

The Royal Australian Artillery LIAISON LETTER

Spring Edition
2004



**The Official Journal of the Royal Regiment of Australian Artillery
Incorporating the Australian Gunner Magazine**

First Published in 1948



RAA
LIAISON LETTER

Spring Edition

2004

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Distribution

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- Royal Australian Artillery Association (NSW)
- Royal Australian Artillery Association (NSW) Newcastle Sub-Branch
- Royal Australian Artillery Association (ACT)
- Royal Australian Artillery Association (VIC)
- Royal Australian Artillery Association (North Queensland)
- Royal Australian Artillery Association (SA)
- Royal Australian Artillery Association (WA)
- Royal Australian Artillery Association (NT)
- Royal Australian Artillery Association (TAS)
- Miscellaneous Unit and Sub Unit Associations
- Royal Australian Artillery Historical Company
- Head of Regiment / CLCA
- DJFHQ (JOSCC)
- All COs
- All BCs of Independent Batteries
- OC P&E Establishments
- MG LC ARTY
- RMG HQ CATC
- All RSMs
- LC ARTY
- 16th Air Defence Regiment
- 1st Field Regiment
- 2nd/10th Field Regiment
- 4th Field Regiment
- 7th Field Regiment
- 8th/12th Medium Regiment
- 23 Field Regiment
- 7th Field Battery
- 16th Field Battery
- 48th Field Battery
- 131st Surveillance and Target Acquisition Battery
- School of Artillery
- Joint Proof and Experimental Unit
- Miscellaneous Individual Gunner Officers/Warrant Officers and SNCO

Editors Comment

I would like to acknowledge an editorial mistake on my part in regard to the correct designation of Second AIF units in the autumn edition. I will let Colonel Arthur Burke, our Colonel Commandant Northern Region explain

'Someone went through my article, 'Nadzab Day Plus 60 Years - The Sequel' and meticulously changed all my '2/4th' to '2nd/4th'. This is quite incorrect as the 2/4th Field Regiment AIF was not an amalgam of the 2nd and the 4th Field Regiments (as are the 2nd/10th and 8th/12th) but a Second AIF unit. Though spoken of as the 'Second Fourth' Field Regiment, the correct listing of Second AIF units is to put only '2' before the unit title.'

I have commenced a series on individual battery histories. Please feel free to contact me if you believe the content is incorrect in any of those published in this or future issues. It will be gratefully appreciated if you could forward the 'correct' information to me in order to set the record straight.

I would like to thank Major Tony Thwaites for providing the photographs for the front cover. I look forward to publishing an article by him based on his experiences in the Gulf during the coalition forces invasion of Iraq in 2003.

Finally I would like to offering my apologies to Sergeant M. Voormeulen posted to the Australia Defence Force Academy. His name was omitted from the WO & SNCO posting list published in the autumn edition of the Liaison Letter published earlier this year. I can assure all that every effort is made both by me as editor and the desktop publisher to be accurate and mistake free but unfortunately we are only human and mistakes do occasionally occur. Once again to all and sundry a general apology for any past and almost certain future mistakes.

The next edition of the Liaison Letter will be published in April 2005. Whilst a minute will be circulated closer to the time seeking submissions, I would ask that units, organisations and individuals who would like to make a contribution, plan on a deadline of approximately Friday 4th March 2005.



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Editor's Note:

Retired or serving Gunners who would like to receive future copies of the RAA Liaison Letter should contact the editor by email or write to the address above with their mailing details.

Regimental Aspects

What War Can Give a Man

These are the things War can give a man -
The chance to know another better than
You ever could in Peace ... War can prepare
A friendship, and mature it with such care
From its first growth it cannot be undone,
What though the passing years to cycles run ...
War's jarring conflicts only closer bind
The bonds of friendship made with humankind -
Great cities may with shells be compassed round,
And nations rock and crumble to the ground,
But when between two men War's friendship grows,
Each, for the other, all the world foregoes:
Each of the other has his all to hold,
Whether it be his life-blood, or his gold:
Each, for the other, labouring to sustain,
Gives of his strength with all his might and main:
Each, by the other, equally inspired,
Adapts his life as most it is required.
There is no need that each cannot supply
By simple comradeship of being nigh -
Each is a lantern for the other's sight
That has the power to light the blackest night:
Each, for the other, his last mouthful halves,
Nor one, nor other, knowing what he starves ...
Each for the other wakes that one may sleep:
A vigil, each for each, they both will keep:
Each of the other takes his small affairs
As subject for the granting of his prayers ...
These are the things that War can give a man -
The chance to know another better than
You ever could in Peace ...

*Maurice Clough, 2/3rd Australian Pioneer Battalion, A.I.F.
We of the A.I.F. & Other Poems
Published by Dymocks Book Arcade Ltd, 1943*

Representative Colonel Commandant

Major General J.P. Stevens AO

Greetings Fellow Gunners,

Once again it has been a busy year for the serving Gunners, and I congratulate all Artillery units and those in units and in command and staff appointments. From what I have seen and heard Regimental standards remain high and the contributions from Regimental members have been as valuable as ever. As I remarked last year this is important, because the ability and reputation of the Regiment rests on its professionalism, and it is professionalism that will allow the Regiment to adapt to the demands of future conflict or peacekeeping.

Over the past year many will have joined the Regiment and to them I extend a warm welcome. Equally, many will have retired from the Regulars or Reserves, and to them I offer my thanks and best wishes.

Outside of the serving forces, I acknowledge and thank once again the volunteers and their families who are the lifeblood of Artillery associations, unit associations, historical societies and museums across the country. This is where our heritage is kept alive. In recent times I have had the opportunity at North Head to participate in the opening of the display related to that great Gunner, John Ewen, and to travel to Newcastle to visit Fort Scratchley and attend the Gunner Dinner. These occasions reinforced my view that our volunteers do a wonderful job and deserve our appreciation and support.

As time goes by, keeping the various associations viable is becoming increasingly difficult. Next year will mark the sixtieth anniversary of the end of the Second World War, and numbers in unit associations inevitably are dwindling. Post-War unit associations have never been numerous, and face the challenge of membership spread across Australia. Artillery Associations have been strong in some States, but more precarious in others. The Colonel Commandant in each region is alive to the issue, and in Tasmania and West Australia steps have already been taken to come together as one. Providing a framework that can offer support and camaraderie to Gunners into the future is, I think, a challenge that demands our attention and cooperation. I urge everyone to support the Colonels Commandant in their efforts to find solutions.

I thank the regional Colonels Commandant for the work that each has done. In particular I formally convey the appreciation of the Regiment to Colonel John Derbyshire, who this year steps down having made a distinguished contribution during his term of office in Central Region covering South Australia and the Northern Territory.

I expect to be vacating my appointment as Representative Colonel Commandant later this year or early next year. It has been a great honour to hold the position, and I am grateful to Gunners everywhere for their support. In the past four years the Regiment has built new foundations after the demise of the Directorate of Artillery and the move of the formal home of the Regiment, the School of Artillery, to Puckapunyal. The road ahead will have its challenges, but I am confident that we Gunners can meet them successfully, just as we have been doing in both peace-time and conflict since our forebears established the first volunteer and permanent colonial artilleries more than a century ago. Good luck and good shooting to all.

Ubique

Head of Regiment

Colonel S.T. Goltz

Greetings Fellow Gunners,

It is a little daunting to look back and see yet another year slipping into the album of time and realise it was as full and busy if not busier than 2003. The Regiment has been tactically and technically performing well and is on the cusp of significant change. The list of equipment that is about to undergo replacement or upgrade is substantial and this will have multiple effects. The most beneficial is that we can give our troops 21st Century technology to apply to our warfighting and secondly to be able to hold our head high in 'shiny toys' competitions. This may be a little 'tongue in cheek' but it is high time we Gunners in the RAA were riding the wave of improvement.

There is another much more complex effect involved with the changes and upgrades and that is redefining our Tactics, Techniques and Procedures (TTP) to exploit the quantitative edge being offered into a qualitative edge by virtue of how we use it. The projects get us to the start point but we as members of the Regiment have to apply our intellect to exploiting the maximum from the modest numbers of equipment and soldiers we have.

There are many rumours doing the rounds of the gun parks and Messes on the likely effects of the 'Hardening the Networked Army' but the key point here is to realise that we Gunners will have the first truly networked system when Land 17 delivers. This project will put our destiny in our own hands as far as demonstrating what advantages 'networking' can give warfighters. This means that doctrine writing and intellectual horsepower must be applied to ensure that the millions of dollars being spent are seen as a good investment. I urge us all to support the doctrine process in commenting, submitting new ideas and in supporting the posting of smart officers, warrant officers and non commissioned officers to ensure we get the product we want.

I would like to thank the band of willing and unsung stalwarts of the RAA who are keeping our Museum and regional collections in such fine order. I have been seeking to visit all the collections and displays of the RAA and whilst not completely successful this year will continue this endeavour in 2005. I now have a far greater appreciation of the size of the task and the enormous efforts of this dedicated group and thank them sincerely.

This year will see some more farewells for Gunners in officers, warrant officers and senior non commissioned officers and wish those who have chosen to move on to greener pastures the very best for the future. This will be the last Regimental Conference for our current Representative Colonel Commandant - Major General J.P. Stevens, AO and would I like to sincerely thank General Paul for his excellent service and support to the Regiment. It also is time to thank Colonel John Derbyshire for his excellent service and support as the Colonel Commandant Central Region and whilst he will not be attending the Regiment Conference in person I will thank him personally on behalf of the Regiment.

Good Shooting

Regimental Master Gunner

Warrant Officer Class One C.F.J. (Col) Watego

'Efficient and Effective Changes - are not only the results of Excellent Leadership and Commitment but a Shared Vision and the Determination to Succeed'

Anon

Greetings Fellow Gunners,

As a Gunner of 30 years, I am absolutely amazed at the pace in which things are continually changing around us in the Gunner world. I've got to tell you - with the magnitude of the changes currently occurring; and the proposed future changes within Offensive Support; Surveillance and Target Acquisition; and Ground Based Air Defence; I personally have never been more excited or optimistic about the future of the Royal Regiment of Australian Artillery.

I believe our predecessors have done the hard yards to put in place strategies to secure the Royal Regiment's future. Our Gunner commanders at every level have maintained this vision and momentum, which I believe is the reason the Royal Regiment has always been, and still is, an essential Combat Force Multiplier and formidable adversary.

As Gunners we are rapidly approaching that time in our long and distinguished history where as a consequence of sound leadership, commitment, technology and opportunity; we will be doing our core business totally different - to the way we have ever done core business previously.

The implementation of these changes will and in some cases already has started to impact on every Gunner, of every rank across the Royal Regiment. I believe the times ahead will provide unlimited opportunities for those junior soldiers who are prepared to continue in the footsteps of those before us and put in the hard yards now. I encourage all Gunners to seize the moment, and prepare for the future, whilst ensuring we don't lose sight of our past. By fostering and maintaining the customs and traditions that are unique and separate us as members of the Royal Regiment; we set the standards for the future as we adapt to the evolutionary changes that have and will continue to impact upon us as individuals and team players.

Finally, we need to have confidence. We need to have a bold confidence in ourselves that has been developed through hard, relevant and challenging training. We have at our disposal the use of excellent training mediums. It is up to us to utilise these resources efficiently. It is recorded in our history that Australian Diggers have been identified as the best-trained soldiers in the world. This esteemed title was not bestowed on those men as a result of abundant training resources - they earned the respect of soldiers from all around the world as a result of their attitude and resourcefulness.

We need to have confidence in our superiors and the decisions they make on our behalf. As soldiers, we sometimes fail to understand the reason(s) behind the decision making process. My experience has been that those in command generally have a complete picture of the situation, whilst those under command sometimes are only privy to a sketch. This illustration is simply to encourage you to always have confidence in those making the hard decisions and remain loyal in all circumstances. Remain loyal to your superiors, remain loyal to your subordinates, and in particular, we need to remain loyal to ourself.

I believe you cannot have change without challenges - and I am yet to meet a real Gunner who is not up to a good challenge. Within the Royal Regiment the calibre of our young Gunners today is second to none; especially in the areas of: fitness, mental toughness, technical ability and adaptability. The Royal Regiment of Australian Artillery has a fantastic future and I believe we as members of the Royal Regiment are privileged to be part of it. To our fellow Gunners currently representing the Royal Regiment overseas, I personally extend to you 'safe soldering and speedy return to your families'.

Guys, Good Soldiering

Vale

Colonel Arthur Ronald Brown

*Edited Version of the Eulogy
Delivered by Colonel Miles Pickering*

Colonel Arthur Ronald Brown was born in Essendon, Victoria on the 16th October 1917. He won a scholarship to Essendon High and after completing his leaving certificate, had two jobs before applying and being accepted for entry to the Royal Military College (RMC), Duntroon. Arthur gained entry to one of the special short courses (12 months) introduced because of the imminent threat of World War Two. His RMC number was 679 and he graduated on 12th December 1939. He was attached to Headquarters Southern Command located at Victoria Barracks Melbourne before being appointed an instructor at the School of Artillery located at North Head Sydney in July 1940.

Arthur joined the AIF (Regimental Number NX 70434) on 1st November 1940 on promotion to the rank of captain and was appointed Adjutant of the 4th Australian Anti-Tank Regiment, sailing for Malaya as part of the 8th Australian Division which became part of the forces captured by the Japanese. One of Arthur's lasting memories of this time was he had the task of writing the Unit War Diary during this period. Throughout the entire period of his capture from 1942 to 1945 Arthur's wife Edna received only two or three messages from him.

On return to Australia Arthur continued with his military career until 1964 when he retired following a military career that comprised a good mix of training, staff and command appointments. These appointments included a range of artillery staff appointments as a captain and major at Army Headquarters. Attendance at courses including Staff College as well as at the School of Artillery at Lark Hill in England. As a major he was an instructor at the School of Artillery at North Head along with an appointment as the personal staff officer to the Chief of the General Staff, Lieutenant General Sir Vernon Sturdee.

As a Lieutenant Colonel he held a range of staff appointments with Eastern Command at Victoria Barracks Sydney. Starting in January 1953 he had three command appointments in quick succession, firstly he commanded 25th Coast Regiment for three and half months, followed by command of the 12th National Service Training Battalion for five and a half months. Finally in October 1953 his regimental command opportunities culminated with the appointment as commanding Officer 1st Field Regiment. A position he held until February 1956. He then held a range of staff appointments in Headquarters Eastern Command including Assistant Adjutant and Quarter-Master General of 2nd Division. His final training related appointment was as a staff officer in Army Headquarters at the Directorate of Military Training. Fittingly for a Gunner his final appointment was in the Directorate of Artillery.

During his military career Arthur had studied part-time at the Australian National University for an economics degree and after his retirement from the Army with the honorary rank of Colonel he joined the public service in Canberra. He put his military training to good use in conducting seminars and training courses for the next 15 years.

Arthur maintained his silence on his days as a POW and, outwardly, for many years he did not show any signs of his ordeal. In his last few months he was happy despite adversities - he just 'soldiered on'. In brief a first class man, husband, father, citizen and friend.

Major Ian Adlam

*Provided by Major G. Laurie (Retd)
President RAA Association South Australia*

It is my sad duty to advise all Gunners that a previous Battery Commander of 48th Field Battery, Major Ian Adlam, passed away on 31st March 2004, following a major (and disabling) illness over the last seven years. 48th Field Battery was well represented at Ian's funeral service by present and past members, including a past Battery Commander, Major Geoff Robertson, who provided a heart-felt summary of Ian's service. Ian commanded 48th Field Battery for nearly three years from 1st July 1987 to 22nd January 1990. Ian's presence among us has been, and will in the future be sadly missed, and our sincere condolences go out to his wife, June, and their family. 'Stand Easy' Ian.

Major David Joseph Negline

*Provided by Colonel A.R. Burke
Colonel Commandant Northern Region*

Sadly another of our Gunner brethren has departed all too young for the Great Gun Park. David Joseph 'Neggars' Negline, born 23rd January 1941, died suddenly from a massive heart attack on 23rd April 2004 whilst visiting his home town of Newcastle for the ANZAC Day weekend. He had previously sustained a couple of smaller heart attacks.

Dave graduated from the Officer Cadet School, Portsea in December 1963 along with such other notables as Barrie Winsor, Juergen Raasch, Dick Wickenden, Ian Reid and Ted Diro (PNG). His initial postings included 1st Field Regiment and 1st Recruit Training Battalion, later he was selected for the Long Physical Training Course in the UK. The payback for this trip was, of course, almost three years as the Senior Instructor PT at the School of Artillery. Dave returned to field gunnery as a forward observer and then battery captain with 107th Field Battery which included a tour of duty in Vietnam. On return, he moved into the air defence stream becoming an early commander of the new Redeye surface-to-air missile battery. His enthusiasm and pride led to air defence weapons becoming widely employed throughout the field army rather than guarding RAAF airfields. Before hanging up his spurs in January 1983 as a major, Dave was on the instructional staff at the Australian Joint Warfare Establishment. He then became a rather private individual who devoted himself to his family.

'Neggars' will be remembered for his quiet, dry sense of humour, his good-natured acceptance of jokes about a PT background and 'gentle giant' size, for encouraging other field gunners to move to air defence, and by the Diggers who enjoyed firing the Redeye missile stocks he liberated before they grew mouldy on the shelves.

Dave is survived by his wife Elizabeth (Liz) and children Paul, Julie, Richard and Matthew. My thanks to Dave's brother Graham and Chris Hunter for contributions to this story. Vale David Joseph Negline - field gunner, PT instructor and air defence gunner. Called for higher duty at only 63 years of age.

Warrant Officer Class One George Herbert Gardner

*Provided by Colonel Arthur Burke
Colonel Commandant Northern Region*

Warrant Officer Class One George Herbert Gardner was born in Newtown, Sydney on 10th December 1942 and worked in odd jobs, including glass blowing before, at barely 17 years of age, he enlisted in the Australian Regular Army on 12th April 1960. After basic and trade training he was posted to 1st Field Regiment at Holsworthy where, in 1965 he departed with 'A' Field Battery for service at Terendak in Malaysia. As a bombardier on the guns at this time, George was noticed for his reliability, solidarity, sense of humour and a tendency to really enjoy life when off duty. His professionalism was rewarded by a posting to the 1st Recruit Training Battalion (1 RTB) as an instructor on return to Australia in 1967. Further, his good performance led to promotion to temporary sergeant in 1968 before he left 1 RTB to return to the world of gunnery.

In September 1968, Sergeant Gardner joined 4th Field Regiment at its new home in Townsville as a gun sergeant in 106th Field Battery. The beginning of 1970 saw the 106th relieve the 105th Field Battery in Vietnam and George was again on overseas service. His battery commander, (now retired Brigadier) David Gilroy recalls Sergeant Gardner as a very reliable, good leader and a 'great nurturer of soldiers'. He is also remembered for being a colourful character with a dry sense of humour and one who 'liked to play when off duty'. National Service Bombardier Alan Thompson says that George was 'hard, efficient and popular'. Alan also remembers a time at the Horseshoe when one of the soldiers was being slightly out of order and George reminded him that he should watch his step, 'as the only difference between Gardner and God was that God was taller'. Forward Observer Denis Byrne states that he always ordered George's Delta Gun to adjust close targets because he had the utmost faith in the sergeant's capabilities.

At the end of 1972, George was posted to the School of Artillery as an instructor. It was there that I believe I first met this man. As the only sergeant instructor amongst a bevy of warrant officers, George held his own for professionalism and dedication. He worked with me on an Air Observer's Course. The next year with a well-earned promotion to warrant officer, George assisted me on the Warrant Officers' Gunnery Course. These students were hard nuts, but they were all taken in his stride. This was a particularly successful course, due in no small part to the time and dedication that Warrant Officer Gardner contributed.

In late 1976 George was posted to the 5th/11th Field Regiment (Army Reserve) in Brisbane as a Sergeant Major Instructor in Gunnery. He performed to the high standards that were his hallmark and 12 months later was rewarded with an appointment of Battery Sergeant Major of 101st Field Battery at 1st Field Regiment. For the next two years, BSM Gardner not only raised the standards of the junior NCOs within his battery, but also brought great compassion and understanding in his firm but fair dealings with the Diggers in the 101st.

After eleven years in the regimental stream, fate identified a warrant officer class one vacancy in the proof and experimental world and on promotion to Warrant Officer Class One; George became the Master Gunner of P&EE, Port Wakefield. His commanding officer (now retired Colonel) Denis Byrne commended George on his smooth transition and recalls how he was well respected by both the military and civilian staff at the range. Denis states that George was a good family man and mixed as easily socially as he did technically and regimentally. In addition, the ability to sort out soldiers' problems was a high point of his service at Wakefield.

1981 saw Warrant Officer Class One Gardner back at the School of Artillery as the Master Gunner of Gunnery Wing. He was a most reliable backstop and meticulous administrator to his Senior Instructors, (now retired Major General) Paul Stevens and (now retired Brigadier) Peter Kilpatrick. Killer remembers his Master Gunner as an 'ever cheerful quiet achiever'. George separated from the Army on 29th April 1983 after 23 years of meritorious service.

In civilian life, Mr Gardner worked in a number of positions within the NSW Attorney General's Department until ill health forced him to retire. Emphysema led him on a fairly steep downhill path over the last 12 months and he has now been released from the pain, suffering and frustration of this debilitated life. George died on Friday 20th August 2004.

Vale George Herbert Gardner - true professional soldier, dedicated family man, and a Gunner who anyone could approach for help knowing that it would always be given willingly. Gone to a higher appointment in that great Gun Park up above all too early at only 61 years of age.

Warrant Officer Class One Leonard William McMullin

*Provided by Colonel A.R. Burke
Colonel Commandant Northern Region*

Warrant Officer Class One Leonard William McMullin passed away on Sunday 15th August 2004 after succumbing to a brain tumour. Len was born on 12th September 1940 and I first met him when serving in the early 1960s with 5th Field Regiment (CMF). He rose to gun sergeant in the Ipswich (then Q) battery before enlisting in the Australian Regular Army in 1963. After 1st Recruit Training Battalion and the School of Artillery Len was posted to 1st Field Regiment at Holsworthy. Twelve months later he was promoted to bombardier and in 1965-1967 went to Malaysia/Singapore with 'A' Field Battery. Returning to Australia and promotion to sergeant, Len joined 102nd Field Battery as a gun detachment commander and moved with the new 12th Field Regiment to Vietnam in 1968-1969. Still with the 12th in 1971, he completed a second tour in South Vietnam as a signals sergeant. A posting to 1st Field Regiment followed and he was promoted to staff sergeant signals supervisor in 1972.

Len returned to the Army Reserve - to 11th Field Regiment - as a warrant officer class two sergeant major instructor in gunnery in early 1975. When the 5th and 11th Regiments amalgamated later that year, Len served on with the 5th/11th Field Regiment. In 1976, the 106th Trials Battery was raised within 4th Field Regiment in Townsville to evaluate US medium and field guns. Len was appointed the Battery Sergeant Major and served with the 106th till the trials were completed and the battery disbanded in late 1977. Warrant Officer Class Two McMullin then moved to Headquarters Battery 4th Field Regiment for another 12 months before returning to Brisbane and the 5th/11th Field Regiment Len was promoted to warrant officer class one in 1982 and became RSM of the 5th/11th till he took his discharge on 10th April 1983.

Mr McMullin decided to try his hand on a pastoral acreage with cattle near Laidley to the west of Brisbane. He also won the cleaning contract at the Artillery's Milford Street Depot in Ipswich so was able to keep in contact with the military.

Vale Leonard William McMullin - summoned to the Great Gun Park up above just before his 64th birthday. Rest in peace, old Gunner.

Warrant Officer Class Two Colin Albrighton

*Extracted from 'Gunners Gossip'
Newsletter of the RAA Association (North Queensland)*

Warrant Officer Class Two Colin Albrighton passed away on 10th June 2004. As most will be aware Col suffered from cancer and had deteriorated to such an extent that he was bed-bound and in much pain.

Col commenced service as a National Serviceman in January 1953 and joined the Regular Army in March 1965. Following training at 1st Recruit Training Battalion and the School of Artillery he was posted to 4th Field Regiment at Wacol, later the unit moved to Townsville. Apart from a few breaks he spent almost seventeen years in the unit.

He was promoted to Bombardier in February 1969, Sergeant in February 1972, Staff Sergeant in August 1980 and subsequently to Warrant Officer Class Two. Highlights of his career were service in Vietnam with 108th Field Battery commencing in June 1967 and two years in Singapore, again with 108th Field

Battery, commencing in October 1969. He and his family often reflected on this period as a wonderful time and they made the most of it.

Col was proud of his Army service, being a straight forward no nonsense type who only wanted to get the job done and do it properly. He was especially proud of the fact that he was a member of a Sergeant's Mess for over fourteen years. After a posting to 7th Field Regiment as RQMS he and Carroll returned to Townsville where he elected discharge in 1985.

He was well respected by those he served with both as a senior non commissioned officer and a Warrant Officer Class Two. His funeral was held at the Townsville on Tuesday 15th June 2004.

Sergeant Frank William McCabe

*Edited Version of an Eulogy by Peter Cindall
Published in The Artillery News June-August 2004
The Official Newsletter of the RAA Association (Tasmania)*

Frank William McCabe was born in Bootle, Liverpool on the 24th September 1920. He left school at 14 and went to work as a Telegraph Boy after passing an entry exam. At 15 he went dancing at local halls to learn basic dance steps before he could afford to take lessons. He also learned to sneak a pint of beer, smoke and chat up girls. As a Telegraph Boy he went to night school two nights a week for four years training to be a Telegraphist. However when he finally qualified there were no Telegraphist jobs available so he became a Postman.

In 1938 he joined the Territorial Army. His mother was horrified because war was in sight. In 1939 his Regiment was called up. He always remembered how his mother begged him not to go but he was too excited and couldn't wait. He thought the war would only last a few weeks. By the time he was posted overseas in 1942 he had been made a troop sergeant with three tanks, eight men and one officer to look after. He served in the 40th Royal Tank Regiment as part of the 23rd Armoured Brigade in the 8th Armoured Division.

His first action was in the Western Desert where 42 out of 50 tanks were lost. His officer was killed and Frank was made an acting troop officer until another could be found. In this role he had to attend officer briefings and met General Montgomery. He remembered that Monty had 'a funny little squeaky voice' and that he vowed to sacrifice all his tanks if necessary to get the infantry through.

Frank McCabe was wounded at El Alamein when his tank was destroyed when it struck a land mine. While recovering in hospital he learned that he was likely to be posted to another unit on his recovery. So he quietly walked out of the hospital and made his way to the depot where new trucks were being delivered to the front line. He simply joined a queue of potential drivers. No questions were asked and he was given a truck to deliver. Instead he drove it straight to his old unit in the line and was back with his mates again. Then he was given a new tank and went through the rest of bitter fighting of North African campaign against General Rommels' Afrika Corps. That lasted until the Germans surrendered in Africa in May 1943.

After training and re-equipping he took a leading part of the assault on the Italian mainland and was involved in the massive, bloody battle at Salerno beachhead. After four days Frank was once again wounded and evacuated to a hospital ship and later to a convalescent camp. Eventually he was sent to Algeria as a training instructor before returning to Italy to set up training schools at Bovina. It was there that he met the love of his life a girl from Barnsley – Sylvia Bullock.

They were engaged in December 1944 and married at Perugia in Italy in March 1945. During that period Frank was gaoled for returning late from a weekend leave to visit Sylvia who was posted about 400 miles away. Sylvia sent him a fruit cake with a nail file inside but fortunately he was released within a few days and didn't have to resort to it. Their honeymoon was spent in Rome where they stayed at the YWCA.

The war brought about three things that influenced the rest of Frank's life:

- He met and married the love of his life.
- He formed an affection for Australians because he had served with them.
- He developed a hatred of war but strangely - a love of the army.

After the war Frank and Sylvia returned to Liverpool. Frank recommenced work for the post office and rejoined the Territorial Army. Carol was born in December 1946 followed by 5 boys in regular succession. At that time Frank realised that employment opportunities in Liverpool were limited so decided to emigrate to Australia in the hope of a better future for his family.

He arrived here in November 1959 with Sylvia about to give birth; six other children and three pounds in his pocket. He soon got a job as a driver and quickly found other work as a radio and appliance repairman using skills acquired in the army. After the birth of his son, more children followed, finally there were 12 of them - six Poms and six Aussies.

Frank took as much overtime as he could get to enable him to support his family. He started doing 'backyard' appliance repairs for extra money and still found time to join the army reserve. In fact the army had very great difficulty in getting rid of him and long after he reached the compulsory retirement age he and his great mate John Gunn decided to stay on 'just to help out'. They regularly attended camp until 1997 when Frank was 'forced to go off parade because of a spinal injury' at the age of 77.

Although Frank McCabe passed away on 22nd April 2004 he has left behind his philosophy of total honesty, courage, perseverance, an incredible loyalty; a love of people and a deep understanding of the power of a united loving family and true friendship. Frank McCabe was a working class lad born in Bootle who became a prince among men.

Gunner Michael Bernard Williams MM

*Provided by Colonel A.R. Burke
Colonel Commandant Northern Region*

Sadly, another of the special individuals of the Gunner Brotherhood has passed away. There were not many Military Medals awarded to RAA National Servicemen in Vietnam. Neither were there many awarded to private rank Gunners.

Arguably unique for these distinctions was Gunner Michael Bernard Williams MM who was a forward observer party signaller with (then) Captain John Phillips in 106th Field Battery, 4th Field Regiment in 1967-1968. The Viet Cong and North Vietnamese Army mounted their fierce Tet Offensive throughout South Vietnam in January 1968. The 1st Australian Task Force (less one battalion group) was deployed on Operation Coburg some 40 km from Saigon to protect approaches to the major US base at Bien Hoa. Attached to Major Graeme Chapman's C Company, 7th Battalion Royal Australian Regiment on 7th February 1968, Mike was seriously wounded in the head as his group withdrew from a bunker complex under heavy enemy fire from three directions. He became pinned down some 30 metres in front of FO Phillips who yelled fire orders to him. An extract from Mike's citation states:

Gunner Williams was pinned down in an area which offered little protection but provided an excellent site for communications. Gunner Williams, without thought for his own safety, protected his radio with his body and maintained communications with the field battery providing close support fire seriously wounded in the head, [he] still remained at his post passing fire orders which resulted in most effective artillery fire which was a major factor in ensuring the final success of [his company's] assault. Once the position became relatively stable [some forty minutes later] a replacement for Gunner Williams was brought forward but even then Gunner Williams remained on duty until he was satisfied the replacement had been fully briefed and communications were still open. Only then did [he] seek medical attention.

The personal courage of Mike Williams and his devotion to duty were outstanding, reflecting great credit upon himself, his Regiment and the Australian Army and he was justly awarded the Military Medal for this action. Repatriated back to Australia to convalesce, he was then discharged on medical grounds. For the rest of his life, Mike carried a metal plate in his head as a legacy of 7th February 1968.

Mike returned to Cooma where he had been brought up and after 12 months as a cadet with the local shire council, he headed for the bright lights of Canberra and joined the Department of Foreign Affairs. His 106th Battery close friend, Rob Gowling recounts that there he met Roz, they had a 'foreign affair' and were married. Postings to Sweden, Romania, Argentina, Hawaii and Washington followed. He had a most successful career and is quoted as saying that 'wearing the MM and being an Artillery Gunner opened many doors'. Being a Vietnam veteran eased the strain in heady discussions on security in Washington and he was well-known by his christian name in many forums where others were addressed as 'General', 'Group Captain' and 'Commander'. Rob Gowling suggests that a highlight of his time in Foreign Affairs was being taken in a US Marine general's car to a gathering of 'a couple of the boys' to 'chew the fat' on how Uncle Sam could assist with the forthcoming ANZAC Day service. With a strong introduction by the general, Mike was amazed at the competition between Hawaii's head 'boys' of the Army, Navy, Marine and Air Force - all trying to help.

In 1996, stress finally forced Mike to retire from Foreign Affairs and he automatically became a TPI pensioner. A tumour in the bowel was first detected in early June last year, he underwent surgery and sustained weekly treatment until February this year. By April it was apparent that he would not escape and he succumbed on 10th July 2004.

Rob Gowling describes Mike having a great personality, a wonderful attitude to life, a firmly respected 'Micta' (family Dad) and a great love for fly fishing. I had the privilege of knowing Mike through the fight for the good name of 106th Field Battery last year - following publication of the latest official Australia war history, 'On the Offensive'. He was tenacious in his aim; wrote well, credibly and with conviction; and lent his good name and strong support in every possible way to uphold the proud name of the 'Turtles' of 1967-1968.

Mike is survived by his widow Roz; children Lisa, Justin and Dan (wife Michelle); and granddaughter Caitlyn. Vale Michael Bernard Williams MM - proud Nasho, decorated Gunner, successful Foreign Affairs executive, devoted family man and the best friend a Turtle from 1967-1968 could have - parading for the last time after only 59 years.

16th Air Defence Regiment

This year has been a busy period for 16th Air Defence Regiment was signified by a high tempo exercise schedule and the continuing rapid development of the Regiment's RBS70 capability.

You may well be aware that 16th Air Defence Regiment is currently going through a transition process from its current structure to an all RBS70 Regiment by December 2005. As part of this process the Regiment is currently undergoing a significant amount of change in personnel, equipment and facilities. Rapier remains an effective and capable system, and continues to be busy, with 110th Air Defence Battery conducting a deployment on Exercise Lowerson, and a major deployment on Exercise Pitch Black 2004 in the Northern Territory during July/August. The Regimental move towards an all RBS70 unit has included a significant increase in personnel. The Regiment manning has grown from 250 in 2000 to its current strength of 407. With another IET course programmed this year, the Regiment is expected to grow to 440 by Christmas.

Operationally, the Regiment had slowed from its busy pace of RBS70 troop deployments to the Gulf. However the Regiment continues to support operations with Major Steve Terek, Warrant Officer Class Two Michael Rossendell, and Corporal Dan Sells, all returning to the Regiment after operational service during the period.

The Woodside Barracks skyline is currently changing with the ongoing construction of the Advanced Air Defence Simulator (AADS). The 10 million-dollar project under Land 19 Phase 2B will deliver a combined immersive environment for RBS70 detachment engagement simulations. The new simulator, providing 4th generation technology, is four stories high and will not only be able to offer a 270 degree simulation of various tactical scenarios, but can also simulate different climatic conditions by day or night. The AADS construction is progressing, and the simulator is scheduled to be officially handed over to 16th Air Defence Regiment early in the new year. The following photos show the construction of the AADS.

The Regiment held a poignant ANZAC Day Dawn Service on the Parade Ground at Woodside Barracks on 25th April 2004. The service was led by our female Regimental Padre (Madre) Chaplain Catie Inches-Ogden, and included not only the Regiment and their spouses, but also Army and Airforce Cadets as well as local scout groups. The cold, still Woodside morning provided a sobering setting for all the Regiment to reflect on past sacrifices.

Exercise Pitch Black

After the historic deployment of military vehicles and equipment via the newly completed Adelaide to Darwin rail link in July, 16th Air Defence Regiment arrived in Darwin to deploy across a wide expanse of the Northern Territory as part of Exercise Pitch Black 2004, the RAAF's major exercise this year. The move involved the transportation of some 150 vehicles, over 20 surface to air missile systems and 60 trailers weighing in at over 2500 tonnes. The efficiency and practicality of the rail move proved the value of the rail line as yet another option for large-scale strategic movement of defence assets.

The Regiment personnel deployed 350 personnel and provided a major contribution to the Integrated Air Defence System as part of Red Force for the exercise. Operating under operational control of 16th Air Defence Regiment, was the Republic of Singapore Air Force IHawk Squadron, along with a RAAF Electronic Observation Post.

Upon arrival in Darwin, the Regiment underwent a high tempo program of pre-deployment training using Robertson Barracks as a Mounting Base and underwent battle preparation prior to deploying into the Tindal area. With a large number of high performance jets, along with other supporting aircraft from five nations participating in the Exercise, the Rapier and RBS70 missile batteries experienced a high-paced deployment, providing Ground Based Air Defence (GBAD) of critical assets against air attack, combined

with frequent redeployments for new tasks. Redeployments, re-supply, and communications were challenging due to the unit being deployed over thousands of square kilometres.

To achieve the best possible outcomes from Pitch Black, 16th Air Defence Regiment combined with other participants at all levels. This ranged from the integration of the Singaporean IHawk missile system and RAAF Electronic Observations Posts into the unit, to supporting 1st Brigade as part of Exercise Predator's Gallop and the integration of control elements into the NORTHROC facility at Tindal to operate within an activated ADF Battle Management System. The exercise was a great opportunity for the soldiers of 16th Air Defence Regiment to practice their air defence skills in a high threat environment, but also to experience the rugged and extreme conditions of the Northern Territory.

Exercise Chau Pha

The month of May saw A Troop 111th Air Defence Battery, make the long trek from Adelaide to High Range Training Area to take part in 4th Field Regiment's Exercise Chau Pha during the period 3rd to 26th May 2004. The exercise provided a fantastic opportunity for the GBAD elements to prove interoperability with 4th Field Regiment and 131st Surveillance and Target Acquisition Battery through the conduct of mobile and rapid route defences as well as a number of point defences. The return from the long exercise was delayed even further due to wide-spread flooding in NSW which closed many major roads. The troop eventually got home, but not without a number of flood related issues!

Air Defence Association Reunion

Approximately 80 retired Ground Based Air Defence gunners attended an Air Defence Association Reunion at 16th Air Defence Regiment's Woodside Barracks on 25th May. Most of the group had travelled from Queensland for the event which consisted of a whole day of activities. The group conducted a memorial service to remember fallen gunners, received a Regimental brief, enjoyed lunch exchanging stories with the young gunners of the Regiment, viewed displays of current GBAD and personal weapon systems, and ended the day with a few tasty beverages at the 16th Air Defence Regiments Officers' and Sergeants' Messes.



Exercise Bersama Lima

Exercise Bersama Lima 2004 was a combined and joint three week exercise based in Singapore and Malaysia that involves signatories of the Five Power Defence Agreement (FPDA). This exercise enables the nations that make up this agreement; Australia, Great Britain, Malaysia, New Zealand, and Singapore to exercise together in both conventional and anti-terrorist scenarios to achieve positive combined training outcomes.

A 60 member RBS-70 troop group from 16th Air Defence Regiment deployed onto Exercise Bersama Lima 2004 during the period 9th to 29th September 2004, providing them with a unique, challenging and rewarding GBAD experience. The Australian Land Contingent Commander for Exercise Bersama Lima 2004, Major Simon Hawkins said the exercise proved to be an fantastic opportunity for the 16th Air Defence Regiment contingent, as not only did it provide invaluable GBAD training



outcomes, but it also heightened cross-cultural relations between the Australian soldiers and members of the Royal Malaysian Air Force (RMAF).

The 16th Air Defence Regiment contingent deployed to Kuantan, Malaysia (East Coast) and surrounding areas to work as part of a combined Battery GBAD defence with members of 401 Squadron, RMAF. RBS-70 weapon systems were sighted both in rural and coastal areas, which presented the detachments with the opportunity to work within diverse and challenging environments that are markedly different to the training areas in which 16th Air Defence Regiment would typically operate. The aircraft types that were seen also differed from those that the soldiers normally encounter with exercise engagements of Mig-29, Hawk and F-16 occurring on a daily basis.

The cross-cultural aspects of Exercise Bersama Lima 2004 were perhaps the most rewarding as numerous opportunities presented themselves to interact closely with the officers and soldiers of the RMAF. Such interaction included the deployment of combined Australian and Malaysian GBAD detachments, a high level of combined integration in regard to the control and reporting procedures, and co-location of the Australian and Malaysian echelons. The combined detachments in particular provided the soldiers of 16th Air Defence Regiment with a whole new set of challenges, especially working through language and cultural differences. A positive and friendly relationship was developed between the soldiers of both nations which was typified by the highly sociable atmosphere surrounding the end of exercise sports challenge and cross cultural evening. This was the first opportunity for many of the contingent to travel overseas and both the military and cultural experience will not be one easily forgotten.

Promotions and Awards

Commander Land Command Artillery (CLCA), Colonel Steve Goltz, visited the Regiment on 28th May. As part of his visit the CLCA took part in a parade in which the following promotions and presentations were made:



- Warrant Officer Class Two Cracknell was awarded the ASM for his service in the Solomon Islands. Warrant Officer Class Two Cracknell was also presented with his Warrant.
- Sergeant Dawson, Sergeant Eastley, and Sergeant Honner received their Sergeants's Stripes, and
- The Commanding Officer promoted 21 Members to JNCO.

1st Field Regiment

Forward

The start of 2004 for 1st Field Regiment was a continuation of a hectic previous 2003, with members of 105th Field Battery CLOG on deployment with 6th Battalion Royal Australian Regiment (6RAR) in East Timor. During January and February a rotation of some of the 105th Field Battery CLOG was conducted. Early January saw the return of some members of the Regiment mainly from 105th Field Battery to prepare for deployment on Operation Relex II. Over 50 members deployed on 21st January with support from 7th Combat Service Support Battalion (7 CSSB) and Military Police Section from Enoggera.

Late January saw the return of the few members left of the Regiment who were not on operational service in East Timor or Operation Relex II. They were soon into the action, with a week of induction training. Early February saw our first General Reserve training weekend with the Reserve Batteries and the remainder of 105th Field Battery. We all came together for a combined training program over the weekend Brisbane recorded its highest temperature (43 degrees Celsius) in 10 years. A few of the soldiers went down with heat problems due to the unseasonable weather.

March saw the introduction of Regimental training for all batteries, on the first Tuesday night of each month. Late in March saw the first combined battery live firing exercise in Wide Bay Training Area (WBTA) Exercise Sharks Thrust.

ANZAC Day

April saw the preparation for ANZAC Day. 1st Field Regiment conducted its own dawn service with Bombardier Puriri providing a musical accompaniment along with our RAA Band Brisbane. The parade in Brisbane saw for the first time all artillery units' march under one banner. 1st Field Regiment provided support with banner carriers but more importantly, lead the artillery contingent with a M198 towed by a Mack truck. The people of Brisbane cheered loud as it went down the main street of Brisbane.

55th Birthday

May also saw the Regiment have its 55th Birthday. A church service was conducted at All Saints Chapel. The service saw the Queen Elizabeth II banner paraded with all the members of the Regiment taking part in the church service. After the service all the members adjointed to the Gunners Club for the cutting of the cake. The Brigade Commander attended and with the help of the Colonel Commandant Northern Region, some promotions were conducted. The Colonel Commandant reminded all of us it was our duty to continue the traditions of 1st Field Regiment.

Return from Operations

Early May saw return of our members from Operation Relex II, to be greeted by the Brigade Commander. He welcomed the members' back and congratulated them on a fine job they all did. Once the formalities were over they started some well-deserved leave. June saw the return of the remainder of 105th Field Battery members from East Timor and the start of the reconstitution of 1st Field Regiment.

Welcome Home Parade

Brisbane turned out in force during July to welcome home more than 500 soldiers from 6 RAR and support troops from the 7th Brigade. Soldiers from the 105th Field Battery also marched proudly in recognition of their service in East Timor. The RAA Band Brisbane proudly led the contingent through the streets of Brisbane. The 6 RAR Battalion Group completed its last full operational tour of East Timor from 15th October 2003 to 12th June 2004 ending Brisbane's direct contribution to the rebuilding of the new nation. The Brisbane Lord Mayor, Councillor Campbell Newman dressed in the robes of the civic office, received the salute from the soldiers.

Courses Camp

The Southern Region Courses Camp was conducted between the period 1st - 6th August at Gallipoli Barracks and saw the Regiment conduct an advance gunners course and a detachment commanders course. During this period the Regiment also saw a number of drivers completing their qualifications on numerous Brigade conducted courses.

Gunner Dinner

Gunner's past and present from around the southeast Queensland descended on Gallipoli Barracks to be hosted by the 1st Field Regiment, in celebration of the 133rd Birthday of the Royal Regiment of Australian Artillery. Gunners and ex members of the unit regardless of Corps attended the dinner, recognising their important role in the RAA units. There was also a strong representation of former members and commanding officers as guests. The 1st Field Regiment maintains the Regimental lineage, not only for the Premier Regiment but also the 5th, 11th, and 5th/11th Field Regiments. The Banner of Queen Elizabeth II was present and the principal guest for the dinner was the Colonel Commandant Northern Region Colonel A.R. Burke; the dining president was Bombardier Farrell. The evening concluded with activities in the Gunners' Club. It was a memorable evening and a fitting way to celebrate the occasion.

Exercise Germ Warfare

The 13th/104th Field Battery and the 41st Field Battery combined to form a 5-gun battery for the last General Reserve live firing exercise before the Regiments' major activity in September - Exercise Premier Gunner. The activity was held in Wide Bay Training Area (WBTA) and was well attended. The exercise was very valuable to the combined call sign in that strong areas were highlighted and areas of concern were also highlighted to be rectified before Exercise Premier Gunner.

Exercise Tigers Charge

During the month of August the main focus of 105th Field Battery was geared towards the lead-up training, preparations and conduct of the battery live firing exercise. Exercise Tigers Charge, which was conducted over the period 16th - 26th August at Shoalwater Bay Training Area (SWBTA). The Exercise was the first opportunity for the battery to conduct collective live fire training as a complete entity after the return of members deployed on Operation Relex II and Operation Citadel. Due to drought conditions and subsequent fire restrictions, the battery was unable to effectively practice obscuration and illumination missions. As well as practicing direct and deliberate deployments, the gunline deployed into a fire support base and also conducted several hasty deployments and an artillery raid. The exercise also provided the opportunity to qualify several members as detachment commanders. Other activities included members participating in the Sydney City to Surf Marathon as part of the Australian Defence Force team.

RAA Band Brisbane

The band recently held its annual concentration period where they were very fortunate to have been invited to Townsville by 11th Brigade to support both the Reserve Forces Weekend and the Townsville Cultural Festival. The fortnight started with two days intensive rehearsal then it was on the road stopping en-route to and from Townsville in Rockhampton. The performances were without doubt the highlight of the festival which hosted approximately 60 groups both musical and dance. The main stage was packed to maximum capacity for the bands performance with a 10 person deep passing crowd edging each other out of the way to catch a glimpse of the show put on by the band. Needless to say a great time was had by all involved and it will be talked about for months to come.

On return to Brisbane it was business as usual with the band providing support to the River Fire Festival combining with the Australian Army band Brisbane, 2nd/14th LHR QMI Band and QUR Band for a massed bands concert performance. This being the band's 50th Anniversary year saw the release of a CD which features both the Slow and Quick marches of the RAA (see advertisement in this issue).

Battle of Long Tan Parade

Soldiers of 6 RAR remembered the Battle of Long Tan on 18th August with a ceremonial Beating Retreat that culminated in Tschaikowsky's 1812 Overture. The AAB Brisbane and the RAA Band Brisbane combined to make it a special occasion. The Guns supporting the 1812 overture were manned by Gunners from the 13th/104th and 41st Field Battery's and fired 6oz blank rounds from L119s.

7th Brigade Cross-country

The 7th Brigade Cross-country was held in some warm Brisbane weather on Friday 27th August. 1st Field Regiment hosted the event this year, which involved a 7.2 kilometre run through Gallipoli Barracks and the Enoggera Close Training Area. All Brigade units participated in some form, with over 500 competitors in total. The Regiment provided a large team itself with over 70 runners involved. The champion unit was determined using the placing of the first eight runners from each unit. Again 6 RAR took out the award. But, in a big turn around from last year, the Regiment competed strongly with Lieutenant Ben Dullroy 5th over the line and strong performances by Gunner's Evans and Kime, Bombardier Walker, Warrant Officer Class Two Kelly and Lieutenant Coles. Their effort saw 1st Field Regiment finish a gallant 4th. With our involvement in Sydney's City to Surf and an increased interest in middle distance running, plans are in place for some strong training and competition in the next 12 months. Brisbane's Gunners will be even better prepared to take on the Brigade next year.

Exercise Premier Gunner

The Regiment deployed to SWBTA on the major annual exercise of the year, Exercise Premier Gunner in September for two weeks. The first week was primarily battery live firing exercises in the first half to shake out the cobwebs and set the foundations for the end of that week for the Regimental phase. For a three day period in the middle of the exercise saw the Regiment conduct adventure training, which included caving, canoeing, and survival activities. The final phase saw 13th/104th Field Battery and 41st Field Battery (combined) deploy to a fire support base for some valuable training in routine and emergency evacuation techniques. 105th Field Battery was on display for the ARTEP Team and performed admirably. The echelon was also deployed throughout the exercise and this proved to be of value for them as well as for the Regiment. The JOSTs of the Regiment conducted valuable training with numerous CAS and a considerable amount of ammunition to effectively train in technical shooting. The exercise was a critical activity for the Regiment in that it has highlighted the strong points of the Regiment as well as highlighting the way ahead for training for 2005.



2nd/10th Field Regiment

2nd/10th Field Regiment began the new training year with a large change to Regimental Headquarters personnel. The Commanding Officer Lieutenant Colonel P. Rowley welcomed the new Operations Officer Major S.J. Bennett, the new Adjutant Captain P.J. Meakin and the new Regimental Sergeant Major Warrant Officer Class One M.I. Johnson. The main focus of the Regiment for this training year has been on individual training returning to core skills so as to establish a firm base on which the Regiment can build upon in the future.

The Regiment has conducted three live fire exercises over the training year with one more live firing exercise to be conducted in November so as to consolidate the training so far. The second of these exercises saw the Regiment visited by the Commander Land Command Artillery (CLCA) and his staff to observe and to give advice on areas to be addressed to develop and build a solid platform for future training. Exercise Hamel was our major training activity for the year. This was a two week exercise and was broken into two major phases, firstly a courses camp followed by a field firing phase to confirm the training conducted during phase one. In addition to these, the Regiment has conducted two AIRN training weekends with medical and dental support from 4th Base Area Support Battalion and two small arms training weekends which saw the Regiment qualify a large number of personnel in the F89 Minimi and up to LF 12 on the F88 Austeyr. The Regiment also conducted a Infantry Minor Tactics weekend to develop fieldcraft, weapons handling and teamwork along with the development of the Regiment's junior non commissioned officers.

The focus of the Regiment was on individual training due to the large number of new recruits and training shortfalls within the Regiment. It was decided to conduct both continuous and non-continuous course throughout the training year and these have been conducted on Tuesday night parades, training weekends and over Exercise Hamel. During this training year the Regiment has conducted following courses: gunner grade one, modules one, two and three; specialist combat communicators course; supervisor offensive support, general leg and MR2 and C2 drivers courses. The courses were attended by a large number of members from within the Regiment along with members from 16th Field Battery, 1st Field Regiment and 4 BASB.

The Regiment provided ceremonial support to three major activities so far this year. The first of these was to Australia Day with 22nd Field Battery firing the salute at the Shrine of Remembrance. The second was to the RAAF Williams Twilight Spectacular on 27th March with 38th Field Battery firing in support of the 1812 Overture. The last of these activities was ANZAC day with the batteries providing a number of members for catafalque duties from one side of the bay to the other. The culmination being the Regiment leading the march in the City of Geelong and hosting a number of associations with up to two hundred members of the Regiment and associations at the Geelong Barracks and Chapel Street Depot. Additional support was provided to a memorial service for Albert Jacka VC, the RAA Association of Victoria Gunner Dinner and in November the Regiment will be providing a catafalque party for the City of Port Phillip and a Minute Gun on Remembrance Day.

Recruiting has been one of the main priorities of the Regiment with the batteries conducting information nights and recruiting activities at shopping centres and community activities. This has started to pay dividends for the Regiment with numbers on the increase in all trades. The support being provided to the six fostered cadet units is also proving to be a great source for recruiting with a number of new recruits coming from within the cadet ranks.

4th Field Regiment

On 5th December 2003 the Regiment conducted the following activities: unveiled extensions of the unit memorial wall, presented annual awards, farewelled the Commanding Officer, Lieutenant Colonel W. N. Jones and the Regimental Sergeant Major Warrant Officer Class One P.A. Matthysen; conducted a hand over of command ceremony, and a number of promotions. The Colonel Commandant Northern Region, Colonel Arthur Burke and a strong contingent from the North Queensland Royal Australian Artillery Association attended the day.

Annual Awards for 2003

- Best Junior Officer Lieutenant W.L. Harvey,
- Best JNCO Bombardier A.R. Morante,
- Best Private Soldier Gunner S.J. McMillan, and
- Champion Winter Sports Battery 108th Field Battery

Unit Structure

The Regiment structure continues to consist of five sub-units located under its command. These consist of the following: 'A' Field Battery, Holsworthy Barracks, Sydney, 107th Field Battery, 108th Field Battery, Combat Service Support Battery and Operations Support Battery all located at Lavarack Barracks, Townsville. The key appointments for 4th Field Regiment in 2004 are:

Regimental Headquarters

Commanding Officer	Lieutenant Colonel G. Bilton, CSC
Regimental Sergeant Major	Warrant Officer Class One R. Thompson
Adjutant	Captain G. Cassar

'A' Field Battery

Battery Commander	Major D. Kelly
Battery Sergeant Major	Warrant Officer Class Two D. Rayment

107th Field Battery

Battery Commander	Major R Vagg
Battery Sergeant Major	Warrant Officer Class Two D. Lehr

108th Field Battery

Battery Commander	Major C. Weller
Battery Sergeant Major	Warrant Officer Class Two T. Byrne

Operations Support Battery

Operations Officer	Major A. Fehlberg
Battery Sergeant Major	Warrant Officer Class Two B. Armstrong

Combat Service Support Battery

Battery Commander	Major M. Miller
Battery Sergeant Major	Warrant Officer Class Two A. Hooper

Since October 2003 the Regiment, mainly 107th Field Battery supported by specialist from other 3rd Brigade units, had members deployed on Operation Relex in Darwin. The contingent conducted border protection/interception tasks providing a protection force for RAN patrol boats. In early February this task was handed over to 1st Field Regiment and the contingent returned to Townsville on 3rd February 2004. The contingent performed exceptionally well during the rotation and had established an excellent working relationship with the RAN crew on the Patrol Boats. All members of the contingent commenced post deployment leave and returned to work on 23rd February.

The majority of 4th Field Regiment returned from annual leave on 2nd February and commenced conducting mandated training, regiment, battery briefings and brigade level briefings. Concurrently during the week HOTO of equipment by store holders commenced.

In the second week of February the Regiment completed its Weapon Block 1, Exercise Eye Relief 1. This exercise was focused at individual weapon training and consisted of training in the WTSS facility and live fire practices to qualify all members of the Regiment up to LF9 in accordance with the 1st Division Fire Power Policy. In the third week of February the Regiment conducted an ICT Gun course for all non RAA members and a RAA Safety Officers/Assistants course. During the remainder of February the Regiment concentrated on detachment level training prior to stepping up to sub-unit training in March.

The focus on training during April was towards preparation for Exercise Chau Pha. This training included the following elements:

- individual weapon training including live fire qualification practices,
- gun section level amphibious training,
- battery level air mobile training, simulated JOST technical missions and fire planning training,
- battery level deployment training,
- parachute continuation training by 'A' Field Battery in preparation for airborne operations on Exercise Arnhem with 3rd Battalion Royal Australian Regiment (3 RAR) during the end of May,
- JNCO leadership training conducted in Brisbane, and
- the conduct of a Brigade CPX.

Training

During the period 3rd - 21st May the Regiment minus 'A' Field Battery deployed to High Range Training Area (HRTA) to conduct Exercise Chau Pha. The purpose of the exercise was to confirm Battery / Regiment offensive support procedures through live firing in order to confirm technical and tactical proficiency of the Regiment was at an advanced training level ready to support 3rd Brigade during the Combined Arms Training Activity (CATA) in June. The Regiment performed well and achieved the required end state which was evidenced during the CATA. The exercise was supported by A Troop 111th Air Defence Battery from 16th Air Defence Regiment and a AMS and Radar Troop from 131st Surveillance and Target Acquisition Battery.

During the period 19th - 30th May 'A' Field Battery conducted airborne operations on Exercise Arnhem II with 3 RAR at Singleton. Due to the lack of airframe availability 'A' Field Battery could only parachute insert two guns however all available parachute qualified members in 'A' Field Battery completed the airborne insertion.

June was primarily focused on CATA within 3rd Brigade. Each gun battery conducted live fire offensive support with their allocated battalion group. The exercises included the following:

- 5th - 12th June, Exercise Black Widow, 108th Field Battery supported 2 RAR,
- 13th - 19th June, Exercise Balmoral, 107th Field Battery supported 1 RAR, and
- 21st - 30th June, Exercise Kapyong Warrior, 'A' Field Battery supported 3 RAR.

During 23rd - 24th June members of the Regiment north, travelled to Singleton to support 'A' Field Battery on Exercise Kapyong Warrior. The elements fell in on equipment provided by 23 Field Regiment and formed two x three gun sections each with a CP light and a small combined 0/0C. The support

enabled 'A' Field Battery to practice and exercise the unit in battery commander level fire planning and regimental missions.

The Regiment deployed to HRTA during 28th - 29th June to conduct Exercise Saint Vith. The purpose of the exercise was to assess the proficiency of the 4th Field Regiment CLOG in regimental mission procedures and the use of air burst ammunition.

During August the Regiment consolidated individual trade qualifications by conducting advance operator command post and advance gunners courses. Other training in August included individual weapon training and live fire qualification practices, EHC, IMT, Brigade Command Post Exercise (CPX) and parachute continuation training all in preparation for Exercise Swift Eagle, conducted during 1st - 30th September. Prior to deploying on Exercise Swift Eagle the Regiment conducted a three-day live firing exercise at HRTA. The focus was on regimental procedures and fire planning.

The Regiment conducted the following activities during Exercise Swift Eagle:

- airborne insertion with the PBG,
- amphibious insertion,
- conventional war fighting,
- EHC heavy and EHC light, and
- provided elements of the enemy force.

During October and November the Regiment will conduct the following activities:

- adventure training;
- specialist combat communicators course;
- detachment commander (bombardier) course; and
- C2 drivers course.

Ceremonial

The Officers' and Sergeants' Mess conducted a Regimental Dinner to celebrate the Regiment's 44th Birthday. Although the dinner was early by one month, having the Regiment together in the same location presented us with the perfect opportunity to dine together and celebrate our birthday.

The Regiment held an ANZAC Day Dawn Service. The service was well attended by unit members, families, guests, and the Royal Australian Artillery Association of North Queensland. The war stories were in full swing after breakfast once the bar opened and it was good to see the new guard interacting with the old guard. This year the 104th Field Battery Association held a reunion in Townsville over this weekend and a large section from their Association attended our Dawn Service. 'A' Field Battery held a Dawn Service in Sydney, which was well attended and was followed by the Battery marching in Sydney later in the day.

4th Field Regiment provided a Half Guard of Honour for the Papua New Guinea Chief of Defence Force, Commodore Illau, on the occasion of his visit to the 3rd Brigade, Lavarack Barracks, Townsville on 23rd June.

On 30th July 'A' Field Battery conducted a formal dinner to celebrate its 133rd Birthday. The dinner was a great night attended by serving members, Commanding Officer's and Regimental Sergeant Major's of 4th Field Regiment and 3 RAR.

On 7th August the Regiment assisted the North Queensland Royal Australian Artillery Association in conducting its annual dinner which was attended by 240 serving members, partners and Association members. The official guest at the dinner was the Commander Land Command Artillery (CLCA), Colonel Steve Goltz.

Sport

In March 'A' Field Battery sent a team to the annual Kapooka 10s Rugby competition and played well to be placed a creditable ninth. Two weeks later the Battery also sent a team down to compete in the annual 14s Aussie Rules competition and finished tenth.

The Regiment's cricket team took out the 'A' grade final giving 2 RAR a big touch up on the day.

'A' Field Battery came up from Sydney in early April to compete in the Regiment's winter sports competition, which was closely contested by each sub-unit. 107th Field Battery won the overall winter sports competition for 2004 and the individual sports results were:

- Basketball - 107th Field Battery,
- Hockey - 107th Field Battery,
- Australian Rules - 108th Field Battery,
- Soccer - 'A' Field Battery, and
- Rugby OP SPT/CSS Battery.

In Sydney 'A' Field Battery participated in the 3 RAR inter-company competition. Towards the end of the competition 'A' Field Battery are currently equal first in the competition however due to the Battery not being allowed to compete in the infantry section/platoon skills competition they are therefore not eligible to win the competition.

The 3rd Brigade winter sports grand final was held on 2nd September. The Regiment made the finals in five sports however on the day we could only manage to take away one title (triathlon). The teams to make the finals were:

- Rugby,
- Australian Rules,
- Soccer,
- Hockey, and
- Triathlon.

All sports clubs performed strongly throughout the year and we look forward to the challenges in 2005.

7th Field Regiment

The Regiment entered 2004 with the Commanding Officer Lieutenant Colonel John Wilson being granted an extra year. Major Stuart Seabrook entered as Operations Officer, with Captain Dhugald See as Adjutant whilst Captain Andrew Keogh was on deployment. The Regimental Sergeant Major is Warrant Officer Class One Greg Metcalf, Warrant Officer Class Two Glenn Ryan is Operations Warrant Officer and Sergeant Wayne Piggott is the Chief Clerk. The Battery Commanders are 28th Field Battery, Captain Warwick Young and 113th Field Battery, Major Sam Nicholson.

Exercise Armentiers

Exercise Armentiers was conducted by 7th Field Regiment at Singleton Training Area at the end of March. The exercise was conducted in two phases:

- *Phase 1.* Deployment Exercise - 19th - 21st March. This phase was conducted dry due to the ammunition suspension on the M739 fuse.
- *Phase 2.* Support to the Forward Air Controllers (FAC) Course - 22nd - 26th March. The Regiment provided smoke and illumination for the FAC to indicate targets.

The exercise was the first time for five months the Regiment had conducted a live firing exercise. With many changes in personnel it was a sound start with many lessons being learned by what is in essence a new team. The results of the exercise were good with all members working hard to achieve the exercise aims. Thanks go to 131st Surveillance and Target Acquisition Battery who provided a half AMS Troop, 8th Combat Service Support Battalion for a medical assistant and 1st Military Police Battalion for providing traffic control.

North Head Cocktail Party

The Regiment's soldiers, officers and guests enjoyed a cocktail party at North Fort on Sydney's North Head on 17th April. Highlights of the night included a tour of the fort, views of Sydney Harbour at night and some late night gale force winds.

ANZAC Day

The Regiment provided catafalque parties and speakers to a number of ANZAC day activities in the Northern Sydney, NSW Central Coast, and Newcastle Areas.

Exercise Morlan Court

Exercise Morlan Court was conducted at the Singleton Training Area during the period 7th - 9th May. The Regiment conducted direct firing and small arms training. The direct firing allowed for some revision for gun line personnel, training for section commanders as pre-course training prior to attending their module two regimental officer basic course and training for personnel on a non-continuous gun number course.

As well as completing the basic Army Individual Readiness Notice (AIRN) firing requirements, the Regiment was able to conduct a sneaker range practice. Continuation training was possible for night fighting equipment and this culminated in a night shoot after a navigation exercise using night vision goggles (NVG). Driver recovery training provided a rare opportunity for the movers of the Regiment to revise one of their basic skills.

Exercise Messines

Exercise Messines was conducted from 4th - 6th June. The exercise was an opportunity to practice Joint Offensive Support Team (JOST) level fire planning with illumination at night. After some difficulties with probing in the morning some hasty deployments were practised culminating in a live firing hasty deployment. Valuable training was provided to the JOST with their technical shooting skills and the gun line took full advantage of the opportunity to practise hasty deployments.

Parliament House Dinner

The officers of the Regiment had dinner in New South Wales Parliament house in late June. The dinner was an opportunity to mix with the elected representatives that serve the area from which most of our personnel are drawn. Greater understanding was created on both sides and an enjoyable evening was had by all.

Exercise Passchendale

Exercise Passchendale was conducted at the Singleton Training Area from 30th July - 1st August. During the exercise the Regiment conducted:

- live firing,
- vehicle convoy counter ambush drills,
- section attacks, and
- night navigation exercises.

As part of its recruiting campaign the Regiment invited to the exercise a newspaper reporter from the Hills News (a local biweekly in Sydney's Hills District). The results of this were beyond expectations. The reporter's experience on the weekend was so good that it resulted in significant newspaper articles with photographs published on three separate days.

Hills District Recruiting Drive

7th Field Regiment has embarked on a recruiting drive in the Hills District of Sydney. The Regiment plans to raise a troop of at least 30 personnel. The Regiment is utilising a number of activities to support the recruiting drive. The main activities are described in the paragraphs below.

Launch and Employer Information Session. Major General Warren Glenny launched the Regimental recruiting drive on 11th August. The Castle Hill Returned Services League provided a function room at no charge hire for the launch and the following information sessions. Other guests included Major General Irving Commander 2nd Division, Brigadier Melick Commander 8th Brigade, and the Honourable John Jobling, Chairperson of DRSC New South Wales.

The launch function was also used as an information session for employers and community leaders. The night showcased the benefits of having Reservists as employees and their value to the community. The response was excellent and genuine support and assistance was pledged by a number of the guests

Open Day. The Regiment conducted an Open Day at Castle Hill Showground on 14th August. The Open Day was one of several activities at the Castle Hill Showground over the weekend. This proved beneficial with extra members of the public attending the Showground. Stands and demonstrations included:

- ninox equipment in a dark room,
- gunline deployments,
- technical support troop workshop,
- JOST,
- battery command post,
- living in the field demonstration,
- machine gun firing blank ammunition from a weapon pit, and
- small arms display.

Whilst only five people expressed a specific desire to join 7th Field Regiment there were many more interested in a career in the ADF in general. Furthermore the profile of the Regiment within the Hills District was raised.

Hills District Information Sessions. Information sessions for those wishing to join the Army Reserve are being held at Castle Hill Returned Services League Club. Thanks to the activities mentioned above, the Regiment has had over 40 people attend the first two sessions. More information sessions are planned for each month leading up to Christmas.

8th/12th Medium Regiment

The year of 2004 has been a challenging, busy and successful year for the officers, warrant officers and soldiers of the Regiment. The Commanding Officer Lieutenant Colonel P.D. McLachlan has ensured that the provision of Offensive Support to the 1st Brigade has been the main focus of the year and this has borne fruit. The Regiment also deployed members overseas on operations, exchange and exercise. Not to be content, the Regiment has also been the overall champion sporting unit of the Premier Brigade!



M198 Firing, with round in the air! Photo by Captain Arlen Wendt

Operations

The Regiment has had individual members deployed on operations across the globe. We sent two officers and five soldiers to Iraq on Operation Catalyst - training the newly reconstituted Army of Iraq. A senior non commissioned officer was sent to the Sinai as a Multinational Force Observer. A JOST was also sent to the Solomon Islands as part of Operation Anode, restoring stability to our Pacific neighbour. Six soldiers were also deployed with the Royal Australian Navy in support of Operation Relex, guarding our nations maritime borders.

Overseas Deployments

The Regiment has sent individual members and teams to a number of international deployments. A forward observers assistant from the 103rd Medium Battery was sent to the 3rd Regiment Royal Horse Artillery on Exercise Long Look. Whilst there he participated in a number of Exercises, including a trip to the British Army Training Area Suffield - Canada. His opposite number had an equally rewarding time

with our Regiment, participating in three exercises and travelling to the east coast of Australia on a study tour.

A JOST was sent to Brunei with B Company 5th /7th Battalion Royal Australian Regiment (5/7 RAR) for a two week jungle training exercise with the Royal Brunei Land Forces. The trip provided the opportunity to train within a multinational force. The Regiment also contributed a platoon to an Rifle Company Butterworth rotation as part of a composite company from 1st Armoured Regiment. The officer and soldiers of the platoon were involved in infantry exercises and thoroughly enjoyed their time in Malaysia.

Gunnery Training

The Regiment's gunnery training began with the first battery live firing exercises in May 2004, Exercise Sphinx Thunder. Both batteries deployed to the field and refreshed themselves in their basic gunnery. Sphinx Thunder then proceeded to support to the Royal Military College in Exercise Beersheba.

Exercise Predators Gallop 2004 the 1st Brigade Exercise was conducted over July and August and involved stage 5 and 6 live firing at Mount Bundy Training Area followed by a force on force dry fire activity at Delamere. The exercise provided the Regiment the opportunity to conduct more advanced training including quick actions in support of live fire battle runs, artillery raids and live fire direct firing.



B Detachment 103rd Medium Battery, Gunner Bodycoat (No 2) and Gunner Ratcliffe (No 5)
Direct Firing at Mount Bundy Training Area during Exercise Predators Gallop 2004

Forward Air Controlling

2004 has seen close cooperation and several opportunities for mutual benefit training with 75 Squadron Royal Australian Air Force, the FA-18 squadron located at RAAF Base Tindall. The Regimental JOSTs conducted a five day Joint Terminal Attack Controller (JTAC) exercise, Exercise Sphinx Warrior in April 2004. The exercise provided qualified TACs with the opportunity to hone their skills and also gave other JOST members the opportunity to practice their Emergency Terminal Attack Controller (ETAC) drills. In October the Regiment will once again deploy to practice JTAC capabilities with 75 Squadron at Mount Bundy Training Area.

Sport

The Regiment has had an outstanding year in sporting endeavours. The following five teams were 2004 1st Brigade champions - Australian rules, triathlon, volleyball, squash and touch football. The soccer team was just defeated for second, whilst the following teams came in third place - rugby, waterpolo, basketball and golf. All in all an outstanding season with every team finishing in a medal position!

The Regiment also had a memorable 17-15 win in the rugby union Colonel Phillips Memorial Trophy on 1st April this year. The trophy is an annual contest between 5/7 RAR and 8th/12th Medium Regiment to commemorate Colonel Phillips who served as a forward observer in Vietnam with 7 RAR.

Ceremonial

The 62nd anniversary of the bombing of Darwin on the 19th February 1942 was commemorated with the 101st Medium Battery providing a section of guns and soldiers dressed in period uniforms to conduct a re-enactment, including blank small arms and artillery fire. A catafalque party was also provided for the memorial service. The event organisers expressed their strong thanks for the efforts of all participants.

The Regiment has also supported numerous displays and open days within the wider Darwin area, including at Mindil beach and contributed a detachment to navy week.

Conclusion

With 2004 almost complete the Regiment is concentrating on courses and maintenance to ensure a flying start to a busy 2005. After enjoying two years as Commanding Officer, Lieutenant Colonel P.D. McLachlan hands over command to Lieutenant Colonel G.W. Finney in January 2005.

The Regiment is looking forward to a promising future for the medium gun capability within the Royal Australian Artillery and is well prepared!



23 Field Regiment

The early new year saw nine members of the Regiment across the ditch in New Zealand for Exercise Tasman Reserve during the period 31st January-14th February. By all accounts it was a worthwhile experience for those involved and constituted a valuable opportunity to broaden member's military experience. Collective training began this year with a training weekend geared towards meeting AIRN obligations. It also presented a golden opportunity for the members to reinforce some of their basic soldier skills on the range and to shake off their summer holiday cobwebs on their basic fitness assesment run. In late March the Regt deployed to Holsworthy for Exercise Mechili with two separate gun batteries and a Regimental echelon. After such a relatively long break it was refreshing to find that overall drills were sound. Though, as with all exercises, some areas for improvement were highlighted.

With the departure of Lieutenant Colonel Greg McCauley the Regiment received its new commanding officer, Lieutenant Colonel Dominic Teakle who transferred from the Australian Regular Army. A new second in command, Major Craig Taggart, also joined the Regiment. The new commanding officer experienced his first annual Julis Dinner, in attendance was Colonel S. Goltz (CLCA) and officers of the Regiment both past and present, serving and retired. Judging by the stories the dining-in night was an outstanding success.

Congratulations to the following members of the Regiment for their promotions:

- Promotion to Lieutenant from Second Lieutenant- Hifa Fleximan and Toby Loch-Wilkinson;
- Promotion to Bombardier - Aaron Lee and Cameron MacGregor;
- Promotion to Lance Corporal - Iain Watkins; and
- Promotion to Lance Bombardier - Michael McGillion on his promotion to Lance Bombadier.

The Regiment commemorated Anzac Day at the Regiment's Headquarters in Kogarah. Joining members of the Regiment and their families, were the Colonel S. Goltz and his family, representatives of the Kogarah Returned Service League and members of the 23 Field Regiment Association. After the traditional gunfire breakfast a 40-minute service was held, followed by a breakfast in the Mess. Some members departed to the city for the march and various functions afterwards.

The Regiment spent the week-end 15th - 16th May training geared towards meeting AIRN obligations. Despite some teething problems with members understanding the new AIRN reporting requirements, it provided an excellent opportunity for members to focus on their individual readiness requirements.

On the Saturday night of that weekend the Sergeants Mess held their annual dining-in night, the smarter ones ensured they did their Basic Fitness Assessment on Saturday morning. The officers of the Regiment also used that evening to conduct some Officer Training in the form of a debate over the role of the Army Reserve.

Some members of the Regiment also participated in Exercise Ferris Wheel as part of the Regiment's commitment to the 5th Brigade Ready Response Force (RRF) Company. Exercise Ferris Wheel was conducted at Australia's Wonderland, an amusement park that had closed down the previous week. By all accounts there were some positive training outcomes from the exercise, at the very least training in a new and unfamiliar environment.

The Regiment deployed two call signs consisting of a two gun and a three gun battery to Singleton for Exercise Tel El Eisa. After a minor delay (due to the Royal Australian Navy testing weapons for operations in the Persian Gulf) the Regiment commenced live firing and had a successful weekend. The Exercise was designed to reinforce core gunnery skills. By all account, the new cold weather clothing performed admirably in what was a chilly Singleton weekend.

During the June long weekend, the Regiment fired a 21 gun salute to commemorate the Queen's Birthday at the Man'O'War Jetty by the Sydney Opera House. On the day the Regiment's Band also performed to a crowded harbour foreshore.

23 Field Regiment held the 5th Brigade courses camp at Holsworthy during the period 2nd - 17th July with the following courses being conducted:

- Detachment Commander Course
- Gun Number Module Three, and
- OPCP Module One and Two.

Soldiers from 'A' Field Battery and 7th Field Regiment also participated during the courses camp with 7th Field Regiment providing instructor support.

Trainee of Merit on each of the courses was:

- Detachment Commander - Gunner Lucas Allegretto (A Fd Battery);
- Gun Course Module Three - Private Michael Nolan (23 Field Regiment);
- OPCP Module One - Gunner Matthew English (23 Field Regiment); and
- OPCP Module Two - Gunner Eric Bridge (23 Field Regiment).

7th Field Battery

2004 saw a busy start to the training year for 7th Field Battery. The Battery opened the calendar with Exercise Tarakan, courses and support activities, including the official opening of the Rockingham MUD with the Battery already manning one detachment in the MUD after the unofficial opening that only occurred in the last quarter of 2003. The Battery fully expects to be able to man two detachments at Rockingham by the end of 2004. Exercise Tarakan was an infantry minor tactics exercise, where the Battery conducted a small arms live fire defence of the gun position, an AIRN practice and a sneaker practice.

The Battery has run a large number of non continuous courses in 2004. These include regimental officer basic course module 1, advanced gunners, gunner grade 1 module 3, M2A2 conversion, ICT, RAA safety officers, basic combat communicators course, specialist combat communicators course, operator command post module 1, and the supervisor offensive support general leg courses. In addition to this the Battery has also run a number of non RAA specific courses throughout the year. This was done to ensure that as many members of the Battery as possible are rank and trade qualified. The Battery continues to provide a large amount of support to 13th Brigade in various support tasks. The Battery also continued to provide strong support to the Australian Federation Guard, most notably in the form of the Battery Guide and four Number Ones for the Australia Day Salute held in Canberra.

The Battery only saw one change to the hierarchy in 2004 and this insured a smooth transition into the new year from 2003. The key appointments for 2004 are listed below:

- Battery Commander (GRes) - Major Scott Sullivan;
- Battery Captain (GRes) - Captain Paul Sofield;
- Training Officer (ARA) - Captain Michael Hartas;
- Sergeant Major Instructor in Gunnery (ARA) - Warrant Officer Class Two Dion McRae;
- Battery Guide (GRes) - Warrant Officer Class Two Ian Hodgkins; and
- Battery Quarter Master Sergeant (ARA) - Warrant Officer Class Two Col Turner.

Warrant Officer Class Two McRae started his new role after finishing 2003 at the Royal Military College Duntroon and he took up the position on promotion. He took over from Warrant Officer Class Two, Matthew Sullivan. Warrant Officer Class Two Sullivan enjoyed a very rewarding and challenging two years at 7th Field Battery and is now posted to The School of Artillery at Lark Hill in the United Kingdom, initially instructing on AS90 (Detachment Commander) courses. He was awarded the Australia Day Medallion for his service to the Battery in 2002 and 2003. Officers and Gunners of the Battery have been left in good standing due to his exceptional efforts and they wish him well in the future.

After Exercise Tarakan the focus of the Battery was directed onto Exercise Amiens and an associated ARTEP in March. While a formal ARTEP was not conducted, the Battery was able to go through its paces and benefit from detailed feedback provided by the visiting CLCA, Colonel S. Goltz, and his party. It might be worth noting that the Battery was able to successfully conduct valuable training during this exercise where the temperatures averaged 45 degrees throughout. At this stage, as well, our three members who had participated in the 03/04 RCB deployment to Malaysia had returned to service with the Battery. In addition to the exercise the primary focus of the Battery from the beginning of 2004 has been on Reserve Response Force (RRF) training, recruiting, AIRN compliance, and maintaining rank and trade within the Battery.

Exercise Vivi was conducted in May and was aimed at AIRN compliance with a LF3 shoot, medical assessments and gun, transport and signals training being conducted. During the May-June period several non-continuous courses were completed; advanced gunner, gunner grade 1 module 3, and ICT course

being the most notable of these. The Battery deployed three fully manned and qualified gun detachments on Exercise Return to Amiens, during the period 25th - 27th June. The non-continuous supervisor offensive support course was completed in July.

The end of July brought about a change in hierarchy, with Warrant Officer Class Two Dion McRae electing to take discharge. Warrant Officer Class Two Ian Hodgkins stepped into the breach and took on the role using reserve training days. The Battery farewelled Warrant Officer Class Two McRae from the Army at the Battery Birthday dinner that was held at the start of July. The unit wishes Dion and his family well as they adjust to their new lifestyle and involvement in the family business.

Exercise Return to Amiens was a priority effort for the Battery with attendance at this exercise at one of the highest levels in six years. This Exercise saw three fully manned guns taken to the field with the fourth gun being very close to deployment. The growth of the Rockingham troop has certainly contributed to this capability growth. With recruiting continuing strongly in this area it is expected the Battery will continue to strengthen and there is strong expectation that there will be the opportunity to attempt to open a fifth gun in the future. It must be noted that the Rockingham Troop now has manning for almost two guns, with driver support, with one full gun detachment already fully rank and trade qualified. The effort put in by the Troop in attendance at home training and at continuous and non-continuous training courses has been excellent.

During July and August several more non-continuous courses were completed; the Supervisor Offensive Support General Leg being amongst these. The completion of this course means the Battery has been able to qualify 35 personnel this year in rank and trade proficiencies. The busy training environment has been beneficial to the unit, in qualifying personnel and to the individuals involved through the variety of training that has been conducted. The unit non-commissioned officer's also benefited from the opportunities provided by the instructional workload.

The Battery continued to maintain its efforts in 2004 in support of Brigade tasks and other unit support as requested. Battery members were keen to support task requirements from SASR, with two members returning from the recent Patrol Course. The Battery has also provided four personnel for the next Operation Relex rotation. These four members equate to a third of the strength provided by 13th Brigade. The section commander and the section second-in-command for this deployment are both Battery members and we are very proud of this very strong contribution. The Battery was additionally tasked with the operational preparation of the members for Relex and the Training Officer, Captain Hartas, took on this task with commendable enthusiasm and expertise. This was a huge task considering that the unit was only given effectively two full working days to get these people ready for deployment. All members left the Brigade fully compliant and ready to deploy in all respects.

7th Field Battery has also assisted 48th Battery in this period by providing a safety party for their live firing exercises in both July and September. We will also be providing that Battery with a fully manned gun detachment for their annual field exercise in October (titled Exercise Travelling Gunner at our end).

Recruit numbers have continued to increase during the year. As indicated earlier, it is expected that the Troop at the Rockingham MUD will have grown to two complete gun detachments at the end of 2004.

The second Battery live firing exercise for the year, Exercise Crete, was conducted in September and involved the gunline carrying out a number of activities that have not been conducted for many years. These included a battery commander's event based fireplan, the deployment of a pistol gun that was withdrawn under the support of the remainder of the gunline, quick actions, and a direct fire activity supported by the remainder of the gunline providing a smoke screen whilst engaging. The Battery also conquered the northern sand dunes of Lancelin that for many years have caused our battery leaders much heartache.

2004 has been a year of many challenges. The Battery has worked very hard and has reaped the rewards as a result. Attendance, at home training and on courses, has been very strong. This commitment has allowed the Battery to strengthen itself across all areas and, in particular, its non-commissioned ranks. The strong growth in rank and trade qualified members has meant we can now provide a coherent succession plan for all key appointments for the next few years. Our unit SOP's, introduced in 2003, have been tested and updated. We have made good use of our AAR's and modified our training accordingly. Our experience continues to grow with almost a quarter of our current strength having participated on an

operational deployment. However, we still need to maintain our focus on the basics and, notwithstanding our solid performance this year, we still have a great deal of room for improvement. It is by doing the simple things well that we hope to progress.

7th Field Battery faces a large change in hierarchy for 2005, with many of the members in key positions moving on. It will, however, continue to grow and looks forward to the challenge. The results achieved in 2004 have provided a solid foundation and the Battery can confidently expect to continue to grow capability.

16th Field Battery

Introduction

At the end of 2003 we had a changeover of our full-time members with, Warrant Officer Class Two Osmond, Sergeant Ravenscroft, Sergeant Sackley and Corporal McCaffery leaving the Unit. To fill the void we welcomed Warrant Officer Class Two Shaun Graham as new the Sergeant Major Instructor in Gunner, Sergeant Ian Moorehouse as the new Technical Support Troop Sergeant, Sergeant Rod Sharman as the new Battery Quartermaster Sergeant, Sergeant Carol Batten as the new Chief Clerk, and Corporal Sullivan as the new transport supervisor.

We also farewelled Lyndal Kimpton, our ASO2, and welcomed Margaret Reid to fill her role. The part-time element of the Battery saw a number of changes as well with a number of transfers to both the full-time force and to other reserve units around the country, and we also lost a few members to the inactive reserve and to discharge. On the positive side we managed to recruit a number of new members into the unit and our overall numbers are quite stable. Our Training Officer Captain Julian West was deployed overseas for six months on Operation Catalyst with Captain Mick Badkin filling in for him whilst he was away.

Training

The Battery early in the year was on reducing our TFE numbers. To this end many soldiers are starting to nominate for IET as well promotional and trade courses. The unit is ran some training within house to also reduce this with OJT and completion in some cases of RCC. During April the unit conducted its second live firing exercise for the year. This proved interesting, as we had visitors from Land Command Arty and Joint Ammunition Logistics Organisation Medium Calibre. Thanks to Medium Calibre we had some extra ammunition to fire, as they wanted to observe the results. These extra rounds allowed us to use the MVME, something that had not been done for a period of time.

May saw the unit gear up for its annual infantry minor tactics activity. The aim of this activity was again was the reduction of outstanding soldier competencies. With several range practices and other activities designed to test the soldiers skills and to teach new ones.

The weekend of 22nd - 23rd May saw the Battery deploy to Buckland Training Area for Exercise Ubique Challenge, the annual infantry minor tactics exercise. The Exercise was a success and saw the Battery divided into section groups to complete a 'Bullring' of activities. The activities were designed so they could be related to the gunline and gave soldiers some hands on with weapons and equipment they do not often use.

A major bonus for the Queens Birthday weekend was the successful completion of many competencies necessary for gunner grade 1.

A training weekend was conducted in July. Despite the Battery only managing to put one gun and a command post into the field, the weekend was a great success. The weekend tested the Battery at all levels with training focused on the shortfalls of the ARTEP.

The Battery annual courses camp was conducted at Stoney Head Range. The Battery conducted a gunner grade 1, module 3.

Recruiting

During the year we a have developed a pro-active recruiting program, run by an enthusiastic group of non-commissioned officers, and we run regular information nights which are generally well attended. We also ran recruiting stands at a number of events around the state; these will include local youth expos and events such as Targa.

Ceremonial

The unit supported ANZAC Day, the finishing gun of the Sydney to Hobart Yacht Race, and Australia Day in a variety of ways. The weekend of 12th June saw the Battery conduct the Queen's Birthday Salute at the Domain Cenotaph. With a quiet crowd gathered to watch the Battery it certainly turned into a good Public Relations exercise.

Adventurous Training

Towards the end of the year the unit is planning to conduct some adventure training, initial planning is for selected members to complete the Overland Track over a period of 4 to 5 days.

Gunner Dinner

The weekend of 14th/15th August saw the annual Gunner Dinner held at Anglesea Barracks. The dinner brought together the Gunner community from all over Tasmania. There were five past Battery Commanders of 16th Field Battery and three past Commanding Officers of 6th Field Regiment as well as many former officers and soldiers. The Acting Governor of Tasmania, His Excellency Lieutenant Governor the Honourable Mr Justice Cox AC, RFD, ED, himself a past Commanding Officer attended the dinner.

The Acting Governor had the pleasure to promote two long serving Battery members to the rank of sergeant at the Dinner. Sergeant Jason Eddington and Sergeant David Sommerville, received a big congratulations from all the members of Battery for a well-deserved promotion.

48th Field Battery

January - February

48th Field Battery recommenced the training year on 20th January 2004 with officers and senior non-commissioned officers parading to meet the new Cadre staff: Captain Antoni Furman Operations Officer; Warrant Officer Class Two Kym O'leary Sergeant Major Instructor in Gunnery; Ron Fairhall Chief Clerk and Ray McIntyre Transport Corporal to discuss objectives for the year.

Farewells included Captain Nick Bolton to Combat Training Centre Townsville, Warrant Officer Class Two Mick Gray to Regional Training Centre-South Australia, Sergeants Stephen Foster to Sydney, Greg Forrest to the School of Artillery, Andrew Trebilcock to Darwin, Raymond Chopping to 16th Air Defence Regiment, and Corporal Tracey Golding to Perth.

With 80% of the Cadre staff being new to the job and only five of the ten Cadre positions being filled, the start of the year was somewhat turbulent, as the new team becomes familiar with the new environment.

The Battery Commander Major Bill Kierns outlined the key objectives for the year as retention, recruiting, individual and trade training and the serviceability of the sub-units M2A2s.

With a posted strength of 65 it was encouraging to see an average parade attendance of approximately 40 members for the January-February period. The unit to meet 2nd Division and 9th Brigade instructions for individual and trade training ran several trade courses. The courses run included safety officer, gunner grade 1 module 3, advanced gunner and C2 drivers course.

The year commenced well for 48th Field Battery. The Battery continued to conduct a variety of trade courses throughout the year with the training being reinforced over several live firing exercises. Gun serviceability was the only major issue effecting training.

On the books the Battery can currently man three detachments, a command post and JOST party. With up to eight recruits undertaking training the Battery's manning is set to rise and potentially see the raising of a fourth detachment.

March

The Battery was very busy during March with the focus being on individual non-continuous trade related courses and AIRN/IMT training. The Battery prepared for its first deployment to Murray Bridge Training Area on 26th -28th March to conduct Exercise Straight Shooter primarily concentrating on AIRN weapons proficiency and a section level infantry minor tactics exercise involving all personnel of the battery.

The Battery has been very successful in its recruitment drive since the start of 2004 with Bombardier Gary Aldridge, the Battery CURLO, successfully recruiting four Gunners and a RACT Driver. Since 1st July 2003 one officer and twelve other ranks been recruited. Key personnel from the Battery have also attended all enlistment ceremonies conducted at the Defence Centre Adelaide this year involving new recruits to the Battery.

On 2nd March three guns (Alpha, Bravo and Echo) departed the Battery to Bandiana for technical inspection and repair. Members of the Battery visited HMAS Canberra on the 16th March, which at the time was conducting work up trials prior to deployment overseas. On the 20th - 21st March the Battery participated in a 9th Brigade BRF call out activity. As well for a change of pace on the same week-end Battery members supported the Clipsal 500 Motor Race. Finally in March on the 18th - 26th March the Battery provided round out support to 7th Field Battery.

April

48th Field Battery continued its suite of non-continuous courses to qualify unit personnel in necessary trade courses in accordance with 2nd Division Commanders Directives. April also included Battery Ready Reaction Force (RRF) personnel participating in the 9th Brigade RRF activity over 3rd-4th April. Three M2A2s returned from Bandiana from technical inspection and repair. This allowed the Battery to become compliant with TRF requirements and gear up for the first artillery live firing exercise for the year at Murray Bridge over 16th -18th April. This coincided with the 2nd Division Commanders visit to see the Battery in the field. 48th Field Battery deployed one gun, CP and JOST in order to qualify several Battery members as Gunner Mod 1 and 3 as well as Advance Gunner. The Battery also committed to the ANZAC Day parade where, for the first time, the Battery marched with 'C' gun in tow parading the unit's colours.

May

Corporate governance issues have dominated the day to day running and training of 48th Field Battery. Several new and revised initiatives were introduced to bring security, fraud management, personnel management, OH&S, TFE management and importantly the Battery maintenance management plan on line to a level where the Battery Reserve chain of command can effectively manage and maintain these issues. This culminated in May where the unit became TRF compliant and was recognised as an Accredited Maintenance Organisation.

48th Field Battery broke with the traditional two-week exercise period and experimented with two one week live firing exercises to encourage Reservist commitment to activities and lessen the burden on their civilian employers. The exercise consisted of rounding out several non-continuous courses (BCCC/SCCC) and to conduct live firing exercises to qualify personnel and reinforce trade training. Two guns, one command post and one JOST deployed to Cultana for the exercise.

June - July

48th Field Battery had several commitments over this period including the salute for the Queen's Birthday on King William Street in Adelaide. The Battery's commitment to the RRF of one-section and liaison officers participated in another RRF activity. The Battery also deployed to Murray Bridge to conduct AIRN currency and qualification shoots for F88 and F89.

The Battery conducted a command post exercise on a training day incorporating the JOST in the IFOT room, the command post and guns to practice technical gunnery procedures and reinforce skills and trade training. This was done in preparation for a two day live firing exercise at Murray Bridge where the Battery deployed with two guns, command post and JOST. The exercise was supported by two safety appointments from 7th Field Battery that significantly improved the training value of the exercise by allowing all 48th Field Battery members to train in their usual field roles.

Recruiting and trade training were ongoing activities. After completing basic training at ARTC most new recruits went on to complete their initial trade courses at respective trade schools - mainly the School of Artillery and ALTC. This has been a successful process that manages to keep the Battery TFE low and provide trained personnel to fill out mainly gun and driver positions.

August

No major weekend activities were scheduled for August. A one day command post exercise was conducted to develop trade competency and confidence in the JOST, command post and gun line. This coincided with 48th Field Battery providing JOSCC support to 10/27 RSAR who conducted a staff military appreciation process under assessment by CTC BCW. 48th Field Battery also held a dining in night late in August at the Marion Returned Services League.

September

September was a busy month for the Battery. The School of Artillery sent a fly-away IFOT training team to conduct an IFOT operator's course at 48th Field Battery. The course panel consisted of members from 48th Field Battery and 7th Field Battery. The course was extremely valuable in providing qualified personnel to both Battery's to enhance JOST training capabilities. On the same week 48th Field Battery and elements of P&EE Port Wakefield conducted a 19 gun salute to mark the opening of parliament in King William Street Adelaide.

The Battery also conducted its annual unit stocktake with the sub-unit parading to account for all principal items and generally reorganise all functional areas within the Battery. Ongoing maintenance also occurred with the Battery's fourth gun receiving a technical inspection by the technical support troop element. The transport cell was also successful in managing the fleet of vehicles through JLU-S. All Battery vehicles are now on line, tech inspected and serviceable. The Battery now has an almost complete suite of vehicles and gun equipment's ready for exercise.

Due to the busy schedule for September, the only weekend free to conduct an artillery live firing exercise coincided with the AFL grand final. In spite of Port Adelaide's inaugural appearance, 48th Field Battery deployed to Cultana with two guns, command post and JOST with safety staff appointments from 7th Field Battery and 16th Field Battery supporting the activity. The Cultana Training Area is significantly larger than Murray Bridge and afforded greater training value in gun deployments and technical shooting. In spite of the heat, dust and flies, the Battery exercised technical shooting and gun deployments over a much larger range as well as training and qualifying personnel in a variety of natures of ammunition.

October

The tempo of activities has not let up from September with the Battery entering a section in the 9th Brigade military skills competition. The section took honours in the AACFF and river crossing activities. Unfortunately this was not enough for the South Australian Gunners to win the competition.

Later in October the Battery RRF members will participate in another RRF weekend activity. The increasing demands of the RRF have presented major problems in the training and interest of soldiers in the unit. The unexpected and increased imposition of RRF commitments has reduced members' ability to be available for Battery activities and training. This has hampered the Battery's build up to its second one-week live firing exercise to be conducted at Murray Bridge and Cultana. The exercise aims to maintain currency in AIRN, qualify members on new weapon systems and qualify and reinforce members' trade training.

131st Surveillance & Target Acquisition Battery

2004 has provided the opportunity for 131st Surveillance & Target Acquisition Battery to concentrate on its core business while managing a host of interesting developments. At the forefront has been the continued work to progress to vast range of issues in order to raise the Surveillance & Target Acquisition Regiment incorporating a TUAV capability delivered under JP 129.

The year commenced with a number of personnel waiting to see if they would be incorporated into a MEAO deployment on Operation Catalyst. In the end, one member from the Battery supported the first Iraqi Army Training Team. Fortunately for an additional three members of the Battery, they were selected for the second Training Team rotation that deployed in early September. While some were preparing for operational tours, the remainder of the Battery was gearing up for what ended up being a very busy training year.

The Battery started off with the mandatory induction training, range shoots and basic fitness assessment. The Headquarters element for the Battery is as follows:

- Battery Commander – Major Nathan Loynes,
- Operations Officer – Captain Rob Tierney,
- Quartermaster – Captain Darryl Lyons, and
- Battery Sergeant Major – Warrant Officer Class One Danny McGinley.

The month of February saw the Battery conduct a driver's course, Battery Command Post Exercise (Exercise Ballistic Intercept), support to the Deployable Joint Force Headquarters (DJFHQ) Vital Series of Command Post Exercises and troop training.

The Exercise Ballistic Intercept was a first for the Battery utilising the JANUS simulation system, conducting CBF, survey and surveillance operations utilising a synthetic and interactive environment was a new experience for many, but the activity was a huge success and set the tone for the remainder of the year. In 2005 the Battery will be conducting a similar activity, but with a better simulation system.

Exercises in South East Queensland, deployments to Darwin and Townsville for Brigade command post exercises and gun regiment supports prepared the unit's Target Acquisition and AMS assets in preparation for Exercise Raging Dragon. Simultaneously, Surveillance Troop was conducting a pilot Surveillance Patrol Course, designed to enhance the technical, tactical and survivability skills of this evolving capability. The final test would come on Exercise Raging Dragon, a unit exercise and ARTEP in July.

The month of March started off with the 1st Weapon Locating Troop (1 WLT) deploying to Wide Bay Training Area (WBTA) on Exercise Lone Pine. The aim of the exercise was to practice the Troop in deploying as part of a Fire Support Base (FSB) and to conduct Individual Military Training concurrently. The Troop with engineer assistance 'dug in' the TPQ-36 and individual pits and conducted a patrolling program as part of the defence plan. The Surveillance Troop was deployed in the enemy role and provided detailed situation reports / imagery of the developing FSB. On the last night, as if by que, tropical (rain/cyclone/tornado) depression hit WBTA with up to 100mm of rain falling. The Troop conducted a tactical night with drawl from the FSB after heavy enemy fire which was made all the more confusing as vehicles had to negotiate around 'the now' boggy ground.

The 2nd Weapon Locating Troop (2 WLT) Headquarters deployed to Darwin as part of the 1st Brigade Combat Training Centre, they were followed by elements of the Troop a week later after the Military Appreciation Process was conducted. The Surveillance Troop was already deployed with 1 WLT at WBTA as the enemy surveillance detachment. This gave the guys an opportunity to practice the

deployment of detachments and equipment in various 'Brick' configurations. The Surveillance Troop conducted a Ground Surveillance Radar Trial on the AMSTAR, which continued on into early April. The remainder of the month saw the guys practice/refine their observation post drills and patrolling skills based on previous lessons learnt from East Timor and refined with 4th Battalion Royal Australian Regiment Reconnaissance/Medium Reconnaissance Force Training programs and orders. The Battery Commander, Operations Officer and Operations Warrant Officer continued to support the DJFHQ suite of command post exercises and conferences that included the Vital Series and Exercise Tempest Express.

The month of May saw the Battery spread all over the country and as a consequence those left in Brisbane were in rear details mode for most of the period. The Battery Headquarters supported by staff from 2 WLT participated in Exercise Vital Prospect that saw the DJFHQ deploy to WBTA. 1 WLT and some 2 WLT members and the Artillery Meteorology Section (AMS) and Combat Service Support (CSS) elements supported Exercise Chau Pha in the High Range Training Area (HRTA). The Troops were able to train in their normal environment / role of providing weapon locating support to a Regiment (4th Field Regiment in this case). The exercise tested most elements of the Battery in their roles and prepared them for the Battery's annual exercise - Exercise Raging Dragon in July. The radar crews were all new and it was a great opportunity for the guys to test their Standard Operating Procedures. The AMS Troop deployed providing 24/7 meteorological and survey support around the clock utilising not only the members from the Battery, but also the AMS Section from 4th Field Regiment.

While most of the Battery was away, Surveillance Troop continued with its training program leading up to Exercise Raging Dragon. Their training included observation post training at the Night Training Facility, camera training, and VISAT trial support and training. Surveillance Troop also conducted a patrol course at WBTA, which was designed to practice the tactical skills of the surveillance sections in both day and night, operations. The Battery also conducted a NFE Advanced Operators Course in the later half of May.

In June the Battery finally got back together in Brisbane after the busy previous months supporting other units across the country. Surveillance Troop completed their patrol course. The troop came away with a lot of lessons learnt and significant changes to load configurations especially when using the MSTAR and other surveillance devices. 1 & 2 WLT's conducted a range week, which included 9mm, F88 (sneaker), F89 and F1 grenade practices.

On 10th June the Battery celebrated its 52nd Birthday with the unit gathering for a cutting of the cake and consuming mountains of food supplied by the cooks.

The unit put on a display for the RSM-A and his conference delegates. This gave the senior RSMs the chance to look at our equipment and capabilities as well as the chance to talk to the soldiers. On the same day the Battery also hosted Colonel Arthur Burke - Colonel Commandant Northern Region, who had the chance to again look at the units equipment in detail and to talk to the members of the unit over an afternoon tea.

The Locating Artillery Association invited members from the unit to attend their Queens Birthday weekend re-union at Coffs Harbour. The Battery supplied a catafalque party for a remembrance ceremony with the Battery Commander and Battery Sergeant Major attending as official guests. The soldiers enjoyed themselves immensely and were accordingly looked after by the association members. A great time was had by all.



Major Nathan Loynes cuts 'the cake' with Gunner Lachlan Manning

In July the Battery conducted Exercise Raging Dragon, which is the Battery's annual exercise. All troops deployed including the general reserve elements and was supported by 1st Field Regiment and 6th Battalion Royal Australian Regiment. The exercise was designed to be a short notice activity exercising all the Battery's capabilities deployed as a united surveillance target acquisition troop. Additionally, the conduct of a Commander Land Command Artillery ARTEP provided an independent assessment on the Battery. As far as exercises go, it was far from standard, with the Battery digging in for the first time in many years. Fortunately, 2nd Combat Engineer Regiment was able to assist by digging some fairly large holes for two AN/TPQ-36 weapon locating radars and an AMS command post. The greatest challenge for the soldiers were the three days spent developing their positions. It was rumoured that C/S 13 had a 10 sandbag entry fee onto their position. Throughout, 105th Field Battery and 6 RAR supported with gun and mortar support providing CBF and hostile battery targets. While the radars were tracking rounds the surveyors were enjoying the experience of all night conventional survey operations in support of a gun raid. Simultaneously, a surveillance detachment was observing a host of targets from afar. The exercise culminated with a four hour Counter Battery Fire Plan that tested the effectiveness of each surveillance and target acquisition element deployed. Exercise Raging confirmed the Battery's readiness to execute surveillance and target acquisition operations, but also provided experiences that few will forget



Catafalque Party at Coffs Harbour

During August the Battery Command Group was busily preparing for an Establishment Review to create the structure for the future Surveillance & Target Acquisition Regiment. An enormous amount of work went into this review with a positive outcome justifying the effort. All things going well, the three Battery Regiment is likely to be officially raised at some point in late 2006 and evolve over the following years. Lieutenant Colonel Phil Swinsburg has been appointed as the Commanding Officer designate from 2005 onwards. He and a small team will initially be responsible for raising the unit and implementation of the TUAV capability. He will also work closely with 131st Surveillance & Target Acquisition Battery to effect the migration of the Battery under the command of a Regimental structure, while continuing to manage the other new capability initiatives (ICATS, TSS, GSR, UGS, AOS, AN/TPQ-36 LOTE).



AN/TPQ-36 Radar 'Dug In'

During the review Surveillance Troop conducted another patrol course and the remainder of the Battery conducted a combat fitness assessment and commenced battle preparation for Exercise Swift Eagle the key training for the year. The Battery started off September with Surveillance Troop and a headquarters element from 1 WLT conducting battle preparation for Exercise Swift Eagle. The Battery deployed two surveillance detachments and a headquarters element to the fictitious island of Capronesia (North Queensland) to provide short to medium range continuous tactical battle space surveillance for the collection of timely combat information for the 3rd Brigade. It was a very successful deployment, providing the opportunity to proof the surveillance training now conducted within the unit. The exercise gave the new Surveillance Troop members the exposure to the likely tasks that they will receive in the near future. The exercise was the culmination of the Surveillance Training Package conducted in August. The remainder of the Battery prepared for Exercise Swift Atom, which was a Troop level exercise at SWBTA. This exercise introduced the Gunners off the latest IET AMS & Radar courses in the tactical aspects of Surveillance and Target Acquisition with live firing from 1st Field Regiment (Exercise

Premier Gunner) providing the opportunity for tracking targets. The new soldiers were able to take their training to the tactical level and a lot of were lessons learnt along the way. This exercise as well as Exercise Swift Eagle gave Battery members the opportunity to be placed (as close as possible to) in their 2005 manning positions.

In November the Battery will conduct adventure training in South West Tasmania traversing several walks over 85 kilometres of mountainous terrain. This month will also see several dinners and functions to wrap up the year. These include an Other Ranks Dinner with Ron Hartman (World War Two Veteran & a former Battery Sergeant Major) and Lofty Hayes (Vietnam Veteran & a former Troop Sergeant Major) as the official guests. The Battery Commander Major Nathan Loynes will be farewelled at a Regimental Dinner and the Battery will come together for their Christmas function and kids Christmas party to finish off.

As the year draws to a close, the Battery prepares for the now routine array of courses and administrative checks. Major Glen Marshall will take up command of the Battery next year. His time will be filled with a host of exciting developments that will see a suite of new surveillance systems introduced, a replacement to conventional survey and continuation of work to extend the life of the AN/TPQ-36. Finally, TUAV will be progressed and the Surveillance and Target Acquisition Regiment raised in order to revolutionise STA operations.

Congratulations to the following members of the Battery on their promotions:

- Promotion to Bombardier/Lance Bombardier - Bombardier Trent Kennedy and Lance Bombardier Tim Liesegang.
- Promotion to Sergeant - Sergeant Neil Bertram, Sergeant Jason Skews.



School of Artillery

Fire Support Wing

Fire Support Wing continues to provide excellence in training through the professional knowledge and capabilities of the instructors posted to the school. The focus throughout the year has been to ensure training is up to date, relevant and delivered at the appropriate time of a soldier/Officers career. This has seen a complete review of training management packages (TMP) in consultation with Artillery Trade Policy and is continuing to progress. It is evident by the standard of trainees attending courses that they have very little time to conduct pre-course training and therefore it has placed significant pressure on the instructors and trainees to work together to minimise additional work requirements. However the standard of trainee returning to the unit is generally very good.

The Wing has trained over 450 trainees during the reporting period. In addition to training a number of the instructors have been involved in the review of doctrine, TMPs and have had involvement in minor projects including IFSCS and the ISGC. The demands of training have continued to shift and it is a testament to the instructors within the wing that they have been able to accept change and provide continual improvement in training.

The demands of training and the professional knowledge and standards required of instructors will not change and the challenge for next year is to continue the development of training through the application of new technology and techniques where appropriate.

Surveillance and Target Acquisition Wing

The year 2004 has been a busy one for Surveillance and Target Acquisition (STA) Wing. The highlights have included the conduct of the normal range of STA courses, the establishment of a simulation facility within the wing to enhance realism in training and the continued contribution to six capability acquisition projects. And finally, the introduction into service of one of the Land 53 NINOX capabilities commenced during the year. The long-anticipated Thermal Surveillance System finally appeared in the wing and is now being introduced into Army service.

Ground Based Air Defence Wing

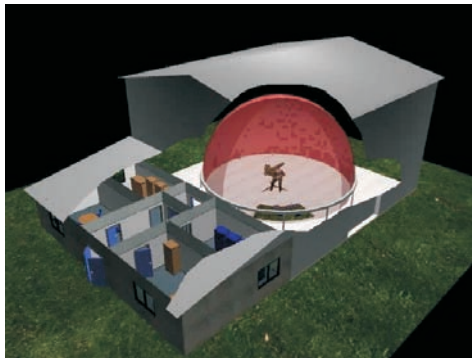
The last 12 months have been both very busy and productive for Ground Based Air Defence (GBAD) Wing. The identification of missile number as a critical trade, coupled with the significant increase to 16th Air Defence Regiment manning, has seen a sharp increase in the number of trainees coming through the Wing. As with all things, the cause and effect of an increase in the number of Initial Employment Trainees being taught, will see GBAD Wing increase its training tempo as these soldiers attend future career courses.

We welcomed in a number of new staff members over the past 12 months. A new Senior Instructor Major Robert Shearman, Instructor in Gunnery Captain Christian Hamilton, fresh from the UK, two new training Sergeant Major Instructor in Gunnery, Warrant Officer Class Two's Markus Scheidl and Troy Aspden joined the Wing in January. Warrant Officer Class Two Scheidl was made up into the position and Warrant Officer Class Two Aspden has arrived fresh from a tour of duty with the 16th Air Defence Regiment personnel attached to Ships company HMAS Kanimbla in the Persian Gulf Operation Slipper/Falconer. Another 'War Vet', Sergeant Kelly (Witty) Witt also joined our ranks and Sergeant Bill Gaythwaite arrived in Puckapunyal, also from 16th Air Defence Regiment. Not exactly new, Bombardier James Kolozsi arrived back in August 2003 from again an attachment to Ships Company HMAS Kanimbla in the Persian Gulf Operation Slipper/Falconer.

GBAD Wing also ceased training on/and returned its upgraded Rapier BIM Launchers. As part of the Rapier Buy-in project and the ramping up of the introduction of Land 19 Phase 6. This has seen a great

deal of work take place such as the amending of TMPs, lesson plans and doctrine all of which the Wing has been heavily involved in.

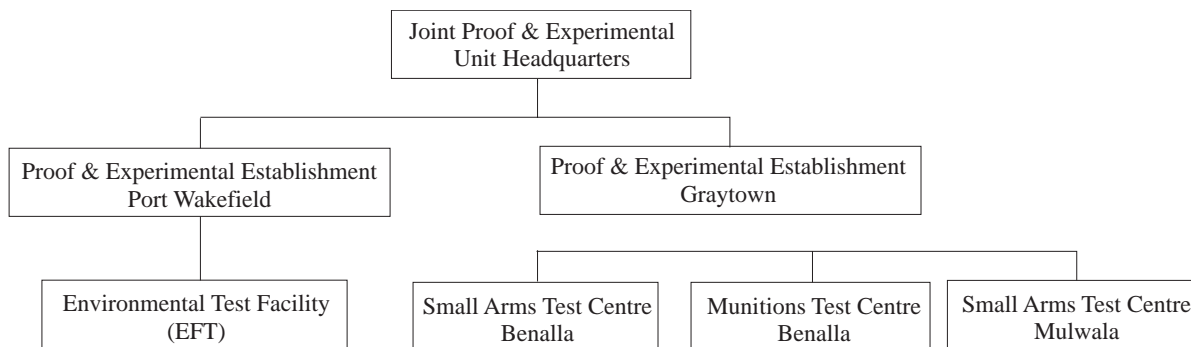
There are many new challenges that will be presented to GBAD Wing in the coming two years. The introduction of an additional RBS-70 Battery upon the phasing out of Rapier, and the introduction into service of the Advanced Air Defence Simulator at Woodside, will change the way we do business. This will require the training of soldiers, non-commissioned officers and officers on state of the art weapon systems and simulation systems. GBAD Wing is preparing to make this transition as seamless as possible so the professional standards already established are maintained.



Joint Proof and Experimental Unit

Mission is to provide an Explosive Ordnance and Weapon System test and evaluation capability to the Australian Defence Organisation.

This year saw significant changes in the proof and experimental world. The Kinnaird review and restructure saw the Proof and Experimental organisation become recognised as the Joint Proof and Experimental Unit (JPEU). JPEU moved out from under the Joint Ammunition Logistics Organisation to become a direct command unit under CJLOG, and moved with Joint Logistics Command into the Vice Chief of the Defence Force's Joint Operations Group. Lieutenant Colonel Gary Potter was appointed by Chief Army as the first Commanding Officer of JPEU, based on a CJLOG recommendation.



JPEU Organisation

This is a significant boost for those involved in proof and experimental activities, and provides recognition of the critical real-time operational role JPEU plays in ensuring weapons and explosive ordnance are safe and suitable for service within the ADF.

Although JPEU provides test and evaluation for all of Defence, it retains very close historical and functional ties with Army and the RAA in particular. The Commanding Officer, Officer Commanding Proof & Experimental Establish (P&EE) Port Wakefield, both Master Gunners and many of its military or ex-military staff are Gunners. These Gunners play a vital role in ensuring the safety and suitability of service of Royal Australian Artillery weapon systems, and are a valuable source of technical knowledge and experience available to the Royal Australian Artillery. This was demonstrated earlier in the year with the suspension and subsequent trials of the M739A1 fuze.

Proof & Experimental Establishment Port Wakefield

2004 is P&EE Port Wakefield's 75th Anniversary. The significant historical value of the Establishment was recognised in a recent heritage study. It is one of few Defence establishments that can claim the same title and role for 75 continuous years. The P&EE has ensured safe weapon systems and ammunition for the Royal Australian Artillery community from 1929 until the present day, and played a critical role in the development of an indigenous Australian Defence industry.

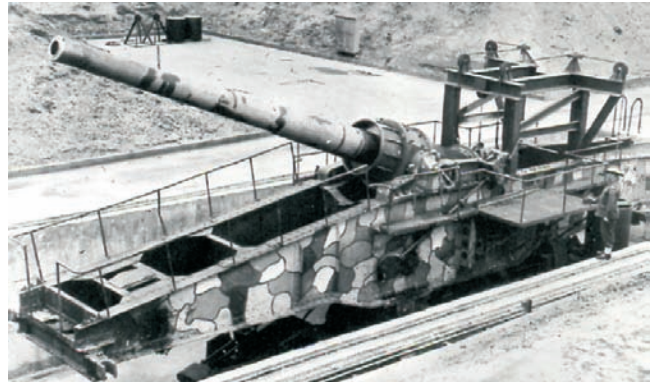


The first 18 pounder proof round was fired on the 5th December 1929, with mainly 18 pounder, 4.5 inch, and 6 inch firings conducted for the Army and Navy until 1939. World War Two saw the tempo of proof increase significantly. A soft recovery

technique, is known as over water recovery, is still used to this day with P&EE Port Wakefield one of only two known sites in the world with this capability.

Some events of historical significance include:

- Installation of the captured 28cm World War One Amiens railway gun for proof of 8 inch naval barrels in 1943.
- Australia's first rocket range from 1946.
- The last horsed Australian Army unit (used for recovery of projectiles on the tidal flats until 1950).
- The only defence unit to operate an air-cushioned vehicle (hovercraft).
- Trials and proof of the M198 Howitzer.
- Trials and proof of the Hamel Gun.
- Trials of artillery, ammunition, and mines for US, UK and Singapore.



P&EE Port Wakefield continues to provide an essential test and evaluation capability to Defence, regularly proofing 105mm howitzer, 76mm naval and 5 inch naval ammunition produced by Australian Defence Industries (ADI). The range has also conducted a number of M198 recoil proofs this year, firing HERA rounds at high angle (1200 mils) out into the Gulf.

The 75th Anniversary will be commemorated by an Open Day on the 7th November 2004, release of a historical booklet, and anniversary port. This is the first open day in 15 years and is a rare opportunity for those in South Australia to see what goes on at P&EE Port Wakefield. Please direct queries to Captain Kym Schoene on (08) 8867 0216. Finally best wishes to the Master Gunner Warrant Officer Class One Darren Callaghan on his retirement.

Proof and Experimental Establishment Graytown



Proof and Experimental Establishment had its origins in the Proof and Experimental Establishment located at Fort Gellibrand near Williamstown in Victoria. The first Australian proof was fired here in 1924 on 18 pounder gun ammunition, & continued until the 1950's. The increase in shipping traffic and the concern of local residents required a change in location.

In 1952 Compton Vale Estate, later to be renamed Graytown after the local town, was acquired by the Army & proof of heavy weapons continued here. The site was selected due to it adjoining the Puckapunyal Field Firing Range and the soft loamy soil was ideal for vertical recovery testing of fuzes. By December 1968 Fort Gellibrand had completely relocated to Graytown.

P&EE Graytown principally fires small to medium calibre weapons with 20mm, 81mm & 105mm natures being most commonly fired. Much of Graytown's tasking involves item and component proofing in support of ADI manufacture at Benalla, with artillery primers and cartridge cases as well as grenade and cannon ammunition components tested.

In 2004 P&EE Graytown conducted a number of Artillery related firings. These include proofing of refurbished M2A5 recoil systems as well as a component proof in support of ADI production.

In August the establishment fired the Q.F. 25 Pounder Gun for the last time in Australian service. The last round was rammed by Warrant Officer Class One Colin Watego who attended the last 25 pounder course gun course held in Australia. The round was fired by a retiring civilian Mr Greg Hall, retiring after 36 years. The rammer used was a 25 pounder rammer on loan from 'A' Battery that was last used when the Division of Artillery last fired.

Other activities planned for later in the year include proof of propellant for cartridge 105mm HE M1 and standardisation of propellant for cartridge 105mm. At the end of the year the current MG Graytown Warrant Officer Class One Terry Nolan will retire after 37 years service. The establishment wishes him all the best for the future. He will be replaced by Warrant Officer Class One Bob Singh.



Artillery School won't be shooting through

Army quashes move rumors

The army's School of Artillery at North Head occupies one of the most significant sites in Sydney and rumors of its closure and sale have abounded for decades. Last week, with the rumor-mill ticking over again, the school's top two officers, Lt-Col Tim McKenna and Col John Cox were keen to dispel any talk of the school's closure.

by PETER ALEXANDER

School commander Col McKenna said the issue of the School of Artillery moving was always a sensitive one for Manly.

"There are always reviews going on in Defence about what we are doing with our facilities," he said. "It is still government policy that the school will move but the issue is still under review."

Col Cox, the army's general manager of artillery and commander of 19 gun batteries across Australia, said the Defence Department intended to stay at North Head for the foreseeable future.

"In the current climate it would not move at least until the end of the decade," he said. "If they relocated the school out of Manly it would not be disestablished as such, and the barracks and the museum would be maintained. The museum is very important for recording and preserving the history of artillery."

Col McKenna said North Fort (the museum's name) was a very significant heritage and historical site for Sydney and Manly. The fortification at the entrance to Sydney Harbour dates from 1885. Col Cox said there were a number of pressures on within the Defence Department to review efficiency. "The principal idea would be to attempt to cluster the school's resources in one location to obtain economies of scale," he said. Col McKenna said this would bring artillery, armor, infantry and engineers' schools together. He said the school was quite capable of training by using artillery rounds in simulation where you did not actually fire the rounds but planned how you would fire them. "A basic round costs \$500 and that is very expensive," he said. The artillery school does engage in limited live round practice using a sub-calibre training round which fires over 300m. "For larger calibre live artillery practice the school uses facilities at Singleton and Holsworthy. It would be an advantage to have a range nearby but as far as we are concerned we can do our job here," Col Cox said the ideal situation

would be to find a suitable range area based around defence facilities which the department owned. Col Cox is commander of the Artillery Directorate, which moved its headquarters from Canberra to Manly in 1989. The school is now his base for operations in Australia and worldwide. "I am the director responsible for advice in the management of 350 officers and about 1500 soldiers," he said. "I am also responsible for training, equipment procurement and developing artillery procedures of war."

Col McKenna said the director was also concerned with policy making. Two hundred people work at the school - 170 military personnel and 30 civilians. The school also has fluctuating numbers of trainees from countries such as Malaysia, USA, Britain and New Zealand. Student numbers have dropped in recent years because recruiting has fallen and people are staying on longer in the army in the recession. Col McKenna said the school injected up to \$3.7 million a year into the local economy and more jobs would be created over the next few years as many service tasks were tendered out to private enterprise. The Artillery Museum is open for public visits between noon and 4pm on Saturdays and Sundays.

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Big guns ... Lt-Col Tim McKenna (left) and Col John Cox at the School of Artillery PHOTO John van Loenderstoot

Manly – A Memory

There is a corner in my heart
Where long low-rolling breakers roar,
And seagulls on the sea wind start
From every ledge near Curl Curl's shore.
And wildly blows the Wattle still
Along the coast beside the hill.
There is a corner in my heart
For a stone kangaroo that guards
The acre God has set apart
For those who sleep, and I see yards
And yards of - almost within reach -
The silver sands of Manly Beach.
I see the palace on the hill,
And nestling 'neath its snowy tower
I trace each little wave and rill
Of Shelley Beach and Fairy Bower,
And crush the shell beneath my tread
Like mournful echoes of the dead.
I see the Corso dimly lined
With places that my young days knew;
The row of cabs, the trees that bind
The Esplanade to Ocean View
And once again I hear the bell
On the old pier its music tell.
I pass along the waterway,
Through lovely hills to Sydney town.
All round the locusts hum, the bay
Dimples and smiles, and the pink gown
Of heaven winds about the sky,
And round this inward memory.

By Reginald Carrington, Circa 1908

Personnel Aspects

Time to Myself

In times that I have to myself
I fall heavily on my stretcher
And hide from this new
And different world.
My slowly fading tapes
Sing softly to me through
These dust-covered headphones,
And take me back to
The world where you are.
Amongst this olive-drab
And camouflaged home,
I find my little piece of
Beautiful colour.
A photo of you.
For a while, I kept it
In a vee tuee,
But found soon enough
That I could not get
Close enough to you.
I touch your face,
Your eternal smile
And smell again your
Perfume that faintly
Lingers on the photo.
For fear of fading your
Image, I reach across
And place it back
In my webbing.
As I curl up to sleep,
My dogtags twist
About my neck,
And the stretcher groans.
But my thoughts remain
With you, as always
In times I have to myself.

*Captain J.R. Ferguson, Australian Army
A Feeling of Belonging*

*An Australian Defence Force Journal Publication
Published by the Department of Defence Canberra, 1999*

Honours and Awards

Queens Birthday Honours 2004

- **Officer (AO) In The Military Division**

Major-General Francis Xavier ROBERTS, AM, ACT. For distinguished service to the Australian Defence Force in senior command and staff appointments.

- **Member (AM) In The Military Division**

Lieutenant-Colonel Simon ROACH, Britain. For exceptional service as the Staff Officer Grade One Plans at Deployable Joint Force Headquarters (Land) and as the commanding officer of the 1st Field Regiment.

- **Conspicuous Service Cross (CSC)**

Major Charles Peter WELLER, Qld. For outstanding service as the Chief of Staff, Headquarters Combined Joint Task Force 635 during Operation Anode.

Awards

- **Australia Day Medallion**

Bombardier Phil Grieve, 131st Surveillance & Target Acquisition Battery.

- **Meritorious Unit Citation**

18 members of the 16th Air Defence Regiment were presented a Meritorious Unit Citation by the Senior Naval Officer for South Australia CDR Atkinson, for their part in Operation Falconer whilst assigned to HMAS Kanimbla.

- **Maritime Commanders Commendation**

Corporal P.L. Hannola was awarded a Maritime Commanders Commendation whilst on Operation Falconer.

Unit Command List and Regimental Sergeant Major List

The Chief of Army has determined the following new Royal Australian Artillery Command Appointments for 2005:

- Lieutenant Colonel G.W. Finney – 8th /12th Medium Regiment
- Lieutenant Colonel I.S. Lawes – 16th Air Defence Regiment
- Lieutenant Colonel A.A. Plant -- School of Artillery
- Lieutenant Colonel B.J. Bailey -- Army Recruit Training Centre
- Lieutenant Colonel G.G. Potter -- Joint Proof & Experimental Unit

The Chief of Army has determined the following new Royal Australian Artillery Regimental Sergeants Major Appointments for 2005:

- Warrant Officer Class One I. Kilgour – CSIG Sydney
- Warrant Officer Class One W.L. Parker -- CSIG Hobart
- Warrant Officer Class Two R.J. Morland -- 23 Field Regiment (on promotion)

The Chief of Army congratulates the officers and warrant officers listed above on their new appointments.

Retired Full-Time Officers List

<i>Worn Rank</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Initials</i>	<i>Final Date of Full-Time Service</i>
Colonel	Lovell	M.G.	9 April 2003
Colonel	Colley	F.G.	11 July 2004
Lieutenant Colonel	Nicolls	S.W.	20 January 2004
Lieutenant Colonel	Tyrell	P.R.	2 February 2004
Major	Goltz	J.S.	20 February 2004
Major	Johns	G.M.	31 May 2004
Major	Kirby	S.R.J.	28 January 2003
Major	Richards	R.C.	5 January 2004
Major	Vercoe	T.W.	13 April 2004
Captain	Glatz	S.E.	15 May 2004
Captain	Talbot	C.K.	21 May 2004

Editors Note: Colonel M.G. Lovell and Major S.R.J. Kirby were left off the list published in *Liaison Letter Spring Edition, 2003*.

New Gunner Unit Command – Joint Proof & Experimental Unit

The Joint Proof and Experimental Unit (JPEU) was created on 1st May 2004. The unit, commanded by Lieutenant Colonel Gary Potter, has its headquarters in the Defence Estate Orchard Hills (Penrith) and sub-units at P&EE Graytown, Victoria and Port Wakefield, South Australia. P&EE Graytown also has detachments within the ADI factory sites at Mulwala and Benalla.

The unit was formed as a result of the separation from the DMO by Joint Log Comd (JLC). JLC will now form part of Joint Operations Command (JOPS).

CJLOG considered that as the majority of JPEU's testing was directly related to achieving operational capability and not in the procurement and in-service management of weapon systems, JPEU was created and removed from within JALO. It is now a direct command unit of JLC with the same status as the JLUs.

Whilst it was decided to name the unit JPEU, it was decided to retain the title P&EE for the respective sub-units given their long association with these titles.

SCMA

*Provided By Captain A. Worsley
RAA Career Management Cell*

2004 is rapidly coming to a close. The career management world has again been busy, however it is pleasing to see that soldiers are becoming more pro active in their own career management and subsequent career path.

Career Management Cycle

The following dates can be used for your planning for 2005.

- Promotion Advisory Committee - Sergeant-Warrant Officer Class Two
27th April 2005 / Bombardier-Sergeant 11th May 2005;
- PAC Letters - 1st June 2005;
- Postings - 1st July 2005; and
- Visits - September / October 2005.

2005 and Beyond

2005 promises to be another challenging year for the RAA. Soldier career management will again be high on the agenda of all. As such, the following issues deserve highlighting:

- Pay Trade - Understanding and adherence to the RAA Employment Category Standing Orders is paramount. All senior non commissioned officer's and warrant officer's should be familiar with the document and implement this accordingly.
- Positions within 4 RAR (CDO) are available, and we are continually seeking volunteers to be a part of the 'SF world'.
- Non-corps appointments will continue to raise the profile of a soldier as he strives for promotion.
- Finally, the responsibility for career management lies much with you, the soldier. You are the 'masters of your own destiny' and this can either be a rocky path or a smooth highway. Accurate advice from your chain of command and thorough planning for your Annual Career Guidance Interview will best place you for a fulfilling career.

'New Blood'

Captain Adam Worsley has completed his tenure at SCMA and will be replaced by Captain Nick Wilson. Captain Wilson has an Offensive Support background and has just completed two years instructing at RMC. Both he and Warrant Officer Class One Washford will be managing your careers for 2005.

Finally...

The RAA Career Manager cell would like to thank all those who have provided sound advice and counsel throughout 2004. We look forward to working with the same focus in 2005.

Capability, Training & Doctrine

105's 105s

"Take Post! Take Post!" They'd heard it before,
They were quick to their guns, a few even swore,
But this was a fire mission like none in the past
And so it had started the battle at Long Tan.

The boys from D Company were in a fix,
Not far from the Dat, about two clicks,
The call came in for support to survive
And to the fore were 105's 105s.

In the rubber plantation the boys on the ground,
Facing enemy fire from all around,
Conditions appalling the mud and fierce rain,
Visibility a problem but confusion restrained;

The position more clearly with bright blue flashes,
From the guns in support landing rounds in the ashes;
The gunfire was loud, bright and blaring,
Placed a look on the diggers surprised and glaring.

They knew there was hope with accurate fire
To help them survive the mud and the mire,
The guns so constant with dangerous close fire.

Back at the Dat the actions were true,
The boys on the guns they knew what to do;
The weather so bad the rain teeming down,
Strong cordite mist was hugging the ground,
Empty cart cases were forming a mound,
But the guns would not cease until the very last round,
From 105's 105s.

The battle raged on through that terrible night,
Uncertain the thoughts of the men in the fight,
But the soldiers had been trained for a job to be done
And all fought and battled until it was won.

At the end of it all they all looked around,
They were tired, drenched and spent,
And looked at each other in wonderment.

Through the days that had passed battle honours had been won,
You could not but admire the Australian Son,
But then a glance at that little gun, 105's 105s.

*WO2 Bill Pritchard
The Happy Warrior
An Anthology of Australian and New Zealand Military Poetry*

DMO – Project Synopsis

*Provided by Major S.E. Harding
Project Manager Long Range Mortar and MARAP*

The Indirect Fire Support Weapons (IFSW) Program of the Armaments Systems Program Office (ARMTSPO) is a program headed by an EL1 (LTCOL) equivalent. It consists of both major and minor projects as well as in-service fleet support. This brief synopsis will provide an update of the key projects within the program that are of interest to gunners.

Who's Who?

Director ARMTSPO:	Mr Garry van Ree, EL2 (COL equivalent), (03) 9282 5982
Program Manager IFSW / PD LAND17/18:	LTCOL Steve Hume, RAA, (03) 9282 4481 (WEF Jan 05) Mr Michael Doust (acting Program Manager to Dec 04)
Project Manager Long Range Mortar and MARAP:	MAJ Shaun Harding, RAA, (03) 9282 3870
Project Manager AOS:	CAPT Terence 'Tug' Wilson, RAEME, (03) 9282 6562
Project Manager Indirect Fire Computer Software:	Mr Alan Jones, (03) 9282 6562 6939
National Fleet Manager IFSW:	Ms Karen Christensen, APS6 (MAJ equivalent), (03) 9282 5906
Technical Adviser Hamel/M2A2:	WO2 Ian Baker, RAEME, (03) 9282 3733
Land 17 Team:	Mr Steve Holloway, (03) 9282 5190 Mr David Green, Systems Engineer, (03) 9282 5190 Mr Miko Chun, Systems Engineer, (03) 9282 4033

LAND 17/18 – Artillery Enhancement Program

The current 105mm and 155mm fleets reach their Life of Type (LOT) in 2010. The LAND 17/18 project will address this issue whilst at the same time adopting a holistic approach to the 'indirect fire weapon system'. The Initial Business Case for Land 17 was progressed to the Defence Capability Committee on 5th October 2004. Budget approval will occur in 2005/2006. The In-Service Date remains as 2008-2010.

POC LTCOL STEVE HUME / MAJ SEAN RYAN

Artillery Orienting System MINCS(L) 42.15

This project will procure an inertial based and therefore GPS independent referencing system for artillery survey use. It will replace the now much degraded GAK-1 capability and will operate reversionary to the AGLS. A contract has been signed with BAE Systems to deliver the required system commencing with the delivery of an initial production unit in 2005 for user acceptance. The final capability (15 additional systems) remain on track to be fielded commencing 2005/2006.

POC CAPT TUG WILSON

Indirect Fire Computer Software MINCS(L) 42.18

This project will identify and procure an 'off-the-shelf' replacement for the current gunnery computer software (IDFCS V4.1). The Project Request for Tender has been endorsed and will be released in Oct/Nov 04 for source selection in early 2005. Estimated ISD is FY2005/2006.

POC MR ALAN JONES

81mm Long Range Mortar MINCS(L) 48.36

The project will procure a replacement Long Range 81mm mortar for the in-service 81mm F2 mortar. Having purchased the Denel ammunition, Army is faced with an opportunity to exploit the range advantage it offers (with a suitable mortar system, the ammunition can be fired out to approximately 7km). The current in-service mortar cannot exploit such potential gains so a replacement will be procured when the current mortar reaches LOT (or before). The project will release a Request for Tender in 2005 and introduce a replacement capability commencing 2006.

POC MAJ SHAUN HARDING

Medium Artillery Replacement Ammunition Project (MARAP) MINCS(L) 40.10

MARAP proposes the acquisition of a new family of 155mm munitions, excluding Artillery Delivered High Precision Munitions (ADHPM). The project will release an RFT in 2005 following a detailed commercial survey to refine a cost effective and optimised acquisition strategy. Specifically, the project proposes the procurement of an entire family of 155mm munitions, with the current M107 family maintained for training purposes. The complete family would require a variety of fuse combinations and include the following projectile types in priority order:

- HE;
- smoke screening;
- whitelight illumination;
- ICM, including ICM practice; and
- smoke marker.

POC MAJ SHAUN HARDING

CATC – Artillery Trade Policy

*Captain M.W. Cross
A/SO2 Artillery Trade Policy*

Calendar year 2004 has again been a hectic, but also critical year for the Artillery Trade Policy Cell. As an element of the Combat Arms Trades and Training Branch (CATT Br) within the Combat Arms Training Centre (CATC), the cell has the following key functions within the Royal Australian Artillery: - Trade Management and Training Development as well as inputs to Artillery Doctrine, Capabilities and Training Systems. The following have been some of the key activities undertaken during the year:

- The completion of Royal Australian Artillery Employment Category Standing Orders (ECSOs) and the Manual of Army Employment's (MAEs) for Artillery ECNs (Please note these are available via (<http://intranet.defence.gov.au/armyweb/Sites/CATC/>)).
- Critical trade management inputs - in particular the identification of feasible trade options for the Tactical UAV (JP129) capability.
- The finalisation and Training Adviser (TA) approval of the Offensive Support and Surveillance and Target Acquisition training continuums (Ground Based Air Defence was completed in late 2003).
- Input to the Active Reserve Training Model (ARTM) project. Within identified system limitations this project seeks to optimise individual training for the Army Reserve.
- Redesign of Royal Australian Artillery Initial Employment Training courses to reflect the new Advanced Soldier Course (ASC). This continuum commences for Australian Regular Army personnel in early 2005.

Considerable development of the Artillery Trade Policy component of the CATC website. The URL, listed above should be a useful tool for Artillery commanders.

Attendance and input at a range of artillery capability gatherings. The input has been focused on artillery trade and training issues - both critical considerations within sub-elements of the FIC.

The cell continues to work closely with key Gunner organisations: School of Artillery, Land Command Artillery and all full-time and part-time land command units. Continued good relations and close liaison are both considered critical, to enable the cell to best serve the Regiment and the needs of members.

2004 Manning

- | | |
|---|---------------------------------------|
| • Acting Staff Officer Grade Two Artillery Trade Policy | Captain M. Cross |
| • Regimental Master Gunner (RMG) | Warrant Officer Class One C. Watego |
| • Sergeant Major Offensive Support | Warrant Officer Class Two T. Whish |
| • Sergeant Major Surveillance and Target Acquisition | Warrant Officer Class Two R. Andersen |
| • Sergeant Major Ground Based Air Defence | Warrant Officer Class Two P. Briers |
| • Sergeant Major Training Development | Warrant Officer Class Two S. Morse |
| • Sergeant Major Training Development | Sergeant W. Morris |

Warrant Officer Class Two Whish and Andersen and Sergeant Morris are all posted out (all to SouthEast Queensland) at the end of the year. They are all to be congratulated for their achievements, in particular Warrant Officer Class Two Whish and Sergeant Morris who have been provided dedicated service over a number of years. In addition Warrant Officer Class Two Morse has now transferred to the Army Reserve. The 2005 cell will be bolstered by the inclusion of Warrant Officer Class Two Simic (SM OS), Warrant Officer Class Two Herrick (SM STA), Warrant Officer Class Two Crout and Sergeant Mason (both TDs). Their challenge will be to develop the foundations laid by their predecessors. To enable this to be achieved, Artillery Trade Policy continues to look for ongoing support from the Regiment.

Combat Arms Doctrine & Development Section

*Provided by Major J. Ross
Senior Doctrine and Development Officer*

In May 2004 CADDs relocated to the School of Artillery after having been located at the School of Armour since January 2002.

2004 has seen CADDs primarily focussed on doctrine production to redress a general obsolescence of the RAA doctrine. CADDs still periodically involves itself with development issues as it affords a two-fold advantage of helping CADDs staff remain current with development and enabling us to match doctrine priorities to emerging capabilities.

The following publications and amendments have been endorsed and are pending print and circulation:

- LWP-CA (OS) 5-2-1 Artillery Orientation Procedures (May 2004).
- LWP-CA (OS) 5-2-2 Laser Range Finders/Designators Drills and Procedures (Aug 2004).
- LWP-CA (OS) 5-2-6 Mortar 81mm F2 Handling Drills and Command Post Procedures (May 2004).
- LWP-CA (OS) 2-1-2 Basic Radar Theory (July 2004).
- RAA Directives 2003 (Completed April 2004).
- LWP-CA (OS) 5-3-2 Target Engagement, Co-ordination and Prediction - Duties in Action (AL 1).
- RAA CTN 2-12 Gunnery Prediction (AL1).
- LWP-CA (OS) 5-2-13 Gun Drill 105mm L118/L119 Howitzer (AL4).

The following publication is being endorsed for release at the time of this report:

- LWP-G 7-3-3 Indirect Fire Range Orders (To replace RAA CTN 3-13 Orders for Practice).

The following publications are in production:

- LWP-G 3-5-2 All Corps Air Defence Procedures.
- LWP-G 3-1-3 Ground Surveillance Procedures - Parts 1 and 2.
- LWP-CA (RISTA) 2-3-4 Weapon Locating Troop.
- LWP-CA (OS) 5-1-2 Ballistics - (Due out 2005).
- LWP-CA (OS) 5-1-4 Calibration - (Due out 2005).
- LWP-CA (OS) 5-2-7 Mortar Platoon Tactical Employment and Fire Control - (Due out 2005).
- LWP-CA (OS) 5-3-4 Employment of Artillery Meteorological and Survey.
- LWP-CA (GBAD) 6-3-2 GBAD Duties in Action.
- LWP-CA (GBAD) 6-3-1 Deployment of GBAD.

The following publications are in production under civil contract:

- LWD 3-4-1 Employment of Artillery.
- LWP-CA (RISTA) 2-2-1 User Handbook - Australian Man-portable Surveillance and Target Acquisition Radar (AMSTAR).
- LWP-CA (RISTA) 2-2-5 User Handbook - Unattended Ground Sensor (UGS).
- LWP-CA (RISTA) 2-2-6 User Handbook - Thermal Surveillance System (TSS).

There have been particular individuals who have regularly contacted us and provided comment and feedback. Thank you for your input.

We are always looking for validation of doctrine and want to hear your ideas. Your rank should not be seen as a restrictive factor in making comments. Although, we do ask junior ranks to discuss their ideas with their seniors prior to making submissions. Submissions can be made by submitting the yellow cards at the back of each publication or we can be contacted via email or on the following telephone numbers:

- Senior Doctrine and Development Officer - (03) 5735 6296
- Assistant Doctrine and Development Officer (Indirect Firepower) - (03) 5735 6371
- Doctrine and Development Officer (STA) - (03) 5735 6329
- Doctrine and Development Officer (GBAD) - (03) 5735 6304
- Assistant Doctrine and Development Officer (GBAD) - (03) 5735 6140
- Fax - (03) 5735 6370

Alternatively, we are located on the ground floor of the building behind the gun, missile and radar hangar at Bridges Barracks. There is no monopoly on good ideas, let's hear yours.

Articles

Diggers In Blue

Australians should be proud of their Diggers in blue,
Scattered around the world for a cause that's true,
The spirit of the Diggers surge through our veins
As we answer the call again and again.

Our standards are high which is plain to see,
And that's not small praise coming from me,
We work hard and play hard and that's nothing new
Dinkum Sons of ANZAC wearing the UN blue.

The dangers are real as we toil day to day
But don't tell anyone, we'll just laugh them away;
Rifle, machine gun, grenade and shell,
Mine or UXB could blow us all to hell.

We try to take care and still do our job -
Don't tell them at home, let them think I'm a slob.
Australians should be proud of their Diggers in blue
As we strive for a concept that should not be new
World peace - blissful peace. Then let me go home
To my wonderful wife and my daughters unknown.

Dave Harris, UNIIMOG (AWM PR 00431)

The Happy Warrior

An Anthology of Australian and New Zealand Military Poetry

Selected and Compiled by WO2 Paul Barrett & Kerry B. Collinson

Published by Sid Harta Publishers, 2001

Major General T.F. Cape Bequest

Major General T.F. Cape CB, CBE, DSO, who passed away in December 2003 left a very generous financial bequest to the Royal Regiment of Australian Artillery to be administered by the Regimental Committee. Major General Cape allocated \$10,000 from his estate for the design of a silver centrepiece for the Regiment.

The design of the centrepiece is based on a model of a breech loading 6 inch Mark II gun on a simple solid wooden base. This design represents the early Gunner service of Major General Cape which involved his participation in the emplacement of the initial artillery defences in Papua New Guinea at Paga Hill prior to World War Two. The design also has the goal of being a fitting reminder of the focus of the various pre-federation colonial artillery organisations and the Royal Australian Artillery after Federation for the defence of ports until the passing of the Coastal Artillery Branch in the 1960's.

The wooden base of the centrepiece will be engraved with the wording below:

In memory of
Major General T.F. Cape, C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O.
1915 - 2003
A Gunner of Distinction

Major General J. Whitelaw has been the primary subject matter expert and consultant during the concept and development of the design.

Editors Note: On behalf of our Representative Colonel Commandant Major General J.P. Stevens and all members of the Royal Regiment of Australian Artillery I would like to extend our heart felt appreciation to Major General Cape and his family for this very generous and lasting gesture. I would like to draw readers' attention to the Vale on Major General Cape written by Major General J. Whitelaw in the RAA Liaison Letter - Autumn Edition 2004. There will be a more comprehensive article on this presentation published in the next edition of the Liaison Letter.



New South Wales Annual Gunner Dinner Speech

*Delivered by Lieutenant General D.M. Mueller AO (Retd)
Provided by Major P.J. Easton, President RAA Association (NSW) Inc.*

Tonight we celebrate the service of good men, we celebrate the service of some brave men, we celebrate the service of great hearted men.

In the march of every day life they would have seen themselves as ordinary men. But in holding out the offer of service to the community they displayed a selflessness and dedication that earned many of them a seat above the salt at the table of the great banquet of life.

When exposed to the crucible of war some of them climbed the peak of all that is noble in the human condition. Some reminded us that life is full of heroes, often unsung and unrecognised. Some were robbed of their lives before the full flower of their talent could bloom. Some suffered grievously, both physically and mentally, many of them suffer to this day.

Tonight we recall the good times; we recall the bad times. We recall incidents laced with humour; we recall incidents coloured by disappointment or even tragedy. We recall absent friends; we recall forever missing friends.

We sense, no matter how thinly in our consciousness, the skills of the gunner's art. We sense, perhaps faintly, the sights, sounds, odours and touch of what it is like to be surrounded by the familiar impedimenta of artillery in all its forms.

We experience what it felt like to be there at the time, no matter how remote, how close, how grand, how humble, how tranquil, how violent the moment.

The Danish philosopher Sorens Kierkegaard observed "Life can only be understood backwards". Experience teaches and broadens; history records and interprets. Experience is not just about having done something or having been there when something happened. Some people have looked into the kaleidoscope of life and are none the wiser for having done so. Experience demands reflection, experience is that magical moment when one ceases to look through a glass darkly and what things mean suddenly becomes clear.

History has its strengths and its weaknesses. Historians are observers of life; historians are commentators on life. People who make the great decisions or perform conspicuous deeds rarely have the time or the inclination, to comment on them. Those who do comment rarely make the decisions or perform the deeds. Of itself this is not a bad thing as the spectator to history, no matter how remote or far away can offer an insight that those who made history cannot, affected as they are by the all too familiar foibles of the heart.

History is certainly not bunk, as Henry Ford once described it. History informs us where we have come from, it helps explain where we are today and it provides signposts to the future. Like any institution, the Regiment has to live up to the past, measure up to the present and speak to posterity.

This underlines the importance of our history and it would be remiss of me not to commend the efforts of those who have done so much and who are doing even more to preserve, interpret and present our Regimental history for current and future generations of Australians. The reward for these splendid volunteers is that great moment when some anonymous young man or woman suddenly understands what it was like to be there, or better still, what it was all about.

But let me return to our friend Sorens Kierkegaard. Having observed that life can only be understood backwards, he went on to say "But then one forgets the other principle: that it must be lived forward"

Accepting that we must live it forward, what does that mean for all of us in general and the Regiment in particular? The answer to such a question invites conjecture almost without bounds. Of the things that could have a profound impact let me touch on three.

The first is the collapsing birth rate in the developed world. About 21 per cent of Australians are aged 14 years or younger. In Japan and Italy, for example, the figures are 15 per cent and 14 per cent respectively. That same age group accounts for over 40 per cent of the population in countries such as Iraq and Saudi Arabia and among the Palestinians.

What does this mean for Australia, a society that grew its population by 5 million in the first half of the 20th Century and a further 11 million in the second half? It means we will grow by only an additional 6 million in the first half of this Century and not at all in the second.

It is well recognised that the population is aging. Those who work and pay taxes are diminishing in proportion to those who rely substantially on those taxes. We cannot solve this problem through immigration because the rate at which we would have to absorb immigrants poses insurmountable problems. We would have to grow to about 38 million by 2025!

Our wealth is dependent on the rate of growth of our population, the percentage of the population that participates in the work force and their productivity - the so called "three Ps".

As Chris Richardson of Access Economics has pointed out - and nothing said by the Secretary to the Treasury contradicts this - if we are to maintain our standard of living, we must lift productivity, and either increase taxes, reduce government expenditure or what is more likely, both.

The major implications for Defence in general and the Regiment in particular are twofold. Competing for manpower in the labour market will become increasingly difficult. This year about 175,000 Australians are entering the workforce; by 2020 that number will reduce to about 12,500 each year.

The cost burdens imposed by health care and the growing needs for services to support the elderly will rise substantially. It is difficult to be confident that Defence outlays will be sustained at current levels unless our strategic circumstances change dramatically.

As an aside, by 2050 the population of Indonesia will have grown from its current 228 million to 338 million. And what of the burgeoning, youthful populations of Middle Eastern and North African nation states; nation states characterised by poor governance, economic under performance and Islamic extremism fuelled by middle class, religious fundamentalists.

The second factor is the continuing global dominance of the United States, both economically and strategically, at least for the next two decades. Measured in American dollars, the United States economy accounts for approximately 32 per cent of world gross domestic product. The United States accounts for 45 per cent of global defence expenditure. The Pentagon spends the equivalent of the United Nations annual budget every 32 hours.

American society has some similarities to ours but there are profound differences. We need to understand those differences - which is to say we must understand why America acts the way it does. But it is not to say we must always agree with how it acts.

We need to understand why the philosophers of the Enlightenment have had such an indirect but profound influence on American society to this day. We must comprehend why ideas of liberty and freedom are so deeply embedded in the American psyche. Then we will understand why America's leaders use language that was exemplified early in the 20th Century by President Woodrow Wilson at the 1919 Peace Conference in Paris.

We need to fathom American "anti-imperial imperialism" and as John Louis O'Sullivan described it, the sense of "manifest destiny" that is central to United States political and social culture.

In principle if not always in practice, ours is a utilitarian society; the idea of the greatest happiness for the greatest number, espoused among others by the philosopher Jeremy Bentham. By comparison the master builders of American society used the blueprints of the philosopher Robert Locke with their emphasis on individual freedom and the principle that the consent of the people fixes the limits of government.

Our strategic and economic relationship with the United States is fundamental to this country's future. no less for the Regiment than any other institution in our society.

The final factor is the shape of conflicts to come. Terrorism has received more than an adequate airing in recent times. Suffice to say that within Australia it is primarily an issue for the civil authority to deal with, probably with the Defence Force providing assistance to the civil power.

The world did not change on 11 September 2001, we just thought it did. What happened on that day was a very visible and dramatic manifestation of a long drift towards Islamic extremism, a drift that started with the defeat of the Arab armies by the Israelis in the Six Day War in 1967.

The real tragedies have been and are likely to remain the civil conflicts that have raged in the Third World and elsewhere, including the former Soviet empire. These conflicts have their origins in deep seated political or even religious differences. But somewhere in most of them is a strong current of tribalism.

Invariably the human suffering is appalling, especially among the civilian population who tend to account for about 75 per cent of the casualties. During the 1990s in the Democratic Republic of the Congo alone, it is reckoned that as many as three million souls perished as a direct or indirect consequence of civil conflict. One scours the newsprint in vain to find much mention of this. One has to search even harder to find a band of activists willing to demonstrate about it.

The Unit Regimental Family

*Colonel A.R. Burke Colonel Commandant Northern Region
Adressess to the Brisbane Gunner Dinner 2004*

Now we all know that there is really only one regiment-the Royal Regiment of Australian Artillery-but we also acknowledge that it is made up of a number of units which are also titled 'regiments'. Tonight, let us ponder the increasing number of non-RAA personnel who are on the Gunner unit establishment table and are therefore an integral part of the unit Regimental Family. The case of 1st Field Regiment RAA has been used to illustrate points. Once upon a time . . . let's not go back too far, so . . . once upon a 1912, the year after compulsory military training got under way in Australia, and the year in which the 1st Field Artillery Brigade-the forebear of today's 1st Field Regiment RAA-came into being. Back in those heady days of our fledgling nation, the 'Gunners' on a unit establishment tended only to be those who manned the guns or were the technical assistants in the command post and observation post. Sigs, for example, were known by the title 'signaller' or 'trumpeter', horse team riders were known as 'drivers', those who repaired the guns were called 'tradesmen', the medical assistants were referred to as 'orderlies', and the storemen, cooks and clerks were known as 'private'. Amongst the tradesmen, of course, were also the tailors, farriers, shoemsmiths, collar-makers and wheelers. Despite all these terms, however, each was an Artillery soldier.

The only non-Artillery personnel in a unit were the attached chaplain, the medical and veterinary and officers with (of course) their batmen, the Service Corps drivers from the divisional ammunition column and the wireless operators who provided the radio link with higher headquarters. However, these attached personnel represented only about an additional five percent of the artillerymen in the unit. Thus, in the earliest 1st Field Artillery unit everyone except attached personnel was an artilleryman-and this is not being sexist because women did not serve in artillery units. The Regimental Family was therefore a homogeneous group, each undergoing the same initial training and being imbued with the same traditions and folklore of the Gunners.

Up until the last decade of the 20th Century, there was a progressive emergence and/or expansion of other corps-Medical, Electrical and Mechanical Engineers, Catering, Band-and artillery tradesmen were rebadged accordingly. In the mid 1990s, significant changes began-drivers were badged RACT, whilst administrative and quartermaster staffs were allotted to the Ordnance Corps. Women began to fill trades within the Regimental Family which had previously belonged to the 'boys only' club. Further, the part-time members of 1st Field Regiment RAA began to outnumber the full timers.

Today, there are few attached personnel within a Gunner unit's establishment-so virtually everyone in the Regimental Family of 1st Field Regiment RAA is an integral part of that organisation. Significantly, however, whilst the attachments are almost zero, the-once-upon-a-1912 picture of 100 percent artillerymen in the unit has now decreased to 63 percent-significant, because that other 37 percent of the 1st Field Regimental Family march in without any Gunner traditions and folklore.

You will all have heard of the story of the Englishman visiting France who, when informed by the Frenchman that he could not be understood, merely nodded and repeated himself in an increasingly louder English voice. As only 63 percent of the First's very corps-cosmopolitan membership today, the Gunners must not put their heads in the sand like the Englishman and recognise only the heritage of the Royal Regiment of Australian Artillery. They must acknowledge-nay, they must understand and appreciate the traditions of their brothers and sisters from other corps. Therefore, when attempting to find a common thread with which to weave the fabric of today's 1st Field Regimental Family, one must recognise that the common denominator is being posted to this unit. So, in any gathering of the members of the 1st Field Regiment RAA, the worship of Saint Barbara and her disciples must also pay homage to the esprit which exists because everyone is a member of that unit.

This esprit is the raison d'etre behind the success or otherwise of the 1st Regiment's performance in peace or at war. This esprit is not only some intangible behind the Regimental Family-it is the Regimental Family.

4th Field Regiment's Memorial Walls

*Based on the Speech for the Re-dedication of Memorial Walls
by Colonel Arthur Burke
Colonel Commandant Northern Region*

On 4th May 2000, 4th Field RAA dedicated a memorial wall which was described as unique at RAA unit level but having a kinship with the RAA National Memorial in Canberra because both walls recognised all the areas of service. Whilst the National Memorial encompassed the RAA's first 100 years, in this case the period covered was the 40 years since the 4th Field Artillery was re-raised at Wacol in 1960.

Today (4th December 2003) the kinship of these two memorials has now been completed by including the 4th's active service history back to its roots in conflict. Though the 4th Field Artillery had its genesis with the Victorian Volunteer Artillery in 1856, it was not until the Great War that it first saw active service as a unit. On 23rd September 1915, the 4th Field Artillery Brigade AIF was raised at Albert Park in Melbourne. Six months later it was in action on the France/Belgium border. The words 'France' and 'Belgium' on this eastern wall represent three years of bloody conflict on the Western Front. The units members suffered 103 killed and 993 other casualties but were awarded 52 decorations including one Distinguished Service Order, two Distinguished Conduct Medals, nine Military Crosses and 28 Military Medals.

During the Second World War there were two forebear units - the 2nd AIF's 2/4th Field Regiment and the militia 4th Field Regiment RAA which was called up for service after the Japanese offensive began in the South-West Pacific. The 2/4th served for six years from the Middle East (the countries Egypt, Palestine and Syria on the wall) to the South-West Pacific (New Guinea and Borneo). Thirty members paid the supreme sacrifice. Awards included two Distinguished Service Orders, five Military Crosses and two Military Medals. The militia 4th Field served in New Guinea and Bougainville and during its four years of active service 15 of its ranks paid the supreme sacrifice. The 4th's awards included three Military Crosses, four Military Medals and one Member of the British Empire.

The western wall is dedicated to the hereafter - that myriad of United Nations and South-West Pacific area tasks in which members of this unit have been involved since 2000: Sinai, Bougainville, East Timor, Bosnia, Iraq, Solomon Islands and Operation Relex in the Christmas Island area. These ongoing operations will be periodically updated on the wall. Whilst it is acknowledged that these countries are not those in which a unit per se of the 4th Field Artillery has served, they do reflect the diversity of the tasks allocated to the Gunner community these days.

Let us dedicate these extensions for more than a reminder of the proud heritage of the 4th Field Artillery, and more than a list of batteries and places where they have served. Today, let us embrace the lineage of the 4th Field Artillery and recognise the sacrifice of 148 members who died for the freedom and democracy, which we enjoy today.



Books Available From Your Local Defence Library

*Provided by Major D.T. Brennan
Editor*

Defence Supremo - Sir Fredrick Shedden and the Making of Australian Defence Policy

by David Horner

ISBN 1 86508 280 5, published in 2000,
Allen & Unwin. Hardback, 428 pages

The dustcover provides the following outline of the book. The Defence Supremo tells the little-known but dramatic story of the most powerful figure in Australian defence policy-making during a crucial period of the nation's history. Sir Frederick Shedden was Secretary of the Defence Department from 1937 to 1956 - including the Second World War, the onset of the Cold War and Australia's commitment to the Korean War and the Malayan Emergency.

Sheddons role went far beyond that of the traditional public servant. He was a central player in some of the most important events in Australian history. He was the key confidant of the Second World War Prime Ministers Robert Menzies and John Curtin, accompanying them in discussions with Prime Minister Winston Churchill and President Franklin Roosevelt. As secretary of the War Cabinet and the Advisory War Council, he was at the heart of the national defence effort when Australia was under threat of invasion. He became the trusted link between Curtin and American General Douglas MacArthur.

Shedden dominated the Australian defence organisation for two decades and, some argued, usurped the powers of the military chiefs. By the late 1940s terms such as 'civilian commander-in-chief', 'defence supremo' and 'defence czar' were used about him.

Shedden's remarkable story is essential background for understanding the development of Australian defence organisation and policy, and has great relevance for current policy-makers. More importantly, it provides an unparalleled insight into one of the most exciting and formative eras of Australian history.

Editor. To the casual observer on the surface this publication may appear to be a 'not for me' book addressing a very dry subject. The book addresses an often overlooked part of defence that is the influence of our civilian counterparts and even more interestingly the politics and friction that occurs from time to time. It highlights that the management of defence is a partnership between the uniform and civilian members of the department whether we like it or not. It is written in David Horner's usual well researched easy to read style and layout with a good balance of text, quotes and photographs. I recommend that any student or casual observer of military history take the time to at least take a look at the book. The more I read of the book the more I became engrossed in it.

The Australian Army - A History of its Organisation 1901-2001

by Albert Palazzo
ISBN 0 19 551506 4, published in 2001,
Oxford University Press, Hardback, 456 pages.

The dustcover provides the following outline of the book. As the Australian Army begins its second century, it can look back on a proud and rich history that has seen it answer the nation's call during two world wars as well as a number of lesser conflicts. Although the Army's great achievements on numerous fields of battle are already well recorded, the story of how the nation organised its military strength is only now being told. This book fills a significant gap in the Army's history. It focuses on the development of the Army's organisation and its evolution from the colonial armies of Federation to the modern professional force it is today.

The Army's organisation is the result of complex interactions between the government's security and fiscal policies, the desires of the public, and the vision and ambitions of the nation's military leaders. This book demonstrates that the forces that shaped the Army's organisation have been dynamic and innovative, and that the Army's leaders have been required to address great changes. The Army has risen to these challenges and has redesigned itself more than once to meet the requirements of a changing defence environment.

Sometimes the relationship between the various interests directing the Army has been uneasy. On several occasions the government has failed to provide the Army with the resources it needed, and the military leaders have ignored or undermined official policy.

However, as this books shows, the Army has always striven to meet its obligations to the nation and provide for security of the Australian people.

Editor. This book is a must have for the library of any professional military person. It is written in a very easy to read style and the layout contributes to its ease of reading. For those of use who joined the Army post Vietnam the chapters on the Rise of the Australian Regular Army and the Defence of Australia make interesting reading. The book does not shy away from the Army's reluctance to move away from a mind-set and structure designed for major conflict. I recall always being told that you could always step down but that it was difficult to step up in terms of training. The other aspect that is astounding is the subject of 'Jointness'. It is interesting to read that this concept of training, planing and conducting operations was novel in the main stream defence force until relatively recent times. It explains in a simple style the on going struggle the defence force has had in establishing a working command and control structure. Overall the book affords an easy to understand insight into the high level thinking which keeps the Army constantly evolving hopefully always for the best within the circumstances of the time. Finally the book is well layout with illustrations, diagrams and photographs.

Note: This volume is part of a series of studies of the Australian Army's history produced in association with the Army History Unit under the editorship of Professor David Horner.

The World's Great Artillery from the Middle Ages to the Present Day by *Hans Halberstadt*

ISBN 1 84013 478 X, published by Amber Books Limited, Hardback, 176 pages

The dustcover provides the following outline of the book. The World's Great Artillery is the illustrated history of the development, employment and tactics of this fearsome weapon. All types of artillery pieces, from field guns to anti-tank weapons and giant railway cannon are covered, with particular emphasis on each weapons development, unique design features and combat capabilities. There are many full-colour artworks in the book, showing key artillery types from various angles. In addition, each full-colour artwork is accompanied by a specification table that lists range, calibre, ammunition, dimensions and muzzle velocity.

The book begins with the earliest pieces of Western artillery that were little more than iron tubes firing stone shot. Over the next few centuries the guns became more mobile and more powerful, influencing the course of the battles in which they were involved. Muzzle loaders reached their apogee in the Napoleonic wars and the American Civil War during the nineteenth century. By the outbreak of World War One in 1914, breech-loaded guns were the standard, and weapons of such large calibres were being constructed that they needed to be mounted on rail wagons to give them any form of mobility. Artillery played a significant role in shaping how conflict was fought, and it was to play an equally significant role in World War Two. Only now, in the twenty-first century, is the supremacy of artillery on the battlefield being challenged by air-dropped precision-guided weapons, but the arm is fighting back with sophisticated new munitions becoming available which will ensure that artillery has a part on the modern battlefield for the foreseeable future.

Editor. This is a well presented coffee table style book which is broken into five easy to read chapters. For American Civil War buffs chapter two will be interest as it addresses the role played by artillery on both sides of the war. There is a chapter entitled the Storm of Steel 1900-1935 that explains the emerging dominance of the battlefield by artillery. Further chapters entitled Master of the Battle Field, Cold War Killers and Search and Destroy continue this theme of documenting the evolution of artillery systems. Overall it is a very interesting easy to read book packed full of photographs and drawing.



Address to Launch 'Just Soldiers'

by Darryl Kelly

by General Peter Cosgrove AC, MC

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is with great pleasure that I am here today, to launch *Just Soldiers* by WO1 Darryl Kelly.

Just Soldiers is a celebration of the spirit of the Australian Digger. The men and women who come alive in the pages of this book are not the bronzed icons of the Anzac myth. Rather, they embody the gritty reality of ordinary Australians who felt compelled to do the extraordinary.

The soldiers in these stories are real, as are the families they leave behind, many of whom never fully recover from their loss. These are not the stuff of legend; they are the small, forgotten people who, but for a quirk of fate, would have remained greengrocers, farmers and tram drivers.

People like 2Lt Henry 'Ernie' Eibel who, prior to the outbreak of the First World War, was a farmer from southern Queensland. Known as the Iceberg, due to his composure and cool demeanour, he fought gallantly at Gallipoli and at the Western Front, where tragically he lost his life.

This book highlights that most did not rush headlong into what they regarded as life's great adventure: seeking fame and glory. They were simply caught up in the fervour of time, following their friends, their beliefs, or just hoping to make a difference. Yet, their lives celebrate the potential of ordinary people—those who have both the opportunity and the ability to rise above the safety of their own expectations.

Ordinary people like Captain Frank Bethune, MC, who wrote the now-famous Special Orders to his section when under attack from the German Army, a man who showed his men strength in courage in the face of extreme adversity.

Just Soldiers demonstrates that when called on to perform the extraordinary, these Australians are capable of incredible courage and ingenuity, often surprising even themselves. These are their stories; tales of disappointment and hardship, of fear and grief; and of loss and mind-numbing heartache.

Equally, these are stories of the triumph, of raw courage, resourcefulness, and, above all, mateship—those qualities that individualise the Digger and that have come to be regarded as quintessentially Australian.

Diggers like Lance Corporal Francis Curran, DCM, who became legendary at Gallipoli by catching in-coming bombs mid air—as easy as you would a cricket ball—before pitching it back over the enemy lines with deadly accuracy.

Congratulations Darryl on writing such a compelling book. You have captured a pithy humanity in these tales of death and survival, of honour and deceit. You have characterised these men and women through their humour, irreverence and the larrikin sense of the absurd that typified the Digger—approach to the hardships of war. By accessing personal diaries, your accounts of these Australians are vivid and heart-wrenching. It gives us a valuable insight how soldiers, in times of war, deal with death on such a horrendous scale. And importantly, you have captured the true character of these soldiers.

The people in this book saw themselves not as heroes, but as ordinary Australians 'doing their bit'. In the laconic understatement typical of the Digger, they were 'just soldiers'. The truth is so much more.

It is now my great honour and pleasure to launch *Just Soldiers*, by Darryl Kelly.

Editors Note: See pages 83 and 84 for more details including costs and order form.

Book Review

Just Soldiers by Darryl Kelly

Published by the ANZAC Day Commemoration Committee of Queensland in 2004

Paperback ISBN 09581625 4 9

Clothbound/Hardback ISBN 09581625 3 0

Reviewed by Catherine McCullagh

Readers of Army - The Soldiers' Newspaper will be familiar with many of the stories in Darryl Kelly's *Just Soldiers*, published to coincide with ANZAC Day 2004. Sensitively edited to echo the voice of the Digger, these gritty tales depict the ordinary soldier in time of conflict. Kelly's subjects are real people with flaws and weaknesses, many of them beset by tragedy of their own making, or simply cursed with bad luck. Based on exhaustive research, including hours of interviews with the soldiers' descendents, these stories bring to life those men and women who embarked on the great adventure of World War I. Their stories are ripping yarns in the wildest sense - except for the fact that

they are all true. These are tales of heroes and miscreants, ministering angels, suicides and disappearances: a deserter from the French Foreign Legion is rescued at gunpoint from the firing squad; twins are killed by the same shell and misidentified as the one person; a padre joins a mutiny in the ranks and is later felled by a German sniper as he prays over the body of a fallen comrade; and a Digger survives the hell of the Burma-Thai Railway only to be shipwrecked in the shark-infested South China Sea.

This is an honest book in narrative style that tells the story unembellished and without the judgement of hindsight. Kelly's use of direct speech to add realism to the stories presents an innovative use of the anecdotes of diaries, letters and family recollections. While not to every reader's taste, it adds the flavour of realism to what may otherwise appear a dusty, far-off memory. Kelly's soldiers live, and their thoughts and actions resound with that tough Digger tenacity, the larrikin irreverence and the muted understatement of courage under fire. This book is a gem, well worth reading, even just as a timely reminder of the unheralded achievements of ordinary people in extraordinary times.

Tracks of the Dragon - A History of Australian Locating Artillery

The book 'Tracks of the Dragon, a History of Australian Locating Artillery' is a history of the 'Locators' in the Australian Army sponsored by the Army History Unit, and published by Australian Military History Publications (AMHP). The book co-authored by Keith Ayliffe and John Posener is scheduled for release in September 2004 with a recommended retail price of \$45.

The book traces the emergence of locating disciplines and equipments from the early days of World War One through World War Two (1st Australian Artillery Survey Regiment), Korea and South Vietnam (Detachment 131st Divisional Locating Battery) to the recent service 131st Surveillance and Target Acquisition Battery members in East Timor. It covers sound ranging, survey, flash spotting, radar, artillery survey, and meteorology, sensors and counter bombardment. The book covers Australian locating units and those men and women who served from the raising

of the first artillery survey units (established in the 1920's) to the present day. The story of the 'Locating Dragon' motif; and the development of the Locating Artillery Association are also covered.

The book is a hard cover publication that contains over 200 photographs (black and white and coloured), maps and drawings. The book is expected to be available at most retail outlets, and in particular from the AMHP retail outlet - the 'War Book Shop' located at Gympie. Alternatively, the book can be purchased from the authors (see details below).

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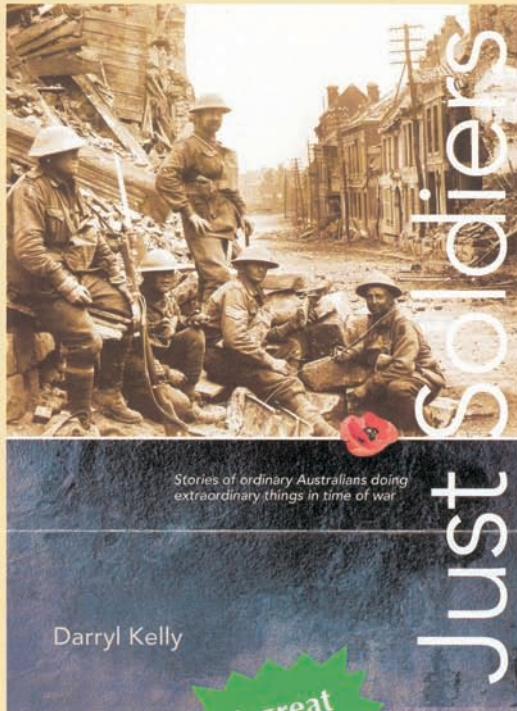
*Stories of ordinary Australians doing
extraordinary things in time of war*

Darryl Kelly

Just
Soldiers



Visit the ANZAC Day Website: www.anzacday.org.au



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Just Soldiers

Author: Darryl Kelly
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 ISBN 09581625 4 9
 RRP Clothbound/hardback \$49.95 incl GST
 ISBN 0 9581625 3 0

First edition March/April 2004
 The stories in this book are about ordinary Australians who do extraordinary things in time of war. The author strives to promote a better understanding of the impact war has on those who serve, the families they leave behind and the country they fight for—Australia.

The ADCC's decision to publish *Just Soldiers* was made, not to create a book that purported to be a historical reference guide to the events of WW1, but rather, to engender an insight into the human tragedy of war. Many of these WW1 personal accounts confirm that the reputation of the Australians as fearless fighting men was genuinely earned, yet, between the lines, the reader can't help but wonder at the overwhelming 'others before self' attitude of the Diggers of the Great War—that Spirit of ANZAC.

The stories are based on fact. The author has used a wide variety of data to source the material for this book: war service records; unit histories; personal diaries; articles and stories written at the time as well as postwar; interviews with relatives; and historical notes held by the Australian War Memorial Research Centre and available on the Memorial's website www.awm.gov.au.

These stories are representative of the war experiences of the forebears of today's ordinary Australians; those who left their homes and families to fight a war halfway round the world, and who, by their actions, brought this nation to the attention of the world.

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16th Air Defence Regiment Sergeants' Mess History

*Compiled by Sergeant Bill Gaythwaite and Provided by
Warrant Officer Class One Mark Clayton
President of the Mess Committee*

Introduction

Each Sergeants' Mess is itself unique and has a colourful history, and that of the 16th Air Defence Regiment is no exception

Early Years

110th Light Anti-Aircraft Battery was raised by Major J.G. Hughes at Woodside on 10th May 1965. In 1966 the Battery replaced 111th Light Anti-Aircraft Battery in Malaysia while 111th Battery returned to Woodside providing reinforcements for 110th Light Anti-Aircraft Battery. In June 1969, 16th Light Anti-Aircraft Regiment was formed when 110th Light Anti-Aircraft Battery returned from Malaysia. The 16th Air Defence Regiment Sergeants' Mess has its origins from that time.

Warrant Officer Class One R.F. 'Bob' Bassett had arrived at Woodside in late May 1969 and was appointed the first Regimental Sergeant Major of the Regiment. He was not impressed with fact that live-in members had insufficient accommodation and that the Regiment did not have a Sergeants' Mess of its own. He was determined to rectify this problem.

On 2nd June Warrant Officer Class One Bassett sent out instructions to his Battery Sergeant Majors and the Warrant Officer Caterer to find a suitable building, some furniture and to build a bar, as well as procure some alcohol by 1600 hours that day. All was ready by 1600 hours and the Mess was born. Bob officially became the President of the Mess Committee on 4th June 1969. Shortly after this the Sergeants' Mess was moved into the old Everyman's Hut, which was not in use. An immediate grant of \$8000 was granted to transform the building into a Mess. The work was completed at the end of September, which coincided with the first Dining-In Night. Warrant Officer Class One Bassett ordered the construction of a Bar B Que to enhance the outdoor area of the Mess. Bob stayed on as President of the Mess Committee until 3rd January 1971.

From 4th January until 11th May 1971, a RAEME warrant officer, Warrant Officer Class One D.J. Henrys, filled the position of President of the Mess Committee. The Apprentice Sergeant Major, Dennis Henrys was a happy-go-lucky person who was more or less just 'filling in' until an artillery warrant officer class one was posted to the Regiment.

Warrant Officer Class One O1 D.R. Holbrook was that person and he was the President of the Mess Committee from 12th May until 7th October 1971. Shortly after becoming the Regimental Sergeant Major of the Regiment, Dennis Holbrook decided to discharge, which left the position of President of the Mess Committee vacant again. With no warrant officer class one available, Warrant Officer Class Two S.H. Rawlins was appointed Regimental Sergeant Major elect and along with it came the position of President of the Mess Committee of the Sergeants' Mess. Steve Rawlins' stay as President of the Mess Committee proved to be short as well, filling the position only from 8th October until 30th November 1971. Steve eventually took his PSO commission and became an officer in the Australian Army.

The next President of the Mess Committee was Warrant Officer Class One W.C. Liddell who took over the position on 1st December 1971. Bill Liddell was a 'Locator' with a bit of Air Defence in his military background. Although he was not well known when he came to the Regiment, Bill proved to be a highly effective Regimental Sergeant Major. This effectiveness was also apparent in the Sergeants' Mess, where he began numerous improvements and renovations. It was decided that the Bar B Que built during Bob

Bassett's time needed replacing, so a new one was begun. This was completed after Bill Liddell had left. He was also responsible for the starting of the dining room, which used to be the old guard room. Bill was a worker with good ideas and the support of the Mess. Warrant Officer Class One Liddell stayed as President of the Mess Committee until 8th August 1973.

On 9th August 1973, Warrant Officer Class One W.J. French was appointed as the new Regimental Sergeant Major of the Regiment and the new President of the Mess Committee of the Mess. He was perhaps the first true Air Defender to become a Warrant Officer Class One. Bill French was a bit of a larrikin at heart and was responsible for finishing the ideas started by Bill Liddell. The membership of the Mess at this time was about 50 people. The new Bar B Que was completed as well as paving around the Bar B Que area. The Mess was fairly inaccessible and all the materials to construct these had been dumped some distance from the Mess. Warrant Officer Class One French had a rule that at each morning tea-time, every member had to pick up five bricks from the brick pile and bring them to the Mess.

Warrant Officer Class One French was also responsible for the gamesmanship started between the Officers' and Sergeants' Messes. During the annual cricket match, the President of the Mess Committee was allowed to use a much larger cricket bat. All Officers' versus Sergeants' Mess games nights were fiercely contended.

Bill French was a strong believer in Mess silver, and it was his policy that members leaving the Mess should donate a goblet for the Mess with their name engraved on it. Quite a few of these goblets are still in the Mess today in the silver cabinet.

Whilst Warrant Officer Class One French was in the position of President of the Mess Committee, he was offered another building for use as the Sergeants' Mess but turned it down because of the tradition and effort put into the Mess they had. This other building was subsequently turned into a new Officers' Mess. Bill French ended his term as President of the Mess Committee on 12th December 1975.

Following Bill French was Warrant Officer Class One K.D. Charlton. Keith Charlton was able to write and get things organised. At this time the Mess consisted of two huts joined by a covered walkway. One hut was the bar, while the second was the dining room. The Mess didn't have a billiard table so one was scrounged from Warradale. Half of a neighbouring building was secured as the billiards room but it was quickly discovered that the floor was not strong enough to support the billiards table. The members had to reinforce the floor with cement pillars. Another improvement consisted of the installation of a rainwater tank for drinkable water.

A tradition that was started during Warrant Officer Class One Charlton's time as President of the Mess Committee was the awarding of the 'Bluey Henry Trophy'. The 'Trophy' was a sterilised bedpan filled with beer that newly promoted members had to drink from. Keith ended his term as President of the Mess Committee on 7th December 1977.

Major Work Completed

The next President of the Mess Committee was Warrant Officer Class One I.G. Hodgson who served from 8th December 1977 until 29th January 1980. It is said that the best way to describe Ian Hodgson was that he was 'all the good from the previous President of Mess Committees rolled into one'. Most of the major projects were now completed in the Mess and Warrant Officer Class One Hodgson instigated the dance floor. Members of the Mess sanded, painted and polished a section of the ante-room floor. Ceiling fans were installed prior to summer.

One of the most memorable occasions in the Mess during Ian Hodgson's stay was the raffling of a whole sheep. When the raffle was drawn, a live sheep was led in for the winner. Everyone thought it was hilarious until the sheep began to crap on the floor!

Rapier was selected as the new weapon system for 110th Battery during Warrant Officer Class One Hodgson's time, though he had departed before its arrival. Before he left he instigated the widening of the Mess building. When he decided to retire from the Army, he was given a 'This is your life' style of send off. People were flown in from all over Australia for the occasion. This is probably a good indication of how well he was liked and respected.

After Ian Hodgson came Warrant Officer Class One E. Harkin. He became President of the Mess Committee on 30th January 1980. Eddy Harkin had his beginnings as a field gunner, though he was brought up through the Air Defence system. He had a very hard act to follow as Regimental Sergeant Major / President of the Mess Committee, but he managed to carry out his job effectively. It was during Eddy Harkin's time that the 3rd Battalion Royal Australian Regiment departed Woodside for Holsworthy. The widening of the Mess was still in progress when he left on 4th December 1981.

Warrant Officer Class One L.C. Black became the next President of the Mess Committee of the Sergeants' Mess on 5th December 1981. Lindsay Black began his military career in 111th Light Anti-Aircraft Battery in Holsworthy in 1961. The extensions to the Mess were finally completed shortly after his arrival. With the 3rd Battalion gone, the vacated buildings were raided for useful items, one of which was a walk-in refrigerator.

One of the more memorable functions was a Maori Hungai complete with Maori dancers. Food was cooked in a traditional fire pit and was superb. The members of the Mess got a shock when the Maori dancers began dancing as some of the dancers were men doing the flame dance twirling sticks with fire on each end, barely missing the Cam nets strung up as decorations!

Warrant Officer Class One Black recalls the many funny incidents, especially those involving RAEME. The 'RAEME Brothers' had asked if they could make their own beer table for the Mess, and when permission was granted, proceeded to drag in a metal monstrosity! Also one day it was noticed that one of the three bladed ceiling fans in the Mess had been painted so that each of its blades was one of the RAEME colours of red, blue and yellow. It was quickly repainted but the next day it was red, blue and yellow again. This went on for quite some time. When Lindsay Black departing on 9th August 1983 to become Regimental Sergeant Major of the 4th Military District, he was presented with a very small fan by the RAEME Brothers painted in the RAEME colours. Other members of the Mess, knowing Warrant Officer Class One Black's poor skills at indoor sports, presented him with a pool cue fitted with a SLR rear sight.

When Warrant Officer Class One P.D. Doherty was appointed President of the Mess Committee on 22nd August 1983, plans were already under way for a new purpose-built barracks, including a new Officers' and Sergeants' Mess. Building began during his time, though wouldn't be completed until 1986. Peter Doherty started out as a field gunner but spent most of his career as an Air Defender. No major tasks were undertaken in the Mess as the new Mess was under construction. Warrant Officer Class One Doherty finished his term on 3rd December 1985.

New Mess

The next person to fill the President of the Mess Committee position was Warrant Officer Class One M.W. Roddie, who took control on 4th December 1985. He was to be the last President of the Mess Committee of the old Mess, as the new Mess was completed some time around October 1986. Much time was spent bringing in new furniture, blinds, mounting plaques and emblems on the wall above the bar and installing 'Gods Telephone' close to the entrance of the lounge/bar area. The Governor, Sir Donald Dunstan, formally opened the new Barracks and after the parade, the official guests were hosted in the Sergeants Mess.

The first Formal Dining-In night was a mixed function held on 24th October 1986. The Social Calendar now had to be coordinated with the Officers' Mess because of the shared facilities. One memorable function was the 'Woodside Revisited' Dinner on 10th October 1987. It was the first formal get together for past and present members of the Mess. For this event a 40mm Bofors gun was moved into the Mess, and not long after the function the gun was fixed in place at the entrance to the Sergeants' Mess. Warrant Officer Class One Roddie left Woodside on 31st December 1987.

On 1st January 1988, Warrant Officer Class One J.W. Horder became the next Regimental Sergeant Major of the Regiment and therefore the next President of the Mess Committee of the Mess. Members had settled nicely into the new Sergeants' Mess and the novelty of living in new live-in accommodation was starting to wear off. Many of the officers were living in sergeants' accommodation initially, but this was now corrected. John Horder stayed until 11th December 1990. During John Horder's time, several improvements were completed. The area outside the live-in accommodation was levelled and a retaining

wall built by the members and funded by the mess, honoraries and Sponsors. The Elrington Bar was built and funded by Mr Bob Elrington.

John Schumann (former lead singer of the band Redgum) became an honorary member and entertained the members on numerous occasions. A 'snake charmer' attended a mixed function and brought a selection of snakes, lizards and good song. And the 'come as you're caught' party provided members hours of fun and many laughs.

The Mess was full of living-in members (LIDS), who on occasion organised 'LIDS' dinners. Only selected personnel were invited. One dinner was held in the tennis court whilst another was held in the swimming pool on (unstable) pontoons!

The next President of the Mess Committee was Warrant Officer Class One G.D. Chillingsworth, who took over on 12th December 1990. It was during Gary Chillingsworth's stay that smoking was banned inside the Mess. Many people cried out that this was the ruination of the Mess and Mess life, but things got back to normal fairly quickly. As with all the Presidents of the Mess Committee before him, Warrant Officer Class One Chillingsworth tried, mostly in vain, to keep the parquet floor areas in front of the bar free from both women and children. One memorable occasion was at the completion of a happy hour, Garry decided to 'gate-crash' the Officers' Mess who were having a 'Black Tie' wine tasting. Apparently the 'Seniors' left once they had drunk the wine dry.

Somehow the RAEME Brothers table introduced into the Mess a decade before, still survived. It had taken a battering but was still fiercely protected by the RAEME personnel. Gary Chillingsworth departed Woodside on the 6th December 1992.

Following Warrant Officer Class One Chillingsworth was Warrant Officer Class One D.A. Jones, who was the President of the Mess Committee from 7th December 1992 until 12th December 1994. During this period, Warrant Officer Class One Jones instigated some structural changes inside the Mess. The most satisfying project was the creation of the doorway between the ante-room and the games room. The increased access to the games room had the flow-on effect of turning it into an unofficial museum, with the World War Two associations donating memorabilia to be displayed therein.

Games nights were still being contested between the Officers' Mess and Sergeants' Mess, ranging from the annual battle of the Ashes to carpet bowls. Also the customary bottling of Port was still occurring. With an abundance of labels left over, it was decided that the Mess would pickle onions. A happy hour was chosen as the venue for the peeling, and members could only get a drink if they assisted with the tearful task.

On 13th December 1994, Warrant Officer Class One J.J.M. Leckning was appointed the next Regimental Sergeant Major / President of the Mess Committee. His time lasted until 3rd December 1996. (Information on this era is pending).

The next President of the Mess Committee was Warrant Officer Class One R.D. Dunne, who took over from 4th December 1996 until 17th January 1999. (Information on this era is pending).

Warrant Officer Class One I.D. Biggs commenced his appointment on 18th January 1999. Early into his appointment, a dining-in night was held. The Apprentice Sergeant Major, Ron Chapman, was the dining president. The night was full of incidences, which warranted attention on the next working day. Two members were banned from attending the Mess for 14 days each, three members were awarded seven extra duties and a number of letters of apology were written. A dinner to remember! Needless to say the next dinner went well.

A big re-shuffle of paintings and Mess property was organised one weekend, and the ladies were encouraged to attend because of their flare in re-arranging furniture. After about an hour, a group of four or five of the ladies came running out of the snooker/history room, whilst fists were almost being thrown inside, over disagreements between the ladies on where things should be put. A Bar B Que and a few free drinks calmed the situation and a lot of fun was had by all in the end.

As the Mess consisted of young sergeants and warrant officers, there was an overabundance of children usually running riot inside the ante-room. Warrant Officer Class One Biggs was constantly receiving complaints from the live-in members (in particular) about the 'kids belonging to the two headed patch dwellers running rampant in the Mess'. Ian decided that we were to build a playground. With funding

from the Family Support Funding Program, topped up by Mess funds and a donation from the Officers' Mess, the playground was erected. We initially had trouble keeping the 'Subbies' off of the equipment, but after a while the novelty wore off!

A major notable incident occurred during this time when an officer attempted to gatecrash the Mess late into the evening. The live-in members would not have a bar of this and refused the officer entry. Upset with this rejection, the individual proceeded to urinate on our Bar B Que!! After confronting the officer, he was directed to clean the Bar B Que and have it inspected by the catering and medical staff, but was later directed by Warrant Officer Class One Biggs to purchase it at folio cost. This occurred and the officer endured a period of time as Duty Officer (\$250 poorer).

In the last 12 months of Warrant Officer Class One Biggs' reign, he ran a Napoleon Dinner and a reverse dinner. Both were successful functions, although eating a white mud cake and drinking red wine first up was a lot to bear. An investment account was initiated during 2000. This was done for the purpose of paying for an extension to the pergola in five years time. New furniture for the Mess was ordered toward the end of 2001. Warrant Officer Class One Biggs finished his appointment on 13th January 2002 after three years in the job.

100 Battery Series Part One

Night Picket

Farthest away at the far end of the darkness
a noise; something touches the wire
sending a whimper all along.

And the night pricks up its ears,
sits itself upright in the grass and listens;
a bright stud falls down the sky, sees,
but is only a moment distracted.

Looks beyond the gate beyond
that, and over twin rails gleaming wet
shining east and west, beyond again
to the road a line of sentinel gums.

Waits, and it comes again, the noise,
a shuffling, that enlarges itself,
the wire again touched and metal silvery
whispers all along its length.

Entire attention rigid towards it
as a rabbit's ear to danger,
heart at a furious rate, something
to identify, it cannot be understood.

Within the shuffling a heavier thud,
within the increasing nearing fear
suddenly recognition, the herd goes by
cropping, and the grass so long and wet.

W. Hart-Smith
Clubbing of the Gunfire
Edited by C. Wallace-Crabbe & P. Pierce
Melbourne University Press, 1984

'A' Field Battery

*Provided by Major D. Kelly
Battery Commander 'A' Field Battery*

Before 1870, each colony in Australia had become responsible for the defence of their principal ports. Towards the end of 1870 the last Imperial Garrison, Royal Garrison Artillery, withdrew from New South Wales. The New South Wales Government passed an act allowing the raising of the first permanent military force in Australia. On the 1st of August 1871, 'A' Battery New South Wales Artillery was formed, a unit which has existed continuously ever since, however, under many different designations. The original battery manning included Henry Green who was allocated the regimental number of 'one' and became the first Battery Sergeant Major.

In February 1885, the New South Wales Government offered a battery of artillery and a battalion of infantry for service in the Sudan. The offer was accepted by the British Government, and 'A' Field Battery was assembled from the New South Wales Artillery and was ready for embarkation within two weeks. The Battery sailed on the 3rd March 1885 on the transports 'Liberia' and 'Australasia'. The Battery landed on the 30th and 31st March, but were to see limited action as the campaign was almost at an end. The Battery embarked on the 17th May 1885, for return to Australia and was commended by the Commander-in-Chief in the Sudan, Lord Worsley, for its most soldier like appearance and exemplary conduct at a review a few days previously.

In 1889, when the South African War commenced, Australia offered military assistance to the British Government. The offer was accepted and New South Wales decided to send a battery of artillery to South Africa. 'A' Battery Royal Australian Artillery was formed of officers and men of the Battery New South Wales Artillery, and on the 30th December 1899, on the transport 'Warrigal', embarked from Sydney to South Africa. 'A' Battery completed 18 months of active service and was ordered home in July 1901. The Battery embarked at Cape Town on the transport 'Harlech Castle' on the 12th August and arrived in Sydney on the 15th September 1901. During its service in South Africa, 'A' Battery had one man killed in action, who died after being kicked by a horse, whilst 45 men were sent home due to sickness.

On the 1st December 1910 'A' Instructional Cadre was redesigned as No.1 Battery Australian Field Artillery (Permanent). When the Great War broke out in August 1914, the then Commander of No1 Battery Royal Australian Field Artillery, Major S.E. Christian called a muster parade of the Battery at Victoria Barracks on the day war was declared and called for volunteers for an overseas force. The whole Battery stepped forward as one man. The Battery sailed with the first convoy in 1914 and embarked to Egypt with the Australian Imperial Forces bound for Gallipoli. On the first day at Gallipoli the Australian Battery's had trouble deploying because of the steep cliffs and only one gun of the 1st Battery landed that day. At sunset the crowd of wounded lying at the Southern end of the beach cheered as a straining horse team urged by its drivers tugged the first Australian field piece through them along the heavy sand, to be manhandled to the top of Shell Green. During the day, the gun remained in action firing nearly 500 rounds at ranges of about 400 yards before being withdrawn during the night.

The Battery went on to serve with distinction in France and Belgium supporting ANZAC, British, Canadian, French and American attacks against the Germans. Of particular note on the Western Front was the Battles for Passchendaele Ridge (Third Ypres) fought between July and November 1917. It was during this battle that 'A' Field Battery paid a greater sacrifice than in any other action in history. Included in the killed in action was Major G. McLaughlin, the only Battery Commander to be killed on active service.

The Battery was to return to Australia in 1919. During the visit of the Prince of Wales in 1919 the Battery provided the Royal Guard at Government House and also provided a mounted escort to his Royal Highness at an all state occasion in Sydney. During the Prince's visit to Canberra for the dedication of the proposed site for the future Parliament House of the Commonwealth, No 1 Battery Royal Australian Field Artillery, provided both the personal escort and also the saluting Battery. During the visit, the

Prince granted No1 Battery Royal Australian Field Artillery the privilege of wearing the white lanyard on the left shoulder. This decision was to commemorate the Battery's service in South Africa and the Great War. 'A' Field Battery continues to wear the lanyard on the left shoulder today.

On 1st July 1927 No1 Battery was redesignated as 1st Field Battery Royal Australian Artillery. On the 19th July 1930 it became the 1st Cadre Royal Australian Artillery and on the 31st January 1936 the Battery was redesignated 1st Field Australian Artillery Regiment. When His Majesty granted the title 'Royal' to militia units of the Australian Artillery, the permanent Artillery became known as 'The Royal Regiment of Australian Artillery'. In 1938 the strength of the Battery was increased and on the 1st February 1939 the Battery was redesignated as 'A' Field Battery, Royal Regiment of Australian Artillery.

With the outbreak of World War Two in September 1939, 'A' Field Battery once again volunteered for overseas service but was denied the privilege at the time as they were employed as the Depot Battery, instructing at the School of Artillery and Holsworthy. The Battery's opportunity came in 1943 and was redesignated 2nd Mountain Battery. The Battery arrived in Port Morsby on 19th September 1943. After considerable training and acclimatisation, the Battery left for Lae by air on 14th November 1943. Between June and November 1944 the battery served in Finschhafen, Sattelburg, Nadzab and Leron.

On 11th November 1944 the Battery arrived at Torokina and remained there until the cessation of hostilities in 1945. A small Cadre from 2nd Mountain Battery joined the troops at Royal Australian Artillery Headquarters at Balikpapan and on 7th October 1945 formed the 6th Independent Field Battery and departed for Kure, Japan as part of the British Commonwealth Occupational Forces (BCOF).

On 21st February 1946, 2nd Mountain Battery was redesignated 'A' Field Battery and carried out intensive training as part of the BCOF at Kataichi. In 1947 the Battery occupied permanent barracks at Hiro and was utilized performing ceremonial duties including salutes and guards of honour. In September 1948 the advance party of the Battery left Japan for Australia and the remainder of 'A' Field Battery arrived in Sydney on 22nd December 1948 and moved to North Head Manly, once again becoming the Depot Battery for the School of Artillery.

On 25th May 1949 'A' Field Battery once again became a sub-unit of 1st Field Regiment, thus losing its independent status. Despite this new command status, the Battery continued to act as a Depot Battery for the School of Artillery also performing ceremonial duties. On 28th November 1951 'A' Field Battery received custody of the Kings Banner on behalf of the Royal Australian Artillery and relocated from North Head to Georges Heights in 1951. In 1954 the Battery formed part of a 100 man Honour Guard to Queen Elizabeth in the grounds of Government House, Sydney. It was decided at this time that all Battery's of the Royal Australian Artillery would adopt numerical designation. 'A' Field Battery was to be the exception.

On 1st September 1957 the Battery detached from 1st Field Regiment and on 20th September embarked on the transport 'New Australia' bound for Malaya. The Battery disembarked at Penang on 18th October 1957. During operations in Malaya the Battery fired 77,000 rounds of 25-pounder ammunition and 2,000 rounds of 4.2 inch mortar ammunition. During its tour of Malaya the Battery supported several Commonwealth Infantry Battalions and was closely associated with 2nd and 48th Field Regiments, Royal Artillery. The Battery embarked at Penang on the transport 'MV Flaminia' on 5th October 1959. On returning to Sydney the Battery rejoined 1st Field Regiment at Holsworthy.

'A' Field Battery, then equipped with 105mm Pack Howitzers, prepared for its second tour of Malaya. The Battery was again detached and on 21st October 1965, joined the 28th Commonwealth Infantry Brigade at Terendak Garrison, near Molacca. During its tour of Malaya the Battery partook in frequent operations on both the East and West Coast, and assisted with security measures to guard against possible Indonesian infiltration of West Malaya. On 12th September 1967 the Battery returned to Australia by air, and became 'A' Field Battery, 19th Composite Regiment, Royal Australian Artillery at Holsworthy. In October 1969 the Battery was redesignated 'A' Field Battery 12th Field Regiment Royal Australian Artillery.

12th Field Regiment was warned for service in South Vietnam in 1970 and the Regiment moved from Tobruk Lines in Holsworthy to Lavarack Barracks in Townsville during January 1970. On 26th January 1971 'A' Field Battery was granted Freedom of the city of Sydney, by the Right Honorable Lord Mayor of Sydney in view of the Battery's approaching centenary birthday and its long association with Sydney.

Shortly afterwards 'A' Field Battery arrived at the 1st Australian Task Force base at Nui Dat on 4th February 1971. 'A' Field Battery as part of 12th Field Regiment took part in operations in Phuoc Tuy province until the withdrawal of the 1st Australian Task force in November 1971. During the tour of South Vietnam 'A' Field Battery celebrated its centenary birthday on 1st August 1971. A banner party was sent home to Australia for the centenary celebration parade at Victoria Barracks Sydney where His Excellency the Governor General Sir Paul Hasluck presented to the Royal Australian Artillery the Queen's Banner which replaced the 67 year old King's Banner. As part of the ceremony, a memorial gun was unveiled by the Governor of New South Wales, Sir Roden Cutler, VC.

After the amalgamation of the Regiments in 1974 'A' Field Battery became a sub-unit of the 8th/12th Medium Regiment. Since 1974 the Battery has deployed individuals on United Nations and multi national deployments. This has included Operation Paladin and Mazurka in the Middle East and Operation Bel Isi in Bouganville. In 1986, the Battery became part of the Parachute Battalion Group (PBG) as the direct support Battery to the 3rd Battalion Royal Australian Regiment. The Battery is the only battery within the Regiment to support parachute operations and maintains this tasking today.

In September 1999 the Command Liaison and Observation Group (CLOG) of the Battery comprising a Battery Commanders party and four JOST parties deployed to East Timor as part of INTERFET. They saw service in Dili, Maliana and the enclave of Oecussi. The JOST parties provided a vital link between three groups then in East Timor; INTERFET forces, Non-Government Organisations and the people of East Timor and their representatives. This line of work was known as Civil Military Liaison (CML). The Battery's Gun Group soon joined the CLOG in East Timor and worked predominantly in Dili providing security for Headquarters INTERFET. They also patrolled an Area of Operations centered on the town of Liquisa and conducted route reconnaissance with 86th Transport Squadron in the eastern regions of the country.

Shortly after its return from East Timor 'A' Field Battery became an independent Battery when 8th/12th Medium Regiment moved to Darwin. In 2002 it became part of 4th Field Regiment. The Battery remained closely linked to the PBG and adopted the parachute wings and dull cherry beret of the 3rd Battalion Royal Australian Regiment.

In 2002 'A' Field Battery was again called upon for service with the 3rd Battalion in East Timor. Between April and October 2002 the Battery assisted the Battalion in all tasks required in East Timor. Members of the Battery were employed in CML tasks and as rifleman in Delta Company. This led to a number of members of the Battery being awarded the Infantry Combat Badge.

2003 was a mixture of PBG remediation and intensive gunnery training. The Battery achieved 85% parachute qualification, and for the first time since 1999 two guns were dropped on Exercise Arnhem. The Battery proved the complete parachute capability on Exercise Crocodile 2003 where five guns, associated manpower and stores descended into Shoalwater Bay Training Area.

'A' Field Battery from its current location in Holsworthy, Sydney, continues to serve the Australian Defence Force with pride and dedication. As a high readiness sub unit of 4th Field Regiment and the Parachute Battalion Group, the Battery remains as committed as it was in 1871, to the timely provision of offensive fire support. The Battery motto is 'SEMPER PARATUS' which translates from latin to 'Always Ready'.

101st Medium Battery

*Original Text by Major J.H. Phillips and Lieutenant D.M. Forster in 1975
Additional Text '1976 to Present Day' Added by Various Authors*

Introduction

In writing the history of an organisation, which has been in existence for a relatively short period of time, one is confronted with several difficulties including those of relevance and balance. In the case of 101st Medium Battery there are also the problems of the actual origin of the Battery, a lack of accurate records; and conflicting reports from former members of the battery. We seek, therefore, not to recount the Battery's history in detail, but to establish a record of its major activities and movements.

It has been argued that the 101st Howitzer Battery, formed during World War One, could be classified as a forerunner of the present battery. This is a tenuous argument owing to the extensive renumbering and re-designation of units between 1935 and 1960 and the lack of official recognition of the linkage. Despite the fact that the authors do not believe there is any justification for the link it is necessary to give a short account of the howitzer battery's activities to satisfy those who hold the opposite view.

101st Howitzer Battery

The Battery was raised at Tel-el-Kebir on 8th March 1916 from members of the 1st Field Artillery Brigade who had served at Gallipoli. The Battery then became part of the 21st Howitzer Brigade. The Battery first saw action in France on 15th May 1916 at a small village called Laventie and remained in the line until 2nd July 1916. After relief they became part of the 1st Field Artillery Brigade which then consisted of the 1st, 2nd and 3rd Field Battery's.

101st Howitzer Battery then saw continuous action until 3rd October 1918 at such places as Pozieres, Ypres, Flers, Lagincourt, Velu Wood, Passchendaele, Messines, Villers-Brettonneaux and Villeret. At Lagincourt, when the Germans attacked, the guns of the other batteries of the 1st Field Artillery Brigade were temporarily abandoned. However, 101st Howitzer Battery remained in action throughout the whole of the enemy advance. After a counter-attack, the enemy was repulsed and the remainder of the brigade's guns were brought into action again.

At Villeret on 29th September 1918, the 1st Field Artillery Brigade was part of the support for the 30th (US) Division and 5th (Australian) Division, which attacked the Hindenburg line, and on 3rd October 1918, it provided support to the 2nd Division attack on the Ramincourt-Weincourt-Beaurevoir line. In the last nine months of action, 101st Howitzer Battery fired a substantial percentage of the 1st Field Artillery Brigades 250,000 rounds.

The Battery was disbanded in 1919, but raised again in the early 1920's as a militia unit in the Newcastle area. There is no record of overseas participation by this unit in World War Two and it was disbanded in 1946.

Formation of the 101st Field Battery

In terms of strict historical legitimacy the Battery was renumbered in 1957 from 104th Locating Battery which, in turn, descended from 'C' Observation Troop formed in 1949 as a foundation member of 1st Field Regiment. The actual date of formation of the Battery as a Field Battery is a continuing argument, however it was formed at Holsworthy as part of 1st Field Regiment in 1957. The Battery was equipped with 25 pounder guns and participated in a number of exercises with the 1st Infantry Brigade Group during 1958. In early 1959 the Battery was warned for service in Malaya.

Malaya 1959-1961

The Battery moved to Malaya in September 1959 on the MV 'Flaminia' and took over from 'A' Field Battery in Butterworth on 1st October 1959. The first task given the Battery was to convert from 25 pounder guns to 4.2 inch mortars in 10 days against a possible contingency in Laos. For the remainder of

the tour the Battery was organised into two elements, an eight gun field battery of two troops and a light battery of six mortars. The light battery remained on a continuous state of readiness to move.

After a short period of intensive training the Battery was deployed on Operation Jaya on 4th November 1959. The Battery supported the 1/6 Ghurka Rifles and 1/3 East Anglians, and fired 8064 round 25 pounder and 1231 rounds 4.2 inch mortar. Prior to the end of the emergency in August 1960, the Battery was engaged in a variety of activities including; operations in support of 1st Battalion Royal Australian Regiment (1 RAR) and 13/18 Hussars; deployments for harassing fire in support of Special Branch and attachments as infantry to the 1/3 Anglians to carry out patrolling and ambushing tasks.

At the end of the emergency the Battery moved to Malacca to join 26th Field Regiment Royal Artillery at Terendak Camp. At this time the organisation was changed to the British six gun battery establishment with 25 pounder and 4.2 inch mortars as alternative equipments. The time at Malacca was devoted to training for a role with the British Commonwealth Strategic Reserve as part of 28th Brigade Group. Apart from normal training much time was spent on air mobility and mobilisation exercises.

In April 1961 the Battery was mobilised for operations in Laos. The harbour party departed for Singapore two hours and eighteen minutes after the warning order was received but the operation was called off by the Australian Government prior to the departure of the Battery.

From April until the departure for Australia in October the Battery continued its training with the Brigade. The major activity being Exercise Trinity Angel. The Battery also represented the Australian Army at the Queen's Birthday Parade at Jesselton in North Borneo for which it received much praise. On being relieved by 103rd Field Battery in October the Battery returned to Australia to join 4th Field Regiment at Wacol in Brisbane.

Wacol 1962-1965

After a period of disruption caused by leave and the posting of a large proportion of the Battery, training was resumed in earnest in early 1962. The major exercise held was 'Southerly Buster', a CRA's exercise, held at Tianjara. In July 1962 the 25 pounder, which had been the Battery's major equipment since 1957 was replaced by the 105mm L5 pack howitzer. Throughout 1962 and 1963 the Battery participated in many exercises including all major army exercises such as 'Nutcracker' and 'Sky High'. In early 1965 105th Field Battery was warned for service in South Vietnam and on departure in September it took a large number of the soldiers and non-commissioned officers from 101st Field Battery. This created some problems for training but in January 1966 the Battery was warned to relieve 105th Field. Battery and intensive training began in February.

South Vietnam 1966-1967

The Battery remained short of personnel until May when 40 National Servicemen marched in, the first to be trained under the recently introduced scheme. Training culminated in August with an exercise conducted by the Commanding Officer 4th Field Regiment at Shoalwater Bay to test the efficiency of the Battery for operations.

The Battery arrived at Nui Dat on 20th September 1966 and after relieving 105th Field Battery went into general support of the Task Force. A position was occupied on the task force perimeter to the west of Route 2 and for the first five weeks they were employed on harassing and interdiction tasks, support of operations close to the base and in preparation of the battery area.

In November 1966 the Battery deployed on its first operation north of the Nui Dat base in support of 6th Battalion Royal Australian Regiment (6 RAR). Operation Ingham was a search and clear operation and necessitated two deployments, which were done by reconnaissance parties in armoured personnel carriers (APC), and the gun group moving by helicopter. The operation gave the detachments their first experience of operating with the chinook helicopter. The operation concluded in early December and the Battery returned to Nui Dat.

On 6th December 1966 the Battery was put in direct support of 6 RAR and 161st Field Battery RNZA became general support battery. This affiliation remained in force until the departure of 6 RAR for Australia in May 1967. The remainder of the tour is best described by a short explanation of selected operations conducted, which demonstrate the variety of activities:

- Operation Duck. A route clearance of Route 15 to facilitate the movement of 9th Division (US) to its new base.
- Operation Camden. A cordon and search of the village of Hoa Long. The Battery provided two platoons of infantry as part of the cordon.
- Patrolling Operations. Quick deployments throughout the task force area of operations in support of company patrols. Both air and road movement was used and in one case the guns were moved inside APCs.
- Operation Dalby. The notable point on this short operation was that the Battery fired landing zone preparation fire for a heliborne assault. This was the first time they had done so.
- Operation Bribe. Support of 6 RAR's attack on a major enemy force in the Dat Do area. The action culminated in a dawn attack and the Battery provided fire to within 50 yards of B Company. This was instrumental in breaking up the enemy and caused many casualties.
- Operation Portsea. A combined US/AS operation to the South East of Nui Dat in an area called the Long Green. The Battery deployed to a gun position with 161st Field Battery, two US medium batteries' and a heavy US battery. Extensive fire plans were used prior to the search by infantry battalions.

The Battery was relieved by 108th Field Battery in May 1967 and returned to Wacol to come under command of 1st Field Regiment.

Wacol 1968

Many members of the Battery were posted on return and until mid 1968 there were very few opportunities to carry out extensive training. However from July 1968 activities increased and by April 1969 the Battery was ready for its second tour which commenced on 11th May 1969.

South Vietnam 1969-1970

As with the first tour, the Battery was to be in direct support of 6 RAR. Prior to departure from Australia, it had exercised with 6 RAR at Shoalwater Bay, so the normal 'affiliations' and 'team spirits' had been strongly established. This working relationship was to prove of immense value in the months ahead in South Vietnam. After the initial working up training at Nui Dat, on 30th May the Battery deployed on its first operation, Operation Lavarack to Fire Support and Patrol Base Virginia. This operation was to be typical of the majority of operations the Battery experienced during its tour. It involved the Battery being deployed in the fire support and patrol base, along with the supported infantry battalion headquarters and support company personnel plus elements of cavalry, tanks and engineers as required. This required the Battery to be responsible for part of the base perimeter defence. This was somewhat of a change to the previous tactical procedures involved in deploying artillery in counter revolutionary warfare. A rifle company was no longer being deployed for the immediate protection of the fire support base, and maximum advantage was being gained from the direct firing, anti-personnel capability of the artillery.

The operation was to last for four weeks, and throughout the tour, a pattern developed of 'four weeks operation, two weeks Nui Dat defence'. Naturally this changed if the tactical situation demanded otherwise.

Operation Lavarack saw the arrival of the wet season - a season much more severe than the similar season in Australia. The gunners quickly learned to live in the mud, and found out what drainage problems really were, and how to overcome them. This first operation was possibly the most interesting and rewarding of the tour, as during it, the Battery put the finishing touches to technical skills and local defence skills.

From July to September Operations Mudingburra and Burnham were completed. During Operation Mudingburra use was made of general support artillery from 155mm, 8 inch and 175mm howitzers of the US Army. This operation required extensive searching of the Long Hai Hills in the south of Phuoc Tuy Province, and the heavier artillery was used to great effect in destruction missions against known caves and tunnels.

October and November saw the start of the dry season, and the Battery deployed by chinook into Fire Support and Patrol Base Discovery for Operation Ross. This operation involved 6 RAR in search and clear operations along the Song Rai River, and it proved to be a comparatively quiet operation from the gunners point of view. In late November as a result of reliable intelligence information, it was decided to redeploy the battalion group from 'Discovery' to Fire Support and Patrol Base Picton in the north of the province as part of Operation Marsden. This redeployment was completed by road, and was the Battery's only experience of conventional fire and movement during the tour. It involved the 'Leapfrogging' of the two sections of guns, accompanied by tanks, cavalry and air support. Operation Marsden proved to be a very active one, and possibly one of the major successes of the whole war in South Vietnam. 6 RAR was highly successful in locating an extensive hospital and medical installation during the operation, and many tons of medical and dental supplies were recovered.

The majority of artillery fire used during this operation required high angle, as enemy contacts were invariably made deep in the re-entrants of the Nui May Tao Mountains, and severe cresting problems were encountered with low angle fire.

During January and February 1970 Operation Napier was conducted, with the guns occupying Fire Support and Patrol Base Peggy. March and April saw the final Operation Townsville. Several section gun positions were occupied during this operation to ensure that the ground troops always had artillery fire coverage.

The Battery returned to Nui Dat on 13th April from Operation Townsville and conducted its final administrative arrangements prior to return to Australia. It departed for home on 8th May 1970.

Post Vietnam 1971-1975

The Battery returned to Enoggera in May 1970 and suffered the customary wind-down after a Vietnam tour. Limited training was conducted with an average battery strength of 35 until April 1971 when the influx of soldiers and non-commissioned officers began in preparation for the proposed tour of Vietnam in 1972-1973.

A number of exercises were carried out with 9 RAR and by August a very close working relationship had been established. However in September the Regiment was told that they would not be going as the commitment to Vietnam was to end.

1972 and 1973 saw the Battery reach an all time low in numbers with postings and the cessation of National Service but a number of exercises were held at regimental and battalion level.

1974 and 1975 were successful years in that the Battery again built up to full strength and a variety of exercises allowed a satisfactory degree of expertise to develop in many of the drills, procedures and peculiarities of limited warfare which had been shelved during the period of the commitment to South Vietnam.

1976 - Present Day

1976 and 1977 the battery was involved in a number of exercises aimed at continental defence, the majority being held in Tin Can Bay (Wide Bay Training Area). 1979 saw the battery involved in the first Commander Divisional Artillery Assessment and later, that year six members of the Battery were sent on Operation Damon, a peacekeeping monitoring force to Zimbabwe (Rhodesia). 1981 saw deployment on Kangaroo 81 as the direct support battery to 2nd/1st Royal New Zealand Infantry Regiment.

1982 was the year of the Commonwealth Games in Brisbane. The 101st Field Battery had the honour of proving a 21 gun salute at both the opening and closing ceremonies. 6th December 1982 saw the official opening of the new battery facilities as part of the new 1st Field Regiment home known as Barce Lines at Enoggera Barracks. The battery moved to Wacol to Enoggera in early 1983.

1987 was a year of extremes, an exercise in the cold and wet of Tasmania followed by Exercise Diamond Dollar in the dust and heat of Cape York in Northern Australia. In 1988 the battery travelled overseas for five weeks for an exchange exercise with 161st Field Battery Royal New Zealand Artillery.

In mid 1997 101st Field Battery was embedded into 6th Battalion Royal Australian Regiment (6 RAR) as part of the Restructuring The Army (RTA) Trial. The Battery was renamed Fire Support Company and

formed the Direct and Indirect Offensive Support capability of 6 RAR. The Company consisted of four x 155mm M198, two x 105mm L119, two x ANTPQ 36 radars, one x AMS detachment and four x LAV 25 (original trial vehicle).

During the initial part of the trial the Fire Support Company gunline operated as independent troops of two guns supporting individual infantry companies whilst maintaining the ability to mass six guns when required. During the last year of the trial the gunline operated as a 'normal' Battery, however, it still retained its mixed equipment's that provided some interesting computation issues.

Whilst the trial was successful, the concept of embedding was shelved. At the conclusion of the trial in 1999 the sub-unit returned to 1st Field Regiment briefly where it was re-designated 101st Medium Battery. Shortly afterwards it was allocated as a sub-unit of 8th/12th Medium Regiment and was relocated to Robertson Barracks, Darwin to join its new Regiment.

The Battery Badge

As a result of a Battery competition and lengthy consideration, the symbol of a war hammer from Scandinavian mythology was adopted as the Battery badge. The story of the hammer is that it was wielded by the god Thor and was the major protection of the gods against their enemies. It was a weapon that was hurled through the air and according to legend it would hit anything at which it was thrown. The hammer was named MJOLLINER (pronounced MOLL/NAIR) which has been translated as 'to crush from the sky'.

102nd Field Battery

Compiled By Major D.T. Brennan

World War One

102nd Howitzer Battery was raised in February / March 1916 at Tel-el-Kebir in Egypt after the evacuation of ANZAC in late December 1915. The first Battery Commander was Major Alex M. Forbes, a permanent soldier and a graduate of Duntroon. The battery deployed to France in March 1916. Whilst deployed on operations in France support provided by 102nd Howitzer Battery included:

- July 1916 - supported attack on Pozieres,
- November 1916 - supported battles around Flers and Gueudecourt,
- March 1917 - supported actions around Bullecourt and Lagnicourt,
- July 1917 - supported major actions in the third battle of Ypres,
- March 1918 - supported action in vicinity of Villers Bretonneux,
- August 1918 - supported another British Somme offensive, and
- October 1918 - fired last rounds of the war at Tincourt.

By the end of World War One 62 members of the battery had died in the service of their country and members had received the 28 bravery awards listed below:

- 3 x Military Crosses,
- 22 x Military Medals, and
- 3 x Mentioned In Despatches.

Between World War One and Two

As part of the restructuring after World War One, 102nd Battery ultimately was allocated to the 2nd Brigade AFA, 3rd Divisional Artillery based in the 3rd Military District (Victoria) in 1921. 102nd (Howitzer) Battery remained part of 2nd Brigade AFA until at least 1939. The coming conflict (World War Two) and a re-organisation of the artillery resulted in the disbandment of 102nd Battery (Note: Detailed records are not good here)

Ressurrection

Eighteen years passed before 102nd Battery re-appeared on the order of battle of the Royal Australian Artillery. It appeared in 1957 equipped with 4.2 inch mortars and as part of 1st Field Regiment. The first battery commander since 1939 was Major Peter Norton.

Malaya

In 1960 it was the first battery to be issued with 105mm M2A2 Howitzers and was reclassified as 'field'. In 1963 the battery was warned for service in Malaysia with the British Commonwealth Forces. In March the M2A2 were withdrawn and the battery was issued with the 105mm L5 Pack Howitzer. In October it moved to Terendak Camp, Malacca as part of 45th Light Regiment, Royal Artillery.

At dawn on the 31st October 1964 deployed in the vicinity of the Malay-Thai border, the battery fired its first rounds in anger since Tincourt in 1918. In April 1965 102nd Field Battery moved from the Malayan Peninsular to relieve one of the British Batteries in Sarawak in Borneo. The 102nd Field Battery returned to the Malayan mainland in August 1965 and its tour ended in October 1965. The battery returned to Holsworthy in October 1965 and re-joined 1st Field Regiment. In April 1966 the battery became part of the newly formed 12th Field Regiment.

South Vietnam

In 1967 102nd Field Battery was warned for service in South Vietnam as part of 12th Field Regiment. The battery was re-equipped with the 105mm M2A2 in September 1967. The battery deployed into Nui Dat on March 1968 to relieve 106th Field Battery. As result it was part of 4th Field Regiment for a short time and was allocated in direct support of 7th Battalion Royal Australian Regiment until 12th Field Regiment Regimental Headquarters arrived in April 1968.

When 1st Battalion Royal Australian Regiment (1 RAR) arrived in April the battery was allocated as its direct support battery. 102nd Field Battery supported 1 RAR throughout its second tour of South Vietnam in 1968/69. During Operation Toan Thang in Area of Operations (AO) Surfers in May/June 1968 the battery was involved in repelling attacks on Fire Support and Patrol Base (FSPB) Coral and in providing fire support to the companies of 1 RAR during major battles around and near the FSPB. The enemy in the AO was at least two Regiments of the 7th North Vietnam Army (7 NVA) Division, formations of 9th Viet Cong (9 VC) Division and elements of several other VC formations. During Operation Toan Thang the synergy of the combined arms team of 102nd Field Battery and 1 RAR was tested to a level, which the Royal Australian Artillery is rarely called upon to deliver under combat conditions.

The combat operations during Operation Toan Thang constituted the first Brigade level action by the Australian Army since World Two. The tempo of combat activity was continuous and intense and both 1 RAR and 102nd Field Battery made a crucial contribution to the tactical success of the 1st Australian Task Force (1 ATF).

Operation Toan Thang (Battle of Fire Support and Patrol Bases Coral & Balmoral)

Australian Army

The operation commenced on 3rd May 1968 and concluded on 7th June 1968. The deployment was unique as it was outside of the Australian normal AO (Phouc Tuy Province) and was against regular forces. The other critical aspect from an Army perspective was the scale and tempo of Operation Toan Thang. Contact with the enemy was constant and sustained against a force that was significantly greater in strength than the units of the Australian Task Force. The regular forces were significantly more professional and highly trained than the local force guerrilla's encountered prior to this operation.

Prior to Operation Toan Thang 1 ATF had operated primarily in Phouc Tuy Province conducting independent battalion operations focused on aggressively patrolling to dominate the area from a guerrilla or insurgency threat. Contacts and actions were fixed firmly at the lower end of the spectrum of conflict. Battalions and consequently artillery batteries operated independently with no requirement for higher (formation) tactical / operational levels of command. HQ 1ATF was needed for the battles for and around FSPB Coral.

102nd Field Battery

The involvement of 102nd Field Battery in the battles for FSPB Coral, and its support to 1 RAR companies and other elements of 1 ATF, that were fought around the FSPB extended from 12th May to 6th June 1968. The battery was in action throughout the whole period either directly with the enemy or through the provision of indirect fire support. A synopsis of the battery's operations is provided in the subsequent paragraphs.

Deployment

The disrupted and late fly-in of 12th Field Regiment (-) to FSPB Coral on 12th May 1968 resulted in 161st Field Battery (NZ) and 102nd Field Battery being deployed some 1 000 metres apart. In the case of 102nd Field Battery, it was the second battery inserted and therefore its guns were not complete on the ground until mid afternoon. The protection company (D Company 3rd Battalion Royal Australian Regiment [3 RAR]) was located between the two batteries where it could not provide fire support to either one. The overall disposition of 3 RAR on the night of 12th/13th May was dispersed, disjointed and not part of any FSPB defensive perimeter.

The battery's bulldozer and defence stores did not arrive until late on 12th May. When 'stand-to' was ordered only three guns had been bundled, and whilst the Command Post (CP) had been dug in, it had no overhead protection. No wire had been laid and other defensive devices had not been deployed. Machine

Gun's (MGs) had been sighted. The battery had done all that could be humanly done in the time available.

1 RAR's last company flew in about 1730 hours and had to move some 2 000 metres to an ambush site. The Battalion Headquarters with two Support Company platoons (Pioneer and Anti-Armour) was deployed to the southeast of 102nd Field Battery. Late in the afternoon of 12th May the Mortar Platoon (-) of 1 RAR deployed to the north and close to the Battery.

The deployment in to the FSPB was observed by elements of 141 NVA Regiment, 7 NVA Division, which were located in a rubber tree plantation north of the FSPB. To make matters worse the 1st US Infantry Division (Big Red One) to the south and west of the FSPB and the US 101st Airborne Division to the east, were both in heavy contact throughout 12th May 1968.

First Attack 12th/13th May

At about 0200 hours on 13th May the 1 RAR mortar platoon reported that a large group of enemy had been heard talking to its front and that it had 'stood to'. On the gun position at 0220 hours the sentries at No 6 gun observed a long line of enemy stand up and begin to advance. The closing enemy assault was engaged by a machine gunner on the north west flank of 102nd Field Battery. The 1 RAR mortars attempted to engage the enemy but they were too close.

The attack was launched in three waves. Three 105mm guns engaged the first wave over open sights firing splintex. Fortunately three guns that had fired in support D Coy 1 RAR (mentioned previously) had remained laid on the last target engaged for that company which was directly on the axis of the enemy assault. The splintex decimated the first attack wave and having expended most of their splintex; the Gunners engaged subsequent waves with all natures of 105mm ammunition, MG and small arms fire. Some of this gun ammunition was delivered to the three guns by signalers, CP personnel and the transport non-commissioned officer in a landrover. These individuals were under heavy fire most of the time. Any movement and/or voices (orders) attracted immediate enemy fire.

Several guns were hit with RPG fire and were put out of action. RPGs were aimed and fired deliberately into occupied positions that had been identified during the enemy reconnaissance. RGP fire struck a gun ammunition bay creating a large fire that posed further danger to the gun position. Subsequently this fire became a reference point for gunships and other air support employed in the defence of FSPB Coral. No 2 Gun was struck by an RPG rocket, which blew out the tyres and damaged the trail. The detachment had to manhandle the gun to keep it in action during the subsequent missions fired in support of the infantry while the FSPB was under attack.

The 1 RAR mortar platoon was completely overrun by the right flank of the enemy assault. The presence of the mortars caused confusion for the enemy commander, as the position had not been there during his reconnaissance the previous afternoon. It was evident the enemy thought that they were amongst the guns. The attack began to falter and the situation created delays and soaked up enemy time and resources giving the gun position valuable time to consolidate.

The size, weight and persistence of the enemy assault against No 6 gun forced the detachment to withdraw to No 5 gun. The enemy captured the gun and commenced using the bund for protection as they fired in to the gun position. No 6 gun was rendered unworkable by the quick thinking detachment commander who had removed the firing lock before withdrawing from the gun. A battery ready reaction force launched an assault to retake the gun and eject the enemy. When the gun was retaken there was evidence, in the form of damage to the under side of the barrel and recoil system, that the enemy had attempted to use explosive charges to destroy it.

As the attack continued on the mortar position the platoon commander requested fire from the battery on to his position. Splintex fire was delivered with devastating effect against the enemy but without injury to own troops.

At dawn on 13th May battery fighting patrols cleared the remaining enemy from the battery and mortar platoon areas. Once this was complete the battery set about focusing on the task of providing fire support to 1RAR and determining the RPG and other damage to its guns. Two guns and the bulldozer had to be replaced.

Post First Attack Activities

Several hours after dawn on 13th May the companies of 1 RAR were ordered back to FSPB Coral. B Company was mortared again as it tried to withdraw from its position and 102nd Field Battery provided fire support with three guns.

During the period 13th to 15th May FSPB Coral was developed in to a defensive position. It was occupied by HQ 1ATF, 1 RAR, armoured squadrons (tank, cavalry and APC), 102nd Field Battery, a 155mm US battery, engineers and so on. Throughout this period the enemy conducted reconnaissance of the FSPB and mortared it by night. 102nd Field Battery was continuously providing fire support on to enemy mortar positions and movements.

Second Attack 15th /16th May

Before the second major ground attack against Coral commenced on 15th May there was considerable enemy reconnaissance activity. Reconnaissance elements got between A Company and 102nd Field Battery. Although the Gunners again felt threatened, their small arms discipline was superb and no rounds were fired.

The attack commenced after dark on 15th May and finished in the early morning on 16th May. A regimental size group probably conducted this attack. The gun position was once again the target of the assault. The enemy employed mortar and RPG fire before and during the ground attack. A and B companies of 1 RAR, especially A Company, bore the brunt; however other attacks took place around the perimeter.

During the attack 102nd Field Battery and elements of HQ 1 TF were the main mortar and RPG targets. Throughout the attack the battery continued to provide fire support to A and B Companies whilst it was receiving incoming enemy fire. This support was at short range and reasonably close to both companies.

Remainder of the Tour

FSPB Coral and Balmoral were abandoned on the 6th June, their defences unbroken. As a result of the actions at Coral the following three awards were made to battery members:

- Military Medal - Sergeant John Stephens,
- Mentioned In Dispatches - Sergeant 'Algie' Elgar, and
- British Empire Medal - Sergeant 'Robbie' Robertson.

For the remainder of the tour the battery continued to provide support to 1 ATF throughout Phouc Tuy and Long Kahn provinces. In all some 60,000 rounds were fired and over thirty FSPBs were occupied. During this period two more decorations were awarded to battery members:

- Member of the British Empire - Major Gaven Andrews (Battery Commander), and
- Mentioned In Dispatches - Lieutenant Ron Lenard (Forward Observer).

The battery sustained the following casualties during the tour:

- Gunner Mick Grimes - Wounded in Action at Coral,
- Gunner Steve Nichols - Wounded in Action at Coral, and
- Captain Geoff Reed (Forward Observer C Company 1 RAR) - Wounded in Action at Long Dien.

Return to Australia and Disbandment

102nd Field Battery returned to Australia in February 1969 to join 12th Field Regiment at Holsworthy. It remained part of the regiment until 1970 when it was re-designated as a medium battery and was incorporated into 8th Medium Regiment. In 1972 the two Regiments were amalgamated to form 8th/12th Medium Regiment

In June 1984 the battery took delivery of six M198 155mm howitzers and fired its first 155mm round in July at Singleton and its first rocket assisted projectile at Shoalwater Bay in October.

102nd Medium Battery remained part of 8th/12th Medium Regiment until the decision was taken in 1987 to disband the battery as a consequence of the Australian Government 1987 White Paper on Defence. 102nd Medium Battery was officially disbanded at a parade held at Holsworthy on the 1st December 1987.

Author Notes:

This brief history of 102nd Battery was compiled by Major D.T. Brennan from the following sources:

- 'The History of 102 Field Battery Royal Australian Artillery' written by Major I.F. Ahearn (GPO at Coral and now a retired Colonel) in August / September 1975
- Submission for the award of the honour title of 'Coral' to 102nd Field Battery Royal Australian Artillery drafted by Major D.T. Brennan in consultation with Colonel I.F. Ahearn and Colonel D.M. Tait in August 1999

The Courier-Mail: Aus removes last troops from Timor [03jun04]



The Courier-Mail

[Print this page](#)

Aus removes last troops from Timor

03jun04

JUNIOR defence minister Mal Brough today declared an official end to the Australian Defence Force's largest security operation since Vietnam – the return of the last infantry soldiers from East Timor.

Mr Brough, the minister assisting Defence Minister Robert Hill, said Australia's contribution to East Timor had reached a significant milestone with the return of members of the Brisbane-based 6th Battalion of the Royal Australian Regiment (6RAR).

"This is a significant day in the history of the Australian Defence Force as it marks the end of security operations for Australia's largest military commitment since the Vietnam War," he said.

Australian troops first went to East Timor on September 20, 1999, following the independence ballot and violence caused by pro-Indonesian militias.

At the operation's peak Australia had more than 5,000 troops in East Timor, although numbers had fallen to 440 by the end of the UN mandate on May 20.

Under the new UN mission, Australia will keep about 100 soldiers responsible for engineering and logistics in the new nation.

Today's welcome back for members of 6RAR in Brisbane was attended by Defence Force chief General Peter Cosgrove, who commanded the original East Timor operation.

Mr Brough said more than 15,000 Australian Defence Force personnel had served with courage, pride and distinction since East Timor operations started.

"Members from every state and territory, both part-time and reserve, have served in East Timor," he said.

"From the moment the Australian personnel arrived they began making an immediate difference to the lives of the East Timorese people.

"Their work has been crucial to the rebuilding of a nation and has established a bond with the people of East Timor that shall never be broken."

[privacy](#)

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www.thecouriermail.news.com.au 6/3/04

Associations & Organisations

Soldier

Build me no monument, should my turn come.
Please do not weep for me and waste your tears.
Write not my name on honour rolls of fame
To crumble with man's memories though the years.
Wear no dark clothes, speak in no saddened voice,
Seeking rare virtues which did not exist.
Just let me be, under the cool sweet earth
And sleep in peace where I will not be missed.
I ask one thing that, in still far off days,
Someone who knew me should in their daily round
Suddenly pause, caught by some sight or sound,
Some glance, some phrase, some trick of memory's ways,
Which brings me to their mind: then I shall wait,
Eager with hope, to hear them say "How great
If he were here." Then, softly at the end,
All that I ask for, just "He was my friend."

David McNicol (AWM PR 00392)

The Happy Warrior

An Anthology of Australian and New Zealand Military Poetry

Selected and Compiled by WO2 Paul Barrett & Kerry B. Collinson

Published by Sid Harta Publishers, 2001

Associations and Organisations Contact List

RAA Regimental Fund

SO2 HOR School of Artillery
Bridges Barracks, Puckapunyal, VIC 3662

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[Membership Form See Page 126]

Cannonball (Official Journal)

RAA Historical Society WA (Inc)

President - Bruce Campbell
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Take Post (Quarterly Newsletter)

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7 Field Regiment Association

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10 Medium Regiment Association Inc

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The Big Gun (Newsletter)

12 Field Regiment Association

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Tiger Rag (Newsletter)

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'Gunfire' (Magazine)

Email: gunfire@hn.ozemail.com.au

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RAA Association (ACT)

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Shot Over (Newsletter)

RAA Association (VIC) Inc

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'Cascabel' (Magazine)

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Artillery WA (On-line Newsletter)

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[Membership Form See Page 124]

18 Light Anti-Aircraft Regiment Association

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[Membership Form See Page 123]

4th Anti-Tank Association

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Australian Gunner's Old Comrades

Website: <http://tibbsau.com/gunners.html>

The Guns (On-line Newsletter)

RA Association

Website: www.raa.uk.com

The Gunner Magazine (RA Publication)

Website: www.gunnermag.com

RAA Unit Websites

Royal Regiment of Australian Artillery website
maybe accessed via the Australian Army website.

Editors Note:

The currency of this contact list is only as good as the feedback I receive. Therefore, if you are aware of more current information than that published, could you advise me as soon as possible to enable the timely amendment of these records. I would also appreciate the contact details of any other *Gunner* organisation not listed. As an additional means of assisting me in keeping current on what is happening around the *Gunner* community, it is requested that units and associations forward me copies of newsletters etc. This will enhance the passage of information.

Benefactors of the Royal Australian Artillery Regimental Fund

Correct at 10th October 2004

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Note:

MAJGEN J.D. Stevenson & MAJGEN T.R. FORD
have paid two life subscriptions.

South Australian Association

*Edited Version of South Australian Newsletter
Provided by Major Geoff Laurie (Retd)
President*

BBQ at Woodside

I'm very pleased to report that about 50 people attended the BBQ held in the 16th Air Defence Regiments Sergeants' Mess at Woodside on 28th March, including a handful of our colleagues from the Royal Artillery Association (South Australian Branch). Despite the weather being a bit blustery, several people still enjoyed use of the outdoor area, whilst the remainder enjoyed the comfort of the air conditioned Mess. The BBQ was very well prepared and presented by the Regiments catering staff; some people were overheard to remark, 'this is the best BBQ that I have ever had'! Thanks to John Nield for his efforts in arranging it, and to the PMC, Warrant Officer Class One Mark Clayton, for their invitation and hospitality.

ANZAC Day BBQ

A few of our Association members joined members of 48th Field Battery at their Anzac Day BBQ at Keswick, and from all reports it was a successful day. Regrettably I was unable to join them (again) around the BBQ, but earlier in the day I did feel proud to see the Battery parade a gun, and to participate in strength as a contingent in this year's March.

Mystery Film and Casual Dinner Night

I am pleased to advise that about 40 people attended this function, and a very good time was enjoyed by all. The main film provided for our entertainment was 'Carry on Sergeant', but I am pleased to say that both films gave us many good laughs. The group later deployed to the Korean Restaurant and partook of their very satisfying banquet, and we finally wended our weary ways home after midnight. Many thanks to Kevin Franke for his effort in arranging the night.

Air Defence Gunner Dinner

Her Excellency, Marjorie Nelson-Jackson, Governor of South Australia, recently joined 'Air Defenders' at their Reunion Gunner Dinner, held at the Arkaba Hotel on 26th May. It is my understanding that the event was held as a reunion to celebrate the 40th anniversary of the raising of 110th and 111th Light Anti-Aircraft Battery's and, according to Brigadier Don Willett (the inaugural Battery Commander), was organised by a group called 'Air Defence Queensland'. This group arranged a 'jolly' to South Australia recently. The dinner was a great success and eleven original members of (then) Major Willett's battery attended the dinner.

Official History of the Vietnam War - 106th Field Battery Reputation

The launch of the book 'On The Offensive' at the end of 2003 resulted in a storm of protests from members of 106th Field Battery and the Royal Australian Artillery in general. This resulted from a statement that the battery was 'slack'. Under the heading 'The strain begins to tell - discipline and morale problems' commencing on page 266 of the book, the leading incident concerns the mortal wounding of Lieutenant Robert Birse of 106th Field Battery by an M26 grenade thrown into his sleeping pit. A Gunner Leonard Newman was arrested and following revelations of his making threats against

Lieutenant Birse who had chastised the soldier for purchasing beer from Vietnamese peddlers and drinking it on a Fire Support Base (FSB).

On the next page, selectively quoting only from the defence counsel at the ensuing General Court Marshal, the book states;

'...all day drinking sessions... in which a constant stream of soldiers went to and from the Vietnamese peddler's stall outside the perimeter and drank beer at their gun posts. This to put it bluntly ... was a slack battery. There was little or no control over the battery personnel.'

The Royal Australian Artillery Regimental Committee formed the view that the text had unfairly impugned the overall reputation of 106th Field Battery because of the author's use of statements from the Defending Officer in the relevant Court Marshal without any counterpoise.

Representations to the author, through the Director of the Australian War Memorial, resulted in agreement that the 'historian had taken an objective stand on the incident based on the evidence available.' His view was that neither erratum nor future revision of the history was warranted.

The lesson is that one 'rotten apple' can indeed ruin the whole barrel. The lasting memory of 106th Field Battery will be that it was the 'slack battery'.

Editors Note: The information above concerning 106th Field Battery was provided by Colonel J. Derbyshire Colonel Commandant Central Region in May 2004.

Gunner Association News From The West

*Provided by Tom Arnautovic OAM
Secretary RAA Association Western Australia (Inc)*

Over past number of years discussions have taken place between the Gunner Associations in regards to sustainability of our Associations heritage and links within Western Australia. Particularly due to dwindling memberships of the older Gunner fraternity members it was imperative that the 'Baton' of Gunner Heritage in the West continues to be passed on.

To this end a renewed RAA Association WA (Inc) has occurred with a change of leadership from the late Tally Hobbs (who served with distinction as President and stalwart for 17 years) and a new committee formed. The RAA Association WA (Inc) is structured as the lead Gunner association in the West with affiliations from 2/7th Australian Field Regiment Association, 2/3rd Field Regiment Association, Royal Australian Historical Society Western Australia (Inc) and 3rd Field Regiment Royal Australian Association.

Anyone visiting The West is invited to visit our World War Two Tunnels complex and artillery pieces at Buckland Hill in Mosman Park. Public tours are available on first Sunday of each month 1000 hours -1530 hours. Map and details on website.

Information on Artillery Associations in 'The West' can be gained via our great website www.artillerywa.org.au. Also posted on our website is our news journal Artillery WA. Membership and information can be sought via email to info@artillerywa.org.au or PO Box 881, Claremont WA 6910 or telephone Secretary Tom Arnautovic on mobile 0419923584.

23 Field Regiment Association

*Edited Report by President Barry Willoughby
Extracted from the 23 Field Regiment Newsletter*

Another term has passed with your Association attending a number of outings and functions throughout the year. Most of the functions were attended exceptionally well by members and have shown a more interest in the Association. The 2004 Annual General Meeting was held on the 12th July, with an increased number of members present.

I congratulate the newly elected members of the committee, with my sincere thanks to the members who missed out during the ballot for positions. Once again we have seventeen members forming your committee, so there is no excuse for the Association to flourish even stronger. I also take pride and pleasure to announce that Colonel Tony English has accepted the position of Patron of the Association again.

I was elected again as your President for the nineteenth time, (hopefully I will soon get it right) and promise to you that the Association will become stronger, and provide you with greater and interesting functions for the future.

The Anzac Day March was carried out in a different format this year, with all the Associations marching with post war units and the Banners all together at the front of the Artillery contingent. Next year we will, and hopefully all other Associations, will march behind their own banner. The Artillery contingent looked spectacular marching down George Street, with our own 233 St George Regional Cadet Unit members carrying all Artillery Banners. A number of the Regiment joined us and marched proud as only a Gunner would.

After the march a large number of members joined together at the Kingsgrove Returned Services League Club where we were welcomed and sat down to a sumptuous meal with refreshments. The afternoon was filled with much laughter and story telling that a number of the club patrons joined in the fun.

Our reunion dinner this year was held at Belfield Returned Services League Club and all attending had a great night.

The Association bussed down to Canberra for the Canberra Reserve Forces Day celebrations. The first official function for us was the wreath laying ceremony at the War Memorial. We were met at the entrance by the directing staff and welcomed to the facility. We then entered the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier and performed a very moving wreath laying ceremony, together with the playing of the Last Post and Reveille.

After this ceremony we were given a two and half-hour, very interesting and detailed 'Artillery' oriented tour of the War Memorial. I have passed on to Major General Gower, the Director of the facility and also a Gunner, the Association's thanks to the persons that looked after us all afternoon.

After the War Memorial, we went to the Cocktail Party for the Canberra RFD Council at the Canberra Club, where we were welcomed and had a great night. From there we bussed back to the motel where most of us continued on through the night. We began telling our greatest achievement in the Reserve, our funniest experience and the most telling experience whist in the unit. Brother, have we got some great stories for the Unit History. The next day we formed up outside the War Memorial and again held pride of place at the head of the reserve contingent. After the ceremony the bus took all back to Sydney safe and sound.

The Reserve Forces Day March in Sydney was well attended by members, and as the RFD Council's Chief Marshal, I can assure you the Artillery Contingent looked magnificent as you marched off. I also think that the 120-horse contingent really stole the show on the day. I have seen the video rushes and of

course the Artillery contingent was great as it passed the saluting dais. Again we went back to Kingsgrove RSL and talked the afternoon away.

Our next important outing was the 2/3 Anti Tank Regiment wreath laying ceremony at Warwick Farm. The past President, Burt Bryant, informed the gathering that of the 1650 members that were in the Regiment, there is now less than 150 persons left. Since Anzac Day 2003 and Anzac Day 2004 the Association had lost 27 members.

There are moves afoot for 23 Field Regiment Association and the 2/3 Anti-Tank Association to become more closely related in the very near future. There are discussions planned between both Associations and the Regiment to allow the future of 2/3rd Association memorial to be established at the already established memorial at Kogarah depot. More on this subject will be promulgated when it comes to hand.

We are about to re-establish and reconsider the gun maintenance program with the Regiment. This program has not worked in the past, so it's up to us to make it work, and show the Regiment that we are interested in the 'Guns of the Regiment'.

We are also considering purchasing a 'Gunner' tile at the Memorial Walk, North Fort. This tile will cost \$1,500.00, but for every individual tile that the members purchase (\$50.00 each) to surround the main 'Gunner' tile, the \$1,500.00 reduces to an affordable amount.



Royal Regiment of Australian Artillery

REGIMENTAL SHOP

Extensive stock available and special orders can be arranged for bulk purchases including:

Field Equipment

-] Lite Weight Sleeping Bags
-] Cold Weather Clothing
-] Customised Field Packs, Day Packs and Webbing
-] Camel-Back
-] Bivvy Bags
-] Nomex Field Gloves (DPCU)
-] Camping Equipment (Including Survival Kits and Leatherman Knives)
-] Silva Compasses

Plaques and Presentational Items

-] RAA Regimental
-] School of Artillery
-] RAA Cyphers
-] Prints and Artwork
-] Statuettes
-] Desk Sets (Including miniature officer swords)

Things to Wear

-] Jewelry (Including) Cuff Links, Tie Pins, Lapel Pins, Saint Barbara Lapel Pins
-] Polofleece Casual Jackets (with RAA Regiment embroidered badge)
-] Chambray Shirts (with RAA Regiment embroidered badge)
-] Regimental Ties



SERGEANT, VICTORIAN HORSE ARTILLERY 1890

Available Soon - Minature metal Hamel and M198 gun figurines

Literature - Research, Historical and Reference

Mail and Email Orders:

SGT Darrin Free - School of Artillery, Bridges Barracks Darrin.Free@defence.gov.au

SGT Toby Organ - School of Artillery, Bridges Barracks Toby.Organ@defence.gov.au

Trading Hours:

12.45 - 13.15 pm every pay week FRIDAY and every off week MONDAY and WEDNESDAY

SCHOOL OF ARTILLERY

Puckapunyal - Victoria - Australia

A Short History of the 4th Field Artillery

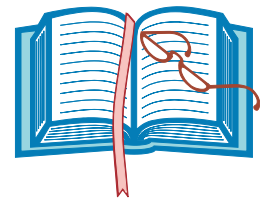
4TH FIELD REGIMENT
ROYAL REGIMENT OF AUSTRALIAN ARTILLERY - HISTORICAL GUIDE

Written and published by Arthur Burke, Brisbane, 2003, 40 pages

Paddy Durnford, that erudite curator of 4th Field's Historical Collection is selling copies of this small, professionally produced booklet for \$6 each including postage. The A4-sized two-colour publication is a short history of the 4th Field Artillery from its origin in the 1850s of Victoria to the unit in Townsville today. The 4th has seen active service in two World Wars and the Vietnam conflict and continues to provide soldiers in support of modern operations to places such as East Timor and the Solomons. It is written in an easy reading, flowing style and contains lists of the modern (post 1960) Commanding Officers and Regimental Sergeant Majors as well as notes on the unit colour patch, badge/logos and the historical collection.

Arthur Burke, the honorary historian of 4th Field Regiment published this booklet under a grant from the ANZAC Day Commemoration Committee of Queensland. He then donated the 2000 copies printed to the Historical Collection to raise sorely needed funds for the museum's restoration projects.

WHY NOT HELP PRESERVE PART OF OUR GUNNER HERITAGE BY PURCHASING A COPY? SEND \$6 TO PADDY DURNFORD AND YOU WILL RECEIVE A COPY OF THIS HISTORICAL GUIDE BY RETURN POST. HIS ADDRESS IS 4TH FIELD REGIMENT HISTORICAL COLLECTION, CHAU PHA LINES, LAVARACK BARRACKS, TOWNSVILLE QLD 4813.



106th Field Battery Reunion 2005

Dates

Friday 29th July to
Sunday 31st July, 2005

Location

Gympie, Queensland

Further Information

Peter 'Tibbo' Tibbett
Phone (07) 5483 7591
or email: tibbs1@tpg.com.au

Tracks of the Dragon – A History of Locating Artillery in Australia

A new publication entitled 'Tracks of the Dragon' – A History of Locating Artillery in Australia' written by Keith Ayliffe and John Posener.

For more information or to order a copy visit the Locating Artillery Association website at www.locatingartillery.org or contact Keith (07) 5443 7102 or John (02) 9982 4471.

ROYAL AUSTRALIAN ARTILLERY ASSOCIATION (NSW) INC.

The Royal Australian Artillery Association (NSW) Inc. needs your support. The association undertakes a number of activities for Gunners of all ranks, full and part time, currently serving or retired. It's journal Gunfire is published three times a year and aims to keep members up to date with issues in the Gunner world.

The AIMS of the association are:

- ◆ be the peak Gunner organisation in NSW;
- ◆ foster esprit-de-corps, Gunner traditions and comradeship amongst all Gunner ranks;
- ◆ communicate with the Gunner fraternity; and
- ◆ represent and make representations on behalf of Gunners.

A number of strategies have been determined in relation to each of those aims.

So, if you wish to be involved in traditional activities of the Regiment such as the Annual Gunner Dinner, maintain social contact with gunner mates through the Anzac Day reunion or sporting activities or just want to support your corps, join the association now. The cost is only \$25 in the first year which includes an enamel lapel badge and \$15 per annum thereafter.

An application form is on page 122.

New South Wales **Gunner Events**

Sunday 5th December 2004

Annual St Barbara's Day Church Service

to be conducted in the presence of Her Excellency Professor Marie Bashir AC, Governor of NSW at The Holy Trinity Garrison Church, The Rocks, Sydney commencing 1100 hours.

Contact Vic Willey (02) 9773 9623

Sunday 5th December 2004

Post St Barbara's Day Service Lunch

at Phillip's Foote Restuarant, 101 George St, The Rocks, Sydney. Bookings are essential and must be made by Friday 19th November 2004.

Contact Bevan Lennie (02) 9524 5524.

Reserve Your Copy Of

GUNFIRE

Issue 1/2005

GUNFIRE is the Newsletter of the RAA Association (NSW) Inc and has been published since 1955. The first issue of 2005, due out in March, will incorporate a CD-Rom of all previous issues and the Newcastle Sub-Branch Newsletter along with a 50 page issue spanning the last 50 years of the Regiment.

The issue will be supplied to current members as part of their subscription but is available to non-members at a cost of \$20 (incl p&h). Advanced orders will be received up to 17 Dec 2004.

Enquiries to:

Vic Rae, Editor Gunfire, on 0417 680 617 or
email to: gunfire@hn.ozemail.com.au

Complete the following proforma and send with payment to:

RAA Association (NSW) Inc
GPO Box 576
SYDNEY NSW 2001

Please reserve a copy of Gunfire 1/2005 for.....

Name			
Address			
Suburb/City		Postcode	
Telephone			
Please find my cheque / mail order in favour of RAA Association (NSW) Inc for \$20 enclosed.			
Signature			

ROYAL AUSTRALIAN ARTILLERY ASSOCIATION (NSW) INC.

The Honorary Secretary
RAA Association (NSW) Inc.
G.P.O. Box 576
SYDNEY NSW 2001

Date:

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

Dear Secretary,
I hereby apply to become a member of the Royal Australian Artillery Association (NSW) Incorporated. Upon my admission as a member, I agree to be bound by the rules of the Association in force for the time being.

Surname:

Given Names:

Service Rank:

Decorations:

Permanent Address for all Correspondence:	<input type="text"/>	Postcode	<input type="text"/>
	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

Email Address:

Preferred Title on Correspondence (Our policy is to address all as Mr or Ms)

Artillery Unit(s) and approximate dates you served:

Birth Date	<input type="text"/>	Enlistment Date	<input type="text"/>
------------	----------------------	-----------------	----------------------

- Annual membership subscription currently \$15.00.
- RAA Association lapel badge currently \$10.00
- I enclose cheque/s for \$25.00 to cover subscription and badge.

Applicant's Signature:

Proposer's Signature:

Proposer's Name: <input type="text"/>	Date: <input type="text"/>
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If you can't find a member to propose you, a member of the Committee will propose after your eligibility is verified.

Office Use Only: Committee approves membership: Payment received (Treasurer):	Particulars recorded:
---	-----------------------

<input type="text"/>
<input type="text"/>
<input type="text"/>
<input type="text"/>
<input type="text"/>

18th Light Anti-Aircraft Regiment Association

The Honorary Secretary
18 LAA Regiment Association
P O Box 536
Gymea NSW 2227

Date:

Application for Membership

Surname:

Given Names:

Service Rank:

Decorations:

Permanent Address For All Correspondence:

Email Address:

Details of your service
with the Regiment:

Date of Birth:

Date of Enlistment:

Period of Service:

Applicant's Signature:

Date:

There Are No Membership Fees

Committee Use Only

Membership accepted:

Date:

Particulars registered:

Date:

Member Advised:

Date:



LOCATING ARTILLERY ASSOCIATION

Application For Membership

I hereby apply to become a member of the Locating Artillery Association and agree to abide by the rules of the Association in force from time to time.

Surname			
Given Names			
Address			
		State	Postcode
Telephone		Mobile	
Email			
Signature			
Joining Fee – \$5.00		Annual Membership – \$10.00 Total on joining – \$15.00	
Please make cheques payable to 'Locating Artillery Association' and post to: Locating Artillery Association PO Box 1042 Manly NSW 1655			
Brief outline of Service (voluntary information)			
Year enlisted:		Year discharged:	
Rank Attained:		Unit(s):	

105TH FIELD BATTERY ROYAL AUSTRALIAN ARTILLERY ASSOCIATION INC.			
<input type="checkbox"/> APPLICATION: Please accept me as a yearly/life subscriber to the association or <input type="checkbox"/> RENEWAL: Please renew my yearly membership of the association from 1 January to 31 December.			
<input type="checkbox"/> I enclose cheque / cash / money order for \$ _____ (\$10 Annual/\$105 Life)			
Details			
Full name:			
Preferred /known name:			
Address:			
		Postcode:	
Phone:	Home:	Business:	
Service Details			
Regimental No:		Dates with Battery:	
Rank:		Postings:	
Other Details			
Wife/Partner's name:			
NOK name:		Relationship:	
Address:			
		Postcode:	
Are you in receipt of a DVA pension? Yes / No			
I give / do not give permission for my contact details to be given to other members of the association only.			
Can we be of any immediate assistance to you? Yes / No Details:			
Signature:			Date:
Post to: The Secretary, 105th Field Battery RAA Association Inc, 14 Marral Street, The Gap, Qld, 4061			

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP OF THE ROYAL AUSTRALIAN ARTILLERY HISTORICAL COMPANY

ACN: 084 470 539 ABN: 66 084 470 539

Title		Surname					Given Names			
Decorations										
Private Address							Postcode			
Telephone					Fax			Email		
Business Address							Postcode			
Telephone					Fax			Email		
Your Occupation										
Your area of interest in the museum	<input type="checkbox"/>	Tour Guide	<input type="checkbox"/>	Museum Displays	<input type="checkbox"/>	Library	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other		
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Workshops	<input type="checkbox"/>	Small Business	<input type="checkbox"/>	Training				
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Computing	<input type="checkbox"/>	Coffee Shop	<input type="checkbox"/>	Administration				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> I hereby apply to become a member of the RAA Historical Company (registered under the Corporations Law of NSW on 24 September 1998). In the event of my admission as a member, I agree to be bound by the Constitution of the Company. I enclose my annual membership fee of \$20.00 (includes quarterly copy of 'Cannonball' journal). 										
Your signature							Date			
Send your completed application form along with payment to:					Contact the Registrar on					
RAA Historical Company P O Box 1042 MANLY NSW 1655					(02) 99763855 Tel. (02) 99772607 Fax. Email - NorthFort@ozemail.com.au					
OFFICE USE										
Receipt no.				Amount \$			Entered on computer	<input type="checkbox"/>		
							Entered on roll	<input type="checkbox"/>		

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You are invited to participate in this unique opportunity to have your name or message as a permanent part of **Historic North Fort, North Head, Manly.**

For a tax deductible donation of \$50.00 your name or message will be engraved into a paver which will then be laid permanently in our

North Fort "Memorial Walk"

The walkway & five memorials are dedicated to the Australians who served in the Colonial Wars, World War I, World War II, Post 1945; Peacekeeping and the Home Front.



All proceeds go towards completing the Memorial Walk & Memorials and restoring our heritage listed site for the education of present and future generations in the role the Australian Army played in the history of our country.

To order your paver please complete and return the order form on reverse.



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Become a major sponsor.

For \$1,500.00 your unit badge, club emblem or organization logo will be engraved onto a centre piece paver measuring 400mm X 400mm.

Each of your individual members can then donate only \$40.00 for their personal paver which will be laid in the same bay as your centre piece paver.

Phone (02) 9976 6102 for further information regarding major sponsorship package.

North Fort


Order Early
Avoid disappointment.
Offer is limited by
space available
within the walkway.

~ ORDER FORM ~

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Please complete the details of the name or message you would like engraved in your paver/s in the template provided below.

Please print clearly. Each letter, number, punctuation mark or space represents one character.



NORTH FORT
Home To The Royal
Australian Artillery
National Museum

PAVER NO.1
Line 1: 14 characters maximum

Line 2: 14 characters maximum

Line 3: 14 characters Maximum

PAVER NO.2
Line 1: 14 characters maximum

Line 2: 14 characters maximum

Line 3: 14 characters Maximum

PAVER NO.3
Line 1: 14 characters maximum

Line 2: 14 characters maximum

Line 3: 14 characters Maximum

Please print clearly. Each letter, number, punctuation mark or space represents one character.

Please print clearly. Each letter, number, punctuation mark or space represents one character.

Please print clearly. Each letter, number, punctuation mark or space represents one character.

For more than three pavers, please photocopy this page & return it with your order
To assist complete your engraving details here are some common abbreviations:

Ranks	ABBR	Ranks	ABBR	Organisations/Other	ABBR
Lieutenant General	LT GEN	Sergeant	SGT	Headquarters	HQ
Major General	MAJ GEN	Bombardier	BDR	Division	DIV
Brigadier	BRIG	Corporal	CPL	Brigade	BDE
Colonel	COL	Lance Corporal	LCPL	Regiment	REGT
Lieutenant Colonel	LT COL	Lance Bombardier	LBDR	Battalion	BN
Major	MAJ	Gunner	GNR	Battery	BTY
Captain	CAPT	Private	PTE	Company	COY
Lieutenant	LT			Association	ASSN
Second Lieutenant	2 LT	Appointments	ABBR		
Warrant Officer First Class	WO1	Commanding Officer	CO		
Warrant Officer Second Class	WO2	Second in Command	2IC		
Staff Sergeant	SSGT	Adjutant	ADJT		
		Regimental Sergeant Major	RSM		

Name: Day Phone:

Address: Post Code:

Simply complete the following details and return with your donation of \$58.00. For additional pavers donate only \$40.00 each. See table below.

Payment Authorisation:	Cheques should be made payable to: Royal Australian Artillery Historical Company
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Please tick:	Cash <input type="checkbox"/>	Cheque <input type="checkbox"/>	Credit Card <input type="checkbox"/>	Money Order <input type="checkbox"/>
Please debit my (tick):	Bankcard <input type="checkbox"/>	MasterCard <input type="checkbox"/>	Visa <input type="checkbox"/>	
Card No.:	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Card Holders Name:	Signature:			Date:/..../.....

	<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr><td>One paver</td><td>\$50.00</td></tr> <tr><td>Two pavers</td><td>\$90.00</td></tr> <tr><td>Three pavers</td><td>\$130.00</td></tr> <tr><td>Four pavers</td><td>\$170.00</td></tr> </table>	One paver	\$50.00	Two pavers	\$90.00	Three pavers	\$130.00	Four pavers	\$170.00
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Three pavers	\$130.00								
Four pavers	\$170.00								

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NORTH FORT

NEEDS YOUR SUPPORT

**The Royal Australian Artillery Historical Company
Needs Your Help to Support the Ongoing Development
of the RAA National Museum**

■ How Can You Assist?

- Become a member of the RAA Historical Company
 - Annual Cost - \$20.00
 - All gunners are invited to join

■ What Do You Get In Return?

- Four issues of Cannonball (quarterly journal)
- Free access to the RAA National Museum, most other Australian Army Corp museums and free use of the RAA National Museum's Library resources
- The satisfaction of assisting with the ongoing enhancement of a magnificent facility that preserves our gunner heritage
- 10% discount on books and merchandise purchased from the Museum shop

■ How Does The Company Benefit?

- They can add your weight to the membership numbers when seeking grants and other assistance from public and non-public sources
- Your subscription assists with ongoing administration costs, including the publication of Cannonball

■ How Do You Join?

- A membership form can be found in this publication
- Submit a form and start supporting a very worthwhile cause
- you will not regret it

**NORTH FORT
THANKS YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT**
