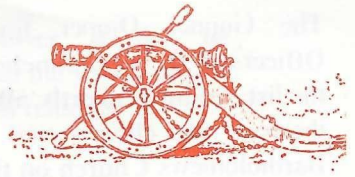


CASCABEL

Newsletter of



THE ROYAL AUSTRALIAN ARTILLERY ASSOCIATION (Victoria) INCORPORATED

NUMBER 41.

July, 94

The President Writes:

The winter season is really upon us as I sit here and review recent events.

Anzac Day was once again a successful occasion. It began for me at the Dawn Service at the Shrine. For the second year Mina and I with Kelly our daughter helped out an old infantry friend, Bill Kirkham, by handing out poppies so I know how many of you were there. Off then to Chapel Street for breakfast.

This seems to be the time to see the Vietnam vets and its great to see so many of them bracing themselves for the remainder of the day.

Reg Morrell and Brian Cleeman turned on their usual fine spread for the very reasonable cost of \$5. After the march a good crowd representing many units

attended however it is noticeable that the distance out of town keeps some away.

In early May, the First Recruit Training Battalion exercised their right to Freedom of Entry to the city of WAGGA. Mina and I were visiting our son Craig who is the Training Officer of the Unit and we were able to see this impressive parade. That evening was the Kapooka Military Area Ball, a marvellous all ranks affair. Like the freedom of entry ceremonies at FRANKSTON earlier in the year, the day was a great example of cooperation between the military and civil communities.

We missed our trip to Puckapunyal this year to see the firepower demonstration Ex Al Alamein. This year the demonstration was much restricted, but it is hoped that we can go along next year.

The Gunner Dinner for the Officers is the next function on the list, followed shortly after by the band and choir recital at St Bartholomews Church on the 10 August. The Artillery Ball for all of us is on the 5 August.

I encourage all members to come along to the Annual General Meeting on the 25 August at the Chapel Street depot. This year we have arranged for one of our members, Peter Evans, to speak to us on the subject of his researches into the history of World War One artillery units.

It would be great if we could hear from anyone who could help us with the job of editor which you will have seen advertised in the previous edition.

Until next time my best wishes.

Merv Jaggart.

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ITEMS of INTEREST

John Whitelaw has forwarded his latest book review.

"Expose!" A History of Searchlights in World War 2.

Noel F. Hill, Boolarong Publications, hard case 175 x 240mm, 196 pages \$29.95 per copy post free from J. A. Robinson, 2 Rosedale Road, Gordon, NSW 2072.

There are many gaps in our rich military history. Expose! fills one of them in a felicitous way. The author wrote "A Long White Finger" some years ago as an history of the 73rd Australian Anti-aircraft Searchlight Battery AIF based on War Diaries in the Australian War Memorial. The experience inspired him and others to systematically research the wartime records of all the anti-aircraft searchlight companies and Batteries.

For the first time we have a comprehensive account of the organisation, recruitment, training and operational experience of an extremely important element of our defences both at home and in the islands to our North. They saw action on many occasions and acquitted themselves with great credit.

Originally formed as units of the Royal Australian Engineers, responsibility for searchlights, both anti-aircraft and coast defence, passed to the Royal Australian Artillery in 1943. Clearly without diminution in the esprit de corps of the units concerned nor in their operational efficiency.

The book underlines the strong personal bonds established in these units. We must welcome, 50 years on, this history of a very considerable group of people, men and women, who put up with isolation, poor living conditions for sustained periods, and maintained their morale, efficiency and alertness with consistency and humour in poor climatic conditions and in uncertain strategic and tactical situations.

Each of the 34 anti-aircraft searchlight Batteries formed in World War 2 is mentioned but the reader should not be misled by the sub-title. The book does not deal with the large number of lights and those who tended them in the coast artillery organisation. Perhaps this can be the subject of another welcome history?

A well produced, well illustrated and informative book and great

value for those interested in World War 2 history.

John has also forwarded details of some forthcoming books that he will be reviewing. He will advise us of when they will be available.

1st Australian Mountain Battery RAA AIF

"As it seemed to us"

A history of 1 Aust Mountain Bty edited by Chisholm Cutts and Jack Allen is nearing completion.

It deals with a unique Australian unit which carved a niche in history as the only gunner unit armed with 3.7 inch mountain howitzers; for its devoted support for Australian and United States infantry in the Buna, Gona, Sananada campaign and at Kokoda, Wau and Salamaua in 1942-43 and for being our only parachute trained artillery unit later during the war.-

Orders are now being taken for this strictly limited edition print. Please contact Mr. Chisholm Cutts, 19 Melrose Ave. Beulah Park, SA 5067 and Rev. Jack Allen, 9 Oleander Drive, Ashgrove, QLD. 4060.

The second is:

**'We Stood and Waited':
Sydney Anti-Ship defences
1939-45**

The RAA Historical Society is publishing this book by Brig. Ken Fullford. This substantial work details the armament, organisation, training and operation of the Sydney Fortress

during WW2 including the attacks by Japanese submarines. It is liberally laced with personal anecdotes and is representative of the wartime experience of the men and women of the many forts and batteries around Australia. Enquiries can be made to the RAA Historical Society, The Artillery Centre,

Mystery Picture



This is the entry to a well-known landmark on Port Phillip, but because of its position, the entrance may not be so familiar to boat users on the bay. Do you know what it is, and where?

PO Box 42, Manly NSW 2095.
If you send your name and
address an order form will be
returned.

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ASSOCIATION SHOP

The following articles can be
purchased from the shop by
sending your order with cheque
to Reg Morrell or Brian
Cleeman at our Depot address.
Don't forget to add \$2 dollars
postage with your order.

Books

Australian Military equipment Profiles	
Nos. 1-4	\$13.50
Guns of the Regiment	\$32.00
Caps - RAA	\$ 7.00
Badge - track suit	\$ 3.00
Bumper sticker	\$ 2.00
Woven badge (similar to pocket badge in black)	\$32.00
Car sticker	\$ 1.50
Cuff links	\$ 8.00
Key ring - black	\$ 4.00
Plaque - RAA	\$32.00
Stubby holder	\$ 5.00
Badge - pocket	\$11.00
Tie - RAA	\$22.00
Wallets - camo	\$ 5.00
Badge - membership	\$ 5.00

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THE MUSEUM AND MEMORABILIA FUND

WANTED FOR MUSEUM

The museum are always looking
for memorabilia on donation or
loan. Any items given will be
catalogued and secured. It will
be put on display as can be seen
in the depot at the present time.
Please look around and see what
you may have.

Please contact the secretary at
33 Haig Street, Box Hill or ring
the number below.

Your museum committee for
1994/95 are:

Pres. Maj Brian Jackson
748 9898

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

Artillery Ball 5th August

The convening officer of this
year's Ball is Captain Jason
Cooke. If you intend to go to
the Ball this year, please contact
Jason at the Dandenong Depot
or on phone 532 2620 BH, 544
9607 AH. See the inclusion for
details.

OCTU Reunion

On the 11 November 1994, OCTU will be celebrating its 30 year anniversary.

There will be a dinner dance held. All past instructors, staff and students are invited to attend with partners.

Details of the functions will be advised later.

Trip to Warrnambool

In consultation with several members, it was decided to postpone the trip to Warrnambool, Port Fairy and Portland in May due to the strong possibility of a cold weekend. we have now booked a fine weekend for the 22/23 of October, 94. The purpose of this exercise is to tour the old gun positions as well as looking at some of the historical features at these towns.

Arrangements will be made to hire a coach and have an overnight stay at Portland (Sat. night) at a minimal cost. Those interested are again asked to contact Reg Morrell on 562 9552 before the 21 Sept. Ring now but don't send any money to obtain your seat on the coach.

Back to the Regiment night

To be held at the Chapel Street depot on Friday 7 October. To assist in the catering arrangements, please contact Reg Morrell on 562 9552 before the 1 October.

AGM

As reported earlier, do attend the AGM and hear the speaker for the night. Peter's talk will be on the WW1 8th Field Artillery Brigade. He will be supported by a short talk by Gunner Dick Bowman, F subsection, 31st Battery, 8th Field Artillery Brigade. WW1. This is perhaps the last opportunity to hear a WW1 gunner speak at such a gathering.

Complimenting the talks will be a display on the WW1 8th and post WW1 8th through to the 8th Field Regiment of WW2

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MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Since our last issue we have accepted two new members and I issue them a warm welcome:

CAPT J. K. Mulholland

SGT R. G. Curtis

Unfortunately, I have to report the death of GNR N. Dyer. Our sympathy to his family.

For The Fallen

Mail is being returned marked 'left address' from two members, namely Sgt R. L. Thomas and Pdr A. B. Quinlan. If you know their whereabouts please give me a call.

Our membership register currently stands at 395. A complete breakdown of the membership will be distributed at the AGM in August. The membership subscription will be set at that AGM and renewal notices will be sent to annual members soon afterwards. If you know of a Gunner who is not a member, then why not request a new member application form. if you're about to move, 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)

Staff Sergeant Ernie Paddon sent in the following, but due to space restraint, I have included only his comments. I hope the new editor includes the full poem in a future issue.

We all know the verse that begins "They shall grow not old, as we who are left grow old." But how many of us know that it is only the fourth verse of a poem written by the soldier poet, Laurence Binyon (1869-1943). Born in Yorkshire and a distant relation of William Wordsworth, Binyon was educated in Essex and London. Gaining distinctions in Greek, Latin and French. Forty five years old at the beginning of World War 1 and passed the age of conscription, it was the carnage of the 'Battle of Mons' in August 1914 that led Binyon to write "for the fallen" after which he served as a Nursing Orderly in France. WW1 over, Binyon became Keeper of Prints and Drawings at the British Museum. He also taught poetry at Harvard (USA). He was awarded a long list of honours by the British and French governments. Binyon died on 10 March 1943 aged 73 at Reading, Berkshire.

The Uniting Church - East StKilda Parish

The East StKilda parish of the Uniting Church will be holding the 79th memorial service of the death, in 1917, of their

Presbyterian minister. His death was as the result of wounds received in Gallipoli, while rescuing a wounded soldier. The memorial service has been held each year since. The congregation invite any member of the Unit and Association to the memorial. It will be held at St. George's church, on Sunday 21st. August, commencing at 9.45 am.

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= From the Editor's Desk =

You may remember over the last two issues, that I have asked for the assistance of an assistant editor to help with the preparation and distribution of CASCABEL. Unfortunately, there were no takers. Again unfortunately, my situation, both work and personal, has necessitated my advising the committee that I will not be

About the Mystery picture

This picture was taken from the COAST GUARD magazine of September 1993. I thank them for its use in this newsletter.

*from Gary Tomlins
Training Officer, Flotilla 9 (Queenscliff)*

Our picture shows the Engine House at Fort Nepean, located at Point Nepean.

Fort Nepean was one of the largest and most heavily armed of the system of fortifications at the entrance of Port Phillip in the 1880s. The vulnerability of wealthy post-gold rush Melbourne and fears of war with Russia led the Colonial Government to build this extensive network of defence installations.

The Engine House (located just inside the Heads) contained generators that supplied power for the Fort and its equipment including the powerful search-lights. Today you can visit and explore the remains of Fort Nepean, including the Engine House, and the many alterations and developments. □

seeking re-election as a committee member at the August AGM.

Naturally, I gave this quite a deal of thought, but in the end, made the decision not to stand. This will I hope be temporary, as my commitments will, over the next year or so, decrease. I reckon I'll be back.

I would like to thank all the correspondents over the last 4-5 years that I have had CASCABEL. Please keep the articles, anecdotes, etc. coming in, for without them, no newsletter or journal would survive. Thanks.

PS. If there is someone out there that can help the committee with this newsletter - please let us know.

Editor:
Major Ross Peterken RFD

2 Milan St.
WANTIRNA 3152

Phone:
720 1757 AH
632 4055 BH
632 4079 FAX

Et Ad Ultimius:

de la Lastra's Law
"After the last 16 mounting screws has been removed from

an access cover, it will be discovered that the wrong access cover has been removed."

de la Lastra's Corollary
"After an access cover has been secured by 16 hold-down screws, it will be discovered that the gasket has been omitted."

and definitely Ultimius

"Blessed are the young, for they shall inherit the national debt."
Herbert Hoover

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