

CASCABEL

Journal of the

ROYAL AUSTRALIAN ARTILLERY ASSOCIATION
(VICTORIA) INCORPORATED

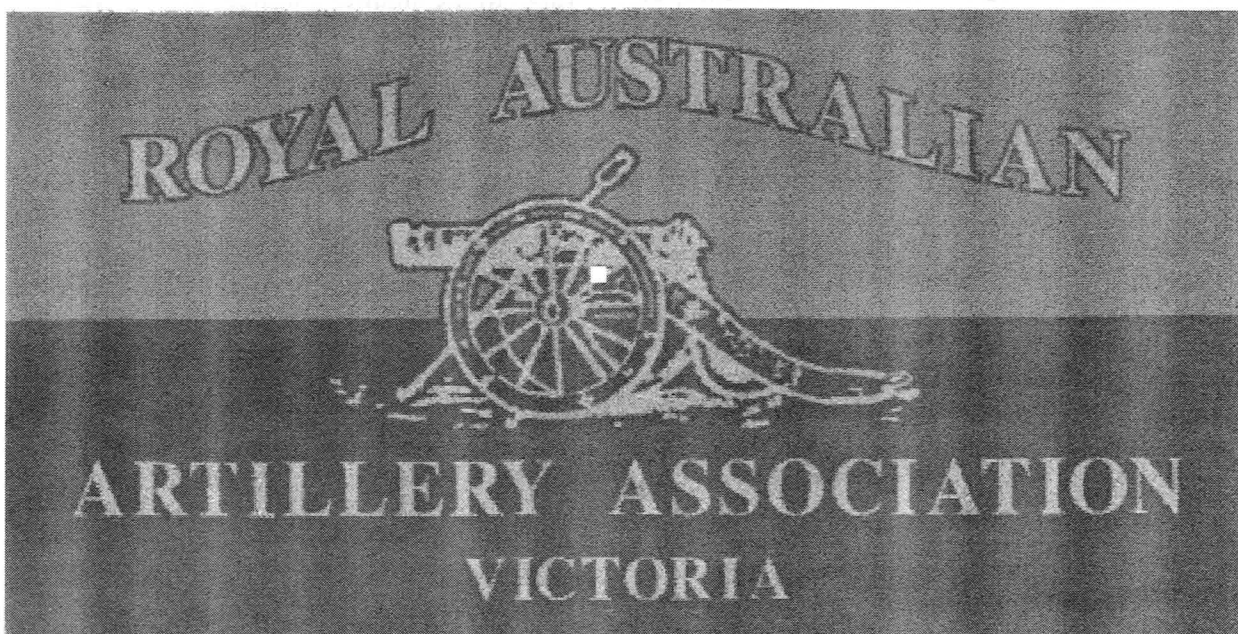
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Number 69

Published Quarterly in
Victoria Australia

October 2001



**OUR OWN BANNER AT LAST FOR THOSE WHO DID NOT SEE IT
AT THE DEFENCE RESERVES DAY PARADE**



**The Queen's Banner paraded at the 2001 Gunner Dinner at
Victoria Barracks Officers' Mess by 2LT Hogan and SGTS Norris
and McElhalum**

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: MAJGEN 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

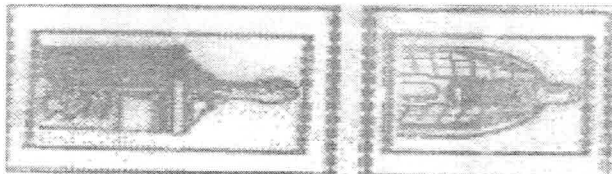
1984 MAJ P. S. (Norman) Whitelaw ED

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.



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.

ASSOC LOGO:

Our Assoc 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 Assoc Committee.

POSTAL ADDRESSES:

For all correspondence

Not related to CASCABEL:

Secretary

**RAA Assoc (Vic) Inc
101 Warralong Ave
GREENSBOROUGH
VIC 3088**

For all correspondence

related to CASCABEL:

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(10 Mdm Regt Assn)

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Phone: 9763 5995

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8 Chapel St
St Kilda (Melway 58 D9)

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9526 4230

22 Fd Bty 9792 2642
Lonsdale St
Dandenong (Melway 90 E9)

38 Mdm Bty 5221 7666
Myers St
Geelong (Melway 228 D4)

38 Mdm Bty 5231 2056
Queen St
Colac

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 Assn (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 **January 2002** issue are required no later than **Fri 23 Nov 2001** unless otherwise arranged with the Editor.

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EDITOR'S EXOTERICS

It is really pleasing to see a few more Letters to the Editor in this issue. Craig Cook is again chasing info and trying to trace a past digger on behalf of somebody in Queensland. Craig has supplied the relevant E-mail addresses or has kindly offered to pass the info for you if you can help. He has also supplied the address of the web page he got the original request from, if any of you are interested it having a look at it.

Roy Harle's interest in Merv's mystery photo was appreciated, but I agree with Merv it would have been nice to see somebody else taking an interest. You will find a full and very interesting run down on the photo in Merv's own letter. I might have to talk to Roy Harle about running the story of William F@#\$\$%^\$ Henry Jones, provided the paper isn't going to catch fire if we run it.

My thanks to Jim Breeze who has confirmed what I thought. That is that I'm far from being the only one who doesn't know why we do or did things in the Army and/or the RSL. He has supplied another interesting item on page 22 about the origin of 'Stand To'.

Anybody else got some of this interesting background info. Remember the Owen Gun Story in Casabel 67, April 2001 ? Well who can give us a concise origin of the Bren Gun or the 105 mm or the 25 pdr ? Or who knows the origins of Army ranks such as SGT and SSGT, or PTE and CPL, or each of the officer ranks. GNR is obvious as he fires a gun, but why PTE for the most basic rank who experiences less privacy during his time in that rank than in any other ? Get the picture ? Well let's hear from you if you know any answers. It will be appreciated.

I included Ernie Padden's submission on Sir Harry Secombe because I realised we had said nothing about him since Cascabel 59, March 1999 in which we reported that he had suffered a mild stroke. We of course now know that he did not fully recover and has since gone as somebody once expressed it, to that big Gun Park in the sky.

Nice to not have any Vales to report, but we hope there isn't any we are unaware of, if you know of any please let us know so that we can belatedly pay tribute next issue.

Hope to see some of you at th AGM, the Back to the Regt function and the Visit to the Regt in the Field. Bye for Now.

Ron Curtis
Editor

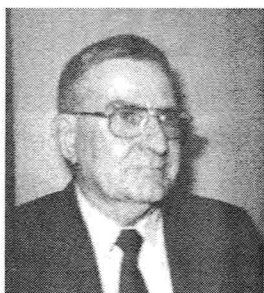
CURRENT POSTAL ADDRESSES

All mail for **the Association**, except matters concerning *Cascabel*, should be addressed to:
**The Secretary,
RAA Assoc (Vic) Inc
101 Warralong Avenue
GREENSBOROUGH 3088**

This address should now also be used for Membership applications.

All mail for **the Editor of Cascabel**, including articles and letters submitted for publication, should continue to be sent direct to:

**The Editor
"Cascabel"
Unit 1 No 3 Sandpiper Place
FRANKSTON 3199
(or e-mail to: rgcurtis@bigpond.com.au)**



The President writes

Well, here we are again with only a few days of winter left according to the calendar. I didn't think the winter had been all that bad but this last week or so has been very boisterous. Mina and I took last week off to stay at Blairgowrie and of course the wind and rain really came down.

The Gunner Dinner went of well on the 29 June. On this occasion the, "Queen Elizabeth's Banner" was brought from the School of Artillery and ceremonially paraded into the dinning room at the beginning of the dinner. This is the first time that the banner has been paraded at our dinner since the School moved to Victoria. I don't remember the banner being at a Victoria Barracks dinner before although it has been paraded at a Geelong Officers Mess function some years ago. I am sure someone will correct me if I am wrong in this. It was a little disappointing not to have any one from the School attending. I guess their program is pretty tight. The date for next year, confirmed by Victoria Barracks Officers Mess, is shown in our parade card on the last page so please put it in your diary.

At least this year we had a day's rest after the dinner before fronting up to the Reserves Day March on Sunday 1 July. A special effort was made for the centenary year and the march assembled at the north end of Swanston Street. The parade marched to the Shrine of Remembrance where a solemn service was conducted. This year fifty-four members of our association and the 10 Medium Regiment Association marched together. For the first time we were able to show our brand new banner which was carried side by side with the 10 Mdm banner and added to the spectacle of the day.

It seemed no time at all before the Artillery Ball was upon us on the 3 August. As mentioned in the last copy the ball was held in the Chapel Street Depot. The hall was decorated with cam nets, balloons and table decorations and looked great. The Regimental Band played all night and really let their hair down. It really was a great night and was a credit to Andrew Langford and Sam Payne who organised it all. Can I suggest for next year that the gas heaters need to be perhaps a size larger! I hope more people will attend this great function next year.

You will see a notice for a visit to Puckapunyal in the magazine. Please answer promptly if you want to attend. The numbers will be limited and it will be first in, best dressed. It should be a good trip with the opportunity to see both gun position and OP and have a chat with the serving members of the regiment

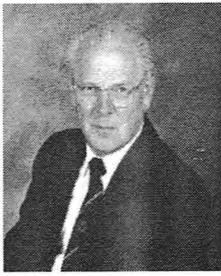
You will also see elsewhere the notice for the AGM. Come along and take part in the business of the Association. The AGM is to be held on a Sunday (late morning) and will be followed by lunch and reunion if you want to stay. Feel free to come to one or the other but don't miss both.

The day for the Regiments presentation of prizes and awards this year seems likely to fall during an exercise at Puckapunyal. Therefore I will make arrangements for the prizes that we present each year to be made on that day and it will not be possible for members to be present.

Best wishes

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Merv Taggart'.

Merv Taggart
President



Membership Report

August 2001

Current membership in RAA file:

Libraries	4
Life Members	220
Annual Members	88
Affiliates	56

SSGT G. Turville and LTCOL G.R. Allinson located. Returned to RAA file.

16 AD Regt added as an Affiliate Member at their request.

RAA Assoc WA was deleted at their request and replaced by 3 Fd Regt Assoc.

Total 368

Current membership in Archive file:

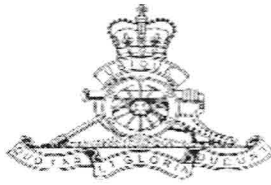
Life Members	6
Annual Members	4
Affiliates	4
Deceased Members	8
Resignation	1
Total	<u>23</u>

Some interesting information about our current membership:

Officers	144
Sgt/WO	111
Gnr/Bdr	51
Civilians?	2
Affiliate Organisations	60
Males	302



BRIG P. D. Alkemade responding to the toast to the Regiment at 2001 Gunner Dinner flanked by CAPT Sir Edward Cohen KT and MAJ MervTaggart RFD, ED (Dining President)



Come and Visit Victoria's Regiment in the Field

Saturday 13th October 2001

2nd/10th Medium Regiment

invites the RAA Association to visit the Regiment on exercise

The Commanding Officer has invited members of the RAA
Association to visit the Regiment on exercise at
Puckapunyal on the 13th October.

Arrangements for the Visit

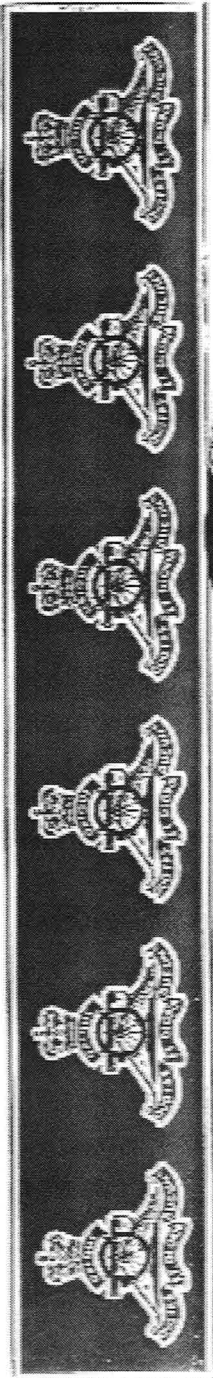
Meet at Range Control at 0930 hrs
(own transport to Puckapunyal).
Unit transport will then take visitors
to the gunline.

After lunch with the Battery's, the
visitors will be moved to the OP.

It is anticipated visitors will be
returned to Range Control by about
1600 hrs.

Limited numbers only can be accommodated. In order to ensure
your attendance, please indicate your intention to attend the visit
to Puckapunyal to Merv Taggart (9598-8452 or 0438 042 426) no
later than 28th September.





Back To The Regiment:

An invitation is extended to all GUNNERS (including those personnel who have served with Gunners) for a reunion, with a view to catch up on some of those memorable occasions, a chance to renew those old acquaintances and last but not least, to visit an Artillery Depot. I know you will have a most enjoyable time.

WHO: Gunners
(serving and non serving)
With your partners if so desired

WHERE: Artillery Depot
2/10 Medium Regiment RAA
8 Chapel Street, East St Kilda
Melways ref. 58 D9

WHEN: Sunday 28th October 2001

TIME: 1300 Hours

DRESS: Neat Casual

COST: \$10.00 (includes BBQ lunch)

RSVP: 22ND October 2001

NAME.....RANK.....UNIT.....
ADDRESS.....
TELEPHONE (H)
(W).....

*I/We will/will not be attending the 'Back to the Regiment' on the 28th October 2001.
Enclosed is my cheque for \$10.00 per person payable to the RAA Association (Vic) Inc.*

6 Melissa Street
Mount Waverley 3149
Telephone
Home 9562 9552
Mobile 040 3337929



RAA Association (Victoria) Inc Corps Shop

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

PRICE LIST

Badges, etc

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

Brooches

Marcasite Gun	\$103.00
Marcasite Exploding Grenade	\$93.00

Bar items

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

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

CAN YOU HELP ?

St Barbara Mystery

The photograph shows a monstrance of St Barbara.

The item is made of metal and stands 16 cm high.

The centre piece is oval in shape and can be worn on the finger as a ring.

The wording in the centre is S. Barbar V.M.

Can anybody identify the origin and use of this item ?

If so, please ring Brian Cleeman on
03 9560 7116 or
email briancleeman@bigpond.com



OCA Mystery

2/11 Fd Regt RAA O.C.A. was in action with 1st Fd Regt RA 4th Indian Div O.C.A. in Syria. This Plaque was presented to the late president of 2/11 Fd Regt Assoc., Capt Len Timms on a visit to the UK many years ago.

Can anybody identify what the O.C.A. stands for ?

If so please notify Albert Prohasky as follows:

A.W.C. Prohasky

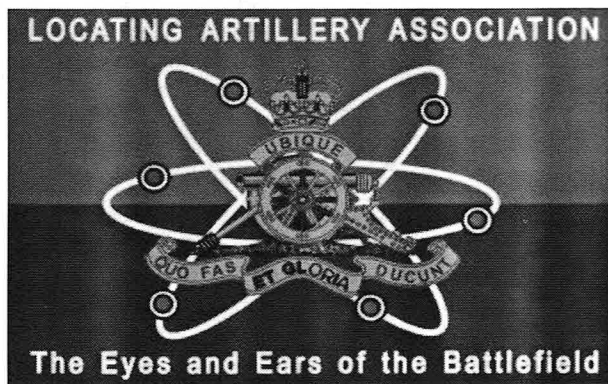
18 Harrison St

Mitcham Vic 3132

Ph: 03 9872 3245

or reply to Editor Cascabel as I am also dying to know the answer.





Locating Artillery Association News

131 Locating Battery has a new BC since beginning of the year. He is MAJ Dean Pearce and is 32 years old. He was previously posted to the Battery on two other occasions. His first time as a Lieutenant, when he was the Meteorological Troop Commander followed by a time with the surveyors.

As a Captain he returned to the Battery at a time when the unit was involved with the RISTA trials. It was during this time that he held the appointment of Commander to the 1st Weapon Locating Troop. Over the course of his career he has been associated with the Battery for the past ten to eleven years. MAJ Pearce then goes on to say that "it is without doubt an honour and absolute privilege to command the 131st Locating Battery. I can assure all "old locators" that the enduring qualities that have uniquely stamped this unit as a highly professional and quality outfit of previous eras, still ring true today."

UNIT ACTIVITIES:

The majority of 131 Bty was involved in EX TANDEM THRUST in May with 6000 troops in the Shoalwater Bay area. The Bty formed part of the Opposing Force (OPFOR) providing surveillance support with Ground Surveillance Radars (GSRs), before re-rolling its troops to provide its traditional locating support for the live firing phase. This support consisted of locating coverage, meteorological and survey support.

Still continuing to East Timor (EM) is the surveillance support to each Battalion Group for a six month tour. Each Detachment employs the GSR perimeter surveillance equipment (PSE) of long range thermal imagers (TI), digital cameras and spotting scopes. The Battery is also due to use Tactical Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (TUAVs). Changes that have occurred in the Battery now have all soldiers cross-trained in meteorology, survey and radar.

Surveillance support to CHOGM in Oct 2001. As part of the ADF commitment to this international meeting the Battery will provide surveillance assistance to the NSW Police. Most of the unit is expected to be involved apart from the Timor Detachment.

THE FUTURE IS CHANGING:

On the 12 June 2002 the 131st Battery will be 50 years old. Due to changing involvement and the current Manpower/Equipment review (SED) [July 01] the name of the unit is to be changed. The new name is to reflect the units separation from the old "Divisional structure" and to reflect its revamped and forward looking roles. From its 50th birthday the unit will then be known as the 131st Surveillance & Target Acquisition Battery (131 STAB)

It is proposed to have a unit open day at Ennogerra Barracks on WE 9-10 June 2002 when the units main equipment will be displayed and a formal parade and formal dinner will be held. A new unit banner will also be presented to the Battery. If any one would like to know more about the activity they can contact the BSM (WO1 Martin Gowling) on (07) 3332-7828 or use email to Martin.Gowling@defence.gov.au.

From the manpower/equipment review the weapon locating radars (AN/TPQ-36) are due for a version upgrade and the GSR, meteorology and the Theatre Grid Survey (TGS) capability will be maintained. The unit will also be implementing the arrival of Unattended Ground Sensors (UGS) and in the long term will have the Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAV) within its equipment tables.

From the SI (MAJ Nathan Loynes) STA Wing Puckapunyal which appears to now be referred to as 'the Tuscany on the Goulburn' comes the news that "the School of Artillery has been nominated as the training establishment responsible for dedicated combat arms surveillance training for the Land Army. STA Wing will be responsible for this training. The burden is significant, as the training will be for RAAC, RAA, RAE, RAInf and RFSU officers and soldiers. We will be training with state of the art equipment, including Ground Surveillance Radars, Thermal Surveillance systems, and Unattended Ground Sensors. The increased training liability is likely to reshape STA wing as personnel from across ALL the combat arms may be posted into the wing. While this may shock some stalwarts, do not be concerned, as we will continue to conduct our traditional schedule of "Locator training"

From the STA Wing WO2 Michael Herrick is bound to the US for training with the US Marines at Fort Sill, followed by attachement to the marines at Camp Pendleton, San Diego. California. While there he will be training on all US Meteorological and Survey Systems, and the latest version of the ANTPQ-36. On return he will be reposted to STA Wing to apply all the new roles that have been devolved.

Just a reminder to any one who may be thinking of attending the Coffs Harbour reunion in Sept/Oct you will need to move sharply to book in.

Remember to look into the website. www.locatingartillery.com.au

I also noticed in the latest copy of MUFTI (Victorian RSL Journal) in the deceased members listing, besides the notification of the passing of Rex Gercovich (132 Bty), another Locator, Mervyn Dart member of the Dandenong Sub-branch (ex 131 Bty) was listed.

Craig Cook

The Eyes and the Ears of the Battlefield



Air Defence News

Annual Air Defenders' Luncheon Canberra 1 Jun 2001

This year the Annual Air Defenders' Luncheon was held at a new venue after a number of years at Belluci's Restaurant Curtin and a few years at a French/Belgian Restaurant at Yarralumla prior to that.

The new venue, Stavros' Restaurant at Mawson certainly got the vote from all 31 present as the best yet.

The food and service were excellent and the staff, especially Stavros himself became virtually honorary "Gunnery" for the occasion, taking an interest in our doings and welfare beyond the call of duty.



L to R: Ziggy Zanol (Canberra), Eddy Keane (Gold Coast), Dave Payne (South West Rocks), WO1 Eric Dean Ret'd (Canberra) and Reg Miller (Gold Coast) all anticipating the excellent repast soon to be sampled. I believe they were not disappointed.

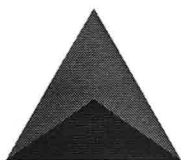


L to R around table: Ian Hayes (Woolgoolga), BRIG George Salmon Ret'd (Canberra), Lindsay Black (Woodside ex-RSM 16AD Regt), WO1 Chris Jobson, BRIG John Salmon, (5 obscured unfortunately), COL Bill Smith, Keith Cossart, MAJ Sid Penhaligon Ret'd, MAJ Ian Uhlmann and Brian Armstrong (all Canberra) sharing good wine and anecdotes.



L to R: MAJGEN John Whitelaw Ret'd (Patron, RAA Assoc ACT), Dave Payne (South West Rocks), BRIG Garth Hughes Ret'd (Convenor of the Annual Air Defenders' Luncheon), MAJ David Francis Ret'd, WO1 Jim Ponting Ret'd (all Canberra) and Ron Curtis (Melbourne) Yes! Your own Editor proving that we were capable of standing at the end.

The other attendees included WO1 Ian Biggs RSM 16 AD Regt (Woodside), Bob (Sparks) Crane, Peter Cole, LTCOL Gerard Fogarty (Past CO 16 Ad Regt), (all Canberra), LTCOL John Gunn (Blue Mtns), LTCOL Simon Hearder, LT Don Hendry, MAJ Steve Hume, COL Berry Nyman, MAJ Jack Quantrill, and BRIG Don Tier, (all Canberra).



**16TH AIR DEFENCE REGIMENT
ROYAL REGIMENT OF AUSTRALIAN
ARTILLERY
WOODSIDE BARRACKS
WOODSIDE SOUTH AUSTRALIA 5244**

UNIT BRIEF

Mission

1. To provide GBAD to manoeuvre and static assets in order to defeat the use of hostile air operations against Australia and its interests.

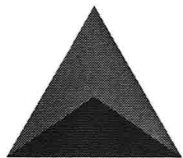
Key Result Areas

2. These goals represent what we strive to achieve in 2001/2002 and provide the background against which all activities within the Regiment are assessed:
 - a. Goal 1 - Develop and maintain operational readiness.
 - b. Goal 2 - Influence the development of the future GBAD capability.
 - c. Goal 3 - Support our people.
 - d. Goal 4 - Extend, challenge and reward our people.
 - e. Goal 5 - Be relevant to the civil community.
 - f. Goal 6 - Develop safe, efficient and effective operational and administrative processes.

Organisation

Key Appointments

CO	LTCOL	Tim Pickford
21C	MAJ	Michael Leichsenring
OPSO	MAJ	Marc Plummer
ADJT	CAPT	Julie McKay
RSM	WO1	Ian Biggs
BC 111 AD Bty (Lt)	MAJ	John McLean
BSM 111 AD Bty (Lt)	WO2	Doug Hicks
BC 110 AD Bty	CAPT	Billy Geaney
BSM 110 AD Bty	WO2	Brian Jung
BC Spt Bty	MAJ	Martin Griffiths
BSM Spt Bty	WO2	Geoff Thompson

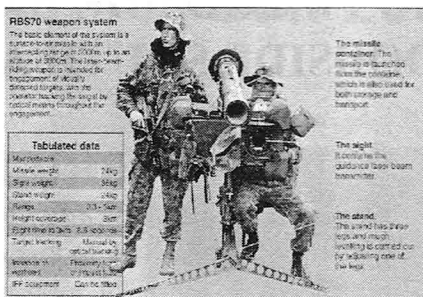


MAJOR WEAPON SYSTEMS

Rapier Surface-to-Air Weapon System



RBS70 Surface-to-Air Weapon System



History of the Regiment

3. The Regiment is the youngest regiment in the Royal Australian Artillery. Its origins can be traced to the raising of the independent 111th Light Anti-Aircraft Battery at Middle Head, NSW, on 21 May 1957 equipped with 40mm Bofors guns. In 1964, 111th Battery was deployed to RAAF Base Butterworth, Malaysia, during the Malaysian/Indonesian Confrontation. In the same year, a decision was made to raise a second light anti-aircraft battery to provide trained reinforcements. The 110th Light Anti-Aircraft Battery was subsequently raised at Woodside on 10 May 1965, and the 16th Light Anti-Aircraft Regiment was raised at Woodside on 2 June 1969. Personnel from the Regiment also manned 40mm Bofors guns during this time on the landing craft of the 32nd Small Ships Squadron while on operations in South Vietnamese waters.

4. In 1970, 110th Battery was re-equipped with the Redeye surface-to-air missile system and in 1978, the Regiment adopted its current title. In 1980, 110th Air Defence Battery was re-equipped with the Rapier surface-to-air weapon system, and in 1987, 111th Air Defence Battery (Light) was re-equipped with the RBS-70 surface-to-air weapon system. In 1991, RBS-70 detachments from 111th Air Defence Battery (Light) were deployed aboard HMAS Success and Westralia for operational service during the Gulf War.

History of Woodside Barracks

6. Woodside Barracks is located 37 kilometres East of Adelaide in the Adelaide Hills and approximately one and a half kilometres from Woodside. It consists of 170 hectares of gum studded undulating grassland and bush, as well as the camp buildings and married quarter village of Inverbrackie. Inverbrackie stands on the same site as a small village that predates even Woodside town. This village, which was established in the 1830s, was a Scottish settlement that consisted of a hotel, a church and a few scattered houses. It served as a rest stop for country travellers before they tackled the Adelaide Hills into Adelaide.

7. The land for the Barracks was purchased in December 1927 and housed the 43rd and 48th Bns and Artillery sub-units until the outbreak of World War II. During World War II, Woodside Barracks was a major Army camp, from which many units were raised and deployed overseas. Memorials to these units have been erected at the Camp and remain cared for until this day by active veteran associations. During the late 40's, the camp was used to accommodate migrants under the direction of the Department of Immigration. The camp housed approximately 2400 men, women and children. In the early 50s, a National Service Training Battalion was raised at the camp and approximately 100 married quarters were built in Inverbrackie.

8. From the cessation of National Service until 1963, the camp remained the sole responsibility of the Immigration Department. In 1965, 4 RAR was raised at Woodside and deployed to Malaysia. Also in 1965, 110 LAA Bty was raised and 3 RAR returned from Borneo and remained in Woodside until leaving on its first tour of Vietnam in the early 70s. 9 RAR was established at Woodside from 1967 to 1968, and the Intelligence Centre took up residency in the Barracks in 1968. The Intelligence Centre left the area in 1974, leaving 3 RAR and 16 AD Regt as the sole occupants of the camp until 3 RAR was moved to Holsworthy Barracks in 1981. 16 AD Regt remains the only occupant of the Barracks today.

ANTI AIRCRAFT GUNNERS RECEIVE FIRST TWO MILITARY MEDALS ON AUSTRALIAN SOIL

Story submitted by the 16th Air Defence Regiment.

The 19th of February 1942 will always be remembered as the day Darwin was first bombed by the Japanese. World War II had arrived on Australia's doorstep with devastating results. The Japanese launched two raids that day striking at around 10.00 am and 12.00 noon. 243 people were killed and approximately 350 injured. Eight Allied ships were sunk, three beached and ten damaged. RAAF Station Darwin was effectively smashed, with 16 aircraft destroyed, and many buildings severely damaged, including the Army Barracks, the Police Station, and the Post and Telegraph Office.

On this day the first two Military Medals for distinguished service on Australian soil were awarded to two Anti-Aircraft Gunners; Lance Bombardier Frederick Ronald Wombey and Gunner Wilbert Thomas Hudson. Their citations read as follows:

N270852 L/Bdr Wombey, Frederick Ronald
Date of action: 19 February 1942
Place of action: Anti Aircraft Light Machine Gun position Naval Oil Tanks, Darwin

This N.C.O. as No. 1 of an A.A.L.M.G. displayed great courage and coolness in holding his fire whilst the position was being attacked by Dive Bombers and Machine Gun fire from the air. On at least two occasions he ordered the gun crew to take cover whilst he waited for the attacking plane to be sufficiently near to be an excellent target. His action was partly responsible for the failure of the enemy to dive bomb the vital area which he was defending. He engaged an enemy plane which was later shot down by other guns of the A.A.L.M.G. Section.

N108358 Gunner Hudson, Wilbert Thomas
Date of action: 19 February 1942
Place of action: Berrima Anti Aircraft station

This soldier, aged 21 years of extremely boyish appearance manned his Lewis Machine Gun throughout an engagement with low-flying enemy aircraft with great skill and tenacity. His gun was roughly sited on the blast wall of the Berrima Command post (the permanent post for this gun was at that time in the course of construction) without any real adequate protection for such gun or operator. Finding the operation of the gun from this position awkward and somewhat ineffective, Gnr Hudson, regardless of personal safety carried his gun to the open and operated from an empty 44 gallon Drum as a rest. From this position and until the expenditure of the then loaded magazine, Gnr Hudson brought to bear effective fire on the low-flying aircraft whilst at all times under fire of attacking planes.

On the 3rd of October 1942 the *Australian Women's Weekly* ran an article titled 'Heroes of Home Forces, Bill Hudson, Fred Wombey'. The article revealed different characteristics which, in their own way, have become synonymous with the 'Aussie Digger'. It cites a letter written by Lance Bombardier Wombey in which he modestly make reference to having been 'recommended for something' - the Military Medal. On the other hand, when Gunner Hudson when asked about his Military Medal, 'grew a bit laconic' saying:

Well, I just sort of brought down a Jap plane with my gun. Some of the chaps told me afterwards that they thought I might be given a medal or something, but I didn't believe them.

The article also included interviews with the two Gunners' families, and provides a fascinating insight into how deeply Australian families were committed to the War effort. Gunner Hudson was one of a family of seven children. The two eldest girls, Marjorie and Nell were married. Queenie made army uniforms and Violet, the youngest, aged 18, made army tents. The eldest boy, Harry, is working in a protected industry, and Charlie, the youngest son, aged 19, is a transport driver in the A.I.F. Their father, Mr. Bert Hudson, was a Warden.

Lance Bombardier Wombey had two elder brothers, Charlie and Reg. Reg was a Corporal who had seen action in Greece and Crete. Their father is quoted as saying; 'After the boys [Charlie and Reg] went, Fred, who helped me in the orchard, used to nag and nag about enlisting. I thought two in the A.I.F. was a fair thing, and at last I gave my consent for Fred to enlist for home defence.'

Researched and compiled by Major Michael Leichenring.

Acknowledgements:

Hasluck, P., *The Government and the People 1942-45*, Canberra, 1970.

The Defence of Australia, Ryebuck Media, Collingwood Vic., 1992.

Australian War Memorial, Art Collection 22720.

Australian Women's Weekly, 3 October 1942.



**Lewis Gunners, Darwin 1942
by Artist Roy Hodgkinson.
AWM Art Collection 22720**

ROYAL AUSTRALIAN ARTILLERY DAY

1ST AUGUST

Volunteer Artillery units were raised in the various States between 1854 and 1863. After Federation in 1901 these State Forces were designated Australian Field Artillery and Australian Garrison Artillery.

The permanent or regular component of the Regiment was formed on 1 August 1871 when a battery of the New South Wales Artillery was raised. This battery has continued in service and is now designated 'A' Field Battery, a regular unit of the Australian Army. Other States raised permanent batteries between 1882 and 1894.

In August 1899 the permanent artillery units of Queensland, NSW and Victoria were granted the title 'Royal', becoming State Regiments of the Royal Australian Artillery. On 1 July 1902 all permanent Artillery was designated Royal Australian Artillery. On 25 April 1911 units were redesignated Royal Australian Garrison Artillery and Royal Australian Field Artillery. On 1 July 1927 units reverted to the original title of Royal Australian Artillery. On 31 January 1936 the title 'Royal' was granted to the Militia. On 15 September 1949 the Regular and Militia components of the Regiment were granted the common title of The Royal Australian Artillery. On 19 September 1962 approval was given for the Regiment to be designated "The Royal Regiment of Australian Artillery".

The anniversary of the formation in Australia of the first regular battery of Artillery ('A' Field Battery) on 1 August 1871, is observed annually as Royal Australian Artillery Day. Subject to the approval of local superior authorities, Royal Australian Artillery Day will be observed as a holiday and be celebrated by Regimental 'At Homes' or other social functions.

The Artillery Ball, in Victoria, is held each year on the first Friday in August in celebration of Royal Australian Artillery Day.

(Contributed by Ernie Paddon)

The 125th Birthday of "A" Fd Bty, RAA

"A" Fd Bty, RAA is Australia's oldest regular Army sub-unit (located at 8/12th Regt, NSW). It has recorded continuous regular service from 1st August 1871. "A" Fd Bty has seen action in Sudan 1885, South Africa 1900-01, ANZAC 1915, France & Belgium 1916-18, New Guinea 1943-44, Bougainville 1945, Japan 1946-48, Malaya 1948-60, and Vietnam 1971.

Today (1996) MAJOR DON SMITH commands the Battery as a mobile support Bty (Airborne) attached to 3 RAR. The Battery Motto is "SEMPER PARATUS" (always ready).

On the 1st of August 1996, "A" Fd Bty, RAA, celebrated its 125th Birthday.

(Contributed by Ernie Paddon)

THE ROYAL HORSE ARTILLERY

This elite body was raised in 1793 to provide a highly mobile unit with light guns. It had its own drivers instead of civilians, and every man was mounted, instead of plodding along beside the guns. It has always had a reputation for dash, usually serving with the cavalry, both horse and mechanized.

As a result, it took to cavalry-type uniforms, and the influence of the Hussars on its full dress busby and braided tunic is clear. On parade with its guns, the RHA takes position on the right of the cavalry, which gives it precedence over every Regiment in the Army.

When the Artillery was mechanized before the Second World War, a Horse Battery was retained in London for ceremonial purposes. It was named the Kings Troop by King George VI and Her Majesty the Queen has preferred that title to remain in memory of her father.

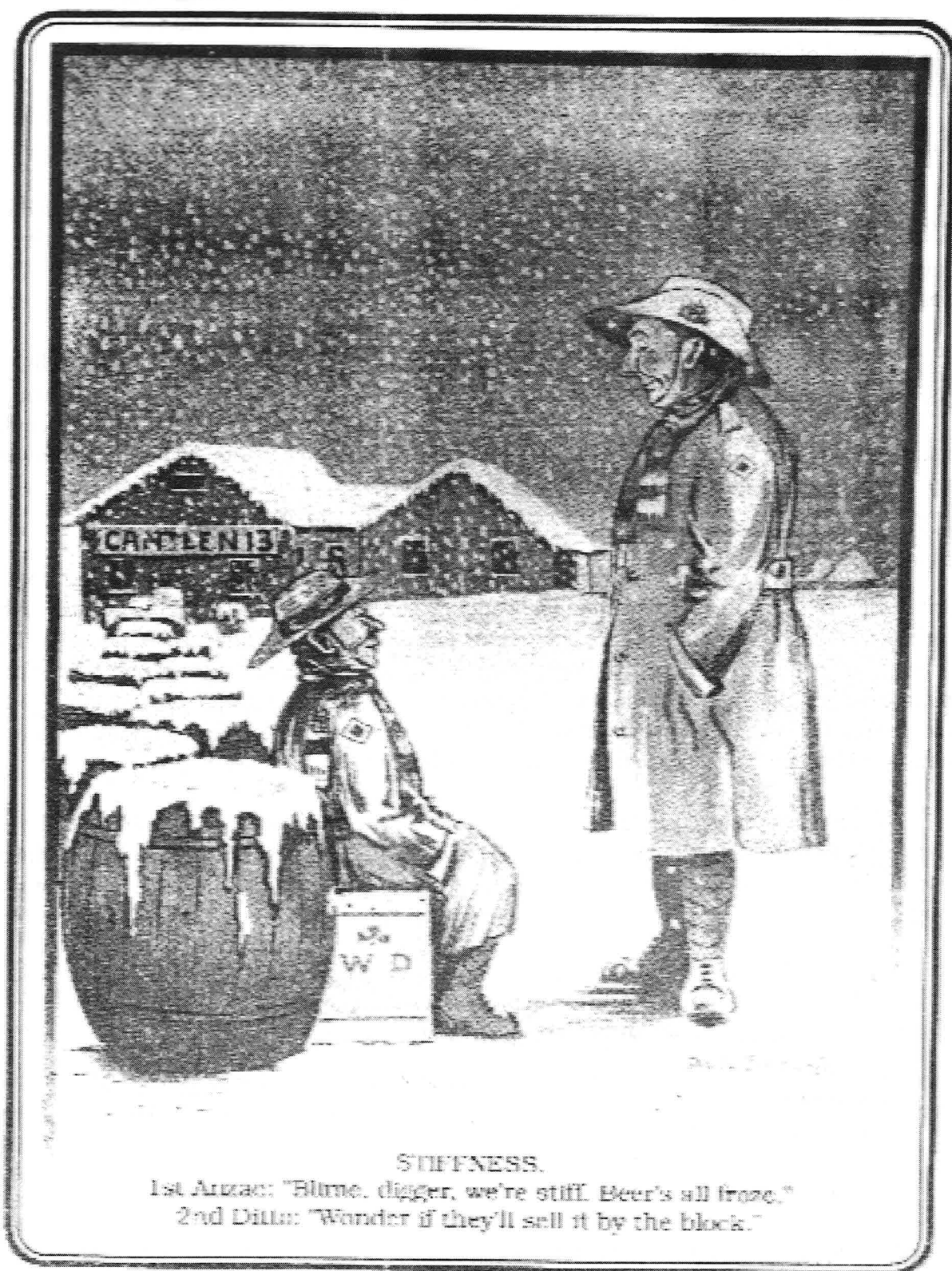
(Contributed by Ernie Paddon)



LIGHT HORSE & FIELD ARTILLERY MUSEUM

200 Bessie Creek Road
Nar Nar Goon 3812





STIFFNESS.

1st Anzac: "Blimey, digger, we're stiff. Beer's all froze."
2nd Digger: "Wonder if they'll sell it by the block."

STAND TO - ITS ORIGINS AND HISTORY

Its origins are dated back to antiquity but as we have adopted British Army Customs and adapted them in the main to suit Australian conditions, the ceremony of "Stand To" has not changed since the end of the first millennium.

The RSL has adopted "Stand To" from the Services custom of "Stand To" as a time to remember Fallen Comrades and those that have since passed on as a result of their service to their Country.

Stand to in the Army and the Navy goes back to the times when wars or battles were conducted in set pieces and where knightly chivalry prevailed. That is, battles were carried out during daylight hours, Knights defeated in battle were not taken as prisoners of war but were stripped of their weapons and "paroled" to return to their homes. Knightly chivalry demanded that this be observed.

Things began to change in the 15th century with the Naval Battles between the English and Spanish Navies. If a ship was sunk in battle, survivors of the sunken vessel were rescued, the Officers were taken prisoner and taken to shore, and according to rank, were "paroled" to people of equal rank until the end of hostilities. Other ranks were landed in a neutral country and allowed to make their own way home. In the Navy, "Stand To" is observed at First and Last Light, as this is the time when an attack would be made by enemy submarine or surface vessel.

The timings of Stand To, First Post, Last Post and Lights Out have been taken from the British Services customs as those timings would be based on the times of battle in the Northern Latitudes as that is where most of the battles took place. Lights Out is of a much later origin. It had its origin at the time of the Battle of Waterloo. After the days battle, retreat was sounded at 6 pm as in those times eight hours of battle was considered long enough. Both Armies would retreat to their lines, be fed and have their wounds attended and bury their dead. During the night camp fires would burn as soldiers on both sides were assured of a nights peace.

Wellington originated lights out when it was discovered that Napoleon did not play fair. Napoleon would up-stakes and move during the night in the hope of surprising the English the next day. So "Lights Out" was sounded at 2300 hours and roving pickets sent out to observe any movement by the enemy.

The ceremony of "Stand To" in the Services consists of four parts:

- The Alert - the sounding of "G" by the bugler
- The Retreat
- The Silence
- Changing of the Guard

In the RSL Ceremony, "Stand To" still consists of four parts:

The Alert - the ringing of eight bells denoting 6 pm and the call to "Stand To" by the Duty Officer

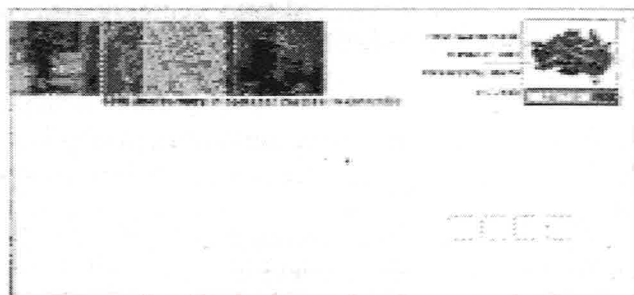
- The Ode - The recitation of the Fourth verse of "Ode to the Fallen," and the call to remembrance.
- The Silence of ten seconds.
- The dedication of "Lest we Forget".

Nasho's Pre-stamped Envelope

50th anniversary of National Service in Australia

This pre-stamped envelope commemorates the 50th anniversary of national service in Australia.

The design features the badge of the National Servicemen's Association of Australia in the stamp area and images of national servicemen training and marching from 1952 to 1969. The National Servicemen's Association has over 8000 members throughout Australia.



Additional information

National Servicemen's Ass'n
of Australia (NSW Branch)
PO Box 126
Borfield NSW 2191
Phone (02) 9759 3829
Web: www.nsbho.net.au

Australian War Memorial
GPO Box 345
Canberra ACT 2601
Web: www.awm.gov.au

Technical details

Issue date	9 August 2001
Denomination	One x 45c
Designer	Ben Mackinlay, Australia Post Design Studio
Printer	PMP (formerly Mercury Walsh)
Printing process	Lithography
National postmark	Puckapunyal MILFO WC 3662

Medal Struck For All Ex-Nashos

All ex-national servicemen are urged to contact their association so they can receive a medal struck in their honour.

The Federal Government is issuing the medal which celebrates the anniversary of national service from 1951 to 1972.

National Servicemen's Association Victorian President, Douglas Black says the medal will not be issued automatically. It will require an application form to be submitted. Forms will be available in October to all ex-national servicemen and the families of deceased members.

National servicemen can contact
NSAA Victorian Branch,
2 Grassmere Crt,
Hallam 3803,
or phone (03) 9774 0197.

The medal is expected to be issued before ANZAC Day next year

Mr Black says the medal is also available to about 35,000 who registered for national service under the 1965-1972 scheme.

Both of the above items were submitted by our past Vice President and Membership Secretary MAJ David Osbourne. Thanks David, wish I could qualify for the medal, but at least I can get the PSE. Ed.

MY SERVICE CAREER

by COL Graham Farley, OAM, RFD, ED, (Rtd)

15th Field Regiment – P Battery at Dandenong, 1961, R Battery at Warragul 1962

LTCOL G. A. “Peter” Turner became CO at the start of 1961, taking over from LTCOL “Bluey” Swalwell. My period as an Adjutant Learner was a brief one. I was appointed a Troop Commander in P Battery, the other troop commander being CAPT Max Kerr. The Battery Commander was MAJ (later MAGGEN) Jim Barry. MAJ Chris Armstrong was BC of R Battery. This battery had its headquarters at Warragul, with a troop at Traralgon.

I was parading weekly at Dandenong, but the first memorable event for the year was a bivouac at the former military training area at Langwarrin. It began on a wet Friday night. I was not enthusiastic in the dark to deploy the OP party in the scrubby area designated on the map. Similarly it was not surprising that the two batteries got their convoys inextricably mixed on arrival at the training area. It was all reminiscent of GEN Patton, in the film, *Patton*, standing at a road junction trying (and succeeding) to sort out his divisional columns.

An OPO of the other battery took the requirement to “dig in” quite seriously, and the Saturday morning indicated how well he had achieved it. It was just a pity that the CO’s vehicle was parked right alongside when he came to inspect the position. I now knew where it was located. Without ammunition, the balance of the weekend was taken up with tactical training for OP parties.

On returning to the Dandenong depot for the unit to return stores and clean its equipment, it was salutary for the officers to be ordered to remain outside of the mess until all the work in the Gun Park had been completed. Australians work far better when they see their leaders setting the example.

Annual Camp was in the first fortnight of May, a period when the weather might have been quite inclement. Having already experienced one wet cold camp just after national service, I was to anticipate that all camps would be in similar conditions. So I prepared myself for them. Hence gum boots, mackintoshes and cooking equipment would be dutifully got together and kept in a sizable “Munga” box for onward shipment to camp. That there would always be transport for the guns was one of the big plusses for the artillery corps. But I doubt if I ever experienced another really wet camp in my life.

MAJ Barry required us to parade at the Dandenong depot, even if we were making alternative arrangements to get to camp. I was then the owner of an eleven-seater Austin van. This vehicle had already been pressed into service as a wireless-based land rover on an earlier exercise. This time it quickly filled up with officers’ equipment. I was still a resident master in the boarding house at Wesley College, Prahran. That day I drove to camp, having only had to return a short distance for the greatcoat that I had forgotten, up the former Hume Highway, clearly recalling the sight of Mount Sugarloaf to the west of the road.

While I expect that we had quarters in “S” Block, my memory is that we spent much of the camp in the field. CAPT Kerr and I had sets of twins as assistants and wireless operators, namely the Johnson and Powell brothers. While it would be very unlikely in war conditions to have the two OP parties together, it was most convenient in this camp that CAPT Kerr should establish the OP and the communications, while I set up the tent and our sleeping and messing arrangements.

Similarly, one could have anticipated having to be on “air” for twenty-four stretches, but owing to the state of the wet cell batteries, the order came to close down during the night hours. This meant

that we all got some sleep without worrying about being ordered to "stand to." That must have still been the days of telephone line to the guns, although the basic communication was steadily becoming the wireless or radio set.

The wireless set on issue was the redoubtable WS 62. I am sure this was once the "state of the art" for communications, but by 1961 it was showing its age and inefficiency. It was a bulky affair, particularly when considering contemporary equipment, but its main fault was the energy and training that it took to "net in," to say nothing of the effort it took to stay on the frequency. Even in setting it up, signallers had great challenges in getting good connections with the various plugs and cables. A can of RP7 would have been very useful. The familiar whistle of the tuning procedure still rings in my ears as it was modulated up and down to "net in." Silence from the wireless set probably meant that the set had wandered off its frequency. Fortunately, Range Camp had a more powerful set and astute signallers could soon restore their wavelengths without having to admit guilt.

An Air OP airplane was allocated for a number of days at the camp and most officers were detailed to have the experience of firing the guns from the air. Quite apart from the shock of having to read map references while on the move, there were the stomach-churning steep turns at the end of each run so that the OPO would be in a position to see the burst of shot to make the correction. But, we might have asked, were we ever in the same line as the projectile as it left the gun! It was at that camp that I learnt about "Av Gas" and how it should be stored overnight so that it contained no bubbles.

Spurred on by the adjutant, CAPT Graeme TAYLOR, I had provided our OP party with a series of signs (red over blue, of course) that guided the visitor by a discreet route to the OP. It is only a rare sense of humour that can lead one to asking the sign writer to provide in addition one sign with the words, "Greatcoats Off," and then another one for further up the hill, "Greatcoats On Again."

The final shoot for the camp saw our communications in a parlous condition, as the need to keep up the supply of charged wet cell batteries became too great. Most units had their own generator ("Chaw Horse") going flat out (neatly of course in a dugout to decrease the noise), but often to no lasting avail. Fortunately for the last shoot of the camp, our OP position was just above the gun position. We could see them down below serving the guns with vigour, but sometimes with no orders! It then occurred to us (I am very happy to give Max the full credit) to station our personnel about one hundred metres apart down the hillside to the guns and then to send the necessary fire orders by "line of voice" procedure. It worked this time, but I would not recommend that the method be included in Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs).

The CRA, BRIG "Silver Dick" R. Eason, MC, ED., was to retire at the end of June. His farewell dinner was to be held in Melbourne, but before that he conducted a TEWT at Dixon's Creek. The military vehicles went via "Pucka" to pick up officers from the regiment then in camp before proceeding to the site. It was a conventional weekend, but the highlight was to turn the corner about lunchtime to find a "Taj Mahal" laid out with tents, tables, white tablecloths and cutlery (but no silver chandeliers). The CRA then made it clear to us officers that "This was the minimum standard to which we should eat when in the field." I always tried to emulate him on subsequent training exercises, and was prepared to quote him when challenged.

The farewell function was held in the Federal Hotel, a building that is now no more. In view of the number of artillery units then in Victoria, it was not surprising if some four hundred officers elected to attend such functions. After all, we had been told when commissioned that there were two obligatory social events each year, the dinner and the ball. It was a gala affair. As was the custom of a departing officer, the Brigadier presented the artillery mess with a magnificent model muzzle-loading gun. BRIG "Grid" North was the next appointed CRA.

Following camp I was designated as a BK for the purpose of doing a stock take of camp stores. The main requirement obviously was that I could count up to ten. About the same time, the RSM had taken me on one side, and said how sorry the unit would be to lose me. As all soldiers know, the real situation never comes first from down on high, but via the Q staff or the civilian labour in camp! I was to find myself posted to Headquarters RAA as the DAA & QMG (CMF), which in full terms is the Divisional Artillery Adjutant and Quarter Master General. A less respectful abbreviation is the "Dak and Quack." But its main advantage was that it was a staff posting and would look good on my file, and was probably necessary for any subsequent promotion.

There had also been hints that the posting could involve temporary promotion. Nothing like a carrot to have dangled out before one. But by then, the army had learned that officers once on temporary promotion got the higher rate of pay. They were then less inclined to qualify at the examinations that would lead to substantive rank. Hence there was a clamp on promotions without qualification, seniority and experience. But of course, dedicated officers accept responsibility for honour alone.

I had hardly settled into this new posting, when I received a call to be interviewed by LTCOL G. A. Turner at Dandenong. As usual, I had got "the good oil" as to what might be afoot and had rehearsed all my reasons for not being the person who was going to replace MAJ Chris Armstrong, which would mean driving oneself down to Warragul and Traralgon as the other BC. Rather like the time I tried to convince the army that I should not be an artillery officer, every argument that I put up was demolished. If travelling was a problem, then I would be picked up and returned to Wesley College for each parade by a rostered driver. I left the CO as the new BC for R Battery, but still as a captain, although the carrot had again been dangled.

But almost at the same time, I found myself listed for the next tactics coaching and assessment course for the rank of Major. It was known in those days as the "21A," the term coming from the particular section of the Defence Act. Years later, it would be more easily known as "Tac 3." While I might have had some artillery knowledge and experience, I was virtually ignorant of other corps and branches in the army. The adjutant did his valiant best to bring me up to date with a crash course, but on the first night at Yarra Glen for the coaching week, I knew that I would be skating on very thin ice. CAPT "Chalky" White (now MAJ RFD, ED, Retired) gave me every assistance as well.

During the assessment week at "Pucka." instead of keeping as quiet as possible and using the correct "catch cries," I compounded my ignorance by producing all sorts of unconventional ways of defeating the enemy (and me at the same time). After all, "CAPT Farley, what do you really mean by *dominating no man's land* or *mutual support*." LTCOL Williams, the Board President, invited me to have another try a year later. But my ego had taken a heavy battering. I was not used to failing examinations. I had already demonstrated this skill in two other areas in my life that year. Was I trying to do too much?

It was back to Warragul as a Captain BC. They still seemed to accept me happily. There was a bivouac at Labertouche and a battery dinner dance before the end of the year. Battery Captain was CAPT Ray Feeley and the Troop Commanders were CAPT Arthur McPhan and CAPT John Perceval. The Cadre Warrant Officer was WOFF Joe Monahan. In his spare time he trained a marching girls squad that brought unto themselves much success. Joe was one of the most helpful cadre members I ever had the privilege to know.* There was nothing he would not do for a person if asked. He always had an immaculately set of amended pamphlets and if he did not know the answer he would not rest until he did. BDR Fraser got used to driving me to and from Melbourne to Warragul and on some nights to Traralgon. He drove, I snoozed. *Later DASM.

Early in 1962, the CO arranged for the unit to receive the freedom of entry to the City of Dandenong. Consequently the name of the unit was varied to be 15th Field Regiment, RAA, City of Dandenong and Gippsland. Black webbing made its introduction. Khaki was still the order of the day. "Greens" had not yet made their appearance. The officers had to practice their sword drill. The RAA Band was available to precede the regiment through the populous city.

Annual camp was again at "Pucka," but a month earlier than in 1961. This time the unit went to camp by bus. Influence resulted in one of the buses travelling via Wesley College in Prahran to pick me up and others along the route. The battery arrived in camp with some sixty personnel to man the eight guns (two troops of four). Much juggling and substitution took place to achieve it. While the National Service Act was still in force, there was greater release for personnel who lived considerable distances from training depots. Consequently, the CMF units had to once again rely increasingly on volunteers, which in turn called for far better man management. The battery was to eat well in the field. Perhaps we did not have immaculately clean tablecloths every day, but rations and their preparation and method of serving greatly improved.

Memory suggests that we only had two batteries in the regiment. I received great support from my fellow BC, (MAJ J. E. Barry), together with loyalty and respect from all officers and NCOs in the regiment for I was very much a "learner" BC. I even enjoyed the heady role as PMC for one of the formal mess nights. BRIG (later MAJGEN and Commander Third Division) Vickery visited the camp. All such visits have their plusses and minuses. Communications and responses to fire that were going so smoothly an hour ago, suddenly foul up and there are red faces everywhere.

The unit was in "S" Block in Puckapunyal. At a camp in that accommodation, LT "Perce" Cooper established himself with curtains, carpet and wardrobe. And he was entitled to them, for in his role as "Sig O," he undertook to provide charged wet-cell batteries to the various wireless users throughout the unit. I still have a picture in my mind of Perce on a GMC (six by six) truck trundling across tank tracks in the pouring rain, surrounded by noisy operating generators and racks of batteries. Wet through and cold when he had finished, he could retreat to his warm room back in the lines and recover until the next time he had to set out.

Civilian batmen were still part of the civilian labour support, but they too were a mixed blessing. It was always interesting how the more proficient of that group were allocated to the Sergeants' Mess.

A welcome and famous visitor to our mess formal nights was Matron Bullwinkle, then in camp with the RAANC. She was the sole survivor of a group of nurses who were massacred by the Japanese, who ordered them to walk into the sea where they were machine-gunned.

At the camp pay parade, the soldiers to assist GNR Marks and his family contributed fifty pounds. This gunner had become a quadriplegic as a result of a diving accident in a river. He was later to become famous for his paintings, which he produced by holding the brush between his teeth.

By the 1 Jul 62 I would be detached to CSTU for coaching for the Major's tactics course.

LLOYD SEARLE'S WAR

TOWN PICKET TEL AVIV

I was chosen as one of the town picket to keep law and order among the troops on leave. The authorities could not have made a better choice, as I'm a great believer in peace and quiet. Being short of an NCO, the Lieut. put me in charge of four other gunners. We set sail up the street and decided a few ales would give us the confidence needed if we were to strike any trouble from the troops on leave. Having very little will power we finished up having more than was necessary for us to do the job. One Tommy soldier came up to me and tried to tell me that all Aussies were squibs. I was proving to him that he had made a bad mistake as few guys stopped us. After realizing we were about an hour late for our leave bus we had a couple more ales until the real MPs rounded us up and took us back to camp. Told our Officer we had struck a bit of trouble and could not avoid being late for the bus. Forgot to mention that we were the trouble and heard no more about it.

THE DONKEYS IN PALESTINE

We had been in camp in Palestine for some time and were accustomed to seeing donkeys of various shapes and sizes tethered and hobbled to the tent ropes. These noisy little buggers belonged to the wogs, for short, or otherwise know as Worthy Oriental Gentlemen as the correct name is.

They worked around the camp performing lots of duties to keep the place tidy. The reason the donks were hobbled and tied, was to stop them escaping, as they were fairly hard to trace not having registration plates. The hobbling I believe was to limit, if not stop their very healthy sex appetites.

As far as I can gather donkeys were never noted for having long courtships before consummating their marriage or whatever it is donks consummate, and then starts having little donks, but the speed of their romance staggered even me. Ten seconds flat to cover approximately one hundred yards to the nearest tethered Jenny (female donk) give or take couple of minutes for love making and Palestine has another little donk on the way to boost their livestock numbers. I reckon 1941 was a very good year for donks with their population almost doubling

Now how this came about is like so. The wogs would come into camp to work and they would tether and hobble their animals to the tent ropes and then start work about the camp. As I mentioned earlier, they were noisy little buggers and when a male spotted a Jenny about a hundred yards away, fluttering her eyelashes and behaving like a regular little hussy the male would start serenading her with his raucous HEE-HAW, HEE-HAW.

At anything over two miles this sound is just bearable, but having a donk six feet away with only the sides of an army tent to deaden the sound it can become rather irritating to say the least. The canvas had no insulating properties built into it to deaden sound in anyway. In fact I think once it came through one wall the other three acted as an amplifier. The obvious course open to us was to go out and untie the hobbles and the tether. Without fail this brought a smile across the donks face with a look that couldn't be mistaken, saying "Thanks Aussie".

Now the wogs seemed to have an in-built sense that let them know when their donks were playing up. After settling down peacefully on our bunks the first thing we would hear would be an ear-piercing yell in what I think was Arabic and to see wogs racing around every where chasing the male donk and glaring at us and waving their fists and by their expressions the language they were directing at us was something their Mothers had not taught them. Our army, in its wisdom, had a rule that no Arab was allowed to carry a weapon into camp. Good thinking on the Army's part as I can visualize some of the troops losing quite a lot of blood from cuts on their throats. Actually we thought we were helping the wogs by saving them the cost of service fee for the use of the male to serve their Jenny. Who knows some of the male donks could have had a very long pedigree but I couldn't tell they all looked the bloody same to me.

The Great Porter Kidnap

**2/11 Aust Army Field Regiment returning from leave October 1940
(Extract from "Observation Post")**

SGT Wikman recalls returning from leave on the train with Gunners in a semi-inebriated condition, deciding to kidnap the RTO from Seymour Station.

That became too difficult so they settled for the porter, who was lured to the open door of the compartment, shoved in covered with greatcoats and sat upon. He didn't make much fuss until the train started to pull out of the station. But then he carried on like a performing seal, until we plied him with numerous ales , and then he became quite matey.

His main concern was that the Station Master would go for him for being AWOL, so we wrote a note saying he had been detained against his will, and all signed it. Then we took up a collection to pay for a taxi back to Seymour. The first stop was Benalla and the porter was detained there as drunk as a lord.

When we moved from Bonegilla to Pucka some months later, we looked him up, and he was still getting free beers at the local pub to relate the tale. He told us the rest of the story; he got a ride back to Seymour on a freight train, so he was an instant millionaire, and the Station Master took no action, neither did the CO fortunately, because he didn't get to hear about it.

(Submitted by Albert Prohasky, President of 2/11 Fd Regt Assoc.)

Well if the CO is still alive and reads this he will know all about it now, but fortunately it is a bit late for him to do anything else now but chuckle along with the rest of us. Thanks Albert for a great story. Ed.

Letters to the Editor

I have received two requests from E-mails at the AUS-MILITARY-L@rootsweb.com the first is for a missing "gunner" The request is from the "GUNNERS GOSSIP" web page of the RAA {Queensland} NQ Sub Branch which may be found at <http://www.st.net.au/~dunn/raa-nqld.htm> The searcher [name not given] is a "retired officer of the Royal Regiment of New Zealand Artillery and they met up for the duration of a RAA course at Manly for Warrant Officers from Jan 72 to Apr 72.. The name of course is not given, but the person sought is one 'Doc Holliday'."

I seem to recognise the name, but from mess talk only. Wonder if other readers have more details and would like to contact the editor at the following E-mail address with further details. If they do not have computer access then I would be happy to send an E-mail for them.

Send to Eldon R. J. Bryant at <mailto:ebryant@coastguard.com.au>

The second request is as follows, I do not know if any RAA member ever went through the staging camp or not but maybe some of our readers can assist in the following project with photos or perhaps other memorabilia re Newtown Park, Toowoomba

During World War 2, many Australian and American units were located in Toowoomba, Queensland, and a tent city was established in Newtown Park, one of Toowoomba's older parks. After all this time and much lobbying, that part of history is now going to be remembered as the local city council and individuals are re-vegetating and renovating the park as a memorial. There were halls, and other buildings located there during the war years, but sadly, no photos are on record anywhere locally to refer us back to show us what it was like. We are seeking any photos or stores, etc that anybody can provide us with copies of, or let us know where to look for copies, to contact us. I am sending this message out to everybody, on behalf of John Albion, at Pinetrees Nursery, Toowoomba, one of the coordinators of the scheme. His wife, Regina is a councilor on the Toowoomba City Council, and they are very appreciative of any information you may be able to lay your hands on. Other contacts include myself, or Eve, c/- "The Chronicle" (our local newspaper). Thank you and hope to hear from someone with some good news.

Send to James Crighton jcrigh@fan.net.au

Regards **Craig Cook**
craigc@melbpc.org.au

I decided to put these in for you Craig, but I fear we may get a lot of wrong answers to the first one, due to the fact that just about every man with the surname Holliday has been nicknamed "Doc" during his adult life after the friend of US Marshall Wyatt Earp, the original Doc Holliday. Still the specific dates of the course should track him down.

Hopefully the second request might have a better result, anyway readers any info you can supply to these researchers will be gratefully appreciated both by them and your own committee. Ed



Re un-named photo in July issue of Cascabel - The man on the left was a driver with 2 Mdm Regt. - Next (in light colour) was a 2/14th Bn man who came to 2/4 Fd Regt.

Third man is Carl Humphries, a former gun Sgt with 2/4 Fd Regt who was commissioned and posted as Commander Mortar Platoon of 2/6th Bn. - Next is your own Merv Taggart.

Next is Maurie Bellairs, a former BDR OPOack with 2/4 Fd Regt.

And lastly is the famous William F@#\$\$%^&^%\$ Henry Jones a former TSM E Tp 2/4 Fd Regt, later commissioned

All were at the funeral of Arthur Davenport ex 2/4 Fd Regt and 2 Mdm Regt after the war

Incidentally, I have the original snap of the old Marmon and Mk2 18 Pdr shown on the front page of the July issue if anybody is interested

Regards

Roy Harle

President 2/4th Field Regiment Assn

Ph 9363-4603

Now that's cheating, as I gather you were there when the photo was taken, anyhow thank you for such a complete and concise answer which is interesting to those of us who didn't know any of them, apart from Merv that is. Ed.



You know when I read the articles by Graham Farley and Les Searle I wonder why we don't get more letters telling us about your experiences or correcting them. I tried to provoke some discussion with the unnamed photograph in the last issue and it has all fallen flat. We only got one answer from Roy Harle of 2/4 Fd Regt Assn. and as Ed notes that's cheating.

It was taken as he says at the funeral of Arthur Davenport and it was my intention to get a photo of a group who had served with Dav in 2 Mdm Regt at Chapel Street in 1951. It seemed unlikely that we would ever get such a group together again. That point is borne out by the fact that no one else answered.

Such is the attraction of the camera that once I got hold of Carl Humphries two of his 2/4th mates insisted on being included and that complicated things a bit.

Let me tell you about them. The man on the left looking like a retired Brigadier to those who don't know him is SSGT Ian (Podgey) Rogers. I suppose he might have been a driver at some time but is better known as a Bty Quartermaster Sergeant and raconteur.

Next is Paddy Woodward getting his second mention in a year. Paddy was in 2/14 Bn during the war but joined 2 Mdm Regt when the CMF was raised. I don't think he was ever a member of 2/4 Fd Regt but I will stand corrected if I am wrong. I was in his Gun Detachment for my first year in the Army but he is better remembered as a Troop and later Battery Sergeant Major.

Next indeed is Carl Humphries who changed from Artillery to Infantry and then back to Artillery after the war. Carl conducted NCO Courses at Chapel Street at one of which I gained my three stripes and had some influence on my first few years as an officer.

After me is Maurie Bellairs and William Henry Jones notable members of 2/4 Fd Regt who are the ring-ins because I don't remember them being in 2 Mdm Regt. Our Editor wants to know why Henry Jones name is spelt the way it is and I can only refer him to the story of the 2/4 Fd Regt.

Well there was no bottle of port for this one either but I thought maybe a couple more answers might have appeared.

Merv Taggart



I was very happy with the Vale presentation in the July Issue for Rex Holmes Gercovich as he was a real mate to every one in the Army or his work. Jock, Craig and myself who helped put the vale together miss him very much the same as I think other DIV LOC Members do.

Now to more cheerful things:

In answer to Phil Baine's question on the wearing of medals (in the same issue). The information is available from the Medals Section of the Army (Soldier Career Management Agency) or from me as my hobby is restoring Medals and mounting them as some of your members know.

After reading the article in the last newsletter. "THE ORIGIN OF THE LAST POST" I thought that I would include one to. I have included a copy of the origin of "STAND TO".

Jim Breeze



TRIBUTE TO A GUNNER

(Contributed by an interested caring Gunner)

Most people are aware through his numerous books, that the famous Goon, **BDR Spike Milligan**, served with the **Royal Artillery** (Field) during World War Two. However, tributes to fellow Goon and singer, the late **Sir Harry Secombe**, paid scant regard to his war service with the **Royal Regiment of Artillery**. Both Goons suffered personally from exposure to counter-battery fire, particularly in the advance from Salerno through Italy in 1944. The following is an extract from Spike Milligan's memoirs "*Where Have All The Bullets Gone*" as a tribute to Sir Harry:

"I'm skimming through Shakespeare's Sonnets and in comes Staggering LBDR Secombe, ha ha, he has that huge grin with revolving teeth. 'Hello, Hello, hoo! up! Scream! Raspberry: Whoops.' He gets up again. 'Spike, do you like beer?' Yes, he empties a bottle of it over me, screams with laughter falls back on the bed, which collapses, and goes into a deep cross-eyed grinning sleep - Thank God he is unconscious. I strip off my sodden pyjamas, take a shower and when I get back he's gone!!! No, no, he's hammering at the door, he thought he was going into the bathroom and went into the hall. I let the chattering, farting thing in, he lets go with a few top C's and vanishes into the bathroom. There's a great crash as he does something or other. I put my beer soaked pillows on his bed and take his .

*He didn't come out of the bathroom. Next morning I found him asleep in his bath, an idiotic smile on his face and one boot off. God, Wales has a lot to answer for. **BOMBADIER SECOMBE, FALL OUT!***

(Contributed by Ernie Paddon)



End of an era: Sergeant Peter Croagh prepares to lower the Australian Flag at the Ranger Barracks for the last time

Army moves from Drill Hall

Some 115 years of continuous military use ends

by Andrew Molloy

The Ballarat-based 8th/7th Battalion marched out of Ranger Barracks for the last time last night, ending 115 years of continuous use of the historic Curtis St site by the military.

An impressive display of Army discipline and unity greeted a small crowd of well-wishers as the Battalion marched into history and into the night to take up residence in temporary buildings at the Army Base in Russel St, Ballarat.

More than 72 members of the Battalion in Battle Dress with guns and webbing held one last parade in the old Barracks under the command of Lieutenant-Colonel Robert Haughton.

This was followed by a short flag-lowering ceremony during



Army on the move: Members of the 8th/7th Battalion march along Sturt St to their temporary home in Russel St. A new depot is to be built.

the Australian flag were removed from the site as a last farewell.

The Battalion's Executive Officer, Major Jeff Cole said: "Although this is a sad occasion, it is an opportunity to acknowledge the vital contribution that the Ballarat units have made to Australian history.

"From the Boer War to East Timor, soldiers from the Western District and Country Victoria have maintained a proud tradition of service and self sacrifice in the interests of their family, mates and

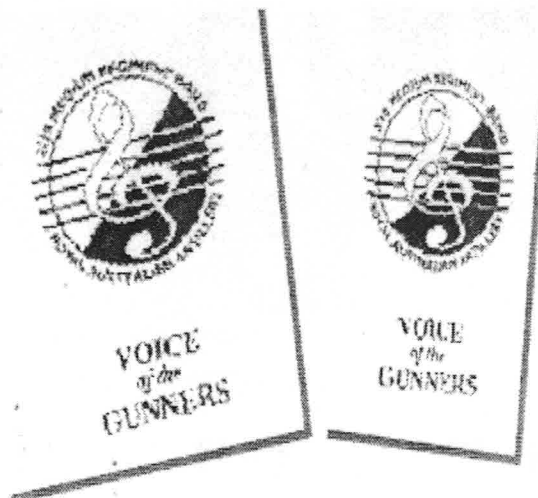
The predecessor of the modern 8/7 RVR, the Ballarat Volunteer Rifle Regiment, was created at a meeting at the then Bath's Hotel (now Craig's Hotel) in 1857 and the first parade was held on August 9, 1858 which is celebrated as the unit's birthday.

The early units in Ballarat had to share a temporary Orderly Room in the Government Camp in Camp St throughout the 1860s and



PRESENTS

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Phone:(AH).....(BH).....

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Newport VIC 3015

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PARADE CARD 2001

October 2001

- 13 Visit Regt in the Field
- 18 Committee Meeting
- 26 10 Mdm Regt Assoc Cabaret
- 28 AGM & Back to the Regt

November 2001

- 4 RSL Remembrance Springvale
- 15 Committee Meeting

December 2001

- 6 Committee Meeting

January 2002

No functions or meetings during this month

February 2002

- 3 Church Parade
- 21 Committee Meeting

March 2002

- 21 Committee Meeting

April 2002

- 18 Committee Meeting
- 25 ANZAC Day

May 2002

- 16 Committee Meeting

Jun 2002

- 20 Committee Meeting
- 28 Gunner Dinner

Jul 2002

- 1 Reserve Forces Day March
- 18 Committee Meeting

Aug 2002

- 2 Artillery Ball
- 15 Committee Meeting

Sep 2002

- 6 Battle for Aust Com'n

CHANGING YOUR ADDRESS?

Please forward to:
RAA Association (Vic) Inc.
101 Warralong Ave
GREENSBOROUGH VIC 3088

Name:

Old Address:

New Address:

.....
.....
.....

.....
.....
.....

ENSURE ADDRESS DETAILS ARE UPDATED BEFORE NEXT ISSUE

ROYAL AUSTRALIAN ARTILLERY ASSOCIATION (VICTORIA) INC.

NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The 24th Annual General Meeting of the Association is to be held at Chapel Street Artillery Depot on **Sunday 28th October 2001 at 11.00 am.**

AGENDA

- | | |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1. Apologies | 7. General Business |
| 2. Minutes of previous meeting | a. President's report |
| 3. Business arising | b. Regimental reports |
| 4. Correspondence | c. Fees for ensuing year |
| 5. Treasurer's report | d. Election of office bearers |
| 6. Membership report | e. Other business |

Social Lunch to follow (see Back to the Regiment notice)

.....
NOMINATION FORM

< _____ > (full name)

of < _____ > (address),
a member of the Association, is hereby nominated for the position of
President/Vice President/Secretary/Treasurer/Ordinary Committee Member
(cross out those positions not nominated for) by the undermentioned
Proposer and Secunder, who are also members of the Association.

< _____ > (Signature of Proposer)

< _____ > (Full Name)

< _____ > (Signature of Secunder)

< _____ > (Full Name)

< _____ > (Signature of Consenting Nominee)

(this form is to reach the Secretary not later than 21st October 2001)

.....
FORM OF APPOINTMENT OF PROXY

I, < _____ > of

< _____ > ,
being a member of the RAA Assoc (Vic) Inc hereby appoint

< _____ > of

< _____ > , being a
member of that Incorporated Association, as my Proxy to vote for me on my
behalf at the General Meeting of the Incorporated Association to be held on
the 28th October 2001 and at any adjournment of that meeting.

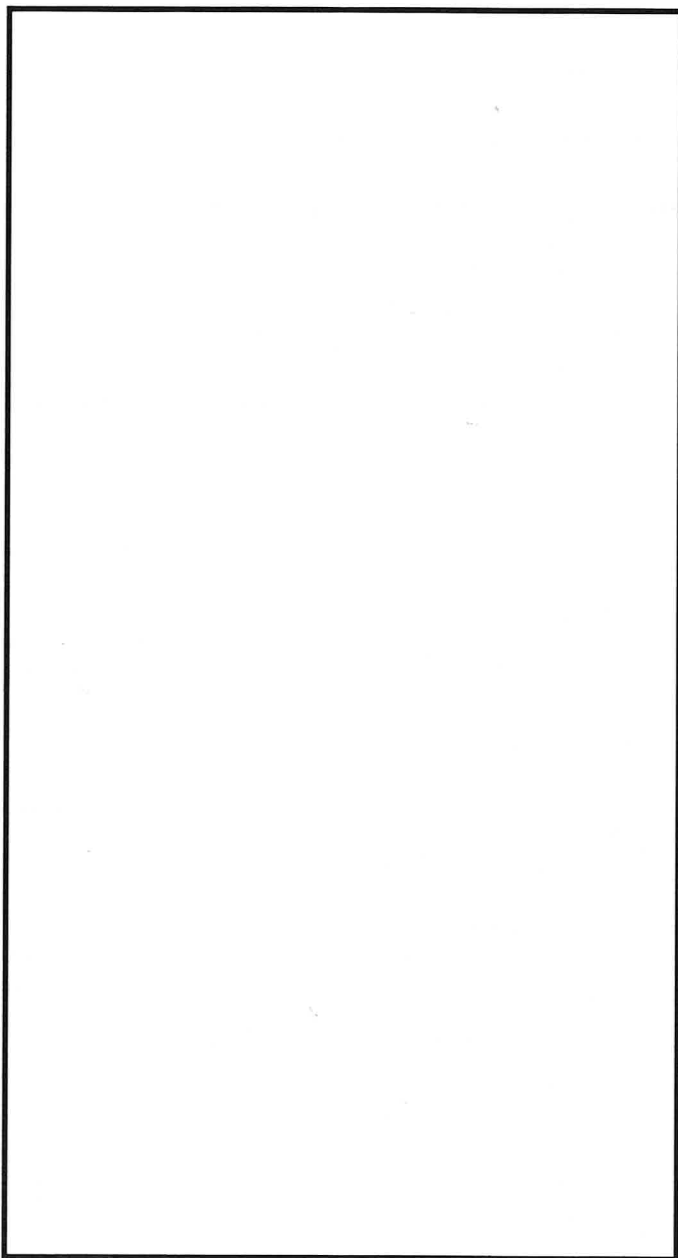
Signed < _____ > Date < _____ >

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