

CASCABEL

Journal of the

ROYAL AUSTRALIAN ARTILLERY ASSOCIATION
(VICTORIA) INCORPORATED

ABN 22 850 898 908



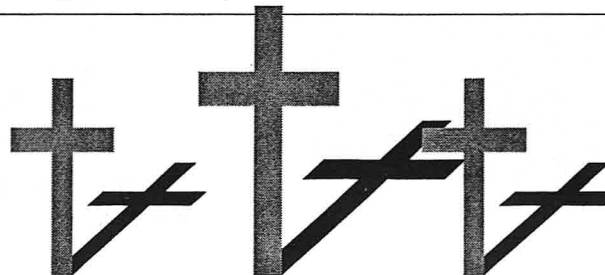
Number 71

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Victoria Australia

April 2002



*The association banner "on parade" at
the Annual Reserves' Day March in
the City of Melbourne on 1 Jul 01*



*Happy Easter to all members,
their families and their friends*



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, ED

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

1982

Patron: BRIG Sir William Hall KBE, 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

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

1981 COL A. (Sandy) Mair ED

1984 MAJ P. S. (Norman) Whitelaw ED

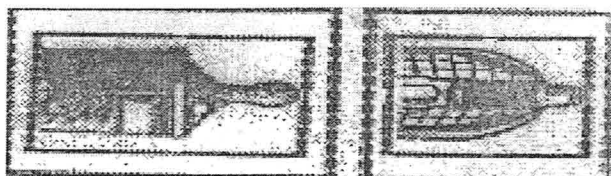
1988 BRIG K. V. Rossi AM, OBE, RFD, ED

1991 MAJ M. Taggart RFD, ED

JOURNAL NAME:

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

CASCABLE - English spelling.



REASON FOR:

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

ARTILLERY USE:



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

[Ref: "Text Book on Fortification Etc", Royal Military College, Sandhurst, by COL G. Philips, RE, 4th Ed, Ch-1, P9, para 28,1884].

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

CASCABEL HISTORY:

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

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 1833, 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.

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CONTENTS AND SUBMISSIONS

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

Submissions for the **July 2002** issue are required no later than **Fri 28 June 2002** unless otherwise arranged with the Editor.

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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**



EDITOR'S EXOTERICS

Isn't it positively unbelievable that it is nearly time to be saying Happy Easter again?

I am pleased to see the responses to our first article "From the Archives". There is, however, some apparent confusion among the membership as to the reason that this article had not had its rather considerable number of errors corrected before publication.

Unfortunately, the law in respect of editing is quite clear in that in order to amend any article, I must first obtain the author's or publisher's permission to do so, or I may return the item to the author or publisher marking the areas for him or her to amend.

In the case of archival material where we do not know how or where to contact the author or publisher, I have two options, to publish it with all errors as originally published or refuse to publish the article at all. The latter choice, I believe would be pointless as then members would not have the opportunity to write in and give us the benefit of their knowledge of where the article was in error and therefore help us all to obtain thereby, the correct information. Thank you to those members who availed themselves of this opportunity.

Another matter, of which most of you seem to be unaware, is that articles appearing in newspapers, magazines, books or other publications may not be reproduced in Cascabel or any other publication for that matter without the express permission of the editor or publisher of the respective publications. This would apply even to an organisation which had only one member and so the newsletter reproducing the article was only going to be supplied to that one member. Sounds silly? Well, think about it, where else would they draw the line? 20 members? What if you had 21 members? I trust you see the obvious problem.

This includes local newspapers. Army Magazine, RSL newsletters and RAA Assoc newsletters of other States of Australia.

The other State RAA Assocs have all given me carte blanche permission to reproduce their articles at any time. This does not mean, however, that I may reproduce articles published in their newsletters from other publications, eg if the RAA Assoc SA obtained permission to reproduce something from The Adelaide Advertiser, this in no way implies that I may do the same in Cascabel. I need to contact The Adelaide Advertiser direct to obtain their permission.

So any members sending such material in the future, particularly from country areas, would save your association an expensive phone call, if you first obtained written permission and enclosed this with the article.

If you think you see an easy way out by simply photocopying the article, sorry it is illegal to photocopy anything from a newspaper, magazine, etc without the express permission of the author or publisher.

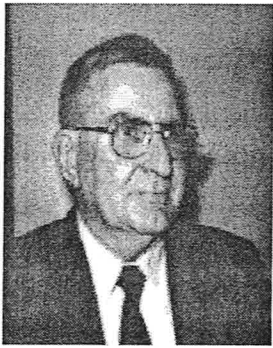
Also the Archives Act says that no historical document may be altered or added to in any way. I trust the above has left you all thoroughly confused as that alone might generate more Letters to the Editor.

Finally, great to see so many at the Annual Church Parade, our Secretary who always urges us in his advert for the Parade to be early to hear the bells, was one of the late arrivals.

I trust you all have a Happy Easter, Bye! Until next issue.

Ron G. Curtis

Editor



The President writes

Thanks to all who came to Church Parade. There was a good turnout and the Association banner was displayed in the church during the service. The band as always added their fine talents to the service

I mentioned in the last issue that Mina and I were off to visit Craig in Hawaii. We had a marvellous time thank you very much. I must say that Waikiki beach is not much different to Hampton and the story goes that in recent years the sand is imported from Australia.

The Hotels lined up along the edge of the sand are however overwhelming. We left home on Remembrance Day and arrived in Honolulu in time to start Remembrance Day all over again. Craig took us to Punchbowl Military Cemetery which was a touching scene. Being the 11 November it was all dressed in flags for unit ceremonies. It is an enormous extinct crater, all lawn with small flush headstones. and over the graves of Medal of Honour recipients a small blue flag about knee high flies.

We were taken to all the tourist places including the peak of Diamond Head and the big island of Hawaii. Pearl Harbour and its environs are just thick with military and naval history. Just a few places are the USS Arizona memorial adjacent to which is the USS Bowfin (the most successful WW2 submarine). Ford Island which was the main navy air base until the planes got too fast can still be recognised as the background of many a WW2 film. I would guess that there is more military and naval strength on the small island of Oahu than we own.

The finale of our visit was to attend the St Barbara's Day Ball run by the Artillery of the 25th Inf Div. There must have been 1000 people in the ballroom with colourful dress uniforms making a great display. The main entertainment consisted of, Mixing the Artillery Punch, which was a hilarious process followed by the conferring of the, Order of St Barbara. They were surprised that we knew about St Barbara so I had to tell them that we had her first.

I understand that the Colonel Artillery Colonel Winter and the Master Gunner WO1 W. Parker conducted ARTEP tests in December and that the regiment performed well. Congratulations to all concerned.

Anzac Day will be a little different this year. There will not be a dawn service at Chapel Street Depot. The regiment is going to attend the Shrine service before returning to the Depot for breakfast and to prepare for the main city march. The units of 4 Brigade will all be taking part in the march. There will be a breakfast available at the depot but only for those who notify me beforehand so that I can warn the regiment of numbers. Members will however be welcome at the depot after the march as on previous occasions.

The stop press item is the news that our local regiment has been renamed and is now 2/10 Field Regiment RAA. Although this change has been inevitable for some time now due to the medium guns going to Darwin it is still a sad day for us oldies who cut our teeth on them.

2/10 Field Regiment has had many changes of staff over this new year and I understand that they are listed elsewhere in the magazine. Congratulations to these new members and we wish them success in their new postings.

Congratulations are due to our member Major John Phillips who has been awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) in the recent Australia Day Honours. John's award is for his work with the Pay Corps museum primarily for which he has worked very hard over many years and we offer him our best wishes. Also noted in the Australia Day awards was Mrs Pauline Perry OAM the wife of Brigadier Doug Perry. Our congratulations Pauline for your award.

The officers will soon be hearing about the Gunner Dinner and I look forward to seeing many of you there and on Anzac Day. The Gippsland members may be interested in the flyer regarding a function to celebrate the closure of KORUMBURRA depot on 22 June.

There is no information on Reserve Forces Day as yet so keep your eyes on the daily papers

Best wishes

Merv Taggart
Merv Taggart



Membership Report

21 Feb 2002

Current membership

Libraries	4
Life Members	222
Annual Members	85
Affiliates	59
Total	<u>370</u>

We have welcomed two new Annual Members. These are SGT K. Johnson and GNR G. McCarthy.

Mrs M. Sloan has been welcomed as a Life Member and MAJ W.H. Cross has transferred to Life Membership.

10 Aust Fd Regt Association AIF has been disbanded due to falling membership.

The following members have failed to respond to the subscription notices sent to them, are now unfinancial and are therefore no longer members:

047	SGT J.L. Thomas	271	GNR T.P. Diakoumis
048	MAJ J.L.M. Cooke	312	SGT L.F. Jones
061	SGT A.G. Cunningham	376	CPL A.L. Cooke
210	CHAP R.A.B. Nicholls	377	GNR J. Hardinge
246	LTR A. Rosenfeldt		

This would give the Association an active yearly membership of 85, and a total membership of 370.

Neil Hamer
Vice President
Membership Co-ordinator

Vale - Sir Roden Cutler VC, AK, KCMG, KCVO, CBE

Gunner to Governor

Officer, Gentleman, Scholar, Diplomat, yet “one of the boys”.

It must sound like a contradiction in terms, but to those of us who had met him on several occasions, he was all of that and more. At social functions such as St Barbara's Day Luncheons, Gunner Dinners, etc., he always mingled and met and talked with each individual present and never did he give any impression that he was just fulfilling an official duty. You could sense that he was enjoying the opportunity to do so.

No function organiser when approaching him to speak at their function ever did so with trepidation, as they knew he would be “a hit”. He was a veritable fount of interesting and usually highly amusing anecdotes and put everybody present at ease in any situation.

He appeared to be equally at ease with extreme formality through to extreme lack of it, adaptable to all situations. His ready wit and charming humility endeared this magnificent National/International Hero to all who met him.

Whenever you met him you had to remind yourself that he was ex-Governor of NSW, VC winner, in short a true VIP, because there was no way he would remind you. He was too modest and humble to think those things were important, although I feel sure he felt honoured and grateful for the opportunity of the former and recognition of the latter.

He will be missed by Gunners everywhere, but especially by some of the WW2 veterans, who never rose above the basic rank of Gunner, whom he treated as friends and comrades whenever he met them.

Farewell Sir Roden, “Giant amongst Gunners” and inspiration to us all.

(Refer also article by MAJ Chris Armstrong Cascabel No 58 Dec 98 The “Coward” Who Won The VC. Ed.)

Vale - BDR Spike Milligan

Sad news that the last of the Goons has gone to join his fellow Goon and Gunner Sir Harry Secombe in that great Gun Park in the sky, although one gathers from Spike's own account of their days together in Artillery, that they will need a vigilant RSM to keep an eye on them.

Spike was a great comedian and many people may have thought he was an idiot, but to those people I would say, it takes a truly brilliant man to be a fool. I believe that he will be missed by a considerably large number of fans.

He was certainly versatile, turning his talents to poetry, music and drama as well as comedy and a rather unique brand of Gunnery if one chose to believe his rather offbeat account of their service in Artillery. However I think most would recognise that much of it was tongue in cheek.

Spike! along with Harry you are and will continue to be missed, but as you appeared to enjoy every second of your life while you here on Earth one can only trust that you are just as happy where you are

MINIATURE STORIES OF THE SAINTS

BY REV. DANIEL A. LORD, S.J.



SAINT BARBARA THE BRAVE MARTYR

When Barbara was a little girl, her wicked father imprisoned her in a high tower. So Barbara lived in the tower with only the servants who cared for her. And she was very good. One day a priest passed under her tower. He was singing about Jesus Christ. Barbara heard him. She asked him about his song. He told her all about the Saviour. Barbara was overjoyed. "I love Jesus too" she cried. "I am a Christian."

When her father heard this, he was furious. In those days, it was against the law to love Jesus or to be a Christian. So this cruel father dragged his own daughter to the judge. "My daughter is a Christian", he cried, "She is not my daughter any longer." "What shall we do with her?", the judge asked. For he saw that Barbara was good and pure. "Do what the law orders," her father shouted, "Beat her until she is almost dead. Then chop off her head."

So the soldiers carried out that cruel order. But suddenly they saw angels coming. The angels carried the soul of Barbara to heaven and a terrible flash of lightning struck her cruel father and killed him where he stood. Her Feast is December 4th.

(This version of the story of St Barbara was submitted by a member who downloaded it from the internet. I was of two minds whether to publish it because of the fact that it completely fails to mention the fact that she is the Patron Saint of all Artillerymen. However as all members are surely aware of that fact I have, as you can see, put it in as it presents a somewhat different tone to the version of the story which I published in Cascabel No 56 of June 1998. Ed.)

ST BARBARA'S DAY AT PUCKAPUNYAL INCLUDING A VISIT TO THE "WETS"

By MAJ Neil Hamer

St Barbara's Day on the 4th Dec 2001 coincided with the 4 BDE EXERCISE HAMEL. In the absence of our President MAJ Merv Taggart (who was enjoying the hospitality of his son in Hawaii), I was given the very pleasant duty of presenting the RAA Association annual Whitelaw Prizes at Puckapunyal. So consequently WO2 Lionel Foster, who presented the 10 MDM REGT Association prize, SSGT Brian Cleeman and myself journeyed to Puckapunyal to perform these tasks.

Contrary to the title of this report the weather was kind to us and a very un-Puckapunyal like day was enjoyed. The ADJ assured us that this was all his doing!! The "WETS" came later.

Due to the increased security currently in place at all military establishments we were met at the boom gate on the main road into Puckapunyal by the ADJ, CAPT Andrew Langford; the RSM, WO1 Barry Kyrwood; the BSM HQ BTY, WO2 Frank Marschner; a driver and a mini bus. Not a bad sort of an escort, but we conceded that it was probably only right and proper considering the importance of our group. Actually the Regiment was enjoying a stand-down day and the escorts were interested in the "WETS".

The ADJ had arranged a tour for us which included OPCON/EXCON for EX HAMEL, the "WETS", a walk through the School of Artillery lecture rooms and Messes, a drive around the old Scrub Hill sites including Site 6 where the Regiment was based, a visit to the new gymnasium complex attached to the swimming pool, a very acceptable barbecue lunch and finishing with the presentation of prizes.

The OPCON/EXCON was set up in a permanent building where the old RACT Centre used to be located. We received a Visitor Brief from the Brigade Major, MAJ Mike Sasse, setting out the aim and conduct of the exercise. EX HAMEL was being conducted for selected units and sub units of the Brigade. This included the evaluation of 2/10 MDM REGT (ARTEP), mounted and dismounted operations and individual training.

The briefing given was very well received, but a minor problem for people such as ourselves is the understanding of the TLA and other acronyms. Such as CER, CSSB, PKF, MAF, PMA, DPRAC, MTR, LUP, VCP, VAP, and so it goes on. Most of these abbreviations become decipherable in the context of the briefing, but some are a little more obscure. I do not intend to try and explain what they mean as I would probably get it wrong anyway.

A tour of the facility showed the extensive use of lap top computers networked to each other and also connected to the internet which allowed for the use of external e-mail. These computers could also be used in a field setting using generators and batteries.

Located close by to the OPCON/EXCON was the "WETS" facility. I discovered by reading the signs that this facility is actually WTSS which when pronounced becomes WETS.

The WTSS is the abbreviation for Weapon Training Simulation System. This is a civilian owned and operated facility. The company is called FATS and so the operator, Ian Stewart, is the FATSO (according to his wife - so he says). FATS is the abbreviation for Fire Arms Training Systems which is an American company with an Australian subsidiary called FATS Aust.

The WTSS is a computer controlled, laser operated system which uses real weapons which have been electronically adapted to simulate the actual firing and fall of shot of a number of weapons. These weapons include the rifle, 7.62 machine gun and the Carl Gustaf rocket launcher.

The simulation includes sound and recoil. The big advantage is that soldiers can be trained to a high level of efficiency before a round is fired. It does not replace live firing which must also be undertaken before qualification on a particular

weapon is complete. However there is an enormous cost savings in ammunition. Also produce does not need to be collected and returned, nor do weapons need to be cleaned at the end of each day.

FATS which operates a number of facilities throughout Australia also operates in the Asian market where they offer training to both law enforcement and military organisations. Law enforcement in Australia has not yet made use of these facilities.

The facility consists of a large screen about three metres high and about fifteen metres long. These measurements are only my guess, but I think they are about right.

The screen can be divided vertically into twelve lanes with individual targets and weapons. The screen can also be made to form one large picture of a battle field situation like a big arcade game. Various personnel and vehicles move on the screen and all the weapons in use can be fired at any part of the screen.

We had the opportunity to fire the Steyr in fire-lanes at disc targets and our escorts made the most of their opportunity to test their skills at an advancing infantry platoon.

When the rifle is fired at the disc targets a vast amount of diagnostic information is obtained. This includes individual fall of shot, group diameter at various ranges, the movement of the muzzle before and after each shot, and whether the trigger is being pulled or squeezed. The first group fired by each firer is used to electronically adjust the sights for that particular firer. And so the list goes on.

The WTTS is an extremely impressive facility which has to be seen to be believed. And, as it is an inside activity, even if it rains nobody gets WET.

Talking of impressive facilities we visited the School of Artillery. Once again the wheel has turned the full cycle. After a number of "different" names The School of Artillery as it was known at North Head is once again The School of Artillery at Bridges Barracks, Puckapunyal.

This is a state-of-the-art facility with well appointed lecture rooms and computer facilities. The Officers' and Sergeants' Messes have managed to combine a modern building with an air of history and tradition. A visit to the School by members of this Association would certainly be worthwhile if it could be arranged. It would have to be a week-day activity as the School tends to wind down at the weekends.

The drive around the old Scrub Hill sites was an exercise in nostalgia. Site 6 is the only really operational site left, although a few of the other sites still had some permanent buildings.

The most notable feature of the new gymnasium was the rock climbing wall. I am not really sorry that we did not get an opportunity to try this feature.

We were then invited to join the Regiment in a barbecue lunch on the grassed area outside the swimming pool complex. The usual high standard of the Regimental Barbecue was maintained.

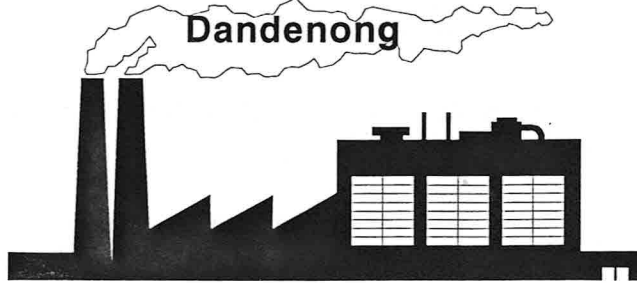
After lunch the Whitelaw Prizes and the 10 MDM REGT Association prize were presented in an informal setting beside the lunch area. The Whitelaw Prize winners were PTE M. Attard, SGT R.C. Schreurs, LT M.G. Sullivan and WO2 C. Triffet. The 10 MDM REGT Association winner was BDR S.M. Bewsher.

The CO of the Regiment LTCOL David McCallum expressed his appreciation to the Associations for their continued interest and thanked us for attending on the day. We in turn thanked him for his hospitality and the trouble taken to arrange our visit.

We were then returned in good order and condition to our vehicle for onward transportation home.

PROPOSED VISIT FOR RAA & RAE ASSOC MEMBERS TO A FOUNDRY

**Steele-Lincoln Foundry (Vic) Pty Ltd
318 Hammond Road
Dandenong**



HOST: Doug Maxwell, RAE Assoc

Tour will include-

**Ferrous Foundry
Cast Iron and Steel
Non-Ferrous Foundry
Silicon Bronze
Electric Induction Furnaces
Chemical Bonded Sand Cores
Spectrographic Chemical Analysis
Moulds for Australian Glass Industry**

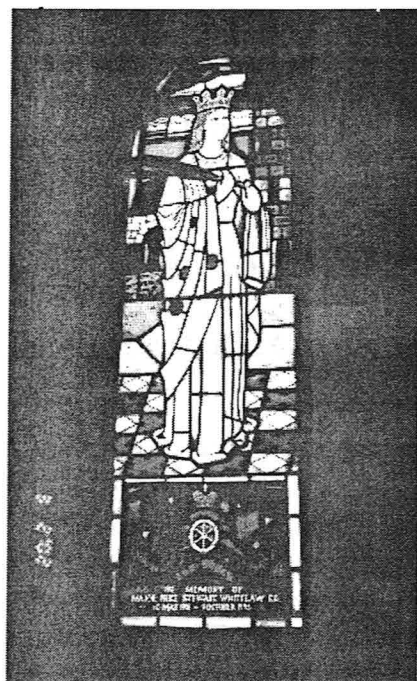
**DATE: Early or late May 2002
1.30pm start - approx. 2 hours**



Includes Afternoon Tea

**ANY INTERESTED MEMBER TO CONTACT
REG MORRELL ON 9562 9552
OR EMAIL morrells@morrell.org**

BEFORE 15TH APRIL 2002



Church Parade 2002



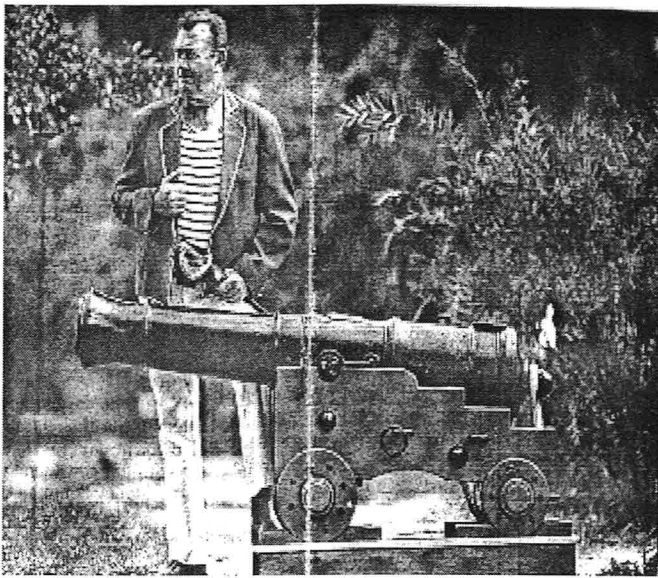
What an experience! The bells, the band, the service and the fellowship both during the service and the morning tea afterwards. It was more like lunch. The good folk of the Parish hosted us magnificently once again, making us feel welcome and at ease throughout.

Wonderful to see so many there. I forgot my camera but fortunately Robin Smith did not and so we have the fabulous shot of the stained glass window (top left) and a great shot of five of the members who attended. Believe me they were only a very small representation of the number who attended.

There were still plenty of empty pews, however, so would love to see even more next year. I feel sad for those who missed this year. You missed a treat.



Brian Cleeman, Sam Phyland, John Phillips, Jim Barry and Graham Farley in the Parish Hall after the Church Parade



ANTIQUE WEAPONS

A Passion for the Fire Power of Old

by Keith Dunstan

Graham Thomson is very well known around Toorak and South Yarra. He has been cleaning swimming pools there these past 25 years.

He calls himself a pool doctor and, even worse, a **"gunocologist"**.

You see, Thomson is also a specialist in 18th century naval warfare, and cannon in particular. He is a descendant of Royal Navy and British merchant seafarers.

His house is a mini museum with all sorts of artifacts, ships lights, gunpowder barrels, cutlasses, fair-dinkum working cannon and, right there by the living-room front window, a great sailing ship's wheel.

You can almost imagine Thomson there steering his house down Burke Road.

It must have been 10 years ago that he saw cannon in an antique shop in High Street, Malvern. He was inspired and made one himself. It wasn't like the real thing, so he went to a friend Gordon Byrne, an artist in wrought iron. For years, the guns on the Endeavour had been in the news. Captain Cook's Endeavour foundered on the Great Barrier Reef near Cooktown in June 1770. In order to free his ship, he threw six cannon overboard.

A series of expeditions between 1969 and 1972 recovered all six cannon, plus an anchor. Thomson and his iron expert, Byrne, hunted down the blue prints for the cannon, four-pounders cast by John Darwell, of Sussex, in the reign of George II.

So they had a wooden cast made, sought out an iron foundry and created two replicas. Captain Cook's cannon had the emblem of King George II on the top, as do these. The original cannon also carried the figures 11-2-21. This meant they weighed 11 hundred weight, two quarters and 21 pounds. Thomson's cannons are the same.

Next, he had made gun carriages, exactly according to Royal Navy specifications, similar to those on HMS Victory. Captain Cook's gun carriages were elm. Thompson couldn't get elm, so he used Brazilian mahogany, which was equally tough. Again, in Royal Navy style, he painted the carriages a brilliant red.

At this stage, Thomson had spent all his superannuation - the guns had cost him \$10,000 each. But they couldn't be mere decoration; it was important to fire them. He had to go to Gladstone in Queensland to purchase 45 kilograms of old-fashioned rough-grain Nelson-like gunpowder. On the way home, he was picked up for speeding through Daylesford. An anxious moment, but the policeman didn't notice the keg of gunpowder in the boot. A good thing - he might have thought Thomson was aiming to blow up Parliament.

There was no appropriate licence for handling your own cannon or artillery but he did get a shooter's licence. And he learnt the routine like a good sailor on the Endeavour. He put his powder into eight ounce bags, rammed it down the barrel with a proper 18th-century rammer and packed it with wadding - in this case, newspaper.

On the top of the barrel at the breach, there is a fin hole with a channel behind. First, you push a wire down the hole to pierce the bag. You have special very-fine gunpowder, which you pour into the hole. Then you light it with a cord impregnated with potassium nitrate.

There is a brilliant flash from the fine gunpowder and a much more splendid flash as the main charge explodes, followed by a magnificent gush of smoke. Immediately after the firing, you turn the rammer around. It has lamb's wool on the other end. You dip it in a bucket of water and wash out the barrel, getting rid of any unused grains of powder. Then, if you are a good gunner, within a minute you load, ram it and fire again, depending on the closeness of the enemy.

Thomson and Byrne dress in correct 18th-century Royal Navy gear;; white ,pants, striped shirts, blue jackets and straw hats. They have fired their guns at 'the Williamstown Festival and for the Essendon Bombers at the MCG. Now they are looking to get four more guns to complete the full range tossed overboard at Endeavour Reef.

But Thomson has a problem. He is not getting enough grand occasions on which to provide his cannon fire. One wonders how they would be useful::

the launching of a new Lord Mayor,

the opening of Parliament,

the Melbourne Festival or

how about the Republicans - would they need some good explosions to express their thoughts about the monarchy?

(My apologies to whoever sent in the above article, as after scanning it in on my computer, i have inadvertantly mislaid the original. If you recognise it as your contribution and would like acknowledgement, please let me know and I will make that acknowledgement in the next issue of Cascabel. Ed.)



This set of saddlery, which is on display at the Frankston RSL Club, is that of an officer of the Australian Light Horse, 1915 pattern. It formerly belonged to a member of our Association and the Frankston RSL, MAJ Max Armstrong.

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

Bar items

Coffee mug, blue, gold badge (name at no extra cost)	\$6.00
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2nd/10th Medium Regiment Band

<i>Voice of the Gunners</i> recording	
cassette	\$10.00
compact disc	\$10.00

Clothing items

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

Ties

Blue with single red gun	\$30.00
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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

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

AUSTRALIA DAY

Making more history

HONOURS

MAJOR John V Phillips OAM, RFD, ED has made a great contribution to Australia. This is available for all to see.

A former member of the Army in the Royal Australian Artillery, Major Phillips has spent a large portion of the past 20 years collecting and preserving Australia's military history through the Royal Australian Army Pay Corps historical collection.

His work was rewarded with a Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) in today's Australia Day honours.

The collection, based at the Simpson Barracks at Macleod features a plethora of military memorabilia, with an emphasis on pay records from home and abroad.

Included in the collection are items from Waterloo and Changi prison to more recent conflicts such as East Timor.

So dedicated is Major Phillips that he travels the two hours to Macleod every couple of weeks.

"It's very satisfying and it's the team I have behind me and supports me that deserve the recognition," Major Phillips said.

"There's great benefits of preserving the memorabilia before it's lost forever."

What they said:

■ For service to veterans and to the preservation of Australia's military heritage through the Royal Australian Army Pay Corps Historical Collection and Association.

(Reproduced from page 7 of THE COURIER Ballarat, Saturday, January 26, 2002, with the kind permission of the Editorial Staff. We thank them for their generous cooperation.)



Major John Phillips OAM, RFD, ED whose work for veterans and military heritage has been rewarded.



Locating Artillery Association News

The newsletter from John Posener [Association President] has already been sent to members, or highlighted in the last CASCABEL which details the activity at the reunion at Coffs Harbour last year.

With the plan to change the name of the Locating Battery to 131 STA [Survey and Target Acquisition Bty] this year there will be a proposed formal parade at the battery home followed by a barbeque on the Sunday.

This activity will be on the Queens birthday long weekend [10 June 2002] We would hope that there may be a reasonable number of Melbourne locators who will be able to travel to Enoggerra for this activity.

As this date will also mark the 50th anniversary of the raising of the first Locating unit within the Australian army it marks a significant way point.

Dave Auld is looking into bookings at nearby Aspley Caravan park to gain a bulk deal for bookings.

The Locating Association is also looking into the presentation of a Commemorative Presentation to 131 Bty along with a book of contributors names.

At this stage they are looking for ideas for the presentation so readers may wish to contact the secretary Joe Caplun on 02 9774 1473 [mob 0407 741 473 and NO that is not a duplication in the latter digits of the phone numbers] On the other hand you may care to Email Kevin Browning at brownink@ideal.net.au

If you wish to make a donation they also seek a brief detail of your service for inclusion in the book.

Cheques can be made payable to "Locating Artillery Association" and sent to 131 Loc Bty 50th Anniversary Project, C/- Locating Association. PO Box 1042 MANLY NSW 1655.

The Association had another small working bee at North Fort on 7 October with about 20 members attending, and followed up by a BBQ. By now the Locating display [and of course the guns] at North Fort must be very much "spit polished and looking Bristol shape" due to the hard work by the members.

If you are travelling to Sydney make an effort to go out to the fort and spend some time there. The displays of both gunnery and locating are excellent and there is continual work going on to present all the items for display. Guides are there on certain days to take visitors around but it would be desirable to make contact with someone before going there to make sure. They have also opened up one of the 9.2" gun sites along with the tunnels, and this is an interesting site. If you have ever been to Queenscliff to see the tunnels there then this one tunnel from gun site, including the ammunition store, first aid bay and the generator room up the long steps through the heavy blast doors to the surface is worth the tour.

ARTILLERY MUSEUM DISPLAY is open at Nth Fort on Sat, Sun and Wed from 1100 hrs to 1600hrs, and the dates for the next working bee on the Locating display will be 17 Mar, 14 Apr, 19 May, 21 Jul. I am sure that if you are there on these dates you will also be made welcome to look at the displays or to assist in the curation program. Timing is from 0830 to 1400 when they will have a BBQ lunch and the mess will be available. Suggest a call to John Posener 02 9982-4471 AH to make contact.

The book being assembled by Keith Ayliffe on the History of Locating in Australia is very close to being printed, so when the details are made known it would be advisable to place a booking asap as there may only be a limited number printed. This book of course will be an excellent addition to the library of all

gunners, as it covers all the areas that were missed out in Horners book. "The Gunner" only gives a passing mention of 131 and 132 Bty at that time, and does not mention the historical development of units and equipments from WW1 onwards. The book will show the between war units of Survey companies, Flash spotting and Sound Ranging batteries along with 20 Locating Regt from the 1950's.

I have been told that the Reserve forces day march in Sydney this year will occur on Sun 30 June rather than the nominated 1st July. I would hope to see many Locators at the Melbourne march this year due to the significance of the 50th anniversary of 131 Bty.

REPORT FROM 131 BTY: Has not come through at this time so due to publication lead time will have to appear in the next CASCABEL.

By the time this is published the Locating Association will have held its AGM [16Feb] and there may be a new committee. Details in next publication.

Well that brings this Locating report to a close and I am now able to say that I have officially joined that small army of retiree's that have nothing to do all day. Well that's what I was told, but, like the truth its stranger than fiction at the best of time and I am now busier than ever. We are hoping to build soon up the bush at Cape Clear and have the house sold before Christmas so this is going to be a very busy year for us.

"TRACKS OF THE DRAGON" a history of the Australian Locating Artillery is about to be published by the Australian Military Publishing Company. The Army History Unit has advised they believe this is a breath of fresh air in Artillery as all other books only refer to the gunnery side.

This book covers all Locating fields from survey, sound ranging, flash spotting, radar, met, arty int and modern techniques of surveillance.

Books will be available in June at a cost of \$49.95 plus \$10.00 postage and handling. You may order your copy from Aust Military Publishing Co, 13 Veronica Plce. Loftus NSW 2232 or the Locating Artillery Association PO Box 1042 Manly NSW 1655. If you wish to speak to the author Keith Ayliffe ring on 07 5443 7102.

I have seen early copies of the draft and it will be worth seeing the final copy.

Please note that 10 Jun 2002 is the date for the 131 Bty Birthday Parade celebrations at Enoggera.

I have been informed of the passing of an ex member of 131 Div Loc Bty. The name is Rodney BEASLEY, and he was a member of the Woorinen RSL. I do not know him myself but he may be known to other ex-locators

Apart from all of this I will be happy to hear from any locator who may have news to pass on.

Cheers for now,

*Craig Cook
WO2 Retd.*

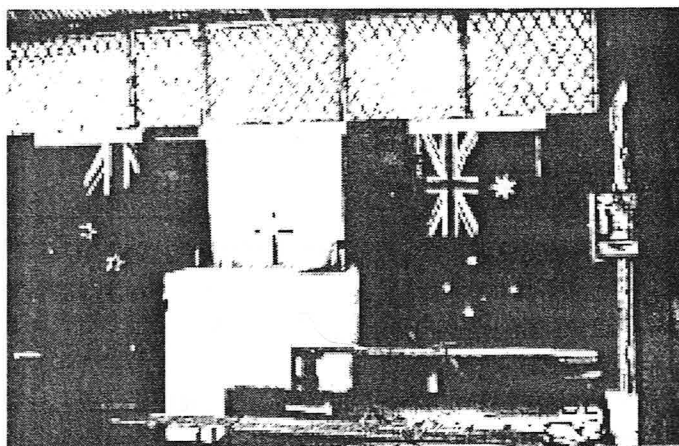
The Eyes and the Ears of the Battlefield

THE FIRST AUSTRALIAN ARTILLERY SURVEYORS IN SOUTH VIETNAM

During the recent holidays something reminded me of Christmas 1966, which I spent with the 1st Australian Tasks Force at Nui Dat in South Vietnam. My nominal posting was Commander of the Survey Section of the Detachment, 131st Divisional Locating Battery, though only a small portion of my tour of duty was spent on survey work. However, it was not military duties that inexplicably came to mind, but the memory of the mid-night Christmas service in the Task Force Chapel, specifically the sight of a soldier from an Infantry Battalion quietly calling members of his unit back to their lines. I never discovered why: perhaps the Battalion thought the Viet Cong might launch an attack and felt it prudent to man the defences, or send out patrols. There was a temporary truce during the Christmas season. but the prudent Commander would not have put too much store by it, and continued to ensure that his defences were alert. Nevertheless, at the time it struck me as rather sad that some of those who wished to commemorate Christ's birth at that service were denied the opportunity to do so at the last minute. These ruminations then reminded me of something I had almost forgotten about — the part my Section played in setting up the Task Force Chapel. This is a very minor footnote to the history of the Task Force, and I would be surprised to find that anyone outside of my Section knew about it.

On the initial deployment of the Task Force from Vung Tau to Nui Dat in May 1966 my Section was not allocated to defending the perimeter, but directed to occupy a sector near 1st Field Regiment's Regimental Command Post. Although no one ever told me this directly, I suppose we were meant to form part of a second line of defence in the vicinity of Regimental Headquarters. We dug-in under the shelter of rubber trees, near two man-made features. The first was a disused well, into which we lowered our beer ration, in the hope that it would keep slightly cooler than if stored at ground level. The second feature was a rubber-drying shed, about nine or ten metres long, by four or five wide. It had a concrete floor, wooden framework and walls provided ventilation. The shed had been allocated to the Padres for use as a Chapel, but it was dirty and needed some work done on it first. The Anglican Padre, Chaplain John Bennet, asked me if my men could help clean it up and prepare it for services on the following Sunday. a mere day or two away. At this distance in time I cannot recall with any certainty if I sought permission to employ the Section on this task from the TFAIO, Captain, (now Brigadier. retired) Jim Townley I suspect that I assumed he had better things to worry about and would not appreciate being bothered with such a matter, then agreed to, help the Padre out.

We acquired a large wooden crate from somewhere, for use as the altar, upon which we placed a cross made of two pieces of bamboo lashed together and a couple of 105 mm. shell cases, to serve either as candle holders or flower vases. More bamboo poles were lashed together to form the altar rails, in front of which we placed some half-filled sandbags as kneelers, while an up-ended ammunition box became a temporary lectern. I cannot recall what the first pews were — we could have set out some 105 mm. Ammunition boxes, but the Padre might have already acquired some standard Army issue bench seats - these certainly appeared later, if not at first. Regardless,



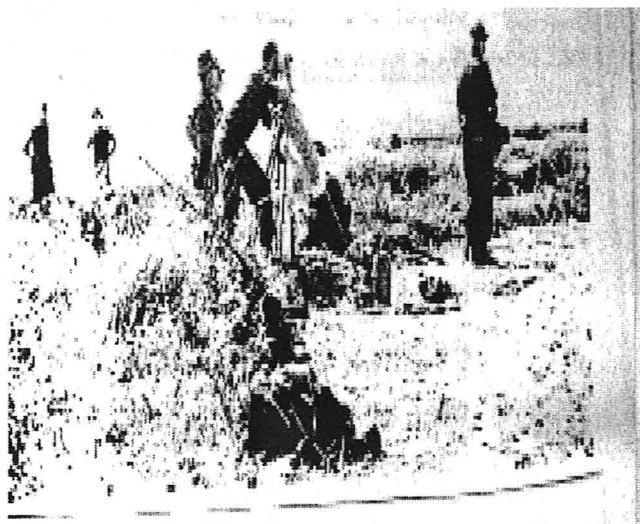
by virtue of the efforts and ingenuity of the Artillery Surveyors, the Padres had in place and ready for use at their first Sunday services at Nui Dat, one Aust-pattern, field expedient, multi-denomination Christian Chapel. In time, the bamboo cross was replaced by one made of welded pieces of star-iron pickets, courtesy of the RAEME Workshop; the temporary lectern was replaced by something a little more salubrious; and the wall behind the altar was draped with flags. The nature of my duties during that tour allowed me to attend the Anglican communion service most Sundays, and I sometimes assisted the Padre in the sanctuary, an extra-regimental duty that I took special delight in performing, especially as it was in the Chapel I had had a hand in fitting out and furnishing.

Many years later, after I had retired from the Army, I spent a few months working as a Research Assistant to Dr David Horner while he was writing *The Gunners*, his history of the Royal Australian Artillery. While going

of the Artillery Surveyors in New Guinea and the Islands, which recorded their close cooperation with the Topographical Surveyors of the Royal Australian Survey Corps. It appears that both groups of Surveyors became adept at making maps and putting Artillery units onto a command grid, these resources being allocated to the priority task at the time. This particularly interested me, because during my tour in Vietnam my Section had been involved in similar inter-corps cooperation.

My own Army career had commenced in 1959 in the Royal Australian Survey Corps, and I trained as a Topographical Surveyor before being posted to the Survey Regiment in Bendigo, Victoria. During the winter months of 1961 and 1962 I had been a very junior member of Survey sub-units engaged on mapping operations in Cape York Peninsula and Papua-New Guinea. I left the Corps in January 1964 to attend the Officer Cadet School, Portsea, and in December was commissioned into the RAA. A year later I was posted from 4th Field Regiment, then at Wacol, to 131 Battery in Holsworthy, (apparently on the basis of my training and experience as a Topographical Surveyor), as the Commander of the Survey Section earmarked to go to Vietnam, if the Task Force was actually committed there—a matter of some uncertainty at the time.

Apart from three NCOs, most of my Surveyors were National Servicemen from the first two intakes. Seven or eight from the first intake attended the Basic and Advanced Artillery Surveyors' Courses at the School of Artillery, but had no practical experience before we left Australia. The National Servicemen from the second intake had no formal training, and only the barest informal training, before our departure. The Section was not able to be assembled together before we reached Vung Tau, and our only unit training was on mini-traverse and triangulation schemes that I planned and conducted over the sand hills of Vung Tau, dodging elements of the Logistic Support Group as they erected their tents and facilities.



Eventually we arrived at Nui Dat as part of the main deployment of the Task Force and settled down to our sundry duties, which did not, in the early days, involve much Survey work. Consequently my Section was split up and the Surveyors were commandeered to work with elements of the Regimental Headquarters, while I spent a couple of months with a Gun Battery, followed by a period acting as the Assistant Adjutant of 1st Field Regiment, (although I was never actually posted to that unit). By this time I had made contact with the Royal Australian Survey Corps' Topographical Survey Troop, commanded by Captain (later Lieutenant Colonel) Bob Skitch, who I had first met at the Survey Regiment when he was a Sergeant. His Troop Warrant Officer had been the instructor on the Basic Survey Course I had attended at the School of Military Survey, Balcombe, in 1960 and some of the NCOs had attended that course with me. Here, then, was the basis for informally reviving the sort of cooperation between the Artillery and Corps Surveyors that had existed a quarter of a century earlier. Its primary manifestation came about when Captain Skitch realised that he did not have sufficient Field Surveyors on the establishment of his Troop to carry out all the survey tasks demanded by the Task Force Commander. With the permission of the TFAIO, (then Captain Barry Campton) six of my Surveyors, with their own survey equipment and Land Rover, were placed under the command, direction and guidance of one of the Survey Corps Sergeants, with whom they spent several weeks carrying out a number of low-order survey tasks, which allowed the Corps Surveyors to get on with higher-order survey work.

In early 1967, when the Field Guns started to operate away from Nui Dat, my Section was reconstituted to carry survey forward to the Guns as they deployed. The Artillery Surveyors attached to the Survey Troop were withdrawn, but because of the experience and practice that they had gained during their temporary exposure to Topographical Surveying, they were invaluable to the work the Section did during the last two or three months of our time in South Vietnam, when we finally started to do what the Section was created and sent there for. I have no idea if subsequent Artillery Survey Sections cooperated with the Topographical Survey Troop in the same way my Section did in 1966-7. but I suspect not.

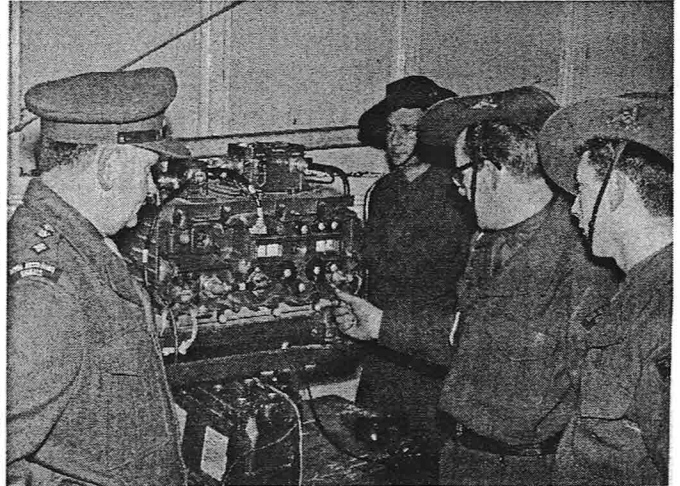
MY SERVICE CAREER

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

15th Field Regiment – Q Battery at Warragul, 1964, P Battery at Dandenong, 1965

This was to be my second year in Warragul as the BC of the battery, with Traralgon and Korumburra depots attached. The three depots together provided sufficient personnel to staff a battery and with expertise to fill most postings with some competence. Local papers were well prepared to accept articles about the activities of the battery. Locally resident, I was available to speak to clubs, such as Rotary, and to be available as a CMF representative at functions such as Anzac Day observances.

There was little change in the officer strength in the battery, but Adrian Keeble and David Minns qualified for their first appointment. They were posted into GPO and Troop Leader roles. It was very important to provide for tutoring and examinations for promotion for NCOs. WO2 Joe Monahan continued to be the cadre person at the depot. The depot hosted a basketball competition besides Joe's marching girls. It was also used for cadet training and bivouacs, as well as a good place to dry out wet scout tents!



CAPT Mick Benson giving a lecture on the Radio Set C45 to members of Q Battery, BDR Barnes, GNR MacGregor and GNR Somner, at the Warragul Depot, 1964.



WO2 Joe Monahan, cadre staff at the Warragul Depot. Joe could never relax when his photograph was taken. He went on to be DASM.

I find it hard at this distance to recall precisely when two important changes took place. One was to move from khaki into jungle green field dress. The other was to move from battery of two four-gun troops to the single battery of six-guns.

I think the former took place in 1965. Photographs of camp personnel show soldiers wearing "greens" alongside others in khaki camp fatigue dress. I came back from the UK in 1967 to find that Australia had adopted the six-gun establishment.

Camp 1964. Gun towing vehicle of Q Battery making its slow way up Lazarini Spur. Solder's name not known. This was a task force advance in very heavily wooded forest country north-east of Melbourne.



Our Task Force within the Third Infantry Division was to undertake one of the boldest exercises yet. This coincided with the second week of the regiment's camp. Following on from the previous year, when there had been a limited battalion move in the "high country," the Division in 1965 would move up the Lazarini Spur to Mount Skene. This undertaking would challenge men, vehicles and equipment alike.

The first week of the camp was spent at Puckapunyal, with Q battery deployed to the northeast of the range. Here the soil was alluvial and yielded readily to pick and shovel. This permitted command posts to be dug and covered over to ground level. Other areas of the range would continue to blunt a pick and break a shovel as some readers will remember.

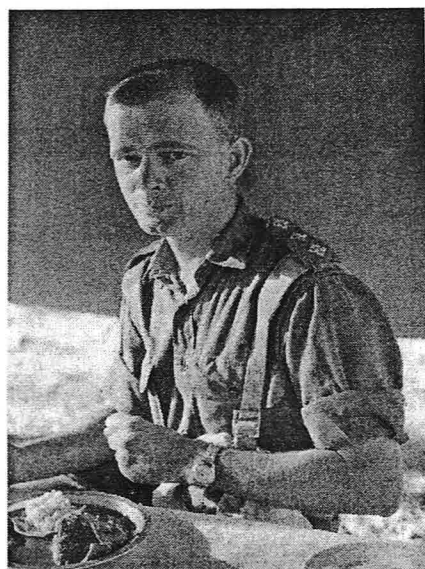
As a highlight to this week, the 15 Field Regiment was directed to provide on standby a firing party to travel to Melbourne to fire the Royal Salute on the arrival of the expected royal baby. This "poisoned chalice" passed from battery to battery and from troop to troop as day followed day. Then the news came through that Prince Edward had been born. Q Battery was duty battery that day. LIEUTs Frank Evans and Reg Wheller immediately collected the personnel required and set off by unit truck for Melbourne to fulfill this important task. They were only just in time to perform at the saluting base. As a consequence, a further addition was appliquéd to the battery flag in the form of a stork carrying a baby in a sheet from its beak.

In line with new items of equipment were the issue of United States type webbing and the withdrawal of the 37 pattern webbing. This earlier webbing had served British and Commonwealth armies throughout the Second World War and since. The days of the ever-reliable .303 Short Lee Enfield rifle were similarly numbered and the Self-Loading Rifle, 7.62 mm, began to make its appearance.

Only a limited number of personnel could be issued with the new webbing. I would have happily handed my set to anyone, but it was deemed important that BC's party that would be attached to a battalion on the move should be correctly dressed. But I still could not get all that I wanted to carry into the pouches and rear bag.

The move to the start point for the second week's exercise was quite dramatic with a long approach march by unit vehicle. This took up most of the day. Engineers had constructed a Bailey Bridge to cross the River Goulburn. Before us then lay the spur of Lazarini. A member of the Scottish unit wished to prove that he was correctly dressed as we motored past him. We had been issued with maps that showed that we really were to be in "tiger country." There was hardly a track to be seen, other than the one we were to take. We went into bivouac that night. The advance would commence early the next day. This was in support of 2RVR. 1 RVR was on a parallel ridge, the Snake Edward Divide.

I will not forget that day as I put one foot in front of the other, or rather six inches in front and above the other! Although I thought that I was reasonably fit and had always taken the opportunity to walk across the Pucka range rather than go by vehicle, it was not long that day before my party had started to slip back behind the battalion commander's group. There were still national service members in all units, although the CMF was increasingly volunteer-based. I witnessed a few instances of men refusing to go on and throwing down their rifles. The 2RVR battalion's CO picked up these rifles and slung them around his own shoulders and continued to stride on ahead. His troops followed – there was no alternative. It was leadership by example.



**CAPT Bill Bolch at mess
in the field at
Puckapunyal during
second week of
the 1965 camp.**



**Same camp. Engineer unit bull-dozer
preceding GMC 6 x 6 towing Ord-25 pr**

Finally the summit came in view as the track started to flatten out. The fit soldiers were already there. The not-so-fit staggered in. Some, who had not let the slope so easily conquer them, still needed medical treatment through being out of condition or suffering from "the temptations of the flesh." Behind the infantry and BC/OP parties could be heard the grind of the low reduction motors of the "gun-towers" as they brought up their detachments and guns. The Second World War vintage GMC and other makes of 6 x 6 vehicles proved that they still had plenty of pull in them. They had received much loving care in the previous week from the members of the Light Aid Detachment of the Royal Australian Mechanical and Electrical Engineers. It had paid off. I should also mention that a bulldozer was assisting some up the steep pinches.

Bell helicopters were also evident for the first time, mainly for casualty evacuation. These “choppers” looked rather like overgrown blowflies with their bubble canopies. They sat two comfortably, but there was room on the outside for two lashed stretcher cases. I knew that CAPT Ian R. Smith carried with him a number of labels, which he could attach to any soldier he deemed “wounded.” Not wishing to either risk an “outside” lashed-down journey over the tree tops (without my personal bedding and clothing), I avoided him whenever he appeared on the sky (or should I say “tree”) line. He kept assuring me that he had a particularly nasty medical complaint in store for me.

The exercise continued for several days along the forestry access track, with contacts with the enemy and simulated fire support from the forward observation parties. The enemy troops, ever more reflecting the Asian culture brought on by war in Vietnam, were always elusive but ever present with their bugle calls and words of incitement to the “Aussies.” The 4/19 Prince of Wales’s Light Horse Regiment had supplied the enemy. In due course, the Task Force Commander pronounced his satisfaction with the exercise and the units were ordered to disperse to their depots. LTCOL Rossi (later CRA, BRIG and AM, OBE) led the unit down the road through Licola. Fortunately the winding nature of the road prevented him from seeing the battery flag suitably attached by poles to a jeep/land rover proudly flying in the “tail end Charlie” battery, or was he just being tolerant of one of his BCs?

When the camp was over, I heard that the Forests Commission had taken a particularly dim view of a forest fire that they had to extinguish. In the witch-hunt that followed, responsibility was laid at the door of the 10th Medium Regiment from Geelong. Whether it was that unit’s fire or not, honour was satisfied. It was ironic that the CO of that unit, LTLCOL Derrick Austin, himself a captain in his local rural fire brigade, should have to attend a series of lectures on the hazards of lighting fires in the bush and failing to supervise them. At that stage I had no plans to serve in the medium regiment, but shortly after camp I was included in a reconnaissance for a Subject “B” exam with him. About that time CAPT I. R. Smith left the unit for another posting. He was replaced by CAPT Bruce Scrivenor. My diary records that about that time, there was the famous letter over the signature of four CMF brigadiers claiming that a greatly expanded CMF was needed for Australia’s defence. One of these was BRIG R. T. Eason, MC.

At a parade in Dandenong on 25th September with LIEUTs Frank Evans and David Minns, I heard for the first time the rumour that Warragul and Korumburra would become a RAEME unit as a Recovery Company. The (spurious) grounds for this change was that it was too difficult to maintain guns that distance from Melbourne. That Colac, which was even further from Melbourne, was able to retain its medium battery for many years to come was beside the point. Changes in organisation and corps allegiance rarely result in units retaining membership. However, the RAA officers decided that they would travel to Dandenong to remain gunners rather than having to qualify to the new corps. Other personnel had to decide whether they would change corps or hang up their boots. The history of the CMF is littered with these mistakes in command and management. Warragul had had a 16-year association with artillery.

In late November at the CRA’s exercise at Healesville, officers were treated to more of the new military equipment that may have been prompted through the alliance with the USA in the Vietnam campaign. Equipments included the UH1B helicopter and the ANKPQ1 divisional locating battery radar. American style helmets had also been adopted for Australian soldiers. MAJGEN His Honour Judge Norman Vickery, MC, was then divisional commander. BRIG H. Ogilvie was CRA.



**Healesville 3Div TEWT
November, 1964.
The newly issued
ANKPQ1 locating
radar set.
In 1964 money value it
was a quarter of a
million Australian
pounds!**



**Same TEWT. Officers (from left) MAJ
Neil Body, ADC to GOC CAPT Collins,
MAJ Nick Lewis, LTCOL Graeme
Allinson, MAJGEN Norman Vickery,
and the officer from the NSW locating**



**MAJGEN His Honour
Norman Vickery,
GOC 3 Infantry Division,
and his ADC, CAPT Collins, with
the ANKPQ1 radar set.**

At the end of the year, the formal handing over of the battery took place, together with the "laying up" of the battery flag. "Gunnery" became "craftsmen." LTCOL Wong Yen of RAEME received the personnel and the flag. I have a copy of the Routine Orders Part 2, transferring members to 2 Rec Coy RAEME, on 5 Feb 65.

I made my first journey from Warragul to Dandenong to parade as the BC of P Bty on 19 Jan 65. After two years of depot travel convenience, I was back on wheels! LIEUT Frank Evans provided his own vehicle for transporting our group of officers that would be staying in RAA. This system settled down to a predictable routine. After the parade we would invariably go to a shop in Dandenong, where we would purchase food, such as fish and chips, for our drive home. As winter approached, the passengers put in to buy a heater for Frank's car. This was in the days before air-conditioning, but airflow heaters were becoming quite common. The heater made all the difference as winter temperatures took over.

Annual camp in 1965 was in early March. Bushfires were still blazing in East Gippsland when we set off for camp from Dandenong. This year, the weeks were reversed with the first week being the one in the forests around Big River. I note in my diary that a former CUO of the cadets, Gary Greening, had joined the CMF and managed at the last minute to get his driving licence to have the privilege of being my driver. I see that I also made a will for the first time.

The Big River Forestry Camp was quite ideal. The FCV had made very hasty repairs when it was found that all the copper piping from the ablution blocks had recently been stolen. On the way to camp a field clinometer had fallen off one of the guns. That was not a good start. An investigation for an item like that could go on for months. There was nothing for it, but to immediately appoint an investigating officer (CAPT George Wilson) and order him to leave no stone unturned. CAPT Wilson took a party back along the track which we had used, searching the sides of the tracks as they went, but to no avail. However because of the promptness and thoroughness with which the battery had responded with the investigation, the "clino" was written off fairly quickly as lost.



**Mess queue at
Big River during
the 1965 camp.
WO2 Wally
Culpett on left.
SGT Lemmo
(with dark hair).
Right hand
soldier not
identified.**

**OK! Members!
Anyone recognise
the soldier on the
right? Ed**

The plan for the week in the forest was quite similar to that of the previous year, but without the enemy or any other units. While the "bushies" were quite at home amongst the tall timbers, the "city dwellers" were not so happy. In all sorts of weather from heat to frosts to heavy rain, the unit completed its tasks. Two more minor items of equipment made their appearance. One was the issue of chain saws, in which LIEUT Frank Evans had had some experience. The other was a "Treloar Jack" (sic.) This was a hand-operated winch. Both items were necessary as our vehicles had to cross creeks. Corduroy paths had to be laid down for them.

In the week back at Puckapunyal, the firing of the guns took place. The OP was on McLeods' Hill. Bush fires were still a danger and shooting had to be stopped on one of the days. Officer Training students visited the camp, including a Mr. Meffert, whom I would later have as an officer in the Geelong regiment. An airburst shoot was most impressive, particularly when the fuses were set to burst through the trajectory, showing the path that a projectile took on its way to the target. There was the inevitable night occupation to keep everyone on his toes and voices down.

It must have been the year that we changed into "greens." Until issues of properly dyed material could be made, personnel handed in their sets for dyeing. This was not always satisfactory. A number carried out their own colouring experiments. Colours in a body of troops ranged from emerald through to a "light shade of green." Bush hats were also
"sn"

Communications were greatly improved with the use of the C45 vehicle mounted set. Theoretically, these radios would have their batteries recharged by running the vehicle's motor. This was satisfactory if moving, but in static situations it meant that the engine had to be switched on. That did not please the ordnance people as one of the checks on illicit petrol removal had been through the mileage figures included in the G2 document at the end of each day's running. Re-charging of batteries returned to the former system using generators.

Highlights during the rest of 1965 included the Exercise Freshett series, I and II. For these, officers were issued with full US (Now Australian) equipment. On compass bearings we found our way through the trees at night. I was grateful to be led by an enterprising infantry officer. Notwithstanding the exact location of our bivouac site by the grid reference given, he selected the flattest knoll and convinced the other section that had already occupied it that they were in the wrong spot!

Later, at the CRA's indoor exercise I was asked to either give the solution or comment on one. It was only half way through my presentation that I realised that I had the map back to front. I proceeded to bluff my way as if I had known that from the start, but (now) LTCOL Graeme Allinson never lets me forget that mistake. As we were both secondary school commercial teachers, he would provide me with a sheet of ledger paper and explain that north was to the top, the debit side was west and the credit side was east! How many others at the exercise had seen that I had the whole panorama back to front I never knew.

Internationally, Australia was to a degree involved with the confrontation between Indonesian and British forces in Borneo. Single guns were deployed on cleared hilltops as the only way to give any form of fire support, but any transfer of this doctrine to normal artillery use was heresy. Even three two-gun sections had to be talked down. The principle of concentration of fire was finally upheld. The problem of local defence in jungle conditions resulted in the six-gun battery. Wagon lines would be inside the gun perimeter. Presuming deployment by helicopter, vehicles might become a thing of the past. How then would a gunner officer be able to maintain his "munga" box that he had always been able to find space for on the convoy of vehicles, once so necessary to mobile artillery!

During 1965 I had successfully applied for a year's leave from the Education Department with a view to spending a year back in Britain in 1966. I had come from England in 1937, having been born in 1933. The "five years colonial experience" for my father had spun itself out to be for the duration. In 1966 I hoped to parade with a territorial unit while in the UK. As I had gained promotion to a Geelong school, it was logical that this might be with a medium regiment. But we will see.

H are our "Härries" who never
complain,
Though kept out all day in the
wind and the rain -





2/10 Mdm Regt News

Successful Fundraiser for Charity

The Regiment organised an abseil-a-Thon last October, where members abseiled off a building on St Kilda Road to raise money for VicDeaf. \$2,377 was raised from their efforts.

New Postings

The Regiment has quite a changeover of staff since the end of 2001. Here are some of the new key positions who marched into the unit at the start of this year:

2IC	To be filled	BC 22 Fd Bty	MAJ Stuart Pigdon
ADJ	CAPT Michael Cross	SMIG 22 Fd Bty	WO2 Mark Johnston
QM	CAPT Frank Bakker		
RQMS	WO2 Steve McInnery	BC 38 Mdm Bty	MAJ Dave Hosking
		BK 38 Mdm Bty	CAPT Mike Slattery
		SMIG 38 Mdm Bty	WO2 Pete Carthew

Recent Promotions

The following members were recently promoted within the unit:

LCPL Symmons	CPL Nelson	CPL Sprange	WO2 Warren
LBDR Trainer	CPL Sargent	BDR Porter	Capt Faulks

Also PTE Molnar has been accepted to attend officer training with the ARA at ADFA. She commenced in January.

EX Hamel 2002

Ex Hamel 02, the 4 Bde Annual Field Exercise will again be conducted at the end of the year between 23 Nov-8 Dec 02. Units from 4 Bde will train together during the exercise which will culminate with 2/10 Mdm Regt being evaluated by Log Comd Artillery Staff as our annual ARTEP assessment - the basis of the Mt Shank Trophy awarded to the best 2 Div Artillery unit.

2/10 Mdm Regt will field two gun batteries, which will be involved in considerable integrated training with Infantry, Armoured, CSSB, Engineer and Signals units. This will be the final objective of our training this year.

News from the Band

The Band continues its busy schedule assisting a wide range of events and supporting Army activities. Recent activities included:

17 Feb 02 performing at the Holland Festival, Sandown.

23 Feb 02 performing at the Relay for Life at Mornington raising money for Cancer Research.

2-3 Mar 02 performing at the Grand Prix with excellent exposure and interest from the public.

Plans are underway for involvement with Army Birthday celebrations, as well as for the support of a book launch, **History of 3rd Division**, on 23 Apr 02 at Queen's Hall, Parliament House.

LLOYD SEARLE'S WAR

WORTHY ORIENTAL GENTLEMEN

People not familiar with the Arabs and their customs may find the term WOG a little puzzling. When we first arrived in Palestine we were given a lecture to inform us of the habits and customs of the native population throughout the Middle East. We were told that during the First World War, lots of Aussie soldiers were in the Middle East and the desert areas. They were told to address the Arabs as worthy oriental gentlemen and this same information was passed on to us. After discovering that 99% of the male population was named George we were not long in learning enough Arabic to pay greetings to these people in their own language. We learnt that "Sieeda" meant greetings or how do you do. Instead of going up to an Arab astride his donkey and saying, "Sieeda my Worthy Oriental Gentlemen" we found it much easier to use the three first letters and to speak the greeting in Arabic. Shortened down this would be "Sieeda Wog" or "Sieeda George". Strange thing, we never found out the most common names of the female population, so we had to be content with saying, "Greetings my worthy oriental girl" or again, "Sieeda Bint". At times while walking down the streets of Jerusalem or Cairo we would come across a well dressed Arab and to be sociable we would say "Sieeda Wog". The raised eyebrows and the look of contempt thrown our way, made us wonder if we had been taught correctly. Oh well we tried.

Another very handy word we picked up was "imshee" which simply meant - Stop annoying me and clear off, or I'll knock your bloody block off. Another very handy one was "Shufti" which meant - Show me, or give me, I never learnt which. We used it quite a lot in the Cabarets and it is surprising what girls would shufti for a few Akkas. As bint means girl, so does wallah mean boy. This was a bit confusing for us as we would see a couple of young blokes near our camp and greet them with "Sieeda Bint". They were very sensitive to this and would quickly reply "Me wallah". After a couple more Sieeda bints from us they would lift the skirt or what ever it was called and prove the fact they were wallahs.

We tried this out on some of the older bints, but no way would they attempt to prove us wrong by lifting the Fletcher Jones or what ever their garment was called. Timid creatures. I think Mum keeps a very sharp eye on them. Can't blame her really.

WOGS

The younger ones are like children all over the world. No matter what color or race, they are all so appealing and likeable. Some are mischievous little Urchins and others have the survival cunning of someone twice their age but even when they are getting into mischief they have that infectious smile that only a child can give and melt the hearts of even us. It's a pity they have to grow up and experience some of the tougher things life will hand out to them.

Some may even graduate to be paper boys and selling the Palestine Post, with its familiar call sign echoing around the camp sites, "Bloody good news". Some of the adult wogs were about the best I've seen doing their sleight of hand tricks (Legally I mean). They would come into the cafes when we were on leave and would produce three half coconut shells and then dive into the folds of their robes and produce a small chicken. They would then put the chicken on the table and put one of the coconut shells over it and then place the other shells on either side. In a series of moves they would move the shell with the chicken around and replace it with one of the empty ones. This would go on for a short time, with our eyes never leaving the shell with the chicken, and then he would say "Which one George?", (We also had a lot of Georges in our Army), and when we told him which one, he would remove the shell to expose the bare table. All the time this was going on he would be saying "Gallee - Gallee - Gallee. I don't know whether these words really moved the chicken under another shell, but we were wrong 90% of the time and George would win the money.

Another clever sleight of hand trick most of them could perform very well was the Post Card trick. One, of them would give a cautious glance around and then sneak up to us and whisper, Hey George, You want to buy filthy post card". They would then produce a very interesting pack of cards, which would have even us a little goggle eyed, and when we handed over the money, George would hand over the cards in his hand, after he put them in an envelope. At the next cafe we would not resist showing them to one of the troops we met and we would hand him the cards. After studying them he would say, "Very nice scenes of Palestine you have there". It was not much use looking for George to convince him he had made a mistake as each George looked the bloody same.

LEAVE TO JERUSALEM

Locky and I went into Jerusalem for a day's leave. Drinks all round were called for and then as we were going down the street we saw a push bike almost pleading to be ridden, so I gave it a try and away down the hill almost colliding with a few vehicles coming the other way. The noise these vehicles make when the slightest thing annoys them is unreal, horns going, heads out of the cabins, and lots of Arabic and Yiddish. Locky told me later that I was on the wrong side of the road, which could have been the reason for the uproar.

On a little further we came across a wog traffic cop controlling the traffic at a busy intersection. He appeared to be having a bit of trouble with some of the vehicles going everywhere but where he directed them. We decided to help him out. Strange as it may seem he didn't appreciate our help one little bit. But he could see he was dealing with a couple of experts in this field.

After ten minutes of our help Jerusalem had just about the biggest traffic jamb in history.

Things could have been alright but the donkeys were the main trouble, as their riders wanted to go somewhere, and the donkeys had an entirely different idea. Very dumb creatures donks, they could probably understand their owners, but English had them a little confused.

I did hear later that the wog cop did eventually sort things out with a little help from his superiors.

We bought three small bottles of crème de menthe to partake of on the way home in the bus but the Duty Officer saw the shape of bottles under our shirts and said "You'll have to get rid of that before you get on the bus". We did just that and then got on the bus. I certainly had a boot and I think the wogs used to experiment a little in chemistry and add a drop or two of metho and whatever was handy. I don't know why, but the Officer made Locky and I sit up the back of the bus, with himself in the middle, and the more sober troops who had gone into Jerusalem strictly for viewing all the sights to be seen, sitting up the front. On arrival back at the camp we went to go into a room where a wireless was playing but a little bloke tried to stop us, or should I say "He did stop me" we had a blue and believe it or not I had to leave a glass with a tooth in it beside my bunk for the tooth fairy. The fairy must have had a busy night as the tooth was still there in the morning but no money.

Probably less painful that way instead of the Army Dentist.

Letters to the Editor

The Editor,
"Cascabel".

Like most of us whose service spanned the same era I have greatly enjoyed Graham Farley's lighthearted and remarkably detailed account of his service career, and particularly the RAA portion thereof. His recall of unit personalities of the times in particular does us all a great service.

May I comment on one minor and, at this remove, one understandable error of detail: the expansion of DAA & QMG is "Deputy Assistant Adjutant and Quartermaster General" rather than "Divisional Artiller Adjutant....". That particular staff posting of the time, unusually a combination of the A and Q functions at brigade level (all arms), was one I also endured in my turn.

"History of the 105mm M2A2 Howitzer"

Like most field gunner officers of the 50s, I had the maximum ranges of the four 25-Pr. charges engraved on my brain. I still do, and para 9 of Capt C.C.Hill's above article rang an immediate bell.

The maximum range of super charge was 13,400 yds, not 17,000 as stated. Perhaps Capt Hill was confusing the figure with that for the super charge MV - 1,700 ft per sec (another engraving).

I was a bit taken aback by the number of other errors in the article, especially spelling and of a grammatical nature, and presumably written by a Regular at that! eg canoners is stead of canoneers, ordinance should be ordnance, roll where the sense of the use meant role and the unbelievable spelling, for a gunnery officer, of the breech of the gun spelt as breach.

I feel very uncomfortable about a standard as low as this appearing in our flagship publication.

Best regards,

Chris Armstrong

J.C Armstrong MAJ (Retd)

(If everything we included in Cascabel was always 100% correct, you would have nothing to write to us about and we do want your letters, however as I mentioned when I rang you and have further covered in my Exoterics we cannot change an historic document. We will however, comply with your suggestion by including at the bottom of any other historic documents we publish, that the article is published with all original errors as required by the Archives Act. Thank you again for your letter. Ed.)



Dear Editor

I read the 'History of the 105mm M2A2 Howitzer' in Cascabel with interest. Unfortunately it is confused in places and contains several errors that I would not have expected of a RAA officer.

Paras 1 & 2, these could give the impression that Imperial Germany relied on their 105mm How as the equivalent of the French 75 mm Gun. In practice France was the odd one out, other nations had a 'dual equipment policy' for their divisional artillery, UK used the 18-pr (84mm) Gun and 4.5-in (114mm) How, and Germany the 77mm Gun and 105mm How. The debate was the best ratio of field guns to light howitzers. Germany started WW1 with 3:1 and finished at 2:1, UK (and Australia) used 3:1 throughout. The US copied French artillery practices when they entered the war, which is probably why they didn't deploy a 'light field howitzer'.

Para 4 refers to 'Australians' when it presumably means 'Austrians'.

Para 8, gunner commonsense suggests that a 105mm capable of firing a 96 lb shell is suspect. I think the author was referring to the 15cm Schwere Feldhaubitze 18 (15cm s FH 18), this has been described as the 'backbone of the German medium artillery', but it can be argued that it wasn't a howitzer since max elevation was only 45deg. Furthermore it only had 8 charges and a max range of 14,490 yds, and charges 7 and 8 could only be fired in special cases authorised by higher formation and reasons certified by the troop commander! There was a modified 15cms FH 18/40 with 9 charges but only 46 were built. Of course 15cm How is totally irrelevant to a history of 105mm M2A2.

Para 9, the 6-in How was not replaced by 25-pr (which replaced 18-pr and 4.5-in How), it (and 60-pr Gun) were replaced by 4.5-in and 5.5-in guns. Furthermore 25-pr never had a 'maximum range of 17,000 yds as a gun and 10,000 yds in high angle'. The usually quoted max range for 25-pr using UK standard conditions of WW2 is about 13,400 yds (I haven't a Range Table). Differentiating between low and high angle is of course nonsense, maximum range is always at an elevation of close to 45deg.

Para 11, the 105 mm How M1 was type classified in 1928, it was horse drawn and budget stringency meant very few were built. The M2 version had chamber modifications for shrapnel, which was not introduced but the modified chamber remained. The M1 and M2 had seven charges.

Para 17, while the M3 fired the standard shell it did not use the standard cartridge, it was limited to charge 6 and used different propellant to ensure 'all burnt' remained in the shortened barrel (a point ignored by the designers of the 'short 25-pr').

I'm amused by the claim that M2A2 was more modern than the 25-pr, chronologically dubious is my comment. Although it was welded construction rather than riveted and the ammo followed US practice of using higher grade steel than UK did (lower grade is cheaper and could be machined with general engineering tools).

All gun design requires compromises, but as a field gun in WW2 the 105mm M2 never compared well with the 25-pr, it was 22% heavier, had less range, limited traverse ill-suited to direct fire anti-tank and lacking a gun-rule took longer to produce data and lay. It's only advantage was a heavier shell, which was the purpose of howitzers and their justification in WW1. It was also the product of a doctrine that paid scant regard to the predominant role of field artillery - neutralisation - where smaller calibre means smaller safe distances and hence less time between covering fire lifting and assaulting infantry arriving on the objective. It's noteworthy that the UK's preferred post WW2 field gun was an 85mm firing 20 lb shells, but NATO deemed otherwise - not totally illogical given that NATO was a defensive alliance and probably needed destructive firepower rather than neutralising capability.

It could be said that the ultimate WW2 field howitzer was designed in the 1950s, the Soviet 122mm D30, a carriage with 360deg traverse copied from the German 10.5cm LFH 43, a cylindrical gun-rule integrated with the dial sight mount and 15,300 m (16,700 yds) range, albeit at twice the weight of a 25-pr.

An interesting question is why Australia did not adopt the 'product improved' M2A2 developed by Germany in the early 1960s and called FH105. It had a slightly longer barrel and an 8th charge giving a range of 15km, there's a reasonable argument that if this had been used by 1 ATF in Vietnam then Australian lives could have been saved. Perhaps there was a German bar on exports to conflict zones, or perhaps Canberra was dozing again.

Regards
Nigel Evans

(The document as I have already stated on the previous page and in my Exoterics is an historic document and therefore cannot be altered, Historic documents have often been used in training sessions as their inaccuracies have helped to lighten the lesson and make the correction of the facts by the lecturer more readily assimilated. Thank you for your letter and helping to correct some of the errors which are admitted without dispute. Ed.)

Dear Editor,

Before Christmas I received my Cascabel No 70 and I read the article on the 105 mm Howitzer by Captain Hill 2/15 Fd Regt during 1976.

I served in NG during 1942/44 as a Gunner in "C" Heavy Battery. "C" was one of the Letter Batteries which were made up of PMF Coast Defence Gunners early 1942.

At no time did we see or use the 105 mm. Our equipment for each Battery was 2 guns and these were 155 mm and as we were Coast Defence ours were on a fixed mounting. "C" Heavy Battery was finally located near "Bootless Inlet", the back door to Port Moresby.

There has been a book published about these Batteries.

This letter refers to item 15.

Thanking You

Ralph Henshaw MR

"C" Heavy Battery

VX 119792 & VP 7260

(The 105 mm guns were not Heavy Artillery weapons. We published a book review by MAJGEN Whitelaw in Cascabel No 56 Jun 98 Pages 16 & 17 of the book "History of the Letter Batteries in WW2". Any interesting and/or amusing stories you could share with us from your time in PNG? If so we would be grateful if you could put something together something along those lines and send it to us. Thank you for your letter and hope to hear from you again soon. Ed.)



Dear Editor,

The following recently appeared in the Letters section of the Sydney Telegraph:

'The NSW Scottish Regimental Association is searching for a particular photo that would be an important contribution to the Regimental Historical Collection. Is anyone aware of the existence of - or does anyone actually have - a photo of the NSW Scottish Regiment "Trooping the Colours Ceremony" performed at the Sydney Cricket Ground on May 22 1938? Should someone possess the relevant photo, may we borrow it for a copy to be made? We require a copy to add to our Regimental Historical Display at the Pymble Drill Hall. Contact John Kelly, 02 9816 3770.' Perhaps someone among the members can help.

I think the last copy of Cascabel was a beauty. Was also surprised to see the photos on the Qld Nashos day parade. Good to see the photos and although one member wasn't a Locator [Kelvin Rodgers] he is well known to me and Jim Breeze as he was a member of staff at RMIT for many years when we all worked there. I seem to think that he was a signaller however attached to one of the Medium Btys during his nasho days. Jim may care to comment but I thought Kelvin was at Chapel st. ? Capt Glen Tommasi of course was 132 Bty training officer for a short time in 1978.

I have also followed Col Farley's article with interest, especially when he talked of his days at MUR as I also started my service with that regiment, but some time later. The talk of the "strike" on the live armour target at Puckapunyal was still the talk of soldiers in 1962.

I also hope that Lloyd Searles's articles can continue as I find them of great interest. I wonder if there are others who could pen their ideas from some of the other AIF units. as these reminiscences are not normally put into the unit histories and we should pass on these ideas because they are part of our living history.

Cheers for now

Craig Cook

(Thanks for your letter Craig, the Lloyd Searle's War is taken directly from past copies of "Action Front" Official Journal of 2/2 Fd Regt Assoc with kind permission through BRIG Rossi and is therefore limited to what Lloyd sent them. I estimate that there is enough for about another three or four issues of Cascabel. Glad you are enjoying it. The best in my opinion is yet to come, "Tram

INFORMATION SOUGHT

Recently it was my good fortune to successfully bid at auction for a silver cup described in the Catalogue as: "AUST 1894 STERLING SILVER TROPHY CUP, plain cup with beaded knop on circular base, 180 cm high, engraved:

'From Victorian Permanent Artillery
to
Queensland Permanent Artillery
in remembrance of the
Intercolonial Tournament at Oueenscliff
JAN 1894"

On the reverse side there is a very attractive engraved representation of a bursting grenade surmounted by a ribbon with the words 'Victorian Permanent Artillery'. A similar ribbon below has the motto of the VPA 'Pro Deo Et Patria'. While not exact. It is a representation of the badge of the VPA.

The cup is marked 'W.D. & Co' and 'sterling silver' under the base. I understand that 'W.D. & Co' is the maker's mark for William Drummond and Company, a well known Melbourne jeweler.

I am seeking information about the circumstances of the Intercolonial Tournament at Queenscliff. Which colonies attended? The nature of the competitions conducted? The number of participants? Results and awards? Were similar cups presented to other teams?

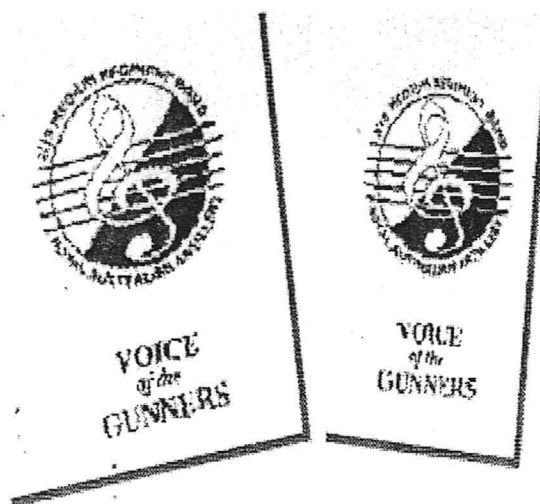
This cup is an interesting link in the history of Artillery in Australia which will need an appropriate home in a museum or gunner mess. Additional information would be much appreciated to MAJGEN J. Whitelaw, PO Box 4482, KINGSTON, ACT. 2604. Telephone 02 6295 9680. e-mail casemate@optusnet.com.au.

I is the Idiot, who lets
majors in.
by loading the shell without
drawing the pin"





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

\$10.00 CD

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✂ -----

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

Tick which applicable.

☐
☐
☐

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

Please call me to arrange pick up.

My cheque made payable to RAA Association is enclosed.

Name:

Address:.....**P/code:**.....

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

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P.O. Box 373,
Newport VIC 3015

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C a s s e t t e (\$15)		
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	T O T A L	

PARADE CARD 2002

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

5 Battle for Aust Com'n
19 Committee Meeting

October 2002

17 Committee Meeting
27 AGM & Back to the Regt

November 2002

3 RSL Remembrance Service
21 Committee Meeting

December 2002

4 St Barbara's Day ?
5 Committee Meeting

January 2003

No functions or meetings during this month

February 2003

2 Church Parade
20 Committee Meeting

March 2003

20 Committee Meeting

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

**Are you aware that the last military unit in South Gippsland
(3 Recovery Coy.) is to be relocated to Dandenong later this
year.**

DID YOU SERVE

**In the MILITIA – VDC – VAD – CMF - ARMY/RESERVE in
South Gippsland between 1912 - 2002 ?**

Units that operated from the KORUMBURRA area include;

**48 Militia Bn
14 Militia Bn.
29/22 Militia Bn.
22 Bn South Gippsland Regt.
29 Militia Bn.
29/46 Militia Bn.
23 Bn VDC (Volunteer Defence Corp).
VAD (Volunteer Aid Detachment).
R Bty 22 Field Regiment (Self Propelled).
2 Field Regiment.
15 Field Regiment.
2 Recovery Company (Comm Z).
3 EME Services Unit.
3 Comm Z Recovery Platoon.
3 Recovery Company.**

**You are invited to attend an open day at the Korumburra Training Depot
where most of the unit's latest equipment will be on show plus a collection of vintage
army equipment/ memorabilia.**

**In addition to the open day 3 Recovery Company is to conduct a mixed
Regimental dinner and if you served in any of the listed units (or any other unit that
operated in South Gippsland) your participation at this function would be welcome.**

The date for these two functions is

SATURDAY the 22nd JUNE 2002

**For planning and catering purposes please contact the Korumburra Training Depot on (03)
5655 1842 as early as possible, as seating is limited**

“DEFENDERS OF AUSTRALIA: The Third Australian Division” by Albert Palazzo

A History: The Third Australian Division 1916-1991

The Third Division occupies a unique place in Australian military history:

- it spanned a period of 75 years on the Army's Order of Battle;
- it is the only Division in the history of the Australian Army to have seen active service in both the First and Second World Wars as well as serving between those wars and through the period of the Cold War;
- Throughout its service the Third Division was substantially manned by citizen-soldiers, who had to balance the competing demands of the military, a civilian career and family;
- It produced many outstanding leaders who contributed in a significant way to the security and development of Australia in both war and peace;
- It had very close links to the communities from which it drew its members.

The author is a Research Fellow in the School of History, University of New South Wales, at the Australian Defence Force Academy. He traces the history of the Third Division from its formation under the command of General Sir John Monash in April 1916 through its distinguished front-line service during the two World Wars and during the period of peacetime service when its members faced different but still difficult challenges.

As well as filling a gap in Australia's recorded military history, this book, for the first time, looks in detail at continuity of service in a major formation at war and peace. Furthermore, the publication comes at an appropriate time, since the Australian Army, by Government direction, is looking to re-invigorate its Reserve component. The study contains many lessons that should be considered by our present Political and Defence leaders concerned to recruit, train and retain part-time members of the Australian Defence Force.

The book, in high quality hard back form will be launched in Queen's Hall of the Victorian Parliament on Tuesday, 23rd April, by the Prime Minister, the Hon. John Howard MP, whose father and grandfather both served in the Division.

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