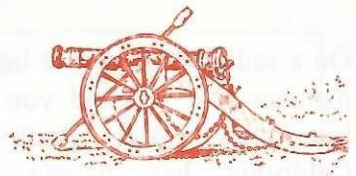


CASCABEL

Newsletter of



The ROYAL AUSTRALIAN ARTILLERY
ASSOCIATION (Victoria) INCORPORATED

Number 37

July 1993

The President Writes:

Here we are with our winter edition and in the midst of our busiest period.

Anzac Day was full of activity from the Dawn Service onward. Breakfast was nearly a sell out and many attended during the day. It was pleasing to see the good attendance this being our first occasion at Chapel Street. We owe a vote of thanks to the Regimental staff for the preparation of the hall. Each unit group had it's own little alcove and the messes were in full swing. The catering was well done and all in all it was a good day.

Nineteen members and friends attended EX El Alamein on the 2nd May at Puckapunyal. It was a marvellous demonstration of the latest equipment and skills and well worth the trip.

The Happy Hour on the 21st of May was not so successful. Only nine members attended and we had all that food. I hope it was only a coincidence that we chose a date when everyone had another date. We will try again on another occasion.

On Friday 4th June the annual "Gunner Dinner" was held. This Officer only function is held in the Officers Mess at Victoria Barracks. Ninety seven serving and retired officers attended and enjoyed a fine dinner prepared and served by a combination of the mess staff and our own soldiers. The evening was set off by our own Artillery band playing in the background.

We look forward to the Artillery Ball on the 6th of August. It will be at a new venue in Queens Road. More details are shown elsewhere in this issue. I hope you will all come along and make this a great night.

On a sad note. Our first international member that we told you of in the last issue, Bert Bedford, from California has passed away. I received a card from his widow only days after the dispatch of the last issue.

I look forward to seeing many of you at upcoming activities. Until then,

My best wishes

New Taggart

.....ooOOoo.....

ITEMS OF INTEREST

Major General John Whitelaw sent in a few items of which are reprinted below.

EXTRACT OF MINUTES OF
MEETING OF THE MILITARY
BOARD HELD AT THE
VICTORIA BARRACKS,
ST.KILDA ROAD, MELBOURNE,
ON FRIDAY JUNE 29 1906.

"3. Complaint of Mr. Edney that the wife of Bombardier Reilly sells milk in Williamstown, her cows being depastured on the Government Reserve:

Decided that the Commandant be informed as follows:-

It would appear that Br Reilly avails himself of the privilege granted by his C/O of pasturing a cow in the Fort enclosure, and that his wife, to whom the cow belongs, sells small quantities of the milk of the cow so pastured and in doing so - whether the quantity is great or small - places other milk vendors in the district (who would have to pay for pasturing their cattle) at a disadvantage. Under the circumstances the privilege of pasturing the cow in the Fort enclosure must either be withdrawn or Br and Mrs Reilly must discontinue the selling of the milk."

(It seems that Br was the current abbreviation for Bombardier - Ed)

.....

A poem by NX12891 W.S.T. Stacey
2/3 Field Regt (2nd AIF)

Like the storm that's in the making
When the rumbling thunder runs
And the hills and valleys tremble:
THAT'S THE THUNDER OF THE
GUNS.

When the aiming posts are planted
And the firing order comes,
Then the layers work their majic
With their sight and bubble runs.

Then the check is on the charges
And the range that's on the drum,

Then the muzzle flashes lightening:
THAT'S THE THUNDER OF THE
GUNS.

It's the fury of the battle
When the understanding comes
That the Gunner is forever,
A partner with the Guns.

The Gunner's pride is legend
And the battles he has won,
Bring Regimental Honours:
THROUGH THE THUNDER OF HIS
GUNS.

With the smoking breeches empty
And the dust and cordite gone
There's a rumble in the distance:
THAT'S THE THUNDER OF THE
GUNS.

The God's of War have finished
And the Sands of Time have run,
But always there's a memory of:
THE THUNDER OF THE GUNS.

And as today becomes the future
Our sons will tell their sons,
That the men whose blood they carry:
KNEW THE THUNDER OF THE
GUNS.

In the valley of the shadows
When his comrades are as one,
Their hearts will surely gladden
For they're the only one's
That understand the music:
IN THE THUNDER OF THE GUNS.

.....
and the following:

The Barracks

The Barracks bring back memories, as I
walk across the square
Now silent and deserted, but still the
memories there
I see the old flag flying at the masthead
on the gate
The years roll back to '39 and the man I
called my mate.

We were just a bunch of rookies then
from every walk of life
And we didn't know the meaning of
"dressing by the right,"
A bunch of eager youngsters, who never
really knew
Why we sang so very proudly, of the old
Red, White and Blue.

It's a generation later, that I walk across
the square,
the old time comrades are the ghosts that
haunt my memories there,
I see their faces, hear them laugh, the
tramp of marching feet,
And something aches inside me, and the
pain is bitter-sweet.

The silent Barracks tell me a story that is
true,
That history will repeat itself down the
ages through,
And men will walk the square at night
and think the same as me,
One hundred years from now and one
hundred years to be.

A strong and silent comfort the Barracks
seem to mete,
And suddenly I seem to hear a million
marching feet,

The pride stirs strong inside me as I'm
passing through the gate,
And there standing on the corner is the
figure of MY MATE!.

(This was penned by a D. Edwardes, ex 13th
Heavy Battery and ex PAGA Battery in 1961
and was written about North Head Barracks.
ED)

.....ooOOoo.....

The Tomb of the Unknown Australian Soldier.

November 11th 1993 is the 75th anniversary of the end of the First World War and will be marked by an event of tangible significance. The remains of an unidentified soldier will be brought back from France and interred at the War Memorial Canberra. Details of this follow;

The Journey of the unknown Australian Soldier from Europe

In late October an Australian Defence Force bearer party will travel to Europe for the recovery of the remains of the Unknown Australian Soldier. This party will accompany the remains on all stages of the return to Australia, through the funeral procession and the entombment ceremony in Canberra.

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission, assisted by an Australian funeral director, will exhume the remains of one of the

thousands of unidentified Australian soldiers of the first world war buried in France and Belgium. Nothing whatsoever will be known about the individual.

After exhumation, the remains borne in a simple coffin of Tasmanian blackwood, will be officially handed over at a ceremony in France on the border between the Villers-Bretonneux Military Cemetery and the Australian National War Memorial located there. Thus the body will pass into Australia's care.

It is proposed that the Unknown Soldier will lie in state in two locations before departure for Australia - at the Australian National War Memorial at Villers-Bretonneux and at the Menin Gate at Ypres, Belgium.

An aircraft of the national carrier QANTAS will convey the coffin from Paris to Sydney where it is scheduled to arrive early on Sunday morning, 7 November. Tentative planning suggests that the aircraft will move to the jet base adjacent to the Sydney Airport domestic terminal. There an official reception party will formally receive the remains during a short ceremony attended by invited guests, and media representatives. An RAAF aircraft

will then convey the coffin and the bearer party to Canberra.

After arrival at Canberra's Fairbairn airport, a gun carriage will be used to transport the coffin to King's Hall at Old Parliament House where it will lie in state for three days. The public will be invited to pay tribute during that period. A group of first world war veterans will take part in the Canberra ceremonies and may also visit during the lying in state.

On 11 November the coffin of the Unknown Australian Soldier will be removed from King's Hall, placed once again on a gun carriage and taken to Anzac Parade. Here it will be carried to the Memorial in a funeral procession befitting the burial of a Field Marshal.

The procession is to be led by mounted soldiers and a tri-service escort party of 300. It will proceed at slow march time from the foot of Anzac Parade, past the various memorials which line it, to the parade ground in front of the Australian War Memorial.

The Governor General and the Prime Minister and overseas guests will have key roles in the funeral. Community participants will include service and ex-service organisations, school children and the general public. Following a simple ceremony

at the Stone of Remembrance the Unknown Soldier will be carried into the Memorial, past the Pool of Reflection and the Roll of Honour and laid to rest in the Tomb at 11.00 a.m.

The Memorial hopes that communities everywhere will be taking part in their own observance of this historic moment. Details of events leading to Remembrance Day will be publicised widely in an effort to encourage as much local involvement as possible.

Anyone wishing further details can contact Max Murray of the RAA Vietnam Association on 059 425470.

.....ooOoo.....

ACTIVITIES REPORT

FUTURE ACTIVITIES

Field Firing Weekend Visit

The visit to the Regiment on the 26th June as advertised in the last issue was unfortunately cancelled. We apologise to anyone who may have been inconvenienced. The visit has now been arranged for the 28th August 93. *Please phone your acceptances to the President, Merv Taggart by phoning 598 8452 AH.* The following arrangements will apply.

Arrive at Chapel Street Depot at 0730hrs to be met by the CO &/or

Adj't and move by Bus to Pucka (or meet at the new Range Control Puckapunyal at 1000hrs).

Lunch will be provided. Please bring stout shoes, water proof clothing etc. there is no restriction on cameras for those who would like to take photographs.

Return off the Range No Later Than 1600 hrs and back in Melb approx. 1800 (or in mickey mouse time 6.00pm).

RAA Association Annual General Meeting.

Don't forget the Annual General Meeting on Thursday 26th August at the Artillery Depot Chapel Street East St.Kilda. This will kick off at 8.00pm in either the Officers or the Sergeants Mess.

Artillery Ball 1993

See the insert for details of the Artillery Ball on Friday 6th August. Please get your acceptances in as soon as possible.

.....ooOOoo.....

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

The total membership of the Association continues to hover around the 400 mark. Since the last issue we have accepted the following

new members and I issue them a warm welcome:

Mr. M.K. Cecil
Lt P.C. Nevile
Capt D. H. Walsh
Gnr B.C. Fox
Maj A.C. Roberts

Michael Cecil comes to the Association with a particular interest in the Army and Artillery. Whilst not being a Gunner, his father is former WO2 George Cecil. Michael is keenly interested in the historical aspects having now published two very good books as part of a series called Australian Military Equipment Profiles. The first is based on variants of the 25 Pdr while the second is about the various versions of what most people call Bren Gun carriers. I can highly recommend these books. If you're interested in either, the Association has copies for sale. Please contact Brian Cleeman on (03) 560 7116.

Those members who pay their subscriptions on an annual basis will receive a renewal form once the annual subscription is set at the annual meeting. I would ask for your assistance by paying quickly at that time to keep administration effort down.

Thank you to those members who have taken the trouble to let me

know of the new addresses of "lost" members in the past. I still need a new address for SSgt S McDermott whose mail is being returned. If you're about to move, or know the whereabouts of the above member, would you drop me a line.

In the last issue I welcomed as a new member Maj H. Bedford. Unfortunately, as reported by the President, he recently passed away in the USA, where he had lived for many years.

David Osborne
Membership Secretary and Vice President.

PO Box 309 FRANKSTON 3199 or
phone me at work on 781 2633 or at
home on 787 7852.

.....ooOOoo.....

ITEMS OF INTEREST (Part 2)

The Association wishes to congratulate a serving member of the Regt and past member of the committee, WO2 Gary Graham Rolfe on his award of the new Conspicuous Service Cross (CSC) in the Queens Birthday Honours list. Good on you Garry!

.....ooOOoo.....

The Association Shop

The following items are for sale to members:

Books.

The Australian Military Equipment Profile;

QF 25 Pdr \$13.50

Bren Gun Carrier \$13.50

Postage \$2.00 per Book.

Port.

Artillery Tawny Port (All Saints)

\$8.00 per bottle

Contact Brian Cleeman on 560 7116.

.....ooOOoo.....

=From the Editor's Desk=

One of the objectives of the Association is to further the knowledge of matters Gunnery. An interesting example of that objective arose as a result of an article in the last issue, the Centenary Celebration of the death of Major F.W. Ind at Fort Queenscliff.

This sparked an interesting exchange of letters between myself, Norm Wright the author, and Bill Goodall regarding some of the dates of the Guns mentioned in Norm's address. The majority of the historical data in the address came from a publication titled "A History of Fort Queenscliff 1882 - 1982 written by a Jim Tait author of a series called "Discovering Australia".

Information that Bill has access to (copies of which are in the RAA Museum) shows some differing statistics. It all goes to show that when dealing with matters of history, one has to be aware that there will be discrepancies in data coming from different sources.

Although wishing to spark interest in gunner matters, it is not my intention for CASCABEL to be the medium by which inaccuracies in historical data are to be corrected in a multi-way passage of letters, but to be the conduit through which the various correspondants can if they so desire, correspond, debate, update or further their own knowledge on all Gunner subjects.

I thank Bill and other correspondants, like Bob Miller who forwarded an article on Ned Herring that was in the May 1992 edition of

Royalauto. Although that article won't be reprinted as it is fairly recent and no doubt seen by a large majority of our members, please keep up the flow, not only of articles but any questions that you may want answered.

I have still been receiving comment on the origin of CASCABEL and the Woolwich guns. Thank you so much to those who have replied.

General Whitelaw has offered to write an article on the Russian Guns outside Victoria Barracks Melbourne and I am taking him up on that offer. The following photo of a sculpture is rather interesting and the comment that John Whitelaw made is; "I wonder what the range tables would show for this one?"

Editor:
Major Ross Peterken RFD
2 Milan St.
WANTIRNA 3152

Phone:
720 1757 AH
632 4055 BH
632 4079 FAX

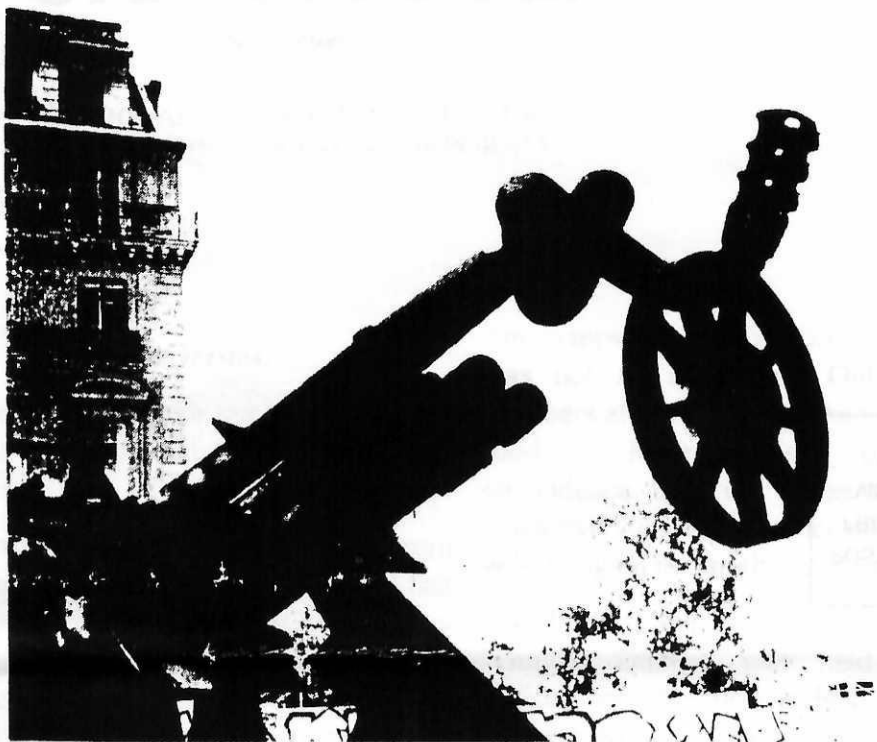
The "Rupertswood Gun"

WEAPON DETAILS

TYPE:	Armstrong 12 pdr sliding block screw breech rifled bore.
SERIAL No.	368 (ordnance) and 408 (carriage).
CALIBRE:	3 Inch.
MANUFACTURER:	Royal Gun Factory 1864. (Pattern 1859).
MARKINGS:	Crest of Queen Victoria forward of breech.
RIFLING:	38 lands.
WEIGHT:	8cwt 2 qtrs (433Kg) (ordnance) and 12 cwt (611Kg) (carriage).

This type of gun was:

FIRST WROUGHT IRON GUN USED IN BRITISH SERVICE.
FIRST BREECH LOADING ARTILLERY USED IN BRITISH SERVICE
FIRST RIFLED GUN USED IN BRITISH SERVICE.



Et Ad Ultimus:

Pouchies Pointers:

Interchangeable parts won't.

If nobody uses it, there's a reason.

You never find a lost article til you
replace it.

Time flies like an arrow, but fruit
flies like a banana.

oooooooooooooooooooooooooooooooo