

CASCABEL

Newsletter of the Royal Australian Artillery
Association (Victoria)



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THE PRESIDENT WRITES

Dear Member

It is my pleasure to report on the activities of your Association since the last issue of CASCABEL

First there was a visit to Puckapunyal to observe the practice of 10 Medium Regiment of the M198, 155 MM medium gun. As has been the case in the past, the association members were made very welcome indeed by the Commanding Officer and all ranks of the Regiment. The gun positions were especially interesting and the enthusiasm of the gunners, in fact all personnel was exceedingly great to see. The numbers of members taking advantage of this invitation was a little greater than last year but the count of heads still remains relatively small. It surprises, that such an invitation by the serving gunners is not taken up by gunners now retired, and in some cases very long retired. I have it on the best advice that the invitation will again be extended and you will be notified in good time by some means, most likely in Cascabel.

Our Annual General Meeting was held at the Artillery Depot on Thursday 18 Jul 85 on one of the coldest evenings of a very cold winter. Regretfully, attendance was down on the previous ACM but the enticement to remain by the family fire may have had an influence on numbers.

Your committee had decided that some recognition be made of the fact that Major General Norman Vickery - so well known to us all - was the main spring behind the foundation of our Association in this state. We made a simple presentation to the General, in the form of an 18 pdr cartridge case suitably inscribed and complete with RAA brass badge. Happily, it was a complete surprise to our friend and he made this point in his reply.

We were also able to welcome our Divisional Commander in his own right, as a gunner, and a member. It does us all good to have Major General Jim Barry with us.

Personally, I was very happy indeed to be allowed the opportunity to fill the Chair of President for a further year. We welcome to the committee two new members in Major David Osborne and WO2 Bob Armstrong and look forward to working with them. We farewelled, with regret three members of the committee LTCOL Col McLean, LTCOL Rob Gaw and WO2 Ken Hodges. Each have given good service to the association as committee members and I am sure that I pass to them the deep thanks of all for their very real contribution over the years. I especially wish to mention that Rob Gaw is primarily responsible for Cascabel in its present form and his help and practical assistance will be sadly missed. To Rob we express our collective and sincere thanks and our good wishes go to him and his family for a happy sojourn in Sydney. Col McLean and Ken Hodges are to remain in the area and we look forward to our continued meetings at functions.

Following our meeting a most excellent supper was provided by the regimental chefs and our sincere thanks go to all concerned.

Owing to the possibility of the Portsea and the Fort Nepean area being handed over to the Medical Corps, our interest in the Queenscliffe Fort has been heightened. It is well known that the hard working people concerned with the restoration of the Fort have long been endeavouring to locate a mounting and piece of a 6 inch Mark VII barrel to restore to an emplacement once so occupied. One shield is on site as many would have seen. Now there are two barrels at Fort Nepean and it is hoped that they may be released for mounting at Queenscliffe. A possibility is also present that at least one mounting may be uncovered and moved with the Mark VII barrels. It would provide a great lift for the fort to obtain these items and members of our association will watch progress with more than usual interest, the further restoration of this important gunner establishment.

Late last year you will have received a copy of our constitution. It is a very good constitution having regard to what we are and I am making a plea for it to be read and if any members, as a result, have any constructive suggestions to put to the committee to further the interest in activities arranged by the association, your letters will be very welcome, and considered. We could be missing out on events which may be able to be arranged for our common good, interest and entertainment.

The 1985 Artillery Ball indicated that this annual event is becoming more and more popular. One reason is the good ground work put into its production and organization by the Ball Committee for which they were rewarded by observing the obvious enjoyment of those attending. There was an increase of more than one hundred in the numbers present which included the Divisional Commander and our founding President. The RAA Band

performed throughout the entire evening in two forms. As a military band they played us through the pre dinner drinks period and the dinner. Certain personnel then formed a dance band, dressed accordingly and so ably took us through the remainder of the night in a most happy way. Once again we had demonstrated in a very real manner their professionalism and versatility and they well and truly deserve our congratulations. Congratulations also, to the Ball Committee members for the obvious success of the Ball.

A Diary Note: The 1986 Artillery Ball will be held on the 1st of August.

St Barbara's Day was held at Glastonbury House in Geelong and a most successful and entertaining day it was. I must add that more of the retired gunners would be made most welcome by the serving gunners who put on a rapidly moving series of events - and an excellent meal - that would keep the most dowdy amongst us well and interestingly occupied. The presentation of annual prizes took place during the course of the afternoon and I would like to make mention of the recipients:

23 Fd Bty, 2/15 Fd Regt - McNeill
Trophy which is awarded to the best gun battery in 3MD.

LT S.C. Venn, 2/15 Fd Regt -
Vickery Trophy which is awarded to the best FO in 3MD.

RAA Association Awards which are presented for excellence in the performance of duty or for a most valuable contribution to the Corps:-

ARA	WO2 K.J. Walsh 2/15 Fd Regt
OR/BDR	BDR A.P.A. Casson 132 Div Loc Bty
SNR NCO	WO2 R.C. Armstrong 2/15 Fd Regt
Officer	LT J.A. Traill 132 Div Loc Bty

St Barbara's Day 1986 will be celebrated on 7 Dec 86, venue to be advised and should be a further note

for your diaries. As I recall it is the anniversary of Pearl Harbour, for those who can remember!

2031.08

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I conclude this report in saying that I, for one, am looking forward to the many activities which have been organized, and dates fixed, right up to June 1987, of which all members of the association will be notified shortly. And I look forward to seeing as many gunners as possible attending.

As I am writing this at New Year, it is very appropriate at this time to wish all gunners a healthy and interesting 1986.

Regards to all,

Norman Whitelaw

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

For those not present at the Annual General Meeting the financial statements for the year ended 30 June, 1985 are presented for your information.

Income and Expenditure Statement For the Year Ended 30 June 1985

<u>Income</u>	
Subscriptions	\$1595.00
Term Deposit Interest	396.08
Bank Account Interest	40.00
	2031.08
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Expenditure

Annual Awards	111.85
Happy Hour	50.00
AGM - Supper	89.76
ANZAC Day - Snacks	20.00
Donations:	
RAA Band Sash & Staff Fund	175.00
"Friends of the Fort"	75.00
RAA Regimental Fund	(50.00)
Presentations:	
COL A. Mair	15.00
1984 Young Officers' Course	73.25
Presentation Stock	42.00
Wreath - COL A. Mair	30.00
Death Notices	58.50
Refunds - Subs paid twice	5.00
Receipt Book	6.35
Bank Charges	4.25
Surplus for Year	1325.02

Balance Sheet

As At 30 June 1985

Members' Funds

Balance brought forward	\$4074.32
Add Surplus for year	1325.02
	5399.34
	=====

Represented by:

Cash at Bank	299.34
Term Deposits	3500.00
	5399.34
	=====

The financial statements as tabled were audited by MAJ D.J. Osborne F.C.A. and found to be a true and fair representation of the transactions recorded in the books of the account.

THE EDMUND HERRING MEMORIAL

On Sunday 29 Sep 85, His Excellency, the Governor, Rear-Admiral Sir Brian Murray, unveiled a plaque at the sports ground in Domain Road to the memory and honouring the life of the Honourable Lieutenant General Sir Edmund Herring KCMG, KBE, DSO, MC, ED, K, StJ, MA, DCL.

Sir Edmund was a gunner - originally with Royal Field Artillery.

His was a most distinguished life and he was absolutely dedicated to the guns. He won his DSO and MC at a very early age in the Balkans during World War I and his enthusiasm for his RFA unit was very real indeed. On his return to Australia he became deeply immersed in his chosen career of law and ultimately was appointed Chief Justice of Victoria. In that capacity he also assumed the role of Lieutenant Governor of this State, a post in which he was called upon to represent the Governor on numerous

occasions in the absence of the incumbent.

He served between the wars in the CMF of the day and when World War II caused the reformation of another AIF he was appointed CRA 6 Aust Div. His last posting was Corps Commander in 1944 when he left the Army to take up his important duty as Chief Justice of Victoria. One of Sir Edmund's most often stated opinions was his admiration of the Australian fighting serviceman and this is reflected in his biography which I recommend for any gunners reading. (Written by Stuart Sayers entitled "Ned Herring" published by Hyland House, Melbourne, in association with the Australian War Memorial, Canberra).

His life was literally one of service and all gunners will certainly be proud to count themselves a fellow gunner with Sir Edmund. His interests were diverse in the extreme. Besides his enduring interest in service matters he was associated with TOC H, was inaugural president of the Scout Association of Australia, Chairman of the Board Management of the Australian War Memorial Canberra and of many other organizations among which were The St Johns Ambulance Association and the Shrine Trustees to quote but only two.

If any gunner wishes to see the plaque it is opposite Sir Edmunds old school, Melbourne Grammar, placed on the wall surrounding the oval on its northern side.

Major P.S. Whitelaw

UNIT NEWS 2/15 FD REGT
TRAINING YEAR 1984/85

The 1st of July 1985 was a significant date for the Regiment in many ways. The unit completed a two year training cycle that saw a rigorous programme of activities.

The last year's training commenced with an eight day Courses

Camp at Puckapunyal in August 1984. The aim was to qualify soldiers in the trades of gunner, signaller, operator command post and driver. Courses were also run for promotion to BDR, SGT, and Warrant Officer.

The unit then embarked on a training programme to build up to CPFA Assessment in May 1985. This consisted of 4 firing weekends, a Safety Officers Course, RAA Corps TEWT, a Regimental Officers TEWT and intensive team training on Tuesday evenings. Also during the August - December period many of the regiments officers attended courses at the School of Artillery in Sydney.

Annual Camp commenced on Sat 27 Apr 85 and the few first few days were spent in sub-unit training. Assessment by batteries commenced on Sun 5 May 85 after all lead up training had been completed. The IG and Master Gunner from the CPFA's Staff assessed each Bty in direct and deliberate night occupations and a move to alternative position. Types of missions assessed included immediate neutralization, airburst, registration in HE and time, quick smoke, illumination of an area, FPF and FO's and BC's quick fire plans. Due to shortages of personnel. 2 and 3 Bty amalgamated for camp and were assessed together and 23 Bty was assessed as is. Both sub-units performed creditably, although not well enough to earn the Mount Schanck Trophy. This trophy is awarded to the best ARES gun battery in Australia based on results obtained during the CPFA's Assessment.

Other activities conducted during a busy annual camp were Physical Training Tests, Small Arms Qualifications and a Navigation Exercise.

Although numbers were well down on past annual field exercises all who attended performed well and can be proud of their achievements.

The year finished with exercise "Murphys War" over the period 28 Jun 1 Jul 85. This was a two phase

exercise. The first phase consisted Of Regimental Missions after being "fogged out" for about four hours and direct firing practice over ranges of approximately 800 metres. The Regiment conducted an all ranks buffet dinner on the night of Mon 1 Jul 85 to complete this activity. This was to celebrate the 10th birthday of the Regiment, having been formed from the merger of 2 Fd Regt and 15 Fd Regt. It also marked the changeover of Commanding Officers. LTCOL Dennis Murphy relinquished command after nearly two and a half years to LTCOL John Morkham. Each of the gun batteries had new BC assume command from the same date. 2 Bty is now commanded by MAJ Gerry Butcher. 3 Bty by MAJ Bill Cross and 23 Bty by MAJ Ross Peterken. The new 2IC of the Regiment is MAJ Robin Smith. Congratulations to the five officers concerned and good luck to them in their new postings.

Major D.J. Osborne

"THE ROYAL REGIMENT"

(Last Toast of the Evening)

Ere British bowmen ceased to be,
The bombard held it's sway,
Then the guns were cast in bronze
and brass,
And powder won the day.
The Gunners of six hundred years
In ghostly ranks go by;
Their prowess and traditions live,
Their fame can never die.

Horse, field or medium, coast or
pack,
Has each it's gallant role,
Wherever right and glory lead,
One undivided whole.
One motto, badge and regiment,
One aim, and only one -
To find the line and hold the range
Until the task be done.

By those who fell, by those who
serve,
By gunners new and old,
One badge displayed in peace or
war,
One tale of glory told.
One King, one Flag, one Regiment,

One toast to close the day -
So, fill your glasses to the brim
and pledge the old R.A.

Chorus

(Tune of last four lines)

"Ubique", while the Empire stands.
"Ubique", lest she fall.
Our lives for hers on coast or plain,
"Ubique", at her call.

Composed by COL (later BRIG)
Maurice B. Keating, CO 2 Med Regt
RAA about 1932.

THE ROTUNDA

Before leaving for England
on holidays our President asked me
to write an article for Cascabel. So
here we are.

The Rotunda is the Museum of
Artillery at Woolwich. It houses a
marvellous collection of artillery
pieces covering the development of
artillery from the days of Greycy in
the 14th century to the present day.
Control of the Museum is vested in
the Royal Artillery Institution.

Collection of exhibits
started in 1778 by Captain (Later
Lieutenant General) Sir William
Congreve R.A. He also formed a
"Military Society" which at once
received support from King George
III who in 1778 ordered a Repository
to be built at Woolwich.
Unfortunately, many of the exhibits
were lost in a fire in 1802.

General Congreve died in 1814.
However, in fine gunner style his
son carried on the good work
becoming Colonel Sir William
Congreve. In 1814 he succeeded his
father as the second Superintendent
of Military Machines at Woolwich.
Seeing the need for a better museum
he approached the Prince Regent to
make a present of one of the six
double ceiling tents designed for a
meeting of allied sovereigns in his
grounds at Carlton House gardens in
1814. This tent was finally erected

on its present site in May 1820. The architect John Nash made it a permanent building with the addition of a leaden roof and a central pillar to carry the extra weight.

Colonel Congreve died in 1828. He was the inventor of many different rockets which were used with success against the French from 1805 to 1809.

As a gunner, the Rotunda is full of fascination. It is set up into six gunnery sections. Section 1 covers the Era of Wrought Iron Ordnance basically the 14th to 16th Century (1320 - 1520), when nearly all guns constructed in this period were called Bombards. Many of the early artillery weapons were designed to throw their projectiles (often stone shot of about 160lbs weight) over the outer walls of enemy fortresses rather than to destroy the outer defences. These wrought iron pieces continued in production until the beginning of the 16th century.

Section II onwards in the next edition.

Major P.I. Hemingway

SUBSCRIPTIONS

1985/86 subscriptions are now due and payable. All members who have received a renewal notice in this mailing are asked to forward their subscription to the Membership Secretary at their earliest convenience. Subscriptions remain at \$5 per year or \$50 for life membership.

COMMAND APPOINTMENT

On 1 Jan 86 Colonel Graeme Standish was promoted to Brigadier and appointed Commander 3rd Training Group.

Commissioned in February 1955.

BRIG Standish served in his early years with 40 HAA, 10 Mdm Regt, CSTU, HQ 3 Div and 2 Fd Regt. In January 1974 he was posted as CO, 10 Mdm Regt and then in March 1977 undertook his second command as CO, Monash University Regiment. His civilian employment took him to PNG for approximately 3 years which caused a temporary halt to his ARES service.

LTCOL Standish returned to Australia in late 1980 after which he held successive staff postings, firstly at the Reserve Command and Staff College and then at HQ 3 DIV FF GP. Promoted Colonel on 1 Dec 83 he served as Chief of Staff on HQ 3 DIV until his recent promotion.

The Association congratulates BRIG Standish on his promotion and wishes him every success in his new command.

BRIG Standish is a life member of this Association.

POSTINGS

It may be of interest, particularly for serving and recently retired members, to be brought up to date with our current officer postings. So here are the regiments as they stand as at 1 Jan 86.

HQ RAA

CDA	COL	Doug Perry
OPS	LTCOL	John Henry
PERS	MAJ	John Phillips

2/15 FD REGT

RHQ

CO	LTCOL	John Morkham
2IC	MAJ	Robin Smith
ADJT	CAPT	Tony Darlington (ARA)
QM	CAPT	Brian Reeves (ARA)
IO	LT	Jane Griffiths
ASST		
ADJT	LT	Robyn Hughes

HQ BTY

BC MAJ Neil Hamer

2 FD BTY

BC MAJ Gerry Butcher
BK CAPT Alan Sandbach
FO LT Peter Rowley
GPO LT Alan Maguire
ASST
GPO LT Jim Pearson
BTY
LDR LT Jack Wegman

3 FD BTY

BC MAJ Bill Cross
BK CAPT Chris Jackson
FO LT David Allen
GPO LT Rob Davie
ASST
GPO LT John Auchettl
BTY
LDR LT Rory Cain

23 FD BTY

BC MAJ Ross Peterken
BK CAPT John Sheard
FO LT John Lambert
GPO LT Ron Harris
ASST
GPO LT Don Taylor
BTY
LDR LT Peter Reinhold

REC OFFR CAPT Geoff Rebbechi
2LT Rob Mills
2LT Geoff Hughes

10 MDM REGTRHQ

CO LTCOL Bob Collins
ADJT CAPT Terry McCullagh (ARA)
QM CAPT Brian McVinish (ARA)

HQ BTY

BC MAJ Greg Wishart
SIG
OFFR LT Dave Barrand

37 MDM BTY

BC CAPT Brian Jackson
BK CAPT Jeff Cole
FO CAPT Roger Dalton
GPO LT Rob Mellar
ASST
GPO 2LT Rob Moorby

39 MDM BTY

BC MAJ Ron Lenard

BK CAPT Evan Belfrage
GPO LT Graeme Rabbas

132 DIV LOC BTYBHQ

BC MAJ Mike Buckridge
BK CAPT Peter Wertheimer
TRG
OFFR CAPT Pat Meehan (ARA)
REC
OFFR 2LT Ken Black

SVY TP

SEC
COMD LT John Traill

MET SEC

SEC
COMD LT Mike Womack

The following officers are currently serving in non-corps postings.

LTCOL Ian George RCSC
LTCOL Bob Freeland HQ 3 DIV
LTCOL Bernie Pearson RCSC
MAJ Roger Smith RCSC
MAJ Norm White RCSC
MAJ Paul Glendenning HQ 3 TRG GP
CAPT Peter McDermott JLW
CAPT Brett Torey HQ 4 BDE
CAPT Tony Hunt RCSC (INTMED Course)
CAPT Dave Carr OCTU
LT Steve Venn RCSC (JNR Course)
LT Bob Charles RCSC (JNR Course)
LT Peter Simmons OR TRG WG

SENIOR APPOINTMENTS

MAJGEN Jim Barry COMD 3 DIV
BRIG Graeme Standish COMD 3 TRG GP
COL Mike Vincent COMDT RCSC

COL COMDT

BRIG Keith Rossi

Well you now know where all of our serving ARES officers are (or are supposed to be) - any omissions are purely accidental and in no way reflect your future career prospects. In the future we will keep you abreast of any promotions,

postings retirements etc.

In our next edition we will wander down the corridor to the SGT's Mess and bring you up to date with SNR NCO postings. Many of our retired members will be surprised at the names that still appear on the Regimental list.

SUCCESS AT THE SCHOOL

Every year a number of our officers make the trip to Sydney to visit Kings Cross and enjoy the local colour. At some stage during this visit they manage to squeeze in a two week course at the School of Artillery.

During 1985 these officers must have found just the right mix of business and pleasure as we had a 100% pass rate at all of the courses attended. Not only that, three of our fellows topped their respective courses. They were:-

LT Peter Rowley FQ Course

2LT Rob Moorby GPO "

LT Jim Pearson ROB "

Well done Chaps!

And congratulations to all of the other officers who passed their courses and so maintained the high standard that we have come to expect from the Victorian Gunners.

THE CAPTAIN-GENERAL

During a guest night at Woolwich in Dec 50, His Majesty King George VI expressed a desire to change his title from Colonel-in-Chief to Captain-General, Royal Artillery.

The change in title was effected 26 Jan 51, thus reviving an old rank which had dated back to the fifteenth century.

The rank of Captain General was replaced by Field Marshall in 1736, but did not actually disappear from common usage until 1799.

Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II assumed the appointment of

Captain General on Her Accession in 1953.

Later Australia requested that Her Majesty change Her title, as had been done for the Royal Artillery and other Commonwealth Artilleries, and on 19 Sep 63 Her Majesty became the Captain-General of the Royal Regiment of Australian Artillery.

In the Australian Army the title Captain-General is unique to the Royal Regiment of Australian Artillery.

EDITORIAL

This is the last edition of "Cascabel" that will be produced under the editorship of LTCOL Rob Caw. As your President mentioned in his column, Rob moved to Sydney in late 1985.

Rob joined the Committee in July 1982 and determined that he would produce a regular newsletter on behalf of the Association. In July 1983 the first edition of "Cascabel" rolled off the press (or should I say the photo-copier). Since that time the format has been improved upon and the size of the publication has doubled.

We thank Rob for initiating the production of "Cascabel" and we look forward to the continuing challenge of producing future editions which will be of interest to all.

Editorial Staff