

# CASCABEL

Newsletter of the Royal Australian Artillery  
Association (Victoria)



Editor: Lt.Col. R.M. Gaw

Asst. Editor: Capt. J.A. Davis

NUMBER 8

APRIL 1986

## THE PRESIDENT WRITES

Dear Member

Since the last issue of Cascabel our Association has been more than usually active taking into account the time of the year.

Firstly, a most successful Annual Church Parade was held as usual, at St Bartholomews Church in Burnley Street, Burnley and those attending had the great pleasure of being joined by members of the 3 DIV RAA Band and they certainly added to the interest and colour of the service. The Vicar, The Rev. Barry Brown as usual, conducted the service during which he so ably involved the Regiment. We had 30 - 40 members and their ladies attending who afterwards enjoyed a BBQ luncheon served at the Training Depot. It was a great pleasure to us all to have our Patron, Brigadier Sir William Hall, and Lady Hall with us.

On 27FEB86 we met with Presidents and Secretaries of Gunner Associations to discuss items of mutual interest, and as there is a separate account of this meeting in another part of Cascabel I need write nothing more at this stage. But, taking advantage of this meeting, it was appropriate to meet and entertain Allan Brooking, a visitor from the U.K. and a member of the Rockdale Branch of the Royal

Artillery Association. It was a pleasure to have Allan with us and he brought with him a RA Plaque which he presented to our Association. We reciprocated in the presentation of a RAA plaque with which he will return to Rockdale. A most pleasant interlude and I have no doubt that the Rockdale plaque will soon be seen in the Mess. All this was rounded off with a delightful supper which together with our meeting with members of unit associations made the evening so enjoyable.

Our visit to Fort Queenscliffe was so fortunate to have one of the best days of our peculiar summer during which "to go to sea". There was not the least excuse to be sea-sick as the sun shone and we were carried by Ferry to see The Popes Eye, Fort Franklin, The Quarantine Station, Fort Nepean returning to Queenscliffe. BYO luncheons were produced in Apex Park, just under the walls of the Fort after which approximately fifty people were conducted through the Fort and the Museum.

12 March and members were invited to Puckapunyal to witness the battery deployment by Chinook Helicopters. Well known for its summertime dust and the windless day which prevailed, the clouds of dust which hung about after a chopper landing was inspiring to see - but not from the crews point of view! The deployment was followed by the engagement of several targets by predicted fire which included smoke. The gunners must have had a most enjoyable time getting away this programme of fire and the scene of the target areas, as observed from

Tehans Hill, was at least, impressive.

Future events include a visit to Puckapunyal to 10 Mdm Regt camp on 16APR86. And, of course, ANZAC Day. I would like to remind all gunners that the Mess at Batman Avenue will be open all day and all will be welcomed by the Mess President and Committee.

Our Annual General Meeting will be held on 24 July at 2/15 Fd Regt Officers Mess. It will be a most important meeting in that your Association will be applying for incorporation, the advantages of which will be explained at the meeting and will be voted upon. I do make a plea for as many members to be in attendance as possible.

My personal good wishes to all members,

Norman Whitelaw

#### ANZAC DAY ADDRESS

One of our better known members, Major Jock Finlay, has recently moved to NSW. Obviously, he is maintaining his active interest in the military as he has been invited to address the GUNNEDAH RSL on ANZAC Day. He has forwarded to us a copy of that address for reproduction in Cascabel.

Mr President, Honoured Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen, I am very honoured to have been invited to talk to you good people on this momentous occasion.

TO-DAY, "WE WILL REMEMBER THEM", as we have done for seventy years, and I am sure we will continue to do so for many decades to come.

The spirit of ANZAC represents our loyalty and devotion to our Mother Land, Great Britain. Of course, there are not many of the original ANZAC LOYALISTS still breathing, but the Spirit they engendered lives on. Our presence

here to day proves that beyond doubt.

Now, to refresh our fading memories, I would like to recall a few details of this memorable occasion, so that we can keep our younger generation in the picture and help them to understand.

On 1st August, 1914, Germany declared War, with the objective of dominating Europe and, if possible, eventually the whole World.

Australia, although far away "Down Under" and reasonably safe from European strife, quite naturally sympathised with Britain in her hour of need and a very enthusiastic enlistment for an Australian Imperial Force, began on 8th August.

On 1st November, 20,000 volunteers, including New Zealanders, departed for Britain by sea, but their destination was changed to Egypt. They disembarked at Alexandria on 3rd December, 1914, and many more were to follow them.

A British Officer, General Sir William Birdwood, was appointed to command these Australian and New Zealand troops and he formed an Army Corps of three divisions - Two Infantry, and One Mounted.

The initials A.N.Z.A.C. came into general use by orderly room staffs, merely as an abbreviation of the rather lengthy title AUSTRALIAN AND NEW ZEALAND ARMY CORPS.

The first campaign undertaken by the First Australian Imperial Force was the ill handled Gallipoli campaign at the Dardanelles, but it immortalised the initials, A.N.Z.A.C. and was regarded by Australians as being symbolic of Australia coming of age as a Worldly Nation.

The landings at Gallipoli took place on 25th April, 1915 and were intended to stab at the backside of Germany's ally Turkey, and clear



the way for Russia to and from the Black Sea.

The campaign unfortunately became a stalemate. However, a very skillfull episode was the withdrawal of our forces in December 1915, under the very eyes, ears and noses of the embattled Turks. 80,000 British and ANZAC troops were then withdrawn with only a few casualties. But, overall, the Australian losses at Gallipoli were 8,000 killed and 20,000 wounded.

The ANZACS later on served successfully in France and Belgium and did their part in the first battle of the Somme and then at Bullecourt, Messines Ridge and Ypres. Our Mounted division remained on guard in Egypt and our famous Light Horse participated in the Palestinian Campaign.

That First AIF won a reputation for very aggressive action, bravery and determination and this established them as ideal shock troops for spearhead attacks. That reputation, Ladies and Gentlemen, has survived down through the years and was of course, re-kindled into the fighting spirit of the Second AIF in World War II from 1939-1945 throughout the deserts of the Middle East and the jungles of the Pacific areas, Papua/New Guinea, Borneo, Malaysia, Korea and Vietnam, until 1972.

And so, my Good Friends, it is with the same fearless spirit that we Aussies get together every 25th day of April, to show the World, (friendly or otherwise) that the SPIRIT of ANZAC will never die.

"WE WILL REMEMBER THEM"

AMEN

Major W.M. Finlay

#### THE LIGHT GUN

Reproduced from an article in

#### "Australian Gunner"

The Light Gun L118 can be divided into six basic assemblies. These are illustrated below, together with a brief description of how and where each will be made. Briefly, the guns are being manufactured partly in Ordnance Factory Maribyrnong (OFM) and partly in Ordnance Factory Bendigo (OFB) with OFB having the responsibility for final assembly and testing. The two pre-production guns were delivered to the Army in 1985.

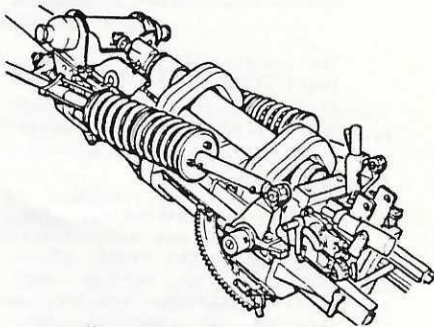


Figure 1  
ELEVATING MASS

#### Elevating Mass (Figure 1)

The elevating mass consists of the ordnance, recoil system, cradle trunnions, balancing gear and electric firing gear.

The barrels are forged, rough machined, bored and swage autofrettaged at OFM and then passed to OFB for rifling and final macking. The muzzle brakes, breech rings and breech blocks are forged and machined at OFM. All these items have been completed for the pre production of L118 guns.

OFB has the expertise to manufacture the hydropneumatic recoil system and will also be responsible for the balancing gears.

Fabrication of the cradle using the high tensile steel STA 59/60 has been allocated to OFB. Welding fixtures and jigs for this assembly have been produced and welders are being trained to manufacture the cradle.

The electric firing gear and the breech mechanism are being manufactured at OFB.

#### Saddle and Controls (Figure 2)

The saddle is also an STA 59/60 fabrication. It carries the elevating mass, includes the complete elevating gear and provides a top traverse of 100 miles left and right.

OFM is responsible for this assembly and has subcontracted the pressing of the saddle plates. The production of welding and heat treatment fixtures and jigs, and the training of welders for this fabrication are well advanced.

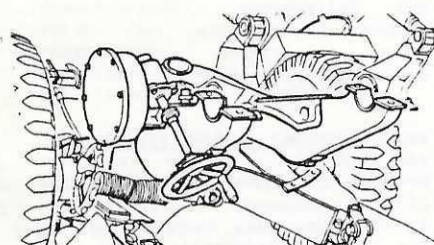


Figure 2  
SADDLE AND CONTROLS

#### Sighting System (Figure 3)

The sighting equipment consists of a dial sight for indirect fire and an elbow telescope for direct shooting. These are supported by a dial sight carrier.

The UK design drawings for the dial sight and elbow telescope are currently being studied by the Australian Precision Optics (APO) company in South Australia. The aims of this study are to assess the difficulty of local manufacture and to revise production cost estimates.

OFM will be manufacturing the dial sight carrier and a proprietary licence is currently being negotiated for the design data on this item.

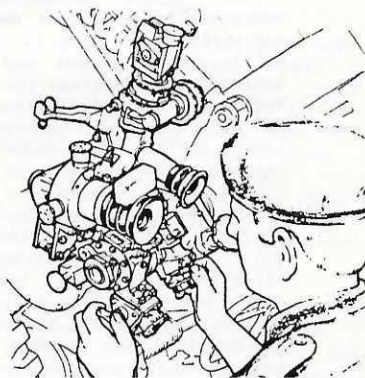


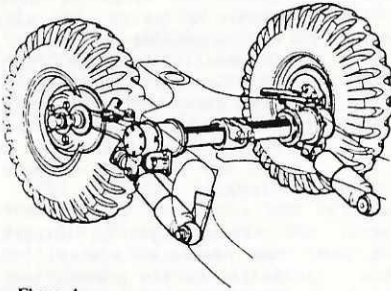
Figure 3  
SIGHTING SYSTEM

Sighting systems will not be produced in Australia in time to meet the pre-production gun schedule, but are planned for delivery ex local manufacture in parallel with the main production guns in 1988.

#### Suspension (Figure 4)

The Light Gun's suspension system consists of the wheels, wheel hub assembly incorporating hydraulic brakes, a trailing arm suspension with laminated torsion springs, and shock absorbers.

The design and manufacturing rights for these items are held by British firms such as the Unipart Group and Girlock who have Australian subsidiaries. Arrangements are being made for these local companies to provide the components for the suspension system during the main production phase of the project.

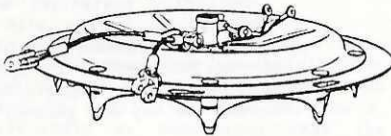


**Figure 4  
SUSPENSION**

Platform (Figure 5)

The platform is a circular light weight fabrication reminiscent of a similar item used on the 25 Pounder. It provides a firm base and permanent gun stability by having the tyres run on the outer edge of the assembly while three wire stays are connected to the underside of the gun.

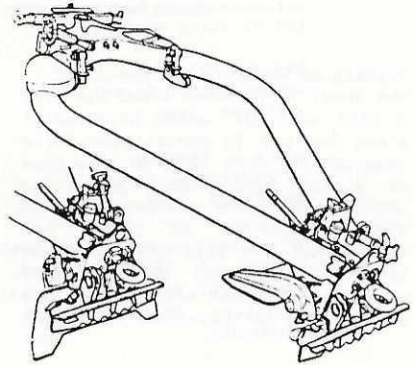
Platform manufacture will be the responsibility of OFM during the main production of guns phase.



**Figure 5  
PLATFORM**

Trail and Spades (Figure 6)

The trail is fabricated in high strength corrosion resistant steel, the tubes being of varying wall thickness and bent to a non constant radius. The forward end carries the saddle, traversing gear, suspension and the layer's seat. At the rear is the non rotating towing eye, over run brake, barrel clamp and spades.



**Figure 6  
TRAIL AND SPADES**

Complete Equipment Schedule

The Complete Equipment Schedule (CES) items for the Light Gun have been agreed at Army Office and catalogued by Supply Division staff at Headquarters Logistic Command, Melbourne.

This CES is a combination of some items used by the British Army and others which have proved themselves in service with our current M2A2 Howitzers. As such, the CES for the Australian Light Guns will not be completely new to our Gunners. OFM and OFB are the proposed manufacturers of the new inventory items.

Ammunition

Finally, a brief word on the Light Gun's ammunition. It is proposed that the high usage natures of Abbot Mk 2 ammunition to be available from local production in 1991. As the main production gun deliveries will commence in 1988, it is proposed that limited quantities of Abbot ammunition for training will be purchased overseas to bridge this gap.



#### WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

Correspondence has been returned for the following members:

MAJ J.C.Shimmin  
323 Wakefield Street  
ADELAIDE. 5000

BDR R.G. Thomson  
15 Carrington Street  
MOORABBIN. 3189

If anyone knows the whereabouts of either of these members, please advise the Membership Secretary c/ Artillery Depot, Batman Avenue, MELBOURNE.

#### JOINT MEETING OF VICTORIAN GUNNER ASSOCIATIONS

Late last year it was suggested that amongst gunner associations there could be matters of common concern and mutual interest which might be discussed together with advantage. Accordingly, representatives of all WW2 unit associations and the committee of the RAA Assoc (Vic) were invited to participate in joint informal discussions at Batman Avenue on 27FEB86.

The response was pleasing and there was wide ranging discussion on subjects such as membership, communications, memorabilia and ANZAC Day activities. Several constructive suggestions were forthcoming and it was agreed to give these further consideration.

As it was felt that further ideas might well emerge at the ANZAC Day functions or at the Annual General Meeting of the RAA Assoc, no further meetings were scheduled at this stage. All gunners old and new were urged to support these important activities.

An enjoyable and stimulating evening concluded with a delicious buffet dinner generously provided by Frank Wood and John Traill.

LTCOL D. Cox

#### "GUNNERS AT SEA"

Ever since our President served aboard Her Majestys' ships as a gunner he seems to have had the desire to go to sea. Most recently he organized a visit to Fort Queenscliff and the other defences of Port Phillip Bay from the "sea side". Whilst most gunners would have visited the Fort before, few of us have seen the defences of our Bay from the enemy's point of view.

Pope's Eye, an integral part of the defence system, seems more suited to its present use that of a suitable area for scuba diving. It seems that money has always been a problem when appropriations for defence purposes are sought. The rip itself would have been an important natural barrier to which the guns of the Forts would have provided a lethal level of cross fire.

Back on our territory (dry land) the assembled group of some fifty deployed into Apex Park, taking advantage of the natural camouflage and proceeded to break out the champers and chicken which developed into a scene more resembling the members' car park in November than a gun park.

Suitably sustained, we rallied forth to do battle with the Fort guide. A smorgasbord of history and gunnery followed as the group soaked up sunshine, magnificent views across the bay and gunnery trivia.

Whilst those who attended voted the day a great success we plan a new venue for next years picnic day. Initial thoughts are for a visit to the Tank Museum at Puckapunyal but we seek your ideas. This is your Association; please help us make it another great day in '87.

Major P.I. Hemingway

#### GUNNER PUZZLE

Under the command of its Gun Position Officer, LT Blunder, 62 Mountain Battery had occupied a gun position on the shore of a perfectly circular volcanic lake. The enemy were directly opposite, but out of range. Blunder's guns could only reach the centre of the lake at maximum range 7140m.

"Don't worry" said Blunder to his anxious Battery Leader, 2LT Wrongway. "providing we see them move and they march around the lake at their usual 8kph we should have plenty of warning before they can be engaged."

"How long?" queried Wrongway.

"You work it out" said Blunder "to the nearest minute."

The prize of a bottle of Port will be awarded to the first correct entry opened. Send your answers to :

"Gunner Puzzle"  
c/ P.O. Box 449  
FRANKSTON. 3199

The correct answer, together with the name of the winner, will be announced in the next edition of Cascabel.

#### UBIQUE

"QUO FAS ET GLORIA DUCUNT"

The dual motto translated as "Everywhere" "Where Right and Glory Lead" was conferred on the Royal Regiment of Artillery by King William IV in 1733. From the first mention in history of "leur Artillerie" referring to the men of the cross bows in the French Army during the battle of Crecy in 1346, until the formation of the Royal Regiment in 1716, artillery had been used in every battle involving British troops. Thus the Regiment has earned so many Battle Honours that it was not practical to use them on badges, dress or colours. So the ultimate of all Battle Honours was conferred by the inclusion of

the motto "UBIQUE" to show that the Royal Regiment of Artillery takes part in every battle. From the original Royal Regiment other units have spread throughout the world, all using the same badge and motto. In official toasts individual units are considered to be all part of the one Regiment and the toast is to "The Royal Regiment of Artillery".

The Herald's College of England describes the Artillery badge in these terms; "A field gun on a compartment of grass. In base, on a scroll of three folds, the motto, and on a scroll in chief above, the dual motto. The whole ensigned by an Imperial Crown." The gun is a replica of a nine pounder used in the Battle of Waterloo in 1815.

In Australia, before Federation, the various Colony, or State Artillery units each had its own individual badge. In 1903 all Australian Artillery wore the "Grenade" badge, the Militia a plain grenade and the Permanent or Regular units a grenade with the words "Royal Australian Artillery" on a scroll beneath. Later, when the R.A. badge was adopted, the motto "Consensu Stabiles" - "Steadfast in Agreement", with the word "Australia" beneath was used on the base scroll. In the days of horse this was more popularly interpreted as "Come to the stables boys".

In 1950 King George VI approved of the motto of the Royal Regiment being used on the Australian badge. "Consensu Stabiles" is still used on the collar of the "Blues" uniform of WO2 and below. A further minor change was made after the accession of Queen Elizabeth II, who adopted the Edwardian Crown in lieu of the Tudor Crown.

"A" Field Battery, RAA, which celebrated its centenary in 1972 was part of the first force to be raised in Australia, and is the only unit of that force still in existence.

It is into the Kingdom of such an inheritance that a soldier of the Royal Regiment of Artillery, upon

enlistment, enters! And there he finds that the Regiment is unique because it is "UBIQUE".

#### CONTRIBUTIONS

Contributions for the next issue of Cascabel are urgently requested and should reach the Editor not later than FRI 13JUN86.

Please forward your article to:

"CASCABEL"

P.O. Box 449 FRANKSTON. 3199

OR

c/- Artillery Depot, Batman Avenue,  
MELBOURNE. 3000

#### TO THE MEMORY OF FALLEN COMRADES

"They gave their lives. For that public gift they received a praise which never ages and a tomb most glorious - not so much the tomb in which they lie, but in which their fame survives, to be remembered for ever when occasion comes for word or deed "

#### ABANDONED MOUNTAIN GUN

They were the sons of Heaven, they who came  
With narrow lips and yellow eyes at night  
That softer folk might whimper at their name  
And smaller folk might tremble at their height.  
Symbol of the passing of their pride  
A broken, lonely, rusty mountain gun  
Lists sadly in the sand upon its side  
And gazes on the setting of the sun.

But splended as the lightning to the eyes,  
Great as the crumbling of a mighty dam,  
The vision in the toppling clouds above  
When men shall see with staggering surprise  
The lion paying homage to the lamb,  
The eagle veil his eyes before the dove.

"NX128184"

#### ANZAC DAY

All Gunners are invited to attend  
the Batman Avenue Drill Hall  
on ANZAC Day!

Messes will be open AFTER the March.

Don't miss this opportunity to renew  
old acquaintances. See you there!