland was gripped in late summer heat wave. The exercise certainly had its ups and downs. The "ups" included the 1850 metre peak of Mt. Magdala scaled by the Unit and its F echelon vehicles with the aid of winches and wreckers over a track which mountain goats and deer steadfastly refuse to use. The "downs" included a trek by observer parties which included a 1350 metre descent in 3000 metres amongst other topographical treats. Snowy Plains area fulfilled the requirement for an interesting and rugged training area yet also fulfilled the needs for a deployment area for use during an advance. The terrain varied from mountain ash forest snow gum forest, and snow plain to open grazing country.

After crossing the Great Dividing Range most members celebrated the end of Phase 1 with a dip in the Howqua River.

The 1812 Overture shoot at the Myer Music Bowl 24 April 1977.

The second half of camp was field firing at Puckapunyal. As with all ARES units the emphasis was on achieving Field Force Artillery Standard Training Objectives. We believe we were successful in achieving these goals and congratulate 2nd Field Battery under Battery Commander MAJOR John MORKHAM in winning the McNEILL Trophy for the most efficient battery in 3rd Military District. Despite a successful camp the unit is confident of achieving an even better result next year.

SGT Goeff Horton points out the target for GNR Brandt during rifle range practice at Portsea.

Each Army Reserve Unit has a wide variety of commitments and 2nd/15th Field Regiment, as virtually the direct support regiment to the large capital city of Melbourne, has further challenges to meet. The unit fires all salutes in 3rd Military District. Each year the regiment participates in a performance of the 1812 Overture at the Myer Music Bowl before thousands of enthusiastic spectators. The unit provides displays for Army Open Days and participates in a number of functions for the cities of Melbourne, Dandenong and Frankston. For example, 23rd Battery under MAJOR John HENRY plays a large part in the Australian Day Parade at Frankston each year.

All of these activities help strengthen the link between the Regiment and the local community and also assist in recruiting. The Regiment is particularly proud of its support to Officer Cadet School, Portsea, and 3rd Military District Officer Cadet Training Unit. On two week-ends this year the Regiment used approximately 1000 rounds at Puckapunyal field firing range instructing officer cadets in the practical aspects of fire direction procedures. The Regiment also provides a fire power demonstration and takes this responsibility extremely seriously as this is the only contact the Officer Cadets have had with gunner units before graduation. A further weekend is spent training the local Army Reserve Officer Cadets.

En route to Puckaounyal.

A SUB 23 BTY at camp. L to R unknown,GNR Madden, L/BDR Wood, L/CPL Dutoit, unknown, SGT Jeffrey.

The second half of each year is the courses period. Unfortunately for Army Reserve units, Operator and Command Post, Signallers and Drivers cannot be sent on the appropriate course at an army school as the unit is responsible for most other

rank courses. Hence a great deal of time is spent on qualifying soldiers in their particular trade. Thus Army Reserve units must convert for example, a 6 week continuous Operator Command Post (Field) course at School of Artillery to a course during Tuesday nights and weekends over a five month period, whilst other commitments always provide many diversions. Whilst students and instructors may occasionally curse, the problems involved are accepted and overcome as just another challenge to the Army Reserve soldier. As well as trade and skill courses the unit conducts a variety of other courses from 16 day promotion courses to weekend Methods of Instruction and recruit counselling courses.

Small arms training is also emphasised and the Regiment is proud of its rifle shooting team organised by WO1 "Darby" O'TOOLE which in 1978 won the Victoria Challenge Shield for rifle shooting in 3rd Division.

The greatest asset 2nd/15th Field Regiment has, is its manpower. As a typical Army Reserve unit the civilian background is both interesting and varied. For example just among the officers we have a Head of a Department of a College of Advanced Education, a pharmacist, an ADC to a State Governor, several school teachers, a company secretary, several bank officers, an insurance adjuster, a computer analyst, and an aircraft pilot amongst others. Strangely at this time we have no policemen. The mixture of professions provides this unit with a wide variety of experience. Most Army Reserve soldiers find that their civilian occupation assist them in their roles as soldiers, but also their Army Reserve training is an advantage in their daily job.

Firing during camp.

As can be seen the Army Reserve soldier meets a considerable challenge to become a proficient soldier part-time. Why does he do it? Tax free dollars certainly are an incentive but comradeship and a genuine commitment to Australia's Defence, and Artillery in particular, play a large part. The Regiment helps build up comradeship both in the field and socially. There is a wide variety of battery and

SGT Edelsten and L/CPL McIlroy carrying out pre-firing checks.

mess social functions and oftentimes acquaintances made in the Regiment become friends for life. Commitment, although present in most recruits, is fostered by the Regiment. "Army" becomes something more than a hobby; a challenge, a chance to belong to a profession quite different from that followed in their day to day jobs. Hence tradition, comradeship and especially commitment motivate members of 2nd/15th Field Regiment to meet the challenge of Army Reserve and to ensure that high professional standards continue.

A SUB: SGT Jeffrey, GNR Madden (loading) GNR Bohmer (standing by breech).

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Small Arms

Any weapon smaller than cannon and carried by a soldier was known as a small arm. During the Civil War, small arms included muskets, which were smoothbore, long-barrelled shoulder arms; rifles, shoulder guns with spiral grooves cut into the inner surface of the barrel; carbines, short-barrelled rifles; and handguns, including pistols and revolvers.

Like artillery, small arms also were designated by their calibre, mode of loading (breech or muzzle), and maker.

based on the use of the shorter range, less accurate smoothbore musket until the Civil War. Using smoothbore muskets, firing lines even 100 yards apart could not inflict much damage upon each other.

For an attack to be successful, then, soldiers were forced to mass together and run directly into their enemies. The Civil War rifled musket, with its greater accuracy and longer range, was able to kill at a distance of over a half-mile, making a direct, frontal assault a particularly deadly affair.

One of the greatest small arms controversies during the war involved the debate over breech-loaders and muzzle-loaders. Because breech-loaders were able to fire more rapidly, they created a need for more ammunition, which neither

Figure 12. 1861 pattern Springfield. Note that both are yet to have slings fitted.

Figure 13. 1858 Harpers Ferry Rifle with Bayonet and scabbard as issued. Compare with the Springfield above. Take note of the Bayonet in this picture. You can see the slots in the "socket" end of the Bayonet which fitted over the barrel and locked onto the lug projection.

The principal small arms on both sides were the .58 calibre Springfield musket and the .69 calibre Harpers Ferry Rifle; both muzzle loading arms that fired the deadly mini ball.

The introduction of these rifled pieces compelled a radical change in infantry tactics, which had been

army had in great supply. Breech-loaders were used primarily by the cavalry: one of the most effective was the recently-invented Spencer carbine.

The Spencer carbine, which held seven .52 calibre

Figure 14. Spencer Carbine

cartridges, was easy to use and lightweight. 95,000 Spencers was purchased by the North. Other important shoulder arms included the Henry repeating rifle, which carried 15 rounds of .44 calibre cartridges in its magazine, and the Sharps carbine. Hundreds

Figure 16. Navy Colt 1851

of thousands of revolvers of different makes and models were used by Confederate and Union soldiers.

Figure 15. Replica 1860 Colt with stock attachment fitted. Sometimes used by cavalry troops

By far, the most common was the Colt revolver, primarily the .44 calibre Model 1860 and the .36 calibre Model 1851 Navy, both of which were lightweight (less than three pounds). The Remington New Model and the Starr Army Percussion revolvers were also purchased in large numbers by both sides.

Figure 17 Comparison of types of Small Arms projectiles used.

As in artillery, the North enjoyed an overwhelming advantage over the South in small arms. For much of the war, the Confederacy depended on imports smuggled through the increasingly effective naval blockade. Several different foreign models, particularly from France and England, were imported by the Confederate army, and some were made famous by the generals who used them.

The French LeMat revolver, for instance, was favoured by Confederate generals J.E.B.[14] Stuart and P. G. T.[15] Beauregard.

Developed by a French-born New Orleans physician, the .44 calibre was produced in France when the Confederates could no longer supply the machinery or metal at home.

The English Enfield rifle, which fired a .557 calibre shot, was another important import; about 700,000[16] were used by Confederates during the war.

[14]James Ewell Brown Stuart

[15]Pierre Gustave Toutant Beauregard

Figure 18. 1853 pattern Enfield rifle. (note the similarity of all these weapons?) The front barrel band has a sling swivel mount fitted. What looks to be a front foresight, isn't. It's a lug bracket for the attachment of the bayonet. All three rifles had the same type of lug fitted. A foresight blade was sometimes included on the front banding, although it is quite likely the bayonet lug was used as a foresight in situ.

16This is a serious number by any standard.

Edged Weapons

Bayonets, sabers, swords, short swords, cutlasses, Bowie knives, pikes, and lances, classified as "edged weapons," appeared in considerable profusion during the Civil War. Although they served to decorate their original possessors and delight modern collectors, they inflicted few casualties.

In "Regimental Losses" the author, Fox points out that of the approximately 250,000 wounded treated in Union hospitals during the war only 922 were the victims of sabers or bayonets. "And a large proportion of these originated in private quarrels, or were inflicted by camp guards in the discharge of their duty." A few instances of Bayonet Attacks are recorded.

Among the few recorded instances are the charge of the 17th Wisconsin, at Corinth, Mississippi, 3 Oct. 1862, routing a Mississippi brigade; and the night bayonet attack of the 6th Maine, and 5th Wisconsin, at Rappahannock Bridge and Kelly's Ford, Virginia, 7 Nov. 1863.

Sabers, which are cavalry swords, are a legitimate weapon of the mounted service and dangerous in the hands of a trained trooper. The volunteer horsemen, however, had trouble learning to handle them.

There were a good many lop-eared horses in the early months of the war. Gigantic "wrist breakers" with 42-inch scimitar-type blades were soon cut down to 36 inches and were reasonably effective.

Figure 19. Reproduction of 1850 model Officers and Field Sword. (Commonly used by both sides).

Swords until recent years in America were the symbol of an officer's authority, and served this primary function in the Civil War. The short artillery sword with which the gunners were supposed to disembow-

el the horse that had overrun their position and then dispatch the rider, was among the most far-fetched of useful weapons. Now, however, highly prized by collectors. As indeed, are all Civil War original items of any description.

Figure 20. 1832 pattern foot artillery sword (minus sheath/scabbard)

The lance, another serious weapon in the hands of a trained trooper, also appeared in the war. The 6th Pennsylvania Cavalry, "Rush's Lancers," was armed with this weapon, in addition to its pistols and a few carbines, until May 1863. The weapons shortage in the South led its leaders to give serious consideration to arming troops with lances and pikes.

In early 1862 a set of resolutions provided for 20 regiments of Southern pikemen, and on 10 Apr. 1862 an act was passed that two companies in each regiment be armed with pikes. Strangely enough, such foolishness met with the complete approval of the military leaders, and even General Lee on April 9, 1862, wrote Colonel Gorgas (Chief of Confederate Ordnance), 'One thousand pikes should be sent to Gen. Jackson if practicable".

Georgia's Governor spurred the Production of weapons that are now known as "JOE BROWN'S PIKES." Many different forms of military cutlery, known generically as Bowie Knives, were popular among Confederate soldiers until discarded after real campaigning started.

Figure 21. Example of a Friction Primer “Union” Pattern

Figure 21. is an unused brass "friction primer" as employed by the Union Army during the Civil War. The Confederate Army version was a slightly different shape, but performed the same role. The pouch shown at Figure 22. was how they were carried.

Figure 22. 1861 Friction Primer Pouch

This tube was pushed down into the rear vent hole of a cannon. The hook on the end of a long lanyard cord was put through the loop. The artilleryman stood back and upon the command to fire, he pulled the cord.

The spark caused by the friction ignited a fulminate of mercury charge inside the tube. These sparks spread down into the cannon tube where a black gunpowder charge waited behind the shell, causing the main charge to fire. The used primer was then pulled from the vent hole and a new one placed for the next discharge of the field piece. Such brass primers are frequently found on Civil War battlefields.

The Song of the South – The Confederates (Their Story)

At the beginning of the Civil War the Confederate States had very few improved small arms, no powder-mills of any importance, very few modern cannon, and only the small arsenals that had been captured from the Federal Government. These were at Charleston, Augusta, Mount Vernon (Alabama), Baton Rouge and Apalachicola.

The machinery that was taken from Harper's Ferry Armoury after its abandonment by the Federals was removed to Richmond, Virginia, and Fayetteville, North Carolina, where it was set up and operated. There were some State armouries containing a few small arms and a few old pieces of heavy ordnance.

There was scarcely any gunpowder except about

sixty thousand pounds of old cannon-powder at Norfolk. There was almost an entire lack of other ordnance stores, no saddles and bridles, no artillery harness, no accoutrement's[17], and very few of the minor articles required for the equipment of an army.

There were a considerable number of heavy sea-coast guns at the fortified seaports, and others were seized on board men-of-war at Norfolk and among the stores of the Norfolk Navy Yard. The supply of field-pieces amounted to almost nothing. The States owned a few modern guns, but the most of those on hand were old iron guns, used in the war of 1812-15.

[17]*An item of dress or equipment required for a particular activity i.e. percussion cap/primer pouch-Refer Fig 22*

In the arsenals captured from the Federals, there were about one hundred and twenty thousand muskets of old types, and twelve thousand to fifteen thousand rifles. In addition to these, the States had a few muskets, bringing the total available supply of small arms for infantry up to about one hundred and fifty thousand.

With this handicap, the Confederate States entered the greatest war in American history.

President Jefferson Davis said that "it soon became evident to all that the South had gone to war without counting the cost."

At first, all the ordnance and ordnance supplies of the United States in the Southern arsenals and armouries were claimed by the States in which they were found. This caused no little delay in the acquisition of necessary ordnance stores by the Confederate Government, due to the necessity for negotiating for their transfer.

The first steps toward provision for ordnance needs were taken while the Government was still at Montgomery, Alabama. An Ordnance Department was organised. Colonel Josiah Gorgas, a graduate of the United States Military Academy in the class of 1841, was appointed Chief of Ordnance about the end of February, 1861.

The department immediately sent out purchasing-officers. Of these, Commander Raphael Semmes (afterward Admiral Semmes) was sent to New York, where, for a few weeks, he was able to buy ordnance stores in considerable quantity and ship them to the South.

Colonel Caleb Huse was soon afterward sent to London to act as general purchasing-agent in England and on the European continent. He remained on this duty throughout the war, and did invaluable service to the Confederate cause.

The seat of the Confederate Government having been moved to Richmond, Colonel Gorgas there proceeded to organise the centre of activity of the Ordnance Department. There were four main sources of supply: arms on hand at the beginning of the war, those captured from the United States, those manufactured in the Confederacy, and those imported from abroad. The principal dependence at first was necessarily on the importations.

An officer was detailed in special charge of the latter service, and agencies were established at Bermuda, Nassau, and at Havana. A number of swift steamers were bought, and after the blockade was established, these did valiant service in blockade running. Wilmington and Charleston were the principal ports of entry, from which cotton was shipped in exchange for the greatly needed ordnance supplies.

This trade was so essential to the existence of the Confederate Government, before the domestic supply of ordnance became approximately adequate, that vigorous efforts were made by all concerned to keep the channel open.

The arms on hand at the beginning of the war came forward chiefly in the organizations of the men who first volunteered. These were equipped, as far as possible, by the States from which the regiments came. In response to a call for private arms, many thousands of shotguns and old sporting-rifles were turned in, and served, to some extent, to satisfy the impatience of men eager to take the field until better provision could be made for them, or they provided for themselves on some of the battlefields in the early part of the war.

Of those captured from the United States, the number obtained from arsenals and armouries at the opening of the conflict has been noted, and in addition to these, there were the quantities being constantly turned in from numerous actions in the field.

In the summer of 1862, after the Seven Days' Battles around Richmond and the second battle of Manassas, men were detailed to collect arms from

the field and turn them in. Thereby, several thousand Springfield rifles were added to the small supply. When General Jackson captured Harper's Ferry, in 1862, the arms of the defending force there were also added.

Such increments greatly augmented the number that could be collected from other sources. The stringency of the blockade rendered it imperative that every effort be made to increase the domestic manufacture of all kinds of ordnance and ordnance stores.

In arranging for the manufacture of arms and munitions at home, establishments of two different kinds were placed in operation. Those which were intended to be permanent, built and equipped for their special purpose and intended to concentrate work on a large scale, and those of a more temporary character, capable of yielding results in the shortest time, and intended to meet the immediate demands of the war, with such resources as the country then afforded.

The first of the permanent works undertaken was a first class powder mill, the erection and equipment of which were placed in charge of Colonel George W. Rains, of North Carolina, a graduate of the United States Military Academy in the class of 1842. The mill was placed at Augusta, Georgia, and its construction was commenced in September, 1861.

The plant was ready to begin making powder in April, 1862, and continued in successful operation until the end of the war, furnishing all the gunpowder needed, and of the finest quality.

Competent critics say of this mill, that, notwithstanding the difficulties in the way of its erection and maintenance, it was, for its time, one of the most efficient powder-mills in the world.

Another permanent work erected was a central ordnance laboratory for the production of artillery and small-arms ammunition and miscellaneous articles of ordnance stores. This was decided on in September, 1861, placed in charge of Lieutenant-Colonel J. W. Mallet, and located at Macon, Georgia.

It was designed to be an elaborate establishment, especially for the fabrication of percussion-caps, friction-primers, and pressed bullets, in addition to heavier ordnance supplies. Special machinery was made in England and shipped, but did not reach its destination in time for use. A large instalment including a most powerful pair of engines, had reached Bermuda when blockade running practically came to an end, near the close of the war.

The third establishment projected to be permanent was a large central armoury, equipped with a complete plant of machinery for the fabrication of small arms, and to which the Harper's Ferry machinery, which had been temporarily installed at Richmond and Fayetteville, was to be removed. This was put in charge of Lieutenant-Colonel J. H. Burton, who had gained experience at the factory in Enfield, England. It was determined to locate this armoury at Macon, also.

The buildings were begun in 1863, but they were not so far advanced toward completion as the laboratory when the end of the war arrested the work.

As a consequence of the necessity for immediate supply of arms and munitions to enable the armies to keep the field, resort was had to temporary arsenals and armouries, at least they were designated as "temporary," although they were actually permanent, as far as the purposes of the war which the Confederacy waged was concerned.

The work was scattered among a number of available places throughout the South. Herein entered the problem of transportation by rail.

The railroads were not very amply equipped at the outbreak of the war, and were overburdened in operation to such an extent that it would have been impossible to transport material to any single point from great distances, or to secure similar transportation for finished products over long lines.

It was, moreover, uncertain how far any one place could be depended upon as secure from molestation[18] by the foe. And there was not time for the removal of the plants from the localities in which they were when the Confederacy took possession of them. Various temporary ordnance works grew up about existing foundries, machine shops, and railroad repair shops, and at the various United States arsenals and ordnance depots.

The chief localities that were thus utilised were Richmond, Virginia; Fayetteville, North Carolina; Charleston, South Carolina; Augusta, Savannah, and Macon, Georgia; Nashville and Memphis, Tennessee; and Montgomery, Alabama; New Orleans

Three Major Mistakes the Japanese had made at Pearl Harbor. An Interesting READ!

NO MISTAKES!!!! GOD IS ALWAYS IN CONTROL!!!!

A very different and interesting conclusion of the December 7th 1941 attack on Pearl Harbor. Read on.

Sunday, December 7th, 1941—Admiral Chester Nimitz was attending a concert in Washington D.C. He was paged and told there was a phone call for him. When he answered the phone, it was President Franklin Delano Roosevelt. He told Admiral Nimitz that he (Nimitz) would now be the Commander of the Pacific Fleet.

Admiral Nimitz flew to Hawaii to assume command of the Pacific Fleet.

He landed at Pearl Harbor on Christmas Eve, 1941. There was such a spirit of despair, dejection and defeat—you would have thought the Japanese had already won the war. On Christmas Day, 1941, Adm. Nimitz was given a boat tour of the destruction wrought on Pearl Harbor by the Japanese.

Big sunken battleships and navy vessels cluttered the waters everywhere you looked. As the tour boat returned to dock, the young helmsman of the boat asked, "Well Admiral, what do you think after seeing all this destruction?"

Admiral Nimitz's reply shocked everyone within the sound of his voice. Admiral Nimitz said, "The Japanese made three of the biggest mistakes an attack force could ever make, or God was taking care of America. Which do you think it was?"

Shocked and surprised, the young helmsman asked, "What do mean by saying the Japanese made the three biggest mistakes an attack force ever made?" Nimitz explained:

Mistake number one: the Japanese attacked on Sunday morning. Nine out of every ten crewmen of those ships were ashore on leave. If those same ships had been lured to sea and been sunk—we would have lost 38,000 men instead of 3,800.

Mistake number two: when the Japanese saw all those battleships lined in a row, they got so carried away sinking those battleships, they never once bombed our dry docks opposite those ships.

If they had destroyed our dry docks, we would have had to tow everyone of those ships to America to be repaired. As it is now, the ships are in shallow water and can be raised.

One tug can pull them over to the dry docks, and we can have them repaired and at sea by the time we could have towed them to America. And I already have crews ashore anxious to man those ships.

Mistake number three: Every drop of fuel in the Pacific theater of war is on top of the ground in storage tanks five miles away over that hill. One attack plane could have strafed those tanks and destroyed our fuel supply.

That's why I say the Japanese made three of the biggest mistakes an attack force could make, or God was taking care of America.

I've never forgotten what I read in that little book. It is still an inspiration as I reflect upon it.

In jest, I might suggest that because Admiral Nimitz was a Texan, born and raised in Fredricksburg , Texas — he was a born optimist.

But anyway you look at it—Admiral Nimitz was able to see a silver lining in a situation and circumstance where everyone else saw only despair and defeatism.

President Roosevelt had chosen the right man for the right job. We desperately needed a leader that could see silver linings in the midst of the clouds of dejection, despair and defeat.

There is a reason that our national motto is,

"IN GOD WE TRUST."

Courtesy WO2 Jim Breeze

Was to appear in Journal 120

American Civil War continues

Heavy artillery at the beginning of the war was manufactured only at Richmond at the Tredegar Iron Works. Later in the war, excellent heavy artillery was produced at Selma, North Carolina, first in conjunction with the naval officers, and later by them alone.

Field-artillery was made and repaired chiefly at Richmond and at Augusta, small arms at Richmond and Fayetteville, caps and friction-primers at Richmond and Atlanta, accoutrement's to a great extent at Macon, while cast bullets and small-arms cartridges were prepared at almost all of the works.

After the Federals took possession of the copper mines of Tennessee, there was great anxiety as to the future supply of copper, both for bronze field guns and for percussion caps. The casting of bronze guns was immediately stopped, and all the available copper was utilized in the manufacture of caps.

It soon became apparent that the supply would be exhausted, and the armies rendered powerless unless other sources of supply were discovered. No reliance could be placed on the supply from abroad, for the blockade was stringent, although large orders had been forwarded. Of course, the knowledge of this scarcity of copper was kept from the public as much as possible.

In this emergency, it was concluded to render available, if possible, some of the copper turpentine and apple-brandy-stills which were in North and South Carolina in large numbers. This work was entrusted to Lieutenant-Colonel Leroy Broun, commanding the Richmond Arsenal.

In spite of the difficulties to be overcome and the constantly increasing pressure for immediate results, the Confederate Ordnance Department was able to boast of some useful new experiments and some improvements.

One of the most notable of these was the method of steaming the mixed materials for gunpowder just before incorporation in the cylinder mills, which was invented and brought into use by Colonel Rains, and which greatly increased the capacity of the mills for work, besides improving the quality of the powder.

Other examples of improvements in materiel which were more or less notable were the casting of shells with polygonal cavities, introduced by Lieutenant-Colonel Mallet, securing the bursting into a determinate number of pieces, and devices for the ignition of time-fuses for the shells of rifled guns.

Smooth-bore muskets, of which some were in the possession of the Confederate troops, were not very accurate, and their range was insufficient.

A plan was proposed at the Richmond Arsenal to overcome these difficulties. An invention had been devised for the shape and composition of the projectile, which undoubtedly would have overcome these defects in a measure, had it been practicable under the circumstances.

It is interesting to note that this plan was devised in the early years of the war by the ordnance authorities, but later in the conflict was, in identically the same form, sent to President Davis from Canada as a scientific gift of great value, and by him turned over to the War Department.

This idea was to use an elongated projectile made of lead and hard wood or papier-mache. In longitudinal section it appeared, in the lead part, shaped like the head of an Indian arrow, and the rear portion of the bullet was filled out with the wood or papier-mache. This threw the centre of gravity well forward, causing the flight of the projectile to be like an arrow rotating on its longer axis.

From the Richmond Arsenal there were issued between July 1, 1861, and January 1, 1865, 341 Columbiads and siege-guns, 1306 field-pieces of all descriptions, 921,441 rounds of artillery ammunition of all classes, 323,231 infantry arms, 34,067 cavalry carbines, 6074 pistols, and nearly 72,500,000 rounds of small arms ammunition, besides many thousand articles of other ordnance and ordnance stores. *(Again, serious numbers of material produced).*

The enormous number of pieces of artillery issued were, of course, not all made at the arsenal, but had been obtained by manufacture, by purchase, or by capture. The Richmond Enquirer, on the day after the evacuation of Richmond, said that, assuming the issues from the Richmond Arsenal to have been half of all the issues to Confederate troops, which was approximately true, and that 100,000 of the Federals had been killed.

It would appear that about 150 pounds of lead and 350 pounds of iron were fired for every man killed, and, furthermore, assuming that the proportion of killed to wounded was about one to six, it would appear that one man was wounded for every 200 pounds fired. These figures exaggerated the form of the old belief that it took a man's weight in lead to kill him in battle.

Considering the general lack of previous experience in ordnance matters, the personnel of the corps, both at the arsenals and in the field, deserved great praise for intelligence, zeal, and efficiency. Many names of officers deserve to be remembered.

Among the most prominent were Lieutenant-Colonels J. H. Burton, superintendent of armouries. T. L. Bayne, in charge of the bureau of foreign supplies; I. M. St. John, at the head of the nitre (*the then name for potassium nitrate/saltpeter)* and mining bureau; Lieutenant-Colonel J. W. Mallet, in charge of the Central Laboratory at Macon, Georgia.

Lieutenant-Colonel G. W. Rains, of the Augusta powder-mills and Arsenal; Lieutenant-Colonel Leroy Broun, commanding the Richmond Arsenal; Major M. H. Wright, of the Atlanta Arsenal; Lieutenant-Colonel R. M. Cuyler, of the Macon Arsenal.

Major J. A. De Lagnel, of Fayetteville; Major J. T. Trezevant, of Charleston Arsenal; Lieutenant-Colonel J. L. White, of Selma Arsenal; Lieutenant-Colonel B. G. Baldwin, Chief of Ordnance, Army of Northern Virginia; Lieutenant-Colonel H. Oladowski, chief of ordnance, Army of Tennessee, and Major W. Alien, Chief Ordnance Officer, Second Corps, Army of Northern Virginia.

More Useful? Information.

How Artillery was organized in the time of the Civil War

The Union (North)

The Union artillery batteries were usually made up of six guns that were used in three, 2-gun sections. There were left, middle, and right sections. Because the North had a better a supply system and great resources, all of the guns in a battery were of the same type. This made supplying ammunition easier. Around a hundred men made a Union battery.

The Confederates (South)

A Confederate battery was made up of four guns. They usually had a mixture of different guns, so the Confederate ammunition supply to artillery batteries was very difficult. Around sixty-eight men made up a Confederate battery.

Civil War Field Artillery In General

Field guns were grouped into batteries. Although six guns to a battery was considered ideal, it wasn't uncommon for a battery to have only four guns. The organization of field artillery often differed within the two armies.

The battery was usually commanded by a captain, while two guns formed a section commanded by a lieutenant. When on the move, each gun or "piece" was hooked up behind a limber, which carried the ammunition chest, and was drawn by six horses. Each gun had its caisson, carrying three ammunition chests, and also drawn by six horses.

These two units made up a platoon, which was commanded by a sergeant (Chief of Piece) and two corporals. A battery was also accompanied by a forge, a wagon carrying the tents and supplies, and generally six additional caissons with reserve ammunition.

There were three drivers for each six-horse team, who rode the horses on the left side. A typical gun crew was made up of nine men. Where the artillery was designated as light artillery, the cannoneers either rode on the ammunition chests or walked beside their piece.

With horse artillery (sometimes called flying artillery), the cannoneers each rode a horse, with two additional men acting as horse-holders in action.

In addition to the lieutenants commanding each section, another lieutenant usually commanded the line of caissons. There was also an orderly and quartermaster sergeant, five artificers[2], (*[2]information is still being sourced about their role, and who they were?)* two buglers, and a guidon-bearer.

Four batteries were usually assigned to a division. When several divisions were organized into a corps, half of the divisional artillery was generally grouped as corps reserve. There was an army reserve of some one-hundred guns. When the horse artillery wasn't attached to the cavalry corps it was held in the army reserve.

Up until 1863, the Confederate armies and the

western army of the Union assigned a battery to each infantry brigade.

This was found to be a questionable system, since it eliminated the concentration of fire that was needed to beat back an attack. A good example of the effectiveness of the Federal divisional and reserve system was Malvern Hill, where 60 pieces of Federal artillery were amassed to disable one Southern battery after another as it was thrown piecemeal into action.

The composition of the individual batteries themselves varied in both armies and there was no set standard for either. Initially, a six-gun battery would have two howitzers; a 12 pounder battery thus had four 12 pound guns and two 24 pounder howitzers. A 6 pounder battery would have four 6 pounder guns and two 12 pounder howitzers.

The 6 pounder was used mainly by the South, and was later replaced by 3 inch rifles and 12 pounder smoothbores. There wasn't much extra metal needed to make a 12 pounder, and over the winter of 1862-63 the Tredegar Works in Richmond (among others) was busy melting and re-casting guns.

Since Confederate batteries were often made up of captured pieces, and a mixture of types of weapons, the work of the ordnance department to supply ammunition became a complex one[3]. ([3]*More so than the average person would understand.*)

The Northern armies, more uniformly equipped, were usually armed with the 3 inch rifle, the 10 pounder parrot, the 20 pounder parrot, or the 12 pounder Napoleon. However, artillery batteries on both sides often had a few non standard rifles, and all guns required different types of ammunition.

Among artillerists, there was a difference of opinion as to which weapon was more effective, rifled guns or smoothbores. While the rifled gun had longer range and far greater accuracy, the smoothbore was thought to be more effective in wooded and broken country, its larger bore inflicting more damage at close range.

The large windage[4] ([4]*This is a term not associated with external "wind" effect. It refers to the close fitting of the projectile within the bore.)* and loss of velocity of the smoothbore's round shot made long-range accuracy impossible. Some artillerists reported that a disadvantage with the rifled gun was the fact its projectile would burrow itself into the ground if it had the slightest angle on it, yet it had a slightly higher rate of fire than the smoothbore.

The ammunition used for a smoothbore varied from solid shot to canister. Solid shot was used for battering and against massed troops, while shell was used against earthworks and troops under cover. Spherical case, or shrapnel, was used against bodies of troops at a distance, usually from 500 to 1500 yards, while canister was used at close range, usually 350 yards or less. In some instances, double-canister with a single charge was used.

The most commonly used ammunition for the rifled gun was the 3 inch Parrot Shell, 3 inch Reed Shell, 3 inch Confederate Shell, 3 inch Absterdam Shot, the 12 pounder Blakely, Whitworth 12 pounder shot (also referred to as "bolts"), 4 inch Hotchkiss Shell, the James Shell, the 2.4 inch Pattison Shot, 3 inch Schenkl Shell (*Refer to Figure 23)*, 2.25-inch Confederate Shell, 3.75 inch Sawyer Shell, 24 pound Dyer Shell and the Confederate 3.5 inch Winged Shot. Also used was the Confederate 4.2 inch Flanged Percussion Shell.

Fuses were used to explode shell and spherical case shot. These fuses were either ignited by the flash of the discharge, timed to set off the bursting on or near the target, or fired by the impact of the projectile striking the target (percussion).

The majority of the smoothbores used the first type of fuse, as the percussion fuse only worked if the projectile struck the target nose-first.

Figure 23

Schenkl shell, "case shot", rounded nose, paper sleeve sabot, Schenkl combination fuse early pattern, Ordnance rifle, 3 in.

This projectile was manufactured in the Federal arsenals, following the design of John P Schenkl. The sabot system consisted of a "forcing cone" paper sleeve, which was intended to expand into the rifling, then flutter away on release.

Problems with the paper absorbing moisture or swelling and blocking passage of the flame on firing rendered it impractical with

time fuses and so it saw limited application. This pattern with rounded shoulder was designed to hold "case shot" balls, designed to disperse above the heads of troops in the open field.

Fuse employed was the Schenkl combination fuse, which was a complicated contraption designed to ignite either by time or on impact. This "early" pattern fuse has the percussion mechanism on the top of the fuse. Shell measures: diameter 2.94in., length 9in. (excluding the fuse), weight 9lbs.

The rifled guns used either the timed or percussion fuse, and sometimes both. Neither kind of fuse was very reliable since black powder doesn't burn at an entirely reliable rate, but they improved during the war.

During the Civil War, few breechloaders were used, as their breech mechanisms were thought to be clumsy and complicated. However, two of the breechloaders that did see usage were the Armstrong and the Whitworth. Both of these guns proved to have a far better accuracy than any of the muzzle-loading smoothbores, but were suspect on speed of reloading.

SIEGE AND GARRISON ARTILLERY

Heavy artillery was divided into two classes, siege, garrison, and seacoast. The siege and garrison pieces could be moved on carriages by road, while the seacoast artillery was much heavier and had to be moved on special carriages. There were times where siege guns were brought into action and used on the battlefield, such as Shiloh and Malvern Hill.

As a siege gun, the smoothbores were eventually replaced or rifled, due to the greater accuracy of the rifled gun. Their destructive firepower also made the old brick and stone forts of a thing of the past.

Although attempts were made to convert some of these smoothbores to rifled guns by reinforcing them with wrought-iron rings, the cast iron of the gun was not strong enough to stand the increased pressures. Many of these converted guns burst, proving deadlier to the crew than their enemies.

As in heavy artillery, mortars were classed as "siege" or "seacoast" guns. The 8 inch and light model 10- inch mortar siege guns, while cumbersome, could be transported on mortar wagons. The longer and heavier models of the 10 inch and the giant 13 inch mortars were classified as "seacoast," as they could only be moved with great difficulty by rail or ship.

Mortars typically used spherical shells, and both timed and percussion fuses. Although experiments were made using canister shot as shells, the gun crews were unable to remain at their guns under the shower of metal.

Although there was great technological advances made during the Civil War, such as the improved casting method by Major Rodman, real progress would come along later with the introduction of nitro-glycerine-based propellants.

Still, the artillery proved pivotal and deadly in almost every major engagement during the war. From the massed Union batteries at Stones River and Malvern Hill, to the work of a few guns during Hoods' 1864 Campaign, the cannoneers on both side bravely and laboriously performed their work.

Figure 24. Dahlgren 9 inch Model Naval Gun, now "landlocked"

Continued on p31

RAA LUNCHEON

Brigadier D. I. Perry OAM RFD ED cordially invites both serving and retired Gunners to the Annual Royal Australian Artillery Luncheon.

This is a great opportunity to catch up and renew friendships with other Gunners and especially to reunite those Gunners that we have not seen for a number of years.

The RAA Luncheon has been very successful over the past few years, so Gunners please bring along another Gunner to the Luncheon.

WHEN: Wednesday, 5th March 2014

TIME: 1200 for 1230 hours

WHERE: RACV Club, 501 Bourke St. Melbourne

COST: $70.00 (2 Course meal which includes a complimentary drink)

DRESS: Jacket and tie

RSVP: 25th February 2014

TO: Reg W Morrell
6 Melissa Street, Mt Waverley 3149.
Tel. 9562 9552
Mobile – 0425 837 958
Email- morrells@morrell.org

----------Reply slip----------

RANK..... NAME:.....
ADDRESS.....
Tel. No.....
Enclosed is a cheque for $.....(payable to RAA Association)
Additional Name .....Rank.....
Special dietary requirements .....
If possible, I wish to be seated near .....

Was to appear in Journal 121

An Insight into Heavy Gun Manufacturing.
(Rodman Guns)

Due to the skill of a young Ordnance officer, a new type cannon was developed which was more effective than any constructed until then.

The five years of the Civil War are quite rightly considered a period of ordinance and artillery experimentation, development, and transition. The work of one man led, in fact, to the casting of one of the biggest guns ever built, even to the present day, a monstrous 20 inch muzzle-loader that fired a 1,000-pound solid shot.

In 1844 Lieutenant Thomas Jefferson Rodman, a young Ordnance officer only three years out of the military academy began a long series of experiments aimed at overcoming the principal difficulty in casting extremely large iron cannon, a difficulty that actually set a maximum size limit for iron artillery pieces.

At that time cannon, cast around solid cores, could be cooled only from the outside. This practice caused the cooling metal to contract toward the outer surface of a cannon barrel and in large castings created internal strains and structural irregularities in the metal, as well as "pipes" or "blowholes", actual cavities within the casting. In short, large guns all too often had a habit of cracking in cooling, breaking in transport, or finally bursting when fired.

Over a period of years, Rodman devised a theory to account for both internal strains and imperfections and for variations in the density, hardness, and tensile strength of the metal in cast-iron cannon. He outlined a plan to cast cannon around hollow cores, to be cooled from the inside, rather than externally, by a stream of running water.

This, Rodman felt, would cause the cooling metal to contract toward the bore and increase the density of the metal where it was most needed. The bore, of course, would later be reamed out and polished, eliminating any surface imperfections. The rate of cooling could be controlled by regulating the temperature and rate of flow of the water.

By following his procedures, Rodman claimed he could cast cannon of any practical size. Working at Knapp, Rudd & Company's Fort Pitt Cannon Foundry at Pittsburgh, casters of cannon for the government since 1803 and probably the largest foundry in the world.

Rodman began a series of experiments and trials which lasted nearly ten years. Experimental cannon were carefully cast in pairs, one on the old solid core, the other around variations of Rodman's hollow core.

Of one pair, the gun cast by Rodman's principle was fired 1,500 times; its counterpart cast on a solid core and cooled externally, burst on the 299th shot. In another test of guns purposely made of poor material, Rodman's internally cooled gun fired 250 times and held together; the other piece burst on the 19th round.

Completely satisfied by Rodman's results, in 1860 the War Department authorized the casting of a 15 inch smoothbore columbiad, even at that time a gun bigger than anything the world had ever seen.

Figure 25. 15 inch Rodman Gun showing the "indexing" or elevating ratchet device in some detail. Cutting edge for the day

Note the "Hand Spikes" used on the wheels to traverse the gun. Heavy Gun – heavy work.

The solitary figure is probably the Battery Captain or Commander.

The first 15 inch gun, made under Rodman's personal supervision at the Fort Pitt Foundry, was sent to Fortress Monroe, Virginia, where it was tested in March 1861 and became a model for the many Rodman guns which followed. The new gun proved a great success, although its huge size and weight, 49,000 pounds for the barrel alone, made it practical only for fixed positions in forts or permanent batteries.

Specifications were impressive. The 15 inch Rodman gun was 15 feet, 10 inches long, with a bore length of 13 feet, 9 inches, or 11 times caliber, a good deal shorter than the general rule. Most black-powder artillery, other than howitzers and mortars, had a bore length of fifteen to twenty times calibre

With an odd bottle-shaped appearance, and the absence of reinforcing rings, something new to artillery, the gun had a maximum outside diameter of four feet. Two types of ammunition were provided, a 450-pound solid shot, and a 330 pound explosive shell carrying a 17 pound bursting charge.

Perhaps even more important than his casting procedure was Rodman's development of progressive-burning powder. When any gun fires, of course, the volume of the bore behind the projectile increases as the projectile travels toward the muzzle. The normal black powder grain, however, irregular in shape, burns from the outside, so that its burning surface area continually decreases.

Thus, in a normal black-powder piece, initial breech pressure is the highest obtained; the forward travelling projectile increases bore volume as the powder burns at a decreasing rate. Both occurrences reduce interior bore pressure.

Rodman proposed powder pressed into hexagonal grains perforated with several longitudinal holes so that as individual grains burned both inside and out, albeit almost instantaneously, the burning surface of each grain actually would increase.

Rodman's powder didn't increase pressures; it simply maintained a higher bore pressure than normal powder could, as the projectile travelled forward. The result, logically, was an increased muzzle
velocity of the projectile.

With charges of his hexagonal powder, Rodman's 15 inch gun, with its abnormally low bore, length-diameter ratio, fired its 330 pound shell at a muzzle velocity of 1,735 feet a second, much faster than the velocity achieved with any other gun, including many with bore length-diameter ratios as high as 20 to 1. With a 50 pound charge of hexagonal powder (two-fifths of the later standard 125-pound charge) the 15 inch gun at 25 degrees elevation had a maximum range of 4,680 yards.

Adopted as a standard heavy gun for coast artillery and in lighter versions for fortress, siege, and shipboard use, during the Civil War the Federal Government purchased 286 fifteen inch, 1 thirteen inch, 15 ten inch, and 240 eight inch Rodman guns from both the Fort Pitt Foundry and another established at West Point, N. Y.

Like the famed Gun Club of Jules Verne's "Journey from the Earth to the Moon and Around It," Rodman wanted an even bigger gun to test, and proposed building one as soon as the first 15 incher had been accepted. In his report of April 17, 1861, to the War Department, he expressed no doubt that a reliable gun of almost any size could be made with complete success.

He felt, or at least said, however, since he seems to have limited his ambitions rather reluctantly, that a 20 inch gun firing a half-ton shot would be quite big enough. Anything larger would require massive machinery for loading, and "it is not deemed probable that any naval structure, proof against that calibre, will soon if ever be built...."

Rodman's newest monster, one of the largest iron castings to say nothing of the largest gun ever attempted, was three years in the making. Expected to weigh over 100,000 pounds finished, the gun was much heavier than the 40 ton capacity of Knapp, Rudd's largest furnace.

The foundry, however, had a total pouring capacity of 185 tons, and expected to cast the new gun from six furnaces at once. New plans had to be drawn, moulds had to be made, new casting procedures were essential, and new finishing machinery had to be designed and built. (*Very innovative planning of manufacturing for the time.)*

The great day finally came on February 11, 1864. With Major Rodman, then superintendent of Watertown Arsenal, Massachusetts, supervising the operation, the huge gun was poured. Filled in sequence from different furnaces, the 4 piece mould took 160,000 pounds of molten iron.

Cooling, by both running water and streams of air, took nearly a week, after which the gun was finished on a specially built lathe. The finished barrel weighed 116,497 pounds, and the muzzle of the gun was inscribed: "20 inch, No. 1, Fort Pitt,

Figure 26. 15 inch Rodman Gun today

Modern Picture.

116,497 lbs."

Destined for Fort Hamilton in New York harbor, the gun was placed on a double railway truck, also specially built, at the foundry to await shipment. As the Pittsburgh Gazette reported on July 23, 1864, "Juveniles, aged from ten to fifteen years, were amusing themselves today in crawling into the bore on their hands and knees. A good sized family including ma and pa, could find shelter in the gun and it would be a capital place to hide in case of a bombardment....''

Rodman supervised the building of a special carriage for the 20 inch gun at Watertown Arsenal, for the cannon was far too big for any standard mount. The finished product, an iron front pintle barbette carriage weighing 36,000 pounds was shipped off to New York and assembled at Fort Hamilton.

The 20 inch gun was a sizable piece of artillery. Total length was 20 feet, 3 inches, with the bore length 17 feet, 6 inches; thus the bore length-diameter ratio of 10.5 was even lower than that for the 15 inch Rodman gun. Both the shot and the shell for the 20 incher were more than twice the weight of the same projectiles for the 15 inch model, the solid shot weighing 1,080 pounds, slightly over half a ton, and the explosive shell 725 pounds empty of the bursting charge.

The first test, not for range but simply to see if and how the gun would shoot, was held on October 25th, almost as soon as the gun was mounted. A huge crowd turned out, including Rodman, of course, and even Secretary of War Edwin Stanton. A 100 pound blank charge loaded for the first shot wouldn't fire with a standard friction primer, and at first it appeared that the gun had a blocked vent.

After the charge was pulled, a man was sent down the bore[2], which Harper's Weekly reports he did very easily, to check for obstructions from the inside. The trouble was finally found.

The 20 inch gun, over 5 feet in diameter, had a small vent hole almost 23 inches long, and a standard friction primer simply hadn't the power to carry its flame that far to the charge. When the vent was filled up with fine powder before the primer was inserted, the blank charge fired perfectly.

(*[2]Back to basics. Not sure about volunteering to go down the barrel.)*

Figure 27. The "monster" 20 inch Rodman Gun

The next shot was fired with a 50 pound powder charge and the 1,080-pound solid shot, at zero elevation. The Scientific American's on-the-spot correspondent wrote that "the shot struck the water throwing up showers of spray as large as a ship." The third and final shot of the day used 100 pounds of powder behind a solid shot, with the gun at an elevation of 25 degrees.

"At the report the ponderous globe rushed up through the air with a hoarse roar, and sweeping

its long ellipse, fell a great distance, estimation 3 1/2 miles, away into the sea...." The shot's clearly visible flight was timed at 24 seconds. The tests were continued on October 27th, again with a huge crowd present. Only two shots were fired, both with round shot and the gun at zero elevation.

On the first shot, with a 100 pound (powder) charge, the ball hit about 2000 yards away and ricocheted 8 times on the water. Recoil drove the gun and carriage back 6 feet, 10 inches on the base. The second shot, with a 125 pound charge, drove the gun back 7 feet, 5 inches but the ball, hitting rough water, skipped only 5 times.

While the Ordnance Department announced that another test would be held as soon as a hulk or ship could be found for a target, the gun was never fired again during the Civil War. The huge cannon was simply included with a battery of fifteen inch guns as a part of the permanent defenses of New York.

Another test, held in March 1867, included four shots fired with 125, 150, 175, and 200 pound charges, all with the gun at an elevation of 25 degrees. The maximum range attained was 8,000 yards, or a little under 5 miles.

A second and slightly lighter 20 inch gun also may have been cast for the Navy in February 1864, and another was later cast in 1866. For many reasons, however, the guns were never much more than experimental pieces.

Rodman's heaviest cannons were fantastic weapons for their time, but from a practical point of view their usefulness was extremely limited. Aiming time depended on the extent of adjustment, but it took an additional 2 minutes and 20 seconds to traverse the gun and barbette carriage 90 degrees. The 20 inch gun certainly would have required twice the loading and aiming time of the 15 incher.

Hitting a fast-moving ship at any reasonable range with the one shot that could be gotten off in time would have depended largely on luck. Rodman's guns however, had proved his theories, and particularly the advantages of progressively burning powder, but the 20 inch gun was still too big to be a really effective weapon.

The guns still exist. Old "No. 1" still sits at Fort Hamilton, now a public park, mounted on a concrete base, and another looks out over New York Harbour from Sandy Hook. While both the British and Germans also experimented with progressive-burning powder charges by varying powder-grain sizes, no heavy muzzle loading black-powder artillery ever again approached the muzzle velocities that Rodman achieved with his 15 inch gun in 1861.

Gun Drill (On or about for both sides)

The crew generally consists of 6 people, (it has been stated on occasion up to nine) numbered One through Six. Starting with Number 1, it is his job to place the charge in the barrel and to ensure that after firing, the remnants of the powder bag are extracted from the gun.

Next is Number 2. He has a large wet swab. It is his job to make sure the barrel is swabbed after firing, to extinguish any live embers. He also seats the new charge after it has been placed in the barrel by Number 1.

Next is number 4. His job is to make sure the vent is open, that the powder bag is punctured and that the primer is properly placed. We have all seen the movies that show the actors firing a cannon by using a lighted torch or taper.

That wasn't the way the guns were fired. Cannon crews got extremely excited when open flames were brought around their guns, because of the large amounts of powder needed to fire them.

The primers used during the Civil War were friction primers. *Refer Figure 21.* About a quarter of an inch in diameter, four inches long and made of brass, the primer had a friction device that was pulled from it, igniting a charge in the primer that fired into the main powder bag, much like the percussion caps we used today.

The number 3 man, was the soldier who fired the cannon. He attached a lanyard to the friction primer, insured that the rest of the crew was safely positioned, and fired the gun on order. Because Number 3 jerked the lanyard, he was also affectionately known as The Jerk. *(No comments please ?)*

The two other members of the crew, Number 5 and 6, stayed back by the charges. Number 5 was the sergeant in charge of the gun. It was his job to make sure that the proper charges were loaded, that the crew was well drilled, that the cannon was aimed properly, and that the crew and cannon

were able to complete the missions that were assigned.

Last, but not least, was Number 6, often the youngest member of the crew. He carried the charges to the cannon, assisted other members in moving the piece, and was a general go-to for the crew. He was sometimes referred to as the Powder Monkey.

When the drill went well and the crew worked as a team, they were able to fire the Parrott rifle up to three times in a minute, putting forth an incredible amount of fire for the time.

Summary

Many debates have ebbed and flowed how the Northern (Union) forces would become the ultimate victors in such a conflict. Not without reason, as the north had the distinct advantage by having all the major factories and manufacturing complexes within their boundaries.

The Confederates (Southern) forces had the advantage of being the “bread basket” of the nation. Just about all the basic foodstuffs came from the south, along with an importantly useful commodity, cotton.

Cotton was used by the South as a trading exchange for anything that could be smuggled in to the south. Often overlooked by some historians is the effective blockade by the north, to deny the south of any resupply of any means. This blockade did seriously hamper the south in its desire to maintain stocks and supply of material of all kinds, to be able to continue the conflict.

Another factor, was the general opinion of the northern population that the Confederates were an undisciplined rabble. Consisting of iterant farm hands and labours, “hillbillies” and other less desirable personages.

The truth was a little different; the average Confederate soldier was a young man in his early 20s, unshaven, unkempt, gaunt, but tough from months of difficult living. The Rebel soldier's woollen hat and uniform was grey, ragged from either having been worn too long, or having been "handed down" from a dead soldier.

It was not uncommon for the uniforms to be ill-fitting, with sleeves either too short or too long, and to have buttons missing. In addition to this uncomfortable outfit, the soldier wore a white shirt. Those lucky enough to have a fitting pair of shoes or boots would often nail horseshoes to them to prevent the soles from wearing down. While the confederate soldier's appearance was often shabby, it was his spirit and pride which led him to the charge.

By the end of 1861, this feeling had changed dramatically, for the North had suffered initial humiliating defeats, first in a sweeping Confederate victory in what Southerners call the First Battle of Manassas (the North calls it Bulls Run) then a Federal force overwhelmed and crushed at Ball's Bluff, Virginia.

Intelligence services, whatever they were on both sides, the North had failed miserably to fully take stock and appreciation of the situation of the Confederate army. As has been done before, and certainly since, when defending your beliefs rightly or wrongly, the incentive to defend your way of life and your homeland, brings forward a determination and resoluteness that is just about impossible to calculate.

This, and among other things, disproves the fact that the larger force will always prevail, and actions of the Civil War proved that. “Johnny Reb” as the Confederate soldier became known, earned the hard way, a reputation as a force not to be taken lightly, and in some instances, feared.

Inevitably, the end had to come, and the North, as history records, was victorious. That the war was won by attrition can be bitterly argued, again, dependent of your view of the north and the south. What is not in doubt is the fact that the Confederate Army was in tatters and in some cases, close to starvation.

Something had to give, and at last some humanity on both sides, agreed to the peace. Only after, is the full cost considered, and for what purpose achieved.

Barry Irons

Armament Artificer (R)

The “ANZAC” Connection

It may be a bit presumptuous to use the term ANZAC in this context, as it would be almost another fifty years to the day before it became famous, and part of the Australian folklore. Here truth can real-

ly be stranger than fiction, as there are recorded Australians and the New Zealanders who served in this conflict.

Admittedly, most were American born, or migrants to that country who eventually found their way here. By the same token, a lot of those who left here to serve, stayed in America and made their homes there, and were eventually buried there.

This site is well worth a look, if only for the interest of learning about it. It has been well researched with a lot of useful information that may be of value to the genealogist among us. The site is run by James Grey, a true enthusiast. Two entries are listed below for reference, one for the North, and one for the South. Believe it or not ??

Edwin Gale was a native born Australian, born on October 22, 1843 in Collingwood, Melbourne, Victoria, Australia. He was one of three sons of Australian Richard Gale born about 1816 in London, England and Ann Gale born about 1820 in Melbourne, Australia. One genealogy record, however, lists his father as E.F. Gale and his mother as Emily Gale.

Richard and Ann were married in Melbourne, Australia in 1841.Their sons were Henry Armory born 1842, Collingwood, Victoria; Edwin born 1843 Collingwood, Victoria and William Henry born 1845 Collingwood, Victoria, Australia.

They migrated from Melbourne aboard the ship Aura to the United States, arriving in New York City and made New York State their home; settling down in the town of Skaneateles in Onondaga County, New York. Richard Gale applied for citizenship in the United States and became a Naturalized Citizen in 1855.

Upon reaching the age of eighteen, Edwin Gale enlisted at his hometown into the Union Army, on September 1, 1864. His enlistment was only for a one year's duration, being mustered into Company "E" of the 9th New York Heavy Artillery.

Records indicate Edwin was inflicted with minor wounds during an engagement, in his arm and shoulder and participated in no less than eight engagements with the 9th New York Heavy Artillery during the last months of the war. He was mustered out of service with his regiment at Washington, D.C. on July 6, 1865.

After returning to civilian life Edwin moved to the state of Michigan where he met and married Emily Isadore Avery, known as Emma, on November 15, 1876 at Dowagiac, Michigan. It was in Michigan that Edwin and Emma had a son, Roy, born August 28, 1876 at Plainwell, Kalamazoo, Michigan.

In June 1884 Edwin moved his family to Clark County, South Dakota where he worked as a jeweller and lived there until his death. As were many of his fellow soldiers, Edwin became a standing member of the Clark County Grand Army of the Republic.

Edwin Gale died on June 4, 1923 and was buried in the Rose Hill Cemetery in the city of Clark, Clark County, South Dakota. An Australian veteran of the Union Army. His son Roy continued to live in Clarke where he ran a jewellery store and ice cream station, never marrying and living with his mother until he died, one year prior to his mother, in 1948. Father, Mother and Son are all buried together at the huge tombstone, with each having their own smaller stones.

****

William Kenyon was born in 1844 in Sorrento, Victoria. William was a native born Australian, unlike many who participated in the American Civil War, choosing for reasons of his own to volunteer to fight for the Confederacy. His service, however was not with the Confederate States in America, but from the deck of one of the most famous ships of the period; the CSS Shenandoah.

Some may disagree with his status of being a combatant in the service of the Confederate Government, but it is an accepted fact that any individual who served on a Confederate naval vessel during the time of war with the Union, after the cessation of hostilities, that individual is viewed by both the south and the north as a Confederate veteran. William Kenyon was just such a case and earned the right to be called a Confederate veteran; by serving as a Confederate Marine aboard the CSS Shenandoah.

The Confederate naval ship "Shenandoah" sailed into Hobson's Bay at the mouth of the Yarra River at Melbourne, Victoria on the afternoon of January 25, 1865. The Captain requested permission to dock at Williamstown in 1865, after developing propeller problems during a supposed commercial voyage and permission was granted over the objections of the US consul.

Captain J. I. Waddell said he only wanted to put

the ship onto the Williamstown slip for repairs, and to take on food and water; a legitimate undertaking for any ship in a neutral port.

Melbourne residents flocked to view the famous Confederate raider, some to cheer, and newspapers openly advocated the arrest of the crew and the confiscation of the ship. But the Victorian government ignored it all; as well as police reports of the attempted recruitment of crewmen.

While in port, however, Captain Waddell of the Shenandoah did call for volunteers to compliment his ship's crew and was rewarded with some 42 new crew members; among whom was William Kenyon. His acceptance of a berth on the CSS Shenandoah and his acceptance of a position among her crew, in fact made Kenyon a Confederate Marine in the service of the Confederacy.

It was though a breach of Victoria's neutrality and later proved costly to the British government; when an international tribunal awarded damages against Britain, after further attacks on shipping by the "Shenandoah". Damages amounted to 800,000 pounds -- millions of dollars in today's money.

It left port after 22 days; before the U.S. consul could enforce plans to seize the enemy ship and went on to decimate Union shipping among the North Pacific American whaling fleet; some say an act of piracy as its raiding continued on after the end of the American Civil War.

How though, would the crew of the Shenandoah know of the wars end, being continually at sea? After capturing or sinking 38 Union ships, Captain Waddell learned of the conclusion of the war and ceased all hostilities; immediately sailing to a neutral port in Liverpool.

"Lest we Forget"

References

The Internet, if you have it, and Wikipedia

The Photographic History of the Civil War in ten volumes. The New York Review of Reviews Co. Published by Patriot Publishing Co. Springfield, Massachusetts. 1911. (Owned in digital form by the author)

References, cont;

Figure 1, 3-6, 9 Wikipedia-Field Artillery in the American Civil War

Figures 2, 8, 10, 12-22, 25

	Wikipedia Reference
Figure 7	www.civilwarartillery.com
Figure 23	www.relicman.com
Figure 24	www.bucksviews.com
Figure 26	www.museumplanet.com
Figure 27	www.civilwarwiki.net

Permission to quote from Captain Alexander Blakely RAA site generously given from Steven Roberts re; the Blakely Guns. This site is a valuable resource for enthusiasts and historians alike.

http://captainblakely.org/default.aspx

Permission to quote from the Civil War Artillery site also generously given by Jack W Melton Jr. at;

http://www.civilwarartillery.com - another valuable site, well worth a look for information.

Permission to quote from the Australian and New Zealanders in the American Civil War by Mr James Grey at;

http://www.acwv.info/1-files/introduction-A.htm
Another marvellous resource.

Page 46 Basic Ballistic Information, Civil War Cannons

You may have noticed that there are no articles, notices or reports included from committee members or the Col Comdt as was usual.

There has been no space available in my final edition for Maj Neil Hamer, Brigadier Peter Alkemade, Lt Col Jason Cooke or Maj Gary Rolfe. *Ssgt Reg Morrell has snuck one in.*

I'm sure they will reappear in future issues.

Artillery Technical Characteristics. Basic Ballistic Information, Most Civil War Cannon.

Name	**Material**	**Tube (Barrel)**			**Projectile**	**Charge**	**Velocity**	**Range**
		Bore "	Length"	Weight lb	(lb)	lb	ft/s	yd @ 5^0
6 – Pounder Gun	Bronze	3.67	60	884	6.10	1.25	1,439	1,523
M1857 12-Pounder "Napoleon"	Bronze	4.62	66	1,227	12.30	2.50	1,440	1,619
12-Pounder Howitzer	Bronze	4.62	53	788	8.90	1.00	*1.054*	*1,072*
12-Pounder "Mountain" Howitzer	Bronze	4.62	33	220	8.90	0.50	-	*1,005*
24-Pounder Howitzer	Bronze	5.82	64	1,138	*18.40*	2.00	*1,060*	*1,322*
10-Pounder Parrott Rifle	Iron	2.90 or 3.00	74	890	9.50	1.00	1,230	1,850
3-Inch Ordinance Rifle	Wrought Iron	3.00	69	820	9.50	1.00	1,215	1,380
14-Pounder James Rifle	Bronze	3.80	60	875	14.00	1.25	-	*1,530*
20-Pounder Parrott Rifle	Iron	3.67	84	1,750	20.00	2.00	1,500	1,900
12-Pounder Whitworth Breech Loading Rifle	Iron	2.75	104	1,092	12.00	1.75	1,500	2,800

Italics denotes data for Shell, not Shot

I wish to thank SSgt Barry Irons for again presenting a superbly researched article. I trust that he has more to come. I invite readers to make comment on Barry's magnificent work. Comments may be sent to me at ahalbish@netspace.net.au and I will gladly pass them on to Barry. *ed*

Feu-de-Joie

The ceremony of the Feu-de-Joie originated in the demonstration of a new weapon before Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth I. The new matchlock musket had just been adopted as a more reliable and hardy weapon than the cumbersome wheellock piece then in use. The musketeers, having completed the long and intricate procedure of loading their weapons, placed their forked rests in position and awaited the order to fire a volley. The order was given, but the volley did not happen; the matchlock mechanisms produced only a ragged series of bangs, one after another, up and down the line of troops. The Queen was far from happy and voiced her opinion in some rather strong language, which made many wish they were somewhere else.

In time, Her Majesty changed her mind and suggested that the rippled firing be incorporated into a military activity. To ensure an unbroken ripple of fire along the line, troops were formed up into three ranks, the second rank firing should the soldier in the front rank fail to "make fire". If both failed, the third rank came into action. This procedure continued until the introduction of the flintlock, a weapon which was sufficiently reliable to ensure an unbroken chain of fire along the ranks.

The new ceremony was given the title "Joy Sound". However, the French Army also adopted the concept for festive occasions and gave it the name "Feu-de-Joie". Today it is often seen at ceremonies such as unit birthday parades and, at times, it has been performed by units of the Royal Regiment of Australian Artillery using 105mm howitzers.

The firing of a Feu-de-Joie.

For some light hearted relief, please view this link

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sC9yOPs6tVk&feature=youtu.be

Having viewed this amazing illusion, please tell me how it's achieved.

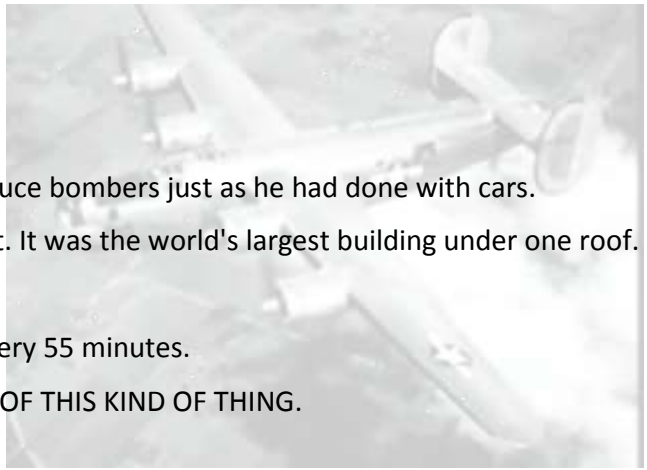
"Above and Beyond" now at NEW LOCATION.

When visitors first enter the museum, they will hear a sound like wind chimes coming from above them and their attention will be drawn upward 24 feet to the ceiling of the two-story high atrium.

Dog tags of the more than 58,000 service men and women who died in the Vietnam War hang from the ceiling of the National Vietnam Veterans Art Museum in Chicago on Veterans Day, November 11, 2010. The 10-by-40-foot sculpture, entitled Above & Beyond, was designed by Ned Broderick and Richard Steinbock.

The tens of thousands of metal dog tags are suspended 24 feet in the air, 1 inch apart, from fine lines that allow them to move and chime with shifting air currents. Museum employees using a kiosk and laser pointer help visitors locate the exact dog tag with the imprinted name of their lost friend or relative.

The Genius of Henry Ford.



This was BEFORE Pearl Harbor!

Ford's B-24 Bomber Plant at Willow Run, MI.

Henry Ford was determined that he could mass produce bombers just as he had done with cars.

He built the Willow Run assembly plant and proved it. It was the world's largest building under one roof.

Even then FORD HAD A BETTER IDEA!

This film will absolutely blow you away - one B-24 every 55 minutes.

ADOLF HITLER HAD NO IDEA THE U.S. WAS CAPABLE OF THIS KIND OF THING.

http://www.youtube.com/embed/iKlt6rNciTo?rel=0.

26th January - No other flag will ever fly over this land

I Am the Flag of Australia

I am the flag of Australia
My name is "Southern Cross"
I fly atop tallest buildings.
I stand watch in Australia's halls of justice.
I fly majestically over institutions of learning.
I stand guard with power in the world.
Look up and see me.

I stand for peace, honour, truth and justice.
I stand for freedom.
I am confident.
I am arrogant.
I am proud.
When I am flown with my fellow banners,
My head is a little higher,
My colours a little truer.

I bow to no one!
I am recognized all over the world.
I am worshipped - I am saluted.
I am loved - I am revered.
I am respected - and I am feared.
I have fought in every war for 200 years. I was there at Gallipoli, the trenches of Turkey, World War 2, Korea and Vietnam know me.
I'm presently in the mountains of Afghanistan and the hot and dusty deserts of Iraq and wherever freedom is needed.
I led my troops, I was dirty, battleworn and tired,
But my soldiers cheered me and I was proud.
I have been burned, torn and trampled on the streets of countries I have helped set free.
It does not hurt for I am invincible.
I have been soiled upon, burned, torn and trampled in the streets of my country.
And when it's done by those Whom I've served in battle - it hurts.

But I shall overcome - for I am strong.
I have borne silent witness to all of Australia's finest hours.
But my finest hours are yet to come.
When I am torn into strips and used as bandages for my wounded comrades on the battlefield,
When I am flown at half-mast to honour my soldier,
Or when I lie in the trembling arms of a grieving parent at the grave of their fallen son or daughter,

I am proud.

Courtesy SSgt Reg Morrell

Man made Cave!

Courtesy Sgt Andrew Millis

This is a neat product made from amazing new material. Troops can use them then, leave them for the locals to use until they deteriorate. Dual use of the taxpayers buck for a change.

Could be used for boat people!! Tents that turn into concrete in less than 24 hours. VERY COOL. What a tremendous asset/tool for our deployed military. Now this is neat stuff. Be great for the hordes of homeless. Click on the link below. http://www.wimp.com/concretetents/

I haven't checked back through all past issues, but I suspect this article may have been published previously. However, I believe that it being about the only Artillery Man to be a Victoria Cross recipient, it is well worth publishing again here. Ed

A GUNNER OF DISTINCTION

SIR RODEN CUTLER, VC, KCMG, KCVO, CBE.

By Major T. L. Sanders RAA.

Lieutenant Arthur Roden Cutler joined the 2/5th Field Regiment AIF in 1940 and served with the regi-ment during the Syrian campaign in 1941. It was for his actions during the bitter fighting of the Syrian cam-paign that Lieutenant Cutler was awarded the Victoria Cross on 28 November 1941.

His determination and coolness under heavy enemy fire are clearly described in the Victoria Cross Citation, as is his concern for the wounded of his party. The citation reads:

"For most conspicuous and sustained gallantry during the Syrian campaign and for outstanding bravery during bitter fighting at Merdjayoun, when this artillery officer inspired infantry to press on and his name became a byword amongst forward troops with which he worked.

At Merdjayoun on 19 June 1941, our infantry attack was checked after suffering heavy casualties from an enemy counter-attack with tanks. Enemy machine-gun fire swept the ground, but LT Cutler pressed a continuation of the attack. With another artillery officer and a small party he pushed on ahead of the infantry and established an outpost in a house. The telephone line was cut and he went out and mended this line under machine-gun fire and returned to the house from which an enemy post and battery were successfully engaged. The enemy then attacked this outpost with infantry and tanks, killing Bren gunners and mortally wounding other officers. LT Cutler and another manned an anti-tank rifle and Bren gun and fought back, driving the enemy away. The tanks continued to attack, but under constant fire from the anti-tank rifle and Bren gun eventually withdrew. LT Cutler then personally supervised the evacuation of wounded members of his party. Undaunted he pressed for a further advance. He had been ordered to establish an outpost from which he could register the only road by which enemy transport could enter the town. With a small party of volunteers he pressed on until, finally, with one other, he succeeded in establishing an outpost right in the town, which was occupied by the Foreign Legion, and despite enemy machine-gun fire which prevented our infantry from advancing. At this time LT Cutler knew that the enemy was massing on his left for a counter-attack, and he was in danger of being cut off. Nevertheless, he carried out his task of registering the battery on the road and engaging the enemy post. The enemy counter-attacked with infantry and tanks, and he was cut off. He was forced to go to ground, but after dark succeeded in making his way back through enemy lines. His work in registering the only road by which the enemy transport could enter the town was of vital importance and a big factor in the enemy's subsequent retreat. On the night of 23/4 June he was in charge of a 25-pounder sent into our forward defended locality to silence an enemy anti-tank gun and post, which had help up our attack. This he did, and next morning the recapture of Merdjayoun was complete. Later at Damour, on 6 July, when our forward infantry were pinned to the ground by heavy hostile machine-gun fire. LT Cutler, regardless of all danger, went to bring a line to his outpost, when he was seriously wounded. Twenty-six hours elapsed before it was possible to rescue this officer, whose wounds by this time had become septic, necessitating amputation of his leg.

Throughout the campaign this officer's courage was unparalleled and his work was a big factor in the capturing of Merdjayoun."

Roden Cutler was born at Manly and educated at Sydney High School, later attending the University of Sydney where he gained his Bachelor of Economics. From 1942 to 1946 he held various positions with the RSS and AILA, the NSW Security Service and Commonwealth Repatriation Department.

He joined the diplomatic corps and was appointed as Australian High Commissioner to New Zealand in 1946 and to Ceylon in 1952. He served in diplomatic posts in Egypt 1955-56 and SEATO 1957, being awarded the CBE in the same year. 1957-58 he was Chief of Protocol, Department of External Affairs and High Commissioner to Pakistan in 1959-61. In 1961 he was appointed Australian Consul-General in New York and in 1965 became Australian Ambassador to the Netherlands. The same year he was awarded the KCMG and K St J. Sir Roden Cutler became Governor of New South Wales in January 1966 and was awarded the KCVO in 1970. He has served in this position up to the present day.

Sir Roden Cutler is the only Australian artilleryman to win the VC. His association with the military has continued through his activities as Honorary Colonel of the Royal New South Wales Regiment and Sydney University Regiment.

Sir Roden Cutler VC is indeed a gunner of distinction.

Courtesy Australian Gunner, Vol 1, No 1, 1978

His Excellency Sir Roden Cutler accompanying Her Majesty The Queen at the unveiling of the RAA National Memorial, Canberra, 9th March 1977.

Following the end of his term as Governor, Cutler was given various Chairmanships and business appointments including as Chairman of Ansett Express (1981–92) and the State Bank of New South Wales (1981–86). Throughout the republican debate and referendum he remained a staunch monarchist and proud Australian, believing the monarchy brought stability, continuity and tradition to his country. He co-operated with the popular Australian novelist Colleen McCullough on a biography, Roden Cutler, VC, which appeared in 1998. Cutler died on 22 February 2002 following a long illness. He was accorded the rare honour of a State Funeral on 28 February 2002 by the New South Wales Government.

Courtesy http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Roden_Cutler#Later_life

Chapter 5

SECOND DEATH MARCH TO RANAU MAY–JUNE 1945

The Australian and British POWs on the second march to Ranau left Sandakan camp on 29 May 1945. Of about 530 marchers, only 100 were in any condition to embark on such an ordeal. Many knew themselves they would not get far. Within a day, one of the groups—group 2—which had left with 50 POWs had already lost 12. As with the first march, a Japanese detachment had been assigned to deal with those who fell out. As a Japanese soldier with this death squad later testified:

> *On the way from Sandakan to Ranau I took my turn in S/M Tsuji's [Sergeant-Major Tsuji] party twice. The first time three were killed I think and on the second four were killed. On the first occasion I killed one, but not on the latter occasion. Captain Takakua [Captain Takakuwa Takuo] ordered me to do it and S/M Tsuji was present when I killed the man. There may have been a few Formosans ... who did not get a turn in the killing parties.*

Australian Army felt hats found at Sandakan POW Camp, 1945. AWM Robertson Collection, 121/6

Nelson Short was on the second march and he recalled the bravery with which many POWs faced their end:

> A*nd if blokes just couldn't go on, we shook hands with them, and said, you know, hope everything's all right. But they knew what was going to happen. There was nothing you could do. You just had to keep yourself going. More or less survival of the fittest.*

Dick Braithwaite became quickly aware of the purpose of this forced march:

> *It was a one-way trip when we started to hear shots, and you felt therewas no hope for anyone who fell out.*

In short, this second march was simply, if this were possible, a more brutal version of the earlier march. Rations were always totally inadequate and proper medical attention non-existent. They ate whatever they could find in the jungle. Nelson Short recalled eating snails and tree ferns. To urge them on, they were beaten with rifle butts. Men died daily of their illnesses— some with their mates close by, others after wandering away alone into the jungle. Men who could not walk any further were shot, bayoneted or, in some instances, beheaded. One or two were killed so that a guard could take from them some treasured personal possession. About 113 died within the first eight days and a group of about 35 were massacred near Tangkul.

The survivors of the second march reached Ranau on 27 June, 26 days out from Sandakan. By that time there were only 183 of them left—142 Australian and 41 British POWs. This second march had indeed been a death march.

Chapter 6

Last days at Sandakan Camp 29 May–15 August 1945

As the POWs for the second march to Ranau were being mustered at Sandakan on 29 May, the Japanese burnt the POW camp. Approximately 288 prisoners, too sick and weak to go, were left in the open air to fend virtually for themselves. In mid-June the Japanese officer in charge received instructions to take these POWs to Ranau. Those who could not walk would be disposed of in some manner. Consequently, 75 of these emaciated men set off on what was to be a third march westward into the jungles and swamps. Little is known of the fate of these 75 but what is certain is that they did not go far. Most were dead before the party was much more than 60 kilometres away from the camp.

By the end of June there were still some 80 to 90 POWs alive in what remained of the camp. Food now consisted of a small amount of rice, some tapioca, coconut oil and scraps smuggled in to them

by some Chinese camp workers. Living quarters were nothing more than lean-tos made from sticks, blankets and whatever else came to hand. Most of the surviving evidence of life and events at Sandakan in July and August 1945 comes from camp guards interrogated after the war and Chinese workers. One of the latter, Ali Asa, a water boy, described the camp at this time:

Remains of the burnt-out Sandakan POW Camp looking towards the big tree. AWM120463

> *After the truckload of men [the 75 taken away on the last march towards Ranau] had gone all the PW remaining were left in the open in No 2 Camp site, there were no houses left. These men were sick. About 10 to 12 PW died every day. In August I was ordered by the Japs to take some ubi kayu [yams] to the PWs, at this time there were only five alive. They asked me when I was going to bring some food as they had not had any food for a week.*

It was clear that the Japanese now in charge at Sandakan had no intention of allowing any of the POWs to survive the war. On 13 July, 23 men still capable of walking were taken out of the camp towards the now defunct airstrip. A little later, Wong Hiong, a young Chinese camp worker, heard shots and when the guards returned he asked what had happened:

> *I asked them what they had been shooting and they said 'ducks'. I asked how many they shot and they said 23. One of the Japs told me that the 23 PW were shot because there were not enough trucks left to take them away for the march.*

Yashitoro Goto, a Japanese guard, later testified to war crimes investigators about this 'duck' shooting:

> *It was Takakua's [Captain Takakuwa Takuo] order so we could not disobey. It would be a disgrace to my parents so we carried out the orders. Taking the PWs to the airport near the old house on the drome, all those who could walk. There were 23 PWs and under Morozumi's [Sergeant Major Hisao Murozumi] order we lined them up and shot them. The firing party kept firing till there were no more signs of life. Then we dragged the bodies into a near-by air-raid shelter and filled it in.*

After the massacre of the 23 most of the remaining 28 prisoners died from disease, starvation and exposure during the three weeks leading up to the Japanese surrender on 15 August. Guard Goto Yashitoro described the condition of the camp in its final days:

> *All the PWs left were too sick to fend for themselves. We did not cook for the PWs at this stage. Those who were able to crawl about were caring for the others. These PWs either died from lack of care and starvation, being too weak to eat. The last died about 15 August.*

Goto failed to describe how the last prisoner, an Australian, actually died. Chinese worker, Wong Hiong, witnessed the final horror of Sandakan:

> *His [the last POW's] legs were covered with ulcers. He was a tall, thin, dark man with a long face and was naked apart from a loin cloth. One morning at 7 am I saw him taken to a place where there was a trench like a drain. I climbed up a rubber tree and saw what happened.*

Fifteen Japs with spades were already at the spot. Morjumi [Sergeant Major Hisao Murozumi] made the man kneel down and tied a black cloth over his eyes. He did not say anything or make any protest. He was so weak that his hands were not tied. Morojumi cut his head off with one sword stroke. Morojumi pushed the body into the drain with his feet. The head had dropped into the drain. The other Japs threw in some dirt, covered the remains and returned to the camp.

So died the last POW at Sandakan Camp on the day the Emperor of Japan broadcast to his people that the war was over and that Japan was surrendering.

Chapter 7

Last days at Ranau, 26 June–27 August 1945

The 183 survivors of the second march—142 Australians and 41 British—began arriving at Ranau on 26 June 1945. They found only six men from the first march still alive. Over the next few weeks, despite their exhaustion, sickness and malnutrition, they were subjected to a harsh and brutal work regime. Parties cut bamboo, collected wood for burning, atap for hut construction, and carried 20-kilogram bags of food to Ranau from a dump three kilometres away. This was light work compared to that of those unfortunates who were assigned to haul an average of 130 buckets of water a day up a steep slope for the Japanese officers' quarters. As Private Keith Botterill later testified, rations for the POWs at this time were barely sufficient for survival, let alone for sick men:

They were given a small cup of rice water a day with about an inch of rice in the bottom. Plenty of rice was available and the Japanese used to get 800 grams a day themselves; they also used to get tapioca, meat, eggs and sweet potatoes and showed no signs of malnutrition.

No accommodation was available for those from the second group and initially they were herded together in an area 50 metres square. There was no place for cooking or basic sanitation, and living quarters were simply the protection of the scrub. Between 30 June and 18 July, as well as working for the Japanese, the POWs built themselves a hut. A measure of their physical condition by this time was the fact that when the hut was finished only 38 were fit enough to occupy its elevated floor space. The remainder were so sick and debilitated by dysentery and other illness that they could only crawl under the hut for shelter.

POW relics found at Sandakan POW Camp, October 1945. AWM Robertson Collection, 121/8

Keith Botterill estimated that in early July men died at the rate of about seven every day. Moreover, the beatings and the bashings continued. One POW who perished as a result of a severe bashing

was Sapper Arthur 'Dickie' Bird, a survivor of the first death march. By 7 July Bird was sick and emaciated with beriberi, malaria and leg ulcers but, despite his condition, a Japanese guard dragged him out for work. When he tried to explain his incapacity Bird was knocked to the ground and continually kicked for over ten minutes. Later that evening he was observed lying virtually where he had fallen and an effort was made to get him back to the hut. Bird was in great agony and he lapsed into a coma. Nothing could be done for him and he died two days later. An Australian doctor, Captain J B Oakeshott, was so appalled by the manner of Sapper Bird's death that he purportedly declared:

> *If anybody is fortunate enough to escape this camp or live it out, this incident with others should be brought to the notice of the authorities and see that justice is brought about.*

From this place of degradation and misery four Australians did manage to escape and their stories are told below. After the last escape—that of Bill Sticpewich and Private Herman 'Algy' Reither on 28 July—there were approximately 40 POWs still alive at the camp. The daily rice ration had been even further reduced and none of them was capable of any prolonged physical work. From the Japanese camp administration's point of view, the time had come for their elimination.

In August 1945, within sight of Japan's surrender, their captors put these sick and helpless men to death. Although there were no POWs left alive to bear witness to these acts, Japanese and Formosan guards later described the final massacres to war crimes investigators. One guard described how the sick were either carried or forced to crawl up a hill to the graveyard where they were each shot through the head. Another guard described the killing of a fitter group of about 10 POWs who were marched a little way from the camp. They were made to sit down after which a Japanese Sergeant-Major told them:

> *There is no rice so I'm killing the lot of you today. Is there anything you want to say?*

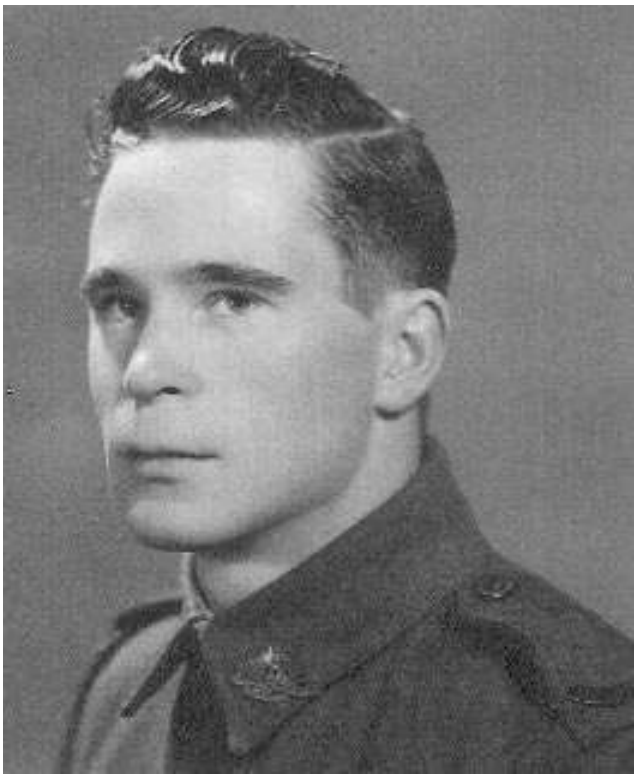
Allegedly, the prisoners were also offered tobacco and water. Then they were shot one by one and buried. Sadly, strong evidence suggests that the last POW survivors at Ranau were not killed until 27 August, 12 days after the official Japanese surrender.

At this time, out in the nearby jungle, friendly villagers were taking Private Nelson Short, who had escaped in early July, to an Australian rescue party:

> *We heard this tat, tat, tat, tat…I said 'Wonder what it is?'…We found out that was the killing of the last of the men in the prison camp at Ranau. They killed the lot of them.*

Chapter 8

The death of Gunner Albert Cleary 20 March 1945



The tragedy of Sandakan is the tragedy of hundreds of individual Australian and British POWs. So much violence of one kind or another—starvation rations, withholding of medical supplies, bashings and other forms of physical abuse—were visited upon the Sandakan POWs that it seems inappropriate to single out the story of one man. However, what happened to Gunner Albert Cleary, 2/15th Australian Field Regiment, 2nd AIF, of East Geelong, Victoria, at Ranau in March 1945 was of a special horror. Cleary's story can stand as emblematic of the general brutality and complete lack of compassion experienced by each and every prisoner.

Albert Cleary survived the first march to Ranau. In March, Cleary, along with Gunner Wally Crease,

escaped from Ranau. After four days on the run Cleary was recaptured and thrown into what was known as the 'Guard House'. This was simply an empty area at the end of one of the huts used by the POWs. Cleary, who had clearly been beaten-up before his return to the camp, had his arms tied high up behind his back, and he was then made to kneel with a log tied behind his knees. In this position he was systematically kicked and punched all over his body by two guards. At times his head was held while his throat was punched and the guards also terrorised him by charging at him with fixed bayonets stopping only inches from his face. By jumping on the end of the log tied between Cleary's legs, the guards were able to cause further suffering. To add to his pain, Cleary was made to stand on his feet every half-hour, causing the blood to rush back into his lower legs and inducing great pain. Beatings also occurred with rifle butts, sticks and anything else to hand. This treatment went on for three and a half hours and was witnessed by a number of POWs, including Keith Botterill who would eventually survive to tell of what he had seen of the depths of human cruelty in a jungle hut at Ranau.

Gunner Cleary Memorial, Ranau, Sabah, Malaysia.

Next morning Cleary's sufferings began afresh. Botterill, who had been away from the camp on a work party, returned at midday to find that the guards were still beating Cleary. At that point, Crease, who had also been recaptured, was returned to camp. All that afternoon both men were given the same treatment and, although they continually begged the guards to stop, no mercy was shown to them. This time Botterill heard the bashings continuing throughout the night and they were most severe after the guard was changed. Next morning Crease managed to escape again into the jungle but he was subsequently shot.

Botterill was now sent away from Ranau for four days on a work detail but when he returned he found that Cleary was still alive. He had been tied by the neck to a tree, dressed only in a fundoshi (a small piece of cloth given to the POWs to cover their private parts). Cleary was filthy and covered in blood blisters and caked blood. Suffering from dysentery, he had also been left to lie in his own excreta. Days were hot at Ranau but, because of the altitude, nights were cold. Cleary's terrible condition seemed to arouse no compassion in his captors who continued to hit him with fists and rifles. He remained for eleven or twelve days in this condition.

When the guards could see that Cleary was dying, he was thrown into the gutter beside the road. Eventually he was allowed to be taken away by his comrades. They carried him to a stream, washed him, and brought him back to be among them in one of the huts. On 20 March 1945, Gunner Albert Cleary, aged 22, died. Repeatedly, throughout the days of Cleary's torture, one of the guards told the other POWs:

If you escape the same thing will happen to you.

Unfortunately, it ultimately made no difference whether a POW tried to escape or not. One way or another, apart from six Australians, they all died.

To be continued

Chapter 9

The POWs of Sandakan North Borneo, 1945

Six who survived

Nelson Short went on the second death march in June 1945. He recalled the camp at Ranau:

> *To think that a man was going to survive. You saw these men every day when you were getting treated for ulcers. The dead were lying there, naked skeletons. They were all ready to be buried. You thought to yourself, well, how could I possibly get out of a place like this? We're in the middle of Borneo, we're in the jungle. How possibly could we ever survive? Sydney was a long way from there.*

Nelson Short did make it back to Sydney, one of six POWs—all Australians—who went through Sandakan, the death marches, and Ranau and lived. Four of them escaped towards the end at Ranau. As well as Short from the 2/18th Battalion, the others were:

•Warrant Officer 'Bill' Sticpewich, Australian Army Service Corps;

• Private Keith Botterill, 2/19th Battalion; and

• Lance Bombardier William Moxham, 2/15th Australian Field Regiment.

Two others escaped earlier from the second death march:

• Gunner Owen Campbell, 2/10th Australian Field Regiment; and

• Bombardier Richard 'Dick' Braithwaite, 2/15th Australian Field Regiment.

Escapes from the second death March June 1945

Gunner Owen Campbell, 2/10th Field Regiment

It was accepted by many of those who left Sandakan on the second march at the end of May 1945 that they would die.

The only chance at life was escape, and Owen Campbell and four others—Private Edward Skinner, 2/10th Field Ambulance; Private Keith Costin, Australian Army Medical Corps; Corporal Ted Emmett, 2/10th Field Ambulance; and Private Sidney Webber, Australian Army Service Corps—opted for life. They decided to break from the column at the first opportunity. Out of sight of guards during an air attack, they slid down a 61-metre bank, hid in some bracken and rubbish, and lay quietly until the column had moved on. For four days they fought their way, sometimes on hands and knees, through the jungle in what they assumed was the general direction of the coast.

When Ted Skinner got sick, Campbell elected to stay with him while the others pressed on. For three days Campbell, despite suffering himself from beriberi and malaria, tended the sick man. One morning, on his return from food gathering, he found Ted with his throat cut. Skinner, described as a 'brave and gentle man' who always carried his Bible with him, had taken his own life so as not to hold Campbell back any further. Campbell caught up with the others, only to find Costin incapacitated with dysentery and malaria. Webber, Emmett and Campbell decided that the only way out of their predicament was to hail a passing native canoe and hope for the best. As they were attempting this, a Japanese soldier appeared from the floor of the canoe and shot Emmett and Webber dead. Three days later Costin also died and Campbell went on alone.

Kulang, the headman of Kampong [village] Muanad, who assisted Gunner Owen Campbell, 2/10th Australian Field Regiment, during Campbell's escape from the second Sandakan-Ranau death march in June 1945. AWM 042512

For a number of days Campbell was delirious. He lurched wildly about in the jungle and eventually followed a wild pig, which had tried to attack him,

Sandakan POW survivor, Owen Campbell, 2/10th Australian Field Regiment. Campbell escaped from the second Sandakan-Ranau death march in June 1945. AWM 041489

towards a river. Seeing a canoe, he called out 'Abang'—Malay for older brother—and the canoe turned and headed for him. The canoeists—Lap and Galunting—took Campbell to Kampong Muanad where Kulang, a local anti- Japanese guerrilla leader, was headman. The people of Muanad hid and cared for the sick POW. Eventually, Kulang took Campbell down river to where an Australian SRD (Service Reconnaissance Department) unit was camped.

From here, Campbell was taken out to sea to be picked up by a seaplane and taken to an aircraft carrier, USS Pocomoke, lying off Borneo. Campbell's privations as a POW had seen his weight go from 76 to 44 kilos when examined by the Pocomoke's doctor. Moreover, four of those kilos were fluid being in his system as a result of the beriberi from which he was suffering.

Bombardier Richard 'Dick' Braithwaite

2/15th Field Regiment

During the early stages of the second march Dick Braithwaite was so ill with malaria that his mates had to hold him up at roll call. For him it was a question of escape or die. Taking advantage of a gap in the column, he slipped behind a fallen tree until everyone had gone by. At nightfall he made his way back to a river they had recently crossed, hoping to follow its course to the coast. On his way he encountered a sick Japanese guard, whom he killed. Initially, Braithwaite finished up in the middle of a jungle swamp feeling he was a beaten man:

> *I had nowhere to go because of the gloom, and the surrounding vegetation was all heavy jungle, thorny. I just sat down on a log there and watched those reptiles, insects, crawling past, thinking, well, this is where it happens, mate, you're finished. After about half an hour just sitting, all of a sudden I thought, no, you're not finished. You're not going to die in a place like this. And I became really angry. I just put my head down like a bull and charged that jungle, and, I don't know, it just seemed to part. Maybe someone was looking after me.*

Sydney, Australia, May 1946: Sandakan POW survivor, Richard Braithwaite, 2/10th Australian Field Regiment. Braithwaite escaped from the second Sandakan-Ranau death march in June 1945. AWM 041488

Eventually he reached the Lubok River where an elderly local man called Abing helped him. Abing took Braithwaite in his canoe down river to his village, where he was looked after and hidden. The locals wanted to help him as they thought he might be able to get Allied planes to stop strafing their villages and canoes on the hunt for Japanese! Hidden under banana leaves, Braithwaite was paddled for 20 hours handed over to Allied forces operating in the area. On 15 June 1945—his twenty-eighth birthday—Dick Braithwaite was rescued from north Borneo by an American PT boat and taken to nearby Tawi Tawi Island. A week later, after he had told his story, an Australian colonel came to see him in his hospital bed to tell him they were going in to rescue his friends:

> *I can remember this so vividly. I just rolled on my side in the bunk, faced the wall, and cried like a baby. And said 'You'll be too late'.*

Escapes from Ranau, July 1945

Sandakan POW survivor William 'Dick' Moxham, 2/15th Australian Field Regiment. Moxham escaped from Ranau in July 1945. AWM 041486

By July 1945 those POWs still alive at Ranau could see that it was only a matter of time before they, too, would die of sickness, malnutrition or following the sort of beatings handed out to Cleary, Crease and Bird. Keith Botterill recalled the moment that he, Nelson Short, William Moxham and Andy Anderson decided to make a run for it:

Bariga, from the Ranau district, during an interview conducted by members of the Joint Australian-British Borneo Reward Mission, 1946-1947. Bariga assisted in the escape of four POWs from Ranau in July 1945. AWM 042561

> *We picked the moment when we knew that death was a sure thing. There was no option left: die in the camp or die in the jungle.*

The four escaped on 7 July and for some days hid in a cave on the slopes of the great mountain—Mount Kinabalu. But they had not gone far from the camp and the ever-present danger of recapture. As they were escaping from an enemy soldier who had found them in a hut, they ran into local man Bariga. They had little option but to trust him with their story. Bariga hid them and although he promised to return the following day with rice and tobacco, the prisoners knew that the Japanese offered rewards for bringing in escapees. Throughout the remainder of July Bariga hid them and brought food. Anderson died of chronic dysentery and they buried him in the jungle.

Despite Bariga's care, the three men remained in dreadful physical shape. Botterill had beriberi,

Moxham was virtually incapable of walking and Short thought that for him it was 'bye-bye, blackbird'. At this point, Bariga learnt that there was an Australian unit operating behind the lines in the area, and after the Japanese surrender on 15 August the three POWs were told to head out of the area and meet up with this unit. The danger was still not over, however, as the local Japanese had yet to acknowledge the surrender and there were still local people who might turn them in for a reward. Eventually, in late August, they began their last trek, helped by Bariga and others, through the jungle. Still very sick, they could only move slowly and on one afternoon they collapsed for a rest. As they lay there they heard men coming through the jungle towards them. Nelson Short recalled:

> *We said, 'Hello, what's this? Is this Japs coming to get us? They've taken us to the Japs or what?' But sure enough it was our blokes. We look up and there are these big six footers. Z Force. Boy oh boy. All in greens. They had these stretchers, and they shot them down. 'Have a cup of tea. Some biscuits.' You could see the state we were in. This is it. Boy oh boy. This is really it. I cried, they all cried. It was wonderful. I'll never forget it. We all sat down and had a cup of tea together.*

The final escape from Ranau was that of Sticpewich and Reither. Towards the end of July a friendly Japanese guard warned Sticpewich that all remaining POWs at Ranau would be killed. On the 28th he and Reither managed to slip out of the camp and, moving a short way up the road, they decided to hide in the jungle until the hunt for them died down. They moved on and were eventually taken in by a local Christian, Dihil bin Ambilid. Dihil refused to betray them, and cared for the two POWs despite the presence of Japanese in the area.

Three Australian POW survivors who escaped from Ranau in July–August 1945: from left to right; Private Nelson Short, 2/18th Battalion; Warrant Officer Hector 'Bill' Sticpewich, Australian Army Service Corps, and Private Keith Botterill, 2/19th Battalion. AWM OG3553

Hearing of the presence of Allied soldiers, Dihil took a message to them from Sticpewich. Back came medicines and food but unfortunately Reither had already died from dysentery and malnutrition.

These six Australians—Braithwaite, Campbell, Short, Moxham, Botterill and Sticpewich—were the only survivors of those Allied POWs who had been alive at Sandakan Camp in January 1945. But this small band was enough to bear witness to what had happened to their Australian and British comrades. They were alive to testify in court against their tormentors and to ensure that the world received eyewitness accounts of the crimes and atrocities committed at Sandakan, on the death marches and at Ranau.

The "Gunner Dinner for 2013 coincided with the Clay Pipe dinner and as there were only about twenty possible for the Gunner Dinner, it was decided by the RAA Assoc Committee to cancel the function. Association President Maj Neil Hamer suggested a dinner. It took place at Berwick on Friday 4th October. In attendance were, Lt Col John Morkham, Lt Col Jason Cooke & family ,Maj Neil Hamer and partner, Maj David Osborne & wife, Maj Merv Taggart, WO1 Darby O'Toole, Ssgt Reg Morrell, Ssgt Brian Cleeman, Ssgt Ernie Paddon, Sgt Brian Joyce & wife, Sgt Barry Irons, Sgt John Decker & wife. The meal was in the bistro and pick your own meal, with beer and wine at bar prices. Lots of stories, which is the norm when "old gunners" get together, during the course of the evening while being in conversation with others Barry Irons was talking about some German WW1 tanks that were produced in prototype form and never went into production, one was the Tortoise and the other the Elephant. Rachel Decker who has one of these new fangled phones Googled them and not only obtained specifications on these two tanks but also photo's which was a surprise to us all, including Barry. The evening eventually concluded, and I was of the opinion that everyone had a very good time.

Ubique. Ssgt Ernie Paddon.

Chapter 10

REMEMBERING SANDAKAN 1945–1999 (Pt 1)

The first information of the fate of individual Sandakan POWs reached Australia between October and December 1945. On 12 December at Grenfell Road, Cowra, New South Wales, the family of Sidney Core received the following telegram from the Minister for the Army:

> *It is with deep regret that I have to inform you NX48471 Pte Sidney Russell Core previously reported missing believed deceased cause and date not stated is now reported deceased cause not stated on 10 June 1945 whilst a prisoner of war in Borneo.*

That phrase—cause not stated—was to bring much anxiety and heartache over the years to the next of kin. How precisely had their son, husband or brother died? Hundreds of similar telegrams reached families throughout Australia and the United Kingdom. Soon the general public witnessed that first sad act of remembrance carried out by the Sandakan families—the insertion in a newspaper of a Roll of Honour 'In Memoriam' notice. In the Sydney Morning Herald of Saturday, 3 November 1945, the Cole family of Parkes, New South Wales, publicly mourned the death of Tom Cole:

> *COLE—June 7, 1945, died whilst a p.o.w. in Sandakan, Borneo. NX72771, Pte T.W.T. (Tom). 'A' Coy., 2/18th Battalion, 8th Division, dearly beloved son of Mr and Mrs Wently Cole, of 4 Metcalfe Street, Parkes, and brother of Colin, Marie, Valerie, and Ethel, and brother in law of Merle. Always remembered.*

Many similar notices appeared on that day.

In the immediate post-war years, as the scope of the Sandakan disaster became known, a number of official actions were taken. Japanese officers and camp guards stood trial for war crimes committed against the Sandakan POWs. Much of the eyewitness evidence given at these trials came from the six Australian survivors. Typical of the charges laid was this against eleven Japanese who had been in charge of the first death march:

> *Murder—in that they between Sandakan and Ranau, British North Borneo, between 29 January and 28 February murdered numerous unknown prisoners in their charge.*

As a result of these trials, eight Japanese, including the Sandakan camp commandant, Captain Hoshijima Susumi, were hanged as war criminals. A further 55 were sentenced to various terms of imprisonment. Little was reported in Australia of the trials, and the families of the Sandakan dead learnt nothing from newspaper reports about the circumstances of how individual POWs had died. For many next of kin in the immediate aftermath of World War II, the fact of a war death in the family was accepted fairly stoically. It was only much later, sometimes in another generation, that the desire to know more arose.

This cemetery contained the graves of most of those POWs whose bodies were recovered from the cemeteries and other burial sites in and around the Sandakan POW Camp. It was formed on the site of the Sandakan military airstrip that had been constructed between 1942 and 1944 by the POWs. As the site was too low lying and prone to flooding, the bodies were eventually removed to Labuan War Cemetery. AWM Robertson Collection 122/1

Public honour and remembrance was, however, accorded to those who had perished at Sandakan. During 1946 and early 1947 at Sandakan itself a war cemetery was built. The remains of the POWs from the old camp cemeteries, from along the track to Ranau, and from the Ranau area were interred in the Sandakan War Cemetery, which was dedicated on Anzac Day 1947. Unfortunately, the area where the cemetery stood was low-lying and prone to flooding. The bodies of the Australian and British POWs were removed eventually to Labuan War Cemetery where they still lie in the care of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission. Most remain totally unidentified and on the plaque that marks many a POW's grave are these words:

An Australian Soldier of the 1939–1945 War Known Unto God

Or, more sadly, one encounters the following inscription:

A Soldier of the 1939–1945 War

Known Unto God

Situated in the Labuan War Cemetery is the Labuan Memorial to the Missing and the names of those Australian POWs whose graves remain unidentified or were never found are recorded there. The names of the unidentified British POW dead from Sandakan are recorded on the Kranji Memorial to the Missing at Singapore.

At the time it was not forgotten, either, that the only real help the Sandakan men had received had come from the local people. Some of the POWs had given hand-written notes to those who had helped them, telling them to hand these notes over to Allied representatives once the war was over. Mostly the notes told of how the villagers along the track to Ranau and at Ranau had hidden and fed escapees or given food to starving men and asking that they be compensated for these acts of mercy. Eventually these notes led in November 1946 to the Australian and British governments dispatching Major Harry Jackson to investigate these claims. Jackson, with Major R Dyce, representing the British government, travelled extensively in the area between Ranau and Sandakan, interviewing all with claims and rewarding many with money, medical attention and goods. Also with Jackson were Colin Simpson and Bill MacFarlane from the Australian Broadcasting Commission. Simpson was very moved as he discovered the story of the POWs. Walking the jungle track the prisoners would have taken between Paginatan and Ranau, he wrote a poem in which he attempted to recapture something of their suffering on the death marches. The second verse of Simpson's poem reads:

From walking in the footsteps of the dead,
Feeling their presence in a rotten boot,
A blaze upon a tree that marks a grave,
A bullet scar still unhealed in the bark,
A scrap of webbing and an earth-stained badge,
A falling bamboo hut, a giant tree
They rested at; this creek,
This climb that runs the sweat into your eyes—
Though you aren't laden, fevered, starved…
You tell yourself you know how they went by.

[Colin Simpson, from script of Six from Borneo, reproduced by kind permission of the ABC.]

Together, Simpson and MacFarlane interviewed and recorded many local people who had helped the POWs. Later they interviewed the six survivors and put together a radio program about the Sandakan POWs—Six From Borneo—which was broadcast throughout Australia on 31 May 1947.

Typical of those rewarded by the Jackson mission was the Widow Burih of Paginatan village. Survivor Hector Sticpewich told Jackson that Burih had been well known to the POWs passing through this village. Jackson took a statement from her that reads in part:

> *When the war was in progress the Japanese came here with PW. The PW came around the kampong [village] looking for food. I gave them food on different occasions, mainly sweet potatoes, Ubi Kayu [yams] fowls and eggs. As the many parties came through Paginatan I gave them food. They were very thin and a lot had fever. The Japanese did not see me give food, if they had they would have struck me or shot me.*

Burih's assistance to the POWs is all the more remarkable when it is realised that her husband in August 1945 had died of malnutrition and beriberi from lack of food during the Japanese occupation.

Eventually the war crimes trials came to an end, the recovery of bodies was finished, Labuan War Cemetery built, and local people rewarded for their help to the POWs. After that, for nearly 40 years, by comparison with what had happened to the Australian POWs on the Burma–Thailand railway, little was done to remind the Australian or British public about the terrible fate of the Sandakan prisoners. Partly, this can be put down to the fact that there were only six survivors who would have been unable to do much on their own to make the story known.

One of the first major efforts to commemorate what had happened at Ranau took place in 1985. In July of that year a memorial was dedicated at a Ranau church in the presence of Datuk Joseph Pairin Kitingan, Chief Minister of State of Sabah, Malaysia. The memorial was the initiative of the Victorian Branch of the Returned and Services League and, in particular, of its President, Mr Bruce Ruxton. In 1981, Bruce Ruxton had been at Ranau with Sandakan survivor Keith Botterill.

The widow Burih of Paginatan, who gave food to starving Australian and British POWS during the Sandakan-Ranau death marches, having her story recorded by members of the Joint Australian-British Borneo Reward Mission, 1946–1947. AWM 042514

Botterill had pointed out to him various locations within the old Ranau POW Camp and especially the place where Gunner Albert Cleary had been tied to a tree, beaten, and left to die. This spot became the site of the Ranau memorial, popularly known as the Gunner Cleary Memorial.

In 1988 there appeared Sandakan—The Last March, a book by Don Wall, himself an ex-POW of the Burma–Thailand railway. The Last March used the testimony of the six survivors, Japanese guards and local people to reveal the horrific circumstances in which the Sandakan prisoners had died. Wall also produced a list of all those Australians who had died at Sandakan, supplemented in 1997 by a list of the British POWs which appeared in his subsequent work—Kill the Prisoners.

Also in 1988, historian Hank Nelson and the ABC's Tim Bowden brought Sandakan to an Australia-wide public with a radio documentary series entitled Prisoners of War. Their sections on Sandakan were based on the testimony of the six survivors and others who had escaped in earlier years from among those Australians brought to the area. Subsequently Nelson produced a book of the series—*Prisoners of War: Australians under Nippon*. By the end of that Australian bicentennial year the events of Sandakan were no longer buried from the Australian public.

Wall and Nelson's work was added to in 1989 with the publication of Athol Moffitt's Project Kingfisher. Moffitt, who had been the Australian prosecutor at the trial in 1946 of Sandakan camp commander, Captain Hoshijima Susumi, was able to reveal from his knowledge of the war crimes interrogation documents that the last POWs had been killed at Ranau on 27 August 1945, well after the Japanese surrender. They had undoubtedly died, in Moffitt's view, to stop them being able to testify to the atrocities committed by the guards. Moffitt also revealed, for the first time since the 1940s, that there had been a plan—Project Kingfisher—to rescue the prisoners. The reasons why the plan was never put into

The Chief Minister of the State of Sabah, Malaysia, Datuk Joseph Pairin Kitingan, giving an address at the unveiling of the Gunner Cleary Memorial, Ranau, 5 July 1985. The memorial cairn can be seen behind the Minister. AWM P0495/05/03

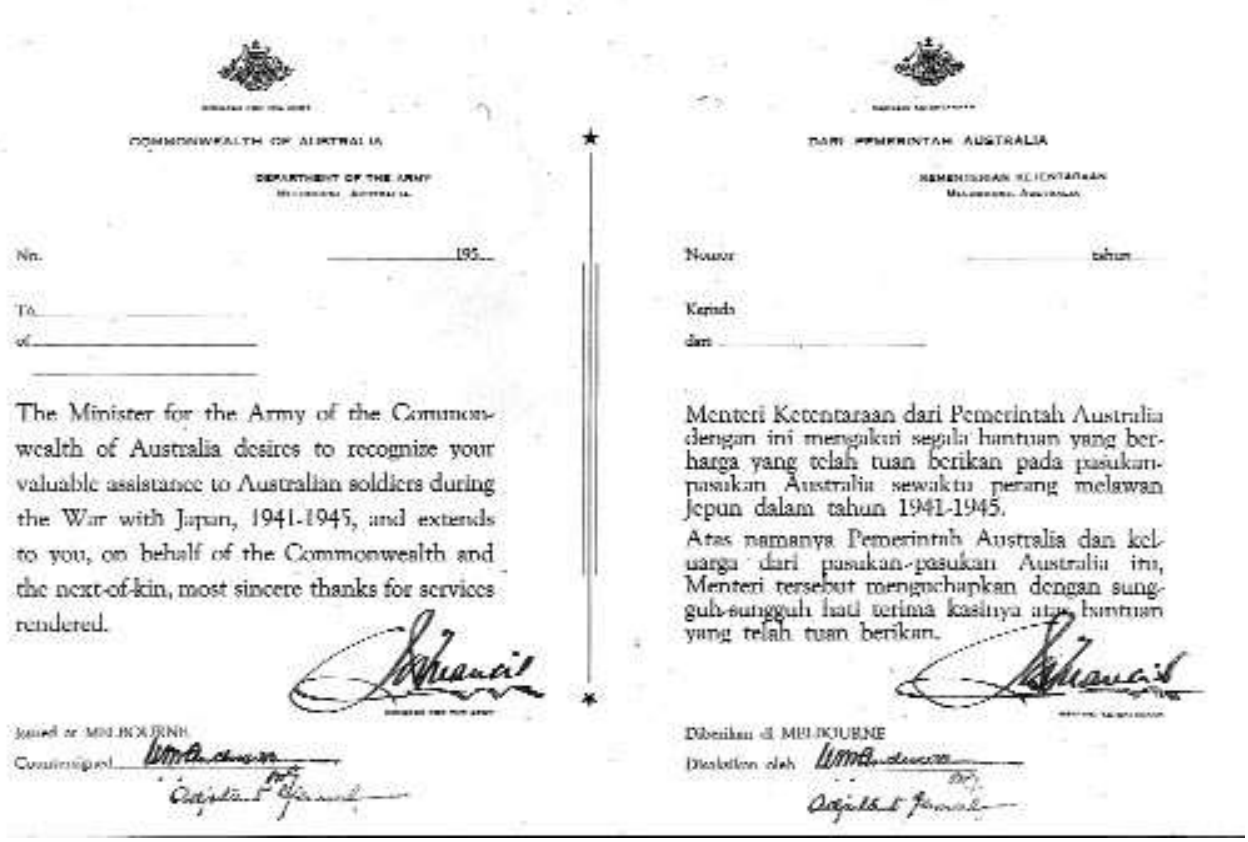
operation remain contentious. For whatever reasons it was never implemented, it is still sad to think that it might have been possible to rescue some of the POWs and so to have prevented the final catastrophe of Sandakan.

The most recent attempt to come to grips with what happened at Sandakan is Lynette Ramsay Silver's Sandakan—A Conspiracy of Silence, published in 1998. Silver draws on an immense amount of hitherto little-used archival material to tell the story of the POWs. Most significantly, using original burial and exhumation documentation, her work gives hope that some of the unidentified graves at Labuan War Cemetery may be able to be marked with the name of the soldier whose remains lie buried there.

The late 1980s and early 1990s saw the development of a movement to commemorate the Sandakan dead in the communities from which they had gone to war. On 2 September 1989, in the presence of three of the Sandakan survivors—Owen Campbell, Nelson Short and Keith Botterill—the Mayor of Ku-ring-gai, Sydney, unveiled the Sandakan Memorial in the Sandakan Memorial Park, Turramurra. This was a local council initiative and it was clearly deeply appreciated by relatives of deceased Sandakan POWs who attended the ceremony. One lady wrote:

> *For the first time I felt my boys hadn't been forgotten, dying in that hell before they'd had a chance to become men, that someone cared enough to call them heroes.*

In 1991, Ted McLaughlin, an ex-POW of the Japanese and a resident of Boyup Brook, Western Australia, erected a memorial there to three of his friends who had died at Sandakan and to all those who had perished in that place. To Ted's surprise, over 200 people turned up, many from hundreds of kilometres away, for the dedication of the memorial. In September 1993, over 300 came to Boyup Brook for a Sandakan memorial service, a situation which led to the erection and dedication of an even larger memorial on 14 September 1994.



COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY

No. 195

To

of

The Minister for the Army of the Commonwealth of Australia desires to recognize your valuable assistance to Australian soldiers during the War with Japan, 1941-1945, and extends to you, on behalf of the Commonwealth and the next-of-kin, most sincere thanks for services rendered.

Issued at MELBOURNE

Countersigned

DARI PEMERINTAH AUSTRALIA

KEMENTERIAN KETENTARAAN

Nomor tahun

Kepada

dari

Menteri Ketentaraan dari Pemerintah Australia dengan ini mengakui segala bantuan yang berharga yang telah tuan berikan pada pasukan-pasukan Australia sewaktu perang melawan Jepun dalam tahun 1941-1945.

Atas namanya Pemerintah Australia dan keluarga dari pasukan-pasukan Australia ini, Menteri tersebut mengucapkan dengan sungguh-sungguh hati terima kasihnya atas bantuan yang telah tuan berikan.

Diberikan di MELBOURNE

Ditekken oleh

Examples of the commemoration certificates issued to local people in north Borneo by the Australian Government in the early 1950s. AWM EXDOC098

This memorial contained the names of all those Western Australian soldiers who had died at Sandakan.

This pressure for local remembrance of Sandakan was reflected in the eastern states by the establishment in 1993 of the Sandakan Memorial Foundation. The Foundation flowed out of a special Sandakan Memorial Service held at the Kirribilli

Ex-Services Club on 1 August 1992, organised by the Sandakan Memorial Committee. The importance to the Sandakan families of such occasions was evident:

> *Whilst it was an extremely sad and moving ceremony, bringing tears, you came away with a feeling that at long last your loved ones had received a form of funeral service. At last, after so many, many years, families and friends had been granted the opportunity to pay their respects.*

Sandakan Memorial in the Sandakan Memorial Park, Turramurra. The memorial was unveiled on 2 September 1989 in the presence of three Sandakan survivors—

Owen Campbell, Keith Botterill and Nelson Short.

The memorial was built by Ku-ring-gai Council and dedicated to those who died at Sandakan in 1945.

AWM P1188/04/03

Between 1993 and 1995 the Sandakan Memorial Foundation was instrumental in the erection of several Sandakan memorials at various locations in the eastern states—Burwood, Sydney; Tamworth, NSW; Wagga Wagga, NSW; Maitland, NSW; Bendigo, Victoria; and New Farm, Queensland. These memorials provided a place of remembrance for the Sandakan families living in the surrounding districts, as on each memorial were the names of the local men who had died at Sandakan. The ceremonies of dedication at these memorials would all have been moving events but perhaps one of the high points of the Foundation's work would have been the dedication ceremony for the New Farm memorial in September 1995. On that occasion, death march survivor Owen Campbell read two passages, the first of which, from the Wisdom of Solomon, Chapter 3, contains these words:

> *But the souls of the righteous are in the hands of God, and no torment will ever touch them.*
> *In the eyes of the foolish they seemed to have died, and their departure was thought to be an affliction, and their going from us to be their destruction; but they are at peace.*

To be concluded next pages

Fighting Past Fatigue

The spirit of Kokoda helps potential leaders push through exhaustion and test skills under pressure.

Gnr Michael Moon tackles the obstacle course.

IT'S 1942 and the soldiers of the AIF crowd into the small briefing area in Port Moresby ready to learn about what could possibly be the most challenging few days of their lives.

In walks the intelligence officer, Nobby Clarke, dressed in his jungle shorts and shirt complete with .303 rifle and walking stick. He paces straight to the front, immediately diving into his brief.

"It's tough out there," he says.

"This will be the fight for your lives."

It's actually 2013 and we're at Gallipoli Barracks, in Enoggera .

To be continued!!!

Chapter 11

REMEMBERING SANDAKAN 1945–1999 (Pt 2)

Of recent years the Sandakan story has also received national recognition. In 1995, to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the end of World War II, the Australian Government conducted a number of official veterans' pilgrimages to former battlefield sites. One of these pilgrimages commemorated the 1945 Australian landings in Borneo as well as the events at Sandakan, on the death marches and at Ranau. Owen Campbell and others associated with Sandakan were able to take part in ceremonies there to dedicate the Sandakan Memorial Park.

In 1995 the Australian War Memorial also produced its own tribute to the memory of Sandakan. Throughout the 1980s, the long-running POW exhibition at the Memorial had made little detailed reference to the Borneo prisoners. By 1995 it seemed appropriate, even overdue, that the Sandakan story be brought to the Memorial's millions of visitors. In a Sandakan section of the new 1945 exhibition, visitors saw the few pitiful relics from the camp in the Memorial's collection. These included false teeth, a rosary-crucifix and a battered drinking mug. Around the walls were placed the small paybook photographs of every Australian who had perished at Sandakan—an attempt to help us visualise the individual tragedy hidden in the grim statistic of over 2400 dead POWs.

Owen Campbell, one of the six survivors of the Sandakan death marches, points out the site of the old boiler house at the Sandakan POW Camp, 1985. AWM P0495/05/02

Through its Their Service–Our Heritage program, in March 1999 the Australian Government and people further honoured those lost at Sandakan. During a special mission, the Sandakan Memorial Park was re-dedicated. Originally developed by the Returned & Services League of Australia on what is now a Sabah State Forestry Department reserve, the Memorial Park has been substantially upgraded by the Office of Australian War Graves to provide an interpretative facility and commemorative site. Here, visitors can follow on text panels in a commemorative pavilion the story of the Sandakan camp and the death marches. Nearby, a polished stone memorial—the Sandakan Memorial—stands in the centre of a ceremonial space. On it is the simple inscription:

IN REMEMBRANCE OF ALL THOSE WHO SUFFERED AND DIED HERE, ON THE DEATH MARCHES AND AT RANAU

A walk around the park pathway reveals pieces of old heavy machinery used here between 1942 and 1945—a trenching machine from the airfield, part of the generator used to supply power to the camp and a boiler. Owen Campbell senses there are presences in this place that no memorial, relic or exhibition can reveal. In 1995, fifty years after the Sandakan death marches, Campbell returned to the camp site and to that track where so many of his mates perished. He described the emotions he felt that day:

I did have feelings at Sandakan when I walked up to where the old camp was. You never forget because when you are in the services you create a bond with your fellow man that you don't create in civilian life. You discuss things with him that you won't discuss with anybody else and you create that great bond of friendship and no matter what happens it will endure for ever and you will never forget it—I can't anyway. There are still some buried there somewhere I'm sure because I had that feeling when I was there…that there were spirits waiting to

be released from where they were. You get those feelings after a while.

Plaque on the memorial gateway to the Anglican Church of St Thomas, Binalong, New South Wales, erected to Private Ted Ings, 2/19th Battalion, who died on 24 February 1945 at Sandakan POW Camp.

How should we now remember what happened to the Australian and British POWs at Sandakan in 1945? Those who suffered captivity at the hands of the Japanese in World War II carry that memory in their bones. Understandably, many ex- POWs found it—still find it—hard to forgive those who inflicted so much upon them. Those who were not there probably can never fully comprehend the depths of pain and, at times, despair to which the Sandakan POWs were forced to descend by their enemies. Then there is the grief of their families who until recent years knew little of what had happened to their loved ones beyond the fact that they had disappeared in the jungles of Borneo. Owen Campbell was well aware of their agony:

> *War is painful not only for the soldiers fighting on the front line but for the ones who are left behind. Consider the worry they must go through and the anxiety they must suffer. You take our wives when they heard we were prisoners of war, what they must have gone through, it's unbelievable. They suffered just as much in their own way as we suffered in our way…the wives and mothers are wondering are we ever going to meet again.*

The brothers and sisters of Ted Ings never saw their brother again. They came together as a family and built the memorial gateway at Binalong's Anglican Church to make sure that future generations would know that Ted had died on 24 February 1945 at a place called Sandakan–Ranau. Perhaps what the prisoners of Sandakan deserve of the future is that each generation asks itself the question—what happened at Sandakan? In asking how we should remember Sandakan, we could heed Owen Campbell, who said at the camp site in 1995:

> *The Sandakan story has got to be brought out into the light. That's what I reckon. Bring it to their [young people's] notice and then they'll start to talk and that will bring it further into the minds of the younger generation that is coming up. That's the only way I can do it. When you realise it's got to be told then you don't mind the personal anguish, as long as it does some good somewhere along the line and opens people's eyes.*

Captain R A Houghton, 23 War Graves Unit, reading an inscription on a monument erected by Australian and British POWs at the Sandakan No.1 Cemetery. The inscription read:

'To the memory of British and Australian fallen in Malaya'.

The Australian servicemen who died at Sandakan were a long way from home.

The British POWs who died there were a lot further from their kith and kin. Even now, the fate of that particular group of prisoners is little known in the United Kingdom, except by their families. In 1945, Christopher Elliot visited Borneo in search of information about his missing brother, Corporal Donald Elliot, Royal Air Force, of Beccles, Suffolk, England. Donald, who was on the first death march and whose will was found near Ranau, died on 17 March 1945 in the vicinity of Paginatan. In 1996, Christopher Elliot returned to Sandakan and Ranau with the next generation—his daughter and Donald's niece, Anne Elliot. Anne wrote the following tribute to her uncle's memory. It may be allowed to speak for all the Sandakan POWs—Australian and British—and how they might like to be remembered by those who loved them and missed them down the years:

To the spirit of Donald Elliot
You don't know me.
But I know you
Through my father, he has not forgotten you
And never will.
His life has been greatly affected
By your death.
He always looked up to you, you were his hero.
I will never forget.
Hope that you are at peace here.
And that you didn't suffer too much pain.
And that you can forgive your enemies
For what they did to you.
I thought of you at the VJ Day March
In Pall Mall, London.
I stood and watched the veterans walk
By—the lucky ones.
I was quite choked but proud.
You did it for me and the likes of me.
Thank you.
I think things would have been
Different if you were still around.
But life isn't always fair, is it?

REMEMBERING SANDAKAN

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Concluded on next page

In old naval days many phrases came to be
Such as some of the following as we shall see.
A LOOSE CANNON is perhaps someone out of control or when the pitch of the sea could cause a gun to roll.
An unfair term maybe, but a bit of a rogue was the SON OF A GUN
The result of the parents on deck having their illicit fun.
Stuff the barrel was the master gunner's wish using old rope - unwanted items or rubbish.
It was needed to stop a cannon ball falling into the sea,
So A LOAD OF JUNK found, was the key.
FLASH IN THE PAN was failure after a showy start.
It could be fatal in battle on the crew's part.
In which case OVER A BARREL was a situation helpless,
Or a crewman flogged for creating such a mess.
HANG FIRE — delayed an action.
Not always recommended as danger results from inaction.
Thus STICK TO YOUR GUNS and maintain your position
Don't change your mind, it's time to make a decision.
BRASS MONKEYS is a term for the extreme cold.
The brass racks would contract, the cannon balls no longer hold.
And HOISTED BY ONE'S OWN PETARD was the end
Blown sky high by the device made ready to defend.

The Royal Gunpowder Mills is now an industrial heritage attraction open weekends and bank holidays throughout the spring and summer months.

*Lieutenant-General Sir William Congreve (1743-1814) the Deputy Comptroller who first supervised the Gunpowder Mill should not he confused with his eldest son Sir William Congreve (1772-1828) who was an inventor and rocket designer who built rockets in a factory in Bow. (See Down the Lea Valley Page 164)

Australian War Memorial Sandakan Project

In 1995 the Australian War Memorial was planning an exhibition to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the end of the Second World War. The prisoner of war experience was an important component, and the story of the camp at Sandakan soon came to the attention of the planning group. Research revealed that apart from stories in the popular press immediately after the war, the death of nearly 2000 Australian prisoners of war at Sandakan was largely unknown except to their immediate family members, many of whom had only scant knowledge of what their loved ones had gone through.

Having decided to adopt the Sandakan story, we found the Memorial held pitifully few relics, although the few objects we held in our collection have a relevance far beyond their physical presence. With only six known survivors, not all of whom were still able to relate their experiences, the opportunity to develop a body of research was also limited. One survivor, Keith Botterill, was particularly generous in his support for this project; his candid reflections, recorded and featured in the display, leave all visitors with a complete understanding of the brutality the prisoners experienced at the hands of their Japanese captors.

At the end of the war the Australian army produced two volumes of paybook photographs of all the prisoners who were not recovered from Japanese camps. These books were used by the prisoner of war recovery teams. The Memorial holds a set of them, and we decided that here was an opportunity to display a photograph of every Australian serviceman who had died at Sandakan. So the elements of the display were now in place: we would display our few relics, we would use Botterill's voice, and we would reproduce and display the paybook photographs.

The Sandakan display in our 1995 display was so successful and so well supported by our visitors that the concept was included in the major refurbishment of the Second World War galleries undertaken in the late 1990's. Many of the photographs in the new display are of much better quality than those previously shown, as the Australian Army Records Section loaned its original paybook photographs to the Memorial for copying; some families have also very kindly loaned individual portraits. Today the Memorial is still searching for the last few portraits.

Ian Affleck—Curator of Photographs

The following photos are only half of page 1 of 75 pages of all but 10 of the gallant men who perished at the hands of the Japanese.

Efforts are still being made to locate photos of the missing 10. ed

A GUNNER'S NATIONAL SERVICE 1969 – 1971

The Life & Times of Gunner David Gibson

I was asked to put some notes together by family and friends on what my 2 years as a National Serviceman were like. I was a little reluctant but decided to do so, mainly so my young grandson can see what his Pa did all those years ago. If you are expecting a "blood and guts" saga don't read any further. I have told my story from what I recall from those days but have kept some in reserve, they are for me and my mates only.

Call up

I was living with my family in Darwin in early 1969 when I was required to register for National Service. My father was the Senior Air Traffic Controller at RAAF Base Darwin and we were living with my family on the RAAF Base. My twin brother, Peter and I were already serving in the CMF in 121 LAA Bty and were looking forward to doing 2 years service as national servicemen. We were prepared to accept the fact that we could serve in Vietnam.

About April I received a telephone call from my mother saying that our "call up" results had arrived in the mail, we had missed out and while Mum was happy Peter and I were shattered. That lunch time I went into the Labour & National Service Office next door to where I worked and volunteered on the spot to do 2 years as a Nasho. While waiting in line I had a tap on the shoulder and my twin brother Peter was there, without us talking about it he had decided he wanted to go in as well. To say my mother was a "little annoyed" at what her twin sons had done would be an understatement! The family moved back to Melbourne from Darwin in April 1969.

Recruit & Corps Training

October 1969, hundreds of young men arrived at Swan Street Barracks and after forcing our way through the "Save our Sons' protestors we went in and had a medical check where some guys were found not to measure up and sent home. Onto a bus headed for Puckapunyal we didn't realize those on the bus with us were to form 12 Pl, C Coy at 2RTB. Within 5 minutes of leaving Swan St. a CPL with Vietnam ribbons on stood up and asked "where are the Gibson's?" Peter and I stood up and he said to us "I'm CPL Gibson, don't stuff up or else". Welcome to the Army I thought. I loved recruit training, hard and tough but my earlier service with the CMF helped, I knew most of the drills and had handled the weapons before. Our recruit instructor in the CMF in Darwin was a LT Neil Benson and he was a very switched on CMF Officer. The course he ran for new recruits into 121 LAA Bty was very thorough and Peter and I silently thanked him after every lesson at 2RTB for instilling those drills into us. Early on we lined up for a Platoon photograph, I recall our Pl SGT saying "look around you, statistics say that half of you will go to Vietnam where one will be killed and two of you wounded". I was not sure where he got his figures from but in the end that is exactly what occurred, one died in action and two were wounded from mine explosions. We were in 12 Pl C Coy, one of the recruits in 11 Pl was Kevin Sheedy, fresh from a win in the VFL Grand Final with Richmond.

The CSM, an Artillery WO2 who was to become my brothers BSM in HQ Bty in Vietnam, came around mid way through our 10 week recruit course asking if anyone wanted to volunteer for Officer training at Scheyville in NSW. I thought that I would give it a go with the intention of maybe making a career out of the Army. Down went my name. A day later one of our CPL Instructors, a Vietnam veteran with 2 RAR, called me aside and said to me "can you see yourself leading 30 soldiers through the jungle in Vietnam in 9 months time? "No" I said, he quickly replied "withdraw your application for Officer training then". He was right of course, 18 months later I would have been able to do it but by then I had grown up and thought that I had the maturity and skills that would have been needed. Our Coy Cmdr at 2 RTB was also an Artillery CAPT, he had told me that with our previous service in Artillery in the CMF Peter and I were going to be allotted to Artillery. Sure enough that is how it went.

Off to 123 Trg Bty at Holsworthy in Sydney for Corps training, I became what was called a "gun number". In other words I was part of a detachment that worked on the M2A2 Howitzer, the weapon being used by the Australian Artillery in Vietnam. My brother was to become an Artillery Signaller so he went off to the Arty School at North Head. This was the first time in our lives that we had ever been separated so it was an emotional time, but I had made good mates in Arty training and with some of them it was off to Townsville to join 12 Fd Regt. A few others went straight to Canungra for Jungle Training then to the re-

enforcement wing or to 4 FD Regt who were on the way to Vietnam.

12 FD Regt & A Fd Bty

I was allocated with about 15 other gunners to A Fd Bty and on arriving in Townsville we were sent into the BSM's office. We were the first reinforcements for the Bty at the start of the training period for the Regt's service in Vietnam. I marched into his office and I recognized the BSM, Arthur Bretherton, from my CMF days in Darwin, he was my former ARA Cadre Staff at the Bty and an Instructor I had when we went to North Head for CMF advanced gun training on the 40 MM Bofors. At North Head my brother and I had played a trick on him by changing our watch bands confusing him as to our identities, when he woke up to it we copped a blast. We didn't do it again. He recognized me and asked "where's your twin brother?" I told him he was still doing his Sig Trg and that he was also posted to 12 Fd Regt. Arthur Bretherton quickly said "not to bloody A Bty". I guess he remembered the confusion we caused him in Darwin.

10 months training in Townsville shaped us into a very capable and fit Bty. We spent months up on the training ranges firing the guns, building Fire Support Bases, learning and fine tuning the skills we would need to fire our M2A2's in support of 3 RAR in Vietnam. Jungle training at Canungra was intensive and hard but we all got through quickly followed by our final exercise at Shoalwater Bay. We were ready to go and we knew it was getting close when in late October 1970 we were on a local unit parade when the BSM called out the names of those going on the advance party and ordering them off to the RAP for their injections. I had a chuckle when a good mates name was called and the BSM saw me, off I went as well. After Pre Embarkation leave we met in Sydney for a parade at Victoria Barracks where A Fd Bty received the Freedom of the City of Sydney. We spent the night on the town then next day back to Townsville and a week or so later it was off to Vietnam on a QANTAS flight, male stewards as I recall, no air hostesses. We stopped at Darwin on the way over and Peter and I were able to meet up with my sis

ter who was still living in Darwin. We had to take a civvy shirt with us as the plane was stopping at Singapore airport. We changed into the civvy shirt and walked around the airport for an hour or so as we were not allowed out of the terminal. The civvy shirt was supposed to disguise the fact that we were soldier's enroute to Vietnam. The short haircuts, poly trousers and GP boots may have given the game away!

Vietnam


The king of the battle field.
105mm Howitzer. At FSB Lynnette.

February 1971 we arrived in Vietnam on a QANTAS flight. As the doors opened the smell of aviation gas, the smell of Saigon and the oppressive heat hit us. There were American military aircraft every-

where. We had been told during Jungle Training at Canungra that the VC wore “black pajamas”. Everyone at the airport was wearing “black pajamas” so after a bit of a shock and realizing that we were not going to be shot at we collected our gear and boarded the RAAF Wallaby flight to our new home at Nui Dat. Prior to boarding I met up with a guy I had done my Corps training with, he had been posted to 4 Fd Regt as a reinforcement and was boarding our QANTAS flight to come home. He gave me some words of advice, mainly on the bar girls at Vung Tau, then went home.

On arrival at Nui Dat we took over the lines of 106 Fd Bty, the Bty we changed over from at the Saigon Airport. Home was next to Horn Bill LZ and a tent surrounded by sandbags and Armco for protection with duckboards for a floor saw 4 of us comfortable and next to our gun position. The gun positions were well protected and had underground ammunition bays. We had two cooks who provided us with hot meals while we were at Nui dat. After a while you actually got use to “plastic eggs and potato”! After a couple of days of settling in and some training missions we finally started to do what we were trained for. Our Bn, 3 RAR, was yet to arrive so we fired in support of 2 RAR, our part of the war had started and within a few weeks my gun section went out to build its first FSB (Marge) and for the next 7 months it was a case of build the small base, put up the barbed wire, fill sand bags, dig holes, fire the guns, H&I missions, listening posts, machine gun piquet’s, tiredness, dirt & mud, American rations, ammunition, ammunition and more ammunition then dismantle, move and start all over again. Home was a 4 foot deep hole in the ground covered with 3 layers of sandbags and a blast wall in the front. We at least had a stretcher to sleep on and after a while this was quite comfortable. We could put up a shelf of sorts made from the ammunition boxes to put some gear on. 3 RAR arrived and we went on supporting them, very early they got into action and lost some men on the first operation they went on.

We fired HE and illumination rounds for many hours and had clerks, cooks, drivers and the like helping to unload boxes of ammunition as we were fast running out of prepared rounds. One of our FO’s teams were also “blooded” for the first time.

We then moved to FSB Beth where again we fired day and night. An RAAF helicopter gunship had been hit nearby trying to provide supporting fire for 3 RAR and crashed landed just outside our perimeter wire. One of the RAAF pilots had been shot and died from those wounds. We briefly formed an ANZAC Gun Bty at FSB Beth when a section of guns from the Kiwis 161 Fd Bty joined us for several days. Nice guys who made a mean “hot chocolate” drink and shared it with us at every opportunity. After a few weeks we were given “cease firing’ and then we were off to start FSB Ziggie in the north of the province.

We always dismantled the old support base and recovered what defensive stores we could. I was emptying and slashing sand bags when I picked one up only to see a black scorpion bite into my index finger. Within a few minutes my left arm started going numb so I went and saw our medic. Nothing I can do for you he said, just rest and we will see what happens! Within an hour my left arm and shoulder were completely numb and I could do very little on the chopper ride out to the new base and on arrival. Luckily within another hour or so the numbness left and I was able to get back to work. I was worried for a while I must say. Scorpions and snakes, you had to be on the lookout for them.

and at least here we had huts to sleep and live in, as well as a nice steel bed and plastic covered mattress. There were about 20 gunners per hut. The Kiwis had also left us very good gun positions to work from, again with underground ammunition bays and sleeping quarters when needed.

On operations field rations were normally American 10 man ration packs which were not too bad. It all ended up as a "stew" anyway but at the time it did the job. Once we had established the new base and after a few days of routine we were normally given a "hot box" lunch flown out by the resupply choppers. Local protection at the FSB was normally left to the APC's of 3 Sqn, RAAC. They came in before last light, took up defensive posi-


Bdr Rod Parker, Gnr Peter Stephenson & Gnr David GIbson
FSB Beth Apr 71

We went on to raise many FSB's around the Province, where the Bn went we also went, unfortunately it was mainly down to Coy level operations and the Bty was divided into 2 sections of 3 guns so we were stretched to the limit. We were on-call to fire 24 hours a day, rain, hail or shine, we were constantly tired but we had a job to do and we had to do it accurately, once you fired the 30lb round you couldn't recall it. You train in Australia with 7 man detachments but in reality once you were out on operations we very rarely had more than 5 per detachment. This added tremendous workloads to all especially in the early days of a new support base where local defence tasks, patrols and fire missions kept everyone busy. The Kiwis gunners left Vietnam in May 71 further adding to "stretched resources". We moved into their lines

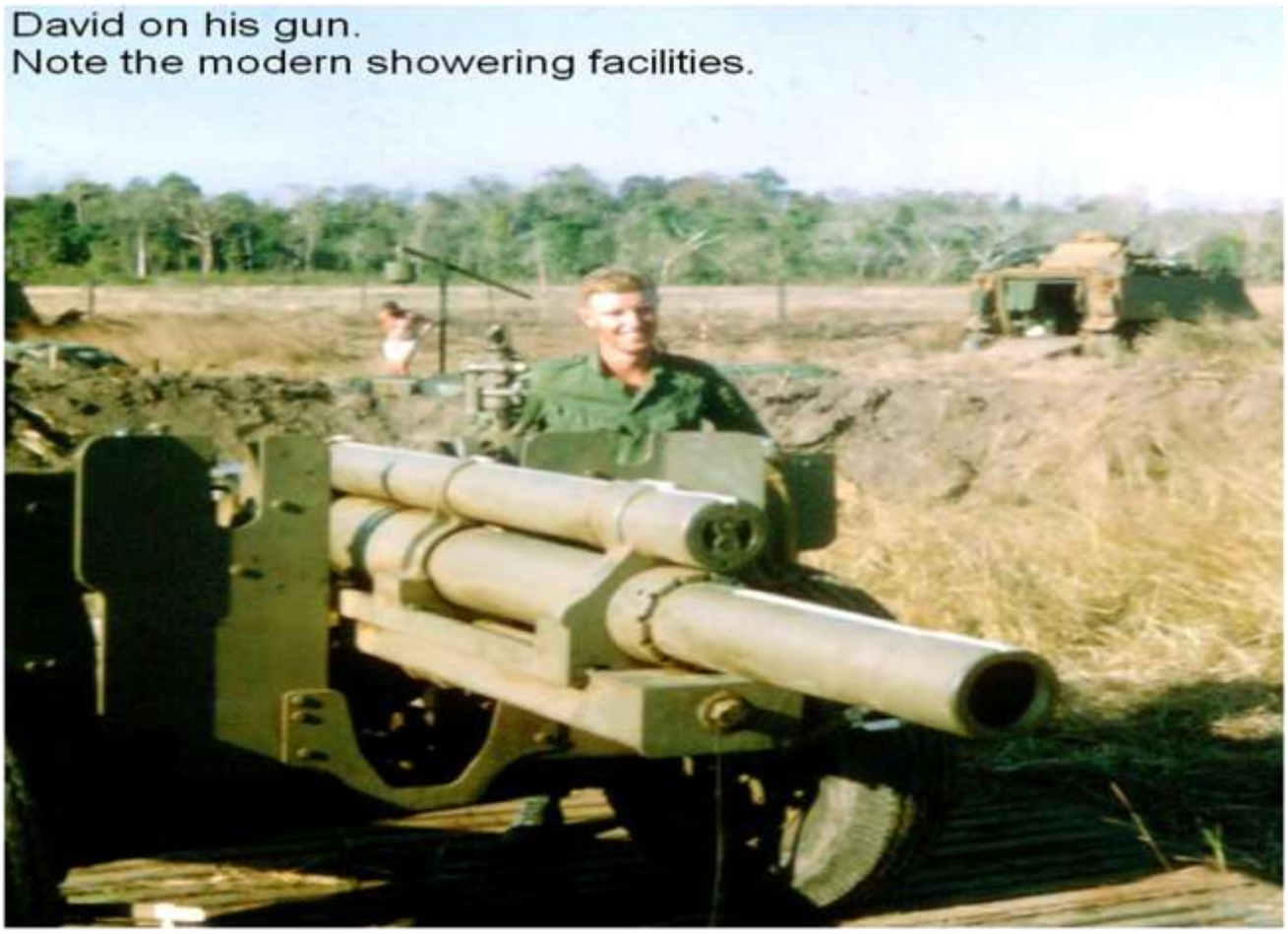
tions around the 3 gun section and held ground during the night. This did not mean we escaped doing our 2 hour machine gun piquets, but it was nice having them around. One of our bases actually had Centurions based with them for protection. On a couple of occasions, FSB Ziggie and Pamela, we formed the bases with HQ's 3RAR and had the mortars and a company of infantry with us as well.

Life at a FSB was busy, we had plenty to do, maintenance, defensive tasks, 2 hour nightly piquet's on the machine gun, listening posts where we would go out 400-500 yards out and sit in the jungle being the eyes for the Bty, we did this for 4-6 hours at a time sometimes by yourself and then someone came out to relieve you. Early starts to the day, stand-to followed by cleaning, eating etc

and then into day routine. After about 5 days we were able to erect a shower point and that first shower after 5 days or so was just what was called for. I recall having a shower late one afternoon at FSB Centenary just north of a village called Xuyan Moc, east of Nui Dat. We were operating in a "free zone" which meant that local villagers could go past the base during day light hours. It was time for the locals to return from the fields they tendered during the day and unknown to me the ladies returning before curfew lined up on our wire to watch this white skinned red haired Australian having a shower to wash off the dirt of the day or week. I do not recall caring too much it was such a refreshing "cold shower".

Mum's fruit cakes went down well and gunners from the other guns always knew when "gibbo had a cake from home". My mother and Aunty sent Peter and me a cake every fortnight or so, those little comforts from home helped. I always shared my cake with the three guns and command post guys but kept the "lollies" for myself. Out at FSB Ziggie my mate had a "UD" with the machine gun, just fired off one round but it went out where I was replacing a detonator in a claymore mine and just missed my left ear. My ear was ringing for hours afterwards. Cost him $40 and a charge. My brother was at Van Kiep with the Americans and his Officer told him he had heard that "your brother was very lucky today". Peter came out to the FSB's once or twice as a "shot gun" on ammunition convoys. It was very rare that I got to see him but we did catch up once or twice when we were both back in at Nui Dat.

On one occasion I was on a helicopter with members of my detachment going out to build a new FSB. The chopper was loaded and we were sitting on ammunition boxes when the chopper veered to the right to engage what the pilot thought were some enemy soldiers on the ground. As it turned to the right our gun rule and a ration "hot box" slid past me out of the side of the chopper. I thought I was going as well until the door gunner grabbed my pack and held me firmly until the chopper righted itself. Pity, we could replace the gun rule once we got to the new FSB but the "hot box" was full of "goffers" (Coke and Fanta) and we had to wait a few days for our first resupply. Funny about "safety" once you got to Vietnam. On the numerous helicopter flights back in Australia in training you were strapped in and you had doors on the sides that were closed during the flight. Nothing



David on his gun.
Note the modern showering facilities.

like that in Vietnam, no safety belts, no doors, just hop in with all your gear and "hang on!" In March 1971 a mate and I were selected to go to Vung Tau (heaven) for our first R&C (rest in country). Our chopper ride back to Nui Dat was to be a long one as the pilots were to conduct a "recce" patrol for an upcoming SAS insertion so we were advised to sit on our flak jackets, just in case the chopper drew some enemy fire from the ground. Nothing happened but we got to see some of the most dense jungle areas I have ever seen, fancy patrolling in that!

Every three months or so soldiers from the Bty were given two days leave at Vung Tau on R&C. Here you stayed at the R&C Centre and during the day you were able to view the sites and take in the local delicacies! The Jade Bar comes into mind but I will leave that to another time. The first thing you tended to do was to have a steam bath to get the red dust out of the skin. Then off to the nearest bar and a couple or more grogs. The American beer was like soft drink so we went where we could get Australian beer when possible. The local brew was terrible. The young kids were everywhere asking to change money for you or showing you the next bar to go to. The speed they could get a watch off your wrist was unbelievable. We stayed together, visited and swam at the Badcoe Club and generally relaxed for 2 days before returning to Nui Dat then back out by helicopter to your FSB.

Saigon Guard

I was chosen to represent the Bty for a week long guard duty in Saigon where we would be responsible for guarding the hotel where Australian soldiers based in Saigon were billeted. Along with another good mate from the Bty we went into Saigon by truck and had a briefing session at Free World HQ's before commencing our duties. In an "it's a small world" incident the Army Officer doing the briefing was a former school mate who was at Sale High School with me and my brother, albeit 2 years ahead of us. He was a Nasho Officer who graduated from Scheyville OC Trg. We played football in the High School team with him. Our duties as guards required us to man the weapon pit 24 hours a day and to ensure no traffic parked within a certain area around the hotel. As luck had it one vehicle owner tested our resolve and defiantly parked his car nearby, with his finger in the air he ran off to the local cinema before he could be stopped. Our SGT radioed for the Bomb Disposal experts and the RAEME wrecker to come along and after a savaging from the bomb disposal experts the car was towed away. The local was not pleased when he came back to retrieve his car some hours later but he knew the rules and paid the price for his defying local orders and potentially placing us at a very high risk. After a day off where we downed a few beers with some "green berets" on leave in Saigon and had some exciting times with some locals it was back to Nui Dat and back to some normal routine.

Battle of Long Khan Province or "Operation Overlord"

In early June 1971 we went as a Bty to Long Khan Province for a Task Force Operation against enemy troops up on the northern border of our Province. This was the only time A Fd Bty served as a combined Bty at a FSB during our tour of duty. We moved out of Nui Dat very early, in total darkness and headed north for FSB Pamela. The locals knew we were on the move but as it was dark they were not sure what was going on, aiding our safe passage somewhat. Once we arrived it was full on, building, firing, total concentration. Our listening posts were doubled up, the area was decidedly unfriendly and I thought that you could literally "smell" the enemy. B Coy 3 RAR hit a bunker system late in the afternoon and all hell broke loose. We were firing all night as the "grunts" withdrew and prepared to assault the bunkers the next morning. Mid morning, we had been firing on and off for hours, we heard from our command post over our tannoy system that one of our young national service officers had been killed in the battle. We were shocked, we could not believe that this guy had been killed. He was a friendly and approachable officer and as a national serviceman we felt very close to him, he was one of us. Sadly it was his first time out with the Infantry, he was normally based with the guns. His BDR Peter (Bluey) Maher took over as FO and concentrated 3 gun batteries onto the targets being engaged, he was awarded the MM for his great efforts under very trying and hazardous conditions. Another mate, GNR Gus Kelly, was awarded an American Army bravery medal for his actions to recover the FO's body and for his efforts trying to save those onboard an RAAF helicopter later shot down, two RAAF pilots were killed. The second night out at Pamela an APC ambushed several NVA trying to

escape a few hundred yards out from our base and we all "stood to" for most of the night. 3 RAR HQ's were co-located with us so it was nice having some strength with us but having said that we were responsible for our own protection and for our part of the base perimeter. A day later we heard an almighty explosion just south of our base. Black smoke billowed into the sky. One of the APC's had been ambushed with an RPG and 7 Australian soldiers killed instantly. This was a costly operation. After 10 or so days it was over and back to Nui Dat for a few days before heading back out again returning the FSB Ziggie. Here we stayed for a further 6 weeks.

R&R

I was lucky to get 5 days R&R in Hong Kong and went with a friend from the Bty. We stayed in a hotel on Kowloon and saw the sites and enjoyed ourselves. On a shopping trip for stereo gear I introduced myself to an American actor who was standing in the shop waiting to be served. His name was Lee J. Cobb a well known character actor. He spoke to me for a few minutes and wished me well for my return to Vietnam. I recall two yanks also on R&R from Vietnam staying in the room next to me at our hotel. One night they invited me and my mate in for a few drinks and after about 4 bottles of whisky between about 8 of us I finally made it back to my room around 3 in the morning feeling a little worse for the experience. I am pretty sure they had some female friends there as well!! They were great guys and partied hard. Waiting at Hong Kong airport for the PAN AM flight back to Vietnam all the yanks wanted to buy our slouch hats. One Yank offered me $100 US for my hat so I regretted not bringing a couple of spares as I would have made some pocket money from them. Back to reality and a day after arriving back at Nui Dat it was on a chopper and back out to FSB Ziggie.

Centenary of A Fd Bty

On 1 Aug 1971 it was the 100th birthday of our unit, "A" Fd Bty. It is the Australian Army's oldest regular Army unit. One gun fired a salute and dignitaries came from everywhere. We sent a party back to Australia, Victoria Barracks in Sydney, where the Bty received the "Queens Banner" recognizing the service the Bty had given over the period of 100 years. I was very proud to be part of such an event and to be a member of such a "prestigious" unit. Unfortunately I copped "mess duties" that day so my celebrations were somewhat limited. A few days later we went out to build FSB Centenary, just north of Xuyen Moc. Within an hour of arriving we were called on to fire in support of a 3 RAR contact less than a mile away and over the next 5 weeks fired many times in support of the Bn. On our first night out a member of the local VC force surrendered to our FSB. After being searched and secured he was transported by APC into Xuyen Moc. My Bombardier, Dave Horne, told me to get my gear and guard the prisoner in the back of the APC and I did so with my rifle firmly in my hand and aimed at his stomach. He didn't get away from me. On returning to FSB Centenary we spotted a male civilian looking at the gun position from the jungle just to the north of our position. With me in the back we took off after him but lost him in the dense undergrowth. We arrived back to the base just on stand to at last light and slept a little uneasy that night just in case the "visitor" had other things on his mind for us that night.

Going Home

Out at FSB Centenary members of the 18th National Service Intake were called to pack up and get the next "chopper" back to Nui Dat. Out time was up and we were going home for discharge. After saying goodbye to our mates we boarded the choppers and headed back and started our RTA processes. The BTY NCO's and Officers at Nui Dat gave us a send off party and then it was back to Saigon and home.

We were pleased to be on our way but sad that our Bty mates were still in Vietnam and fighting the war. We arrived at Sydney airport at 2 in the morning with a plane load of soldiers returning home and with other Nasho's from our intake. We were told once home ditch your uniforms and dress in civilian clothing as protestors were targeting returned soldiers. We went to a mates place for a shower, coffee and breakfast before returning to the airport to catch our flight back to Melbourne. On arrival my family were all there, my brother and I were photographed by the Sun Newspaper and our photos appeared on the front page of the following morning's newspaper.

A week or so later we were at Watsonia Barracks getting ready for discharge from the Army. On a morning parade a young National Service RAAOC

Officer was inspecting the 100 or so troops, mostly nasho's, on parade. As he came onto me and a mate from A Bty he noticed our "left shoulder lanyards" and promptly added "get those lanyards onto the correct shoulder gunners!" We promptly replied like well oiled machines "no Sir, we are A Bty gunners!" A little confused he let us be but did apologize to us the next day. He must have read his Dress Manual overnight. He was correct as we were no longer with A Bty we should have had our lanyards on the right shoulder. We were not changing it for anyone. After final medicals and dentals, pay and the like that was it. 2 years were up and we were civilians again. No thank you, no farewells, no parades, no medals, just medically examined, paid off and that was it. A week later I was sitting behind a desk in my new public service position in St. Kilda Road and carrying on as if nothing had happened. My thoughts and mind were still in Vietnam and I found it very difficult to concentrate for the first few months and indeed years. About a fortnight after discharge an A Bty mate from QLD called me to tell me my original gun BDR in Vietnam had died of an illness contracted in Vietnam a few weeks earlier. He was flown home by the RAAF from Vietnam but died shortly after from his illness. He was a great guy and had a bed space in our barracks room at Lavarack Barracks in Townsville. In 1974 I was promoted to a job at Central Army Records Office and working with fellow veterans and ex-service personnel made life much easier, I felt I was home again. I retired as SO1 CARO at SCMA some 31 years later.

Welcome Home Reunion in 1987

In 1987 some Vietnam veterans organized a Welcome Home Parade in Sydney. Reluctant to go at first I decided at the last minute to attend. With my brother we attended the reunion for Artillery at the School of Artillery on the night before the parade. What a night, many of my "A" Fd Bty mates were there and relationships rekindled like it was only yesterday. We spoke the same language as we had done all those years earlier, we continued conversations we'd had 16 years before and laughed many of our cares away. It was great catching up with old mates. The parade the next day was just tremendous, the crowd was unbelievable and the banners from men and women our age who had been protestors against conscription and the war all those years earlier brought tears to our eyes and theirs. It was a great sensation and a healing time for all. We continue to see our mates all these years later. I organized an "A Bty" reunion in Sydney in 2001 and we had a tremendous turn up of veterans from our tour. We continue to this day with reunions around Australia every 3 years. I have a twin brother who served with me in Vi-

etnam with 12 Fd Regt but I have other "brothers" who I served with in A Bty as well.

CMF/ARES

I joined the CMF, 2 Bty, at Batman Avenue in February 1972, a few months after my return from Vietnam. As luck would have it I first came across Joe Monaghan who asked me if I had any previous Army service. On replying that I had just served with A Bty in Vietnam he said, "come with me". He opened a door to the AIG's Office and there sitting behind the desk was "Arthur Bretherton" my BSM from A Bty. The first words Arthur said to me were "get a haircut Gunner Gibson". I had no choice but to sign up and served another 8 years with the reserves. What a great time that was but that's another story. As luck would have it when I served at CARO (later SCMA) as a public servant I again came across Arthur Bretherton, by then a Major, who was posted to SCMA as SO2 RAA. I recall in his farewell speech at SCMA when he retired from the Army after 40 years service where he said that he had three Army postings that were "extra important" to him. One was as SO2 SCMA as the Career Advisor Artillery, the second was his time as the first non Infantry RSM at the RMC at Duntroon, but his most rewarding posting was his time as BSM of a Gun Bty on operations in Vietnam where he came across many fine soldiers and pointing to me said "including Mr Gibson there". I felt 10 feet tall!

In the book "The Battle of Long Tan" Lex McAuley noted "it should be remembered that the guns were either in action or on call for 24 hours of every day". He further noted that "the effort required of the individual Gunner was heavy and constant for the 365 days of his tour of duty in Vietnam".

Conclusion

Just simply, as the song says (I think) "I wouldn't have missed it for the world".

Thank you David (WO2 David Gibson Retd)

Submarine reporting in The Australian, 25 September 2013

On 25 September 2013, The Australian newspaper published two articles related to the condition of the Royal Australian Navy's Collins Class submarines. These articles were entitled "Secret Study Signals Sub Crisis" and "A Daunting Quest to save our Subs".

The Collins Class submarine remains one of the most capable conventional submarines in the world. It is operated by a dedicated and well trained team of officers and sailors. The boats themselves are subject to a rigorous safety and certification system which all involved in the submarine enterprise take very seriously.

The commentary in both articles was drawn from selected areas within an internal report prepared by the Defence Materiel Organisation which examined the feasibility of extending the life of the Collins Class submarine. The purpose of the report was to identify potential issues and risks that would need to be addressed to extend the life of the class. This is a common and normal process to be followed if consideration is being given to the life-extension of any system.

It was always expected that the report would identify systems that would require attention should a life extension be required. Many of these were already known and are or have been addressed in planned upgrades or through continuous improvement programs. As with any risk analysis a risk must first be identified before it can be assessed and determined whether controls will need to be put in place to manage the risk.

There has been significant improvement in submarine availability over the last 15 months. Our submarines have been busy operating domestically and as far afield as conducting exercises in Japan and Hawaii. This is a testament to the hard work being conducted by all members of the submarine enterprise involved in the sustainment of the Collins Class submarine.

SOME OTHER MILITARY REFLECTIONS

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

Rations, the cooking and eating thereof

Three meals a day

In my early "military" career with the Air Training Corps and then in National Service (98 days in camp) I was served three meals a day. If I had been in the UK, it might have been four with "tea" and then "supper" later in the evening. Using the RAAF messes in the ATC, I was used to having plates, cups and cutlery supplied. One could have been put on "slushie," but on the whole one ate almost like home and cleared one's plates to a specified table.

But the 1954 National Service experience was one of mess gear that had to be "sterilised" in the boiling water of the Sawyer stoves. I spent the first week of "nasho" chopping the wood and filling them up with water. The axe was blunt and the wood green. Getting the water to the boil was a challenge. But I think we had plates – plastic-type if I recall correctly.

The stomach of the army

An army is said to march on its stomach. Food and water are essentials. Neither horse nor man get far without food and fodder. If the enemy employed a "scorched earth" policy then the crusading force was often in dire straits.

In George Forty's *British Army Handbook, 1939 - 1945*, the writer gives the food consumption for the a (Welsh) Infantry Division during the 1944-45 operations in NW Europe. It consumed over 6 million rations—4.3 million field service rations and 1.7 million compos rations. "That meant transporting 14, 363 tons of food from the corps maintenance area to the divisional admin area for that one division alone, every man in the division eating 17 cwt of food (roughly fourteen times his own body weight) during the period of operations."

I can only recall one camp when the meals were not served on time and the day's exercise commenced on empty stomachs. The cadre staff adjutant on that occasion put on a brave face and exhorted us CMF officers to forget breakfast! But on the whole, I always ate well and the powers that be made sure that troops were "fed and watered"!

[1]Sutton Stroud, Glocs., UK, 2002

[2]Forty, *Ibid*., p 138

National Service

On the first day of National Service I found myself fighting the flies at the Dysart Siding where we were being issued with uniform and clothing. It was a very adequate hot meal but I think the flies won.

The army cooks catered well for us with three meals a day. The menu was written in chalk on a displayed board menu and, while there were was no choice, the scribe endeavoured to make the meal appear as appetising as possible. For instance, the vegetables included not just "potato," but "creamed potato"!

We sat at tables of eight. The task of one of the eight was to divide the butter ration into equal portions – an operation that was watched keenly by the other seven at the table. Pity help the cutter if he did not divide exactly. We would file past the large food containers and be served with a "dollop" of this or that. The plates were not china and perhaps not yet plastic but of a bakelite base.

In the field

Over the years in which I was in the CMF, there was a significant move from "heavy and durable" foodstuffs to "functional and light weight." "Rations," as they were delightfully called, would be trucked out to the rifle range or the place of activity in large, heavy, rectangular sealed containers. One had the feeling that they were constructed to withstand being dropped without a chute from an aircraft.

In addition to the mug and eating utensils (knife, fork and spoon), we were issued with two messing dixies, in to which the catering team would place our meal. There was even hot water for washing these items, but it was never boiling and by the end of the process it often resembled luke-warm "soup"!

The metal messing dixies never changed, but the army did introduce smaller light-weight sealed containers in which to transport the meals. On one occasion, the Q staff persuaded a helicopter pilot to bring out the lunch, which of course, was a

much more stable method than having the containers bounced about in the back of a 3-tonner. The sight of the truck was always welcome midday, particularly if it had arrived on time.

Troops could eat in their own muddle and dust or their officers could make sure that some steps were taken to improvise logs for seats and that very adequate sterilising hot water is available. I always aimed for this more agreeable situation.

[3]With their equally delightful abbreviation to "rats"

RAASC

The Royal Australian Army Service Corps (or "Rasc" or "Rascy"), in association with the Royal Australian Ordnance Corps, arranged for rations and for their preparation. Indents for camps or bivouacs would have to be put in well ahead of the event and, in accordance with the numbers expected, would result in the full range of conventional meats, vegetables and the like for issuing and cooking.

CMF camps or bivouacs

A unit could have its own cooks on establishment. Alternatively it could depend on "civilian" cooks. For many years in the fortnight camp I was used to a number of "civvies" being recruited to act as cooks, batmen and other roles.

The unit QM would "advertise" for civilians prior to a camp. One had the impression that at some street corner in the city, there would be a number of men waiting to be approached by the unit's Q staff. Having been signed on, a truck would bring these chaps to camp. Here they would be sorted into tasks and given some sort of protective dress – often an improvement on what they were wearing on arrival. Depending on their experience of cooking or waiting on tables they would be allocated between kitchens and messes. They were provided with accommodation away from the troops.

As the RQMS and his fellow BSMs ate in the Sergeants' Mess, that mess always had the pick of the civilian cooks; the Officers' Mess seemed to get the least able! Many "civvies" did not come up to requirements and were marched out of camp very early, they having been found to be unsuitable. Cooks, whether military or civilian, were never held in high esteem. This was a pity as they did have considerable skills and were essential to the whole operation.

Major Isherwood was a most competent member

Officers eating "in the field" improvising seating from blanket piles. Scene is Glen Nayook, Warragul, 1963, Q Bty, 15 Fd Regt, RAA. Capt Edwards, Lt Woods, Lt. Smith Capt Feeley, Lt. Wheller and Capt Perceval. (Photo – the author)

of the Australian Army Catering Corps and supervised many camps. Q Battery at Warragul was very fortunate to have the services of Sergeant Beales who could produce hot meals with the most meagre of equipment in all types of weather.

On entering camp

It was not that the Q people and cooks would not be able to provide the well-cooked food in reasonably appropriate conditions; it was that there were often delays in fitting out the eating halls. The orders would be for the troops to bring a cut lunch on the Saturday and then the evening meal would be army-supplied.

Another military colleague gave me some hints as to what might be done on the first day. This was to ensure that the kitchens were cooking for the right number by getting a copy of the parade state. The other was to get tables and forms FS or GS set up in the huts allocated for eating, and then to find tablecloths, salt and pepper shakers and the like. Sitting around on perhaps an unswept hut floor for the first meal was never a good start for the morale of the soldiers.

As a Battery Commander I would check with the orderly room as to how many gunners had been marched in to camp. I would then go to the kitchens and seek out the BQMS (and then later as CO, the RQMS) and compare my number with his. If there was an initial discrepancy it could lead to inadequate quantities of food early in the camp.

Another ploy was to ask to see the menu, which could often be a "quick fix" job if the kitchens were confident that no one would ask for the correct one. Unfortunately when rations appeared to be short, there were often suggestions that someone was selling them "over the fence."

By four or five in the afternoon of the first day in camp most of the officers might have gravitated to the Officers' Mess, sometimes forgetting about their troops or with confidence that the Orderly Officer and the BSMs were doing their jobs. I would frequently send a message to the mess requiring the officers under my command to report to the soldiers' lines. Here they would be required to assemble the tables and forms for seating, find and spread the table cloths, and make sure that butter and condiments were available. Once this procedure was established it never seemed to be a problem thereafter.

The Wiles Steam Cookers

A more than adequate account of the development of the Wiles Cooker can be found on its web page. It is provided by the son of the Mr. Wiles who developed the Wiles cooker in World War One and its subsequent acceptance and development in World War Two. Although phased out by 1980, I was fortunate to be in the CMF while sufficient numbers of both the four-wheel and two-wheel models were on issue. The advantages of the steam cookers were that they were hygienic, economical and compact. As food was steam-cooked, it was always palatable; it retained its goodness (as distinct from boiling it) and food was not burnt, especially stews and porridge. Memory is that they were wood fuelled, but I am sure there were oil-fuelled models as well.

Cook vocabulary

Quite apart from the sentence, "Who called the cook a bastard," and its variant, kitchen staff were clearly more competent in their trade than with the use of the English language. For many, the latter was simplified with the regular use of an adjective that seemed to fit all cases.

While in National Service, we "holier than thou" university students pointed this situation out to the "higher ups". There was then a parade of the battalion with the cooks marshalled in front. The CO then "told them good and proper" as to how to speak, while we all stood and smirked behind them. Of course our own speech was exemplary! Mind you, for the rest of the 98 days, the cooks hated us – but still did a very good job in the kitchens.

Ration packs

I cannot put a date on it, but there was a distinct move from fixed camps to "adventure" and camps of movement. I probably only need to mention "Lazarini Spur" to bring back some of them.

In addition to the efficiency of the Wiles cooker, the army developed ration packs. These came in various sizes. Probably the favourite was the "one man pack." The soldier now had his very own food and he knew that no one could over cook it or under cook it other than himself.

The pack came with a menu with the various items in their small packets adequately labelled. There were three variations of menu. A small folding

metal stove with hexamine tablets enabled the food to be heated as desired. It was quite a sight at the end of the day's training to see the battery personnel squatting near their little stoves with a blue flame and enjoying their meals.

The ten-man pack was obviously a larger package. It came in a very useful metal container, many of which ended up as waster paper baskets and the like. But with the increased number eating from the one pack, there was the possibility of jealousy and problems with the division of the items and how they should be prepared.

While I am sure that the tinned fruit, such as pineapple, was just as tasty as the commercial product, somehow part of the taste was lost through the use of khaki paper wrapping as distinct from the colourful and suggestive juicy temptations of commercial tins on sale in the shops. These of course were not as gross as recently introduced cigarette packets!

If I knew who wrote this I'd give then due credit

Courtesy WO2 Max Murray

The average Australian soldier is 19 years old…..he is a short haired, well-built lad who, under normal circumstances is considered by society as half man, half boy. Not yet dry behind the ears and just old enough to buy a round of drinks but old enough to die for his country – and for you. He's not particularly keen on hard work but he'd rather be grafting in Afghanistan than unemployed in Australia.

He recently left high school where he was probably an average student, played some form of sport, drove a ten year old rust bucket, and knew a girl that either broke up with him when he left, or swore to be waiting when he returns home. He moves easily to rock and roll, hip-hop or to the rattle of a machine gun.

He is about a stone lighter than when he left home because he is working or fighting from dawn to dusk and well beyond. He has trouble spelling, so letter writing is a pain for him, but he can strip a rifle in 25 seconds and reassemble it in the dark. He can recite every detail of a machine gun or grenade launcher and use either effectively if he has to. He digs trenches and latrines without the aid of machines and can apply first aid like a professional paramedic. He can march until he is told to stop, or stay dead still until he is told to move.

He obeys orders instantly and without hesitation but he is not without a rebellious spirit or a sense of personal dignity. He is confidently self-sufficient. He has two sets of uniform with him: he washes one and wears the other. He keeps his water bottle full and his feet dry. He sometimes forgets to brush his teeth, but never forgets to clean his rifle. He can cook his own meals, mend his own clothes and fix his own hurts. If you are thirsty, he'll share his water with you; if you are hungry, his food is your food. He'll even share his life-saving ammunition with you in the heat of a fire-fight if you run low.

He has learned to use his hands like weapons and regards his weapon as an extension of his own hands. He can save your life or he can take it, because that is his job – it's what a soldier does. He often works twice as long and hard as a civilian, draws half the pay and has nowhere to spend it, and can still find black ironic humour in it all. There's an old saying in the Australian Army: 'If you can't take a joke, you shouldn't have joined!'

He has seen more suffering and death than he should have in his short lifetime. He has wept in public and in private for friends who have fallen in combat and he is unashamed to show it or admit it. He feels every bugle note of the 'Last Post' or 'Reveille' vibrate through his body while standing rigidly to attention. He's not afraid to 'Bollock' anyone who shows disrespect when the Regimental Colours are on display or the National Anthem is played; yet in an odd twist, he would defend anyone's right to be an individual.

Just as with generations of young people before him, he is paying the price for our freedom. Clean shaven and baby faced he may be, but be prepared to defend yourself if you treat him like a kid.

He is the latest in a long thin line of Australian Fighting Men that have kept this country free for hundreds of years. He asks for nothing from us except our respect, friendship and understanding. You may not like what he does, but sometimes he doesn't like it either – he just has it to do.. Remember him always, for he has earned our respect and admiration……with his blood!!

Brothers By Choice - Duty First

Received the following from WO2 Craig Cooke. Thanks Craig. ed

Fortunately this aftermath report re Battle of Long Tan was never implemented, well at least not to the full extent.

Can't vouch for its accuracy but interesting reading.

The Battle of Long Tan – the aftermath

Version in our galaxy: On 18 August 1966 D/6RAR fought the battle that changed the balance of power in Phuoc Tuy Province and the region.

But in a galaxy not so far away…. 21 August 1966, Parliament House Canberra; the Senate.

A Greens senator suddenly shrieked, went into

hysterics and, sobbing and moaning, had to be carried from the chamber on a stretcher. Investigation showed the senator had a copy of a report on the Battle of Long Tan and when reading about the role of artillery in the battle, became distressed at the damage to the flora and fauna inflicted by the large number of shells expended, and the long-term effect on the environment around the site.

The ALP Opposition combined with the Greens, Democrats, independents and a few rebel Country Party representatives to demand an investigation into the effect of artillery on the environment. The Prime Minister stated that he had never been informed of the effect of artillery, but would not be unhappy to have artillery in his electorate however, ever-mindful of Australia's international position on preservation of the environment and desire for world peace, established a bi-partisan committee to investigate and report on the matter within a week.

28 August 1966. The 'Artillery Committee' tabled its report in Parliament. Artillery had been found to contribute to unacceptable levels of noise pollution, extensive damage to flora and fauna merely in getting into position to fire its big guns, and the big explosive shells caused huge damage and destruction by the effects of blast and shrapnel to the locations where the shells burst. Shrapnel was the subject of a supplementary report, in that much of the shell casing was converted into lumps of hot metal that were propelled over a large area, and merely left there. The committee unanimously recommended that this deplorable attitude to litter on the part of the Army be corrected without delay.

29 August 1966. The Prime Minister, Minister for the Army and Minister for Supply stated that they had never been informed of this aspect of artillery use, and that a parliamentary committee would call relevant senior officers to answer questions. The CGS issued a statement that he had been an Engineer and so always was employed on useful construction duties, but Director of Artillery (DArty) no doubt would be able to explain the matter.

30 August 1966. DArty informed the committee that Artillery understood the expense to the nation incurred in supply of the vehicles, guns and ammunition, and would much prefer to keep all this equipment in first-class condition in barracks rather than fire the guns and cause deterioration, wear and the cost of maintenance, but in a caring spirit of collaboration with fellow soldiers, really only ever fired big guns in response to a continuous stream of pleas from the Infantry, who seemed to want expensive shells fired at every opportunity. DArty said that infantry subalterns even requested the guns fire on selected geographical positions as an aid to cross-country navigation. (Greens senator collapsed on hearing this; adjournment while psychological assistance provided.)

DInf admitted that subalterns did sometimes call

for a round of artillery to fall at a location as an aid to navigation, but this was unofficial and could have been stopped by Artillery refusing to fire, though in his experience the gunners loved to fire, and no amount of practice seemed to improve their accuracy, for which they blamed all sorts of airy-fairy things collectively titled ballistics.

Anyway, DInf went on, the infantry was very thoughtful and caring in its movements through and use of the environment, and every soldier was required to observe the 'burn, bash and bury' policy. The Greens senator had just returned to the room and again collapsed when this was explained. The Green/Democrat alliance issued a statement denouncing the widespread damage caused: 'burn' released noxious fumes which attacked the ozone layer, 'bash' ingrained the use of violence in the military; 'bury' disturbed the natural state of the ground and introduced foreign matter into it, so constituting a hazard to the normal life forms in the region.

2 September 1966. The Prime Minister announced that, after due consideration, the CGS had been instructed to disband the Artillery (RAA), but to replace it with the Arbour Service (AS); all the big guns would be sold for scrap; 50% of RAA vehicles and men would be transferred to AS and a nation-wide program of tree-planting employing AS would begin. Natural justice would be served in that the Infantry would search for, collect and arrange transport of all shrapnel previously scattered in training areas in Australia and overseas battle areas such as Long Tan. The establishments of Infantry, RAASC and RAAOC units would be increased to cope by absorbing the other 50% of RAA. The new corps badge would be a symbolic tree with 'Ubique' at the base, all surrounded by a floral wreath. Greens demanded that endangered species be included in the design. RSL national office announced that a Guard would be mounted on the gun outside every RSL to prevent removal.

DInf was reported as saying that the dogs of Australia would be glad of the extra trees, but this was later denied, and that DInf really had used military terminology and said that 'Foxhound' elements would be glad of the trees for camouflage and concealment. A spokesperson for the Greens/Democrats/Socialist collective said the trees were not for the use of soldiers, but peace-loving poets, students and workers and trade union picnic parties.

The Rats of Tobruk Association issued a statement saying that today's young soldiers knew nothing about fighting in a real war, and at Tobruk the Diggers did not need trees to hide behind when they gave old Rommel the fright of his life. No trees, a good field of fire and cold steel were the answers; the Association supported Artillery in all its forms and suggested Engineers be employed to remove trees to assist the Infantry.

Greens and Democrats announced they would go to South Vietnam to conduct an inventory of trees in Phuoc Tuy and would hold frequent inspections to check their continued survival. The Opposition urged that military maps include the locations of all endangered species and that all ranks be issued a copy before operations.

3 September 1966. The CGS called in his SO1 (Pers) and reminded him that this whole blasted business was caused by those fellows in D Company 6RAR, and to arrange for the D/6RAR officers and NCOs to be posted at once, unaccompanied, to that place in Tasmania where the boffins were researching field rations. The scientists had requested a detachment of 100 people of any

rank for two years to provide corporate continuity, and at the moment were about to begin testing something described as 'spicy prune omelette with castor oil dressing' as an answer to constipation in the field.

The mighty Ark Royal begins her final voyage...

heading to a Turkish shipyard to be turned into tin cans

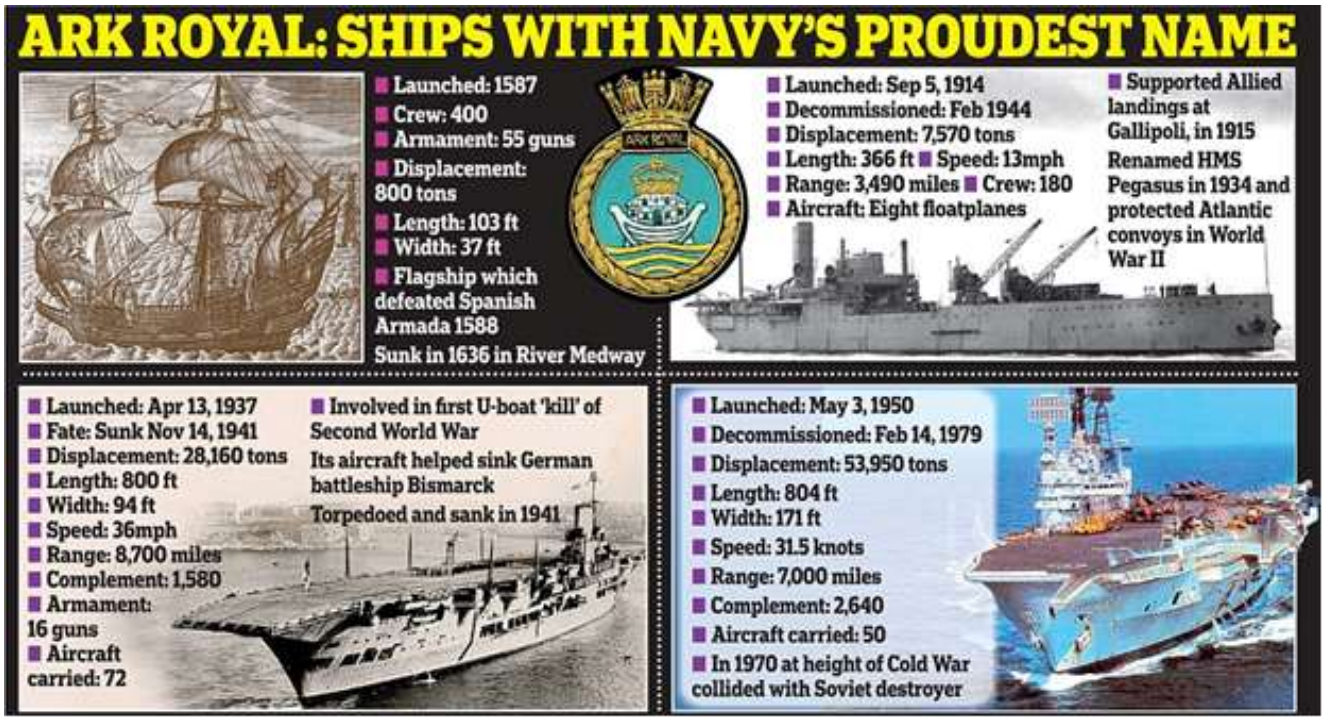
- Warship was sold to ship recycling firm Leyal for £2.9m and will be taken 2,000 miles to Turkey
- It led forces during the Iraq war invasion in 2003 and saw active service in Bosnia
- But it was scrapped by the Coalition in the 2010 Defence Review
- HMS Ark Royal cost £320million to build in 1981 and served her country for 30 years
- Plans to turn the ship into a museum, heliport, nightclub, school or casino fell by the wayside

Just for a moment, she still looked so proud.
The sun broke through briefly to illuminate her in the water, maintaining that air of might and majesty that only Britain's most famous warship could boast.
Yet this was the saddest day in the illustrious life of HMS Ark Royal. Her deck was stripped bare of aircraft and her hull was streaked with years of rust and neglect.

Final journey: HMS Ark Royal leaves Portsmouth for the last time yesterday bound for the Turkish scrap yard after plans to save the vessel failed. The warship, which was used in the 2003 invasion of Iraq, lies empty as it leaves .
HMS Ark Royal was the fifth ship to bear the same name when she was launched in 1981.

HMS ARK ROYAL: WARSHIP STATS

Weight: 22,000 tons
Power: Four Rolls Royce gas powered engines which produce 97,000 BHP
Cost: £320million
Length: 210metres
Conflicts: 2003 Iraq war and Bosnia
Launched: June 2, 1981
What happens to her now: Sold for scrap
Retirement date: 2016 (brought forward five years by the Coalition Government)
Motto: Zeal does not rest
Constructed: Swan Hunter's Dockyard, Newcastle
Aircraft: Can hold up to 24 planes



Salute: A small crowd gathers on the beach as the ship is towed away for the last time ready to be scrapped *Courtesy Ssgt Barry Irons*

In Afghanistan, we fought a smart war in dumb ways

JAMES BROWN
Lowy Institute military fellow and Afghanistan army veteran

AFGHANISTAN, AFGHANISTAN WAR, AUSTRALIANS IN AFGHANISTAN

When asked in a Lowy Institute poll earlier this year whether the 12-year-long war in Afghanistan had been worth it, 61% of Australians responded with a resounding no. Yet in two successive parliamentary debates on Afghanistan, all but a handful of politicians have argued that Australia's national interests were best secured by putting military lives on the line in Uruzgan. As Prime Minister Tony Abbott wound down the war with a visit yesterday, understanding this disconnect is critical to assessing Australia's performance.

Australia made the right decision to enter the Afghanistan war in 2001. The Taliban was running a safe haven for terrorist groups with a demonstrated intent to attack our allies and friends. Our principal security ally, the United States, judged that an invasion of Afghanistan was necessary to reduce this threat. In such circumstances, it was entirely correct to support this mission with our military forces.

But the mission changed, and as the US became preoccupied with Iraq, Australia's strategy in Afghanistan became less forthright. Once al-Qaeda was decimated in Afghanistan, and the threat of terrorism in Australia was reduced, Australian governments on both sides struggled to articulate why our military remained. At one stage we were there to reconstruct Uruzgan provinces, so ravaged by war. At another, we were part of a national effort to build a new and more sophisticated Afghan nation. At the end, our mission was simply to train our Afghan replacements.

In a newly released book, the commander of Australia's fourth Reconstruction Task Force in Afghanistan describes the impact this shifting strategy had on the soldiers fighting at the tactical level. Lieutenant Colonel Stuart Yeaman describes being given his mission by the Australian Defence Force's Headquarters Joint Operations Command only to find that it simply reiterated the title of his task force, despite there being little to reconstruct in Afghanistan's poorest province. In Lieutenant-Colonel Stuart Yeaman's words: "The disconnect between the planning of the mission as a reconstruction mission and the government rhetoric of preventing terrorism became a fundamental failing." He found "it seems impossible to link the improvements made to the Tarin Kowt Hospital with the aim to defeat Al Qaeda and the Taliban".

"Whatever tactical successes Australian soldiers were having on the ground were divorced from strategic perceptions."

Part of the problem is that over the decade of fighting in Afghanistan, the ADF seems to have forgotten many of the lessons of the East Timor conflict. Like finding a way to tell your story and get the media onside.

"Whatever tactical successes Australian soldiers were having on the ground were divorced from strategic perceptions."

In Afghanistan, winning on the ground matters much less then the broader perception of who is

winning on the ground. Australian soldiers fought this perception war with both hands tied behind their back. Lieutenant Colonel Yeaman describes media engagement as being "quite heavily censored by layers of approval processes in theatre and in Australia, which weakened or plainly stopped messages". In his view, the defence force had arrived at a Twitter fight with World War I media skills. By the time the Australian government had meticulously crafted vacuous operational updates and media releases, Taliban propagandists had already released three versions of their own story.

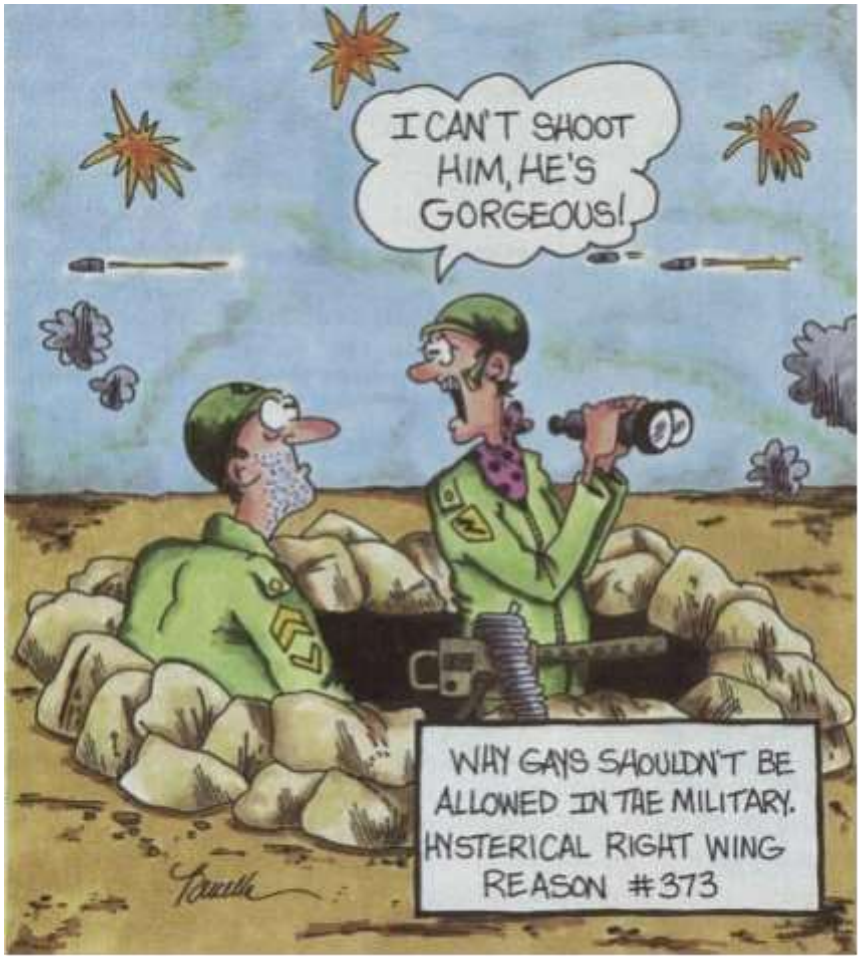
Whatever tactical successes Australian soldiers were having on the ground were divorced from strategic perceptions. Winning in the Chora Valley was irrelevant if Australians at home were already convinced we were losing. If successive governments have been unable to persuade Australians to support the war in Afghanistan, it is unsurprising that they struggled to gain the support of many Afghans.

A recently concluded review in the United Kingdom articulates that when politicians send their military to war, they must be better at making the case for their deployment or face ultimate mission failure. This lesson is yet to be learned in Australia. Knowledge of military strategy within the Australian Parliament is so low, it is bordering on being dangerously negligent.

But it has not all been in vain. A 30-year-old in Tarin Kowt in 2001 had no conception of what a local police chief was for. Now, we might not have developed a corruption-free police force in Uruzgan, but there is a functioning police chief. That's worth something for the Afghans, and for our soldiers.

The most important question to ask on Afghanistan is not should we have gone or left, but could we have fought a smarter war.

Courtesy Crikey, 29 Oct, '13



A MEMOIR OF MONASH UNIVERSITY REGIMENT-THE FIRST YEARS

Major Graeme Rees-Jones RFD ED (Retd)

Former Commanding Officer MONUR

Introduction

In the middle of 1968, I was happily commanding a Squadron at 4/19 Prince of Wales's Light Horse when "They" decided I should be appointed the OC of the new Monash University Company. I was to take over from Major Lance Reeder, who was the first OC after Capt Dennis Luttrell who had administered command whilst the unit was an Independent Company of the Melbourne University Regiment.

I knew from Lance that Monash University was anxious to have an Army unit affiliated with the University and that it not be connected to MUR. In those early days there was a strong desire to establish the independence of the new Monash University. I also knew that some of the senior staff at the University were men of military background wanting to perpetuate the name of Australia's most famous solider.

Assuming Command

So, with no great enthusiasm, I assumed command of the Company and made inquiries regarding its depot. My informant was an ARA W02 who volunteered to meet me to inspect the depot in Margaret Street, Huntingdale. On a cold, wet winter night I was taken to a large factory which was also used by B Coy of 5th Battalion - The Victorian Scottish Regiment. It was a large concrete floor building of about 1200 square metres, two storeys high and with several offices.

During that visit, I was told the miserable news that the strength of the unit was only 22, and that seemed to be something of a demotion because at the time I did not then appreciate the challenges ahead in those days of anti- Vietnam, anti-war, anti-army atmosphere. Probably there was no place in Melbourne where such antagonism was more evident than the campus of the Monash University.

Those problems were outlined by Lt Col Kevin Hill who was the S01 (Ops) at HQ 3 Division. Apart from warning me about various aspects such as protests, infiltration and security of depots and vehicles, he told me about one Albert Langer who was the President of the Monash University Labor Club. That club largely consisted of extreme left wing, dissident radicals. Langer was very active as the "front man" for the anti-war movement and was often in the media. Throughout my time at the Unit, there was continuous anti-war, anti-Vietnam, anti-Army activity and Monash University was a melting pot for student unrest and was considered to be the most radical campus in Australia. We were always on the alert for any activity against the Unit. I doubt however that Albert Langer ever knew how well we were prepared if he proposed any specific anti-unit activity.

First impressions

On my first parade night, I met my 2IC Captain Dennis Luttrell, who later became a Major General and Chief of Army Reserves. There was also Lieutenants Peter Tucker of RAA, Martin Souter and Ken Aldred. The CSM was W02 Ron Peacock and there were Sgts Chris Jessop and Tim Caffin. W02 Jim Morris and S/Sgt Gunson were the ARA staff. Interestingly, I was not given any written or verbal instructions concerning the role, aim or purpose of the unit. I assumed that it should be "like MUR" and I phoned the CO of MUR, Lt Col John McDonald, for a discussion. I then decided that all members of the unit should be treated as potential officer candidates until I decided otherwise and those not chosen would be given training in various roles such as administration, transport, signals or catering with activities which were as interesting and challenging as possible. The officer candidates would all undertake the Basic Infantry Officers course.

Growth

Within a short time, recruits were arriving and the strength of the Company was steadily increasing, probably because of the National Service conditions which exempted the members of the Citizen Forces (Navy, Army and Air Force Reserve) from full time service. As the unit grew, we needed more staff to operate, so I spread the word around 3 Division and asked selected people to transfer. I was quite adamant that the university students would not be trained only by University Regiment

staff as that seemed incestuous. I wanted staff from various Corps and units because of their wider experience and ability to assess potential officers for their own units.

I believed that the best recruiter was a happy solider who would tell his friends and encourage them to join. The basic ingredients being fun, challenging adventure; discipline and organisation; friendships and money.

Fortunately, in addition to my 2i/c Capt Luttrell, who was a very capable administrator, we had Capt Bob Freeland from Artillery, Capt Trevor Ashman and Lts Barry Coad and Windeyer and some NCOs, transferred from other units. We also had a Padre, Capt Allan Scott, who had been an officer in a Small Ships Sqn in the UK before immigrating to Australia and becoming a Minister in the Congregational Church. However I quickly gave him the role of being my "pseudo" Adjutant and was very grateful for his help.

Regimental Status

My empire grew rapidly, much to the amazement of higher Headquarters, if not to the envy of other units. Without warning, an ARAMajor phoned to say that he had been appointed to investigate the circumstances of Monash University Company but gave no further explanation. He even interviewed me in my office. I was a little curious and perturbed but some weeks later, he phoned to advise that he was recommending that the Company be "upgraded" to a Regiment with a full ARA Cadre staff, but commanded by a Major. Well did that surprise me! The unit became a Regiment on the 6th March 1970.

One of the benefits of being a Regiment, was the addition of an ARA Adjutant, Captain Eddie Williams who had been a W02 with 5 RAR in South Vietnam. This was his first appointment after promotion and first experience with the Army Reserve (or CMF as it was at the time).

Promise of New Premises

For some time, the Army had been planning to build a depot for the Unit on land at the apex of Dandenong and Wellington Roads which was a very visible location close to the University. Unwisely, a large billboard was erected on the site announcing the proposal to build the depot and, of course, predictably as soon as the board was erected it was demolished or vandalised and this happened half a dozen times. The promise of the new depot was being progressed to the extent that we were sent a set of plans and asked where we wanted the power points. However the pace of the anti-unit activity on campus was such that I informally advised OTG that the time was not right for progressing a building on any land near the University campus. Several years later the current depot in Whiton Street Mt Waverly (pictured) was built.

The Regimental Badge

Another big decision was required when the Unit was asked about its new badge. I remember arriving one evening and the 2i/c asked me for a decision. I said - "Put a crown on the University badge and the name of the Unit below like MUR". A very quick decision but that is how the MonUR badge was chosen.

Training Program

On the training side, I left that to the staff to plan and organise so the syllabus was worked out to accord with the University year. As in MUR, there was a 14 day continuous course before Christmas and a 3 week annual camp in January. Our second camp was conducted at the 22 RVR lines at Puckapunyal. 22 RVR was a special unit catering for those who could not attend their local unit depots.

We frequently used their facilities and were popular because I directed that the candidates for NCO promotion must attend as instructors during a 22 RVR camp before receiving their stripes. In that way, University students became accustomed to diggers from non-university units. A touch of the real army!

Campus Confrontation

I was always looking for ways to publicise the unit. Orientation Week in 1970 presented a good opportunity to "hit the headlines" because I knew that Albert Langer and the Labor Club would create a fuss and protest at anything we did. Accordingly, we organised a recruiting display of posters and weapons outside the Union Building which was manned by about 6 soldiers in uniform including Lt Peter Tucker, the RSM and others. However, the rest of the Unit were to be there in civvies'.

At about 1.30pm, Peter Tucker phoned me in my office and said - "It's on Sir!" He told me that there was a fracas, that some weapons had been stolen, that the Police were there and also the TV cameras. Apparently, some of the Labor Club members had bruised ribs from the butt of an M60. He asked for instructions and I said, "Hold your ground Peter, the reputation of our unit is at stake".

I phoned OTG at "Netherby" in Queens Road to report the event, expecting that Brigadier Buckler would order us to withdraw; however there was no answer so I phoned the S01 (Ops) at Headquarters 3 Division at "Grosvenor" and told him that unless ordered to withdraw I proposed to stay as it would otherwise be bad publicity and poor morale for the unit and the whole the of CMF. He phoned later and said that the event had been reported to higher HQ and, as I was the "man on the spot" I should make the decision. Well, that was either a very political or very brave decision showing trust in my judgement. I gave instructions to remain in place until 5pm. Thus, it might be said that MONUR was the only CMF unit to go to war on Australian soil.

Of course, there was much publicity; the weapons were later recovered by the Police and recruiting numbers improved considerably. That was stressed in my written report but amusingly, no senior officer every mentioned the event but the Unit prospered in numbers.

Relinquishing Command

In the middle of 1970, I reminded OTG that my two years of command would be up in November and I wanted to know whether my term would be extended. I had no optimism of that and wanted to return to 4/19 PWLH. Word eventually arrived in late October 1970 that I was to be posted to Headquarters 3 Division and seconded to HQ for Task Force as G2 Air. So I set about organising a Q stock -take, writing confidential reports and interviewing the officer cadets.

I planned a special event for my last parade - a briefing on the war in South Vietnam which was a brave move in view of the then current mood on campus but I wanted them to be correctly advised as soldiers and potential officers. I invited Colonel Keith Rossi, the Assistant Commander of OTG, to attend. The proceedings were tape recorded and I had notes of my speech because I expected that there may be some later criticism and enquiry but it eventuated that there was no cause for concern. The evening started with a presentation by a Captain from Intelligence who told the history and topography of South Vietnam. Someone gave the disposition of the American and Australian troops and the Adjutant, Captain Eddie Williams spoke of his experiences there. I then gave my final address. The night had been very successful and I was very pleased.

So ended my term of command at the Unit. It started with a strength of 22 and finished with about 250 during a period of considerable antagonism towards the military.

A Return Visit

I handed over to Lieutenant Colonel Graham Lockwood. After some time, he asked if I would bring some M113s to the depot for a demonstration. Of course I agreed and arranged for two Carriers and a Tracked Load Carrier from 4/19PWLH with crews to attend a particular parade night. I asked my driver if he knew where Monash University Regiment was and he said he did as he was a part time taxi driver.

So off we went from Park Street North Carlton and he chose a route through Malvern. Suddenly we were at the back gate of the University.

My first thought when confronted with the need for a quick decision, was to recall that we were on a public road. Secondly the University hierarchy would probably not object as they generally were supportive of the Unit. My third thought was that we were not committing any civil or military offence. On later reflection that was a lawyer-like approach and in the best traditions of a military QDE (Quick Decision Exercise).

Travelling around the Ring Road of the Clayton campus, we left by the front gate and headed to the MONUR depot in Margaret Street, Huntingdale. On arrival, we drove into the building and were warmly greeted. I quietly told the CO that we had arrived via the University campus and he appeared a little shocked, pale and incredulous. However it was an interesting visit during which we showed off the vehicles and explained the characteristics and uses. At the conclusion, one of the carriers did a neutral turn on its own axis leaving smoke and rubber marks on the concrete floor. I bowed, saluted, mounted the vehicle and we disappeared into the night back to North Carlton via a different route.

Next day, after contemplating those events, I phoned the Academic Registrar's Office of the University and spoke with Mr Jim Leicester, who also happened to be a Major in 4/19 PWLH. At first he thought I was joking but I suggested that he might advise Mr Jim Butchart, the Academic Registrar to warn him. Butchart was a WW2 officer and an ardent supporter of the Unit. I believe that there was some mirth amongst the senior University staff.

Conclusion

Writing this memoir 40 years after the events, and reflecting on the fact that MONUR has now merged back with MUR, I look back with some pride and satisfaction about the establishment of a new unit which rose from 22 to 250 in two years, the raising of the organisation to a Regiment, the recruiting of more staff, the provision of interesting and challenging training, the selection and training of officer cadets and above all, the high morale during a time of adverse attitude on campus and generally in the community. Those are pleasant memories.

About the Author

Graeme Rees Jones was conscripted in January 1955 and remained in the Citizen Military Forces (Army Reserve) after receiving a commission in 1956 whilst serving in MUR. He subsequently served in the 4119th Prince of Wales's Light Horse Regiment and held a number of regimental appointments including second-in-command (three times). He was the first Commanding Officer of the Monash University Regiment and also held Administrative Command of 4th19th PWLH from May to December 1977.

He graduated with a Bachelor of Laws from Melbourne University in 1961. He practiced as a Solicitor specialising in commercial and company law. He later became a Barrister and moved to Noosa in 1988 where he has been a legal consultant to the Noosa Shire Council. He was an member of the Defence Reserve Support Council and continues to be an active member of the Defence Reserves Association.

Courtesy of The Australian Reservist, Apr '13

ANOTHER ONE!!

On the morning of Saturday 26th October 2013, an Afghan National Security Force member opened fire on coalition soldiers during a meeting in the Qargha region of northern Afghanistan.

Australian soldiers rapidly responded to the threat and the ANSF soldier was shot. It is not known whether the Afghan soldier was killed in the incident.

As a result of the Afghan's attack, one soldier from the New Zealand Defence Force was wounded and one of the Australian soldiers providing force protection sustained minor fragmentation wounds.

The two wounded soldiers received immediate treatment at the location and were aero-medically evacuated to an ISAF facility for further treatment.

"It is impossible to completely remove the threat of insider attacks, but the actions of the ADF Force Protection soldiers demonstrate that our training and force protection techniques are appropriate and prepared to respond, when incidents such as this occur," he said.

Courtesy Defence Media

Father leads on memorial

Queensland Avenue of Honour recognises the sacrifices of Australian soldiers in Afghanistan

Reflection: Gordon Chuck, father of fallen commando Pte Ben Chuck, walks the Avenue of Honour he helped establish as a memorial to soldiers killed in Afghanistan. Photo by CpI Max Bree

LESS than 100 metres from where Pte Ben Chuck's memorial service was held, a monument to honour all those killed in Afghanistan was opened by CDF Gen David Hurley on June 22.

The Avenue of Honour follows part of the route Ben Chuck's gun carriage took before his service on the shore of Lake Tinaroo near Yungaburra in North Queensland.

Pte Chuck's father, Gordon, was the driving force behind building the memorial.

"This is not specifically about Ben but it is what Ben represents," he said.

"Those that have taken the fight to the enemy and those that haven't come home."

The original idea was to create a living memorial with a tree planted for each fallen soldier but things soon got bigger.

A metal monument with wings stands near plaques bearing names of the fallen as tree-lined paths spear off in different directions.

The Illawarra Flame trees lining the avenue were especially chosen, according to Mr Chuck.

"They're native to here," he said. "They're called Illawarra Flame trees but these ones are actually a hybrid.

"They flower for three months of the year and they're in full bloom during Remembrance Day.

"Some people weren't sure about us having flame trees because they lose their leaves but that's the cycle of life.

"And when they lose their leaves they immediately begin to bloom."

The path is lined with plaques quoting military and political leaders on the work of soldiers overseas.

"They give an indication of what commanders thought of the Australian soldiers," he said.

"We need to make sure their commitment and sacrifice is never forgotten.

"It's about reminding people there is still a price to be paid, there are still men dying for all of those things we hold so dear."

Several metal benches also line the path and military working dogs killed on deployment are honoured with a small monument of their own.

Despite the opening being a military affair, the then Prime Minister and opposition leader joined senior Army leaders in Pte Chuck's hometown for the avenue's opening.

"To have the political and military leaders here is a mark of respect for the ADF and significantly for the forces that are serving in Afghanistan and Australia's regard for the digger," Mr Chuck said.

Though his wife was having a tough time during the weekend of the opening, Mr Chuck said she liked the outpouring of support.

"I think she finds it quite uplifting," he said.

"You never get over losing a son at war but I do think you learn to live with that hole in your heart and if you fill it with something positive it's a lot more bearable."

Mr Chuck believed his son would be proud of the avenue.

"I reckon he'd think it's awesome," he said.

"The guys there are not ones to look for praise or attention; never were and probably never will be.

"But I do believe he and his mates would be pretty chuffed with what's been done here."

Tribute from stranger to fallen hero

AMONG graves marking just a fraction of the millions mown down in the horrors of the First World War, one story sums up the respect for a fallen generation.

A simple typed card lies by a soldier's headstone, placed there by a mystery stranger who travelled hundreds of miles to deliver a poignant tribute.

The visitor to Lance Corporal William Buckley's grave was not even a relative but had stumbled across his Bible in a bookshop.

They realised William was in their great-grandfather's Cheshire Regiment and both had lived in the Tameside area of what is now Greater Manchester.

Their research discovered William died in Flanders in 1916. His grave is in Hyde Park Comer cemetery, close to the Belgian town of Ploegsteert, nicknamed Rug Street by soldiers. The message reads: "William, Killing time one slow Sunday while browsing through an antique bookshop I stumbled across your service Bible and old school dictionary.

"As I was then living a short distance from where you once had served in the Cheshires like my great grandfather, I bought them intending one day to find out what had become of you. I had hoped that like grandfather you had survived only to discover you had fallen at Plug Street. William, it's too late for us to know what kind of man you were and who has the right to judge anyway, but I hope your end when it came was swift and pain less and your passing from the misery of that foul war was an easy one.

"So from one former Tamesider to another - rest in peace.

By Tod Jeory for the International Express 3/7/13

Courtesy Ssgt Ernie Paddon

Medically certified

Changes to training packages at the School of Health mean ADF medic qualifications are nationally recognised

Qualified: Front to back, CpI Richard Shultz, Pte Phumon Tasakoo and CpI Shaun Garritty are among medical trainees who will graduate from the Army School of Health with civilian recognised qualifications.
Photo by CpI Aaron Curran

ADF medics now earn recognised civilian qualifications in nursing and paramedicine and can work in civilian hospitals under changes to the ADF Medical Assistant Course.

All health personnel must now register with the Australian Health Practitioners Regulation Agency (AHPRA) before being able to undertake on-the-job training or employment in civilian hospitals.

ADF medics have not previously been registered with AHPRA and have been largely restricted to working within Defence facilities.

Lead instructor at the Army School of Health, Capt Ian Clement, said before 2010 trainees were taught to a basic level and then returned to their parent units where they gained their on-the-job experience.

"This experience was limited to the treatment of ADF personnel only," Capt Clement said.

Last year medical assistant training underwent a significant transformation to enable outplacement in civilian facilities.

Instead of a number of different phases to training, medics now complete one combined course at the Army School of Health in a triservice environment.

"With medics now receiving the nationally recognised civilian qualifications, they are sent out to

the civilian hospitals to gain experience," he said.

The new course is challenging and slightly longer than previous training but is delivered at a recognised tertiary level. Medics who complete the ADF Medical Assistants Course will have civilian-recognised qualifications in both enrolled nursing and paramedicine.

"The medics will now have a more rounded and comprehensive skillset in both the hospital and pre-hospital settings," Capt Clement said.

"On deployments in non-warlike environments, the majority of medical assistance given is in the pre-hospital setting.

"The addition of the paramedical training will allow the civilian recipients of medical care some peace of mind and increased trust that they are receiving care from highly trained and nationally endorsed medics," he said.

"On deployments in warlike environments, medics could be employed in either pre-hospital or hospital arenas. Graduates from the new training continuum will be equally skilled to work effectively in both settings."

Within the current construct of the medics' course, the training and instruc-tion has been modularised. The final module of delivery is module seven. This will be three weeks in length and is yet to be fully developed and endorsed across the three services.

This module will contextualise the training received and be orientated towards Defence-specific capabilities. Training will remain triservice until graduation.

On graduating, medics will continue their service-specific training.

Victoria Cross recipient, Corporal Ben Roberts-Smith, VC, MG has today announced that after 17 years of service with the Australian Regular Army, he is transferring to the Army Reserve.

Corporal Roberts-Smith, of the Special Air Service Regiment (SASR), made the decision to transfer to the Army Reserve to focus on further education, and will commence a Master of Business Administration part-time at the University of Queensland in 2014.

"It has been a great honour to serve my country for the last 17 years," Corporal Roberts-Smith said.

"I have been extremely privileged to serve alongside some of the best men and woman in Australia.

"My time within the Special Air Service Regiment has been the highlight of my military career and I will always look back on my service without regret, and proud to be able to count myself among their number."

"Having been fortunate enough to achieve my goals within Defence, I have decided that now is the right time to pursue other opportunities including further education, which is something I have always been keen to do.

"I look forward to continuing to serve in the Army Reserve and to supporting our servicemen and women, their families and the wider Defence community.

"I would like to thank the Army and the Australian Defence Force for the opportunities this career has given me; and the Australian public for their support over the past few years.

"Most of all I would like to thank my wife Emma and our daughters Eve and Elizabeth; none of the experiences I have had would have been possible without their support."

Corporal Roberts-Smith, the

98th Australian recipient of the Victoria Cross, will continue to undertake representational duties at official events, however will scale back these commitments to concentrate on his degree and to establish a civilian career.

The Chief of Army, Lieutenant General David Morrison, AO, today thanked Corporal Roberts-Smith for his 17 years service in the Regular Army.

"Ben represents the best of the Australian soldier and has been a wonderful ambassador for the Australian Army," Lieutenant General Morrison said.

"He has been a significant part of Army's contemporary history and since being awarded the Victoria Cross in 2011, is the ADF's most highly decorated serving member.

"Although he is leaving the Regular Army, Ben will always be part of the Army family and we look forward to his continued service in representational duties as a Victoria Cross recipient.

"The skills Ben will gain through civilian education and work interests will ultimately benefit himself, his family, the Army and the Australian community.

"On behalf of the Army, I thank Ben for his service, and his wife Emma and daughters Eve and Elizabeth for their support."

Commanding Officer of the SASR, Lieutenant Colonel G (identity protected), said Corporal Roberts-Smith's service reflected his commitment to the SASR.

"Corporal Ben Roberts-Smith has made a significant contribution to SASR capability since his selection in 2003," Lieutenant Colonel G said.

"For almost a decade he has faithfully served his country and the SASR in a period of continuous and unprecedented operational tempo.

"His awards for valour in Afghanistan are testament to his fierce determination and his absolute commitment to the profession of arms, in keeping with the SASR Ethos that all Regimental members uphold.

"On behalf of the unit, the Regimental Sergeant Major and I wish Ben, Emma and the girls all the best, as the family embarks on the next stage of life."

Corporal Roberts-Smith enlisted in the Australian Army on 11 November 1996 and was posted to 3rd Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment, before successfully completing the SASR selection course in 2003. Over the past decade with the SASR Corporal Roberts-Smith has deployed multiple times to South East Asia, Fiji, Iraq and Afghanistan.

For his actions carried out within Tizak, Afghanistan, he was invested by Her Excellency the Governor-General of Australia with the Victoria Cross for Australia on 23 January 2011.

Corporal Roberts-Smith is currently on long service leave from the Australian Army and is expected to transfer to the Army Reserve with effect from mid October. As a Reservist, he will be posted to Army Headquarters and will also maintain links to the SASR.

Corporal Roberts-Smith will continue to support the Defence community through a range of charitable roles including as Ambassador for the Special Air Service Resources Fund, Patron of the Australian Defence Force Theatre Project and Ambassador for the White Cloud Foundation.

For Corporal Roberts-Smith's personal biography and citation visit: http://www.defence.gov.au/special_events/roberts-smith/

For images of Corporal Roberts-Smith visit: http://images.defence.gov.au//fotoweb/

The Chief of the Defence Force, General David Hurley has confirmed the former Afghan National Army Sergeant accused of murdering three Australian soldiers in August 2012 is in custody in Afghanistan.

General Hurley said former Sergeant Hekmatullah was apprehended by Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) in Pakistan.

"Overnight, he was deported to Afghanistan where he is expected to face trial for the murder of Lance Corporal Stjepan 'Rick' Milosevic, Sapper James Martin and Private Robert Poate during an insider attack at Patrol Base Wahab in Afghanistan," General Hurley said.

Two other Australian soldiers were also wounded in this cowardly attack.

"We have been relentless and determined in our efforts to pursue those who have murdered and wounded our people.

A long time in the shadows

Shadow 200 team celebrates a major operational flying milestone in Afghanistan

Prepare for liftoff:

A Shadow 200 UAS is primed to launch on the cusp of the Australian contingent's 10,000th hour of operational flying.

Inset, Maj Dave Klomp heads the Shadow battery in Uruzgan province.

Photos by Bdr Carly McAllister

AUSTRALIAN personnel deployed with the third Shadow 200 Unmanned Aerial System (UAS) rotation in Afghanistan cel-ebrated 10,000 operational hours on September 22.

The Shadow 200 UAS has been launched more than 2300 times by 20 STA Regt personnel in Uruzgan province and achieved the historic operational milestone in just over 18 months.

Gunners from 131 Bty RAA along with Navy maintainers and image analysts from the Air Force's 1 Topographical Survey Sqn deployed to Tarin Kot in April.

Battery Commander Maj Dave Klomp said 10,000 operational hours was not just an achievement for those who had operated Shadow in Afghanistan but was celebrated as an achievement by the whole unit.

"For many of those who have served with the regiment it has been a challenging six years maintaining the training and developing the UAS capability, and for many of us there have been multiple deployments."

The Shadow 200 UAS carries a suite of sensors, including high reso-lution cameras, communications and laser systems, operating high above patrolling troops to provide detailed intelligence about ground activity.

Ground troops are able to view footage and data from the aircraft in real-time on ground terminals.

"As we are the last rotation to deploy, we will have the honour of bringing this equipment home," he said.

"For 20 STA Regt so much has changed and the employment of the UAS has matured.

"We expect a great deal from our personnel, which they are most certainly delivering."

Before their deployment, the ADF operators and maintainers attended five months of training conducted by the US Army's 2 Bn, 13 Avn Regt, at Fort Huachuca in Arizona.

Bdr Carly McAllister, of 20 STA Regt, has been with the regiment since 2008 and was the mission commander as Shadow's 10,000th hour ticked over.

"Having previously deployed as an air vehicle operator with Scan Eagle in 2009,1 felt very proud to be a part of this mile-stone in UAS operations in Afghanistan," she said.

"I am looking forward to safely bringing this kit home to Australia by the end of the year."

Parade Card
as at 1 March 2013
March 2013 to February 2014

January 2014	**May 2013**	**September 2013**
22. Cascabel Issue 118 posted	21. Committee Meeting	17. Committee Meeting
26. Australia day Salute		
	June 2013	**October 2013**
February 2014	5. Reservist Luncheon	4. Gunner Dinner
18. Committee Meeting	18. Committee Meeting	9. Cascabel Issue 117 Posted
		15. Committee Meeting
March 2013	**July 2013**	
6. RAA Luncheon	7? Reserve Forces Day March	**November 2013**
19. Committee Meeting	9. Cascabel Issue 116 posted	7. Annual General Meeting
	16. Committee Meeting	8. Golf Day
April 2013		19. Committee Meeting
8. Cascabel Issue 115 posted	**August 2013**	
16. Committee Meeting	18. Church Parade. Healing the Wounds of War	**December 2013**
25. Anzac day	20. Committee Meeting	4. St Barbara's Day
? Visit to South Channel Fort		8. Annual Church Parade
		? 2/10 Bty Family Day
		11. Committee Meeting
Note: This Calender is subject to additions, alterations and deletions.		

Change of Personal Details

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

ROYAL AUSTRALIAN ARTILLERY ASSOCIATION (VIC) INC

12 Marida Court BERWICK VIC 3806

Reg No A13889Z

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