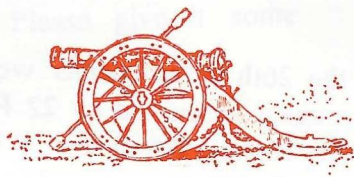


# CASCABEL

Newsletter of



THE ROYAL AUSTRALIAN ARTILLERY  
ASSOCIATION (Victoria) INCORPORATED

NUMBER 39

JANUARY 1994

## *The President Writes:*

Included in our last issue was a notice of the passing of our Past President Norman Whitelaw. That notice was a last minute inclusion, the main magazine having been prepared at the time. I hope that I can now give a more considered accounting of Norman's value to us.

Coming from a military family Norman joined the Militia in the 1930's and was appointed Lt in 1939 just before the outbreak of war. He joined the AIF and as a member of the 2/2 Field Regiment took part in the campaigns in north Africa, Greece and Crete. Later, in the Pacific theatre, he became a Naval Gunfire Support Liaison Officer aboard ( I think) HMAS Hobart.

After the war he tried farming until an accident prevented him from continuing in that field and then became a manager in a company

dealing in farm supplies. Up until the time of his accident Norman was a member of the CMF in 2 Field Regiment at Batman Avenue.

His close connection with the Association committee began when Sandy Mair decided to step down as President and Norman was elected in his place. This was in 1984. He served as President for four years during which time he lead the Association with great enthusiasm and skill. At the end of his time as President he endowed the prizes that are presented to serving members each year and are now known as the " Major P. S. Whitelaw Prizes".

We of the Association will miss this fine gentleman and offer our sympathy to his wife Patricia and family.

Since our last issue there have been only two activities.

On the 26th of November we were once again welcomed by 22 Fd Bty to the Baxter Depot for a Happy Hour. It was reasonably well attended and we thank the Battery for their hospitality.

Tuesday the 7th December was the occasion of the 2/10 Medium Regiment's final parade for the year. The whole of the regiment was on parade in the Chapel Street Depot. The main purpose was to present prizes and awards followed by an address by the Commanding Officer LT COL Peter Alkamade. This is the occasion when the Whitelaw prizes are awarded and I was honoured to be able to present them. The recipients are listed elsewhere.

Our next coming event is the Church Parade on the 6th February 1994. I look forward to seeing you there to swell the congregation and enjoy one of Barry's inspiring sermons.

We intend to have an Associations day on the 27th March at which we would like to see representatives of all unit associations. Remember that any member will be welcome and they do not have to be the president and secretary

Until next time, my best wishes.

*Merv Taggart*

.....ooOOoo.....

## THE RISING SUN BADGE

The origin and development of the Australian 'rising sun' badge is one of the most interesting aspects of Australian military history.

Appropriately enough, it began with a collector, a major in the South Australian forces, who thought of the design to mount his collection of bayonets. He asked a captain in the South Australian Navy to help him build a trophy-shield, using timber and brass.

This shield seems to have come into the possession of Gen Sir Edward Hutton, who was appointed to command the military forces of the new Commonwealth of Australia. The trophy of arms, fixed above his office door, comprised a semi-circular red-painted board, on which bayonets and sword-bayonets were arranged alternatively, surrounding a crown cut from sheet brass. Specifically, the weapons were Martini-Henry rifle triangular socket bayonet and the cut-and-thrust sword bayonet.

In 1902 when the 1st Battalion Australian Commonwealth Horse was being raised for service in the South African War, the GOC apparently decided on a general service badge and suggested 'something like' the trophy of arms.

The contingent was due to leave five days later and a first badge was hurriedly struck. It consisted of seven triangular points above 'AUSTRALIA' and the crown on a form of wreath base.

The design was amended for later contingents, with six intermediate points between the larger ones., The metal around 'AUSTRALIA' was pierced, probably to sew a piece of coloured cloth beneath. Still later that year, another variation was struck with "COMMONWEALTH HORSE" forming the badge's base. It was worn by Australian troops who went to London for the coronation of King Edward VII.

It is possible that the badge designers were symbolically including the six pointed Commonwealth Star, which is the major part of the crest of Australia.

The origin of the 'rising sun' title given to the badge is connected neither with the sun, nor history, but with a brand of jam.

Until about 1906 the only building near Victoria Barracks, Melbourne, was the Hoadley's jam factory, which produced a widely advertised 'Rising Sun' brand; large quantities were shipped to the Australians in South Africa, and the jam's trademark was striking. In Melbourne returning soldiers were sometimes called "Hoadley's Horse".

In 1903, the badge makers J.R. Gaunt & Son of Birmingham designed a badge whose basis did not change until the 1970's. The inscription on the scroll was 'AUSTRALIAN COMMONWEALTH MILITARY FORCES' until 1949 when it became 'AUSTRALIAN MILITARY FORCES'. In the 1970's it was shortened simply to 'AUSTRALIA' and minor changes made in design.

*(I thank Geoff Zierk of this and the 24 Fd Regt Assoc for this article - Interestingly, in going through my store of articles I found one also referring to the rising sun badge. It wasn't signed but the copy shows an RSL FAX header so it could have come from our past President and stalwart Keith R. This article states that there is some controversy concerning who and how the badge did come to exist. It has 8 pages of research notes so I'm not going to publish it here. In all major points both articles are similar. Ed.)*

## ITEMS of INTEREST

In the list of books held by the Association shop, is one by Michael Cecil - Australian Military Equipment Profiles Volume 1, Field Artillery 1939-1945.

It is interesting to note, that some time ago I received from Maj Gen John Whitelaw, as an article for this newsletter, his review of that publication. So here it is:

This is the first volume in a series of books about military equipment used by the Australian Forces. For this first issue, Michael Cecil has chosen to concentrate on the 25 Pdr field gun and its towing vehicles. This is appropriate as the 25 Pdr was without doubt, the backbone of support for our infantry divisions during World War 2. It was also a gun which engaged the respect and affection of the gunners who served them and those who enjoyed their accuracy, timely and weighty response.

This volume is well researched, attractively printed and presented with a wealth of detail and carefully selected photographs. Particularly interesting is the information about Australian production of the 25 Pdr and the design and manufacture 'baby' or 'short' derivative to meet the demands of jungle warfare from 1942 onwards. For those interested in military vehicles the sections on artillery tractors and trailers will be very useful reference.

The title is somewhat of a misnomer and care should be taken in future volumes to have titles which reflect the content. Notwithstanding, this book is an extremely welcome addition to any Australian Military library. I feel sure it will capture the interest of those who served the guns during World War 2, even those who

were 'impatient' with the 25 Pdr short."

The Shop have copies of this 40 page, soft cover book for \$13.50. Also, as I listed in the last issue, the volume on the Bren Gun carrier for the same price. All good reading - Ed.

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## THE MUSEUM AND MEMORABILIA FUND

Don't forget donations/loans of memorabilia to be displayed in the depot. Your museum committee for 1993/94 are:

Pres.	Maj Roger Dalton	499 6775
V/Pres.	Maj Brian Jackson	749 5453
Sec.	WO2 Craig Cook	890 2117
Mbrs.	SSgt Brian Cleeman	560 7116
	Bdr Tom Hayward	813 1087

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## ACTIVITIES REPORT

### FUTURE ACTIVITIES

On the 6th February, we will be holding our Annual Church Parade. See further on for details. Please come along.

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The annual Beating the Retreat ceremony will again be held at Fort Queenscliffe on Sunday 6th March. It will well worth the trip. Further details can be obtained closer to the

date by contacting the Regt Orderly Room at Chapel St. Depot.

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Anyone interested in touring the old gun positions at Port Fairy, Portland and Warrnambool as well as looking at some of the historical features at these places? If so, you are in luck, because arrangements are being made to hire a coach and have an overnight stay at Portland on Saturday the 21 May 94 and return on Sunday the 22 May 94. Minimal cost. Those interested are invited to contact Reg Morrell on telephone 562 9552 before 10 Feb 94. Ring now to obtain your seat on the coach.

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### **FREEDOM OF THE CITY OF FRANKSTON**

The Freedom of the City of Frankston will be granted to the 2/10th Mdm Regiment on Australia Day 26th January 1994. The granting Ceremony will take place at 0900 hrs at Frankston Town Hall. This will be followed by the Regiment exercising its right, with a parade along Cranbourne Road at 1100 hrs. The parade will conclude at Ballam Park where a social function will be held. Further details can be obtained from the Orderly Room at the Chapel St. Depot.

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### **MOUNT SCHANCK CHALLENGE TROPHY**

This trophy was first presented in 1913 by W.J.T. Clarke ESQ. for annual competition between Field Branch Batteries of the Australian Field Artillery, Commonwealth Militia.

Awarded bi-annually to the most proficient Field and Medium Batteries of the ARes, it is a highly sought after trophy.

It was last won by a Victorian Battery in 1975 when 37 Mdm Bty, 10 Mdm Regt, under the command of Maj George James, won it at Cultana.

This year, 1993, the Mount Schanck trophy was won by 22 Fd Bty under the command of Maj Steve Venn with 38 Mdm Bty, under the command of Maj Jeff Cole, coming 3rd. 22 Bty was also awarded the following prizes:

The Pagan Trophy: Best Gun Line  
The Gordon Bennett Trophy:  
Best OP.

These are awarded by 2 Div.

This is an incredible achievement by the Regiment. Our congratulations go to all Officers, SNCO's and Men of both Batteries, together with all those members who supported them in this fine result.



## **BURIAL OF THE UNKNOWN AUSTRALIAN SOLDIER**

As you are all aware, mention was made of this ceremony in the last issue and no doubt, saw it reported on TV and the Press. I hope to have a first hand account of this ceremony in the next issue.

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## **PAST ACTIVITIES**

### **HAPPY HOUR AT BAXTER**

A Happy Hour was held at the Baxter Depot on 26 Nov 93 with a total attendance of 23 people. Maris Sloan put on an excellent supper for us once again. Well done, Maris. The evening was an enjoyable one, but unfortunately, we were down on numbers again. Approximately half the number of people were made up of Association Members which indicates that our Members are not really interested in Happy Hour functions anymore. Perhaps with the present activities such as the Gunner Dinner, Artillery Ball and Back to the Regiment Nights, there is no need to have Happy Hour functions in the future. What do you think????

REG MORRELL

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I was privileged to be invited to the Official Opening of the Melbourne Tank Museum by Mr. Bruce Ruxton OBE at Narre Warren North on the 4 Dec 93. It has taken John Belfield (the owner) some 21 years to set up this museum after battling against the bureaucracy, local government and a dwindling bank balance to finally achieve this first class museum. There are over 70 major items including Tanks, Armoured Cars, Scout Cars, Armoured Personnel Carriers, Trucks and GUNS which are all under cover. I strongly recommend a visit to this excellent museum and if time is permitting, you may wish to sit back and enjoy a cup of coffee & light refreshments or utilize the BBQ & picnic facilities available.

REG MORRELL

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### **PRESENTATION PARADE**

The president spoke in his letter of the annual presentation of the Norman Whitelaw awards. The recipients this year are:

ARA Award	Sgt C. Turner
OFFICER	Lt. S. Smith
SNCO	WO2 S. Pettig
JNCO/OR	Bdr P. McMillan

Our congratulations go to all of them.

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# RAA ASSOCIATION of VICTORIA (INC)

The President and Committee, together with the Padre Barry Brown, invite you to join them and the congregation at our Annual Church Parade on 6th February 1994 at

St. Bartholomews Anglican Church  
290 Burnley St. Burnley at 11:00am.

After the service, Barry invites you to partake of light refreshments.

The RAA Band will provide the musical accompaniment to the service.

## MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Since the last issue we have accepted one new member and I issue him a warm welcome:

### GNR D.I. EATON

At the annual general meeting held at the Chapel Street depot the Membership subscription was set at \$10.00 for annual members and to take up life membership was set at \$100. Those annual members who are now in arrears, since subs are paid up to 30th June, will find another renewal notice in this issue of Cascabel. As this is a second notice I ask that a speedy response be made.

Unfortunately I have to report the passing on of Flt Lt Harvey Randell on October 13, 1993. Our sympathy to his family.

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 from his last address in Sydney. If you're about to move, or know the whereabouts of the above member could you drop me a line.

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.

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## ITEMS OF INTEREST (Part 2)

### Errata

There are a couple of mistakes in the Programme of Events. Unfortunately they got through the stringent editing processes.

The 15 Fd Regt reunion is in fact the 26th Mar 94 not 26th April as shown.

19th April should show "Committee Meeting" not Firepower Demo. We do not yet know the dates or details of the firepower demo.

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## THE ASSOCIATION SHOP

The following items are for sale to members:

Book - The Gulf War	\$5.00
Key Ring - Pewter	\$7.50
“ - Black	\$4.00
Plaque - RAA	\$30.00
Sweatshirt - Arty	\$42.00
Marcasite Badge	\$83.00
Members Badges	\$5.00
Plus \$2.00 postage	

Contact Brian Cleeman on 560 7116.

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## NEW EXHIBITION of MILITARY MEMORABILIA

An Exhibition was opened by Brig Rossi on 17th October and will run for approx. 6 months. It is in the gallery of the Charles Ferguson Museum. Old Bakery Lane, MENTONE. The exhibition is sponsored by the City of Mordialloc Historical Society and features First and Second World War memorabilia collected by David Edwardes a well known local collector. The Museum is open 2 - 5pm every Sunday. Adults \$1.00, children & concession .50 cents.

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### = From the Editor's Desk =

**URGENTLY required. One assistant editor of CASCABEL.** Due to work and other personal commitments this year, I will have difficulty in maintaining the editorship of the newsletter during this time.

If there is anyone out there that has access to the necessary software, hardware (computer and suitable printer) and a little bit of time, I would be glad of the assistance. It is also an option for someone to do the newsletter preparation and I or others do the production - all options

are possible. Please give it some thought.

Thanks

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### Et Ad Ultimus:

#### Three of Murphy's Military Laws:

1. Never share a foxhole with anyone braver than you are.
2. No battle plan ever survives contact with the enemy.
3. Friendly Fire - ain't.

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