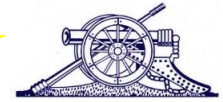


CASCABEL



*Newsletter
of the*

*Royal Australian Artillery
Association (Vic) Inc*

October

2020

Number 11

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ANOTHER FINE GROUP

It Makes You Wonder Why Their Dress is Called "UNIFORM"



From the President

Our President has been a very busy boy over the past few months assisting with the ADF and the Aged Care corona virus.

Due to Jason's work load, his report was a little late and is on page 7.

Editor

From The Secretary

As per my last submission to the magazine, there are the routine items of your secretary; correspondence, membership, electronic media and social activities.

Whilst there has been a lot of internal correspondence between the committee members on running the association, there has been little else, other than vale notices, coming in over the past three months. I continue to share relevant correspondence in the monthly email notices. If you have email and haven't received any email notices (last one sent on 26 Sept titled "RAA Association (Vic) - Monthly Updates") please contact me so we can check your email address.

Paul Heron continues to do a great job managing our membership. Our current membership is around 220. Paul has made a concerted effort to contact members (you may have received a birthday call or email) and chase up members that we've lost contact with.

We continue to maintain the website (<https://artilleryvic.org.au>) and facebook page ([https://www.facebook.com/groups/ArtilleryAssoc Victoria](https://www.facebook.com/groups/ArtilleryAssocVictoria)) with articles of interest to members and newsletters of other Artillery Associations around Australia.

Unfortunately there is a dearth of activities on the social calendar. Until we come out of lockdown, we can't plan for face-to-face activities. We're yet to hear any confirmation on whether there will be any St. Barbara's Day activities. Given that 2/10 Bty isn't parading, I expect there will be nothing formal.

The committee is also trying to figure out when, where and how we can run the 2020 AGM. The current lockdown restrictions limit what we can do, and we don't know what restrictions will be in place when we would normally hold the AGM. We will continue to update you as plans firm up.

As always, if there's anything the the Association can help you with, or if you have any comments or suggestions, please contact me at secretary@artilleryvic.org.au.

CAPT David Edwards



A Word From the Editor

Another quiet time with very little happening on the Association front.

As a word of explanation:

When I accepted the task of editing this Newsletter I said that I would format and edit it, but I did not want to be responsible for providing the content. This really means is that unless I receive items that can be used without re-typing – other than for formatting – they may not be able to be used.

I recently received items copied from other publications that were un-usable in their present form.

Copyright is also another consideration.

Now, having got all that out of the way, no final decisions have been made about any up-coming events due, of course, to future Government decisions about the virus.

RAA Luncheon 2021 – Second Reminder

It is hoped that the planned Luncheon will be able to be held.

Be sure to plan ahead to attend the next RAA Luncheon to be held (we hope) on the 3rd March 2021.

The flyer for timings and bookings will be in the next issue of Cascabel.

Membership Report

Hi to all members,
Hopefully everyone is surviving the lockdown and following the rules, ADF (or Ex) personnel are good at that, unlike some professions. I have been going through our list and contacting members to keep in touch, so, if you haven't heard from me yet, your day will come. After a life member audit, it was discovered we had misplaced two members who were not on our email list. They are LTCOL Carl Wood and BDR Bill Shepherd, apologies gents, now you will receive updates from us. We lost LBDR Klaus Heil to MND at a young age of 63, and another member was archived because he decided to not answer our letters to contact us.

Our current members are:
185 Paid Members
38 Affiliate Members

May I offer my best wishes and health for Christmas and the new year, that's if we are allowed out. Take care.

Ubique
Paul Heron

A Request to Aid Legacy from BRIG Doug Perry

As many of you may know, I am a Legatee, having been dragooned into service with Mornington Peninsula Legacy some 22 years ago, where I have been Treasurer, President and Secretary. It seemed to me to be an appropriate extension of my service to community after 33 years with the Army Reserve.

When I commenced we had 3400 Widows and dependents and now we are down to just on 1000. Whilst this may appear that we are on the "home stretch" nothing is further from reality. We have a

steady inflow from SVN and the number of disabled dependents remains quite high. In addition the demographic has also changed and our volunteer workforce has also altered significantly.

Legacy is somewhat unique in that we only conduct one formal fund raising event per year, in the first week of September, where our traditional mode of attack has been the sale of badges in the street and particularly in shopping malls and other places where there is a good traffic of shoppers.

The lockdown of Covert 19 has swept away our area of operations and we need to replenish our working fund by Click & Collect.

The aim for the Mornington Peninsula is \$50,000 and that works out to about \$1000 per Legatee

The bank details are
Mornington Peninsula Legacy (Fund raising account)
BSB 633 000
AC NO 164 131 369

If you require a receipt and/or a badge to display on your already decorated chest please email and I will organise postage

If you still have job or you are a self-funded retiree, try starting @\$20 otherwise \$10

P.S. I realise that some of you are already involved with Legacy and may be able to contribute elsewhere, however, I would prefer you gave to my lot.

Keep safe and be generous
Warmest regards
Doug Perry

FINDING GUNNER NORRIS

Story: Catherine McGregor

Submitted by WO2 Alan Halbish

Part 2 of 3

The men of 1 Field Regiment Royal Australian Artillery gathered behind their scarlet and blue banner. There were mixed emotions. Five years earlier, the welcome home parade in Sydney, at which 25,000 Vietnam veterans marched, had finally integrated these veterans of a divisive war into the pantheon of national heroes stretching back to Gallipoli.

On this crisp spring morning, all were struck by the beauty of the newly erected Vietnam Memorial. After the ceremony, most of the men walked the few hundred metres down Anzac

Parade to the Australian War Memorial to look at the names of their fallen mates.

It was retired Warrant Officer Paddy Durnford who noticed the aberration. Gunner Norris, who died in the early hours of August 17, 1966, was not listed anywhere on the wall. Durnford was puzzled. He had been in Vung Tau the night Norris was brought in by chopper. He'd never had reason to doubt the report that Norris had died as a result of his injuries. Durnford is still the archetypical career sergeant major, and his attention to detail and military protocol is impeccable. He was aghast that the sacrifice of one of the men of his regiment had been overlooked.

He began to make inquiries. Why wasn't Norris's name listed as killed in action? After all, he was included on the regiment's own memorial at its barracks in Wacol, Brisbane. He wanted the error at the more prestigious national memorial rectified immediately. But when Durnford contacted the Department of Veterans Affairs, his query was greeted with an answer the sergeant major could never have expected: Norris was not listed on the wall because Norris was not dead; he did not die of his wounds in Vietnam.

Despite insistence the gunner was still alive, the staff at DVA refused to release details about his whereabouts or condition.

Privacy regulations prevented it.

For Durnford, the news was startling. Fluctuating between hope and despair, he began a quest that would last 14 years; the quest to bring one of his men back into the fold. He could not have known then how many lives his actions would touch. Showing the same discipline and commitment to the task that characterised all his service, Durnford set about contacting veterans' care authorities. At times Durnford nearly gave up, the bureaucratic trail was so opaque. Although he could establish that Norris had spent several years in Sydney's Concord Repatriation Hospital following his return from Vietnam, his next location remained a mystery.

With hindsight, medic Mortimer believes he may have been the source of the inaccurate news that Norris had been killed in action. "He was taken back to 36 Evacuation Hospital (in Vung Tau)," he tells Inquirer. "It was run by the Yanks."

The day after Long Tan, Mortimer flew down to check on his men. He asked a surgeon in an Australian uniform how Norris was going and was told, "He is not going to make it." Mortimer then informed the unit. When the unit dispatched Norris's personal effects to his next of kin and removed his name from the unit roll, this would have seemed to confirm the news. But this is procedure for soldiers killed or sent home wounded.

Durnford finally tracked down Norris at a psychiatric hospital in Sydney's Rozelle. He had discovered the gunner had been moved there in 1970 when it became obvious his mental state was unlikely to improve markedly. The tenacious sergeant major, ever mindful of protocol, initiated contact by writing a letter to the hospital's associate professor in charge of psychogeriatric health, who in turn passed it to the nurse in charge of the ward on which Norris was a patient.

Sister Elizabeth Miles had been nursing Norris for more than a decade and had grown close to the injured soldier. She was impressed by the determination Durnford had shown in tracking his missing comrade and promptly telephoned him.

She told him that Norris was, indeed, a patient at Rozelle Hospital and had been in various brain injury wards there continuously since 1970. She assured him Norris was well cared for and explained that, although he had shown some improvement through the years, he was incapable of independent living.

Durnford arranged for members of the Granville Vietnam Veterans Association to visit, to let Norris know his mates had not forgotten him. One of those men was Barry Bannerman, who also served in 1 Field Regiment at Nui Dat and had been a class ahead of Norris at Granville High. He had heard the story of Gunner Norris and his death on the eve of the battle of Long Tan.

“I knew it was him because we had a passing acquaintance as far back as school, though you wouldn’t say we’d been close mates,” recalls Bannerman after meeting Norris again nearly 40 years later. “It was definitely Phil Norris. Sadly, his case was pretty hopeless because his memory was shot and he was pretty vague. But he loved the Parramatta Eels. That was one thing he was dead sure about, so Bob Gagan and I hit the club up for an official jumper and a scarf. He was really grateful for that. We used to drop in occasionally to see how he was going.”

Across time the veterans came to know Sister Miles and decided to invite her to represent Norris at the 40th commemoration of the battle, on August 18, 2006. She accepted the duty with pride.

The nursing sister revealed more of Norris’s story to Durnford. She told him that in his early medical notes there were references made by a social worker to a wife and infant daughter.

They had visited Norris for a few years, then the visits had suddenly stopped. Their whereabouts were unknown. His only visitors since then seemed to be his mother, Olive, and his brother, but both were now dead. What Miles had always wondered was, who was that little girl?

When the NSW government decided to close the Rozelle facility in 2007, it meant the relocation of the five repatriation patients to other nursing homes. This provided the catalyst for Miles to

search for any remaining family for her wounded veteran. After discussing it with Norris and with the help of Durnford, Miles approached the Salvation Army tracing service. The organisation was able to track down a birth certificate in the name Mary Elizabeth Norris and, in turn, discover her marital name.

Miles was awarded the Order of Australia Medal in 2011 for her service to nursing. The veterans who know her believe she earned it for her fine care of Norris alone.

There was nothing remarkable about the letter that arrived for Mary Howell in September 2007. Howell lived with her husband of 18 years, Brad, and their three sons in Maitland, just north of Newcastle. She opened the letter absent-mindedly, curious about why she didn’t recognise the handwriting on the envelope.

The contents soon had her attention. Was she Mary Elizabeth Norris? Was her mother Maryanne Matthews? She was perplexed. Her mother Maryanne had died of cancer in 1997 and her father, Keith Brown, had died in 2001. What on earth was this about? Curiosity got the better of her and she called the number at the bottom of the note.

A really sweet man answered the phone,” Mary tells Inquirer. “He seemed very nice. As it turned out he was from the Salvation Army tracing service and he had been given my details by a group of men from the Vietnam Veterans Association.” When Howell asked why he had contacted her he was pleasant but direct: “Are your given names Mary Elizabeth? Was your mother Maryanne Brown nee Matthews?” Howell confirmed both details. The voice on the other end of the phone then told her he was in possession of her birth certificate. Still puzzled, Howell answered, “Sure. But how can I help you?” “Your dad wants to meet you,” he said.

Part Three will be in Newsletter Number 12

THE RESTORATION OF “THE WERRIBEE GUN”
12-Pounder 8 Cwt RBL (Armstrong) Gun Serial Number 370
Submitted by CAPT (LF) Allen Sterling JP Commanding Officer Werribee Half Battery

The article has been published in full on the RAAHC website and also may be accessed with link <http://artilleryvic.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/The-restoration-of-Armstrong-370.pdf>



Bill Stuart and Bill Knight, volunteer carpenters with the RAAHC assist with the off-loading of the barrel No 370 at North Head, 2012. Photo: K. Browning



View of the breech, elevation and traversing mechanism with azimuth nut.

Understanding The Army Structure

The Australian Army at a Glance

A friend once told me that he did not understand the Army System.

Dumb civilian, I said to myself, but I said to him, “The system is really quite simple.”

All people in the Army are soldiers. All privates are soldiers, but all soldiers are not privates. Some are officers who are commissioned. But some are officers who are not commissioned.. These officers are Non-Commissioned Officers (NCO’s) or Warrant Officers Class 1 or Class 2(WO1 or WO2). WO1 is senior to WO2.

Obviously if every private was called “private” it would be confusing, so some privates are called “trooper”, “gunner”, “craftsman”, “sapper” and many more depending upon the “corps” to which they belong.

Also, for example, all gunners do not fire guns. They may be signallers, observers, command post operators, etc. Others operate surveillance and tracking equipment.

All Gunners belong to the Artillery, but soldiers in other corps may operate a different type of gun and are called privates.

Lance Corporals and Corporals are called Corporal unless he/she is a Lance Bombardier or Bombardier. He/she is then called Bombardier. Corporals in the Artillery are called Bombardier.

All other ranks below WO2 are called by their rank.

WO2 and above are called Sir by ranks below them.

Some ranks are called by their posting.

Commanding Officer (CO), Battery Commander (BC), Company Sergeant Major (CSM), Regimental Sergeant Major (RSM), and many others depending upon their corps and posting.

The WO1’s or WO2’s who are sometimes called Sergeant Major are neither sergeants or majors

The Regimental Quartermaster Sergeant (RQMS) is usually a WO2.

The officer ranks of Lieutenant (LT) and Second Lieutenant (2LT) may be called Mister, but always have their rank when their name is written. 2LT is junior to LT.

A group of soldiers may be called Officers and Soldiers or Officers and other Ranks (OR’s).

Rank and file is used to describe the soldiers on parade excluding the officers, the senior non commissioned officers (SNCO's) and any other soldiers not on parade.

A large unit is called a Battalion, unless it is a Regiment.

The Artillery in Australia is not a Corps like Infantry, Armour, Engineers, Signals, Aviation, etc.

It is the Royal Regiment of Australian Artillery and encompasses all artillery in Australia (RRAA). It is more commonly known as the Royal Australian Artillery.

The RRAA is part of the world-wide Royal Artillery Regiment.

The individual artillery regiments such as 9 REGT are part of the RRAA.

It can be seen that the term Regiment needs to be used in context and has a number of meanings

There are also Armoured Regiments, Signals Regiments, Engineer Regiments and many others.

The Army is also arranged in Corps.

A corps can be a unit containing a number of divisions, which in turn are a number brigades, which in turn contain a number of battalions and regiments.

A Corps is the name given to soldiers usually with the same skills. Infantry (riflemen), Armour (tanks), Medical (doctors) etc.

As already mentioned, the Artillery is not a Corps. It is a Regiment.

These few words of explanation do not give any real detail of the Army Structure, but I hope they give some clarity to what is really a very simple and well thought out organisation.

From the President (From Page 2)

Fellow Gunners,

Well, we are almost there and hopefully by the time you are reading this, we have been released from our collective captivities and about to venture outdoors with more freedom than we have been allowed in the past 3 months.

The committee has continued to toil away in the background with regular committee meetings via video-conferencing and generally just getting on with business. We have been in contact with our national counterpart, the Royal Australian Artillery Historical Company regarding our 150th Birthday which occurs next year. If you are active on social media platforms you would have already seen a couple of national activities celebrating this tremendous event – our 150th Birthday.

If you haven't been online lately, I would encourage you to visit our website to get all the recent information as we do refresh it on a regular basis. As always, happy to receive feedback or suggestions so don't be shy in contacting us – www.artilleryvic.org.au.

As soon as we get more clarity about what life looks like beyond lockdown, the committee will announce a number of social events so we can renew our friendships face-to-face rather than video electronic platforms which quite frankly I think we are all sick and tired of using. Personally I looking forward to another "Reunion Lunch" at the Cranbourne RSL where we can get together and just enjoy each other's company.

Until then, take care, enjoy the Newsletter and contact us via email, website or Facebook.

Ubique,
Jason

PROGRAM OF EVENTS
OCTOBER 2020 – APRIL 2021

ALL Subject to Covid-19 Restrictions

October 6 Tuesday
Cascabel Issue Due

October 8 Thursday
Committee Meeting

1800 hr. Location to be decided

November 12 Thursday
Committee Meeting

1800 hr. Location to be decided

December 4 Friday
St Barbara's Day

All events beyond this date are yet to be finally decided. Decisions will be made when the virus restrictions are more stable.

2021

January 5 Tuesday
Final Day for Cascabel Items

January 12 Tuesday
Cascabel Issue Due

February 9 Thursday
Committee Meeting

1800 hr Location to be decided

March 3 Wednesday
RAA Luncheon ??

March 11 Thursday
Committee Meeting

1800 hr Location to be decided

March 25 Thursday
Final Day for Cascabel Items

April 1 Thursday
Cascabel Issue Due

April 8 Thursday
Committee Meeting

1800 hr. Location to be decided

ADVERTISERS' PAGE

Anyone who wishes can advertise their business on this page.

Cost: \$50 for 4 issues.

Colour advertisements are welcome.



**Geelong Insurance Brokers provide
Advice & arrange all types of insurance.
We also assist with claims
& any changes required during the year.
www.geelonginsurancebrokers.com.au**

**Call MAJ Don Shields (Retd) on 419 390 303
Email don@gibvic.com.au**

M777 Prints for Sale
From MAJ Gary Down (SO2 HOR)



As some of you may be aware, in May 2017 the Australian Artillery Association very kindly presented the RAA with a large oil painting of an M777 and detachment painted by Mr Phillip Pomroy. The painting now hangs in the School of Artillery.

A proposal was discussed at the Regimental Committee Meeting in Feb this year regarding prints of the painting, and it was agreed that there would be a run of 200 prints of which 50 would be numbered and signed by the artist.

The prints have now been produced and a low-resolution image is attached FYI. The only difference between the attached image and the hard-copy prints is that the prints have a 40mm white border for framing purposes.

The overall dimensions of the print are 672mm x 415mm.

The signed prints will be sold for \$100 each, and the unsigned prints for \$35 each. Additional unsigned copies can be printed if there is the demand.

Individual prints will be available for purchase in November and I would therefore be grateful if you would give this matter the widest distribution and place any orders through me gary.down@defence.gov.au 03 5735 6267.

MAJ Gary Down (SO2 HOR)

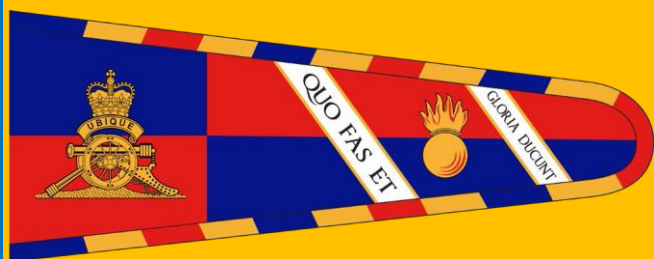
Australian Gunners

(Serving or Retired)



**YOU ARE INVITED
TO CELEBRATE THE**

150th Anniversary of Australian Artillery in 2021



Mark Your Diary National Events

Where: Canberra, Venues - RAA National Memorial & AWM

WHEN: SUNDAY 1ST AUGUST 2021

Where: Sydney, Venue - Victoria Barracks

WHEN: SATURDAY 6TH NOVEMBER 2021

Note: More detailed information including timings will be provided when available throughout 2020 and 2021

Unit & Association Events

Throughout 2021 as advertised by those individual coordinating organisations.

CANBERRA

1st August 2021

**Commemorative
Service at RAA
National Memorial**

Mount Pleasant

**Synchronised
National Ceremonial
Fire Plan**

**Mount Pleasant & all
RAA Unit Locations**

**Last Post Ceremony
Australian War
Memorial**

SYDNEY

6th November 2021

**Formal Parade & Drum
Head Service**

**Incorporating the
presentation of a new
Queen's Banner**

Followed by

**150th Cocktail Party
Victoria Barracks**

FURTHER INFORMATION

**Contact
RAA HOR Staff
via email at
raa.hor@defence.gov.au**

