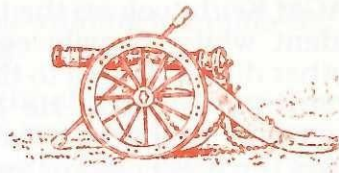


CASCABEL

Newsletter of

The ROYAL AUSTRALIAN ARTILLERY
ASSOCIATION (Victoria) INCORPORATED



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Number 30

October 1991

The President Writes:

As your new President let me open by thanking you the members for accepting me in this position. I look forward to a good year for the association for which a busy programme is already planned.

I also look forward to working with the other members of your committee in making those planned activities successful.

Already I have attended two functions which deserve a mention. The first was a visit to 2/10 Medium Regt at Puckapunyal on Sun 1st Sep. The Regt was taking part in a Brigade exercise and we were able to watch a direct fire, fire mission.

The Association was to have visited the unit in October but that date was not suitable and the CO suggested the earlier date as an alternative. Because of the short notice only a few of the committee were able to be warned out in time to attend. I apologise to those who may have wished to attend but there

was not time to contact everyone.

The other function mentioned was the Gunner Dinner in Brisbane held at Enogera on Sat 7th Sep. Mina and I together with Bob and Norma Splatt were in Brisbane for the christening of our grandson (Callum James Taggart) on Sunday 8th Sep.

Bob, Craig and I attended the Dinner which was held in one of the large camp messes. Being an all ranks function and having 1 Fd Regt based in the camp there was an attendance of 278 diners. I renewed my acquaintance with Rod Winchester and Paul Langdon who send their regards to members of 10 Mdm Regt and 132 Div Loc Bty respectively.

Several members attended a visit to P&EE Graytown on Thu 12 Sep. I was not able to attend but have heard good reports about it and expect that there will be a report also in this issue.

Before finishing this my first note to you it would be remiss of me if I did not note the service to the Association of my predecessor BRIG Keith Rossi. As I noted at the

AGM Keith took on the task of president whilst heavily committed to other duties related to the welfare of returned soldiers. He has been a tower of strength to the committee and the Association and I am sure you would all want me to thank him for his service and wish him well.

My best wishes.

Merv Taggart

.....ooOoo.....

ARTICLES SECTION

We commence this issue with an article from Major Gerry Butcher.

Next February marks the 50th anniversary of the first bombing of Darwin, an event which has been described as Australia's Pearl Harbour.

On the morning of 19 February 1942, 81 medium bombers, 71 divebombers and 36 Zero fighters from the Japanese aircraft carriers Akagi, Kaga, Soryu and Hiryu launched a surprise attack on the town and shipping in Darwin Harbour. A second raid was made on the same day against the RAAF base nearby.

On that day at least 243 people were killed, eight ships were sunk and another dozen were damaged.

Darwin was left heavily damaged and in chaos. Over the next 22 months Darwin and surrounding military installations were bombed a total of 64 times.

On a recent visit to Darwin I found that an important reminder of those dark days of 1942 and 1943 is a military museum at East Point overlooking the entrance to Darwin Harbour.

Upon arriving at the museum I became aware of a particular "gunner" emphasis. It was then that I discovered that the museum was established by the RAA Association of the Northern Territory.

It was opened to the public on 16 August 1969 and is open 7 days a week. The establishment and development of this museum is a result of many years of voluntary labour by members of the Association.

The museum is centered on 2 massive gun emplacements and a command post block house. The displays, whilst having an underlying theme of "the gunners", contain exhibits of varied wartime memorabilia.

In a theatre, a continuous audiovisual display recalls the bombing raids on Darwin. Nearby is an area containing equipment recovered from various wartime sites throughout the Northern Territory.

The recovery of material is an ongoing project of the Association. The emplacements once housed two 9.2 inch guns. These were large pieces of equipment as can be imagined from the following data:

Rotating weight of the gun: 150 tons.
Weight of barrel: 38 tons.
Maximum range: 30,000 yards.
Weight of shell: 380 pounds.
Maximum TOF: 74 seconds.
Ammo type: Semi-armour piercing, H.E.
Rate of fire: 3 rounds/minute.
Detachment size: 11 men.

The history of these guns is testament to an all too familiar pattern of government policy. In 1925 recommendations were made to establish a battery of 9.2" guns in Darwin for the protection of the harbour. Following the outbreak of war, approval was given in 1941 for the installation of the battery.

Despite the very real possibility of a Japanese invasion of Darwin, it was not until near the end of the war that 3 proof rounds were fired:

No 1 gun: 10 April 1944
No 2 gun: 23 March 1945.

These were the only rounds that these guns fired. The supreme irony is that the guns are no longer there. In 1959, a Japanese salvage firm arrived in Darwin to recover sunken shipping for scrap iron. It was decided that the guns should also be sold and both guns and associated equipment were cut up for scrap.

Fortunately the emplacements have survived in good condition and now provide the setting for the museum as well as occasional use as an amphitheatres.

On 19 February next Darwin will no doubt commemorate the

50th anniversary of that first bombing raid. There also appears to be little doubt that our fellow gunners of the RAA Association of the Northern Territory will play a major role in the commemoration, and an ongoing role in preserving Darwin's military history.

Thanks Gerry for this article - Editor

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- A Poem -

So you are going to leave us be razed to the ground
You'll leave those Gunners who in your grounds did abound
Leave behind a tradition that will surely be mourned
By an Army formation that was conceived and then spawned.

The lofty Drill Hall where many Gunners have stood
and listened intently to ensure they were good
Then went out and drilled and bellowed out loud
And after stood tall feeling tremendously proud.

The festivities in messes were sights to behold
With formal regalias the highlight so I'm told
Passing the Port without spilling a dram
Then finishing it off with Tea, Scones and Jam.

The final reunion will be a solemn affair
To those who attend and those who will

care
We will miss the old depot and all it stood for.

We toast you and extend our regards and respect
We'll meet you again in another aspect
But for now we salute you the pride of the Corps
And bid you farewell as we walk through the door.

SGT R.C. IBBOTT
355601

.....ooOOoo.....

DID YOU KNOW?

Arguably the most unusual "warship" in the world is the Swedish Navy's 250-tonne Sigrun, the world's only laundry ship, which makes the rounds of various isolated coastal defence installations to attend to the needs of their personnel.

.....ooOOoo.....

Can Anyone Help

Australian Soldiers Chapel Appeal.

The above appeal have sent a letter requesting possible donation of monies or memorabilia to support the Chapel to be built at Kapooka NSW.

Donations of inspirational memorabilia will however have a

charge levied against it, but the organisers feel that it would make the Chapel a focal point of training for recruits.

The Association will be making a small cash donation to this appeal.

If anyone is interested in obtaining further details, please contact:

R.A.F. McDonald
Chaplain (Captain)
Secretary
Australian Soldiers Chapel Appeal
1st Recruit Training Battalion
Blamey Barracks
Milpo
Kapooka NSW 2661

.....ooOOoo.....

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

It is with pleasure that we welcome two new members to the Association.

LtCol David Forster
Capt Jack Wegman

At the AGM in August members present set the subscriptions for next year.

Annual Membership \$8.00

Life Membership \$80.00

All annual members will find a renewal notice in this issue of CASCBEL. I ask that all concerned complete the form and return it to

me with the appropriate remittance promptly. Thank you for your co-operation in keeping administarative effort down.

One of our members, Lt A.R. Maguire's mail has been returned, marked "left address". If anyone knows of Alan's address please let me know.

Please let me know if you change address either by mail to P.O. Box 309 Frankston 3199 or by phone BH 781 2633 or AH 787 7852

David Osborne
Major
Membership Secretary

.....ooOOoo.....

ITEMS OF INTEREST

MUSEUM TRUST COMMITTEE

The Committee consists of members of the RAA Association and members of the 2/10 Medium Regt. It is chaired by the PMC of the Officers Mess of the REGT.

Since the trust was activated and the Committee established, all the property held in the RAA in Victoria, and to be used/displayed for the benefit of the Regiment, has been identified. The articles concerned are under the control of the various authorised messes in all cases, except in Colac where a

seperate Trust has been established to protect and preserve articles of signifigance to that area.

When the Regimental Headquarters moves to the Chapel Street depot, there will be an area set aside for conservation work and storage. It is the Museum Committee's intention to provide additional display in the new depot, so that there will be space for any further items of interest as they become available.

Accordingly, if anyone has articles, maps, papers,etc. which would be suitable for museum display, they are asked to contact the PMC of 2/10 Medium Regiment Officers Mess, who will arrange for their collection and subsequent display.

Items are acceptable to the trust by way of donation or loan and all donors/lenders will be acknowledged.

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If anyone is a former member (or knows someone who was) of the 53rd LAA Regt could they please contact Ronald G. Clark at ,

8 Eastern Avenue

Newborough East VIC 3895 or
phone 051 27 2071

.....ooOOoo.....

DID YOU KNOW? - part 2

A properly outfitted medieval knight was less burdened by his

armour than a modern infantryman by his full set of equipment. Though the knights armour might occasionally weigh as much as 45 kilograms, it was evenly distributed over his body, and he had a horse to help carry the load, while an infantryman's burden rests disproportionately between his shoulders, and he has only his legs to help carry it.

.....ooOOoo.....

ACTIVITIES REPORT

PAST ACTIVITIES

1991 AGM REPORT

Thirty-two members attended Batman Avenue Depot for our 14th AGM, probably the last one at that venue.

BRIG Keith Rossi reported on Association activities throughout the last year, and MAJ Mark dalla Costa filled us in on progress by the Museum Trust. Treasurer's and Membership reports are covered elsewhere.

LT COL David Forster spoke on the successful amalgamation of the two Victorian Regiments to form 2/10 Medium Regt, effective 31 Mar 91. Both 22 (105^{mm} How) and 38 (155^{mm} How) Batteries acquitted themselves well in this year's assessment. A variety of planned equipment changes was foreshad-

owed, as well as details of proposed training in the next year.

MAJ GEN John Stevenson congratulated the Regiment on a smooth amalgamation in spite of difficulties, and spoke on the North Head display and the RAA Regimental Committee formed during this year. He thanked Keith Rossi for his personal efforts on behalf of Artillery.

The following committee was elected unopposed:

Pres.	Maj Merv Taggart
Treas.	SSgt Reg Morrell
Vice Pres.	Maj Dave Osborne
Sec.	Maj Robin Smith
Members.	Maj Ross Peterken
	Maj David Morgan
	Maj Brian Jackson
	WO2 Garry Rolfe
	SSgt Brian Cleeman
	Sgt Steve Draper
	Bdr Brett McElholum

Our New President thanked Keith Rossi for his service to the Association, particularly his three year's as President.

The meeting ended with a fine supper and plenty of time to catch up with old friend's,

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BACK TO THE REGIMENT NIGHT

Another "Back to the Regiment Night" was held at the Batman Ave-

From all of the feedback, the evening was again a complete success, due possibly to the increase in attendance (total 133) - excellent company followed by a superb meal.

(A lot of the credit for the evening's success must go to Reg Morrell and his organising committee. - Thanks Reg. Editor)

.....

JOHN BELFIELD MUSEUM VISIT

On the 23rd June 91 several members of the Association braved the inclement weather and visited the John Belfield Museum at NarreWarren. John and his wife Pat both welcomed us with a hot brew and after a BBQ lunch, John took us on a guided tour of his museum, which consisted of a large under cover building housing numerous artillery weapons, armoured and military vehicles.

John was quick off the mark to demonstrate that his recovery vehicles were in good working order. Special thanks to John and Pat for an interesting and entertaining afternoon and the Association wish you luck in the running of the museum. I'm quite sure all the members would find your museum well worth the visit.

This visit was arranged at the last minute due to circumstances beyond the control of the committee. As a result, only a limited number of invitations were sent to those regular attenders to our visits. To anyone else who might have wished to attend but did not receive an invitation we extend our apologies.

On the 5th Sept 1991, nine members of the Association (Majors N. Whitelaw, F. Wood, P. Phillips, Capts N. Cathie, R. Parsons, WO2 T. Diggins, S/SGTs B. Cleeman, R. Morrell and SGT N. Morgan) attended at P&EE Graytown, where we were cordially welcomed by the OC Major Peter Veretennikof.

After an introduction film and morning tea, Capt Wardrop drove us to an experimental range to observe the proof testing of 105^{mm} rounds in the new Hamel Gun Barrel. At the next location, we were shown the ammunition preparation room where all their ammunition is categorized and prepared for firing.

After breathing in that fresh country air mixed with a touch of cordite, we sat down to an excellent lunch in their dining area. Although time was limited, we were soon on the move again to another venue where we witnessed the firing of the new 20^{mm} radar directed weapon called the "phalanx" which was being tested for the Navy and the Air Force.

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A very enjoyable and interesting day was had by all. A special thanks go to the staff of P&EE Graytown

.....ooOOoo.....

DID YOU KNOW (re-visited)

Those who were at this year's Ball will know the answer - Was there a Battery located at Collingwood? The answer is - Yes! not to discourage other football teams from playing at Victoria Park but to give the boys something to do on a Saturday night.

The Royal Victorian Volunteer Artillery Regiment - Collingwood Battery

The Collingwood Battery emerged but soon disappeared, during what must be the most confusing period of the Victorian Volunteers. Between 1860 and 1863, there were more units, corps or detachments than at any other time. In fact, in some suburbs both a rifle company and a battery of artillery existed - often it was the same men in both units.

In 1860, the Collingwood and Richmond Battery first appeared. However by the following year both suburbs had separate Batteries. The Collingwood Battery became No.6 of 11 batteries which made up the 1st Brigade of the the Royal

Victorian Volunteer Artillery Regiment. The Brigade had a combined strength of around 500 men.

During 1862, a major restructuring of the forces resulted in artillery being split into two Brigades. Collingwood Battery remained in the 1st Brigade but moved to No. 5. Nevertheless, by the end of 1863 the unit was disbanded and all volunteers discharged to make way for the introduction of the Effective System, which formed the basis of a more organised Victorian Defence Force.

Thanks to the 1991 Ball Committee for that bit of interesting artillery trivia - Editor

.....ooOOoo.....

FUTURE ACTIVITIES

Mark up your diaries now!

15th November - Happy Hour at the Geelong Depot

29th November - Farewell to Batman Avenue.

For details of the Farewell function see the inclusion. Details of the Happy Hour are not yet available.

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Springvale War Graves Remembrance Service.

The Annual RSL State Remembrance service will be conducted at the War Graves Cemetery, Springvale on the 3rd Nov 91, commencing at 2.30pm. The service is expected to conclude by 3.45pm.

Afternoon tea will be available at both Springvale and Waverley Sub-Branches for those attending. Any member of this Association requiring further details can contact either their Sub-Branch of the RSL or myself the editor, who has a copy of the full instruction.

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FROM THE EDITORS DESK

Included in this issue of CASCABEL are copies of the treasurer's report tabled at the AGM, your subscription renewal if you are an annual member, details of the Gunner Gathering and a copy of the Programme of events for 1991/92.

From time to time I will be including articles in CASCABEL that some may find too technical and/or boring, but I believe that this publication is the correct vehicle whereby some of the artillery skills and knowledge of the past is recorded for the future. It is very easy for this knowledge to be lost as the Army updates itself technologically and

PAMS and training manuals etc. are discarded.

In light of the fact that there is now only one Locating Battery left in the Australian Army, I will be publishing technical articles on Sound Ranging and Mortar locating RADARs in future issues.

Editor:

Ross Peterken

2 Milan St.

WANTIRNA 3152

Phone:

720 1757 AH

284 4606 BH

284 4702 FAX.

@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@

and finally -

KHAKI is a popular colour for military uniforms

..... its origin is a Hindi word KHAK meaning:

.....DUST.

RAA ASSOCIATION (VICTORIA) INCORPORATED

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 30TH JUNE 1991

MEMBERS FUNDS

GENERAL FUND

Balance brought forward	8823.64	
Add Surplus for year	<u>1216.20</u>	
	10039.84	
Donation - Maj P Whitelaw	<u>1000.00</u>	
		11039.84

RAA SOCIAL FUND

Balance brought forward	10116.29	
Add Surplus for year	<u>916.06</u>	
		11032.35

MUSEUM & MEMORABILIA FUND

Balance brought forward	947.90	
Add Surplus for year	<u>77.36</u>	
		1025.26

\$23097.45

=====

Represented by:

ASSETS

Stock on Hand - RAA Association Shop Items	1459.55	
- Presentation Plaques	306.08	
Cash at Bank - Commonwealth Bank of Australia Ltd.	7685.57	
Term Deposits - Commonwealth Bank of Australia Ltd.	23000.00	
Prepayments - Artillery Ball	500.00	
- 1991 Gunner Dinner	<u>67.25</u>	
		33018.45

LESS LIABILITIES

Subscriptions Received in Advance	7561.00	
Payments Received in Advance		
- 1991 Gunner Dinner	<u>2360.00</u>	
		9921.00

NET ASSETS

\$23097.45

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RAA ASSOCIATION (VICTORIA) INCORPORATED

STATEMENT OF INCOME & EXPENDITURE FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30TH JUNE 1991

GENERAL FUND

INCOME

Subscriptions	1773.00
Interest - Current Accounts	134.23
Interest - Term Deposits	1023.86
Sale - Membership Badges	270.00
Profit RAA Assoc (Vic) Shop	634.10
Surplus - Back to the Regt:	
1990	108.15
1991	366.05
Surplus - Portsea Visit	15.00

\$4324.39
=====

EXPENDITURE

AGM - Supper & Entertainment	200.00
Supper - Happy Hours	300.00
Bar Snacks - Anzac Day	225.00
St. Barbara's Day Expenses	26.71
Donation - St. Bartholomews	50.00
Donation - RAA National Essay Competition	50.00
Computer Software	369.00
Postage	712.05
Printing & Stationery	654.09
Insurance	129.78
Registration Fee - "Cascabel"	75.00
Lodgement Annual Return	25.50
Gifts & Presentations	163.52
2/15Fd. Regt.- Amalgamation Night	100.00
Bank Charges	27.54
Surplus for year	1216.20

\$4324.39
=====

RAA SOCIAL FUND

INCOME

Interest - Current Accounts	118.06
Interest - Term Deposits	900.50
Surplus - Gnr Dinner(1990)	120.00

\$1138.56
=====

EXPENDITURE

Deficit - Artillery Ball(1990)	222.50
Surplus for year	916.06

\$1138.56
=====

MUSEUM AND MEMORABILIA FUND

INCOME

Interest - Current Account	10.71
Interest - Term Deposits	81.65
Donations	35.00

\$127.36
=====

EXPENDITURE

Stationery & Postage	50.00
Surplus for year	77.36

\$127.36
=====

RAA ASSOCIATION (VICTORIA) INCORPORATED

FUNDS STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30TH JUNE 1991

SOURCE OF FUNDS

Surplus for year - General Fund	1216.20
- RAA Social Fund	916.06
- Museum & Memorabilia Fund	77.36
Increase in - Subscriptions in Advance	1411.00
- Payments Received in Advance 1991 Gnr Dinner	2360.00
Decrease in - Stock of Presentation Plaques	76.52
	<u>\$6057.14</u>
	=====

APPLICATION OF FUNDS

Increase in - Cash at Bank	483.69
- Term Deposits	5000.00
- Stock on Hand	506.20
- Prepayments - 1991 Gnr. Dinner	67.25
	<u>\$6057.14</u>
	=====

AUDIT REPORT

I have audited the accounts of the Association for the year ended 30th June 1991 in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards.

In my opinion, the accompanying Statements of Income and Expenditure and Funds Statement for the year ended 30th June 1991 and the Balance Sheet as at that date represent a true and fair view of the results of the Association's activities for the year then ended and of the state of affairs at the 30th June 1991.

.....
T. D. Hopkins WO2
B.Bus. C.P.A.
Honorary Auditor
22nd August 1991