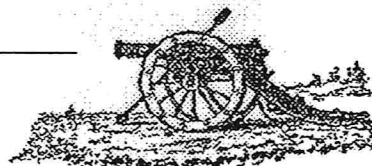


CASCABEL

Journal of the

—ROYAL AUSTRALIAN ARTILLERY ASSOCIATION (VIC) INC.—



Number 62

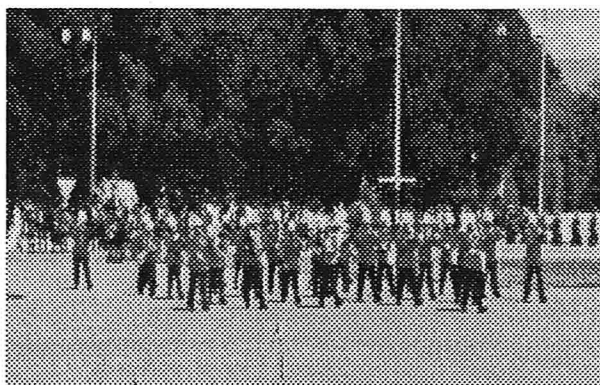
Published Quarterly in
Victoria Australia

December 1999

Peace
Earth
Goodwill



On
And
To All



**The band of the Royal Military College, Duntroon, at the War Memorial Canberra for the re-enactment parade of the "Imperial Bushmen's Contingent" of Light Horse
See pages 17 & 18 for more**

**27 Gunners and a very brave
and delightful lady at the
Regiment in the Field
Firing Day at Puckapunyal
11 Sep 99
see pages 12 & 13 for more**



CASCABEL

Journal of the

-----ROYAL AUSTRALIAN ARTILLERY ASSOCIATION (VIC) INC-----



FOUNDED:

First AGM April 1978
First Cascabel July 1983

COL COMMANDANT:

BRIG G. B. Standish AM, RFD, ED

PATRONS and VICE PATRONS:

1978

Patron: LT GEN The Hon Sir Edmund Herring
KCMG, KBE, DSO, MC, KStJ, ED

Vice Patron: BRIG Sir William Hall KBE,
KG, DSO, ED

1982

Patron: BRIG Sir William Hall KBE, KG,
DSO, ED

Vice Patron: MAJ GEN N. A. Vickery CBE,
MC, ED

1999

Patron: BRIG K. V. Rossi AM, OBE, RFD,
ED

Vice Patron: MAJ GEN J. D. Stevenson AO,
CBE

PRESIDENTS:

1978 MAJGEN N. A. Vickery CBE, MC, ED

1979 MAJGEN J. M. McNeill OA, OBE, ED

1981 COL A. (Sandy) Mair ED

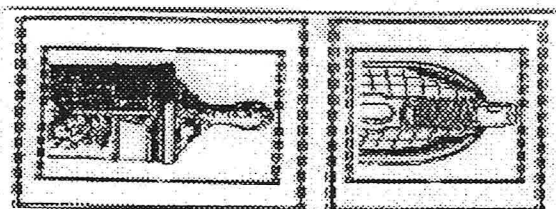
1984 MAJ P. S. (Norman) Whitelaw ED

1988 BRIG K. V. Rossi AM, OBE, RFD, ED

1991 MAJ M. Taggart RFD, ED

JOURNAL NAME:

CASCABEL - Spanish - Origin as small bell or Campanilla (pro: Kaskebell), spherical bell, knob like projection.



CASCABLE - English spelling.

REASON FOR:

Once a fixed extension left over when a muzzle loaded gun was molten cast. It was the left over molten ore plug from the cast liquid entry point. Left on as it was found to be a good handle to move or elevate the barrel. Then shaped to look like a bell.

ARTILLERY USE:

After 1800 AD, it became adjustable. The breech is closed in large calibres by a CASCABEL(E) screw, which is a solid block of forged wrought iron, screwed into the breech coil until it pressed against the end of the steel tube. In the smaller calibres, the A bore tube is carried through to form the CASCABEL(E).

[Ref: "Text Book on Fortification Etc", Royal Military College, Sandhurst, by COL G. Philips, RE, 4th Ed, Ch-1, p9, para 28, 1884].

[Source: COL Alan Mason, Vic, May 1993].

CASCABEL HISTORY:

The name was put forward by the first editor, LTCOL Rob Gaw, and accepted because of its unique and obvious Artillery connection.

ASSN LOGO:

Our Assn Logo is the 1800 AD 9 Pdr Waterloo Field Gun. Copy is taken from Device, Badge and Motto of the Royal Regiment of Artillery, as approved in 1883, by HM King William IV.

LAPEL BADGE:

Copy of the left arm brass gilded gun once worn by Gun Sgts above the chevrons on each arm. Brassards worn by IGs at North Head were embroidered with this insignia. Selected by MAJ Warren Barnard, 1984 Assn Committee.

POSTAL ADDRESS:

RAA Assn (Vic) Inc
PO Box 309

RAA ASSN (VIC) Inc

COMMITTEE 98-99

President:	MAJ M. Taggart RFD, ED
Phone:	9598 8452
Vice President:	MAJ D. J. Osborne
Phone:	9787 7852
Secretary:	MAJ R. A. W. Smith RFD
Phone:	9435 6352
Treasurer:	SSGT R. W. Morrell
Phone:	9562 9552
Social Secretary:	SGT I. Wingate
Members:	MAJ D. McCallum SSGT B. Cleeman SSGT E. Paddon BDR L. Pritchard
Cascabel Editor:	SGT R. G. Curtis
Representatives:	WO2 L. Foster (10 Mdm Regt Assn)
Honorary Auditor:	WO2 T. D. Hopkins

MUSEUM TRUST

President:	MAJ D. McCallum
Phone:	9526 4247
Secretary:	SSGT B. Cleeman
Phone:	9560 7116
Members:	SSGT E. Paddon
Phone:	9763 5995

VIC REGT CONTACTS

2/10 Mdm Regt 8 Chapel St St Kilda Bandmaster:	9526 4222 (Melway 58 D9) WO1 D. Farrell 9526 4230
22 Fd Bty Lonsdale St Dandenong	9792 2642 (Melway 90 E9)
38 Mdm Bty Myers St Geelong	5221 7666 (Melway 228 D4)
38 Mdm Bty Queen St	5231 2056

CONTENTS AND SUBMISSIONS

The contents of CASCABEL Journal are determined by the editor. Articles or opinions of authors & contributors are their own, and do not necessarily represent or reflect the official position of the RAA Assoc (Vic) Inc, Australian Army, the committee, the editor, staff or agents.

Article style, clarity and conciseness remain the responsibility of the article owner or author.

Submissions for the **March 2000** issue are required no later than **Fri 25 Feb 2000** unless otherwise arranged with the Editor.

COPYRIGHT (C)

RAA Association (Vic) Inc - 1997

ALL RIGHTS RESERVED

ISSN 1322-6282

MEMBERS & KINDRED

ORGANISATIONS ADF &

ACCREDITED RESEARCH:

Only Members, Kindred Organisations, ADF and accredited research, may copy without prior approval, ORIGINAL articles or items of interest, within this Journal, if the source and author are acknowledged. Based on goodwill.

Where the word "Copyright" or "(C)" appear with an article or where the material has been reproduced from a designated source, permission to copy should be sought from the Author or Source given.

COMMERCIAL USE/PRODUCTS & BOOKS

Apart from members/kindred organisations/ADF and accredited research, no part of CASCABEL is to be reproduced or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic or mechanical, including photocopying or recording by any storage or retrieval system without written permission from the RAA Assoc (Vic) Inc, the authors or the referenced source. Reproduction in any manner in whole or part in English or any other language is prohibited.

Contents

ARTICLE	Pages
Details and History of Cascabel Journal	2
Assn Contacts, Conditions and Copyright	3
Editor's Exoterics	5
INTERNET Survey	5
The President Writes	6
Membership Report	7
RAA Assn Annual Prizes	8
Annual Church Parade Notice	9
Corps Shop Price List	10
The History of Artillery Locating in Australia	11
A Female View of Live Firing	12
The Regiment in the Field Firing Day	13
Freedom of Entry	14
Centenary Passes for Australian Artillery	14
Visit to ADI Munitions Factory at Benalla	15
Back to the Regiment Night	16
4th Field Regiment - 40th Birthday Celebrations	16
A Touch of History – The Gun in Launceston Park	17-18
Report of the AGM of the Defence Reserves Association	19
Letters to the Editor	20-25
Voice of the Gunners	26
Parade Card	27
Changing your address ? See cut-out proforma	27



EDITOR'S EXOTERICS

Well! Yet another year has "gotten away" on us, to say nothing of another century and just to heap more confusion on us than usual another millennium.

I get to read everybody else's copy of course being editor, before writing this rubbish, so I get the opportunity to reply. The President's comment is not quite accurate. We did have searchlight cooperation for night firing, but the were located off somewhere in the distance where we didn't get to see them. Just the beam of light on the plane.

I realise you were all very worried about his comments and are now greatly relieved to have the explanation, but before you fall asleep from sheer boredom, perhaps I had better change the subject.

This last quarter has been one of amazingly exiting happenings, especially the Regiment in the Field Firing Day and the Visit to ADI, both of which were well attended, including I am pleased to say, by me. Won't bore you with details which you are going to read in well written and exciting reports elsewhere in this issue. Suffice to say that they were very interesting and enjoyable events.

I feel a special mention should be made however of the report of a "Female View of Live Firing" by Linda Carter on page 12. Thank you Linda for your involvement at the Live Firing at ADI and your great report on the former. Come on ladies, where are the rest of you.

Thanks also to all those people who wrote Letters to the Editor and/or wrote reports or articles throughout the year. If yours hasn't appeared yet, please be patient, unless it has no relevance to Artillery, It should appear soon.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to each and every one of you.

Ron G. Curtis Editor.

INTERNET SURVEY

Would you like to have access to the latest information on RAA Association (Vic) Inc activities through our own home-page?

We could:

- * publicise Gunner items such as the 2/10 Mdm Regt Band CD, ties, port, cufflinks etc
- * reach potential members who don't know about our Association, especially the younger Gunners
- * promulgate functions, with the contact officer for bookings

If you would like to record interest, and/or have any suggestions to add,

email to: rsmith@eisa.net.au

or write to the Secretary,
RAA Assn (Vic) Inc,



The President Writes

Our last issue had been printed before the operations in East Timor had been properly developed and it did not seem proper to comment at that time. Since then a copy book operation has been carried out by a predominantly Australian force commanded by an Australian general. I am sure all members would join me in congratulating all ranks of the INTERFET forces for the smoothly professional manner in which that very difficult task has been conducted.

From the diplomatically adept handling by Major General Cosgrove at the highest level to the text book tactics of the platoon and section commanders and soldiers this campaign has been a matter of which all Australians should be extremely proud and I hope I speak for all members of the Association in wishing all of those involved every success and a safe return home after a job well done.

I hope you have all had a happy festive season and are looking forward to a successful new year. Some will be looking at a new millennium whilst others will be patient and wait for next year. This issue is timed to remind you of the Church Parade on the first Sunday in February. The date is 6 February 2000 and I do hope to see many of you there at 11 am.

On 14 November 2/10 Medium Regiment received from the City of Port Phillip the Freedom of the City. An impressive dismounted parade was conducted at Dorothy Paul Field, Albert Park Reserve at which the Mayor, Councillor Dick Gross, presented to the Commanding Officer, Lieutenant Colonel Richard Maurice, a scroll granting the Freedom of entry.

Later a mounted parade proceeded down Fitzroy Street and into Upper Esplanade where the Regiment was challenged by the Chief Constable. The Mayor took the salute at Albert Square. His enthusiasm was a sure sign of the friendly relationship between the City and the Regiment. The Regiment performed par excellence in all aspects of this parade and should be very proud of themselves.

Later in the month on 23 November, the trip to ADI Benalla was conducted with a full complement of thirty members attending. This was as many as the factory would allow at one time. Not only was this an interesting tour where we saw our ammunition being manufactured but also it was an eye opener to see the modern techniques being employed at this new automated factory. The use of robots and electronic controls would have any one with an interest in engineering production drooling at the efficiency of it all.

The next outing after Church Parade is a visit to 2/10 Medium Regiment field firing at Puckapunyal. This will be in the form of a Regimental Open Day. Members of the Association who wish to attend will need to book in without delay. Call me on 9598 8452 if there is no other notice in this issue.

Some time ago the committee arranged reciprocal membership with the Defence Reserves Association -Victoria. This was to allow them to use our numbers to assist them in their work of lobbying for recognition for the defence forces generally and the reserves in particular. I recently attended their Annual General Meeting and a report of that meeting has been prepared by LTCOL Ian George and published elsewhere in this issue.

I note that 22 Battery conducted a farewell to WO2 Wilco Wilkins on 27 November. We will all be sorry to see Tony leave the unit after such long and effective service in both artillery and his out of corps work at Monash University Regiment. Good luck Wilco.

Best wishes and see you in church.

Merv Taggart MAJ
President



Membership Report

December 1999

I am pleased to report that we have added six more new members recently. They are MAJ J. (Josh) Gay, CAPT A. Ayling, LBDR M. Cameron, LBDR R. Dalli and GNR R. Hill. They were the last members to join in the 20th Century! Welcome to you all and I trust your association with us is long and happy. Lets see whom we welcome as the first new member for the 21st Century.

The deaths of GNR J. F. Langlands and GNR J. T. Flynn were noted with sadness recently. On behalf of all members, I would express our sympathy to their families.

At the AGM in August the subscription for 1999/00 was again set at \$12. Thank you to all those annual members who responded by sending in your fees promptly. There are still a few members who have not paid, and this is your last chance to send back the enclosed renewal slip, which is included as an attachment within this issue. I urge those concerned to send back the form with your cheque today. Those annual members who do not respond will be deleted from the membership register in accordance with rule 9.

We have several members with whom we have lost touch. Their copies of Cascabel are being returned unclaimed. If you know their whereabouts, please let me know so we can re-establish contact. They are: COL C. H. Hunter, LT A. R. Maguire, LT J. W. Auchettl, SSGT S. P. McDermott, SGT A. Brian, GNR S. J. Preston, GNR R. G. Mudge, 77 Mobile AASL Bty Association and the British Gunners Association.

If you are about to move, then please ensure you advise us. Please cut out and post the change of address notice on the cover of this issue. Alternatively, telephone me at work on (03) 9781-2633, or at home on (03) 9787-7852.

DAVID OSBORNE

MAJOR

VICE PRESIDENT AND MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY.

ASSOCIATION ANNUAL PRIZES

At the recent St Barbara's day celebration held by 2/10 Medium Regiment at the Chapel Street depot our President Major Merv Taggart presented the Major P S (Norman) Whitelaw Prizes. The annual prizes, in four categories, consist of books suitably inscribed with a certificate, and result from a fund donated by a past president of this Association. The Commanding Officer of 2/10 Medium Regiment, LTCOL Maurice was asked to nominate the recipients.

The awardees, and CO's comments on each were:

Officer

Capt Garry Rolfe CSC – Capt Rolfe is BK of 22 Fd Bty. His administration of the Battery this year has been excellent. The leadership he has displayed and the assistance he has provided to his BC have been a fine example to other officers of the Regiment.

Senior NCO

Sgt Ken Dancey – Sgt Dancey is the detachment commander for the 38 Mdm Bty detachment at the Chapel Street depot. He has single handedly raised and trained the detachment in addition to providing valuable liaison between his BC and RHQ.

Junior NCO or Gunner

Pte Hope Saloustros – Pte Saloustros is a medic within the Regiment and has been instrumental in the reorganisation of the RAP. In addition, she has given willingly of her own time to assist in the Regimental Orderly Room.

Regular Army Member

Sgt Gary McLeish – Sgt McLeish is the Regimental Transport Supervisor. His tireless efforts have made a lot of the Regiment's activities feasible. He has had to work without assistance for a large part of this year as his CPL transferred to the Reserve.

ANNUAL CHURCH PARADE

**Saint Bartholomew's
Anglican Church**

290 Burnley Street, Burnley
(Melways reference: map 2H, E9)

Sunday 6th February 2000
Service commences at 11 am

**Hear the Band of the 2nd/10th Medium
Regiment RAA (the band on the CD and
tapes "Voice of the Gunners") as they provide
the musical accompaniment for the service**

All Gunners and their families are invited to join us

Come early to enjoy the peal of the bells

Any enquiries to Robin Smith on 9435 6352



RAA Association (Victoria) Inc Corps Shop

The following items may be purchased by mail, or at selected Association activities.

PRICE LIST

Badges, etc

RAA Assoc (Vic), members (limit two per member)	\$5.00
RAA, tracksuit	\$3.00
RAA badge cuff links	\$9.00
Key ring, RAA badge	\$4.00

Bar items

Artillery Port	\$8.00
Crock, blue with gold badge (name at no extra cost)	\$22.00
Coffee mug, blue, gold badge (name at no extra cost)	\$6.00

2nd/10th Medium Regiment Band

<i>Voice of the Gunners</i> recording cassette	\$15.00
compact disc	\$20.00

Clothing items

Cap, RAA badged	\$7.00
Scarf, blue with red flash	\$29.00
Wallet, cam	\$5.00

Ties

Blue with red flash	\$30.00
Blue with single red gun	\$30.00
Maroon with small gold gun	\$30.00

Books

<i>Kookaburra's Cutthroats</i>	\$39.00
<i>Aust Military Equip Profiles</i>	\$13.50

Stationery

Card, RAA badge, with envelope Christmas message	\$0.40
blank inside	\$0.40

Stickers

Bumper: <i>Gunners do it with a bigger bang</i>	\$2.00
Square: gold badge, red and blue background	\$2.00
Folders, white A4 size, 2-ring	\$2.00

ENQUIRIES:

BRIAN CLEEMAN	(03) 9560 7116
REG MORRELL	(03) 9562 9552

ORDERS:

Most orders will require an additional FIVE DOLLARS packing and postage, which will cover one to several small items. If in any doubt concerning this, or availability, please contact one of the enquiries numbers above.

Cheques should be made payable to RAA Association (Victoria) Inc, and be crossed *Not Negotiable*.

Orders to: Mr B. Cleeman
28 Samada Street
Notting Hill VIC 3168

"THE HISTORY OF LOCATING ARTILLERY IN AUSTRALIA"

WO2 Craig Cook, 132 Div Loc Bty would be pleased to hear from anyone who served in pre-war or AIF Arty units designated as Artillery Survey Coy, Svy Regt, Sound Ranging Bty or Flash Spotting Bty.

He is trying to trace the historical development of Locating from the early days of 1926 [2 Svy Coy AGA], any and every possible bit of info is very helpful.

He would be prepared to correspond with or talk to any one who would care to contact him in this project.

Although he knows of the names of certain units there is very little or no documented evidence that some units were raised from Bty to Regt level.

Any gunner who can help whether he served in the locating stream or gunnery should contact him as even small pieces of info can help fill the bigger picture.

If anyone has photos or other documents he would be very pleased to look at them also.

As an example he has some personal records and student note books dating back to 1937/8 of the late Sgt Keith Miles [ex 2 Svy Coy] which have proved most interesting and invaluable in looking at the unit's early days.

He also has a number of copies of Unit Routine Instructions and Camp Joining Instructions from 1938-43 which have survived and are really interesting to go through now.

All this information is needed to complete the research of the early days of the original two Survey Coys/Btys/Regts in Victoria and NSW for the publication of "The History of Locating Artillery in Australia"

Should any member reading this know of anyone else who could help please contact Craig at home by writing to him at 33 Haig St, Box Hill Sth 3128 or on Email at craigc@melbpc.org.au or phone him AH 03 9890-2117.

A FEMALE VIEW OF LIVE FIRING

On September 11th, armed with a cut lunch and "sensible shoes" I set out in fear and trepidation to Puckapunyal to witness a live firing, having been assured by my husband "you'll love it".

The first thing I noticed as cars began to arrive was the lack of the female gender. When all were assembled and Major Taggart called the roll it soon became obvious that I was going to be the only female. My Husband whispered "are you sure you want to go ? There must be a market on in Seymour somewhere". I thought I've come this far and heard so much over the years about what a buzz it was to be near the guns when they're firing I wasn't about to miss out now.

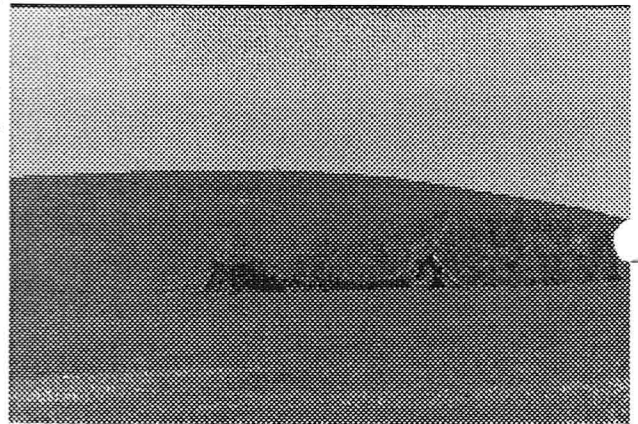
I soon found out about the old Army expression "hurry up and wait". Anyway it was soon time to go; we were warned it would only be a "short" walk to the OP. The main problem was to fit 29 people into two 12 seater buses, but we managed and I the only female set off with 28 of the handsomest, most virile men ever to pull on a khaki uniform - and I'm sure it was khaki when most of them wore it, with the greatest respect-.

I must say our drivers were to be commended at bush crashing our Toyota buses to the spot where we got out and walked. To the BC's credit it was downhill as he promised, which meant it was uphill going back!

We spent a very pleasant couple of hours at the OP, listening, with a few frustrated tut-tuts from the onlookers when mistakes were made, watching mobs of kangaroos hop by and, with binoculars at the ready. the occasional puff of smoke on a far distant hill.

Then it was on to the Guns. Definitely the highlight of the day, although the scones, jam and cream came a close second. We were given an excellent run down of the Command Post and finally got to see and hear!! the guns fire.

I have been well educated over the years in gunnery and fire plans etc, as anyone who knows J. C. will know he lives and breathes Army even though he's been retired a number of years now, so it was great to see it in the flesh so to speak.



I strongly advise all you female partners to experience it at least once. I will certainly go again given the chance. Next time I will wear sneakers!

Thanks Guys for making me feel welcome I had a great day, although the Ladies' Rest Room left a lot to be desired.

Linda Carter

Thanks to you too Linda, and hope we will see you at the next one. It was great to see you at ADI as well. You really have become "one of us". Welcome !

Editor

THE REGIMENT IN THE FIELD FIRING DAY

PUCKAPUNYAL

11 SEP 99

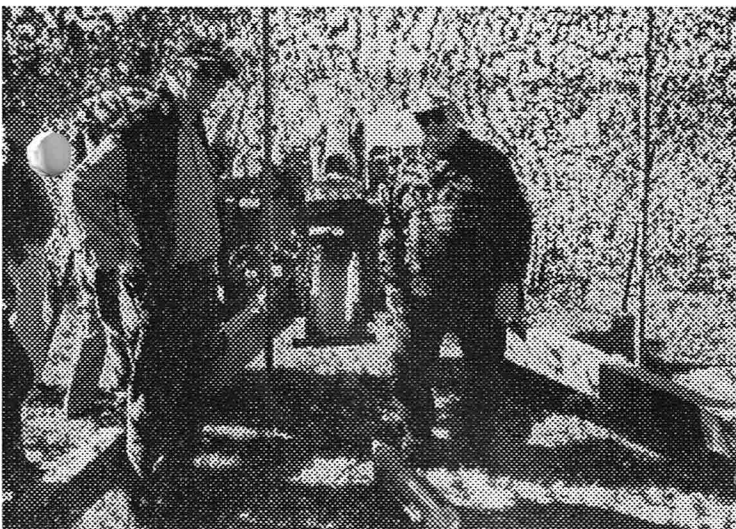
On Saturday, 11 Sep 99, 12 of our members visited the field firing exercise of 38 Mdm Bty, 2/10 Mdm Regt RAA, at their firing weekend at Puckapunyal, as was organised by Merv Taggart and Robin Smith.

On a perfect spring day, we all arrived at "Range Control", where we met with six members of the 10 Mdm Regt RAA Assn., eight ex-gunners of the National Servicemen's Assn. and with great pleasure three members of the 2/4 Fd Regt RAA Assn. (2nd AIF), Messrs P Cahir, D McIver and R Harle. I'm sure they lost 40 years the moment they stepped onto the range.

The 2/10 Mdm Regt 2IC, MAJ McCallum and RSM WO1 Jones met us, advised us of Range Safety, organised us into groups and then moved us by bus to the OP on Tehans Hill. Here we were briefed by the BC, MAJ Kostindinovic and three young cons who indicated the intended target. (How did I just know it was "That Dead Tree Stump" with the Branch off to the Right on the forward slope of Campbell's Ridge). After a short delay we watched the "Adjustment Procedure" and observed the rounds fall around the "Target". (It still survives).



Following another mission, using "Bty Fire for Effect", the visitors group was again assembled and taken to the Gun Position, East of the Whitelaw Hills area. Here the BK, CAPT Stevens outlined the deployment of his battery, also advised us due to ammunition restrictions, the battery was using 105 mm M2A2 guns and not their 155 mm M198 howitzers. We were then taken to the kitchen area and served tea/coffee and scones.



The GPO, LT Sullivan gave us a brief description of his Comd Post and the latest equipment in use for Communication and Target Acquisition, then in three groups we moved down to where the three guns were deployed. Here our individual groups were shown ammunition preparation and firing drills. We observed close-up of a "Fire Mission" from the gun pits and it was good to inhale in the fumes of burnt cordite again.

After the Mission, we were taken back to "Range Control" and debriefed by the 2IC. Then back to our vehicles after saying our "Good-byes" and thanks to the 2IC and RSM, also to Merv, our President, who organised an enjoyable and exhilarating day.

PS Couldn't help but notice that Neil Hamer has not lost the art of complete relaxation on a deck chair.

Laurie Haby

FREEDOM OF ENTRY

In a Nutshell

The Mayor of the City of Port Phillip presented the Scroll granting Freedom of Entry to the Commanding Officer of the 2nd/10th Medium Regiment at 11 am, Sunday 14 November 1999, at Dorothy Paul Field, Albert Park Reserve.

The troops then marched to Fitzroy Street along Lakeside Drive.

At 12 noon, almost 40 artillery vehicles with 120 soldiers aboard departed from the corner of Fitzroy Street & Lakeside Drive and paraded down Fitzroy Street and the Upper Esplanade to Cavell Street, where the troops stationed their vehicles.

The Granting of Freedom of Entry

The granting of Freedom of Entry to a City is a centuries long tradition.

The 2nd/10th Medium Regiment is based at Chapel Street St Kilda and is an important part of the City of Port Phillip's community.

The Port Phillip Council was proud to formally welcome the troops into their City by granting and celebrating their Freedom of Entry.

The Challenge

When the Regiment paraded down Fitzroy Street, the Chief Constable and two mounted police I challenged the Regiment at the corner into the Upper Esplanade, asking "who goes there!".

The Commanding Officer produced the Scroll showing that the troops have Freedom of Entry to the City of Port Phillip.

CENTENARY PASSES FOR AUSTRALIAN ARTILLERY

(By CPL Jonathan Garland)

The approaching millennium and centenary of Federation are such significant events in our history that some of the lesser-known milestones are in danger of passing unobserved.

August 24 holds special significance for Australian Artillery as the centenary of a granting of the royal title by the reigning monarch of the day, Queen Victoria.

RAA COL Commandant Eastern Region, BRIG George Salmon said that on July 14, 1899, the Queen decreed that the Permanent Artillery of New South Wales, Victoria and Queensland should be designated the New South Wales, Victoria and Queensland Regiments of the Royal Australian Artillery.

"When the decree came into effect on August 24, it was the first semblance of a federal force, more than 16 months ahead of the federation of the Australian States on January 1, 1901," he said.

On December 30, 1899, the newly titled RAA (specifically A Bty) went to war in South Africa, remaining in that Country for 18 months.

The State Regiments subsequently transferred to the Commonwealth on March 1, 1901.

Chris Jobson, from the Australian War Memorial, said the date should not be confused with the raising of A Bty on August 1, 1871.

The Regiment was presented with the Queen's Banner on the centenary of this date in 1971, celebrated as the official birthday of the Regiment.

(An extract from Army Newspaper, reproduced here with the kind permission of the Editor of that publication and the Author.)

VISIT TO ADI MUNITIONS FACTORY AT BENALLA

Our tour began just after 0800 hours on Tuesday 23rd November 1999 when our coach departed from Oakleigh Barracks. All on board were eager and enthusiastic to see what lay ahead at ADI Munitions facility at Benalla. therefore we had to purchase our own meals which were very enjoyable and very affordable.

Ernie PADDON climbed on board first and curled up on the back seats to have some shut eye (night shift worker). Brian CLEEMAN set about selling RAA shop items to all on board .. and yes, he made a few sales. Well done Brian. Ron CURTIS (our editor) was encouraging Ed WILLIAMS to write a few more articles for our Cascabel magazine. Our president (Merv TAGGART) sat back and read a book. Robin SMITH and Neil HAMER sat together and reminisced about the good old days at 23 Fd. Bty. At 1300 hours we adjourned to the conference room at the Fynmore building where we were given an overview of ADI and Benalla facility by the General Manager Bob SIMPSON. Our members bombarded Bob with numerous questions and it appeared we would be there all day, so question time had to be interrupted so we could visit the facility. Our members were then split into 3 groups and given colourful protective clothing. Our tour included visits to the large calibre section where we were privileged to see the production of 105 mm and 5 inch projectiles and also the cartridge cases to suit. Other ammunition produced by this facility included 20 mm cannon, 50 mm calibre browning, RAAF practice bombs, grenades etc.

Perce COOPER produced a large bag of assorted toffees and lollies and shared them amongst our group. Apparently they were leftovers from the time he served at 132 Div Loc Bty.

Ian WINGATE was obtaining information from Captain Bill ATKINS (RAE) re a possible weekend trip for the association to visit the old gun battery sites between Warrnambool and Portland.

Terry DIGGINES was entertaining passengers at the rear of the coach. Rod OLSEN was reminiscing about his trip to Italy and he was asking a lot of questions about becoming a Catholic. Arthur ROBERTS tried very hard to keep awake, but slept for most of the trip.

We stopped for a coffee break near Seymour. We finally arrived at our destination where we were subjected to a vigorous security check before entering the munitions complex. On leaving the coach we were escorted to the canteen by the production manager, Geoff ADDISON who most of you would know is a member of our association. Unfortunately he left his wallet home and

We then moved to the small arms ammunition facility where again we were privileged in observing the production of the 5.56 mm ammunition. They also produce the 7.62 mm ammunition.

The three groups finally met back at the Fynmore building, where we saw a number of Australian small arm weapons and ammunition on display.

While Ron entertained the onsite nurse in the first aid room the rest of us drove around the facility and observed the high explosive buildings from the outside only. We collected Ron who put up a bit of struggle as he didn't want to leave the nurse and we headed back to Oakleigh Barracks. Whilst en route Brian CLEEMAN entertained us with the music from the 2/10 Medium Regiment Band, Voice of the Gunners.

Overall it was a great day.

Reg Morrell
Treasurer

BACK TO THE REGIMENT NIGHT

On Friday 8th October another 'Back to the Regiment Night' was held in the Sergeants' Mess at Chapel Street St Kilda.

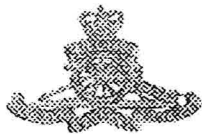
Although the numbers were down, those attending appeared to enjoy themselves by reminiscing with old mates and exchanging war stories as well as enjoying a delicious meal provided by that lovely lady Maris SLOAN. Well done, Maris - you did yourself proud once again.

Many thanks to all those members who responded by either attending or by sending in an apology. The following members and friends attended:-

Harry BATES, Sid BATTERSHILL, Keith and Dianne BUNETT, Brian CLEEMAN, Craig COOK, John and Rachael DECKER, Terry DIGGINES, Lionel FOSTER, Cliff HORWOOD, Neville HUMPHYRIS, Chris JACKSON, Kenny and Margaret JOHNSON, Tom MCLEAN, Bob MILLETT, Reg MORRELL, Danny O'BRIEN, Daryl O'CONNOR, Bernie PEARSON, Frank PERRY, Harry PETRIW, Eddie REDFERN, Dave ROMEIN, Steve SOOS, Rod THARLE, John THOMAS and John TURNER.

Hopefully we will see a much better attendance next year. See you then.

Reg Morrell
Treasurer



4th Field Regiment

40th Birthday Celebrations

4 Field Regiment will celebrate its 40th birthday from 3-6 May 2000. An open invitation is issued to all past members of the Regiment to participate in the festivities.

Planned activities include 1812 Overture and Beating of Retreat, Freedom of City of Thuringowa parade, Regimental Ball and much more.

Accommodation packages are available with details available on request.

If you are interested in participating and would like further information please contact the Adjutant of 4 Field Regiment, Captain Steve Rohan-Jones, on (07) 4771-7214 or write to him at:

4 Field Regiment
Chau Pha lines
LAVARACK BARRACKS
TOWNSVILLE QLD 4813

HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE

A Touch of History

The Gun in the Launceston City Park

As far back as I can remember, the old black 'cannon' has overlooked the slopes in Launceston's City Park. When I was a kid I used to sit astride it and pretend I was a gunner preparing to blow the bejabbers out of any invading enemy coming up the river-flats near the old defunct Railway yards. Generations of kids, including mine and my grandchildren, have rolled down the neat grassy slopes below its foreboding barrel without a thought of its history - they only know that it has been a part of their playground for nearly 150 years. However, as part of the Artillery Trust responsibilities, a little history lesson may enlighten some of us on why an old Russian naval gun came to be mounted in the Launceston City Park.

In 1990, to celebrate the 130th Anniversary of the Launceston Volunteer Artillery, the Artillery Historical Trust of Tasmania, Northern Branch presented the City of Launceston with a bronze plaque that contained the following inscription.

THIS 38 POUNDER GUN WAS CAPTURED FROM THE RUSSIANS AT SEBASTOPOL DURING THE CRIMEAN WAR 1854-56 AND WAS PRESENTED TO THE TOWN OF LAUNCESTON BY THE HOME GOVERNMENT AS A RESULT OF THE CHARITABLE EFFORTS OF THE PEOPLE OF LAUNCESTON IN RAISING FUNDS FOR THE PATRIOTIC FUND. THE GUN WAS CAST IN THE EMPEROR ALEXANDER FACTORY IN THE YEAR 1840. BORE 7 INCHES. DOCUMENTED BY THE ARTILLERY HISTORICAL TRUST OF TASMANIA NORTHERN BRANCH TO COMMEMORATE THE 130th ANNIVERSARY OF THE LAUNCESTON VOLUNTEER ARTILLERY 1860-1990.

Hidden away on the right cascabel is the inscription in Russian, that reads:-

**36 - H(?)
Cannon - Carronade
Weight 142 - Pounds.
1840 - Year.**

On the left cascabel, the roughly translated inscription reads:-

**No. 26851
Alksnd (Alexander) Factory
Origin : Armstrong**

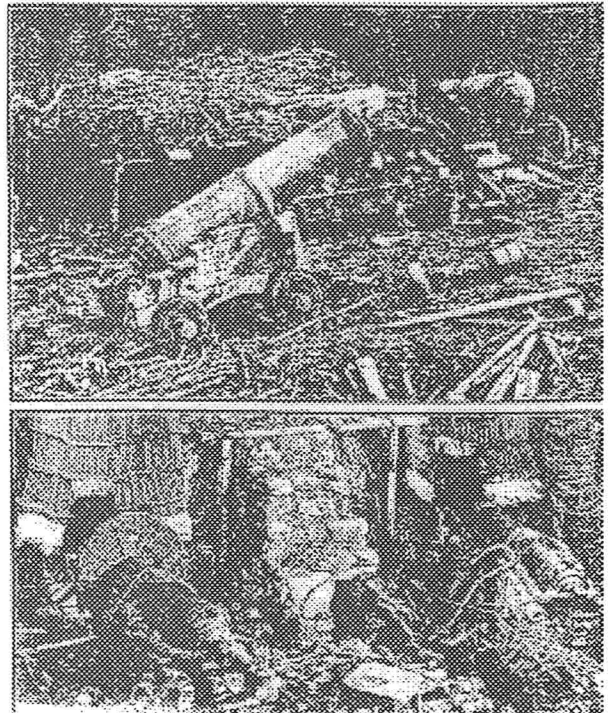
The double-headed Imperial Russian Eagle crest is positioned prominently half way down the barrel -with the large letters M and A on each side of the breech vent. It is to be noted that to make using these heavy naval guns far easier, the Russians remounted a few on cast-iron gun carriages.

The Siege of Sebastopol 1854-55.

The Crimean war started in 1853 and initially involved Russia versus Turkey. By 1854, Britain

and France had also become involved and declared war on Russia. Sardinia joined the Allies in 1855.

Sebastopol was originally developed to be the most important Russian naval base, and its main arsenal, on the Black Sea. The brick-and-masonry fortifications had been commenced in 1783 and upgraded periodically to make it considered impregnable by the standards of the day. In 1807 the Czar ordered further works but nothing was done until the war broke out in 1853. By April 1854, Colonel Frants Todleben had been appointed to upgrade the fortifications but, because he considered that any invasion would come from the sea, he took his time with the inland facing defences.



The French and British landed on September 13th 1854 at Old Fort - 30 miles to the north of Sebastopol - and after defeating Prince Menshikov's army at Alma, the Allies were within sight of the northern defences of the port. They considered the northern approaches too strong and so they decided to march to the south - however, they underestimated the strength of the partly constructed defences and decided that an estimated 500 casualties was too high a price to pay to breach them.

Todelben was let off the hook and immediately set about strengthening the fortification by using every able-bodied man he could muster. In the meanwhile the Allies began a formal siege.

By mid-October, Sebastopol was one of the most formidable fortresses in the world. Due to lack of bricks-and-masonry materials, Todelben had his men raise massive earthwork bastions connected with trenches and supporting batteries. He had so many guns, over 3000 - most of these from the Russian Black Sea Fleet - that many had to be stored.

The bombardment started on 17th October 1854 and was destined to continue until September 8th 1855. After terrible carnage (over 300,000 men) the Russian commander, Prince Gorchakov, - who was losing up to 1000 men a day - blew up the town and retreated across a pontoon bridge to the stronger northern defences. It was estimated that the allies had fired 1,250,000 projectiles into Sebastopol before the withdrawal.

Main References.

Modern Military Series - ARTILLERY

Published 1975 - Octopus Books.

Pears Cyclopaedia - 92nd Edition.

Published 1983-84. The Chaucer Press.

(Reproduced here from the Artillery Trust News No 5 Nov/Dec 99 with kind permission of The Artillery Historical Trust of Tasmania Northern Branch..)

**REPORT ON ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
OF THE DEFENCE RESERVES ASSOCIATION - VICTORIAN BRANCH
ON SUNDAY 31 OCTOBER 1999
AT RAA DEPOT - CHAPEL STREET - WINDSOR**

The President attended the AGM of the Defence Reserves Association - Victorian Branch at the Chapel Street Depot on Sunday 31 October 1999. Our Association is affiliated with the DRA as are several other Corps and Regimental Associations which were also represented at the meeting. The DRA is involved in the support of the Australian Defence Forces and in particular the Reserve component.

The President of the DRA Brigadier A J McGalliard RFD ED (Ret'd) welcomed members and representatives to the meeting and outlined matters which had received the committee's special attention in recent times including :

- Need for and employment of Reserve units in East Timor.
- Protective legislation for called out Reservists.
- The 6 week recruit and IET training courses for Reservists and the effect upon recruiting and civilian employment.
- Correspondence with the Prime Minister regarding concerns for the future of the Reserves.
- Ongoing meetings between the National Executive and senior Government representatives.
- Affiliations with Regimental, Corps and Service Associations.
- Contacts with DRSC, RSL, NSA, ADA, RUSI and the Society of ME.
- Reserve Forces Day.

Following the election of the President and committee for 1999, the President welcomed the Assistance Chief of the Defence Force (Reserves) Major General D C Low Choy AM MBE RFD who addressed the meeting. In doing so, Major General Low Choy advised the meeting of a recent change in the organisational position of his office which now gives him much needed input into the effect of strategic planning reflecting the growing awareness of the importance of the Reserves to the overall capability of the Australian Defence Force. This seachange in perception is opening a window of opportunity for the Reserve to improve its representation to truly reflect the civilian population from which it is drawn, and for the enhancement of the awareness of the Reserves right throughout all strata of the Australian community.

It is only by casting the Reserves in a consistent favourable light that the valuable resource it represents can be fully appreciated by the Australian people and the Government can be encouraged to provide the resources and support desperately needed to properly exploit the Reserves' latent potential. The bridge which the Reserves are capable of providing between the military and the community is a further unique benefit available from a properly resourced and supported citizen military force.

Squadron Leader J Leonard, CO of 21 Squadron RAAF also addressed the meeting and in doing so revealed the results of some comparative research he has carried out which shows a very welcome change in the differences between the Australian Defence Academy organisation and individual student's perceptions of the relative importance of officer qualities. The conclusion being drawn is that the quality of leaders now being graduated at the ADA has improved at a remarkable rate over the past several years.

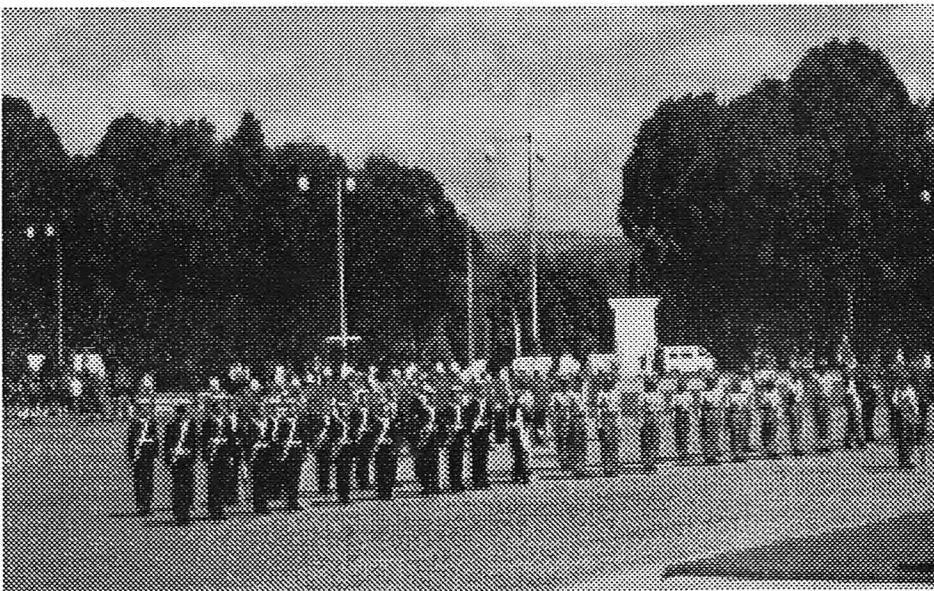
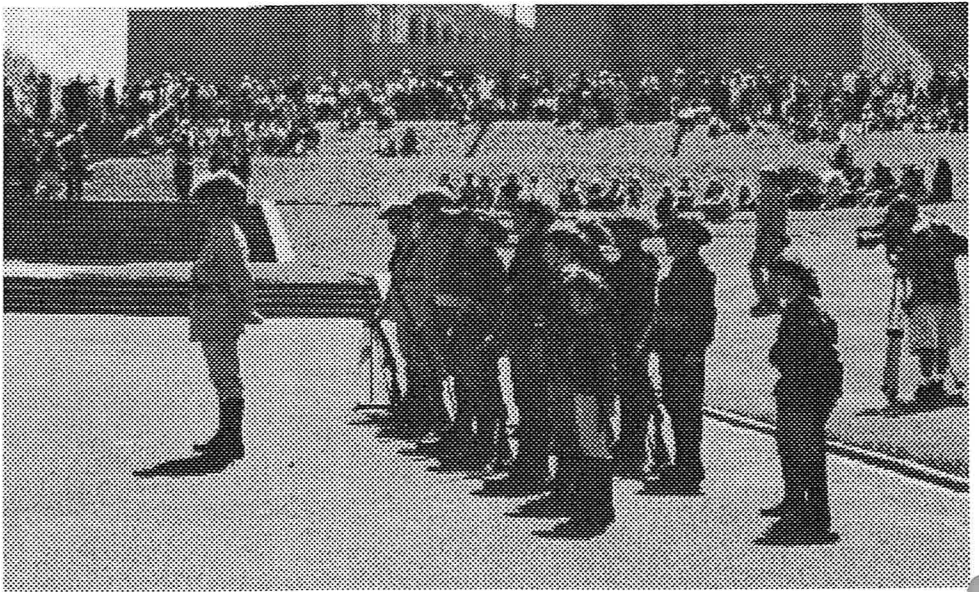
Brigadier P Davies AM (Ret'd) highlighted the vital contribution being made by the Reserves to the defence capability of Australia and in doing so traced some of the background of the Citizens Military Force reinforcing the strong link it has with the general community. He gave the meeting a glimpse for the future he anticipates for the Reserves and of the increasingly important role he sees for the citizen soldiers in both the internal and external affairs of the nation.

The meeting concluded with a convivial Bar B Que lunch during which interaction with the principle guest speaker provided answers to members' questions and the basis for much earnest and illuminating discussion.

Letters to the Editor

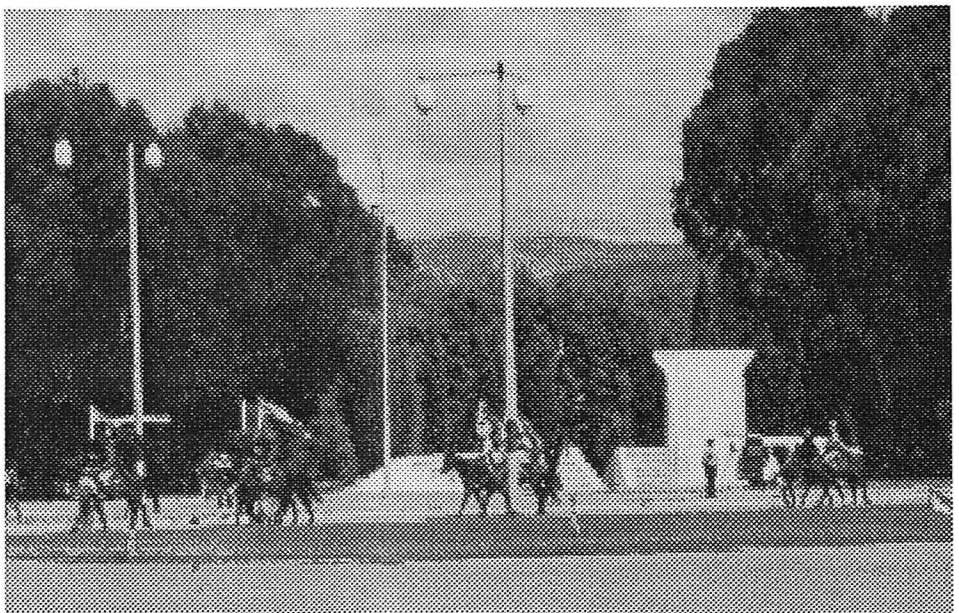
During a recent visit to Canberra, I was fortunate in being present to see a re-enactment parade of the "Imperial Bushmen's Contingent" of Light Horse, in period uniform, to commemorate the centenary of the start of the Boer War.

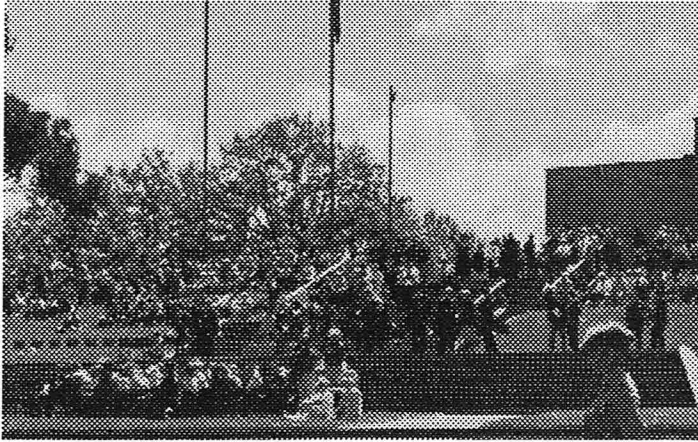
The parade consisted of a Head Quarters in twos,



led by LTCOL Mike Annett and the Colour Party, with flags from Australia, New Zealand, Great Britain, Canada, South Africa and the Regimental Colours, escorted by a troop of Lancers. Then followed two squadrons in fours, a field ambulance and supply wagon both horse drawn.

The contingent marched down ANZAC Parade, then wheeled about and proceeded back up to the forecourt of the National War Memorial. In all, there were 150 horses from detachments and organisations all over Australia, the greatest assembly of horse since World War Two.



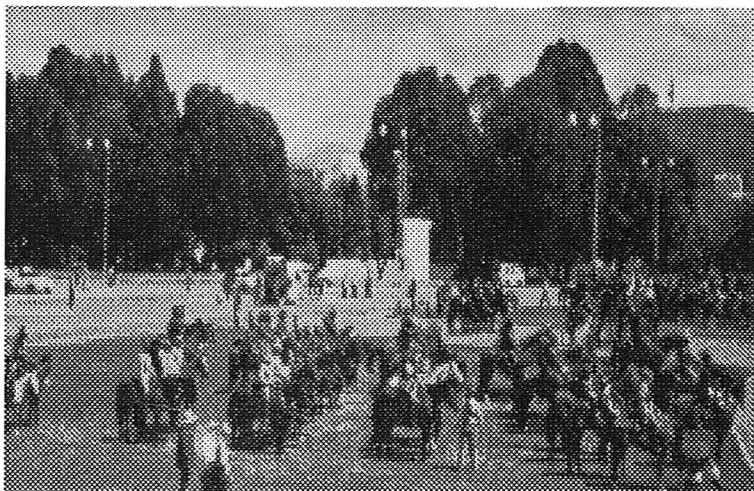


At the War Memorial, the parade was met by the Governor-General, Sir William Deane, a "Tri-Service Guard" supplied by Army Head Quarters Canberra, the band from the Royal Military College, Duntroon, and a period guard from the "Military Enactment Association".

The Governor-General was presented with a parchment by LTCOL Annett, to commemorate the occasion and then unveiled a plaque in memory of all service personal who served in the South African War. The master of ceremony was Mr Colin Munro and the parade coordinator and drill instructor was WO1 Greg Hooper CSM, the RSM of the School of Armour, Puckapunyal.

This parade concluded a three day exercise from Sunday 10th October, to Tuesday 12th October 1999, which included "Tent Pegging and Drills" on the Sunday, a parade along Commonwealth Avenue to Parliament House on the Monday, and presenting the Prime Minister, Mr Howard, with a scroll listing the deeds of the Australian Light Horse throughout the war.

To say it was a moving event would be an understatement and the only thing missing was a horse drawn "gun and limber". As I had cause to contact WO1 Hooper in regards to the parade and to congratulate him on such a great effort, I dropped him the hint. He advised that they almost had a gun of



the period, (a 15 pounder I presume, the type which was used by A Battery during this war), from the Northern Territory, but it needed far too much work to make it serviceable for the parade.

I advised him of a similar type of gun, a 12 pounder Armstrong breach loading rifled gun, (one of the Rupertswood Guns), which has been fully restored. This gun is held by the Deniliquin RSL, on display in a glass cabinet, in their foyer. As plans have started for the 2001 anniversary celebrations, WO1 Hooper advised that he will be contacting them for the possible use with the "Light Horse" in the year 2001 parade.

THE RUPERTSWOOD GUN

(On display at the Deniliquin RSL Club)

This Gun is one of two used by the Victorian Horse Artillery, better known as the Rupertswood Battery, a unique Australian fighting force which existed in Victoria from 1885-97.

The Battery was formed by Sir William Clarke to protect the young colony from foreign invasion, particularly from Russia, and was funded partly by him and partly by The Victorian Government.

This gun, one of a pair, replaced the Battery's original guns in 1889, but was already 30 years old and considered a stopgap only.

The Government's continual refusal to honour its commitment to provide new guns eventually led to the disbanding of the Battery soon after the death of its patron.

Its final duty was performed at a parade in Melbourne to mark Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee.

WEAPON DETAILS

TYPE: Armstrong 12 Pounder sliding block screw breech rifled bore.

SERIAL NUMBER: 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: 8 cwt 2 gtrs (ordnance) and 12 cwt (carriage).

This type of gun was;

- the first wrought iron gun used in British service,
- the first breech loading artillery used in British service,
- and the first rifled gun used in British service.

This gun was made available by the Landale family of "Dahwilly" Deniliquin. Faithfully restored by the Staff & Apprentices of the Army Apprentices School, Latchford Barracks, BONEGILLA: 1989.

ANOTHER HISTORIC BUILDING THAT LOOKS LIKE GOING THE WAY OF MANY OTHERS

In the Ballarat Courier dated 30 Oct the council is seeking expression of interest in the disposal of the famous RANGER BARRACKS drill hall in Curtis St.

It appears the land and adjacent area has been acquired by a developer to build a new complex on, and in their desire "to get the tender" it appears they will move the drill hall to another site. To anyone who knows of this depot then the job of disassembly, removal and rebuilding would be quite a feat.

Considering that Ballarat has had a military commitment dating back to 21 July 1858 when consent was given to raise a volunteer force of rifles it would seem a pity to see the old drill hall [although not the original] disappear without some sort of activity.

The notice in the paper says "it will be available when the present users have relocated". With the current movements in Defence is there any one who knows what is happening to the Reserves in Ballarat?

Perhaps they are moving out of town [prime real estate] to the smaller drill hall behind Ballarat college which may again revert to the education department if recruiting lags in the area.

A shade of days with our own Artillery unit moving from Frankston to Baxter and then to relinquish it to the education authorities. If anyone would like to know more about this fine old drill hall and what the council has in store for it then perhaps a line to Garry Purton at Business Ballarat on 03 5320-5620 or by Email at purton@ballarat.vic.gov.au may be of interest.

This is a copy of a request for information which I sent to Garry Purdon.

"It has just come to my attention in the Public notices in Courier dated 30 Oct 99 re the above building. From the announcement it appears that a feasibility study has been done to look at the actual aspect of moving the hall to an alternative site. Is this the case, and just how much demolition would be needed to do this and how much of the original building would be able to be restored."

"When are the existing users due to move and how long before the structure would need to be removed after that time.?"

"Is there also any National trust preservation order or perhaps a Ballarat council requirement on the relocation distance that may be involved.?"

"While relocation has been offered by the developers I

assume the council is seeking a monetary tender for the purchase of this building."

Here is the reply I received. Looks like the existing unit is moving and soon.

Subject: RE: Curtis St, Drill Hall
Date: Monday, 8 November 1999 09:25

In terms of the questions raised:

- no, a feasibility has not been done
- part of the arrangement with the developer of the site is that he will move the building
- he may choose to do a feasibility study.
- no demolition expected and the building is to be restored on a new site
- existing users are to relocated by about Feb 2000 and building moved by about March 2000
- there is heritage interest in the building but not a formal preservation order.

Council would expect that the new site and use of the building contain a high level of Ballarat community content. This means that the building would not be available for moving to another town/suburb etc.

-monetary tender not expected.

Regards.

Garry Purton

I wondered about making an offer to move on to my 20 acre property just out of Ballarat. Would look pretty good sitting on a commanding hill sight to be seen all over the Western plains looking over Colac. May even be able to raise my own troop of something or other up there to put in the old hall.

*Craig Cook
ex 132 Bty*

(I don't know how much interest you will get in this Craig, as after all we are an ARTILLERY Association, perhaps Defence Reserves Association would be more interested.)

Editor.

Dear Ron,

I was delighted at the correspondence generated by my puzzle concerning the search light. The answers ranged from, "Its a search Light", to half pages including date of manufacture etc. There were to be no prizes and as Craig Cook's answer was not the most complete I will save the port for another time.

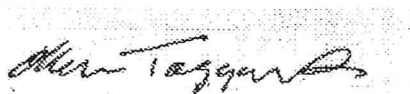
In answer to Jock MacDonald- You can recognise our editor as an AA gunner when you notice that he is always the one standing beside a Bofors while the rest are looking at a 105mm. However Ron did not know what the article was because in his time on Bofors they did not use searchlights so you will see that you must always look at the big picture.

I know that our picture reproduction is not the best so I should explain that both Mina and I are sitting on a park bench across a path from the object. Mina has the camera to her eye and the eccentricity is because the search light body is tilted back slightly.

It was good to see Mal Bugg mention some of those old characters such as Eric Watts. We would welcome some notes on 22 Fd Regt (SP) and 31 Mdm Regt as past members of those two units in particular are few and far between and their history is slipping away.

Talking of old characters I noticed the passing of LTCOL George Wyeth some weeks ago. George was 2IC of 10 Medium Regiment at the time of the amalgamation of 10 Field Regt, 4 Medium Regt and 22 Field Regt (SP) in 1957. He played a big part in the difficult task of moulding those three proud regiments into one and was greatly respected by the officers of the regiment.

Best wishes,



Merv Taggart

Keep those letters rolling in. Please address all editorial correspondence, and articles, etc to:

The Editor

OR Email to: rgcurtis@bigpond.com.au

"CASCABEL"

34 Richmond Ave

Carrum Downs Vic 3201

NON-Editorial material should be addressed to:

RAA Assn (Vic) Inc

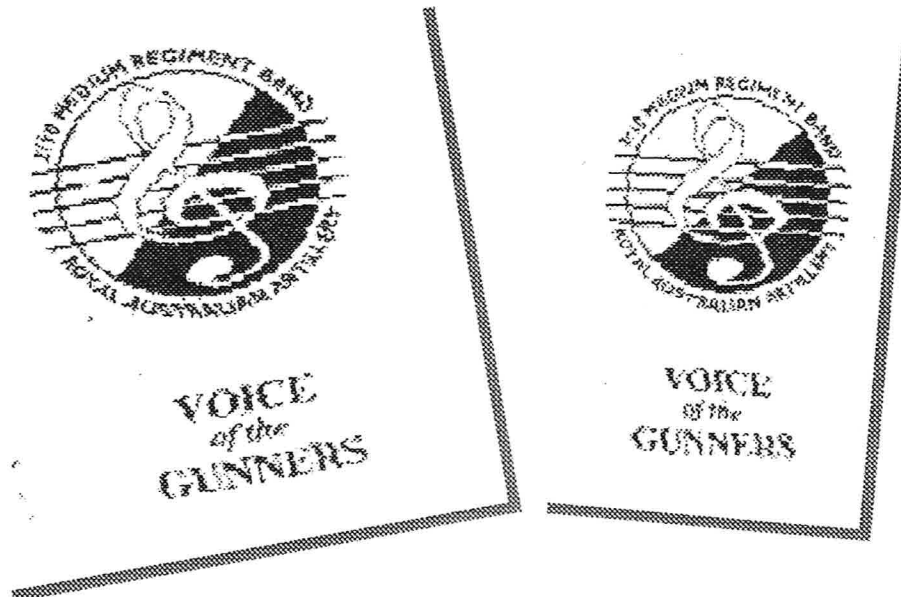
PO Box 309

Frankston VIC 3199



PRESENTS

VOICE OF THE GUNNERS



An exciting new recording was released in 1998
to commemorate the band's Golden Jubilee year.
A programme to suit every taste, the recording features traditional
artillery music, vocals, big band and bagpipe numbers.

\$20.00 CD

\$15.0 Cassette

& -----

Please reserve my copy of *Voice of the Gunners*.

Tick which applicable.

Please send to me (I have included postage and handling).

- ☐ Please call me to arrange pick up.
☐ My cheque made payable to RAA Association
☐ is enclosed.

Name:

Address: P/code:

Phone: (AH) (BH)

	Quantity	Sub Total
CD (\$20)		
Cassette (\$15)		
Postage & Handling (\$5)		
TOTAL		

Send orders to: 2/10 Mdm Regt Band
Recording, PO Box 373, Newport VIC. 3015

PARADE CARD 1999

January 2000

No Functions or Meetings during
this month

February 2000

6 Church Pde
17 Committee Meeting

March 2000

16 Committee Meeting
18 Fire Power Open Day

April 2000

8/9 2/10 Birthday Function TBA
20 Committee Meeting
25 Anzac Day

May 2000

18 Committee Meeting
20 ??? Visit Pay Corps & Sigs
Museums ???

June 2000

15 Committee Meeting
30 Gunner Dinner

July 2000

1 Reserves Day Parade
20 Committee Meeting
29 ??? Arty Ball ???

August 2000

17 Committee Meeting

September 2000

21 Committee Meeting

October 2000

19 Committee Meeting
26 AGM

November 2000

9/10 Freedom of Geelong
16 Committee Meeting

December 2000

2 1812 Overture
3 St Barbara's Day
14 Committee Meeting

CHANGING YOUR ADDRESS?

Please forward to:
RAA Association (Vic) Inc.

Name.....

Old Address:

New Address:

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

ENSURE ADDRESS DETAILS ARE UPDATED BEFORE NEXT ISSUE

Royal Australian Artillery Association (Vic) Inc
PO Box 309
Frankston Vic 3201
Reg No A13889z
Registered by Australia Post
Print Post Approved PP 320418/00029

**SURFACE
MAIL**

**Postage
Paid
Australia**