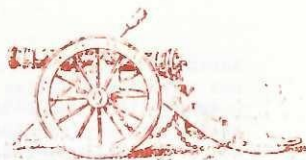


CASCABEL

Newsletter of the Royal Australian Artillery
Association (Victoria)



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NUMBER 10

OCTOBER 1986

THE PRESIDENT WRITES

Dear Member

Since the last issue of Cascabel in June we have enjoyed a number of occasions, some of which I designated as "most important" in my last report to you. They are now history and for those who did not attend I wish to say that each was a success in its own way and I regret that you could not have shared that success with us.

It was pleasing that there was a substantial increase in the numbers attending the Annual General Meeting this year. It was no warmer than during the previous year, but, having the business of the evening over, everyone present enjoyed the supper and other refreshment which was available.

As a result of that meeting the Association is proceeding with "Incorporation". The only changes to the draft Statement of Purposes and Rules circulated to members resulted in a member of the committee not being able to act as auditor, to ensure the auditors independence. The clauses affected were 35 and 39 and I would ask members to alter their copies accordingly. As a result of these changes David Osborne, a committee member, resigned as auditor and Tony Furze agreed to act in his place. You will all be informed when approval by the Attorney General and Minister for Defence has been given and the Association becomes an incorporated body.

There was very little change in the membership of the committee this year. From a personal point of view, I am very happy to be able to continue as your president for another twelve months. Also, I have to welcome Captain Tony Darlington to the committee. Being Adjutant of 2/15 Fd Regt, he has actually been with us since his appointment, quite a few months ago, but his membership has not been acknowledged prior to this point. SSGT Ernie Paddon joins us from the Dandenong battery. He is equally welcome and we look forward to his representation being an influence in his unit.

We have a well balanced committee and I wish to thank them also, for the good work put into the association during the year. It has been very enjoyable being together and when reviewing the years activities, there has been considerable organization carried out to keep our programme of events running smoothly. It has been performed with cheerfulness and good fellowship.

The Artillery Ball was both very well attended and a complete success. As a measure of its increasing popularity, I have been told that after last years increase in numbers, an upper limit had to be set on this years attendance. It was an exciting evening with the Band playing a great part as is usual, taking us through as an orchestra until it was time to go home.

Another excitement of the evening was the Australian win of the Commonwealth Games Marathon, which took place during the dinner session which preceeded the dancing. The winner was the grandson of our Patron, Brigadier Sir William Hall. Our sincere congratulations to "Deek" and to all concerned. A great win for Australia. We must thank also and congratulate the hardworking Ball Committee, who must feel satisfaction with the result of their efforts.

On Saturday 30 August, 23 Fd Bty at Frankston, held its Gunners Dinner, ably waited upon by the senior NCO's of the unit. It is events such as these which allow a little of the traditions of the Regiment to be passed on to the younger gunner, and appreciated as ever, by the older. It did one good to be among gunners observing mess traditions. These are important for they bring order to our lives, make our unit fellowship worthwhile and are enjoyed by all who take part.

Recently, - on 18 September - to be exact, association members visited the Proof and Experimental Establishment at Graytown. We are very much in debt to the OC and staff of this most interesting of units. The welcome which they extended was both warm and sincere. Four separate groups of members were expertly led by the Officer Commanding, Major Gary Berkley, WO1 Les Robinson (Master Gunner) WO2 Ian Warren (Range WO) and WO2 John Suthers (QMS) and what they disclosed held many surprises to most. One point stressed was that the unit "proved" weapons for all three services. Another, the intricacies of storing and maintaining ammunition over long periods of time. And too, randomly checking by firing representative samples which may have been stored anywhere in the Commonwealth. A very big and important work indeed! It was a pity the weather, which rained torrents between bursts of sunshine, and perhaps an inoperable crane, precluded the proof firing of a larger piece of ordnance but, hopefully we may be able to make a further visit to P & EE at Graytown some time in the future. Our sincere

thanks are due to Major Berkley and the members of his unit who so cheerfully looked after us so well.

Events to which we can look forward are set out in our Programme of Events. I wish to make mention of two. Nobody - but nobody - can organize a "Happy Hour" as do the personnel of 132 Div Loc Bty at Landcox Street Brighton. For those who have never attended - please come along and prove my words correct in every sense. To gunners all, the welcome mat will be out and you will indeed be welcomed. Make it a date - 21NOV86. No booking required - just turn up and enjoy a "Happy Hour" in gunner company.

St Barbara's Day: This important date on our Gunner Calendar is set for 7DEC86.

Details of both the Happy Hour and St Barbara's Day will be forwarded to members in early November.

I look forward to seeing a goodly number of members at either or both of the above dates!

My best wishes to all,

Norman Whitelaw

COMMAND APPOINTMENT

Congratulations to Colonel Doug Perry who is to be promoted to Brigadier and assume command of 4 BDE on 1 January 1987.

Colonel Perry is currently serving as CDA on the staff of HQ 3 DIV. During his career COL Perry has commanded both 2/15 Fd Regt and 132 Div Loc Bty.

Colonel Mike Vincent moves back into the chair he vacated two and a half years ago and will commence a second term as CDA in January of next year.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

For those not present at the Annual General Meeting the financial statements for the year ended 30 June, 1986 are presented for your information.

Income and Expenditure Statement
For the Year Ended 30 June 1986

Income

Subscriptions	\$1265.00
Term Deposit Interest	429.39
Bank Account Interest	17.48
Keycard Savings A/c Int	154.61
Sale - Corps Shop Items	19.10
Church Parade Luncheon	185.00
Queenscliff Visit	354.00
Donations	5.00
Visit - Ordnance Factory	
Bendigo	150.00
Deficit for year	94.74
	<u>\$2674.32</u>
	=====

Expenditure

Corps Shop Items	\$ 18.60
Church Parade Luncheon	237.85
Queenscliff Visit	560.00
Supper - AGM	152.00
Happy Hour	100.00
Associations Night	116.65
Young Officers Night	25.00
Bar Snacks - ANZAC Day	50.00
Visit - Ordnance Factory	
Bendigo	345.00
Presentations	133.05
Annual Awards	119.80
Printing	207.00
Registration Fee "Cascabel"	36.00
Associations Incorporation	
Act & Regulations	7.50
Postage	557.04
Bank Charges - Cheque A/c	8.35
Bank Charges Keycard A/c	.48
	<u>\$2674.32</u>
	=====

Balance Sheet

As At 30 June 1986

Members' Funds

Balance brought forward	\$5399.34
Less Deficit for year	94.74
	<u>\$5304.60</u>
	=====

Represented by:

Assets

Stock on Hand	
Corps Shop Items	\$ 178.00
Cash at Bank	374.97
Term Deposits	3500.00
Keycard Savings A/c	1604.13
	<u>5657.10</u>

Less Liabilities

Creditors	352.50
	<u>\$5304.60</u>
	=====

The financial statements as tabled were audited by MAJ D.J. Osborne F.C.A. and found to be a true and fair representation of the transactions recorded in the books of the Association.

A GLIMPSE AT A GUNNER OFFICER OF THE VICTORIAN ERA

Lieutenant Colonel William Henry Snee (c. 1832-1911)

Part 2

After the close of the Crimean War in March 1856 public interest in the Military Forces of the Colony of Victoria declined rapidly and also within these forces which were part-time, unpaid, and voluntarily recruited. Members themselves in some instances dropped out and the attendance of others became irregular. These two features of the time affected military training adversely. Because of a need to train an ever changing body of recruits this training rarely rose above the mechanical level of gun drill and dismounted drill.

But in situations of this kind, despite public indifference and government discouragement sometimes of a more active kind in the form of cuts in estimates, there is usually a hard core of officers and other ranks who "soldier on" in order to "hold the show" together until better times come. Snee was among those at this time who "soldiered on".

In August 1860 Lieutenant Snee became a full-time officer when he was appointed Acting Adjutant of the Royal Victoria Volunteer Artillery Regiment. At this time the Colony of Victoria did not have a Permanent Military Force. Therefore, Snee instead of being transferred to the P.M.F. and then attached to the R.V.V.A.R. for duty as an Acting Adjutant remained an officer of the R.V.V.A.R.

This Regiment would have consisted, in 1860, of all volunteer artillery corps in Victoria and these corps would of course have been located in different geographical areas. They were unified in the person of the

Commanding Officer who was located at RHQ with his Adjutant and such other ranks as the establishment provided for.

Snee presumably discharged his duties efficiently as Acting Adjutant of the R.V.V.A.R. for a notification gazetted in October 1860 confirmed his appointment in the post of Adjutant and promoted him to the rank of Captain to date 28 September 1860. The post of Adjutant is one with onerous responsibilities and they demand qualities and qualifications additional to those demanded in a good regimental Captain. He is the voice of the Commanding Officer in a regiment and orders issued by him are to be acted upon as if they had been issued by the Commanding Officer himself.

It is presumed that the R.V.V.A.R. was composed at this time of Field and Garrison Artillery and that Captain Snee's responsibilities as Adjutant of the R.V.V.A.R. covered both branches of Artillery.

The following Regimental Order, issued by Captain W.H. Snee, as Adjutant, on behalf of his CO was published in the Victoria Government Gazette, No 151, dated 27 November 1860 page 2273: and it indicates ways in which the R.V.V.A.R. was organized, administered and trained in 1860. These are matters of historical and professional interest today in our study of the military career of Lieutenant Colonel William Henry Snee.

REGIMENTAL ORDERS OF THE R.V.V.A.R.
Issued by Lieutenant Colonel
W.A.D. Anderson

In addition to local Company arrangements, the following provision has been made for drill at Prince's Bridge Barracks:-

Commanding Officer's quarterly parades on the first Thursday, Friday and Saturday of February, May, August and November.

Weekly drill on every Friday. Instruction drill on other days, as notified in Regimental Orders.

All communications intended for the Commanding Officer will be addressed to the Adjutant.

The Regiment being composed of District local companies, it is

notified that each company will be considered as a distinct corps, except when on parade together, and it will enjoy the provisions of the Act of Parliament as to officers etc.

Distinguishing badges will be worn by members who have passed in company and small arms drill, gun drill and promotion examinations.

In issuing the amended Rules to the Regiment, the Lieutenant Colonel draws particular attention to the provision made for the drill of the corps, and desires it to be understood that all members, whatever their private occupations may be, can be provided with instruction at such hours as will meet their convenience.

The system now introduced of badges will enable the corps to judge who have been most attentive to their duties, and the Commanding Officer will at a glance be prevented from placing incompetent persons in places for which they are not qualified.

By order.

WILLIAM HENRY SNEE,
Captain & Adjutant

Adjutant's Office
PRINCE'S BRIDGE BARRACKS,
29 October 1860.

Colonel George Dean Pitt of the British Army, who had been the Commandant of the Military Forces of the Colony of Victoria since 27 July 1859, relinquished this command in March 1862 in order to go on active service with the British Army to the war in New Zealand. He was succeeded by Captain Snee's Commanding Officer in the R.V.V.A.R., Colonel W.A.D. Anderson whose Headquarters had been at the New Barracks, Prince's Bridge. These Barracks were sometimes referred to as the Prince's Bridge Barracks. It is not known yet if or when they became known as Victoria Barracks, St Kilda Road, Melbourne. When Colonel Anderson became the Commandant of the Military Forces of the Colony of Victoria, succeeding Vice Colonel George Dean Pitt, his Headquarters, as Commandant, was located at 126 Bourke Street, Melbourne.

At this time the Headquarters of Captain Snee, as the full time

Adjutant of the R.V.V.A.R. was of course at the headquarters of the New Barracks.

On the subject of Adjutants, and their direction and control, Colonel Anderson gave some interesting evidence before a Select Committee of the Legislative Assembly of Victoria on 2 April 1862. It was on this day that Colonel Anderson had officially assumed command of the Colony's military forces. His examination that day by this Select Committee can best be narrated in the form of questions and answers as follows:

Q. Who are your staff officers?

A. My staff officers at present, properly speaking, are simply Captain C.H. Hall and Captain W.A. Dean Pitt, a brother of Colonel George Dean Pitt. I have applied to the Government to make the whole of the adjutants of the different corps, staff officers, in order that they may be available for duty wherever they are wanted. At present each adjutant holds a commission in the regiment to which he is attached, which I consider is highly objectional. I have applied to the Government to cancel their regimental commissions, and make these general staff appointments.

Q. Do you think that two adjutants might do all the work - one for the foot and one for the horse?

A. No, but I say that by making them simply staff officers I can avail myself of their services where they are wanted. I can send one of the cavalry adjutants up the country and can keep one in town, whereas now each belongs to his own corps.

Two months later Colonel Anderson's recommendation regarding the status of Adjutants of Corps was approved. Paid Adjutants ceased to be officers commissioned in the units of which they were Adjutants. These Adjutants were transferred to the General Staff of the Commandant and were then posted to the various units as attached officers in the appointment of Adjutant. These changes, which included Captain W.H. Snee also, became effective on 16 May 1862.

This General Staff, to which Captain W.H. Snee was appointed in May 1862 did not have the same meaning and functions as the General Staff which was first created in Australia when Colonel (later Major General Sir) W.T. Bridges, another Gunner officer, became Australia's first Chief of the General Staff on 1 January 1909. This General Staff of which Colonel Bridges became the head in 1909 was a technical term with a restricted meaning which need not concern us here. The General Staff, of which Colonel Anderson became the Head in 1862 and of which Captain Snee became an original member, was merely a body of officers on the Staff of the Commandant who were at his disposal for any general duties he allotted to them as staff officers.

To be continued in the next issue.

Major W. Perry MBE, ED

A SHORT HISTORY OF 132 DIV LOC BTY

On 21 November, 1955 MAJ J.A.R.K. Strong was appointed to command the newly raised Battery at Batman Avenue. (Those who are familiar with the Batman Avenue Depot will realize that the Gunners' Mess there is named the JARKS Club after this officer.)

At that time the unit consisted of 23 members one of whom, WO2 Jim Breeze, is still serving with the unit.

The unit quickly grew as NS members were transferred in together with personnel from the disbanding Anti Aircraft Units.

In 1957 the unit acquired a number of 3 MARK 7 aircraft tracking radars which were modified by members of the unit to locate mortars by the HTP plotting process.

In the early 1960s the Sound Ranging Section was disbanded and a Survey Troop and Artillery Counter Bombardment Office was raised.

In 1968 two more 3 MARK 7s were obtained, converted to mortar locating. The Radar Troop changed over to AN/KPQ1 in 1972 and was disbanded in 1975 when all the radars were centralised in NSW.

In recent times we have seen the

unit equipped with Hewlett Packard HP41CV calculators and new survey distance measuring Distomats. Every second year the unit exercises in the field, integrated with the other two Div Loc Btys, in an operational setting.

The unit at present is located at Brighton and consists of a Headquarters, a Survey Troop, a Met Section and a Technical Support Section together with a newly authorised Artillery Intelligence Office to be raised. The units main task is to provide Survey and Met support to the Gun Regiments in Victoria.

Diary Note: This years Association Happy Hour will be held at Landcox Street on the Batterys 31st Birthday! Come and help us celebrate! Details to be advised soon.

Major D.J. Osborne

HISTORY OF THE 155MM (6.1") GUN HOWITZER

Background

For the US Army the 155mm (6.1") Gun M1 was a long time coming.

The 155s history dates back to 1919 when the Westervelt Board (The Calibre Board) was formed. The Board recommended that the US Army should have a new and powerful 155mm gun to follow on from the M1918 then in service with the US Army.

The in service M1918 had one flaw - the guns were of French origin and this fact did not greatly please the Americans.

World War I

When the US entered WWI, their divisions were entirely infantry. For artillery the US had to adopt whatever they could obtain from the French or the British and consequently they procured a number of the famous French 75s (Model 1897F Gun) and also the 155mm GPF Long Range Gun. The GPF (Grand Puissance Filloux) means literally "Great Strength Filloux". Filloux relates to the designers name.

In 1918 the French 155 was regarded as one of the finest heavy guns of its calibre. The gun could fire a shell over 18380 metres

(20100 yds) and yet it was still a remarkably portable weapon and was easy to handle in battle.

The gun was ideal for counter-battery fire as well as for long range heavy support fire missions.

The 155s that the US received from the French became known as the M1917. The American produced version was known as the M1918 and differed in its design in order to suit American production methods. The Americans also produced a M1918A1 which incorporated additional modifications.

A few of the American M1918s reached France before 11 November, 1918 but the majority of the large numbers produced formed the nucleus of the US heavy artillery for many years after the war.

World War II

With the advent of WWII, the US once again found itself entering a major conflict deficient in heavy artillery. However, by 1940 the Americans had no less than 973 155mm guns of all types on hand - this figure was to increase even further by the following year.

The M1918 entered WWII but in time was replaced with the Gun M1 155mm with its modern stable carriage.

Many high ranking officers of the US Army took a long time to be persuaded that heavy artillery would be required in large numbers. However, once with the gunners the M1s proved to be an immediate success.

Long Tom

The M1 was soon given the nick-name of Long Tom. The name was very apt as the barrel was long and slender thus giving the gun a very distinctive appearance. The carriage itself did not meet with approval from the gunners because it was "something of a bastard" to move.

There were two types of limber devices used with the gun - the M2 and M5. The M5 used a rapid up and over lift arrangement which permitted quick use in action but was very dangerous to an untrained crew - therefore, BCs would order the M2 limber whenever possible. The split trails provided the top carriage with a wide arc of traverse

not less than 30 degrees could be traversed left and right of arc. Small changes in the firing angle didn't require the usual "heave-ho" whereas large changes in angles did.

After a period of time the Long Tom gradually moved into the European theatre during WWII via action in Italy.

In the UK the Long Tom was prepared for the invasion of Hitler's Fortress Europe on the beaches of Normandy on 6 June, 1944. However, in the US Army the Long Toms were already on active service.

By the middle of 1944 the Long Tom was to be found in service in both the Pacific and European theatres of operation.

The Long Tom provided sterling service and for a time was used by the British Royal Artillery Long Range Batteries and for a time by the Free French Forces.

The M1 Long Tom was also used as a self-propelled weapon. The gun was mounted in an open superstructure on a Sherman M4A3E8 tank chassis and became known as the M40. It was 1945 before the M40 went into production and so the majority of its service was in the post war period.

After 1945 the US Army underwent a major reshuffle and in the process the M1 and M2 guns became known as the M59.

The post war period saw the end of the limber devices and it was found that the guns could be pulled by a gun tractor without the aide of the limber in place.

Although, as a result of the fixed charges used it is now considered to be lacking in range and range flexibility, the Long Tom is still in service in many countries around the world today.

It is gradually being replaced by more modern guns but it will be some years before the Long Tom is replaced in such countries as Austria, Sth Korea, Taiwan and Turkey.

The Long Tom has proved itself to be an excellent weapon over a number of years.

Specifications:

Calibre: 155mm (6.1")

Length of Ordnance: 7.366mm
(24ft 2 in)

Weight: Travelling-

13880Kgs (30,600lbs)

In Action-

12600Kgs (27,778lbs)

Traverse: 60 degrees

M.V. 853 MPS (2800 ft per sec)

Max Range: 23221m (25,395 yds)

Shell Weight 42Kgs (92.6lbs)

M114A1 155mm Gun Howitzer

The M114 entered service in 1942.

It shared the same carriage as a 4.5" gun and these two equipments, which complimented each other tactically, were the US equivalent of the British 4.5" and 5.5" guns.

Over 6000 M114s were built and although the range was short for a weapon of the 155mm class, it was a robust piece of equipment which was widely used.

The barrel had no muzzle brake and the breech was of the interrupted screw type which was cartridge sealed. The gun had a variable length hydro-pneumatic recoil system, which was located over and under the barrel. The "O" ring at the front of the gun was the forward mounting for the horizontal spring equilibrators.

The ammunition was of the standard NATO types.

Rates of Fire:

4 rpm - burst rate

2 rpm - sustained rate.

It had a split trail configuration which was of the box girder welded section type. Removable spades were on the trails when travelling.

Vertical firing stresses are passed onto the firing jack, which could be folded forward when not in use.

A small shield is fitted either side of the barrel, the left hand top section could be folded down when direct laying was to be used.

The gun was air portable and could be lifted by a CH4Y helicopter.

Two variants of the M114 have been made: M123A1 and FH 155(L).

History of M198

Design work began on the M198 in 1968 at the Rock Island Arsenal. Two years later the first prototype was delivered for testing by the US Army. In all 10 prototypes were built under the designation XM198. After trials and modifications it was adopted as the M198 155mm (6.1")

gun howitzer. Full scale production finally commenced in 1978. Australia ordered 36 of these guns to replace the 5.52 gun.

The M198 is air portable.

Carriage: Split trail type and fitted with a two position rigid suspension. When firing, the platform is lowered under the forward part of the carriage and the wheels are raised.

Recoil System: Is of the hydropneumatic type with variable recoil length.

Cannon (Ordnance): The M198 has a double baffle muzzle brake, Thermal Warning Device, and an interrupted screw type breech.

Fire Control Equipment: The cradle has elevation/traverse handwheels. The upper carriage has the assembly cradle, equilibrators and recoil guides. The fire control equipment includes the M137 panoramic telescope, AM138 elbow telescope and two elevation quadrants.

The M198 does not have an auxillary motor like the FH70, or the Swedish FH77A and the French 155 towed gun howitzers.

Ammunition Types:

Remote Anti-Armour Mine System

HE M107, M449, and M483.

Area Denial Artillery Munition

High Explosive Rocket Assist

HERA M549

Rembass

Smoke

Jammer

Illuminating M118 and M485

Nuclear

Bombadier P. Dandy

COMMITTEE 1986/87

At the AGM on 24 July, 1986 the following members were elected to the committee:

President - Major Norman Whitelaw
589 3059

Vice President -

Major Peter Hemingway 233 2800
Secretary - Major Merv Taggart

598 8452
Treasurer - Captain Judith Davis
781 2445

Members:

LTCOL Des Cox 20 3196

MAJ David Osborne 787 7852

MAJ Warren Barnard 299 1352

CAPT Tony Darlington BH 697 3839

LT John Traill (056) 59 4237
WO2 Bob Armstrong (059) 79 1570
SSGT Ernie Paddon 763 5995

Contact numbers as shown are for home telephone except for Tony Darlington who can be contacted at 2/15 Fd Regt on the number given.

Correspondence should be addressed to:

RAA Association (Vic)
Artillery Depot
Batman Avenue
MELBOURNE. 3000

SUBSCRIPTION RECEIPTS

Receipts for membership subscriptions will be forwarded in the first scheduled mailing after payment.

Please Note:

Members are requested to advise the membership secretary (c/- Batman Avenue) of any change in personal details ie. changes of address, decorations etc.

CONTRIBUTIONS

Contributions for the next issue of Cascabel are requested to reach the Editor not later than FRI 19DEC86.

Please forward your article to:

"CASCABEL"

P.O. Box 449 FRANKSTON.3199

OR

c/- Artillery Depot, Batman Avenue,
MELBOURNE. 3000



(8)

"Yessir — Sunray is paying attention!"