

The Royal Australian Artillery **LIAISON LETTER**

Spring Edition 2007



Faces of Coral – 1968



40th Anniversary – 2008

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

First Published in 1948



RAA
LIAISON LETTER
Spring Edition
2007

Next Edition Contribution Deadline

Contributions for the Liaison Letter 2008 – Autumn Edition should be forwarded to the editor at his home postal or email address, by no later than

Friday 15th February 2008.

'Late' correspondence or submissions after that date should be forwarded to the editor via the School of Artillery or his defence email address.

Publication Information

Front Cover:	Top Left: GNR M. Hundt; Centre L to R: CAPT D.M. Tait, 2LT R. Lowry, 2LT M. Clelland, LT I.F. Ahearn and CAPT D. Brook Bottom Right: BDR A. Forsdike; Bottom Left: SGT L.J. Stephens MM
Photographs:	Australian War Memorial
Edited and Compiled by:	Major D.T. (Terry) Brennan, Staff Officer to Head of Regiment
Published by:	Deputy Head of Regiment, School of Artillery, Bridges Barracks, Puckapunyal, Victoria 3662
Desktop Publishing by:	Michelle Ray, Combined Arms Doctrine and Development Section, Bridges Barracks, Puckapunyal, Victoria 3662
Printed by:	Defence Publishing Service - Victoria
Distribution:	For issues relating to content or distribution contact the Editor on email stratford01@bigpond.com

Contributors are urged to ensure the accuracy of the information contained in their articles; the Royal Australian Artillery, Deputy Head of Regiment and the RAA Liaison Letter editor accept no responsibility for errors of fact.

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- Colonels Commandant
- Royal Australian Artillery Association (QLD)
- Royal Australian Artillery Association (North Queensland)
- 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 (TAS)
- Royal Australian Artillery Association (SA)
- Royal Australian Artillery Association (WA)
- Royal Australian Artillery Association (NT)
- Miscellaneous Unit and Sub Unit Associations
- Royal Australian Artillery Historical Company
- Royal Australian Artillery National Museum
- Head of Regiment
- All COs
- All BCs of Independent Batteries
- RMG HQ CATC
- All RSMs
- HQ 1 DIV (Joint Exercises and Targeting)
- 1st Field Regiment
- 2nd/10th Field Regiment
- 4th Field Regiment
- 7th Field Regiment
- 23 Field Regiment
- 7th Field Battery
- 16th Field Battery
- 48th Field Battery
- 8th/12th Medium Regiment
- 20th Surveillance and Target Acquisition Regiment
- 16th Air Defence Regiment
- School of Artillery
- Joint Proof and Experimental Unit
- 1st Ground Liaison Group
- Miscellaneous Individual Gunner Officers/Warrant Officers and SNCO

Editor's Comment

Welcome to the Liaison Letter 2007 – Spring Edition. The articles and stories submitted for this edition reflect the wide range of tasks the Regiment continues to undertake at home and across the globe. These are supported by a series of historical features which assist to preserve our proud heritage and educate new members of the Regiment.

40th Anniversary of the Battle of Coral

The 40th Anniversary of the Battles of Coral and Balmoral in South Vietnam will occur in May next year and is a significant milestone in the history of the Royal Regiment of Australian Artillery. The Regiment has taken the lead in planning and coordinating a 'combined' national event in Canberra to mark the anniversary. Details of the ceremonial events and activities planned for Canberra are outlined in this edition.



The focus of the next edition of the Liaison Letter will be the Battle of Coral and the exploits of 12th Field Regiment, especially RHQ and 102nd Field Battery, and the 131st Divisional Locating Battery Detachment.

National Gunner Dinner

A 'National Gunner Dinner' will be held in conjunction with the 'Coral' activities in Canberra. This will be the first national dinner since the opening of the RAA National Memorial on Mount Pleasant. It will be a memorable evening of friendship and esprit de corps for serving and retired Gunners. I encourage everyone to make the effort to be in Canberra for not only this dinner but to support the veterans of 'Coral' and celebrate and remember the individuals whose collective and individual actions and bravery is one of the most significant close combat battles Gunners have ever in the history of the Regiment and most definitely post World War Two.

Officers Mess Standards

Being the person responsible for establishing the Regimental Officers Mess at Puckapunyal and then being the PMC for the first two years, I am a keen observer of the way Officers Messes have been evolving. When we relocated from Manly I was confronted with a Regimental Mess which for the first time in its history was operated by contract staff. Being co-located with the Combat (now Combined) Arms Training Centre Headquarters and having a variety of courses with a membership of non Gunners I was challenged with trying to maintain the standards, traditions and atmosphere maintained at North Head while accommodating the different standards and expectations of members from other Corps.

This may seem easy – let me assure it was not and this is the point of my comment. I had the pleasure of being second-in-command of 8th/12th Medium Regiment for six months in 2005, whilst there one of my responsibilities was a Deputy PMC of the combined Robertson Barracks Officers Mess. For readers who are unaware there are only single area officers and sergeants messes in Robertson Barracks. A combination of the geographic location in northern Australia and the lack of any sense of 'tradition' found in dedicated unit 'Regimental' mess created a very 'relaxed' dynamic. Whilst I am not against a relaxed atmosphere what was evident to me was a marked deterioration of traditional standards, protocols and manners.

I can sum up my feelings by a standing joke I used to have with one of the younger officers from 8th/12th Medium Regiment. I frequently told him I was going to write a paper and it would be entitled 'Farewell the Officers Mess – Welcome the Officers Sports Bar'. Sadly I think despite the best efforts of some we are slowly slipping down the slippery slope towards 'Officers Clubs' which are no more than another venue to purchase a meal and a quick drink. Sadly it is my predication that the days of traditional Officers Messes, and for that matter Sergeant Messes are numbered. There are raft of reasons contributing to this situation. Unfortunately by allowing our standards and expectations to

'unwittingly' drop we are affording the defence bean counters 'food' to justify an argument for not supporting dedicated Officers and Sergeants Messes.

Sadly I think we have already started down the slippery slope - it is the responsibility of all of us to make every effort to arrest this trend - start by demanding standards and services in your Messes and make people appreciate the unique place Messes have in the military and how important they are to us. I look forward hearing the views of others. Officers and Sergeants Messes are the most exclusive clubs found in Australia.... no amount of money can buy you membership, you have to earn it.

Army Combat Badge

It was disappointing to see some less than positive comments in a couple of journals regarding the process to allocate the Army Combat Badge to those who are eligible. I can assure everyone that there has been no conspiracy, it is simply the process of sorting out the methodology to check eligibility. I have no doubt that some of those who have been unhappy about the time it is taking would be the same individuals who would be 'loud' in their 'disapproval' if it became apparent there were individuals who had been allocated an Army Combat Badge based on false claims.

Whilst I am one of those individuals who is very quick to advocate that rules and regulations are for the interpretation and application of wise people, I also do not advocate the deliberate corruption of a process to gain an advantage over others who have done what has been asked of them.

The guidelines for the claiming retrospective awarding of the ACB is in Defence Instruction Army Personnel 119-1 (Amdt1) - Army Combat Badge dated 5 October 2006. In the case of the RAA the person responsible, on behalf of HOR, for coordinating the claims process is Staff Officer Grade Two Captain Tom Adams. He can be contacted for further information on 03 5735 6465 or thomas.adams@defence.gov.au.

Apology

I would like to extend an apology for misspelling the surname of Colonel Bill Ritchie, our new Colonel Commandant Western Region in the last edition of the Liaison Letter.



D.T. (Terry) BRENNAN
Major
Editor

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<http://intranet.defence.gov.au/armyweb/Sites/RRAA/>

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. Conversely if you would like your name removed from the mailing list please advise the Editor.

Letters to the Editor

The Word Spreads

Dear Major Brennan

I would very much like to receive future copies of the RAA Liaison Letter.

Yours sincerely

Alf Watt
[Colonel A.D. Watt OBE (Retd)]

Editor: It is a pleasure to have a 'lost' life subscriber back on the distribution list.

Excellent Edition

Dear Terry

I have just had time to catch up with reading the RAA Liaison Letter Spring Edition 2006. It is excellent! And what a great credit to you, my heartiest congratulations; well done! I am looking forward to the next edition.

With Kind Regards

Brigadier Garth Hughes (Retd)

7th Field Regiment History Continues

Dear Major Brennan

I refer to my letter in the 'Letters to the Editor' in the Autumn Edition of the RAA Liaison Letter 2007 concerning 7th Field Regiment RAA.

Following an enquiry, by Major General John Whitelaw, on the issue of 18/25 pounders to 7th Field Regiment in June 1941, I contacted the author of the article from which I obtained the information. He replied that there was a typographical error in his article. That 2/7th Australian Field Regiment not 7th Field Regiment received the 18/25 pounders.

However late in 1941 7th Field Regiment received 25 pounders.

I apologise for the error.

Yours sincerely

R.C.M. Toplis

Where Are They Now!

G'day Terry

Having just had the Autumn Edition of the RAA Liaison Letter arrive on my desk I felt compelled to drop you a quick note. Flicking through the pages was a real blast from the past for me and I looked with interest to see where everyone was serving these days. A great publication, up to your usual high standard.

Cheers

Kent Beasley

Long Tan Article Correction

Hello Terry

I have good news and bad news. Ian Darlington sent a copy of our story, 'The Guns and Gunners behind the Battle of Long Tan' to Harry Smith, the bloke who commanded D/6RAR at Long Tan. Harry was 'delighted' with the story and had only one comment on fact - it was B/6RAR that they relieved on 18 August 1966, not A Company as written in my story.

Damn! I know quite well that they relieved B Company, but must have had a mind-set on Alpha when writing that part of the story and so screwed it up. Worst of all, Ian Darlington who proof read it missed that point also.

Anyhow, the error has been written and I must now correct it. The ninth paragraph of my article beginning, 'Next morning, A Company 6 RAR . . .' should read 'Next morning, B Company 6 RAR'. Similarly, on the fourth line of that same paragraph, 'relieved its brother A Company' should be replaced by 'relieved its brother B Company'.

Sorry about this, but these things happen.

Ubique

Arthur
[Colonel A.R. Burke OAM (Retd),
Colonel Commandant Northern Region]

Brick Bats and Bouquets

Dear Terry

I note with some pleasure the inclusion of short articles written by junior officers (see pp 56, 62 [Ed. Last edition]), and another on 113 Bty. None of these articles show any reference to the material upon which the articles are based. That young officers are being encouraged (required) to delve into gunner history is most commendable. However that proper recognition of sources, where appropriate, is omitted is discourteous.

I have a particular interest in 113 Battery. The Ewen McPherson (sic) referred to is my great grandfather, and the lieutenant who was elected with him on the formation of the Battery was Holt, not Halt.

I attach a document (No 3 Bty) on 113 Bty which I commented upon some time ago for Major General Whitelaw [Ed. Published in this Edition]. Its author R.S. Mort served for a very long time with 113 Bty, but even now the gap between 1855 and 1861 remains a mystery.

I am quite clear as to the reason for Holt's promotion to Captain in 1869. My great grandfather disappeared in May of that year, thought to have absconded to the USA and was not heard of again until 1875. Why is another story, but I have seen the original documents wherein he was reported to be 'Absent Without Leave' after which his commission was withdrawn!

The RAAHC Cannonball had its fingers burnt once by an inadvertent omission of an attribution. The excellent RAA Liaison Letter should seek to fully recognise those on whose research or authorship some articles are written.

Keep up the good work,

Kind regards

John Macpherson

Editor: Many thanks for your comments and corrections.

More Mount Schanck Trophy Winners

Terry

I was cleaning up my office at home this morning, and in amongst my many piles of papers I found the Spring Edition of the Liaison Letter 2006.

Browsing the first couple of pages I noticed the article ref the Mount Schanck Trophy.

23 Fd Regt RAA Association celebrated our 25th Anniversary Dinner last Saturday night [Ed. 29 July], and during the evening we showed a visual display of the Regiment from the 2/3rd Anti-Tank Regiment through to 23 Fd Regt including the Association.

One of the photos was a copy of the Mount Schanck Trophy Certificate won by **11 Battery, 23 Fd Regt, at Belmore in 1983.**

23 Fd Regt, however won the Trophy on other occasions, and a Major Wally Reed from our Association (He is writing and preparing our Unit History) is going to ring you one day to discuss this anomaly we have.

On another matter - 2/3rd Anti Tank Regiment AIF Association ceased to function on the 13 October 2006, and our Association has granted the surviving serving members of that Regiment Honorary Life Membership to our Association.

Regards

Barry Willoughby JP
President
23 Field Regiment Association

More Accolades

Dear Major Brennan

Congratulations on the continued production of a most worthwhile and informative publication. Your comprehensive coverage of matters Artillery will help satisfy the needs of a past and proud Air Defence (HAA) Gunner.

Ubique

H.A. (Bill) van der Veer
Secretary
RAA Assoc (NSW) Inc

2/3rd Anti Tank Regiment AIF Association Merges

Terry

The 2/3rd Anti Tank Regiment AIF Association has been made non-functional because of the inability of most members to attend meetings and functions.

The Association ceased to operate on the 13th October 2006, and 23 Field Regiment RAA Association, which is the 2/3rd's daughter Regiments Association, unanimously voted that all surviving serving members of the 2/3rd Anti Tank Regiment AIF be granted Honorary Life Membership to 23 Field Regiment RAA Association, effective from 1st October 2006. Certificates were produced and sent to all the surviving members.

23 Fd Regt RAA Assoc now includes on their letterhead the following statement, ***Proudly in affiliation with 2/3rd Anti Tank Regiment AIF***, and whenever our Association banner is unfurled and displayed the 2/3rd Banner will always be alongside it.

Thank you for allowing this article to be produced in the Liaison Letter.

Regards

Barry Willoughby JP
President
23 Field Regiment Association

Editor: I commend your association in taking practical steps to assist in preserving the history and heritage of our World War Two associations. The actions of your association is an example for others to follow.

Terminology, Terminology & Terminology

The Editor

The term military is currently being used to describe or cover the three services of the Australian armed forces; ie. the Army, Navy (RAN) and the Air Force (RAAF); however, technically speaking this is incorrect. The term military, in its correct context, refers to the Army and the Army only and does not relate to either the Navy or the Air Force.

The word military is taken from the Latin: 'militaris', meaning soldier. Military is described within the Oxford Dictionary as '.... of, for, soldiers or army'; the Collins English Dictionary describes the word as '... characteristic of, or about soldiers'; even the disgustingly politically correct Macquarie Dictionary (2005 edition) explains the word as '.... relating to the army befitting a soldier having the characteristics of a soldier'. The Macquarie also describes military police as '...soldiers who perform police duties within the army' (whilst talking about military police; it should be noted that the Royal Australian Corps of Military Police (RACMP) is an Army body (not Navy or Air Force) and is comprised of soldiers only; there are no naval or air force personnel in the Corps of Military Police).

Military officer training establishments around the world train cadets to be army officers, not officers of the other services; examples of such institutions are the Royal Military College (Duntroon), the Royal Military Academy (Sandhurst), and the United States Military Academy (West Point).

Up until 1991 the Australian Army's General Service badges (commonly referred to as the 'rising sun badge') carried within them the word military (the scrolls within the badge worn over the period 1904 - 1949 read: Australian Commonwealth Military Forces and the 1949 - 1991 badge's scrolls read: Australian Military Forces). It should be noted that the Army is known in the plural term 'forces' because, whilst the Navy and the Air Force are homogeneous bodies, the Army is an elemental organization made up of a number of corps, services and departments (hence there is no such force as the Royal Australian Army).

It appears that in 1991 someone at Defence, neither knowing nor understanding what he was doing, incorrectly decided that the term military would cover the three services. Yes, I know that English is a living language and I understand that we live in an age of ridiculous political correctness, however, the use of the term military to describe the Australian Defence Force, or any

defence force, is (to put it mildly) wrong! The military is the Army!

Yours sincerely

Christopher Jobson

Editor: As always your contributions are most welcome. I look forward to receiving other readers comments on your point of view.

Overseas Care Parcels

Good Morning Terry

The RAA Association North Queensland is now under the leadership of Lieutenant Colonel Andrew Hodgkinson. Recently a question was raised about what we doing to support our troops overseas? The result was a suggestion was made to send support parcels. I made a quick made a round of phone calls in early September enlisted the support of: Hilton Lenard (107 Fd Bty Assn); John Wells (108 Fd Bty Assn); and Peter Bruce Peter Bruce (4 Fd Regt (Vietnam) Assn). All agreed to support the project.

As at 7th September the project was well under way with 140 names allocated to ex members of the 4th Field Regiment, our aim is to have 2 kg parcels delivered in theatre by the end of September. A second distribution of names is planned to ensure parcels will arrive around Christmas.

I continue to receive emails offering support, the theme is we should have been doing this years ago. My question is should we expand the project to include the rest of the Gunner community? I believe so. By the time this letter goes to press I hope to have contacted other ex Gunner groups with the aim of supporting our other Regiments.

Should there be any reader who is not a member of an association and would like to send a support parcel please email me at paddy.durnford@defence.gov.au or leave a message on 07 4771 7252 or 0412 411 928. I will allocate you a name and the postal address.

A 2 kg package is post free.

Regards,

Paddy Durnford

(Curator 4th Field Regiment, Historical Collection)

40th Anniversary of the Battles of Coral and Balmoral – Canberra Royal Australian Artillery – Official Program 12th May 2008 – 14th May 2008

12th May 2008

- **TBC – National Combined Battles of Coral & Balmoral Reception**
 - Combined Arms Event
 - Location – To Be Confirmed
 - Attendance – Battles of Coral & Balmoral Veterans Only

13th May 2008

- **1000h – National Combined Battles of Coral & Balmoral Memorial Service**
 - Combined Arms Ceremony
 - Location – Vietnam Veterans Memorial, ANZAC Avenue
 - Attendance – Unrestricted – Open to Public
- **1130h – 12th Field Regiment Plaque Dedication**
 - RAA Event
 - Location – Australian War Memorial
 - Attendance – Unrestricted – Open to Public
- **1900h – RAA Battle of Coral Small Group Recollection Dinners**
 - 12th Field Regiment (Vietnam) & 131st Divisional Locating Battery (Vietnam Detachment) Veterans Events
 - Locations – Various
 - Attendance – RAA Battle of Coral Veterans & Spouses Only

14th May 2008

- **1000h – RAA National Battle of Coral Commemorative Ceremony**
 - RAA National Event
 - Location – Royal Australian Artillery National Memorial, Mt Pleasant
 - Attendance – Unrestricted – Open to the Public
- **1900h – RAA Battle of Coral Commemorative Dinner**
 - 12th Field Regiment (Vietnam) & 131st Divisional Locating Battery (Vietnam Detachment) Veterans Event
 - Location – Federal Golf Club
 - Attendance – RAA Battle of Coral Veterans & Spouses Only

For Further Information Contact:

- Colonel Don Tait – 0419 287 292
- Colonel Ian Ahearn – 0417 691 741
- Major Terry Brennan – 0419 179 974

Canberra ‘Coral’ Accommodation:

Gunners are Encouraged to Stay at:
Eagle Hawk Holiday Park, 1246 Federal Highway, SUTTON
* Hotel & Bistro on Site * Rates from \$80 per night
* Phone: 02 6241 6411 * Email: eaglehawk@contact.com.au
Book ASAP to Avoid Disappointment

NATIONAL GUNNER DINNER

*A National Gunner Dinner will be held in conjunction with the
40th Anniversary of the Battles of Coral
and Balmoral Ceremonies and Events in Canberra in 2008.*

*First truly National Gunner Dinner held since the opening of the
RAA National Memorial on Mount Pleasant in 1977.*

*It should be noted this National Gunner Dinner is not part of the
Official 40th Anniversary of the Battles of Coral & Balmoral Activities.
It is being hosted jointly by the Representative Colonel Commandant,
Major General Tim Ford and Head of Regiment, Brigadier Phil Winter
in conjunction with the occasion.*

- Format – Traditional Gunner Dinner with Key Note Speaker(s)
- Attendance – All Serving & Retired Gunners are welcome and encouraged to attend
- Date – Tuesday 13th May 2008
- Location – Federal Golf Club - Canberra
- Timings – 1900h for 1930h
- Dress – Winter Mess Kit or Black Tie with Miniature Medals
- Indicative Cost – \$80.00
- RSVP – NLT Monday 3rd March 2008

RSVP and /or More Information Contact

Major Terry Brennan - 07 4651 0939 or 0419 179 974 or email stratford01@bigpond.com; or
Captain Tom Adams - 03 5735 6465 or 0407 921 328 or email: thomas.adams@defence.gov.au

MAXIMUM ATTENDANCE TO LEAVE A LASTING IMPACT ON 40th ANNIVERSARY OF THE BATTLE OF CORAL EVENTS

The goal of the RAA coordinators of the 40th Anniversary of the Battle of Coral in Canberra on 13th and 14th May next year is to make this the biggest gathering of Serving and Retired Gunners in Australia since the opening of the Vietnam Memorial.

All Regiments and Independent Sub Units are strongly encouraged to send multiple representatives to the Battle of Coral public events in Canberra. Likewise the wide range of RAA state, unit and sub unit associations from across the country are urged to ensure a representative body of their membership support events and to bring their banners and display them where and when appropriate.

Change at 1 Div

By Lt Simone Heyer
and Lt Bill Heck

A STREET-lined tribute at Gallipoli Barracks to farewell the 1 Div Commander was kept so secret the outgoing general was caught in his tracksuit.

"We went for the element of surprise and it worked a treat," WO1 David Ashley, 1 Div RSM, said. "The general was absolutely speechless."

Maj-Gen Ash Power, who was posted to 1 Div for two years, has handed over the reins to former Commander Training Command-Army (TC-A) Maj-Gen Richard Wilson.

Maj-Gen Power replaces Maj-Gen Wilson at TC-A. As a farewell gesture to Maj-Gen Power, all the Enoggera-based units of 1 Div lined the streets of Gallipoli Barracks to showcase the capabilities of their manpower and equipment.

New commander Maj-Gen Wilson said looking after the soldiers of 1 Div and their families was one of his top priorities.

"The Army is currently experiencing its highest operational tempo since the Vietnam War and there is every prospect of this continuing for the next several years," he said.

"Deployments need to be shared fairly so that we spread the experience. We must also ensure we abide by the necessary respite periods so we can keep this up for the long haul.

"Once soldiers gain a good amount operational experience it is important for them to pass that on to the next generation, by transitioning to a Training Command posting to train other soldiers."

He said "battlegrouping" was the way of the future and he was keen to look at ways of strengthening the partnerships between units, the other services, commercial organisations, government agencies and coalition forces.

"On operations today no unit goes it alone. To get maximum effect you need to task-organise with a range of different partners," he said.

"The division will also focus on continuous improvement. Whatever we do must be critically reviewed with an eye to doing it better next time."

Maj-Gen Power took up his appointment as Commander TC-A on August 6 and will tour TC-A establishments between now and October.



Outgoing: Maj-Gen Ash Power at the unveiling of his plaque on the Commander's Walkway at Gallipoli Barracks, Enoggera. Maj-Gen Power takes over from Maj-Gen Wilson as Commander TC-A.

Photos by Spr Matt Jenkins



Welcome: Pte Jae-Ho Lee, CIMIC HQ 1 Div, shares a laugh with new 1 Div Commander Maj-Gen Richard Wilson.

'Army - The Soldiers Newspaper', August 9, 2007

Regimental Aspects

LATE FINAL EXTRA

No. 19,158

TUESDAY, MAY 14, 1968

Five cents

THE SUN



10 LEAGUE COLOUR PHOTOS
SEE PAGE 4

Telephone 2-05 701 Street, Broadway. Letters to Box 506, G.P.O., Sydney, 2001.

► CITY FORECAST: Cold. S. winds • Lottery: Opera House No. 208, page 57 • Finance, page 54 • TV, page 59

9 DIGGERS DIE IN BATTLE

Attack by 450 Vietcong

CANBERRA, Tuesday. — Nine Australian soldiers were killed yesterday in a fierce battle with the Vietcong.

One Australian was wounded.

Two R.A.R. battalions took part in the bitter clash in which they killed 57 of the enemy.

At the height of the battle, the Australians threw in Centurian tanks against the 450 Vietcong who had launched an attack against their fire-support base, 25 miles north-east of Saigon.

The nine men killed brought the Australian total to 206 fatal battle casualties in Vietnam.

Up to April 19, men killed in action totalled 175.

An additional 22 died as non-battle casualties.

Wounded totalled 1,032.

The latest clash with the Vietcong was one of the most intense Australian

troops have met since their arrival.

TANKS

The 1st and 3rd battalions are in the engagement, assisted by the 12th Field Regiment artillery.



Centurian tanks were thrown into the battle.

The men are mainly from Victoria and South Australia, but there are some from N.S.W.

Four of those killed were from N.S.W.

They were:

Gunner C. J. Sawtell, 19, single, of Seven Hills, 12th Field Regiment.

Pte. John Alfred O'Brien, 21, single, of Crows Nest, First Battalion.

Corporal Robert Bernard Hickey, 24, married, of Holsworthy, First Battalion.

Pte. Errol John Bailey, 23, married, of Abermain, First Battalion.

Privates O'Brien and Bailey were

A Centurian tank supports Australian troops looking for Vietcong in an action earlier this year.

National Servicemen.

The base where the offensive developed was set up on north-west Bien Hoa Province last week. This was to help block the in-

filtration of Vietcong reinforcements into Saigon, which had been under attack since May 5.

Soon after the Vietcong offensive against Saigon, the Australians were airlifted into Bien Hoa as part of the Allied cordon around the capital.

• Cont. P. 2

'4 on murder list,' says Joe, page 2

Story continues on LL page 38

Representative Colonel Commandant

Major General Tim Ford AO (Retd)

Dear Fellow Gunners,

It is now over two years since I was appointed as the Representative Colonel Commandant. I am pleased with the focus of the Regiment as a whole. I note, in particular, the progress made in creating closer linkages between our serving gunners and our veterans. I include all those that have retired from service but are still involved in a wide range of activities in RAA unit and regional associations, and in our various gunner museums and historical societies. I believe we have also made progress in our combined efforts to fully record and appropriately display our fine RAA traditions and heritage. I commend the work of the RAA Historical Company and the Army History Unit in the development of the National Artillery Museum at North Fort, including the Memorial Walk. I also admire the work of the RAA History Sub Committee, and the many activities occurring in other RAA state, regional and unit organisations and collections.



I am pleased that the strength of this Gunner community is being demonstrated in the very strong 'roll up' of RAA veterans at the ANZAC day remembrances and marches this year, and at the various Gunner dinners held to mark Artillery Day on the 1st August.

I am also proud of the manner in which our current RAA units, both regular and reserve, are responding and contributing to the high tempo of Australian Defence Force operations and reform. As I have remarked elsewhere, they continue to deploy overseas and to support a wide range of projects in Australia with distinction, both in their primary and secondary roles. At the same time, it is critical that we continue to demand that our RAA units are appropriately structured, equipped and trained to effectively contribute to the Army of the future.

We discussed these issues with Head of Regiment staff at the Colonel Commandants mid year meeting in Adelaide in June which was combined with a meeting of the History Sub Committee. This also gave us an opportunity to visit 16th Air Defence Regiment to receive an update on their activities and to join in their Dining in Night to welcome their young officers to the Regiment. I am pleased to report that the spirit of Dining in Nights is alive and well.

Finally, let me note that the RAA will join other Corps to commemorate the 40th Anniversary of the Battles of Coral and Balmoral in Vietnam in Canberra in May next year. This will include a ceremony at the RAA National Memorial on Mount Pleasant and a National Artillery Dinner. More details will be advised soon. I would like to thank our Coral Sub Committee for the fine work they have put into advancing these arrangements.

I look forward to meeting with you at RAA activities and to your continued contributions. Good luck and good shooting to all.

Ubique

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Tim Ford', written on a light-colored background.

Head of Regiment

Brigadier Phil Winter CSC

Six months has now passed since I assumed the Head of Regiment appointment for the Royal Regiment of Australian Artillery. During this period I have become well aware of the demands on members of the Royal Regiment as the pace of service continues unabated amidst a busy operational tempo for the entire Australian Defence Force - and whether deployed overseas on operations or training and working back home here in Australia, so many of the Gunner fraternity are performing wonderfully well in the service of our nation.



Many would note we have become even busier as a Regiment both collectively and individually – with our ‘out of role’ duties continuing as some Gunners step in as infantryman on operations as well as more recent demands to fill the instructor liability at 1st Recruit Training Battalion under the Enhanced Land Force (ELF) Concept. Meanwhile, we must concurrently maintain our core skills and train for our primary role as Gunners.

Our JOSCC and JOST and STA elements (augmented by members of 16th Air Defence Regiment) are being exposed to valuable operational experience in their core skills on operations in the Middle East, and our gunlines and air defence troops need to be ready for any contingency and maintain high standards of training – despite the difficulties faced in preparing amidst often split units and sub units. We should also remember that individual Gunners from across our Regiment are deploying on operations with Allies on third country deployments or with the British Army as part of Exercise Long Look.

An important trial is underway in the 2nd Division as gunlines equipped with the M2A2 are likely to be replaced with 81 mm mortars. As part of the implementing plan 2nd/10th Field Regiment, supported by 48th Field Battery, has commenced a trial to determine whether mortars are an optimal indirect fire option to achieve Chief of Army’s High Readiness Reserve (HRR) objectives. I appreciate some will be concerned by this initiative, however I am very pleased to report that the Gunners of the 2nd Division have embraced the trial in an open minded manner and are forging ahead in a flexible and cooperative approach.

Another topical issue is that of employing women in some trades in the RAA. Initially the Surveillance and Target Acquisition – Meteorology and Survey trade has been identified as suitable for the incorporation of women.

The 2007 RAA Regimental Conference on 2nd November will take a slightly different approach to more recent conferences – it will only be held over one day and will have a focus on lessons learnt from the perspective of junior leaders (soldiers and officers) on recent operational deployments. The RAA Regimental Committee will meet the day prior to the conference. I encourage all Gunners to gather at Puckapunyal to farewell many of our colleagues from the Royal Regiment and to share ideas on how we can draw on experiences from the current operational climate and feed these lessons back into our training cycles.

I would like to conclude by drawing attention to a major anniversary that will occur in May next year – the 40th Anniversary of the Battles of Coral and Balmoral. From a Regimental perspective the recognition, by the wider military as well as the public, of the exploits and bravery of the Gunners (and RAInf and RAAC members) at Fire Support and Patrol Base Coral is long over due and very well deserved. You will find more information on what is planned in Canberra next May throughout this Liaison Letter. It is the intention of the Representative Colonel Commandant and I to hold a ‘National Gunner Dinner’ on 13th May in conjunction with the anniversary activities in Canberra. Advice of more ‘senior’ Gunners is that there has not been a National Gunner Dinner held since the opening of the RAA National Memorial on Mount Pleasant in 1977. I encourage as many Gunners as possible, serving and retired, to make the effort to be in Canberra for the activities planned on 13th-14th May next year.

Since assuming my appointment I have had the pleasure to visit a variety of Gunner units and participate in a number of events across the Regiment. It has been especially pleasing and rewarding to speak collectively with groups as well as one-on-one with many individuals. The professionalism and motivation of the Gunners never ceases to impress me, it is clear that continual professionalism and high quality training is the key to meeting all the challenges in front of us - excellence in all our performances is essential in the current climate and will continue to provide deserved credit to the Royal Regiment.

Once again, Major Terry Brennan has co-ordinated another great RAA Liaison Letter and deserves our collective thanks. I also wish to thank all contributors. The article by Captain Damien Patterson discussing the merits of deploying our guns on operations is timely and informative – a must read so all of us in the Royal Regiment can articulate these arguments to others in key appointments. I also congratulate Captain Ryan Barrow for his excellent paper on Offensive Support in a Counterinsurgency Environment; again lessons from operations all Gunners must embrace. Finally, Barry Willoughby's article 'End of an Era' describing the 2/3 Tank Attack Regiment is a key article all Gunners should note.

Good Shooting



Former Head of Regiment Brigadier G.P. Fogarty and Former Acting Head of Regiment Colonel J.P. Smith 'Eye Off' the British AS90 at Basra, Iraq in 2007

Regimental Master Gunner

Warrant Officer Class One Paul Washford

The Nation today needs men who think in terms of service to their country, and not in terms of their country's debt to them

General Omar N. Bradely
1948



Greetings from the Combined Arms Training Centre

Well this is my last contribution to the Liaison Letter as the Regimental Master Gunner and I must say it has been a pleasure and a privilege to be able to express my views to the wider RAA community.

The theme for this article will be an area of concern that has been creeping into the Army over the last decade or so and can even be seen within the ranks of the Regiment today; and it is:

It's all about me

Many years ago, when I joined the Australian Defence Force it was a time when the Vietnam War was still in the minds of the Australian public, there was no operational service for soldiers to be deployed on and the Army did little but train and train and train. Posting Orders were just that – not requests; the idea of offering restricted service was not a concept that was thought about and questioning the motives of superiors was unheard of.

I'm certainly not about to advocate that we return to those days as the past is usually seen through rose coloured glasses, however, I think its about time we all reflected on what it means to be a soldier and that *it is not all about me*.

There has been a trend creeping into Army and the RAA recently that operational service is the *be all and end all* of some individuals' reason for service. There are Gunners out there (of all ranks) in the wider RAA community pushing for operational service on the basis that they have not been yet – not because there may have be an operational requirement for them to go. Hopefully this is just a passing fad and the individuals concerned are in the minority, but it's enough to say that this trend is detrimental to the Army and in particular to the RAA.

A point to note is that an operational deployment is just that (be it Iraq, Afghanistan, Solomons, Timor or any other place) – there is no such concept as a *credible deployment* or *I only went to such & such place*. Let's all stop complaining and just get the job done. We in the RAA are there to provide unique abilities (that no other Corps can) to the Australian Defence Force and when and if the time comes for us to deploy all our assets, we need to be ready.

Sometimes we (that is the supervisors, managers and commanders) lose sight of who / what is important to the Regiment. Yes, we have to fulfil our core business – but the people that do that are our soldiers – they are our future and we need to invest in them. We need to understand their trade structure, we need to understand how and when they need courses, we need to check whether they're receiving the correct pay, we need to check to ensure they are aligned against their appropriate SED position for rank and trade, we need to ensure they are prepared before they attend career and/or promotion courses.

Now all of you are getting defensive and are saying, *but we do all those things*, well I'm telling you that we are not looking after our soldiers as well as we could. I can cite examples from a wide cross section of the RAA of those very issues articulated above.

All is not lost however, because we all know that soldier management starts as soon as you have a stripe on your arm (now chest) or a pip on your shoulders (again now chest) and as long as our junior

leaders are educated in their and their soldiers trade / pay structure a lot of these issues will be sorted before they become problems that affect the career and remuneration of our greatest asset.

All these issues I have mentioned above will become even more important in the next few years as the RAA embarks on future tasks to support the growth of the Army. With support to current operations including individual reinforcements, support to Army Recruit Training Centre, the changes to the RAA in 2nd Division and our continuing development of RAA soldiers means that we have a commitment to our soldiers to ensure we *make it about them - not us*.

On a lighter note I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those individuals and units from the RAA and wider defence community that have supported me throughout my tenure as the Regimental Master Gunner. I know that you will continue to support my replacement Warrant Officer Class One Phil Matthysen, after he takes up his appointment here at the Combined Arms Training Centre in January 2008.

Ubique

Northern Region

*Colonel A.R. Burke OAM (Retd)
Colonel Commandant Northern Region*

ANZAC Day in Brisbane

The 1st Field Regiment Dawn Service attracted a record crowd of about 300. Attendees then enjoyed viewing the refurbished 105th Medium Battery Ken Bade History Room en route to the unit's traditional 'big breakfast' at the Gunners Club. The banners of the WW2 Artillery units who no longer march were proudly paraded by members of 1st Field Regiment. There were two new additions to the post Second World War Gunner contingents in this year's parade - the immaculately restored (Don Sinclair and Bob Cunningham) 105-mm L5 Pack Howitzer leading the field batteries, and a well restored (Albert Battery) 40-mm Bofors towed by a mint condition Studebaker leading the Air Defence Queensland contingent. Ron Glew who led the Air Defenders said that it was his belief that this was the first time since WW2 that a Bofors had been in an ANZAC Day parade anywhere in Australia. To recognise this event, Ron had gathered his flock from all around Australia. The numbers at the reunion afterwards overwhelmed the Theodore Club and a change of venue - a three-hour river cruise including barbecue lunch - is proposed for 2008.

7th Division Artillery Luncheons

The inaugural six-monthly 7 Div Arty Luncheon was held at the Sherwood Services Club on 8 May 2007. This function arose from the 2/2nd Anti Tank, 2/4th and 2/6th Field Regiments being no longer able to sustain individual association functions. The 35 attendees agreed that this was a great idea to continue their WW2 mateship despite dwindling numbers.

Fort Lytton Living History Weekend

The mouth of the Brisbane River resounded with the warlike shouts of medieval combatants and echoed the firing of everything from lighthorsemen's .303 rifles to the 64-Pounder emplaced gun within the fort's ramparts on the weekend of 9-10 June 2007. The scenes including communal camp living, Scottish encampments and WW2 US paratroopers routing German 'enemy' from buildings within the fort enthralled both the visiting adults and the myriad of young children.

RAA Band Brisbane Concerts

Two concerts at the Gaythorne Services Club on 16 June and 11 August not only brought audiences to call for encores, but provided most entertaining, foot-tapping public occasions for the Gunners to advertise their presence within the Brisbane area. Supplements from the Australian Army Band Brisbane and the Queensland University Band facilitated musical extravaganzas which brought tears of laughter and emotion and illustrated the versatility of this very talented and orchestral-certified group of part-time musicians.

Reserve Forces Day

Despite considerable advertising, the Gunner turnout was poor for the Reserve Forces' Day March through Brisbane. However, the gathering of the old and bolds afterwards had the walls of the Treasury Casino bar echoing from expended shell cases and laughter as the past was once again revived.

Second World War Gunners' Luncheon

Age and winter significantly reduced the WW2 Gunners attending the 2007 Artillery Day Luncheon at the Victoria Barracks Mess, Brisbane on 1 August. However, the ranks of the diners were increased by representatives from all Gunner associations in the Brisbane area and members of the RAA Association following its AGM conducted just before lunch time.

13th/14th Field Battery's Bush Day

The olds and bolds of the RAA Association had the opportunity to smell the cordite again on 4 August at Tin Can Bay. Driven there in style by coach, the displays at both the gun and observation post ends had the former Gunners reaching for earplugs or binoculars depending on their location. This was a great PR exercise and the bus was lively with discussions and tales all the way back to Brisbane.

Gunners' Dinner in Townsville

This was a grand opportunity for the recently elected president of the RAA Association - North Queensland, Andy Hodgkinson to meet with the Gunner community of Townsville. The large attendance and broad cross-section of ages heartened the organisers.

Vale King-Martin and Casey

The funerals of Lieutenant Colonels Warwick King-Martin (14 May) and Denis Casey (17 August) drew large crowds of members from the Gunner community to farewell these two well-known and respected RAA officers. The Albert Battery QVA pageantry for Warwick and the packed St Stephen's Cathedral led by the archbishop for Denis were highlights of these otherwise sad last parades.

Ubique



Vale

Lieutenant Colonel Denis A. Casey

*Provided by Colonel A.R. Burke OAM (Retd)
Colonel Commandant Northern Region*

On 17th August 2007, many members of the Royal Regiment of Australian Artillery gathered amongst a full St Stephen's Cathedral in Brisbane to thank God for the life of Lieutenant Colonel Denis Anthony Casey. This is a Gunner's tribute to that officer and I thank the following for their input: Ivan Clark, John Casey, Paul Stevens, Bob Carson, Keith van den Belt, Con Lucey, Maurie McGuire, Rob Collins, Mick Crawford, Dick Wickenden, John Bertram, Gerry Dekker, Michael Paramor and Gerry Salom.

Lieutenant Colonel Casey was born on 27th June 1940 and spent the early years of his life at an advisedly safe distance from the Second World War with his family in Herberton on the Atherton Tablelands. With his four siblings, the family moved to the Toowoomba area after the war. Though a skilled milker of cows, he completed school at Downlands College then became an apprentice electrician with the Brisbane City Council. On graduation, he married Muriel and then joined the Citizen Military Forces (CMF) at 11th Field Regiment located in Annerley, Brisbane on 1st May 1962. This logical, considerate and premeditated progression illustrates trade mark traits of Lieutenant Colonel Denis Casey.

In those days, merit was rewarded in the CMF and he rose quickly through the ranks. Though senior non commissioned officers were needed, this bloke was officer material - he took only 18 months to be commissioned through unit coaching on 2nd November 1963. He became renowned for his good and mischievous humour and great story telling. Perhaps the most widely spread 'Casey anecdote' of this time was at Tin Can Bay when he was on a trip to an observation post perched up on top of gear in the back of fellow officer Con Lucey's Austin Champ. Champs were known for their remarkably soft suspension and when the vehicle bounded over a rock, he was launched upwards and outwards, landing flat on his back. Con believed he had 'contributed to

Denis' early demise', but a lopsided smile appeared on the victim's face, he made a quick quip about lousy drivers and climbed back on board.

Lieutenant Colonel Casey enjoyed ceremonies and rituals and with two brothers in the clergy, he had plenty of exposure. However, from Gunner Casey's earliest days in the CMF, then Sergeant Maurie McGuire recalls that he was always toying with a desire to join the Regular Army. An opportunity to undertake full-time service came in 1967 when 1st Field Regiment was reforming at Wacol after returning from its first tour of Vietnam. For the next ten months, Lieutenant Casey felt his way in the Regular Army and in July 1968 was commissioned into the Australian Staff Corps.

His early appointments centred on assistant adjutant to Dick Wickenden and gun position officer of 101st Field Battery. He attended a forward observer's course, but went to Vietnam as the assistant adjutant on 25th February 1969. Dick recalls that for the first couple of months, Lieutenant Colonel Casey was with the forward Artillery Tactical Headquarters up at Long Binh (northeast of Saigon) as a duty officer. 105th Field Battery was in the same fire support base (Kerry) and members frequently either saw him or heard of his humour. By mid year, there was a vacancy for a forward observer captain with the 105th and Lieutenant Casey was promoted to captain to fill this appointment. He joined Major Reg Sutton's A Company of 5th Battalion Royal Australian Regiment and, much to Reg's delight, was an accomplished 500 card player. The pair was a perfect complement - laid back, easy going, but quite professional. Captain Casey demonstrated exceptional composure under fire. In combat situations, he could always be relied upon for a calming quip - in that quiet drawl of his - whenever others were stressed and the radio net became a little overheated.

A Company had its share of action in Vietnam and he trained a fine team. His assistant (ack), Bombardier Gerry Dekker thoroughly enjoyed the free rein he was given, but knew that his boss was always there to back him up when required. (Gerry was awarded the Military Medal for his actions during this posting.) A very strong bond developed within the team. When the 105th completed its tour of duty, Captain Casey returned to Australia with them on 4th February 1970 and became the battery's administrative commander on and off throughout the remainder of that year.

Posted to Townsville in 1971, he was appointed adjutant of 4th Field Regiment RAA in September. Then commanding officer Gerry Salom described him as 'hard working, keen to learn and very loyal'. When Cyclone Althea struck on Christmas Eve that year, he demonstrated excellent skills in coordinating the activities of the unit to help the local community in this time of crises.

The next posting was right across the country to Perth where he became adjutant of 3rd Field Regiment, a CMF unit. There he was able to combine his Regular Army experience with his CMF background and was a true asset to the unit. After a short period with Headquarters 2nd Task Force, he moved to the School of Artillery and was promoted to major and appointed as the senior instructor of the Regimental Training Wing. Twelve months later, he became the School's Major Administration. The Chief Instructor at the time, Mick Crawford said that he will always remember Major Casey for his excellent technical skills and high standards as a senior instructor and for his loyalty and the life that he brought back into the Mess. The Officers' Mess was never dull with John Jansen, John Phillips and John Griggs also on the staff, but it was his story telling enthralled the younger officers in the Blue Room each evening. It was also not uncommon for practical jokes and harmless mischief to spread across the School, however, Michael Paramor remembers 'the way he treated us with such kindness and made it such fun' to be at the School.

In 1978, Major Casey attended the Australian Staff College at Fort Queenscliff, Victoria. This was the start of many great friendships which grew even stronger over the years since. Fellow student Ivan Clark fondly remembers 'his great talent for observational humour and forensic wit'. Whether it was sailing on Port Phillip Bay, flying across Australia in a Hercules aircraft, dining in student friends' homes or the Mess, standing at a pub in Broome, 'or even sitting in those silly collapsible Army chairs discussing the military problems of the world, he would engage - and every moment was special.'

Major Casey returned to Brisbane in 1979 and after a year as a logistics staff officer at Headquarters 1st Military District, returned to the Gunner fold as the equivalent of the Brigade Major Royal Artillery on Headquarters 1st Division Artillery at Enoggera. Here he worked intimately with Lieutenant Colonel Ken Mackenzie on the mammoth tasks of justifying ammunition for Royal

Australian Artillery training and spreading the load for support to the School of Artillery across the division. Ken admired his thorough professionalism and attention to detail which were essential in a position responsible for assessing Artillery standards throughout the division. Ken was posted at the end of 1980 and Major Casey was promoted to lieutenant colonel and took up the staff officer grade one appointment.

The old sense of humour was alive and well - his mythical Lieutenant R. Buckle who was held responsible for many practical jokes throughout the headquarters, and in conjunction with his fellow staff college classmate Adrian D'Hage, the great paper plane competition. Ivan Clark admired the Casey style in the Mess. 'If you saw Denis coming over to join your group, you would feel, 'You beauty! We can relax and enjoy ourselves in his company.' If you were around Denis, life and work were that little bit more enjoyable and rewarding.'

In 1984, Lieutenant Colonel Casey was selected for service with the United Nations Military Observer Group, India and Pakistan and posted to Kashmir. Here he did his best to make a positive difference in a difficult situation. The stories of his experiences as a UN observer in the cease-fire zone between India and Pakistan demonstrated his total military professionalism and diplomatic skills and often equalled the much accoladed adventures of Gunner Spike Milligan during the Second World War.

On return to Australia, he attended the Joint Services Staff College and was then posted to the RAAF School of Languages to study Thai. It was proposed that he would become the military attaché in Thailand, but since his hearing had deteriorated beyond a level with which he felt comfortable, Denis decided to separate from the service. After a brief time at Headquarters Field Force Command in Sydney, he left the Army in 1987 having completed 20 years full-time service. He returned to Brisbane.

Back in civvy street, Mr Casey turned his mind to human resources and worked for the Institute of Engineers, the Brisbane City Council and Q-Build. However, it was his final job as a court officer in the Federal Courts that he really came into his element. Ivan Clark was a great fan of the 'catalogue of stories with an eye for the foibles of human nature on both sides of the bench' which Denis developed in this appointment. In later

years, he was also an active legatee with the War Widows of the Gaythorne Group of Brisbane Legacy.

Dr John Casey described how 'Denis always had an easy relationship with the church', no doubt fostered by his brothers - Fathers Dermott and Peter. He was a very Christian person and throughout the 1990s, was president of the Catholic Ex-Servicemen's Association, their representative on the ANZAC Day Commemoration Committee of Queensland and responsible for the organisational aspects of the ANZAC Day service in St Stephen's Cathedral. It was therefore most fitting that Denis' life should be celebrated by some 250 of his family and friends in that cathedral under the watchful eye of the archbishop, one other bishop and some 12 finely robed church clergy.

Another laudable attribute of this man was his love of, and dedication to his fellow Army mates. Though severely limited in his mobility for the last 12 months, he struggled valiantly and made three significant final public appearances - the December 2006 Retired Gunner Officers Luncheon at Victoria Barracks, a May 2007 staff college reunion at the United Service Club, and the June 2007 annual Binh Ba Day Luncheon with a 105th Battery group at the traditional Vietnamese restaurant in West End. Each of these was a major struggle for him, but the old traits were there - observant, entertaining and topical. In his own quiet way, Denis paid his Army mates the supreme compliment by making this round of engagements to say 'goodbye'. The Army influence was prominent at his cathedral service - a Regimental flag draped the casket, his medals, sword and cap were the pall and the congregation seemed to have bemedalled mates in almost every row. At the crematorium, a uniformed bugler played the Digger's ultimate farewell - Last Post followed by Rouse. In between, all present gave a special emphasis when repeating the final words of the Ode - 'We will remember them.'

Six years ago, Denis suffered a heart muscle myopathy which left him with a terminally deteriorating condition. He was given a prognosis of three years but beat these odds by another three. He lost his hair through chemotherapy, but never his spirit and sense of humour. Muriel, whom he loved so much, cared for him selflessly throughout this time. This devotion extended through the last two weeks of palliative care at home with his immediate family. Denis passed

away peacefully with Muriel by his side just before midnight on 12th August 2007.

Vale Lieutenant Colonel Denis Anthony Casey - family man, gentleman, humorist, story teller and always an admired Gunner. Gone to that great Stand Easy Area up above at only 67 years young. Thank you, old mate, for the wonderful memories you have left with us.

Warrant Officer Class Two Richard W. (Dick) Duggan

*Extracted from 'National Newsletter' July 2007
A Field Battery Association Inc*

Warrant Officer Class Two Richard Wilfred Duggan was born on 23rd November 1936 and died on 21st June 2007.

Recollections from Tom Banfield

My first recollection of Dick was seeing him on the cricket field wearing white flannel trousers that were 6 inches too short. In Malaya with A Field Battery, Dick and Denny Atherton were promoted to sergeant and swapped troops, Denny went to A Troop and Dick to B Troop. Dick was a natural at most sports but cricket was the most consuming. Dick had a big rivalry with the Adjutant (Tom Flanagan) in the shot putt event. Dick laughed when he had to train with a brick, while the Adjutant got to practice with the real thing.

Dick was up there with the best of any soldiers I have met in my time. I'm sure that if he had stayed in the Army, he would have soon become the Sergeant Major of the Army. Dick was an imposing figure (6'4") and very proficient. He was efficient at whatever task he undertook. No nonsense and had very good man management skills. He had a set back in the early sixties when he had a leg badly broken and there was talk of a possible amputation. But he worked on becoming fit again and a few years later he was back in the Army cricket team, albeit this time as a slow bowler.

In 1967, Dick came to 108th Field Battery as Battery Guide and did a great job bringing the Battery gunline up to a high level of efficiency. After a few months in Vietnam Dick was posted to 106th Field Battery as Battery Sergeant Major and finished his tour with them.

Dick had other thoughts of the next stage of his life and became a ranger with the Wild Life Association where he stayed at the Warrumbungle Mountains Wild Life Park a few miles from Coonabarrabran. Dick was head ranger, and his charming wife June ran the park kiosk.

Recollections from Dick Morison

In early February 1949 I arrived at the Granville Technical School. I noticed a big raw boned boy of 12 years of age bowling in the nets and I thought to myself this boy can bowl I soon discovered that this kid could bat. This was the first time that I met Dick Dugan; he was a very good student, quick to learn, well behaved, a very good athlete and a ready smile. After leaving school in 1951 we did not see each other again until 1954 when on a ferry to Manly I saw Dick in an Army uniform. He was at the School of Artillery and he told me he was enjoying life in the Army. On 25th September 1957 as the 'New Australia' sailed out of Sydney Harbour I walked to the side of the ship to watch North Head as we sailed by. Who should be leaning on the rail but my old class mate Dick Duggan.

During our time in Malaya with A Field Battery I came to observe what a fine soldier Dick was and watched him rise through the ranks to gun sergeant. He carried his rank well and led rather than pushed and shouted. He was well regarded but everyone in the Battery. He was a fine soldier, an athlete and a man's man.

When A Field Battery celebrated their 125th Anniversary, I was able to catch up with him again and he told me about his service in Vietnam and his time as a park ranger. He also told me he was having some health problems. As a pension officer with the Tamworth RSL I was able to assist him and I started to visit him in Coonabarabran. Each visit I noticed the deterioration in Dick's health, and the severe increase in his pain level; however he seemed to accept the cards that he had been dealt and was always in good spirits.

Those of us who served with Dick Duggan will always remember the 'Ram Rod Straight Digger' with the infectious smile.

Lieutenant Colonel Jeffrey B. (J.B.) Harper (US Army)

Lieutenant Colonel Jeffrey B. Harper, United States Army, 48, of Fort Leavenworth, Kansas passed away 6th July 2007 following a courageous battle with cancer. He was born 12th May 1959 in Mount Gilead, Ohio, the son of Ronald A. and Mary Ann (Long) Harper. He graduated from Mount Gilead High School, Mount Gilead, Ohio in 1977. Jeff enlisted in the U.S. Army in 1984 and earned his commission as the Distinguished Honour Graduate of his Officer Candidate School class in 1991.

Lieutenant Colonel Harper then served as an Air Defence Artillery officer until his death. During his military career he completed the U.S. Army Paratrooper Training in 1991, earned four Meritorious Service Medals, five Army Commendation Medals, two Army Achievement Medals, the Army Superior Unit Award, two Army Good Conduct Medals, two National Defence Service Medals, the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, the Korea Defence Service Medal, two Non-Commissioned Officer Professional Development Ribbons, the Army Service Ribbon, and the Overseas Service Ribbon.

On 3rd November 1984 he was united in marriage to Juli Ann Fisher in Mount Gilead, Ohio. Throughout his military career Jeff, Juli and their family resided at multiple locations including Fort Stewart, Georgia, Fort Lewis, Washington, Fort Polk, Louisiana, Fort Knox, Kentucky, Fort Hood, Texas, Fort Bliss, Texas, Puckapunyal, Australia and Fort Leavenworth, Kansas. Jeff also served two unaccompanied tours in Korea.

Lieutenant Colonel Harper graduated from Otterbein College with a Bachelor of Arts in History in 1982 and from Saint Mary College in Leavenworth, Kansas with a Master of Arts in Education in 2003. He also graduated from the Air Defence Officer Basic Course in 1991, the Armour Officer Advanced Course in 1995, and the Command and General Staff College in 2004.

He was an avid lover of sports as a player, a fan, and aspired to be a coach after military retirement. In 2004 he was inducted into the Mount Gilead High School Athletic Hall of Fame. Jeff's hobbies included reading history and coaching baseball. His other interests included watching his children play sports and walking his dog Cracker.

Editor's Note: Lieutenant Colonel J.B. Harper was the first US Air Defence captain exchange instructor to serve with School of Artillery in its new home at Puckapunyal. He served at the School of Artillery from 1998 to 2000.

Lieutenant Colonel Warwick J. King-Martin

*Provided by Colonel A.R. Burke OAM (Retd)
Colonel Commandant Northern Region*

Lieutenant Colonel Warwick John King-Martin (Retd) passed away peacefully on 5th May 2007 after a long battle with cancer.

Lieutenant Colonel King-Martin enjoyed three remarkable military careers - the first as a Royal Artillery (RA) officer in the British Army, the second as a Royal Australian Artillery (RAA) officer in the Australian Army Reserve, and the third as the battery commander of The Albert Battery, Queensland Volunteer Artillery.

Born in 1942 in India to a military family, he was educated in English boarding schools. His father, Brigadier Johnny King-Martin CBE DSO MC was a notable Gunner so it was almost a foregone conclusion that Lieutenant Colonel King-Martin progressed to the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst and graduated into the Royal Regiment of Artillery in 1962.

Not long afterwards Lieutenant King-Martin was posted to 45th Light Regiment RA in Malaysia where he was introduced to Aussie culture in the form of the officers of 102nd Field Battery RAA which was part of 45 Light at Terendak. Lieutenant Colonel (then a lieutenant) Keith Hall became one of his colonial friends who recalls the young, bright red-headed King-Martin was 'full of go' and used to allow Hall to 'look after' his MG sports car whilst the owner was in the bush. Keith said that he 'fitted in well with the Australian battery blokes'.

Typical of the British Army service in those times, he also enjoyed postings in Singapore, Borneo, Northern Island, Scotland, Canada, Germany and, of course, the UK. Of them all, Germany had the fondest memories because it was there that he met and married Birgit in 1974. Described as 'that even greater woman behind a great man', Birgit bore them two beautiful daughters, Natja and Michelle and there was never a prouder or more loving father.

Determined not to follow in his father's footsteps, he successfully created a style of his own. He 'was the general that the British Army never had' (Richard Anderson RA), he 'never had an unkind word to say about anybody' (Lieutenant Colonel Mike Nicholson RA); 'he got stuck into Mess rugby as well as the naughty water' (Gerald Moor RA); and 'Maude's . . . was the happiest battery in the Regiment, and it was run with style and sensitivity by a charismatic leader Warwick' (Colonel Bob Jammes RA).

The climax of his all-too-short British Army career was his command of 76th (Maude's) Heavy Battery in the RA. Accolades merely scratch the surface of his 'leadership, real leadership, [which] was a gift he had in bucket loads' (Richard Anderson RA) and 'inspirational - he would always listen before making a decision. He believed in the people around him and not just with rank and influence. He was a man's man, but not afraid to show grace and compassion' (his battery sergeant major Peter Jackson).

Whether it was his passion for Australians, his love of adventure, or just not wanting to follow in his father's footsteps, Major Warwick King-Martin took his leave of the British Army, bundled up his family and migrated to 'the colonies' - Australia. The Mother Country's loss was our gain, for at this time in Brisbane, Terry Brown commanding the Army Reserve's 5th/11th Field Regiment RAA was having difficulty sourcing a battery commander for the 41st Field Battery at Southport. An introduction to Major King-Martin (ex RA) and this problem was resolved. However, Terry had to admit that casting this very pukka sahib amongst the 'Coastal Cowboys' (as the 41st members were affectionately termed) did cast a few initial doubts on Warwick's tenure. But there should have been no worry for the charismatic leadership of old appeared and all too soon, the Coastal Cowboys were eating out of his hand - in short, they loved him. The other officers of the unit were determined to give this English gent a good Aussie nickname and, after trialling 'Wazza' and 'Kingo', finally settled on 'Two Fathers' in recognition of this double surname.

He had a dry sense of humour and was the master of the understatement. Colonel Steve Goltz was the captain unit adjutant when Major King-Martin was shooting with the 41st at the Tin Can Bay Range. When discussing the technicalities of adjusting fire to a 50-metre bracket before ordering the fire of the full battery, Steve vividly remembers the major's remark, 'Of course, we

really didn't worry much about bracketing in my nuclear battery with the RA! But frivolity aside, he brought the Coastal Cowboys to such a high standard, that after an annual assessment of the 41st, Commander Divisional Artillery Colonel Mick Crawford gave the accolade, 'This is the best trained Army Reserve battery in the Australian Army.'

All good things must come to an end and so did command of the 41st. Busy in his civilian occupation, he transferred to the Inactive Reserve. This lasted six months till he was enticed back to replace Terry Brown as commanding officer of the 5th/11th as a temporary lieutenant colonel. For two years, the Officers' Mess standard of etiquette rose sharply and Mess life became most enjoyable. The Sergeants' Mess also loved this man and the views of these experienced senior non commissioned officers were important to his decision-making. His Regimental Sergeant Major, Reg Shepherd remembers fondly, 'He valued the RSM's opinion and actively sought it out.'

His bond with Terry Brown became stronger after Terry offered him the operations manager's job with his highway toll systems design, manufacture and installation company, TST International. Brown recalls the first morning on the Sunshine Coast project when Lieutenant Colonel King-Martin assembled his team after rising and commenced a period of physical training with them on the beach. This came as a shock to the other employees, but they soon realised the bonding and camaraderie which these sessions developed. After five years, he established his own management consulting business, Diverse Marketing, but continued as a sub contractor in the toll industry with Terry Brown, working throughout South-East Asia. The esteem in which Lieutenant Colonel King-Martin was held by Terry's staff was highlighted by two members of the original Sunshine Motorway group attending the funeral service - one of whom flew all the way from Manila.

But the deep love which he had for the military was to continue. Rod Dux describes how, whilst Lieutenant Colonel King-Martin was the battery commander in Southport, they worked together on the Albert Shire Australia Day Committee in a happy relationship for both the battery and the community. This led to their forming The Albert Battery QVA based initially on an old 9-Pounder gun from the amalgamated 5th Field Regiment RAA. With the financial and workshop support of the Albert Shire Council, a detachment of the

Queensland Volunteer Artillery circa 1890s became an integral part of the Shire's ceremonial occasions. The reproduced dark blue uniforms with red facings, gold trim, brass buttons and white pith helmets stole the show on many occasions as the ramrod straight detachment fired gun salutes. Lieutenant Colonel King-Martin became the battery officer (sic battery commander) and his stewardship through many obstacles eventually saw this group receive the John Herbert award for excellence in heritage preservation from the National Trust.

The Albert Battery is now more than 20 years old and has diversified to Queensland Volunteer Artillery with a Bofors gun and 25-Pounder, both of which were a highlight of the VP60 celebrations at the Ipswich Railway Workshop open day. Battery members have also been seen in jungle greens in action with a 105-mm L5 Pack Howitzer at the annual Fort Lytton historical encampment. But The Albert Battery is not all hard work and their formal dining nights are almost a page out of the old Royal Artillery at Woolwich in England. Mess protocols abound, wine is quaffed with gusto and the port is passed before toasts with a formal solemnity which would do any Regimental mess proud. I have dined with this Battery and can attest to the most creditable training which Lieutenant Colonel King-Martin brought to this team of very diverse but fiercely dedicated citizens in uniform. And they loved him for this and all he had taught them . . . as the Battery Sergeant Major Rod Dux said fondly, 'He taught us that it wasn't necessarily the content that captured the audiences' interest, but more the polished delivery.'

It was therefore very appropriate that, at Lieutenant Colonel Warwick King-Martin's final parade, The Albert Battery QVA should provide the military protocols - the folding of his Maude's Battery flag and presentation to Birgit, the pall bearers out to the hearse, and finally volleys of fire from their Martini-Henry rifles as this officer and gentleman departed for his last journey to the crematorium. Birgit, between daughters Natja and Michelle had stood up well during the service, Natja had delivered a masterful family eulogy, but as these three bereaved women stood watching Lieutenant Colonel Warwick King-Martin's departure still slightly wreathed in the gun smoke from the volleys, there was hardly a dry eye for them amongst the respectful crowd of friends who had joined the family for this sad farewell.

I think Terry Brown crystallised everyone's thoughts on Lieutenant Colonel King-Martin with a quote from author David Horner. As Terry explained, 'None of the title of the book, the person who is quoted as saying these words, nor the person described by the words is relevant or important. The words themselves carry the meaning.'

[He] knew the very thoughts of the men he commanded. He knew of their work, their difficulties, their trials and disappointments because, as far as possible, he lived amongst them. He talked with them not only on ceremonial occasions - not only in settled camps - but on the jungle tracks and mountain steeps - where the going was hard and the tucker poor. He talked with them as a man talks with his friends. Many of us learnt the inspiration of this presence - many of us took fresh heart because he was [with us]. He never lost the common touch, and that too is, I am sure, a mark of real greatness.'

Vale Lieutenant Colonel Warwick John King-Martin - a fine officer, gentleman, husband and father, and always a true and admired Gunner. Called to that Great Gun Park up above well before his time at only 64 years young.

Lieutenant Colonel Bernie A. Pearson RFD, ED

*Provided by Brigadier D.I. Perry RFD, ED (Retd)
Colonel Commandant Southern Region*

Lieutenant Colonel Bernie Pearson was not well known outside the Sovereign State, however he was well known to, and respected by, those that served with him for his 28 years in the Active Army Reserve. His outstanding characteristic was his determination to ensure that those that served under him received all the support and conditions that they were entitled to regardless of method, and whilst this endeared him to his troops, it often caused significant angst with his superiors.

On 10th June 1961 he enlisted as a 20 year old to 2nd Field Regiment at Batman Avenue and was posted as a signaller at Headquarters Battery. Shortly after enlistment he was posted to the Officer Cadet Training Unit and returned to Q Battery, 2nd Field Regiment as a Sergeant operator command post field. Within 12 months he was commissioned and became gun position officer of 2nd Field Battery.

Following a series of Regimental appointments, including survey and signals officer he was promoted captain and posted as Staff Officer Grade Three Operations at Headquarters Royal Australian Artillery 3rd Division and subsequently Staff Officer Grade Three Administration at Headquarters 4th Brigade. He was then posted to 15th Field Regiment at Frankston where performed the role of forward observer and battery captain in 23rd Battery.

This was followed by attendance at Reserve Command and Staff College (RCSC) where he qualified as a major and was subsequently posted as Staff Officer Grade Three Artillery at Headquarters 3rd Division then as Staff Officer Grade Two Operations at Headquarters Royal Australian Artillery 3rd Division and subsequently he was appointed battery commander Headquarters Battery 2nd/15th Field Regiment. He then went on to serve in 10th Medium Regiment as battery commander of Headquarters Battery and 37th Medium Battery. He returned to RSCS as an intermediate course instructor, and then was posted back to 10th Medium Regiment as battery commander 39th Medium Battery and then brigade major Headquarters 4th Brigade followed by a further battery commander appointment of 132nd Divisional Locating Battery. Following his promotion to lieutenant colonel he was appointed to Command Melbourne University Regiment and after 3 years in that appointment retired to the Inactive Reserve on 26th September 1989.

Lieutenant Colonel Pearson was a serial volunteer and following his retirement from the Army Reserve he threw himself into the Country Fire Authority (CFA) with a vengeance and using his signals and staff skills soon rose to key appointments in that organisation. At the time of his sudden death, on 26th May 2008 at the age of 67 he was President of Victorian Rural Fire Brigades Association, President of the Romsey District Fire Brigade Group, 1st Deputy Group Officer (Romsey Group) and Secretary of the Springfield Fire Brigade. In addition, he had recently been interviewed for a position as a member of the CFA Board and a final decision was imminent at that time.

The funeral service was formally conducted by the CFA and the military eulogy was delivered by Brigadier D.I. Perry RFD, ED (Retd). As a measure of the regard in which he was held by his community, the CFA and his Army colleagues the congregation was in excess of 800.

New Unit Command & Regimental Sergeant Major Profiles

LIEUTENANT COLONEL STUART N. KENNY

Commanding Officer 1st Field Regiment

Lieutenant Colonel Stuart Kenny was born in Melbourne on 20th March 1970 and was raised in Mackay, North Queensland. After completing his secondary education at Saint Patrick's Christian Brothers College Mackay, he entered the Australian Defence Force Academy in 1988. He graduated from the Royal Military College Duntroon in December 1991 into the Royal Australian Artillery and he was posted to 1st Field Regiment. During this posting he served as a section commander and gun position officer in 101st Field Battery. He served with the Regiment until 1995 when he was posted, on promotion to Captain, as a Forward Observer in 107th Field Battery, 4th Field Regiment.

Lieutenant Colonel Kenny spent three years in 4th Field Regiment serving as the Battery Captain of 107th Field Battery in 1996 and 1997. As part of his on-line duties within the Regiment in July 1997 he deployed as the Second-in-Command of the Evacuation Handling Centre on Operation VISTA, the evacuation of Australian Nationals from Cambodia.

From 1998 until 1999 he was posted to the School of Artillery on its move to Puckapunyal where he took up the appointment as the first Battery Commander of 53 Independent Training Battery. He was responsible to raise and train the Battery to provide firing and training support to the School and to the Combat Arms Training Centre. For his efforts in this appointment he received a Commander Training Command- Army Commendation.

In November 1999 Lieutenant Colonel Kenny deployed to the United Kingdom on Operation OSIER as a regimental officer with the British Army. After pre-deployment training with 19/5 Battery, 19 Regiment Royal Artillery he deployed to Kosovo in February 2000 as a forward observation officer and the Battery's operations officer. During this deployment the Battery was the first British unit to fire the AS90 self propelled gun in support of operations when it fired illumination in support of a battle group cordon and search operation.

On return to Australia in August 2000 Lieutenant Colonel Kenny was posted back to 4th Field Regiment. In November 2000 he was promoted to Major and assumed command of 108 Field Battery, 4th Field Regiment. During this period of sub-unit command he deployed with the 2nd Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment, to East Timor on Operation Tanager. He deployed as the Officer Commanding the Battalion's Civil Military Affairs Group, which he raised and trained from his Battery's Tactical Group. For his services to the Battalion Group in this appointment he received a Chief of Defence Force Commendation.

On completing his sub-unit command, in January 2003, Lieutenant Colonel Kenny assumed the appointment of Executive Officer 4th Field Regiment. He remained in this position until he departed Australia, in July 2003, to attend United Kingdom Joint Services Command and Staff College. On graduating from staff college in July 2004 he was posted as an instructor to Land Warfare Centre. In December 2004 he took up the appointment as the Senior Instructor Grade 2 Command, Staff and Operations course. He was promoted to Lieutenant Colonel in December 2005 and in January 2006 he was posted to the Land Warfare Development Centre, Puckapunyal, and assumed the appointment as the Staff Officer Grade 1- Doctrine where he oversaw the commencement of the Future of Doctrine trial. On 1 July 2007 Lieutenant Colonel Kenny assumed command of the 1st Field Regiment.

Lieutenant Colonel Kenny is married to Kirsty Skinner, a Major in the Royal Australian Corps of Transport. They have with two dogs and two Quarter Horses. Away from work his interests include rugby union, horsemanship, running, hiking, fishing and military history.

LIEUTENANT COLONEL ANTHONY (MAX) P. MCINTYRE

Commanding Officer/Chief Instructor 1st Recruit Training Battalion

Lieutenant Colonel Anthony (Max) McIntyre graduated from the Royal Military College - Duntroon in 1990 and he was allocated into the Royal Australian Artillery Corps. As a junior officer he served in a range of Land Command and Training Command appointments including 1st Field Regiment, 4th Field Regiment and at the Royal Military College Duntroon as a Tactics Instructor and as a Cadet Company Commander.

Lieutenant Colonel McIntyre was the adjutant of 1st Field Regiment in 1999 and on promotion to major he was appointed as battery commander of 101st Medium Battery, 8th/12th Medium Regiment. He has additionally held a staff appointment as staff officer grade two offensive support at the Deployable Joint Force Headquarters.

He attended Australian Command and Staff College in 2003 and was posted to Directorate of Officer Career Management Army (DOCM-A) in 2004. At DOCM-A he served in the Posting Group and in November that year was promoted to Lieutenant Colonel and commenced his appointment as staff officer grade one selections and appointments.

Lieutenant Colonel McIntyre was posted to the 1st Recruit Training Battalion as Commanding Officer and Chief Instructor in December 2006.

Lieutenant Colonel McIntyre has operational service with the United Nations in Rwanda and with INTERFET in East Timor.

Lieutenant Colonel McIntyre holds a Masters of Management in Defence Studies. He is married to Angela and they have three children.

WARRANT OFFICER CLASS ONE PETER M. SIMIC

Regimental Sergeant Major 8th/12th Medium Regiment

Warrant Officer Class One Peter Simic enlisted in the Australian Regular Army on the 1st March 1977, on completion of Recruit and Initial Employment Training he was posted to 8th/12th Medium Regiment, initially as a Gun Number. He served with the 103rd Medium Battery from 1977 to 1983. During his time in 8th /12th Medium Regiment, he was cross-trained and employed as a signaller, driver and operator command post field grade one and two and was subsequently promoted from gunner through to sergeant in the same Regiment.

In September 1983 he was posted to the 2nd Army Recruiting Unit in Sydney (2ARU). Here he was employed in the enlistment section, being responsible for female general entry and later as a field recruiter.

In October 1985 he returned to 8th/12th Medium Regiment where he remained until December 1992. During this time he Simic was employed as a forward observer's assistant, command post sergeant, battery commander's assistant, operations sergeant and gun sergeant.

In December 1992 he was posted to the School of Artillery. He was employed as an instructor in the Regimental Training Wing until December 1994 when he was promoted to warrant officer class two on 25th January 1995. He remained at the School of Artillery until December 1996 and was employed as a sergeant major instructor-in-gunnery. In June 1996 he deployed to United Kingdom on Exercise Long

Look. On his return to Australian at the end of 1996 he was posted back to 8th/12th Medium Regiment.

Warrant Officer Class One Simic remained in 8th/12th Medium Regiment until December 1999. During the next three years he was employed as the battery guide of A Field Battery. In October 1999 he deployed to East Timor as part of INTERFET and in late December 1999 he returned to Australia to affect his posting to 1st Field Regiment.

The next three years in 1st Field Regiment saw him employed as the regimental signals supervisor and battery sergeant major of Headquarters Battery. In January 2003 he was posted to the Australian Defence Force Academy and for the next two years was employed as the squadron sergeant major of Army Bravo Squadron, third year Army Officer Cadets.

In January 2005 he was posted to the Headquarters Combat Arms Training Centre as the sergeant major offensive support in the Royal Australian Artillery Trade and Policy Cell. In January 2006 Warrant Officer Class One Simic was appointed the Regimental Sergeant Major of 23 Field Regiment.

He was appointed Regimental Sergeant Major of 8th/12th Medium Regiment on 30th April 2007.



Operations

NINE DIE IN BATTLE

Tanks aid Diggers

Continued from page 1

At first they did not make much contact with the enemy.

Yesterday the 1st and 3rd Battalions with tanks from the 3rd Cavalry Regiment and 12th Field Regiment began a sweep further north.

The first contact in the new area happened late yesterday, when the Australians clashed with a small party of Vietcong, killing two.

AT BASE

Later, about 450 Vietcong attacked.

So far in the operation, code-named "Coburg," the Australians have killed 172 Vietcong.

The Australian 3rd Battalion in Vietnam, the 2nd R.A.R./N.Z. (Anzac) Battalion, and other elements of the Task Force

are in their Nui Dat base.

The Australian force in action is commanded by Brigadier Ronald Hughes, of Brisbane.

Victorian and South Australian casualties yesterday:

KILLED:
Pte. Bevan Maxwell Trimble, 21, single, of Bendigo, (Vic.), First Battalion.

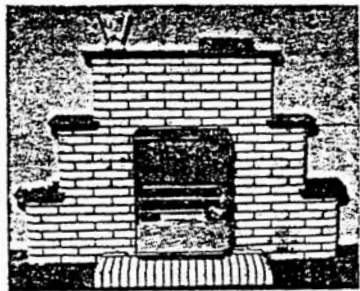
Pte. Richard Christopher Allan Watson, 20, single, of Mt. Martha, (Vic.), First Bat-

talion.
Gunner Ian James Scott, 21, married, of Camperdown, (Vic.), 12th Field Regiment.

Pte. Robert Leo McNab, 20, single, of Keon Park, (Vic.), First Battalion.

Pte. Peter Edward Lewis, 24, single, of Poochera, (S.A.), Third Battalion.

WOUNDED
Signalman Rowan Edward Gamble, 22, single, of Ballarat, (Vic.), 104th Signal Squadron. Shrapnel wound, condition satisfactory.



Fireplaces

...and you can install them yourself



• TV, page 59

RS LE



ner

Continued from LL page 14

ANZAC Battle Group

*Provided by Captain D.M. Klomp
Battery Captain 105th Medium Battery*

Background

Operation Astute is the Australian Defence Force (ADF) contribution to the Australian Government's response to a request from the Government of Timor-Leste to assist in restoring peace and stability to their country.

ANZAC Battle Group (BG) is the name of the combined Australian and New Zealand BG charged with the security of Timor Leste, as part of the United Nations International Security Force (ISF).

The ANZAC Battle Group's mission is to assist the Government and the United Nations to bring stability, security and confidence to the Timorese to allow them to resolve their differences democratically and peacefully. International police from Australia and 20 other nations provide security in Dili as part of the United Nations Police Force. The ADF provides support to these police operations as required.

... bring stability, security and confidence to the Timorese to allow them to resolve their differences democratically and peacefully.

There were approximately 930 ADF personnel in Timor Leste and 170 New Zealand Defence Force personnel. These included elements of 6th Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment, 1st Field Regiment, 16th Air Defence Regiment, 7th Combat Service Support Battalion, Royal Australian Engineers, Military Police, M113 Armoured Personnel Carriers and supporting armoured vehicles from 3rd/4th Cavalry Regiment, Australian Army Black Hawk helicopters, Army Aviation Light Observation Troop with Kiowa helicopters and a Rifle Company, Victor Company, from the 1st Battalion, The Royal New Zealand Infantry Regiment. This commitment established the ANZAC BG of three Australia Infantry companies and one New Zealand Infantry company.

Initially the majority of the ANZAC BG operated within Dili but has subsequently moved to most districts in support of election planning and security. The ANZAC BG HQ remains in Phoenix Forward Operating Base within the centre of Dili.

RAA Contribution

60 members of 105th Medium Battery deployed in September 2006 and were integrated into 6th Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment as individual reinforcements within company and battalion structures. Their various roles included; battalion signaller, rifleman, regimental police and support staff to the New Zealand infantry company.

The most significant concentration of 105th Medium Battery members was found in the regimental police which accounted for the majority of its members during various stages of the deployment. The 105th Medium Battery members within the Regimental Police Section responded well to the change of role and completed significant additional training during the conduct of their employment.



Private Brendon Mencshelyi as part of the ANZAC BG RP Cell

The ANZAC BG relied on signals support from 105th Medium Battery for deployment on Operation Astute with many of the key signals positions occupied by 105th Medium Battery members. They were, as all Artillery signallers are, a highly prized commodity and fulfilled roles normally expected of higher ranks and in many cases were unsupervised and unsupported. As part of the signals platoon these members deployed to many areas of Timor Leste, from Los Palos in the East to Same in the West and as far South as Viqueque. They maintained all types of radios including VHF, HF, UHF and satellite communications and were able to assist and respond when and where required with minimal delay and utmost professionalism.

105th Medium Battery Tactical Group was deployed as UNIMET Liaison Group, United Nations Police Liaison and CIMIC (Civil Military Cooperation). The UNIMET Liaison Group role was fulfilled by the 105th Medium Battery Joint Offensive Support Coordination Centre (JOSCC) and worked directly to Headquarters JTF 631. This

Artillery signallers are, a highly prized commodity and fulfilled roles normally expected of higher ranks and in many cases were unsupervised and unsupported.

team was limited to between three and four members including the battery commander and battery sergeant major 105th Medium Battery. The requirement to maintain representation at United Nations Headquarters and Headquarters JTF under these manning restrictions resulted in busy schedules and significant movement for the majority of the deployment. The UNIMET Liaison Group represented Headquarters JTF at the majority of United Nations, local, international support and non government organisations meetings in a variety of languages.

The United Nations Police Liaison Group consisted of six to ten members from 105th Medium Battery Joint Offensive Support Teams (JOST). This included continuous representation in the United Nations Police National Operations Centre in Dili and a mobile element required to deploy to incident sites as required. The experience and ability of these members was a key factor in maintaining the Battle Group situational awareness and advice to manoeuvre commanders during key activities and incidents during the

deployment. They assisted in United Nations Police planning for operations and provided communications links to United Nations Security Forces for the ANZAC BG. The large number of languages involved in United Nations Police operations provided a challenging environment in many situations.

The ANZAC BG CIMIC team concentrated on working with the Internally Displaced Persons (IDP) and non government organisations. The majority of security incidents involved the IDP Camp and, as a result, information collection and forecasting by the CIMIC Team was of vital importance. They provided regular briefings on all local issues and gave advice to manoeuvre commanders on civilian matters.



United Nations Police Dili District Commander, Bombardier Dave Gilmore and the author, Captain Dave Klomp, during planning for an activity

The 16th Air Defence Regiment supplied what is now well known as Golf Company. Early in the deployment their task was static security of key installations within Dili including the Becora Prison, Prosecutors Offices and O brigado Barracks. Later employment included district security operations in remote areas and election planning and security.

Environment

The deployment took place during the wet season within Timor Leste with extremely hot and

humid conditions throughout. Torrential rainfall towards the end of the deployment caused significant disruption to the IDP camps and those families with houses affected by fire and theft of building materials. Significant rainfall didn't affect mobility within Dili but significantly effected movement in remote areas.

Rules of Engagement maintained the requirement for combat body armour to be worn in extreme conditions ...

Rules of Engagement maintained the requirement for combat body armour to be worn in extreme conditions during duty. Further acclimatisation of members deploying from far for temperate areas, including Brisbane and Adelaide would have been advantageous. This was compounded by the lack of air conditioned accommodation with the majority of members in tented accommodation for much of the deployment.



WO2 William 'Taff' Davies shares a laugh in a hot and dusty IDP Camp

Conclusion

RAA members deployed during Operation Astute gained valuable experience and knowledge conducting duties outside of their normal employment. The relationships and experience will serve RAA well in the future and individual and group performances will leave the ANZAC BG with a sound reputation of the intelligent, flexible and professional Gunner.

Gunner's in Afghanistan

Provided by Sergeant George Thorogood

Introduction

The 13th March 2007 saw the first elements of the Reconstruction Task Force (RTF) 2, deploy from Australia into Tarin Kowt Afghanistan, keen and ready to assume operational duties from RTF-1.

In direct support to RTF-2, the members of the Royal Australian Artillery brought 'dignity to what would otherwise be a vulgar brawl'. Garnered from across the Army were two separate Joint Offensive Support Teams (JOSTs) from 1st Field Regiment and 4th Field Regiment, reinforced with Joint Terminal Attack Controllers (JTAC) from 1st Ground Liaison Group to create the 'Fires' element within RTF-2.

Integration into RTF-2

Plenty of training was conducted to reinforce how Offensive Support is best employed within reconstruction and security operations, and more importantly how the Gunners would utilise Offensive Support within the RTF-2 Lines of Operations.

... soon became evident to all that the planning, coordination and execution of Offensive Support was absolutely essential for the conduct of all operations ...

At times it was difficult to explain to some members of the RTF why Offensive Support was a 'Go/No Go' criteria for the conduct of every reconstruction and/or security mission. However it soon became evident to all that the planning, coordination and execution of Offensive Support was absolutely essential for the conduct of all operations within the Afghanistan Area of Operations.

Troops to Task

RTF-2 JOST and Joint Offensive Support Coordination Centre (JOSCC) initially deployed into theatre as two separate JOSTs, with the intent that one team would fulfil the role of the JOSCC to ensure the coordination and deconfliction of Offensive Support.



L to R: RTF-2 Gunners - Gunner Bazel, Gunner Cairns, Bombardier Emond, Captain Hompas, Captain Bolton, Major West, Sergeant DeGoede, Bombardier O'Brien, Sergeant Thorogood

The JOST was made up of the Townsville based personnel; Captain Simon Hompas (Forward Observer and JTAC), Bombardier Andrew Emond (Forward Observers Assistant), Gunner Amir Bazel (Forward Observer Signaller) and Gunner Paul Cairns (Forward Observer Signaller). They had previously deployed and operated with D Company, 1st Battalion Royal Australian Regiment and subsequently provided the JOST to the Security Task Group (STG) within RTF.

... fixed wing aircraft at RTF-2's disposal was something to behold.

The JOSCC initially consisted of a 1st Field Regiment JOST manned by Captain Josh Bolton (JTAC from 1st Ground Liaison Group), and the following 105th Medium Battery personnel - Sergeant George Thorogood (Battery Commander Assistant), Sergeant Jozef De Goede (Signals Sergeant), Bombardier Dane O'Brien (Forward Observers Assistant), Gunner Mark Pytel (Forward Observer Signaller) and Bombardier Stanley Crabbe (JTAC from 1st Ground Liaison Group). Captain Bolton and Bombardier Crabbe reinforced the RTF-2 JOST as forward observers and JTACs, on a mission required basis. Although the two distinct groups were formed in order to achieve

the mission, the roles within the JOST and JOSCC were interchanged regularly to ensure operational capability and sustainment, based upon mission requirement and tempo.

After two months based on the RTF-1 Post Operational Report which identified the need for a Royal Australian Artillery major in the JOSCC, Major Julian West (Operations Officer 1st Field Regiment) arrived in Tarin Kowt as the Battery Commander RTF-2 and Deputy Joint Fires within the Netherlands Task Force - Uruzgan (TF-U) HQ.

Australian Army's Offensive Support Coordinators, 'the RAA', are well trained and prepared and considered highly amongst our coalition partners ...

Offensive Air Support

The amount of fixed wing aircraft at RTF-2's disposal was something to behold. Within the International Security Assisted Force of Afghanistan, coalition air assets were readily available, which has allowed for numerous training opportunities when the JTACs were 'inside the wire'. This also provided excellent training for the forward observer assistants who were not JTAC trained.



Bombardier DeGoede promoted to sergeant by Dutch Task Force Uruzgan Commander

Conclusion

The 'Gunners' with their 'can do' attitude and the professionalism have maintained and enhanced the excellent reputation of the RAA while deployed on operations. The RTF-2 deployment demonstrated that the Australian Army's Offensive Support Coordinators, 'the RAA', are well trained and prepared and considered highly amongst our coalition partners within ISAF.

Overwatch Battle Group – West (2)

by Captain Simon Hunter

Members from 8th/12th Medium Regiment deployed to Iraq with the 2nd Cavalry Regiment led Battle Group on Operation Catalyst from November 2006 to June 2007. The battle group was known as the Overwatch Battle Group - West (OBG (W) 2) and was part of the British led Multi National Division - Southeast (MND - SE).

OBG 2 (W) operated out of an American air base which was an existing air base used by the former regime and was occupied by the Americans during the course of the 2003 Gulf War. The air base is located within Dhi Qar Province and adjacent to the Province of Al Muthana.

... were responsible for the control of Coalition air in both the Offensive and Surveillance/Reconnaissance role.

OBG 2 (W) was responsible for the overwatch of these two provinces which were under Provincial Iraqi Control (PIC), the first two provinces to reach the milestone in the country. Despite the security of the two provinces being the responsibility of the Iraqi Security Forces (ISF), the Battle Group maintained a constant routine of travelling to the major population centres throughout the Area of Operations (AO).

The objectives of patrols were twofold: Firstly, to gain and maintain situational awareness throughout the AO in an effort to allow successful planning and execution of an intervention operation should the ISF fail to manage the security of their province. Secondly, the facilitation of nation building activities such as the coordination of Civil Military Cooperation (CIMIC) projects and the training of ISF elements.

8th/12th Medium Regiment deployed two Joint Offensive Support Teams (JOST) and a Joint Offensive Support Coordination Centre (JOSCC), each consisting of four members. The JOST

supported each of the Combat Teams and were responsible for the control of Coalition air in both the Offensive and Surveillance/Reconnaissance role. The JOSTs also provided a level of coordination with the Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) assets that were organic to the Battle Group. The JOST regularly manned rooftop observation posts and provided overwatch during key leadership engagement in the urban environment.

... equipment not always available in Australia became available in theatre.

As expected on operations, equipment not always available in Australia became available in theatre. Both JOST employed Ground Surveillance Radar (GSR) in support of the Combat Teams during patrols in the southern desert areas and other rural areas where urban clutter was minimal. When combined with other collection assets the GSR proved to be a useful tool in monitoring NAs. The radar was capable of picking up 'anomalies' beyond visual distance and provided information that could be used to queue optical devices, including UAV, to further interrogate the target.

A piece of equipment that arrived mid tour was ROVER III which gave both the Intelligence Surveillance Target Acquisition and Reconnaissance (ISTAR) cell in camp and the combat teams outside the wire the ability to receive real time video footage from Coalition air. With an enemy that realised the need to avoid detection by a superior adversary, particularly in terms of firepower, this capability was invaluable in reducing the ability for him to withdraw into the urban sprawl or conduct stand off attacks by remote.

The JOSCC was responsible for the requesting of planned air support, supporting battle group headquarters when on patrol and the coordination of kinetic and non kinetic targeting.

The JOSCC was responsible for the requesting of planned air support, supporting battle group headquarters when on patrol and the coordination of kinetic and non kinetic targeting. The Battery Commander, Major Winter, was also

Officer Commanding of Security Sector Reform (SSR) which saw him being responsible for the command of the Military Transition Teams (MiTT) and Civil Police Assistance Teams (CPAT). This line of operation was a significant component of the Battle Group's activities and heavily influenced the actions of the combat teams.

Both the JOST and JOSCC provided ECAS training to the Battle Group throughout the tour and also played a part in providing protection parties to the commanding officer and officer commanding when they were dismounted.

In addition to the members employed in their Corps jobs, albeit without indirect fire, there was five members employed as Bushmaster drivers/crew commanders, two employed as training staff with the Australian Army Training Team - Iraq (AATT-I) and the Regimental Chief Clerk deployed as the Battle Group Chief Clerk.



Members of the 8th/12th Medium Regiment at the 'Zigg'. L to R: Captain Hunter (JOST COMD), Bombardier Splatt (JOST 2IC), Warrant Officer Class Two Pugh (BG CC), Captain Manoel (CTC, JOSCC 2IC), Lance Bombardier Stevens (IMV DVR), Lance Bombardier Booker (JOST SIG), Gunner Golding (JOSCC SIG), Gunner Ratcliffe (JOST SIG), Major Winter (BC), Gunner Fitzgibbons (IMV DVR), Sergeant Jolley (AATT-I), Gunner Tondo (IMV DVR), Lance Bombardier Hill (JOST SIG), Lance Bombardier Sampson (IMV DVR), Bombardier Dawson (JOST 2IC), Lieutenant Nebauer (JOST COMD), Bombardier Cousins (JOSCC SIG), Gunner Stapleton (JOST SIG).
Absent: Warrant Officer Class Two Dimond (AATT-I), Craftsman White (IMV DVR)

Articles



No. 19,161

FRIDAY, MAY 17, 1968

Five cents

THE SUN

Telephone 2-0944. Jones Street, Broadway. Letters to Box 506, G.P.O., Sydney, 2001.



● CITY FORECAST: Cloudy. W. wind. ● Lottery: Special No. 1612, page 18 ● Finance, page 22 ● TV, page 37

WORST WEEK OF WAR

7 MORE KILLED

14 Australians wounded

SEVEN more dead and 14 wounded in a savage battle with the Vietcong yesterday brought Australia's toll in Vietnam for the week to 21 dead and 52 wounded.

For Australians in Vietnam, it was the worst week of the war.

The troops were slain north of Saigon.

In retaliation, the Australians have killed at least 103 Vietcong.

Next of kin of the seven soldiers have received the dreaded killed in action notification.

The families of the 14 soldiers wounded in action have also been advised.

Earlier in the week, 14 Aus-

tralian were killed and 38 wounded.

In yesterday's attack the enemy troops penetrated the Australian artillery base in north-west Bien Hoa Province.

The base is being defended by troops of the First and Third Battalions.

The "Coral" base attacked by the Vietcong is manned by troops of the 12th Field Artillery Regiment, supported by the two battalions.

North Vietnamese units

launched their second attack on the base in three days.

The Australians killed at least 103 enemy troops in the two engagements and captured five prisoners.

The enemy troops are members of the 141st North Vietnamese Regiment.

The fire support base is a detachment of artillery used to provide artillery attacks in support of infantry engagements with the enemy.

Artillery attacks are feared by the North Vietnamese and Vietcong troops when they engage Australian infantry.

The second attack on the fire support base was launched at 2.40 p.m. yesterday and lasted until 7 a.m.

It was prefaced by rocket, artillery and small arms fire.

Continued P. 2

Story continues on LL page 68

Operational Deployment of Guns?

The Myths & Facts

by Captain Daimien Patterson
Adjutant School of Artillery

'To win without fighting is the acme of skill.'

Sun Tzu

Introduction

It seems that for some reason across the ADF a false belief has developed that *our* guns are either not required or inappropriate for deployment to the Middle East Area of Operations (MEAO). Worst still, it seems that some within our ranks, are starting to accept this belief instead of fighting it. Even while right now in Iraq and Afghanistan the US Army and Marines have 'unprotected' M198 and M119 towed guns identical to ours, deployed in action supporting close combat and conducting counter-battery fire.

... US Army and Marines have 'unprotected' M198 and M119 towed guns identical to ours, deployed ...

This belief is perpetuated by five myths that seem to be doing the rounds, and seems to ignore five simple facts. This article aims to dispel those myths and arm the reader with the facts that not only support the assertion that the deployment of RAA guns is justified, but that it is essential to potentially saving Australian lives.

Five Myths Why Guns Can't Deploy

Myth 1. 'The Australian Government won't send guns'

The first myth as to why guns are not deployed is that the Australian Government won't send them due to fears of civilian casualties and collateral

damage. Whilst the author is certainly not privy to the high level discussions that occur behind closed doors in Canberra, when the past decisions of this current government are considered, it is obvious that this is a myth. The same government has approved RAAF F/A-18 fighters to, amongst other tasks, drop *unguided* bombs and the HMAS ANZAC to conduct shore bombardment in Iraq, whilst also approving the employment of mortars in Afghanistan.

Myth 2. 'Air support can do it'

Most commonly employed in RAAF Officers' Messes is the myth that air power makes the deployment of guns unnecessary. There is no doubt that air support provides awesome firepower to the ground commander, but what most advocates of 'air support in lieu of guns' fail to mention is that:

- Air support can take up to 20 minutes to engage a target (a very long time for troops in contact);
- It cannot be guaranteed in all weather conditions (especially dust storms);
- It cannot be applied as close to friendly troops as guns can;
- Its higher explosive yield poses a greater collateral damage risk;
- It cannot maintain guaranteed suppression to cover an assault or withdrawal from contact;
- It cannot provide sustained illumination or a smoke screen if required; and
- It is extremely resource intensive in manpower, fuel and maintenance costs when compared to guns.

Myth 3. 'We can't deploy without precision munitions'

To say we can't deploy without precision munitions is a myth. The Canadian artillery initially deployed its towed guns to Afghanistan without precision munitions and has employed conventional munitions extensively. Whilst the Canadians have gone to great lengths to expedite the acquisition of the GPS guided Excalibur round, its use has reputedly been minimal. The Canadian experience has proved that fire directed by observers using GPS linked Laser Range Finders from guns with GPS survey, current registration and accurate calibration data have proven to be very accurate; often achieving first

round accuracy. Australian Army JOSTs in Afghanistan have already employed *unguided* conventional artillery munitions fired from Dutch PzH2000 Howitzers!

... fire directed by observers using GPS linked Laser Range Finders from guns with GPS survey, current registration and accurate calibration data have proven to be very accurate ...

Contrary to popular belief, the land masses of Iraq and Afghanistan are not covered in urban or other types of complex terrain full of civilians. In fact Australia's current area of operations in Afghanistan, the Oruzgan province has a population density of a mere 17.6 people per square kilometre (wikipedia.org/wiki/Oruzgan_Province) with the vast majority of the AO being open country where artillery can safely be employed.

Myth 4. 'We don't have protected mobility'

It is true that the RAA does not have a protected self-propelled gun at the moment. But it is a myth that a protected SP is essential for the current operations in the MEAO. In the current conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan, coalition towed guns are deployed within FOBs or well defended temporary fire support bases. In the rare event of a requirement to move between FOBs, towed guns and associated shooting stores can be airlifted by helicopter (including by Australian CH-47s deployed to Afghanistan) or worst-case, towed by protected vehicles (such as IMVs).

Myth 5. 'The minimum fire unit is a six-gun battery'

In doctrinal conventional warfare the minimum fire-unit is a six-gun battery. The problem is we're not in a doctrinal conventional war. We're fighting a counter-insurgency war where the enemy rarely presents himself in larger than squad size groupings, and as such the need for a six-gun fire unit is a myth. Fire units of less-than six guns are acceptable, and in fact, *desirable*. The deployment of troop sized gun positions has become the norm for coalition artillery as it facilitates the provision of fire support to a greater area. In a pragmatic sense, in an environment of small fleeting targets and stringent manning constraints, the deployment of 2-3 gun troops is a necessary and acceptable reality.

Five Facts Why Guns Should Deploy

Whilst the above myths seem to dominate discussions on the deployment of Australian guns, the following facts seem to be being ignored or undervalued.

Fact 1. Deterrence

The *first* function of any military force is to *deter* enemy action whilst still achieving the mission, or as the opening quote states 'to win without fighting' - not to seek battle from the outset. If guns deploy, but never fire a single shot in anger, they have still met their primary purpose - that of *deterrence*. If the enemy knows that attacking Australian troops will result in receiving timely, accurate and overwhelming indirect fire on his position, this will weigh heavily on his decision process. It will significantly reduce the courses of action available to him and thus make him more predictable and easier to counter. Potentially and ideally, he may even decide to avoid attacking Australian troops altogether.

The first function of any military force is to deter enemy action ...

The common maxim of 'walk softly but carry a big stick' is relevant here. Reconstruction efforts and good civil-military relationships are the 'walk softly' piece, but the guns give you a long range, timely and accurate 'big stick' with an overwhelming weight of fire and an all-weather guarantee. In this sense, to steal and adapt the popular catch cry used to justify the purchase of the M1A1 tank:

'Guns save lives'

Fact 2. Range

Unlike mortars, guns give you greater range and thus, when conducting 6400 mil shooting provide an exponentially greater area that troops can operate in with the protection of fire support. When conducting 6400 mil shooting, the **81mm mortar can cover 78 sq km**, the **M198 can cover 1029 sq km** (using Charge 8R, or 678 sq km if restricted to Charge 7W). Not only does the M198 provide a greater area of coverage it also provides a greater ability to respond across the AO without redeploying. By simply traversing the barrel 3200 mils, an M198 can go from supporting one

location to another up to 36 km away in a matter of minutes. A mortar section needs to pack-up, load into its IMVs, drive the approximate 30 km distance, redeploy, and then fire the mission.

... 'walk softly but carry a big stick' ...

Fact 3. Guaranteed

Currently Australian forces in the MEAO rely on coalition fire support assets, with the exception of a small number of mortars. In fact, the primary reason for the deployment of mortars was this very situation - Australian soldiers are relying almost entirely on *coalition* fire support. The problem with this is glaringly obvious. What happens when Australian forces are in desperate need of fire support at the same time as forces belonging to the coalition country providing us with that fire support? There is a chance that Australian troops will be forced to go without - *and that may (or will) cost Australian lives.*

What happens when Australian forces are in desperate need of fire support at the same time as forces belonging to the coalition country providing us with that fire support?

Furthermore, the particular heavy reliance on coalition air power is an additional serious gamble. This is due to the fact that, air support cannot be guaranteed in all weather. Even if air power can fly above any adverse weather, it still cannot deliver the essential fire support needed by ground troops without positive control from a ground element that can see the target. Air support also has a limited loiter time and cannot generate guaranteed and sustained suppression to cover an attack or withdrawal, unlike the ability of guns.

Fact 4. Timeliness

Another important fact is that having our own guns provides the best *speed of response* available from any source of fire support available. Air support can take up to 20 minutes to deliver fire support, whilst our guns can do it in two minutes. Even when employing guns from coalition forces there are still significant delays caused by differing procedures, availability of assets, coalition set priorities, liaison requirements, language barriers and clearance of fire procedures. For troops in

contact minutes without fire support can equate to hours when under fire.

... ***own guns provides the best speed of response available*** ...

Furthermore, when conducting complex operations such as those requiring detailed fire planning, it can be extremely difficult when relying entirely on coalition fire support. Australian guns with Australian observers can execute these activities with ease. Additionally, when using your own guns, you also own the ammunition and can use it as much as you need to, making your own decisions on how it's used.

Fact 5. Non-lethal effects

Even if the call never comes for lethal fire support, guns can still provide extremely useful non-lethal effects. The utility of illumination munitions as both a deterrent and as an aid to observation by night remains a valuable capability, even with the introduction of night vision devices. Smoke can be used effectively to screen friendly troop movement from known enemy locations and to temporarily blind their observation posts. Smoke can also be used to let a potential threat know it is within range of the guns and should desist. Furthermore there is obvious utility in using White Phosphorous (WP) munitions to mark targets for close air support in an arid desert environment often devoid of any distinguishing features visible from the air.

Conclusion

US commanders have since pointed out that the absence of capable mortar and artillery fires left them very vulnerable to Taliban mortar fire. Aircraft did not have sufficient loiter time to substitute for the timely and intimate support provided by our own gunners. The absence of counter battery fire cost lives. In Iraq the artillery came back into its own. In particular, the gunners delivered fire regardless of season, weather or terrain. The Coalition counter-battery fire was devastating.

Chief of Army, RAA Conference
28 October 2004

In conclusion, ***guns save lives***. The irony is that some seem to think that if the guns are unlikely to fire a shot in anger, then they should not deploy. But it is the very absence of the deterring effect that guns have, that may be putting Australian lives at risk.

It is not the act of deploying guns that upsets local populations; it is how you use them. We decide what we do and don't engage and contrary to popular belief the entire landmass of Iraq or Afghanistan is not covered in urban cities and towns. Guns with conventional munitions can be used effectively and *safely* in this environment.

It is not the act of deploying guns that upsets local populations; it is how you use them.

The myths must be dispelled. It is unlikely that the Government will oppose the deployment of guns if it is reasonably justified Air support can't provide the timely, accurate and sustained fire that guns can. Precision munitions are desirable but a lack of them doesn't mean we can't deploy the guns. Finally a troop of Gunners in the MEAO operating our existing in-service towed guns would be provided with the same level of force protection as every other Australian soldier deployed.

A failure to deploy Australian guns will continue to leave our special forces, infantry and cavalry without their own 'big stick'. A fire support capability that covers a very large area (1029 sq km) and gives a 100% guarantee that it will be available and delivered in a timely manner when it is needed most – in contact with the enemy.

Air Observation Post Display

*Lieutenant Colonel John Macpherson (Retd)
Project Manager*

On Sunday 18th March 2007, Major General John Whitelaw AO, CBE opened a new display at North Fort, Home of the National Artillery Museum. Among those attending were many of the 32 Australian Gunner officers who were trained initially to fly small Auster aircraft and observe fall of shot while airborne. In 1961 Austers were replaced by Cessna aircraft.

Four Burmese artillery officers were also trained in Australia. 11 former Air Observation Post (OP) pilots attended the opening as did relatives and

families of Jo Luscombe, Brien Forward, Rex Deacon, Craig Beck, George Constable, Laurie Doyle and Peter Wood. The pilots who attended were: Harry Benson, Doug McPherson, Evard Cape, Reg Colebatch, Barry O'Neill, Brian Cooper, Dick Knight, Ron Morris, Brian Oxley, Graeme Hill-Smith and Phil Calvert.

The remaining Australians trained as Air OP pilots were: Ken Oram, Peter Benjamin, Bill Slocombe, Bill Hatton, Vern Simms, Harry Baker, Col Haywood, Bill Silverstone, Trevor Reed, Neil Harden, Norm Thomson, Graham Annear and Geoff Precians.

The expansion enabled the display to include a commemoration of not only Joe Luscombe, but also George Constable who was killed in action in Vietnam in 1968.

The concept of an Air OP display arose when Mrs Lloyd Ramsay, sister of former Air OP pilot Captain Bryan (Joe) Luscombe, presented the Royal Australian Artillery Historical Company (RAAHC) with a generous donation with which she wanted to commemorate her brother. With Mrs. Ramsay's agreement, the RAAHC sought and obtained a grant from the Department of Veterans' Affairs Saluting Their Service Programme to expand the commemoration into one that recognised the 31 Australian gunner officers and four Burmese officers. The expansion enabled the display to include a commemoration of not only Joe Luscombe, but also George Constable who was killed in action in Vietnam in 1968.

The Air OP Display features commemorative photos of Joe Luscombe and George Constable with miniatures of the medals to which each was entitled plus annotated maps of the operational areas in which they were flying before their aircraft were hit by enemy ground fire. In Joe Luscombe's case he was unable to control his severely damaged aircraft as it came into land at the Divisional airfield from which he operated. In George Constable's case, eye witness reports indicate that his aircraft was also hit by enemy ground fire but as the aircraft was engulfed by fire when it hit the ground the extent of the damage could not be determined.

The remainder of the display shows a large number of photos which were provided by former

pilots and families. The first photo group covers Korea and general shots of Austers being flown in various circumstances in Australia eg. searching for Duntroon cadets who were drowned in Lake George; Flying Instructor Peter Benjamin with Joe Luscombe and Brien Forward. A second group shows a number of former pilots individually and in groups, including Lieutenant Colonel Ken Oram and Colonel Bill Slocombe who were two of the first three Australians trained to fly and instruct in England. They returned to Australia and were

... his aircraft was also hit by enemy ground fire but as the aircraft was engulfed by fire... the extent of the damage could not be determined.

instrumental in the formation of 16 Air OP Flight in Canberra, where all subsequent Air OP pilots, including the Burmese were trained. The third group of photos covers South Vietnam, including the building of Luscombe Field and the introduction of helicopters. It was just prior to deployment to South Vietnam that the Australian Army Aviation Corps was formed. All but one of the OC's of 161 (Independent) Recce Flight in South Vietnam were former RAA Air OP Pilots and several went on to become senior officers in the Aviation Corps.

Three model aircraft hang from the display room ceiling; a silver Auster (A11-42) and a camouflage Cessna L19 Bird Dog were made and donated to the RAAHC by members of the Southern Highlands Model Aero Club in Bowral as was a Bell 47 helicopter displayed in a showcase. A camouflaged Auster was made and donated by former RAA National Serviceman, Mr David Abbott



L to R: Dick Knight, Ron Morris, Reg Colebatch, Barry O'Neill, Graeme Hill-Smith, Brian Oxley, Phil Calvert, Harry Benson, Brian Cooper.

of Shepparton Victoria. David served in 22nd Field Regiment (Self Propelled).

Among the small items of memorabilia donated and displayed is a copy of Jo Luscombe's Log Book opened on the day when two of his passengers were listed as 'Captain Cubis' (1946) and 'Captain Leary' (1947).

All but one of the OC's of 161 (Independent) Recce Flight in South Vietnam were former RAA Air OP Pilots ...

The Air OP Display was mounted by former Air OP pilot Dick Knight and John Macpherson with the very generous and able support of Mrs Lloyd Ramsay, Mrs Annette Cowling (formerly Constable), Mrs Anne Deacon, General Sir Phillip Bennett (a 1948 RMC Classmate of Joe Luscombe), Mr Len Avery (Custodian of 161 Recce Flight records and memorabilia), Colonel Ross Harding (1948) and Major General John Whitelaw (Chairman of the RAA Regimental Committee - History Sub Committee). The Australian War Memorial and National Archives assisted with the provision of maps and archival material, while RAAHC Board member and North Fort volunteer, Mr John Saltwell did a superb job in mounting several medal sets and framing over 30 photographs.



Group photo of Air OP pilots and others involved in the display. L to R: Major John Gallagher, Museum Manager and Master of Ceremonies, former pilots (ranks omitted) Dick Knight, Brigadier Gerard Fogarty, Ron Morris, Major General John Whitelaw (who officially opened the display), Brian Oxley, Phil Calvert, Barry O'Neil, Graeme Hill-Smith, Reg Colebatch, Harry Benson, Brian Cooper, Major General Tim Ford (RAA Representative Colonel Commandant) and John Macpherson (Project Manager)

The Air OP Display is housed in Whitelaw Artillery Hall and is open to the public on Wednesdays and most weekends from 1030h to 1600h. For more information telephone (02) 9976 6102.

Evolution of No 3 to 113 Battery

By Lieutenant Colonel R.S. Mort ED, RL

Editors Notes provided by
Lieutenant Colonel John Macpherson (Retd)

While A Field Battery was justifiably proud to celebrate in 1971, the centenary of its formation, and its one hundred years of continuous service as a 'regular' (or permanent) battery, the present 113th Field Battery RAA can boast of an extra 16 years' longer continuous existence as a Militia battery.

While A Field Battery was justifiably proud to celebrate in 1971, the centenary of its formation ... the present 113th Field Battery RAA can boast of an extra 16 years' longer continuous existence ...

Lieutenant General F.H. Berryman in his 'Short History of the Military Forces in NSW from 1788 to 1953' records that:

In 1874, a company of artillery was formed in Sydney, but for various reasons, chief among which was the lack of suitable officers, this was disbanded in 1876.

While this unit was later revived and other batteries were raised in Sydney, a unit of Volunteer Artillery had, in the meantime, been started in Newcastle. The *Maitland Mercury* newspaper of 12th December 1855, stated that:

On Saturday the 1st instant a public meeting was held in Newcastle at which resolutions were passed having for their object the formation of a Newcastle Volunteer Artillery and Rifle Corps, and appointing a committee to collect names, prior to taking steps for formal enrolment. The speakers were Dr. Brookes, Captain Weatherill, Mr. Thos. Adam, Mr. A. W. Scott, Mr. C.

Bolton, Mr. D. G. Simpson, Mr. W. Charlton and Mr. H. T. Plews. Several of the speakers explained that great cost in uniform was quite unnecessary, inasmuch as a suitable dress might easily be adopted which every volunteer's wife could make for him.

... refers clearly to 'No3 Battery Volunteer Artillery, Newcastle' ...

In an article in 'The Volunteers' by Mr. W.J. Goold FRAHS in the Newcastle and Hunter District Historical Society proceedings (Vol X, Part IX of June 1956), the author says:

December 1855 saw the formation in Newcastle of the Third Battery, Volunteer Artillery. The officer-in-command was Captain Ewen Macpherson ... Samuel Holt was First Lieutenant, and the Sergeants were Dr. Knaggs, S. L. Holt, Frederick Ash and John Burrows.

Note. Macpherson and Holt were 'elected' as Captain and First Lieutenant respectively on 4th February 1861 [Editor Note. Believe date actually was 1856], and Holt's First Commission was signed by the Lieutenant-Governor, Lieutenant Colonel J.F. Kempt, eight days later. In the Notice in the *Newcastle Chronicle* newspaper convening the election meeting of the 'Newcastle Volunteer Artillery Company', Holt signed as *Secretary*, thus indicating he held no rank (at least as a commissioned officer) prior to the meeting.

Although Mr Goold refers here to the 'Third Battery', [Editor Note. The Colonial Secretary in a letter from the Volunteer Brigade Office dated 26th July 1856 and refers clearly to 'No3 Battery Volunteer Artillery, Newcastle'] the unit was referred to as 'Newcastle Battery, Volunteer Artillery' on 1st January 1869, when Lieutenant S. Holt, who then commanded the Battery, signed a Certificate of Efficiency.

Between 1855 and 1868 the unit was referred to as 'Volunteer Artillery', followed by Corps, Company or Battery, and sometimes included 'Newcastle' in the title.

On 13th August 1869, the Governor of NSW the Right Honourable Richard, Earl of Belmore, signed a document promoting:

First Lieutenant Samuel Holt, Volunteer Artillery, Newcastle, to be Captain [This was brought about by Ewen Macpherson's commission being withdrawn after he 'left' Newcastle] of No. 3 Battery Volunteer Artillery, Newcastle. [first time the unit was referred to by number.]

The organization and designation of artillery from this time on tended to follow the British pattern, modified to suit Australian conditions and with some understandable time-lag. As Captain W.S. Forsyth (non-de-plume 'Fronsac') relates in 'Garrison Gunners':

In 1878 the 'Partial Payment' System was introduced and the Volunteer Artillery Brigade was transformed into the 'New South Wales Regiment Volunteer Artillery'.

This was brought about by Ewen Macpherson's commission being withdrawn ...

This Regiment included 'No. 5 Garrison Battery, Newcastle'.

Lieutenant General Berryman, in his previously-quoted 'History', records that:

In that year (i.e. 1893) the artillery forces in New South Wales consisted of a Brigade Division of Field Artillery (one Permanent battery and two partially paid batteries), the N.S.W. Artillery Regiment, First Garrison Division (two permanent companies) and Second Garrison Division (four partially paid companies). In all, these units totalled over 1000 troops, 200 permanent and the remainder partially paid.

The Newcastle unit thus became 'No. 5 Company, 2nd Garrison Division'.

In 1899 permanent artillery in NSW, Victoria and Queensland, were designated 'the NSW (etc) Regiment of Royal Australian Artillery,' to which Major General G. A. French, ordered the words 'Field' or 'Garrison' to be added.

Between 1893 and 1902, the title of the 'Newcastle' unit had again been altered to 'No. 5 Company, NSW Garrison Artillery', for in his report 'Military Forces of the Commonwealth, Scheme of Organization', dated 7th April 1903, Major General Sir Edward Hutton indicates the unit under this name as 'Existing at 31.12.1902'. He proposed an alteration to 'No. 3 NSW Company, Australian Garrison Artillery' which was adopted as shown in his next Annual Report. In a document compiled in February 1969 by Warrant Officer Class One L. Johnstone (*sources of information not shown*) the former of these two changes took effect on 1st January 1902, and the latter on 1st July 1903.

Warrant Officer Class One Johnstone records two other changes prior to World War I ... to No. 3

Company, Australian Garrison Artillery on 7th February 1911 ... and then to 3rd Company, Australian Garrison Artillery on 1st July 1912.

Following World War I Johnstone notes that on 15th December 1921 the unit was re-designated '13th Battery, 1st Coast Artillery Brigade, Australian Garrison Artillery', and that there was a 1st Coast Artillery Brigade RAA, a Permanent Military Forces formation.

When the writer joined the unit in July 1924, it was 13th Battery AGA, becoming on 1st December 1925, 13th Coast Battery AGA, and on 1st July 1927, 13th Heavy Battery AGA.

On 8th February 1936, the *Newcastle Morning Herald* recorded that:

The title of 'Royal' has been conferred upon units of the Australian Artillery and Australian Engineers. The artillery militia units in New South Wales so honoured by the King (King Edward VIII) include ... the 13th Heavy Battery, Australian Garrison Artillery.

The unit then became 13th Heavy Battery, Royal Australian Artillery, (Militia) ... or 13th Heavy Bty RAA(M). In accordance with a Brigade Routine Order issued shortly afterwards, Heavy Batteries RAA(M) in 2nd Military District were grouped into 5 Heavy Brigade RAA(M) with their own Militia Commanding Officer, Major C. R. M. Shannon, thus severing their long connection with the Permanent batteries, to take effect from 1st March 1936.

... thus severing their long connection with the Permanent batteries, to take effect from 1st March 1936.

The next change occurred on 1st January 1939, when Militia batteries added 100 to their designations, and the unit thus became 113th Heavy Battery RAA(M). (This was done to avoid confusion with permanent batteries of similar numbering.)

During World War II, fixed defences were manned by a mixture of Permanent and Militia artillerymen, and these adopted the battery or section title of the work to which they were posted, e.g. 'Wallace Bty', 'Scratchley Bty', 'Fortress Section' etc. Pre-existing titles were retained only for a few administrative activities.

From the cessation of hostilities in 1945 until the unit was re-established in 1952, Fort Scratchley was maintained by Eastern Command Caretaker

and Maintenance Staff of one officer and three non commissioned officers. (Note: Although Johnstone states that during the period from 1945 to 1952 the Fort was maintained by Eastern Command Caretaker and Maintenance Staff, this is refuted by the Master Gunner of that period, the late Warrant Officer Class Two G. Deasy, who recalled that there was a unit of some 30 men on the station. A letter written in July 1949 is recorded in a Correspondence Register at Victoria Barracks as having come from 2 CA Battery RAA Newcastle.)

In May 1952, with the introduction of National Service Training, a militia unit was re-formed to man the guns again at Fort Scratchley and was designated 13th Medium Coast Battery RAA, the (M) for 'Militia' having been dropped in 1949 when the Royal Australian Artillery Regiment and the Royal Australian Artillery (Militia) were amalgamated into the Royal Australian Artillery.

The story of changing designations resumed in 1956 when the title was again altered to 113th Medium Coast Battery RAA. On 1st July 1960 the title changed again to 113th Coast Battery RAA.

The story of changing designations resumed in 1956 ...

The long life of the unit as a coast defence battery came to an end on 26th October 1962, when its role was changed to anti-aircraft and its armament became the 40mm Bofors guns with a corresponding re-designation as 113th Light Anti-Aircraft Battery or 113th LAA Bty RAA. Despite the change of armament, its 'home', was still Fort Scratchley for another 10 years, when it was transferred to Adamstown on 9th December 1972.

On 30th June 1975, a further re-organization took place. The battery's anti-aircraft role ceased, and it then became a field battery, acting in an independent capacity as 113th Field Battery RAA, its present title. As a result of the Miller Report on the rationalization of the Citizen Forces in Australia, the battery became part of 7th Field Regiment RAA on 1st October 1976, but there was no further change of title.

Thus, the unit has come 'full circle', its original weapons having been 6 pdr, smooth-bore field guns!

End of an Era

*Provided by Barry Willoughby JP
President 23 Field Regiment Association*

The time has come for the members of 2/3rd Anti Tank Regiment AIF, to declare a cease-fire of their beloved Association. The 2/3rd Anti Tank Regiment was a very proud wartime Artillery unit, which was raised in Warwick Farm Racecourse on the 25th July 1940. Over 100 officers and other ranks came from the 14th Field Brigade Gunner militia Citizen Military Forces to form the nucleus of this Regiment.

A major problem was that there were no guns available for the unit to train on. There were only four 2 pounder anti tank guns in Australia, so the Regiment made do with mock-ups and also trained as infantry. The Regiment arrived in the Middle East in the November 1940 and continued training on the imaginary guns it had brought from Australia, with the promise of real guns when it arrived in the Middle East.

But alas, real guns were scarce so the imaginary guns were still to be used. The boys had become very fond of these imaginary guns and treated them with great care and affection. In March 1941 the Regiment embarked for Libya with 10 Field Battery and 11 Field Battery being equipped with 37 mm Bofors Anti Tank guns.

9 and 12 Field Batteries had a great mixture of weapons such as the Zollerthern Anti Tank rifles, whilst 12 Field Battery was issued with captured Italian 47mm Breda Anti Tank guns without sights.

On reaching Tobruk, the Regimental Headquarters group found that the training was to be the real thing as Rommel had taken Benghazi and the forward elements on the 9th Division infantry and the British 2nd Armoured Division were retreating.

... continued training on the imaginary guns ...

The Regimental Headquarters together with 10 and 11 Batteries and an Indian Brigade were ordered to hold the old Italian fort area of Micheli, about 100 miles west of Tobruk. This was to be used as a base for the 2nd Armoured Division while the 9th Division was retreating

along the coastal area in the north. Each gun was issued with 30 rounds and was told that that was all the ammunition there available. Fortunately, more was found in a knocked out Italian truck.

The remnants of the 2nd Armoured Division that arrived at Micheli consisted of the Divisional Headquarters, one tank, one 25-pounder gun, four 2 pounder guns and some motorised infantry. Enemy troops quickly surrounded the area and began using artillery and infantry probing. Planes also bombed and strafed the area.

Rommel sent in a German officer to explain that the position was hopeless and that surrender was the only way out. If Rommel had never been told before, he was told in no uncertain terms!! However, he knew that he only had to wait and the end was inevitable, so he did not attack in force and risk losing tanks and men.

Desperate situations called for bold actions, and a midnight conference on the third day decided that a break out would be attempted next morning as the situation was worsening. The garrison was formed up into a large square with the soft vehicles in the middle and the guns around the perimeter. At daylight, in a dust storm, and led by the lone tank, the charge began. The enemy was taken by surprise but not for long and soon all hell was let loose as every gun in the area began firing.

Enemy troops quickly surrounded the area and began using artillery and infantry probing. Planes also bombed and strafed the area.

Many glorious deeds of bravery were done on that day but none surpassed that of the crew of the lone tank who died a hero's death. Those that got through made their way to Tobruk. The part played by 11 Battery in its gallant rearguard action is one of the highlights of the Regiment's history.

Rommel himself later addressed Prisoners of War by declaring – 'Today is the 8th April, by the 15th April I will be in Cairo, by the 30th April I will have the Suez Canal and that will be the end of the British Empire'. But he hadn't reckoned on a place called Tobruk.

Easter 1941, brought heavy attacks on Tobruk by planes, artillery, tanks and infantry. Leaflets were dropped calling on the garrison to surrender. They made great souvenirs! All attempts to take Tobruk were repulsed with heavy enemy losses.

Rommel's tank losses were so heavy that he did not again commit his tanks to a large scale for the remainder of the siege. The 'Easter Battles' were the first defeat suffered by German forces in World War 2 and the 2/3rd Anti Tank Regiment had played an important part.

After evacuation from Tobruk in September 1941, the Regiment moved to Syria for training and preparation of defensive positions. Then came Rommel's offensive.

In June 1942, The Regiment, being part of the 9th Division was rushed to El Alamein and immediately committed to battle. By this time the 6th Division which had helped defeat the Italians in Libya and had then fought in Greece and Crete, together with the 7th Division which helped defeat the Vichy French in Syria, had been recalled to Australia because of the growing threat from Japan upon Australia's security.

The two great armies slugged it out until finally the victory was ours - which was to prove the turning point of the war. The 2/3rd Anti Tank Regiment played a major role in the battle. At one stage had a New Zealand Anti Tank Battery, a Scottish Anti Tank Battery, a Rhodesian Anti Tank Battery, a Royal Horse Artillery Anti Tank Battery, as well as its own four batteries under its command on the 9th Division front. This is the greatest number of guns to be under command of a Regiment of the Royal Australian Artillery at any one time.

It should be mentioned that the Germans and Australians saw each other as worthy foes. For many years after World War 2, members of the 2/3rd Anti Tank Regiment Association were guests of the Africa Corps Association at its functions in Germany every four years and were treated as honoured guests. The invitations were reciprocated, but age caught up with the members and such functions are no longer held.

Defence of the homeland Australia was now a priority for the government of the day, so in 1943 back to Australia and to North Queensland for jungle training, then to New Guinea. Here, there was little demand for anti tank roles, so in large measure the fragmented Regiment performed administrative functions, infantry and gunner roles, provided work parties and prepared coastal defences. Decidedly unattractive, compared with the Middle East.

Back to Queensland, then in April 1945 departed for Morati for the invasion of Borneo. Morati

entailed more administrative duties and work parties for the loading of much of the 9th Division personnel and equipment on the landing crafts for the invasion. Dull work, yes, but essential. The Regiment did such a great job they were congratulated by the General Officer Commander of the 9th Division for their contribution to the success of the landings.

Germans and Australians saw each other as worthy foes ... members of the 2/3rd Anti Tank Regiment Association were guests of the Africa Corps Association ... and were treated as honoured guests.

The Regiment at last landed in the Bruei Bay area in June. Here they were used as an independent support group, providing infantry support with 2 inch and 4.2 inch mortars and United States 75 mm Pack Howitzers. They performed relief duties, patrols, mopping up, resupply, bringing the light gauge railway into operation (as seen at the Australian War Memorial), by converting jeeps to locomotives, restoring signalling and telephone systems, renewing water supplies and assisting with the rehabilitation of the local population. Not bad for an Artillery Regiment.

At the end of the war, the participation of the 2/3rd Anti Tank Regiment was recognised and the Regiment was given the honour of firing the official 9th Division victory salute of 101 guns. In February 1946 the Regiment departed Borneo for home, the last 9th Division unit to do so. The 2/3rd Anti Tank Regiment was the most successful and decorated Anti Tank Regiment of World War 2.

On the 26th May 1946, the final affairs of the 2/3rd Anti Tank Regiment were wound up. There was only one man, a sergeant, who had served with the Regiment from start to finish. The last General Officer Commander of the 9th Division Major General Sir Victor Windeyer, KBE, CB, CBE, DSO, ED wrote of the Regiment in these terms:

As an Infantry Brigade Commander, I know full well the worth of the gunners of the 2/3rd Australian Anti Tank Regiment, both in the deserts of the Middle East and the jungles of the Pacific. Their weapons could only be used successfully by men who combined great coolness, courage and control with skill and discipline. Their roles were varied yet they always held firmly to the tradition of the Royal Regiment of Artillery, for

wherever duty led, and in whatever form duty took, they performed that duty well. They were disciplined, dependable and properly proud. Their story is one of heroic tasks discharged with heroism and of commonplace tasks done uncommonly well.

I write this note on behalf of the many officers and men of the 9th Division Infantry who knew 2/3rd Anti Tank Regiment. We remember the comradeship and co-operation both on the battlefield and off it. We remember the men who died. We wish all who served with the Regiment, and those who read its history, satisfaction to the recollections it will arouse, and trust that their children will from it, learn with pride of what in great days their fathers did.

Stirring words indeed from a great soldier and a great Australian. Sir Victor Windeyer later became a Justice of the High Court of Australia.

The Birth of a Daughter Regiment

In 1947 the government announced that the Citizen's Military Forces would be established, and in early 1948, Lieutenant Colonel Jack Argent was invited to raise 3 Anti-Tank Regiment by General Berryman, and to follow the traditions of the wartime unit.

Lieutenant Colonel Argent commenced his command in April 1948, and the Regiment was raised on the 21st July, at Belmore for the Regimental Headquarters, the Light Aid Detachment and S Battery. Q and R Batteries paraded at Ashfield with P Battery at Homebush.

Lieutenant Colonel Argent recruited 12 of the World War 2 Regiment's officers with 50 warrant officers, non commissioned officers and other ranks to rejoin his Regiment. The equipment issued to the Regiment was the 17 pdr anti tank gun, and at its first annual field exercise at Holsworthy in 1949, the Regiment fielded 178 personnel.

In 1950, South Korea was invaded from the north and 3rd Battalion Royal Australian Regiment (3 RAR) was formed as part of the United Nations force to defend South Korea. This was largely a volunteer force, which included representatives from 3 Anti Tank Regiment. Sergeant John Smythe, a gun sergeant at Belmore, was one who served and returned to Belmore at the conclusion of hostilities in late 1954.

In 1951, 3 Anti Tank Regiment lost the 17 pdr guns and supported the School of Artillery instructors in the training of the anti tank platoons of 3 RAR. This constituted a change of

name and a change of role for the Regiment. Therefore, in 1951 the Regiment became 3 Light Regiment and was equipped with 4.2 inch Mortars, thus becoming field branch artillery.

Although the technical aspect of gunnery had to be learned, this was no problem to this Regiment because many of the officers and senior non commissioned officers had had experience with mortars in New Guinea and Borneo and the transition was smooth and fairly easy.

1952 saw the introduction of National Service for all 17-year-olds. This comprised of three months full time infantry training followed by three years' service in the CMF. The Regiment was now at full strength having 3 Batteries each of 2 troops of 4 mortars.

The mortar was very portable with only a $\frac{3}{4}$ ton vehicle and a trailer or some willing helpers required to transport it to a position. In good ground the base plate would sit in a shallow hole dug to accept its shape and the first or bedding round would provide for a very stable platform.

The year 1956 saw behind the scenes efforts being made by very influential parties to have the CMF unit more closely identified with its wartime parent unit. The result was a name change to 23 Light Regiment.

From that time forward, within 'Gunner' circles at least and for the better informed in other Arms and Services, the Regiment's title and has been spoke as *Two Three*.

The Regiment really made the grade and in March 1957 when it said farewell to the mortars and embraced enthusiastically the 25 pdr gun. The Regiment was now *Two Three Field Regiment*, and really proud of it.

These were golden days for gunners, for ammunition was plentiful and levels of performances were high. Regimental fire missions and complex fire plans, fired in full, were a highlight of an Annual Field Exercise, especially with three 8 gun batteries.

In the mid 1960's, Indonesia was appearing to make incursions across the border in New Guinea and things were deteriorating in Vietnam, with Australia becoming committed to Vietnam in July 1962.

At the height of these uncertain times, the commanding officer of the Regiment spoke to his officers about 23 Field Regiment being mobilised. The unit was not told what other units were

affected or the extent of any mobilisation. What it did though, was to confirm our role in the defence of our country. When Indonesia saw that it was not going to get its own way, the world became a calmer place and nothing further was heard about mobilisation.

With a closer alignment to the United States, the government decided to phase out the 25 pdr guns and equip the Army with the M2A2 howitzers. Not all senior gunners were convinced about the value of this move because both guns were of much the same age but the 25 pdr was lighter and had a platform and a greater range.

... golden days for gunners, for ammunition was plentiful ... Regimental fire missions and complex fire plans, fired in full ...

The Regiment was issued with the M2A2 Howitzers in 1965 and emphasis in training changed from the Middle East experience to that of the Vietnam experience.

At the bloody Battle of Long Tan in Vietnam, three batteries of 1st Field Regiment, equipped with the Italian L5 Pack Howitzer, expended over 3 000 rounds continuously for four hours. This was not the type of work for which this gun was designed.

This prompted another change for 23 Field Regiment, which lost their M2A2, guns and regained the 25 pdr guns. The Regiment's M2A2 Howitzers were sent to 4th Field Regiment to replace the badly worn L5 Pack Howitzers. With Vietnam behind us at the end of 1971, National Service was also concluded in 1972, resulting in the loss of manpower and seeing the Regiment going from two 6 gun batteries to two 3 gun batteries.

In 1973 the Regiment said goodbye to the 25 pdr and welcomed back the now refurbished L5 Pack Howitzer. In 1974 the concept of the 'One Army' was given impetus with the government approving the change of name from the Citizen Military Forces to the Army Reserve.

1974 was a big year for 23 Field Regiment when the Regiment's Regimental Headquarters and Light Aid Detachment moved into the Kogarah Depot. It was also this year that 18 Light Anti Aircraft Regiment already stationed at Kogarah lost its 40mm Bofors and amalgamated with 23 Field Regiment. The Regiment also inherited the 18 Light Anti Aircraft Regiment band and was

retitled the 2nd Divisional Field Force Group Artillery Band.

Now back to Field Artillery; the government wanted to replace both the M2A2 and the L5 Pack Howitzers, and, in 1981 announced the replacement to be the United Kingdom light gun, later to be known as the Hamel gun. In December 1988 the Hamel guns were issued to the School of Artillery and the Regular Artillery units.

In 1992 the unit further changed its equipment to the Hamel gun and the Regiment underwent a two-week exchange field exercise in New Zealand with the 16 Field Regiment, Royal New Zealand Artillery. Today the Regiment is still equipped with the Hamel Gun and the Regiment is parading at Depots at Kogarah, Holsworthy, Sutherland and Canberra.

The original 'Home' of the Regiment, namely 700 Canterbury Road Belmore, was decommissioned in October 1998, and the ceremony attracted World War 2 veterans, former National Servicemen and volunteers from all over Australia.

Gunners of the 23 Field Regiment Royal Australian Artillery wear with pride the 'T' colour patch of the famous 'Fighting Ninth' Division of World War 2 ...

The Regiment has been granted the Freedom of Entry into the Municipality of Burwood in 1974, parading the Queens Banner for the first time, and granted the Freedom of Entry into the Municipality of Rockdale in 1991.

Gunners of the 23 Field Regiment Royal Australian Artillery wear with pride the 'T' colour patch of the famous 'Fighting Ninth' Division of World War 2 incorporating the distinctive colour combination of 2/3rd Anti Tank Regiment AIF. This is a constant reminder of the magnificent achievements of the parent unit and an inspiration for all ranks to maintain the highest standards and traditions of the Royal Regiment of Australian Artillery.

The Odd Frozen Gunner

by Sergeant G.D. Hogg, 53 Battery

'FIRE MISSION BATTERY!' The order shattered the serenity of the calm winter's morning, as slumbering gunners exploded into urgency, 'DANGER CLOSE' raised the urgency as the yell of one of the gunnies nearby still resonates in my ear to this day 'Those are our mates out there'.

The orders came blaring across the crackle and static of the tannoy. The familiar penetrating stench of cordite mixed with the steamy odour of those sweat soaked bodies that were more attuned to the calm and temperate climates of Australia, toiled under the monsoonal Southern Asian rains. The rattling clang of L5 breeches being slammed shut as Gunners of the Royal Regiment of Australian Artillery reacted to a distant call from their mates at the sharp end. This is what the gunners were truly working for, and we understood. Years of thorough training had culminated in a moment in time when the artillerymen's expertise was to potentially turn an enemy onslaught into a moment of salvation and deliverance. In the few shocking hours of the battle they could not have fathomed or cared for any thought that this moment would become folklore for years to follow not only within their own Army, but equally in the Army of his adversary.

If it were America, Hollywood there would've been at least 20 versions of films dedicated to this small window in time. But in Australia, this momentary battle is only slowly gaining recognition as a modern day equivalent of the ancient battle of the Thermopylae Pass.

Of course flowery descriptions of many battles like these can be found in all books of war, but to the gunners of 53 Battery at the School of Artillery it was a privilege to recently step back in time and reenact one small moment the 'Battle of Long Tan', arguably one of Artillery's finest moments.

The history books tell us that on the night of 16-17 August 1966, the Viet Cong fired a barrage of shells into Nui Dat, wounding 24 Australians. Earlier the Australians had become aware, from

radio intercepts and sightings that a large enemy force was operating close to the base. The Australian sent out patrols specifically to find and locate the Viet Cong base plates.

... it was a privilege to recently step back in time and reenact one small moment the 'Battle of Long Tan'...

On the 18th August 1966 Delta Company of 6 RAR were tasked with patrolling in the area of the Long Tan rubber plantation when, at about 1515h 11 Platoon commanded by Second Lieutenant Gordon Sharp, a national serviceman, encountered a small group of Viet Cong who fled leaving behind one of their number killed by the Australians. Delta Company continued to aggressively patrol the plantation until approximately 1608h when they encountered the main body of the Viet Cong 275 Regiment. The Viet Cong attacked vigorously and with mortars, rifle and machine gun fire, completely enveloped the Australians.

In pouring rain, the Australians returned fire with small arms, and artillery which engaged targets from the Nui Dat fire support base 5 km to the west. Close Air Support was called however; due to poor visibility this could not be used, thus paving the way for the batteries of the RAA and New Zealand's 161st Field Battery to fight in one of the greatest stories of heroism, courage, mateship and discipline for which the ANZAC's are renowned.

In pouring rain, the Australians returned fire with small arms, and artillery ...

Dressed in greens adorned with dog tags and the inappropriately named 'Sweat rag' (being made out of 100% nylon it never seemed to soak up anything), modern day diggers of 53 Battery attempted to recreate that amazing 'Finest moment', that terrible sweaty day in 1966, in the midst of a cold Victorian winter. The mist and haze of Vietnam was recreated on film by the cold condensation of air expiring from warm bodies in nearly zero temperatures in Nagambie, which lies approximately 20 km North of Seymour.

Several years ago the Australian War Memorial was charged with rebuilding the Vietnam War display. After many years of research and endeavor the final display was a tribute to 'Long Tan'. Long Tan is strongly commemorated by the Infantry but

it was not an Infantry battle alone, the final survival of the company is a credit to Artillery, Armour and the RAAF as they flew their Huey's blind into the rainstorm and dropped ammunition to the troops who were fighting for their lives below.

... modern day diggers of 53 Battery attempted to recreate that amazing 'Finest moment', that terrible sweaty day in 1966...

53 Battery had a hard act to follow. Training on the SLR, M16, M60 and of course the L5 Pack Howitzer commenced 3 weeks beforehand. Warrant Officer Class Two Darren Deeble (The Battery Sergeant Major 53 Battery) became almost teary (Although we weren't sure if his eyes were watering because of the cold) as the weapons were uncased and the ever present 'In my day', was the catch cry from all that experienced training on these weapons. Training went well and the boys were looking forward to their stab at stardom or perhaps being the next Brad Pitt.

On 24 August the filming commenced, there was fierce competition for places in the 'On camera detachment' (Nobody cared about getting hit for 'Shout the bar' for getting your ugly mug on camera) with impromptu physical training being the order of the day so as to get the 'Guns' pumped and the Abs taught (Yes we had to shed a few pounds to get the look of our wiry fore bares). Indeed for some it was a day of disappointment with the director taking exception to there life style, which flowed unabashed over the belt buckles ... Yep no Brad Pitt's here.

The highlight of the day for all was the engagement of targets with the L5, unfortunately only the one passed an examination of ordinance, the other made do with blanks, which when the firing commenced, Lance Bombardier Roberts was heard to have said in disgust (about firing the blanks) 'It was like showering with a raincoat on'. Yes that gave us all a smile, for all sorts of reasons.

No detail was too small with the rain being provided by a fire tender, which for Gunner Reinboth, shall we say that there was no tough way to say 'Bloody hell that's cold'. We all were quietly wondering that if the temperature dropped a few more degrees that the water

would turn to either hail or snow. At the end of the day the lads were dirty, wet, and cold ... and not too mention a little hungry too (Apparently somebody forgot to cater for 'us'), but a small price to pay in considering the discomfort and deprivations of those who were there 41 years ago in a rubber plantation in Vietnam. All relished the opportunity to take a moment to contemplate and to step back in time as we supported the recreation of a moment in Australian military history that will finally be immortalised for all to see on film.

We as Gunner's will never forget this moment, and we simply hope that Australians will always take a moment for our Vietnam Veterans and say from their hearts, thank you.

Overseas Career Course

*By Captain Peter Newman
8th/12th Medium Regiment*

In early 2007, I was given the opportunity to attend the 03/07 United States (US) Field Artillery Captain's Career Course (FACCC) at Fort Sill, Oklahoma. During this time, with 11 other international students from Tunisia, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Egypt, India, Belgium, Guiana, Sri Lanka, Republic of South Korea and Morocco, I worked with lieutenants and captains from the US Army. The course was conducted over the period 21st March to 6th August 2007.

The US FACCC is a career course for all US Army and Marine Corps field artillery officers. The course is designed to prepare students to fulfill staff positions within a US Army or USMC Battalion or Brigade Tactical Operations Cell (TOC) and for the role of battery commander.

Every year, the US invites coalition partners to send officers to each of these courses. There are approximately 12 international students that are selected by their countries to attend each course. International students are administered under the International Students Division (ISD) and participate in the ISD Field Studies Program (FSP). The FSP is designed to show international students 'democracy' and the 'American way of life'. The program includes weekend trips and

visits including a weeklong trip to Washington DC. The program is completed in addition to the work required by the FACCC.

... designed to show international students 'democracy' and the 'American way of life'.

The course is currently conducted over 100 days and is undertaken after students complete assignments in a variety of roles including Fire Support, Direct Support and General Support in Field Artillery, MRLS and maneuver units. Classes are comprised of three sections of approximately 12 Officers. There are approximately seven courses conducted each year. The course consists of six blocks of instruction: Gunnery, Fundamentals, Fire Support, Field Artillery, Counterinsurgency and Battery Command.

During the gunnery block, students are revised on all aspects of manual computation including the use of meteorological data and calibration procedures to compute firing solutions. There is pressure to reduce or remove the 'manual gunnery' component from the course stating that computerized computation and automated systems of the future will not even have the option for operators to apply solutions manually. Instructors also discussed the loss of manual gunnery skills within self propelled units as a result of the increased requirement for 'systems' training and maintenance. Working within 'Degraded Operations' is a key lesson learned from Iraq that is reinforced in the US Artillery School. I enjoyed this block especially and gained a refreshed desire for 'all things manual gunnery' from this.

Automated Field Artillery Tactical Data System (AFATDS) was also revised in a classroom environment. I had a chance to discuss the introduction of AFATDS to other countries with one of the instructors during this period.

The remainder of the course was conducted in small groups consisting of approximately 12 students and one Small Group Leader (SGL). The SGL teaches the class prescribed learning and sets tasks and problems for the group to solve - the same approach has been adopted by the Australian ROGC.

In the fundamentals component, students were formally taught aspects of maneuver warfare including infantry, tank and cavalry tactics.

Students also covered the Military Decision Making Process (MDMP) which closely resembles the Australian Staff MAP. Students undertook a MDMP problems set by the SGL and participated as members of each of the staff components within this block and each subsequent block of instruction.

... learnt why 'Fire Support Planning' and 'Field Artillery Planning' are conducted in the US as they are.

The fire support planning and the field artillery planning processes was then taught as two separate blocks to students and further reinforced through MDMP tasks. There I learnt why 'Fire Support Planning' and 'Field Artillery Planning' are conducted in the US as they are.

Counterinsurgency (COIN) was then addressed using the new US Doctrine Field Manual (FM) 3-24 'Counterinsurgency'. Topics such as information operations, pattern analysis, and the integration of civil military assets and counterinsurgency campaign design were covered through discussions, MDMP problem solving and battle analysis. Operation Fallujah II, and the current operational environment in Iraq were topics that were discussed in detail. Most US students had previously returned from Iraq after completing non-standard missions in the MEAO less than six months before commencing the course. Most students will return to Iraq in the next six months on Military Transition Teams (MiTT). I found Combat Team Thor's experience in the Solomon Islands in 2006 also useful during this block. The burden of coordination on the fire support officer for all 'targeting' was discussed enthusiastically during this block - I have a different view on this now than when I started the course.

The battery command block included formal presentations and practical experiential learning exercises. Supply, maintenance, legal and training aspects appropriate for sub-unit commanders were formally discussed in the class room. An informal opportunity for students was provided to discuss aspects of command with previous sub-unit commanders and to role play various situations requiring application of various policies and procedures.

Students also submitted an argumentative paper related to Artillery or the current operational environment. The papers were evaluated against each other from which one was selected for

submission to the 'Fires Bulletin' - a US Army and USMC Field Artillery wide publication.

I found Combat Team Thor's experience ... useful during this block.

I found the course and the entire experience in the US to be rewarding and beneficial in many ways. I am confident in our ability to support the US using our own doctrine. I believe that our application of mission command and 'nesting' is spot on. US Army and Marine Corps Officers are a great lot and ensured that I was always looked after. I have developed some very close ties there that will definitely last a long time.

New Gun Tractor Modules

*Provided by Sergeant Keith Mangnall
Transport Supervisor 4th Field Regiment*

As part of Project Land 121 Phases 2A Overlander, the first two sets of the of Gun Tractor Personnel and Storage Modules were handed over by the Project Manager, Mr Ken Butler to the Commanding Officer 4th Field Regiment, Lieutenant Colonel Michael Kingsford in a ceremony at 4th Field Regiment on 31st July 2007. The module marks the dawn of a new era of safety and comfort for the RAA.

The module marks the dawn of a new era of safety and comfort for the RAA.

The key aim of Project Land 121 Phase 2A was to provide a safe and effective form of transportation for both soldiers and stores. The project team has designed two modules for this task. The first module is a storage module designed to accommodate the stores and ammunition. The second module is the personnel module. This module is designed to accommodate up to eight soldiers with personal equipment and to provide a higher level of safety in the event of a vehicle accident. Each soldier



Lieutenant Colonel Michael Kingsford, Commanding Officer 4th Field Regiment, accepting the first gun tractor modules

has their own seat, constructed from hardened rubber, providing a higher level of comfort than the Unimog timber seating. Each seat is also fitted with a seatbelt.

Each soldier has their own seat, constructed from hardened rubber, providing a higher level of comfort than the Unimog timber seating.

4th Field Regiment will receive 18 complete sets of the Gun Tractor Personnel and Storage Modules. It is expected that all modules will be in the Regiment by the end August. The first field deployment with the new modules will hopefully be in September when 'A' Field Battery deploys to Puckapunyal on Exercise Road Runner.



Gun Tractor Personnel and Storage Module

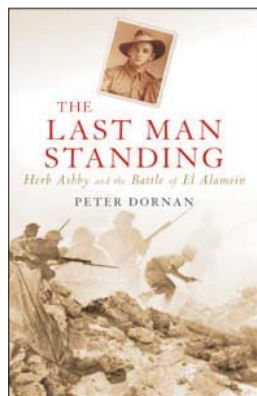
Book Reviews

The Last Man Standing: Herb Ashby and the Battle of El Alamein

by Peter Dornan

Reviewed by Lieutenant Colonel Sean Ryan
Commanding Officer/Chief Instructor
School of Artillery

ISBN 1741149894; PUBLISHED 2006, ALLEN & UNWIN, CROWS NEST NSW PUBLISHERS; MAPS; 214 PAGES.



The efforts of Morshead's fighting 9th Division are renowned across Australia as some of the greatest feats in combat by the Australia Army, especially the stoic defence of Tobruk and the break in along the coast road at El Alamein. Herb Ashby was one of Morshead's men and this is his story.

In 'The Last Man Standing,' Peter Dornan tries to capture the human side of combat in the desert during World War II. He does this through the experiences and trials of a young South Australian in the 2nd/48th Battalion. We travel through Herb's arrival in Tobruk as an individual reinforcement through to his trials of battle and leadership in combat at El Alamein.

The book is not exactly historically significant in terms of dates and command decisions so for those looking for Guderian style tactical decisions or Paton type bull headedness then you will be sadly disappointed with this book.

... those looking for Guderian style tactical decisions or Paton type bull headedness ... will be sadly disappointed ...

On the other hand Peter Dornan has captured a true story about a traditional Australian kid suffering and experiencing battle first hand. He sometimes seems to romanticise the tradition of the ANZAC digger through Herb's experiences. At other times he truly places you in the battle and leaves you with the fear, grit, determination and self sacrifice a soldier endures during the hard,

hand to hand, 24 hour/ seven days a week combat in the desert. This is particularly evident in Peter Dornan's description of the battle for Trig 29 at El Alamein, where Herb's section is cut off from the remainder of the battalion and with the remainder of his company command staff dead or wounded he is left to fight the battle on his own.

Peter Dornan also captures the essence of combined arms battle with detailed descriptions of German armoured / infantry attacks supported by the dreaded 88 gun to the Allied application of artillery and cooperating air support to soften the Germans up before the Allies infantry infiltrated and the armoured columns penetrated the front line. The book gives a realistic and personal account of Herb's experiences as part of these text book tactical manoeuvres.

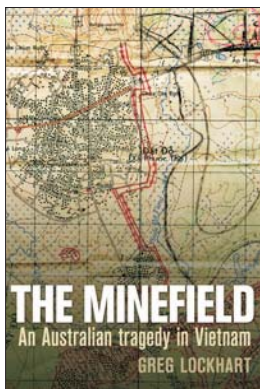
While Peter Dornan does seem to over describe some aspects of the book including Aussie larrikinism and the bronzed Aussie image of the Digger, he does seem to capture the stark realities of individual combat. This is a good book for all junior commanders as it puts you in with the frontline troops and describes the physical and mental challenges of battle. It teaches the essence of the 'every soldier a leader' tenet of the Australian Soldier of the 21st Century initiative. Pick it up and read it. Encourage your Diggers to read it.

The Minefield – An Australian Tragedy in Vietnam

by Greg Lockhart

Reviewed by Major D.T. (Terry) Brennan
Editor RAA Liaison Letter

ISBN 978 1 74114 106 1; PUBLISHED 2007, ALLEN & UNWIN AUSTRALIA; SOFT COVER, BLACK & WHITE PHOTOGRAPHS, MAPS & CARTOONS; 306 PAGES.



As a nation we are currently marking a series of 40th anniversaries associated with the War in South Vietnam. Last year it was the Battle of Long Tan and next year it will be the Battle of Coral and Balmoral. This year it was the building, by 1st Australian Task Force, of a barrier minefield in Phouc Tuy Province know by most Australian Vietnam

Veterans as the 'The Fence'. This book is about that 'Fence'.

It is a book which has a number of levels and consequently will appeal to a wide audience. Firstly there is the actual story of the construction of the minefield and the associated deadly events for those building it. Secondly there is the almost pedantic background detail, especially from the perspective of North Vietnam, into which the author goes with regard to the history leading up to the decision to build the minefield. Thirdly there is the story of the dreadful consequences for the Australian Army in the ensuing years. Finally there is the interpretation by the author of how the Australian Government and the senior Army commanders dealt with the political fall out.

The personal devastating impact of this is recounted in the song 'Only Nineteen' by the Australian band Red Gum.

The backdrop to this tragedy in South Vietnam was an 11 kilometre long mine field described as a 'barrier fence' built in 1967 to protect the densely populated south western villages of the Phouc Tuy province from the enemy. It comprised two parallel rows of barbed wire 100 metres apart. Each row of wire was 1.82 metres high. Laid in the 100 metre gap between the wire were 20 292 US M16 'Jumping Jack' mines. Of these 12 700 were fitted with anti-lifting devices - the purpose being to deter the enemy from breaching the mine field. Despite the Commander of 1st Australian Task Force, Brigadier Stuart Graham, being warned by his subordinate commanders that the enemy would breach the minefield, steal the mines and use them back against the Australian's - he went ahead with his plan.

This is the tragedy - between May 1967 and February 1971 - 55 Australian soldiers were killed by M16 'Jumping Jack' mines most certainly stolen from the Australian minefield. During this period over 250 Australians were dismembered or wounded from stolen mines. The personal devastating impact of this is recounted in the song 'Only Nineteen' by the Australian band Red Gum.

These casualty figures represent a little more than 10 percent of the entire Australian list of killed and wounded in South Vietnam during our 10 year involvement. Whilst these figures are unsettling enough - during the period 1969 - 1970 the rate of Australian casualties from M16 mines rose to over 50% - peaking at one point at 80%.

The book captures in graphic detail the difficult conditions under which the engineers and infantrymen built the barrier fence and minefield and then subsequently their efforts to clear it. The challenge of clearing the mines highlighted yet again the ingenuity of Australian soldiers which has always been evident throughout military history whenever they have been confronted with a challenge such as the withdrawal from Gallipoli.

An interesting thread in the story is the author traces an argument that most military people have been exposed to, that is, commanders are influenced by the last war in which they fought and how they were personally involved. In the decision to build the minefield by the Task Force Commander there appears to be a significant amount of truth in this assertion.

In relation to how the Government and Army dealt with the deaths of Australian soldiers as result of mines laid by Australians was, in my opinion, an example of not keeping pace with the changing dynamic of the how wars were reported at home. I believe the 'system' was not prepared for the 'increased level' of public awareness and scrutiny brought about by the first television reporters war in history. The author also raises the 'old chestnut' that Army rewards people for incompetence or bad decision making by promoting them. I will leave you to make your own judgement.

The author, who appears to have an extensive background in Vietnam - its people, history, and culture, spends significant time and effort indulging himself, at the expense of the reader, by providing detailed and slavish 'corrections' to accepted 'allied' terminologies regarding the North Vietnam and prosecution of the war. This is probably the biggest distraction in the early part of the book. The author's use of abbreviations that are not commonly referred to in Australian historical writing such as PAVN / NLF in lieu of NVA / VC is at times is not only a distraction but is annoying for the reader.

The sad thing is that these Australian casualties could and should have all been avoided - the rationale and justification or not for building the minefield continues to be debated by historians - sadly this does not bring back to their families those needlessly killed; or give back the legs and arms of those horrifically maimed by the deadly 'Jumping Jack' mines laid by Australian sappers at the direction of their senior commander.

I recommend this book to anyone, including non-military people, who have an interest in the Australian involvement in the Vietnam War. It is a very worthwhile, interesting and even confronting

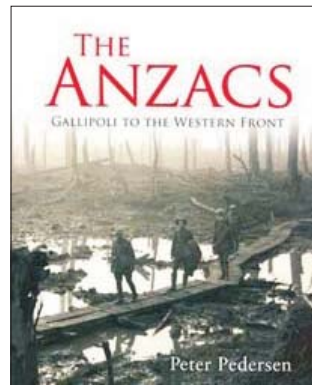
read about a sad chapter in our involvement in the war in Vietnam.

The ANZACS: Gallipoli to the Western Front

by Peter Pedersen

Reviewed by Mr Chris Jobson

ISBN 9780670041244 AND ISBN 0670041246; PUBLISHED 2007; VIKING (PENGUIN GROUP), CAMBERWELL, VICTORIA; HARDCOVER, ILLUSTRATED BLACK AND WHITE AND COLOUR PHOTOGRAPHS, MAPS; 447 PAGES.



In 1916, at Fromelles, Private Charles Johnson of the 56th Battalion AIF was killed and later that same year, on the Somme, his parents were to lose a second son, Frank. Neither body was ever identified and their names are now listed

as part of the roll of the 'Unknown'. Some ninety years later, the great-nephew of the two brothers, Peter Pedersen, has sat down and written a book on the War which devastated the family of his great grand-parents; a book of which the Johnson brothers, and indeed their parents, would have been proud.

... this publication is, in many ways, unique. Where a large majority of the publications before have focused on the actions, thoughts and reflections of senior officers, The ANZACS looks at the War through the eyes of soldiers from all ranks ...

The ANZACS joins a long list of books dealing with The Great War, however, this publication is, in many ways, unique. Where a large majority of the publications before have focused on the actions, thoughts and reflections of senior officers, *The ANZACS* looks at the War through the eyes of soldiers from all ranks; from private soldiers, to non commissioned officers and warrant officers, through to commissioned officers, from lieutenant to general. This cross-section of perspectives provides both a strategic understanding of the campaigns, while capturing

the visceral, emotive essence of the horrors suffered by individual combatants. In doing so, *The ANZACS* attempts, generally successfully, to describe the distinctive culture of the ANZAC forces which stood them apart from other allied forces.

Against this balanced context, the book also avoids a pitfall endemic in books of this kind - is not an unadulterated tribute to the ANZAC legend. The book examines some key strengths and weaknesses of the ANZACs while dispelling a number of myths that persist to this day. One, for example, was the fabled 'Digger' reputation for ill-discipline and contempt for British officers. This common misperception is placed into context by Pedersen's observation that the ANZAC diggers' distribution of contempt was rather more equitable than legend would have it - they directed their disrespect to any officers, British or Australian, who they felt deserved it. Notwithstanding, Pedersen acknowledges the maturity ANZACs gained through experience, evidenced by their greatly improved discipline in the latter part of the War.

Morale, an important aspect of a soldier's culture, is regarded by Pedersen, not as an independent and permanent feature of the 'Australian character', but as a more attributable result of the ANZACs' preparedness, or not, for the conditions in which they fought. ANZAC morale fluctuated; dictated by a number of aspects including the cold European weather, which few had ever experienced before, and the need to adjust the fighting styles developed at Gallipoli, to the vastly different demands of the Western Front. Importantly, Pedersen acknowledges the training and rehearsals undertaken by the ANZACs prior to their engagement in the Gallipoli and European campaigns. In so doing, he offers an insight more scientific than legendary, into the morale of the ANZACs.

The range of the book is reflected in its coverage of small but important matters such as the origin of the acronym 'ANZAC'. The national commanders thought the title *Australian Army Corps* was unfair to the New Zealanders and General Birdwood, the British general commanding the Force, thought the adjusted title, *Australian and New Zealand Army Corps*, was too long for telegraphic purposes. The term 'ANZAC' satisfied both the need for diplomacy and for brevity. Similarly, the overarching title *Australian Imperial Force* was chosen largely based on the brevity of its acronym *AIF*, as Major General

Bridges wanted a title that '...will sound well when (the British) call us by our initials.'

Politics also makes its way into this wide-ranging book, as Pedersen tackles issues such as Australian conscription, a debate that followed the ANZACs from their southern hemisphere shores, to the battlefields of Europe and Africa. Contrary to popular belief, the AIF was split on the matter. Whilst a good number of diggers at the front were against the involuntary involvement of those back home, many others supported conscription as a source of badly needed reinforcements '... otherwise our men have died in vain'.

The ANZACS maintains a realistic narrative through the inclusion of extracts from diaries and personal letters. This feature, together with a good number of clear and informative maps, and a magnificent selection of well captioned photographs and prints, would have made a compelling publication even without the well considered prose Pedersen offers in support.

If there are faults with the work they relate to imbalances in the treatment of a number of the featured soldiers, and a bias towards Victoria Cross recipients. In some cases the background of a particular soldier is well documented (Lieutenant General Monash's past career is, for example, covered over three continuous pages) whilst with others it is assumed that the reader is fully conversant with the soldier in question (characters such as Private Simpson and Brigadier General Ryrie are introduced to the reader through short, introductory phrases). Despite his otherwise balanced treatment of the subject matter, Pedersen also appears to succumb to the allure of valour, with a focus on Victoria Cross recipients at the possible expense of 'ordinary' soldiers with more interesting if less courageous stories which may resonate better with the reader. Nevertheless, these small flaws detract little from the overall quality of the book.

Peter Pedersen's *The ANZACS* is a balanced, accessible and well researched account of Australian and New Zealand soldiers throughout the major campaigns of The Great War, from Gallipoli to the Western Front and across to the Middle East. In time, this book may well become foundational to those seeking to understand the ANZAC culture, as well as the facts surrounding their involvement in The Great War.

Christopher Jobson is a former warrant officer of the Australian Regular Army whose postings included RSM 3rd Brigade and RSM Ceremonial & Protocol.

Gunners on patrol

THE SOLDIERS OF GOLF COY WITH THE ANZAC BATTLE GROUP IN TIMOR-LESTE ARE TAKING THE PATROLLING OF DILI'S STREETS IN THEIR STRIDE, AS FLT-LT LAURETTA WEBSTER REPORTS. PHOTOS BY AB KADE ROGERS.

AFTER three months in the sweltering tropical heat, gunners from 107 Bty, 4 Fd Regt, continue their mission on Dili's streets to bring stabilisation to Timor-Leste. Conducting daily patrols through various areas of the capital, from the southern perimeter to the northern coastal boundary, the gunners - who form Golf Coy of the Anzac Battle Group - are doing their bit to help ease the level of fear among the Timorese people.

OC Golf Coy Maj Grant Cassar praised the dedication of the gunners and how, despite the routine of low-level operations, they maintain vigilance at all times.



Downtown: Gnr Thomas Peloe and Pte John Orchard patrol through one of Dili's busy market centres.

"There is such a potential in this environment for the situation to go from being completely benign to utter chaos very quickly," he said.

"This constant threat keeps the blokes focused so they never become complacent.

"The junior leaders - the bombardiers - do a top job in keeping their sections motivated."

The tasks conducted by Golf Coy include patrols around the streets of Dili, some up to six hours long, security pickets and quick reaction force duty.

These tasks are on a rotational basis, which is another reason why the gunners maintain a continuous sense of alertness.

During their downtime, Golf Coy members work up a sweat in the gym, or contact loved ones back home using the internet or welfare phones.

"Due to the shiftwork nature of life over here, and the fact you are confined to a forward operating base when not on task, means the outlets that allow the blokes to sweat it out, shop on the internet or phone home are great resources for relaxation," Maj Cassar said.

He said good food also played an important part.

"Getting well-prepared fresh rations is vital when working long, arduous and sometimes tedious hours," he said.

"The effect these services and facilities can have on morale cannot be underestimated."

With another three to four months still to complete the operation, Maj Cassar said that the gunners continued to cope very well.

"The Golf Coy blokes are a tough bunch. They take things in their stride with a bit of a sense of humour. The guys are keenly aware of the role they play here, the role of facilitation and helping the Timorese get back on track."



Cooling your heels: Pte Rhys Clout takes a break while patrolling the streets of Dili.

'Army - The Soldiers Newspaper', August 9, 2007

Professional Papers

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Continued from page 1

The enemy penetrated the first lines of the Australian defences before they were driven out.

The Australian troops in Bien Hoa province are engaged in a mission to cut off North Vietnamese and Vietcong forces from reaching Saigon.

Official reports describe the Australian casualties as "light".

An Army spokesman today explained that the term "light" is related to the number of troops taking part in an engagement and whether the unit is capable of continuing in action after the engagement.

BODIES

The Army rates casualties of five per cent or less of the force engaged as "light", six per cent to 15 per cent as "moderate", more than 15 per cent as "heavy".

In the first attack wave yesterday morning the North Vietnamese broke

Diggers Kill 103 Vietcons

through the perimeter of the Australian camp. The Diggers counter-attacked grimly and the enemy were driven out.

CLAIM

The second attack came as the Australians called in support from U.S. artillery, helicopter gunships and tactical aircraft.

The bodies of 33 Communists had been counted and a later sweep found another four bodies.

The Army spokesman said drag marks indicated that greater number of enemy had been killed in the action.

According to the Vietcong newsagency in

Tokyo the Vietcong "completely wiped out" a 400-man Australian infantry battalion in the surprise attack before dawn on Monday.

It claimed the Australians were bivouacked in Tan Phuoc area, Bien Hoa province.

It said the Australians had been air-lifted to the area the previous day to seek out the Vietcong and had, "right from their arrival," been closely watched.

TOLL

Flare-up in the Vietnam ground war was reported last night with U.S. marines engaged in

heavy fighting south-west of Da Nang.

The marines attacked a Communist trench and bunker installation.

The U.S. Command announced that 562 Americans were killed in action last week — the heaviest death toll for any single week of the Vietnam war.

The South Vietnamese lost 675 dead and the Communists 5,552.

The record casualties suffered in the Saigon area and along the demilitarised zone is considered to reflect Hanoi's efforts to strengthen its position at the Paris bargaining table through military victories in South Vietnam.

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* 2 The Sun, Friday, May 17, 1968 2

FRIDAY, MAY 17, 1968

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Continued from LL page 46

Offensive Support in a Counter Insurgency Environment

by Captain R.R. Barrow

'Renown awaits the commander who first restores artillery to its prime importance on the battlefield.'

Sir Winston Churchill

Introduction

Offensive Support platforms are often viewed as weapons that are only of use in conventional warfare due to the large amount of high explosive delivered onto an area in a short space of time. Compounding this misconception is the presence of in-theatre media reporting of civilian casualties resulting from air strikes or an artillery missions gone wrong. This leads to the belief that offensive support is not needed when fighting a war where the main effort is winning hearts and minds.

Contemporary Counter Insurgency (COIN) doctrine requires security to be established and maintained in order for the reconstruction and 'hearts and minds' effort to be successful. Supporting the successful establishment and maintenance of the security essentially requires conventional tactics and hence, Offensive Support (OS), in order to enable coalition forces to out manoeuvre and contain the influence of the OMF.

This essay will briefly examine the uses and relevance of OS in a COIN environment focusing on Australian and NATO experiences in Southern Afghanistan. Examples of the uses of OS by both ISAF (International Security Assistance Force) and Australian forces will be used to highlight the complexity of OS coordination in a coalition environment and the challenges faced. Before discussing the uses of OS it is necessary to briefly understand the complexities of the Afghan environment.

Afghan Environment

Afghans have varying levels of allegiance. The order of their allegiance is to their family, tribe, province and nation. This presents a significant issue in getting the typical Afghan to recognize the authority of their provincial government let alone the national government. This combined with the level of corruption existing in all levels of government means ISAF forces face a significant challenge to establish a legitimate and working government. Government security and military forces are often from a separate tribe or even province to the area they patrol and subsequently have a lazy attitude to the maintenance of security and are generally not held in high regard by the populous.

Afghans have varying levels of allegiance. The order of their allegiance is to their family, tribe, province and nation.

There are a number of key stakeholders in the Afghan theatre. The Provincial and National government, the Afghan National Army (ANA) and the Afghan National Police (ANP) represent the formal authorities. Each town has a Malik (Elder) and each tribal area will have a Mullah (Religious Leader), who have significant influence over the local population in their area. The Taliban and their associates, as part of the OMF (Opposing Military Force) hold significant sway through fear and intimidation over most areas in Southern Afghanistan. The final stakeholders are the ISAF forces and NGO's. The problem faced by the Afghan and ISAF forces is that tribes and towns will support the stakeholder who they perceive as the strongest. On the whole the OMF gain the support of the local population through threats and violence directed towards the Maliks of the towns in order to sway their support. The challenge for NATO forces is to prevent the influence of the OMF in order for the Afghan Government to establish a support base.

The successes of the Australian Reconstruction Task Force (RTF) based in Uruzgan Province, Afghanistan have shown that it is possible to achieve tangible improvements in the population support for ISAF and Afghan Government operations. Unfortunately, much of the successes are short lived after the infrastructure that has been built, is removed by the OMF after RTF elements depart. This is a product of an inability to maintain sufficient security conditions to prevent the return of OMF elements after the departure of the reconstruction effort.

The environment throughout Southern Afghanistan is a significant challenge for vehicles. The Southern Provinces of Uruzgan, Kandahah and Helmand are situated at the base of the Hindu Kush with terrain varying from undulating desert to mountain ranges exceeding 2000m. In Uruzgan in particular the AO is divided by river systems that confine the useable crossing points to 3 - 4 locations and mountain passes that canalize ISAF force movement. The villages are situated within a narrow 'Green Zone' in vicinity of the river systems and are separated by between 500m and 2-3 km. Most villages are restrictive to armoured vehicle movement. The ability for OMF to observe and predict the movement of ISAF forces is significant and a key planning consideration of ISAF commanders. Often ISAF forces are limited in their ability to manoeuvre whilst in contact due to all of the above factors, which is when external OS platforms allow the commander to regain the initiative.

How Offensive Support is Used in Southern Afghanistan

OS is used extensively in Southern Afghanistan. The majority of contacts involve a response from artillery or aircraft. The transition to ISAF control and the reduction in SF operations in Southern Afghanistan in 2006 saw the reduction in aircraft support to contacts. The SOP for SF Joint Terminal Attack Controller's (JTAC) was to immediately request aircraft are pushed to their location to destroy the OMF while the ground forces utilized the standoff range of their weapons to suppress the target before the air engagement. With the transition to conventional forces, JTAC's were advised to wait to see how a contact unfolded before requesting aircraft, while the more heavily armed ground forces manoeuvred to counter the OMF threat. This enabled scarce air assets to be prioritised. This combined with the increased presence of artillery changed the way OS elements were employed to support ground operations.

The British and Canadian guns are used much more often to allow manoeuvre forces to immediately regain the initiative in a contact. The Dutch use their artillery less due to the much longer response time. The key lesson learnt from this is that responsiveness is the key to providing a commander with options during a contact.

In Kandahah and Helmand provinces the British and Canadian Artillery is usually deployed in independent troop size organisations within a small FOB where as the Dutch attempt to support their operations in Uruzgan with only a single gun and crew at both Tarin Kowt and Deh Rahwood. The larger troop size deployments by the British and Canadians are more effective and the increased manning enables the sustainment of a better response time. The British and Canadian guns are used much more often to allow manoeuvre forces to immediately regain the initiative in a contact. The Dutch use their artillery less due to the much longer response time. The key lesson learnt from this is that responsiveness is the key to providing a commander with options during a contact.

A key concern when fighting a war which relies so much on winning hearts and minds is the collateral damage and civilian casualties caused by military engagements. This needs to be offset with the requirement to end contacts quickly to reduce the chances of friendly casualties. The thick mud walls surrounding most Afghan compounds that are used as cover by the OMF present a significant barrier to direct fire weapons and most are able to resist penetration by up to 25mm ammunition. This same feature also aids the reduction in collateral damage by OS. The walls have often been observed to contain the blast of a 500lb bomb or a Hellfire missile enabling the fire to be directed to fall as close as 100m from friendly troops.

The use of precision guided weapons such as Hellfire missiles, Joint Direct Attack Munitions (JDAM) and Excalibur enable these danger close engagements, however the use of 'dumb' munitions can be equally as accurate. Canadian experiences in Kandahar province have found the M777 to have exceptional first round accuracy when used with current registration met and an observer equipped with a Vector Laser Range Finder and PLGR GPS. The use of this equipment and techniques can enable the safer use of OS and enable a contact to be quickly ended with less risk to civilians and friendly troops.

Most engagements in Afghanistan occur at ranges of less than 800m given the ranges of the weaponry employed by the OMF. Therefore the majority of OS engagements will be within the danger close trigger distance. Danger close procedures are not practiced enough in modern armies and AAR's with Canadian and British forces reveal a need to be proficient in the employment of OS as close as 100m from friendly positions. Precision Guided weapons can achieve this effect relatively safely however it is possible to make danger close engagements with both HE and non lethal dumb munitions safer for friendly forces and civilians simply by applying an appropriate adjusting line for HE or maintaining an awareness of where the carrier shell may land. Additionally friendly troops need to be exposed to OS effects up close to appreciate the benefits and dangers.

The Pzh 2000 and Fire Direction Center (FDC) are not manned for 24 hr operations and hence have a significant response time for un-planned fires. Additionally as the RTF is not viewed as a combat force they are a lower priority for allocations of pre-planned aircraft.

Each contributing country to ISAF is governed by their own ROE, which place various levels of restrictions on the use of lethal and non - lethal fires. The key constraint for the use of OS is the requirement for a qualified and authorised observer to observe OS that is directed to fall under 500m from civilians. This places significant pressure on the limited number of JTAC's and Forward Observers deployed with ISAF elements given the complex terrain encountered in some areas.

This is dealt with in different ways by ISAF countries including increased mobility and FOM given to the observers, deployment of JTAC's down to PL level, use of observers in UAV control centres and increasing the standard of training to all-arms observers in order to allow the pilot or Forward Observer to accept responsibility for the engagement with confidence in the all-arms observers ability. The prevalence of the accepted standard for target grid acquisition, Vector LRF connected to a PLGR GPS, enables a high degree of confidence in an all - arms observers target grid. This combined with the US JFO (Joint Fires Observer) concept can increase the prevalence of qualified and authorised observers that can call in the full spectrum of OS assets and ensure the rapid and accurate neutralisation of targets.

To date, only the kinetic ability of OS has been discussed but the most prevalent use of OS in Southern Afghanistan lies in its non-kinetic effect. OMF respect and fear the ISAF air power such that its mere presence can disperse an OMF element. The use of low level 'show of force' passes by ISAF aircraft is effective in dispersing smaller groups of OMF. Often the use of illumination from Artillery in support of ANA or ANP check points is enough to enable the government security forces to retain the upper hand. Base eject smoke has been used by the Canadians to effectively screen troop movement and enabling the outflanking of OMF elements. The use of non - lethal fires requires less ROE considerations, lower command levels of risk acceptance and can be effective at enabling friendly forces to defeat an OMF threat. Having said this, the threat of lethal force must be credible and the continued use of 'show of force' passes and non-lethal munitions will lead to complacency on the OMF's behalf and lose its effectiveness.

Supporting the Australian RTF in Uruzgan

Supporting the Australian RTF with OS presented different challenges than those faced by more kinetic ISAF forces. This combined with a language and communications barrier made OS increasingly difficult to coordinate within the Dutch lead Task Force - Uruzgan. The single Dutch Pzh 2000 SP Howitzer

based in Tarin Kowt is allocated in Direct Support to the Dutch Battle Group and hence support to the RTF is a secondary task. The Pzh 2000 and Fire Direction Center (FDC) are not manned for 24 hr operations and hence have a significant response time for un-planned fires. Additionally as the RTF is not viewed as a combat force they are a lower priority for allocations of pre-planned aircraft. Having said this, TF-U made every effort to provide what support it could to RTF operations given the significant constraints they were placed under.

RTF OS assets initially consisted of a single JOST including two JTAC's, but was increased mid tour by a second JOST. It was immediately identified that a one JOST would be required to man a 24hr JOSCC (-) function within TF-U in order to coordinate the OS response to Australian forces. RTF elements would always deploy with a minimum of a JTAC and when the full CT deployed a JOST and two JTAC's would deploy. The effect that was desired for most missions were an over watch element and an element with the main force. This provided significant challenges when the CT was often spread over up to 6 km and several villages. The mobility of the observers was increased by the provision on an IMV C2 for the JOST and the manning of the US UAV Control Centre with a Forward observer or JTAC. This resulted in the ability to rapidly support all elements of the RTF with OS if required.

Australian, Dutch and NATO OS doctrine and procedures have slight differences that have the potential to be compounded in an emergency by the language barrier.

Training of all-arms observers is essential to the coordination of OS in complex terrain. This is equally true for ECAS observers. The training of RTF Cavalry vehicle commanders and Infantry section commanders commenced in Australia but was limited to the use of IFOT. The ability to train with Artillery in Tarin Kowt was non-existent due to the limited amount of training ammunition. RTF JTAC's trained the allocated snipers in ECAS and conducted a number of dry controls with Dutch AH 64's in order to verify this capability. Additionally they were equipped with IZLID IR Indicators to point out targets to JTAC's. The establishment and maintenance of all-arms observer capability was insufficient to inspire confidence in the use of all-arms observers and is a significant training gap in RTF's capability.

Troop safety was a layered approach for the RTF. During the mission preparation phase the TF-U Joint Fires, Air Liaison Officer and the AH 64 pilots were briefed on the mission timelines and locations and given spot maps of the AO to expedite OS coordination in a contact. Each vehicle was fitted with IR reflective tape and a rolled up orange panel marker on the roof. Each soldier was issued red and green smoke grenades, IR strobe and rocket pen flares for marking of the forward line of own troops when in contact. Additionally the JOSCC was collocated with the TF-U Joint Fires Cell to create a solid troop safety plan.

Australian, Dutch and NATO OS doctrine and procedures have slight differences that have the potential to be compounded in an emergency by the language barrier. In the early stages of the RTF deployment the RTF JOST talked directly to the TF-U Fire Direction Centre (FDC). The conduct of OS rehearsals prior to each mission was used to verify the mission parameters, procedures and to confirm the actions of each element to simulated events. This was tested in response to a minor contact when the Fire Mission was sent in accordance with Australian procedures and understood and acted on by the Dutch FDC. The only problem with this was the increased radio transmission time that was taken to alleviate any language barrier problems. The initial steps to streamline this process were to embed the JOSCC in TF-U Joint Fires. The OS linkages were finally verified by a number of dry and live AH 64 controls and a live fire artillery practice. These experiences serve to highlight the requirement for liaison officers at all levels and value of rehearsals and command post exercises.

Coalition Operations

It is accepted in today's military that it is unlikely Australia will be involved in a conflict without the support of a coalition partner. As such Joint and Combined interoperability is essential in all facets of the battlefield. Communication and planning tools which are vital for effective coalition operations are missing from the OS equipment during training and only provided in theatre leaving a substantial

training gap. Systems such as Falcon-View Mapping Software are essential for OS planning and provide a common mapping system for the sharing of target overlays and coordination measures to geographically separated supporting forces. The Rover III downlink is a complex system which can provide near real time data down links from ISR platforms and attack aircraft to ground forces. The ANPRC 117 F is a highly capable multi-band radio that is the standard for OS teams in Afghanistan however it is only issued for operations. The systems that are provided to the Australian Defence Force on operations are world class however the operators do not have the knowledge to perform more than the basic functions on them. The systems need to become part of the regular training continuum in order to be of any benefit in a coalition environment.

Conclusion

OS is essential to the maintenance of security within a Counter Insurgency environment. It is the deciding factor on whether a manoeuvre commander is able to quickly regain the initiative and prevent friendly casualties. The platforms are the only offensive elements that cannot be influenced by OMF elements but can decisively end a contact, however commanders and OS specialists need to remain cognisant of the effects OS engagements can have on the 'hearts and minds' mission and take the appropriate steps to minimise the impact.

The base RAA doctrine is sound and the lessons highlighted in the essay are nothing out of the ordinary but simply facets that are often overlooked or under trained. Elements such as combined arms danger close training and all-arms observers are seldom trained yet crucial on operations.

The ability to integrate seamlessly into a coalition environment such as ISAF should be a key capability requirement for the Australian Defence Force. The old adage of 'train how you fight' applies equally to the use of equipment and resources as it does to personnel.

The base RAA doctrine is sound and the lessons highlighted in the essay are nothing out of the ordinary but simply facets that are often overlooked or under trained. Elements such as combined arms danger close training and all-arms observers are seldom trained yet crucial on operations. Essentially the ability to provide OS *On Time, On Target and Safe* remain as relevant to the RAA now, as ever.

Captain Ryan Barrow is currently Battery Captain 101st Medium Battery. He deployed to Afghanistan between 23rd August 2006 and 22nd April 2007 with RTF-1 where he was a Forward Observer and established a JOSCC to provide the offensive support coordination interface with the Dutch.

Battery celebrates

By Maj Michael Leichsenring

THREE notable anniversaries for the air-defence artillery fraternity are being celebrated this year.

These are the 50th birthday of 111 AD Bty; the arrival 80 years ago of the first Army anti-aircraft guns in Australia; and the 80th anniversary of the purchase of land to establish Woodside Army Barracks - the home of air-defence artillery.

111 AD Bty - part of 16 AD Regt, - celebrated its 50th birthday in May. Raised at Middle Head, NSW, on May 21, 1957, 111 Light Anti-Aircraft Bty was an independent unit formed from elements of 103 Heavy Anti-Aircraft Bty.

Over the years, the battery underwent a number of name changes - first to 111 AD Bty (Light), then 111 Div AD Bty and, heading back to its roots, 111 AD Bty (Light) and, finally, its present-day 111 AD Bty. It has also twice alternated from being an independent battery to one under command of 16 AD Regt.

During the mid-1920s Lt-Gen Sir Harry Chauvel, Chief of the General Staff and Inspector-General of the Australian Military Forces, consistently emphasised to Parliament that the AMF needed to develop capabilities in new equipment such as tanks, anti-aircraft guns and mechanised transport.

When two 3-inch mobile guns and their Hathi tractors arrived in Australia in 1927, 1 Anti-Aircraft Bty, which was raised in anticipation the previous year with only a small cadre, expanded to a battery headquarters, a 3-inch gun section and a Lewis-gun section. A year later, a second 3-inch gun section was formed.

This year also marks the 80th anniversary of Woodside Army Barracks, South Australia, the current home of air-defence artillery.

In 1922 an option was taken out to purchase the abandoned and flooded Bird-in-Hand gold mine in the Inverbrackie Valley near Woodside as a potential source of fresh water for a military camp in the Adelaide Hills, with about 420 acres officially purchased on December 15, 1927.

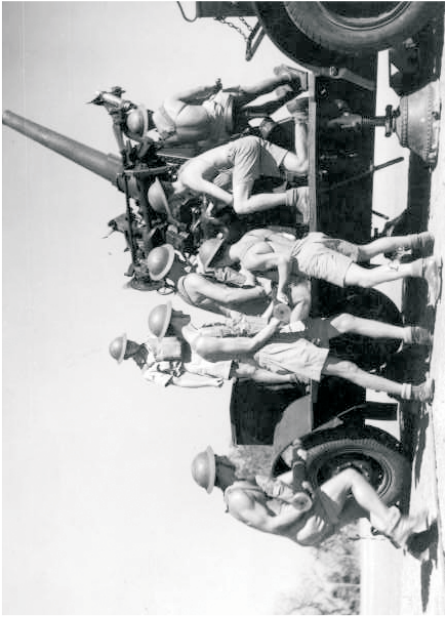
During World War II, many units were raised at Woodside, including elements of 9 Div - the Rats of Tobruk.

After the war, Woodside was used as an immigration centre and the home of 16 National Service Bn. It was also home to 3RAR from 1965 to 1981.

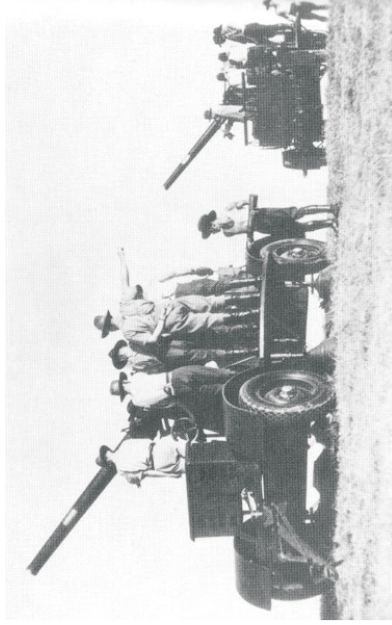
Air-defence artillery's association with Woodside Barracks began on May 10, 1965, when 110 Light Anti-Aircraft Bty was raised there.

In June 1966, 110 Bty relieved 111 Bty at RAAF Butterworth, Malaysia, and, on return to Australia, 111 Bty took up residence at Woodside. 16 Light Anti-Aircraft Regt - now 16 AD Regt - was raised at the camp on June 2, 1969.

On a much minor note, this year I celebrate my 25th anniversary as a member of the air-defence artillery fraternity, graduating from Portsea in June 1982 for an initial posting at Woodside, where I served 12 years in total - culminating as BC 111 Air Defence Bty and 2IC 16 AD Regt.



Clearing the air: A 3-inch mobile anti-aircraft gun and crew in action at Darwin circa 1942. Photo courtesy State Library of Victoria



First shots: 1 Anti-Aircraft Bty fires its 3-inch guns at Narrabeen, NSW, in 1936. Photo courtesy National Artillery Museum

'Army - The Soldiers Newspaper', July 26, 2007

Personnel & Training

BATTLE OF BALMORAL



ABOVE: Australian soldiers dig in at "Camp Coral," 25 miles north-east of Saigon, after Vietcong had slammed in several mortar rounds.

In the past two weeks "Coral" has twice come under heavy attack.

RIGHT: Two Diggers put the finishing touches to their individual trenches at the fire base at "Camp Coral."

The Australian troops are operating with Allied troops in Operation "Complete Victory" near Saigon.

Dug in: Diggers drive off Vietcong attack

SAIGON, Monday. — A Vietcong battalion early yesterday made a combined mortar, rocket and ground attack on the Australian Task Force jungle fire support base "Balmoral" in Bien Hoa Province.

The new gun base is just 24 miles north of fire support base "Coral" 25 miles north of Saigon.

Twice in the past two weeks "Coral" has come under heavy attack.

Shortly after midnight the Vietcong slammed several mortar rounds

into the "Coral" base, but caused little damage.

At "Balmoral," Australian troops opened up on the attackers with 50-calibre fire from entrenched Centurion tanks and mortars mounted on tracked armoured personnel carriers.

The battle ended after two and a half hours when a United States Army helicopter gunship circled the perimeter of the base spraying withdrawing Vietcong with its deadly 7.62 millimetre "mini gun."

Six enemy bodies were found after a sweep outside the wire this morning.

Australian casualties were described by an Army spokesman as "light."

The attack came less than 48 hours after troops from the Third Battalion Royal Australian Regiment dug in among jungle saplings after being dropped by helicopter.

The battle at "Balmoral" began at 3.45 a.m. when mortar rounds began to burst among the groundsheet "hoochies" slung around the Australian camp.

Rocket fire

Three R.A.R. troops dived for sandbag-covered bunkers as the mortars were followed by the whistle of Soviet-made RPG-7 rockets.

The Australians retaliated quickly, firing artillery, mortar, tank "canisters" (shot) rounds

and automatic weapons.

One Vietcong, using a Chinese-made AK-47 sub-machine gun, fired from the edge of the perimeter for more than 15 minutes before he was stopped.

Shortly after 4.30 a.m. a U.S. Army Iroquois helicopter gunship was called in to support the defenders.

At 7 a.m. the Australians peppered the area around the base with mortar and machine-gun barrage before making a sweep of nearby open areas.

Four of the enemy bodies were spotted from the air by Royal Australian Navy Lieutenant Tony Hill, of Nowra, N.S.W., while making an air supply run to "Balmoral."

AUSTRALIAN DIES

CANBERRA, Monday. — An Australian soldier has been killed and 13 others wounded in a Vietcong attack on the Australian Task Force base in Bien Hoa Province.

Army headquarters announced this today.

The soldier killed was Private John Desnoy, 22, single, of Elsternwick, Victoria, a member of the 3rd Battalion.

Five N.S.W. soldiers have been wounded. They are:

Second Lieutenant R. O'Leary, 22, single, of Mino.

Private R. McDonald, 20, single Broken Hill.

Private D. O'Leary, 22, single, Kempsey.

Private F. Crossingham, 22, single, Kellyville.

Private R. Lucas, 22, single, Lidcombe.

The other wounded men are Private G. Webb, 19, single, Qld.; Private R. McMillan, 20, single, South Australia;

Private G. Hansen, 19, single, Qld.; Private T. Gledhill, 22, single, Victoria.

Also wounded were:

Private K. Dann, 22, single, Tasmania; Corporal N. Cooper, 24,

married, South Australia;

Private W. Chadwick, 27, single, West Aust.; Private C. Edge,

22, single, Victoria.

The casualties occurred mainly during an enemy attack on the Balmoral base at Bien Hoa.

One of the men was wounded by artillery fire.

Bedwetting Cured
Alarms for hire. 982-3259*

Senior Appointments

Senior Officers

The Chief of Army has approved the following Royal Australian Artillery full-time senior officer appointments:

- Major General A. Power AM, CSC – COMD HQ TC-A, wef 6 Jul 07
- Colonel S.P. Amor CSC – COS ABCA US(Washington), wef 14 Jan 08.
- Colonel T.J. McCullagh CSC – Director Policy Development Unit, wef 14 Jan 08.
- Colonel T.D. Pickford – Director Doctrine Wing, LWDC, wef 14 Jan 08.
- Colonel R.D. Shanahan – Visiting Fellow, Lowy Institute, wef 14 Jan 08.
- Colonel J.P. Smith – CODOS-CDSS, wef 2 Aug 07.
- Colonel R.H. Stanhope AM – DSIE-A, wef 14 Jan 08.
- Lieutenant Colonel S.E. Clingan, Director JCC Shift B & promoted COL wef 14 Jan 08.
- Lieutenant Colonel P.R. Swinsburg, COL LC SPT GP, LHQ & promoted COL wef 14 Jan 08.

The Chief of Army has approved the following Royal Australian Artillery part-time senior officer appointments:

- Lieutenant Colonel D.K. Connery, CFTS as Director Military Strategic Analysis & promoted COL wef 2 Apr 07.

Unit Command Appointments

The Chief of Army is pleased to announce the following command appointments wef 21 January 2008 unless specified:

- Lieutenant Colonel S.N. Kenny – 1st Field Regiment (wef July 2007)
- Lieutenant Colonel A.J. Coombes – 4th Field Regiment
- Lieutenant Colonel D.S. Pearce – 20th Surveillance and Target Acquisition Regiment
- Lieutenant Colonel S.A. Summersby – 1st Ground Liaison Group

The Chief of Army is pleased to announce the following command appointments wef 1 January 2008 unless specified:

- Lieutenant Colonel R.J. Crawford – 2nd/10th Field Regiment
- Lieutenant Colonel P.T. Landford – 23 Field Regiment

Regimental Sergeant Major Appointments

The Chief of Army is pleased to announce the following RAA Regimental Sergeant Major appointments for 2008:

- Warrant Officer Class One P.A. Matthysen – Regimental Master Gunner / RAA Trade Policy
- Warrant Officer Class One P.T. Washford – Soldier Career Management Agency
- Warrant Officer Class One M.I. Johnson – 1st Recruit Training Battalion
- Warrant Officer Class One R. Van Oppen – Land Command Support group
- Warrant Officer Class One D.R. Lehr – 1st Field Regiment
- Warrant Officer Class One G.M. Potter – 16th Air Defence Regiment
- Warrant Officer Class One T.A. Byrne – 23 Field Regiment
- Warrant Officer Class Two B.L. Armstrong – 7th Field Regiment
- Warrant Officer Class Two S.R. Driscoll – 2nd/10th Field Regiment
- Warrant Officer Class Two D.T. McGarry – 8th Signals Regiment

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

Retired Full-Time Officer's List

<i>Worn Rank</i>	<i>Initials</i>	<i>Surname</i>	<i>Final Date of Full-Time Service</i>
Brigadier	V.H.	Williams	2007 (*)bg
Colonel	B.M.L.	Hall	18th January 2007 (*)
Lieutenant Colonel	I.S.	Lawes	10th February 2007 (*)
Lieutenant Colonel	R.W.	Overheu	9th October 2006
Major	D.J.	Bermingham	21st December 2006 (*)
Major	D.J.	Crowe	9th October 2006
Major	G.J.	Carter	14th December 2006 (*)
Major	G.M.	Down	15th January 2007
Major	G.M.	Dudycz	22nd January 2007 (*)
Major	P.	Gustafson	26th March 2007 (*)
Major	M.D.	Jones	15th November 2006
Major	M.	Leichsenring	2nd February 2006
Major	G.M.	Light	27 November 2006 (*)
Major	R.S.	McDonagh	22nd December 2006 (*)
Major	N.R.	Sutton	29th January 2007
Captain	N.G.	Berry	18th December 2006
Captain	L.D.W.	Burge	20th November 2006
Captain	D.B.	Griffiths	24th February 2007
Captain	D.M.	Gordon	30th January 2007
Captain	E.O.	Shanasy	10th July 2006
Captain	C.M.	Spencer	2nd December 2006

Note:

(*) Means the officer has served 20 years or more in the full-time Army

Editors Note: Whilst the editor makes every effort to ensure the names and detail listed above are correct, he is not responsible for the source information and apologies in advance efor any errors of accuracies or missing names.



DOCM-A

Major Dave Kelly, Career Adviser Artillery

In the autumn addition I provided an outline of DOCM-A's intent. His philosophy was promulgated through a dispatch and is designed to allow each officer to understand the key enablers that will allow you to take command of the management of your career. Since then a number of additional dispatches, focussing on contemporary issues, have been released. I would like to use this opportunity to reemphasise a couple of these issues and to also re hash some old favourites.

Performance Appraisal Report

The Performance Appraisal Report (PAR) continues to be the single most important document used for career management. It is essential that they are compiled correctly and submitted (both electronic and hard copy) within the correct time frames. Incorrectly submitted PAR, or PAR lacking sufficient commentary in the word picture will be returned to originating units for completion.

It is the responsibility of the individual officer to ensure that their PAR has been received. The easiest way to do this is to log onto PMKeys Self Service and open the Army People Central application where a synopsis of your most recent PAR will be presented. A 'No' against any year means that your completed PAR has not been received at DOCM-A for that year. To ensure that you are in a position to rectify any deficiency, I would urge you to keep a signed copy of all PAR that are raised on you.

Courses

Course attendance has improved both within the RAA and across Army. The All Corps Officer Training Continuum (ACOTC) is a logical progression of courses in which each course provides the pre requisites for the following course. Therefore, completing courses within the correct window is important. I have listed a guide that you should attempt to follow below in regard to ACOTC courses:

- Grade 3 – Last Year LT
- ROGC – CAPT 2
- COAC – CAPT 4
- Grade 2 – CAPT 6

Course reports are actively used for career management. Whilst a PAR will always be the source document from which to gauge an officer's competitiveness, course reports provide another excellent tool. Therefore the gradings and suite of recommendations you receive on each course report is important.

Promotion Advisory Committee

This years Promotion Advisory Committee (PAC) series will be conducted in November. The CAPT, MAJ and ACSC PAC will be held during the week 12th-16th November with results released not long there after.

The CAPT and MAJ PAC will target those with a seniority of LT 2004 and CAPT 2002 respectively. Key criteria are:

- 2007 PAR – received complete and on time at DOCM with promotion recommendations from **both** your AO and SAO;
- AIRN – You must be compliant at the time of PAC sitting;
- ACOTC – complete for target rank;
- No outstanding administrative action; and
- You are occupying a position at the higher rank with effect January 2008.

Australian Command and Staff College

The Australian Army Command Staff College (ACSC) PAC differs considerably. All eligible officers (MAJ 2002-7) will be initially split into two groups. Your grouping will be notified by DOCM prior to the PAC.

Those allocated to Group 1 will be considered in detail and the ACSC panel will be selected from this group. The size of Group 1 will be around three times the size of the 2009 ACSC panel. Group 1 officers will have a PAC profile produced that will contain, as a minimum, full transcripts of their last 3 PAR, a posting history profile (CLIO print sent out with ACG) and a self written biography. The biography is very important. It gives the officer a chance to highlight key aspects of his career (particularly as it may differ to his posting profile) and briefly outline aspirations. It is to be of no more than one page with a photo in the top right hand corner.

Group 1 officers will be banded into four bands as a result of the PAC:

- Band One – Selected for ACSC;
- Band Two – Corps Reserve;
- Band Three – General Reserve list; and
- Band Four – Not selected for ACSC.

Those officers allocated to Group 2 you will not be considered in detail. Group 2 offers may be raised to Group 1 if supported by a Star ranking officer.

I will be in contact with all those who are due to go to PAC later this year.

Sub Unit Command

I have had a number of questions posed this year in relation to selection for Sub Unit Command (SUC). I found that in some cases there was an expectation that a SUC would just happen.

SUC appointments are highly sought after and SUC is a key discriminator for future progression. The reality of SUC is that demand exceeds supply and therefore not all officers will be afforded the opportunity for these appointments. For those officers who are not selected for an RAA SUC, there are a limited number of non corps positions that are available each year.

The appointment of SUC, corps and non-corps, is decided through a PAC process. Like all other PAC, the key enablers of performance, AIRN compliance and ACOTC are considered in detail. I will continue to provide feedback on an officer's competitiveness for SUC through both your ACG and annual interviews.

Graded Officer Pay Scale

The Graded Officer Pay Scale (GOPS) has recently been announced, this will effect all officers pay. The net effect of GOPS will be positive for most officers – importantly nobody will lose pay as a result of the restructure. Expect more detail on GOPS in the coming months.

ASWOCS and PSO

The final area I would like to address is in relation to the changes that have been implemented to in service commissioning. Full Detail is available in the rewrite of DI (A) 47-8. In short, commissions will now only occur in two divisions:

- *GSO* – Are officers that are commissioned on a permanent appointment. A GSO ASWOCS officer can expect to be commissioned as a senior LT or junior CAPT and will be expected to undertake a wide range of postings in accordance with normal officer career progression. They will complete all ACOTC requirements and will have the opportunity to compete for SUC and ACSC in due course.
- *PSO* - Are officers that are appointed on a prescribed contract to utilise there specialist skills. They are eligible for promotion within the confines of their employment, but are not required to complete the suite of ACOTC courses.

Appointment in the SSO career division is no longer available for RAA Officers. I will be contacting all current SSO officers with a view to changing there division to either GSO or PSO in the near future. Thank you for the opportunity to work with you all this year, and I look forward to catching up with most of you early next year during the 2008 DOCM-A interview tour.

SCMA

Captain Piero Bertocchi
Warrant Officer Class One Bob Thompson

Introduction

As the year rapidly draws to a close, I wish to take a few moments in order to extend a warm thanks to those that have supported SCMA's efforts and re-affirm some key matters in relation to personnel management. However, as a prelude, let us examine the year in brief from a career management perspective.

Initially, the Personnel Advisory Committee (PAC) cleared over 50 RAA soldiers for promotion across all ranks and streams. Subsequently over 200 posting orders were issued to personnel across the Corps. RAA career management interviews were completed in all major localities, and the perceived attitude, presentation and trade knowledge of personnel was seen to be excellent across the broad spectrum. Notably, we currently have significant numbers of RAA soldiers deployed in all theatres of operations, and likewise posted to high profile appointments both within Australia and overseas. Reports indicate these personnel are acquitting themselves to a high standard. Thus in review, the year has been challenging yet rewarding.

Notable Appointments

Firstly, congratulations to all soldiers who were successful in clearing the PAC for promotion. The standard was very competitive at every rank and trade. In particular, the following Warrant Officers are congratulated on their upcoming Level 2 appointments for 2008:

- WO1 P. Matthysen Regimental Master Gunner
- WO1 P. Washford RSM SCMA

Career Management Cycle

Please use the following time line for planning purposes:

- Personnel Advisory Committee:
 - RSM PAC February – March 2008 (Regimental WO1 across Army)
 - WO1 PAC Not Before March 2008 (for target rank Regt WO1)
 - WO2 PAC Not Before Apr 2008 (for target rank of WO2)
 - SGT PAC Not Before May 2008 (for target rank of SGT)
- PAC Notification - Four weeks after relevant PAC sitting
- Postings Commence – NLT 15th July 2008
- Unit Visits/interviews – July/August/September/October 2008

Please note – Unit's visits to SCMA will not be authorised prior to 1st April 2008.

Key Issues

2008 promises to be equally as challenging for the RAA. The following issues deserve special mention:

- *Empowering the Soldier*. SCMA has tasked you, the soldier, to take ownership of your career. The responsibility for effective career management lies as much with you, the individual, as the career manager, and you must take all opportunities and support mechanisms to assist in achieving your goals. Notably, the old web forms AD148 (preferences and restrictions) has been superseded by the new Electronic Preferences and Restrictions (EPAR) on PMKeys Self Service. Instructions for its use are maintained on the SCMA web site.

- *Pay / Trade.* PORs are still problematic. In almost every trade stream within the RAA, soldiers require a POR to change ECN/grade after relevant experience in trade and/or time in rank. Without appropriate paperwork, pay/trade cannot conduct the appropriate transaction.
- *Incorrect Trade Path.* Major problems still exist with the senseless cross-training of soldiers at GNR-BDR rank. For example, an OPCP 254-3 should not be panelled on Advanced Gun/Det Comd courses, and nor should a Detachment Commander (162-4) be panelled on a JOST course to “add to unit capability”. Trade streams are established in order to provide skill sets and capability. Diluting these only adds to qualification confusing and incorrect pay groups. Contact the RMG, WO1 P. Washford for further information here.
- *20 STA Regiment.* Significant development in personnel implementation for manning has seen the first of several trade transfers approved. 2007 has seen three SNCOs being selected for migration. Applications from SNCOs from outside the RAA are also currently being received and processed.
- *TC-A.* Chief of Army (CA) is clear in his intent to ensure that TC-A units (including ARTC and SOArty) are manned to the best possible level. Although the Corps is deficient in CPL/SGT rank, it does not lessen our responsibilities in providing necessary support. As per RAA ECSOs, all personnel from BDR to WO2 should expect several TC-A/non corps postings throughout their career. Be realistic in your expectations. Such postings raise your profile when striving for promotion.
- *Unrestricted Service.* Once again, we must reinforce the requirement for unrestricted service. Last year’s message remains extant: Our 1 Div ARA units are in Australia’s north, and TC-A/non-corps appointments are generally south. As a BDR onwards, you will be required to uplift in order to meet the needs of the Service as outlined above. If you argue that this is not possible due to a range factors (the normal ones include home ownership, wife’s employment, family network, undesired locality), you are providing restricted service, and your personal needs no longer meet those of Army. At times, this creates unfavourable friction and will inevitably end with separation. Read DI (A) PERS 34-8. The nature of service in the ARA is well described.

Finally, I would like to wish you and your families a very happy festive season and a safe return for 2008.

Artillery Trade Policy

Warrant Officer Class One Paul Washford (RMG)

‘In no other profession are the penalties for employing untrained personnel so appalling or irrevocable as in the military.’

General Douglas MacArthur
Annual COS (Army) Report (1933)

Introduction

As with all units in the Australian Defence Force Artillery Trade and Training is as busy as ever. Trade and Training issues are continually being addressed but as with many issues these can take time and are usually not resolvable overnight.

Broadly Arty TT falls into three areas:

- Trade Management including Trade Reviews, DFRT Pay Reviews, Trade Modelling, Employment Specifications, and Policy Development.
- Training Analysis including Validation, Competency Analysis, and Training Continuum Development.
- New Capabilities including Competency Analysis, and Trade Analysis.

Our Training Developers within the Artillery Trade and Training Cell also:

- produce Training Management Packages (TMP);
- review and/or upgrade TMP;

- provide training system advice; and
- ensure we comply with the National Training Framework (NTF), the Registered Training Organisation (RTO), and the Australian Quality Training Framework (AQTF).

Where We're At

- IDFCS is in the Regiments, (at the time of writing it can be used for training only, not live firing). The relevant amendments have been made to those TMPs affected by its introduction.
- The renamed IET 2007 has been put into hibernation for the moment as result of advice given from RAA COs. Artillery Trade and Training has archived all material so future initiatives on this project can be followed up.
- The IIS of the Gun Tractor Personnel Cargo Module (GTPCM) is moving along with a Train the Trainer course conducted in Brisbane in August 2007.
- Initial training of TUAV commenced on the STA ROBC and other training requirements have been identified for JP129 pre-requisite training and for future roll-out into STA courses.
- A review of the training continuum for STA and OS ROBC is currently being conducted.
- A review of RAA MAE was conducted this year but as most changes are not in line with the 96 (GBAD) and 98 (OS & STA) DFRT decisions, amendments can not be made at this time.
- An Occupational Analysis of all RAA trades is to be conducted in 2008 (if support is available) with the intent for Artillery Trade and Training to present to a DFRT hearing in 2009.
- The 2nd Division Mortar Trial is gaining momentum with Artillery Trade and training input into the possible management of mortars within the RAA.
- Artillery Trade and Training is undertaking research into psych and diagnostic testing requirements for the OPCP Trade ECN 254. This was influenced by recent poor results of students attending OS OPCP basic courses.
- Initial work on AFATDS is being undertaken.

2008 Manning

- SO2 Arty CAPT G. Metcalf
- SO3 Arty CAPT J. Westcott
- Regimental Master Gunner WO1 P. Matthysen
- SM OS TBA
- SM STA WO2 S. Voss
- SM GBAD TBA
- Training Developers WO2 C. Crout (OS)
 SGT D. Mason (GBAD)
 WO2 S. Morse (ARes)

On behalf of the cell I would like to welcome the new RMG to the fold - it looks like a very busy 2008.

Trade Management Issues

- Trade Waiver Requirements - Reminder:
 - All waivers submitted to Artillery Trade and Training need to contain as much background material as possible.
 - There needs to be justification on why the soldier requires the waiver.
 - If there is an operational focus to the waiver it will assist in its success.
 - All waivers need to be supported by the units CO.

First battle a landmark for nation

By Cpl Corinne Boer

THIRTY years before the Gallipoli landings brought international attention for Australia's military, our armed forces took part in their first campaign on the other side of the world.

In 1885 NSW became the first self-governing colony in the British Empire to raise, equip and dispatch its own troops overseas to fight alongside England. The contingent was sent to Sudan to help quell an uprising led by Muhammed Ahmed, known to his followers as the Mahdi.

Suakin 1885 became the Australian Army's first battle honour. Only the Royal New South Wales Regiment (RNSWR) bears this honour.

A memorial to the NSW contingent to Sudan was unveiled at East Circular Quay on March 3 - exactly 122 years since the contingent sailed from Circular Quay. Personnel from RNSWR attended the ceremony.

Brig Bruce Trimble, RNSWR Regimental Colonel, was one of the people responsible for arranging the memorial, which he and NSW Governor Marie Bashir unveiled.

"The theme of the memorial was to honour the embarkation overseas of citizen infantry soldiers from Circular Quay beginning in 1885," Brig Trimble said. "It took some years of negotiation to obtain consent to construct the memorial at the position chosen."

The NSW contingent comprised an infantry battalion of 522 men and 24 officers and an artillery battery of 212 men.

Brig Trimble said the troops sent to Sudan did not see a great deal of action and most casualties were from dysentery and typhoid fever.

"Among the reasons to justify the participation in Sudan was the importance of the Suez Canal to Australia, the effect on the Australian colonies if British forces suffered a major defeat, the number of British-born



Battle honour: Brig Bruce Trimble and NSW Governor Marie Bashir, RNSWR Honorary Colonel, unveil a memorial at Circular Quay commemorating the embarkation of the NSW contingent to Sudan in 1885. Brig Trimble received permission to wear his great-grandfather's medals for the occasion. His ancestor, Pte William Henley, had been awarded the Egypt Medal, the Suakin Medal and a Long Service Medal.

Photo by Bill Cunneen

people in the Australian colonies at the time and thus their dual loyalty to the colony and the mother country, the activities of Germans and French in the Pacific Ocean in the 1880s, and the then Russian threat," he said.

'Army - The Soldiers Newspaper', March 22, 2007

Around the Regiments

29/5/68 "KEEP YOUR HEAD DOWN, MATE"

From A.A.P. Special correspondent KEITH SMITH

SAIGON, Tuesday.—Life goes on underground at Australia's two most battle-ravaged jungle gunbases.

The bases look like huge rabbit warrens, with only duty pickets moving on the surface.

The greeting between Diggers is: "Keep your head down, mate."

It's a serious warning. For the young troops have seen many of their mates killed and seriously wounded at the gunbases — "Coral" and "Balmoral" in Bien Hoa province.

Coral, 25 miles north of Saigon, has been the scene of two bloody battles.

Balmoral was the target of a Vietcong attack at the weekend.

Bullet holes

Coral fire support base, set up by Task

Force troops on May 12, is a sprawling, flat and dusty complex of artillery, pillboxes and sand-bagged bunkers.

Only a few administrative green canvas tents project above the ground. Guards move on the surface each night.

And each morning holes shot through tents, canteens and even

Diggers go to earth

radio testify to the wisdom of "keeping down." A large overgrown rubber plantation begins not far outside the northern perimeter of the base.

The area between the

rubber trees and Balmoral is thick green jungle — old established Vietcong territory.

Four of Australia's Centurion tanks are based at Coral, including a 100-ton bridge-layer and one of the two tanks equipped with bulldozer blades.

The other "tank-dozer" was hit by an anti-tank mine on the way from Nui Dat to Coral and is still being repaired at a U.S. Army base.

Gallipoli trenches

Troops, water, supplies, rations and mail come to Balmoral by a shuttle service of Iroquois helicopters manned by Royal Australian Navy and Royal Australian Air Force pilots.

Sydney soldiers call it the "Balmoral ferry." Fire support base Balmoral looks at first like a picnic spot somewhere in Australia.

Small tracks lead from one clump of bushes to another, and birds still sing among the small jungle saplings.

Underneath the saplings, leaving the overhead cover, troops from the Three Royal Australian Regiment have dug and inhabited the trenches of Gallipoli and North Africa.

29/5/68 Ambush by Diggers

SAIGON, Sat.—Troops of the Third Battalion Royal Australian Regiment ambushed a North Vietnamese force moving towards Saigon on Friday.

The Australian First and Third Battalions, supported by U.S. and Australian artillery, are located at Camp Coral, 10 miles east of Ben Cai, and 25 miles north of Saigon as a blocking force to Communist movements towards Saigon.

The Australians killed seven North Vietnamese soldiers and captured two prisoners, including one warrant officer, in last night's action.

The troops were making sweeps of the area around Camp Coral following last week's fierce battles.

An Army spokesman said members of the First Battalion have discovered large quantities of weapons and ammunition in sweeps through dense rubber plantations around the base.

In Canberra today the Army released the names of two more Australian soldiers wounded in the attack on Camp Coral last Thursday.

Australian casualties in Vietnam last week now total 19 dead and now wounded—the highest for any week since Australian troops entered the war in 1965.

The two latest wounded are:

- Private Gary George

Hastings, 18, single, of West Strathfield, Sydney, a member of the 1st Battalion whose condition is described as "satisfactory."

Gunner Raymond Bruce Hicks, 22, single, of Epswich, Victoria, a member of the Australian Artillery, whose condition is described as "very satisfactory."

Led by the Task Force Commander, Brigadier Ron Hughes, of Stafford Heights, Brisbane, First and Third Battalions with supporting artillery moved into north-west Bien Hoa province last Sunday.

Their mission was to join the allied counter-offensive against Viet Cong forces who have been attacking areas around Saigon since early this month.

Within 24 hours of digging-in around the fire support base, manned by the 12th Field Regiment, the Australians were attacked by green-and-black clad troops from the 141st North Vietnamese Army Regiment.

The North Vietnamese units withdrew after a bloody six-hour firefight, leaving behind 52 dead.

In probing patrols after the battle, Diggers killed a further 11 enemy.

In the second attack

early on Thursday mixed North Vietnamese Army and Viet Cong forces broke through the Australian perimeter, were beaten back, and later regrouped for a second wave attack against the base.

Some of the enemy had crawled to within yards of sand-bagged forward machine gun pits. Later 37 enemy bodies were found near the perimeter of the Australian defence line.

Australians kill 48 troops in new attacks

SAIGON, Tuesday.—Australian troops at fire support base Balmoral in Bien Hoa province early this morning threw back two battalions of North Vietnam Army regulars who struck at the base for the second time in three days.

After a fierce four-hour rocket, mortar and ground attack, the enemy retreated, leaving behind 48 dead. Six enemy soldiers were captured by the Australians.

Australian casualties were described by an Army spokesman as "light."

The North Vietnamese units also turned their mortar and rocket against the Coral artillery base, two and a half miles south, when its guns were called in to support Balmoral.

A total of 193 enemy

have been killed by Australian troops from the 1st and 3rd Battalions, Royal Australian Regiment, since they established fire support base Coral, 25 miles north of Saigon, on May 12.

They killed 94 in two battles at Coral on May 13 and May 16, and nine in the first assault on the new Balmoral base on Sunday morning.

The remainder were killed by patrols in scattered actions over the past 16 days.

In Sunday's combined ground attack on Balmoral and rocket attack on Coral, four Australian troops were

BLOOD TRAILS

An Army spokesman said troops from the 1st Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment, based at Coral, and of the 3rd R.A.R., based at Balmoral, had been sweeping the battlefield since the action ceased.

The sandy earth had revealed extensive blood trails leading from the Balmoral base.

While troops were still clearing the battlefield this morning the U.S. Commander in Vietnam, General William Westmoreland, made a farewell visit to them spending about 40 minutes at Coral and about 30 minutes at Balmoral.

He said he had been proud to have Australians under his command. (A.A.P. Special)

Four Australians die in Vietcong attacks

CANBERRA, Monday.—Four Australians, three of them National Servicemen, were killed in Vietnam yesterday, Army headquarters announced today.

Nineteen more—seven of them National Servicemen—were wounded.

The dead were: Private Alan John Cooper, 21, single, of Royal Park, S.A.

Private Lindsay Noel

Brown, 22, married, of Benalla, Victoria.

Private John Walter Denroy, 22, single, of Eidsenwick, Victoria.

Private William Malcolm Thomas, 21, single, of Crovdon Park, South Australia.

The last three were National Servicemen. All were of the 3rd Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment. Most of the casualties occurred during an enemy attack on fire support base

"Balmoral" in Bien Hoa Province, but one man was wounded in an artillery attack on support base "Coral."

An A.A.P. Special Correspondent reported from Saigon that Vietcong Furlias hit "Balmoral" with mortar rounds at 3.45 a.m. on Sunday and followed up with a rocket attack, a ground attack and heavy machine-gun fire from the base's

The battle broadened into a general ground attack with several lulls and counter-actions as the Vietcong regrouped for fresh assaults on the base.

The enemy was finally forced to break contact shortly before dawn when an American helicopter gunship peppered the perimeter of the base with its 7.62-millimetre "mini-gun."

Full list of wounded, by d

Major killed

CANBERRA, Friday.—An Australian Army commanding officer has been killed in action in Vietnam.

He was Major George Alfred Constable, 32, of Belrose, N.S.W.

He was the first member of the 161st Independent Reconnaissance Flight to be killed in Vietnam.

Major Constable was shot down by enemy ground fire while flying over Bien Hoa Province. No further details are available.

Major Constable leaves a widow and two daughters, one aged three years and the other nine months.

The unit flies Cessna light planes and small Bell Sioux helicopters.

They are used in wide variety of missions including target-spotting, observation and medical tasks.

The 161st Reconnaissance Flight was sent to Vietnam as part of the first Australian T Force in mid-1966.

Major Constable is on a normal 12-month tour of duty.

'Top-End' Gunners

*Provided by Lieutenant Colonel Craig Furini
Commanding Officer*

2007 has seen no let-up in the tempo for the 'Top End' Gunners, with the Regiment still busy supporting operations and training.

From March to May the Regiment was involved in Exercise Southern Reach. This exercise saw the Regiment focused on practicing science and art of gunnery after being out-of-role for Operation Anode. This 'back to basics' exercise in Cultana clearly identified strengths and weaknesses and provided an excellent foundation for the rest of the year. It also enabled the Joint Offensive Support Coordination Centre (JOSCC) to participate in the Brigade Command Post Exercise (CPX) along with 20th Surveillance and Target Acquisition Regiment (20 STA Regt) and 16th Air Defence Regiment (16 AD Regt). This CPX was an excellent opportunity to develop the Joint Effects Group concept, which was viewed very favourably by Commander 1st Brigade and Combat Training Centre. The concept saw the Commanding Officer provide a coordination function to synchronise the effects of the Regiment with elements from 20 STA Regt, 7 Signals Regiment, RAAF, 1 Aviation Regiment and the Brigade S2 Cell. All the elements enthusiastically contributed and provided excellent advice for the ongoing development of the concept.

The key lesson from Afghanistan was the need for a JOSCC to coordinate offensive support (OS) ...

In May and June the Regiment welcomed back and farewelled members deploying from and to the Middle East. The 20 members of OBG(W)-2, under the command of Major Paul Winter, returned for a well earned break, while another 12 deployed with OBG(W)-3 under the command of Major James Kerr. Two Joint Offensive Support Teams (JOSTs) were also welcomed back from service with RTF-1 in Afghanistan. The key lesson from their time in Afghanistan was the need for a JOSCC to coordinate offensive support (OS) requirements with the Dutch artillery and allied



Initiative Exercise on the Junior Leader Bull-Ring – direct fire without sights

offensive air support (OAS). This was addressed during their tour with Captain Ryan Barrow's JOST fulfilling this function. Fortunately, this has been addressed for RTF-2 with a JOSCC from 1st Field Regiment. Captain Silverstone and Lance Bombardier Wendland are also in Afghanistan on Exercise Longlook. Their UK replacements from 40 and 14 Regiments, RA have made outstanding contributions to the professional and social activities of the Regiment.

Exercise Predators Gallop in May/June saw the Regiment take the lead role on the 1st Brigade's major exercise. The Regiment deployed for a live fire exercise that was supported by 1st Armoured Regiment, 7 RAR, 1 CER, 1st Aviation Regiment, JTAC Tp, 6 Squadron RAAF and DSTO who participated with UAVs, an operational analysis team and some novel surveillance devices. The exercise also included a junior leader/small team bull-ring activity to test corps and non-corps skills and identify junior leaders. Additionally, the Regiment hosted an open day which attracted 140 friends and family to the heat and dust of Mount Bundy. The exercise enabled the Regiment



JOST C/S 6W in Afghanistan – Captain Barrow, Bombardier Dawson, Bombardier Merceica and Gunner Stoekel

to provide live fire support to 1st Armoured Regiment's first M1A1 Abrams exercise and develop a fire support base with 1 CER. Importantly the exercise enabled the Regiment to practice critical Regiment procedures, which had been degraded as a result of being out-of-role on Operation Anode, and further identify strengths and weaknesses.

Exercise Predators Gallop also saw the deployment of Bushmaster IMCVs as Battery Command Posts. This initiative has proven to be a huge success as it has provided the gun line with better protection on the move and from CBF, enhanced local defence, improved communications and decreased into/out of action times. The use of IMVs will be further developed at Cultana in September when Kilo, Juliet and How 1-4 will all be replaced by Bushmaster.



Bushmaster CP

May also saw 101st Medium Battery celebrate its 50th anniversary with a weekend of celebrations which included 48 members of the Battery Association that had travelled to Darwin. Activities included the dedication of a Battery Memorial, a tour of East Point Artillery Museum and an all ranks dining-in-night. It was great to see so many former members so keen to remain associated with the Battery and talk to the Gunners of today.

Visits from the Chief of Army and the new Commander 1st Division allowed the Regiment to demonstrate the ability to move the guns under



Bushmaster CP

armour by utilising the Bushmaster IMV not only as command post vehicles, but also as gun tractors and ammunition limbers. This latest initiative was designed to highlight how new equipment can be used in innovative ways to make an existing capability more deployable.

August and September will see the Regiment support the Air Observation of Fire and JTAC Courses at Mount Bundy, as well as deploy to Cultana on Ex Southern Reach 2. This will see 101st Medium Battery (with significant support from 103rd Medium Battery and Headquarters Battery) put a 'war establishment' battery into the field to support 1st Armoured Regiment CTC Heavy Battle Group Rotation. The remainder of the Regiment will not be left out as they will provide exercise control staff and role players. Importantly, the exercise will culminate with modified and advanced safety practices.

In October the Regiment will build on the success of previous 'Gunner Bear' charity gun pushes and hopefully raise \$75,000 for the Royal Darwin Hospital.



Major Foxall (Battery Commander 101st Medium Battery) and Mr Ken Murphy (Malaya veteran) at the Dining-in-Night



IMV Gun Tractor and Ammunition Limber during the visit from Commander 1st Division

Having been without an Regimental Sergeant Major, the Regiment was extremely pleased to welcome Warrant Officer Class One Peter Simic as the Regimental Sergeant Major in late April. The Regiment has also been very proud to recognise the performances of a number of people this year with promotions, honours and awards.

Of course overlaid across all activities is the ongoing requirement to support Kapooka with training platoons. Despite this significant impost, and many other distracting tasks, the Regiment has been able to, and will continue to, concentrate on Corps business. If anything, the year has shown the Regiment to be highly capable and adaptive, and ready for any task that it should be given in the future.

**Deputy Commander Joint Operations
Command Silver Commendations**

8233250 Lieutenant Benjamin Colin Milne Gray

For devotion to duty and exemplary performance as the Combat Team THOR Intelligence Officer and Patrol Master during deployment on Operations ANODE 17 June to 26 September 2006.

(CAPT Gray is currently an FO in 101 Mdm Bty)

8265698 Sergeant Gary Robert Cooper

For exceptional leadership and devotion to duty as a Platoon Sergeant within Combat Team THOR during deployment on Operation ANODE 17 June to 26 September 2006

(SGT Cooper is currently BC's Ack 101 Mdm Bty)

**Commander Training Command
Commendation**

8240177 Sergeant Michael Heinrich

For outstanding service in the performance of duty as an instructor at the School of Artillery (WO2 Heinrich is currently BG 103 Mdm Bty)

8266276 Bombardier Mathew Miller

I commend you for your selfless actions assisting to diffuse the potentially catastrophic situation at the Army Recruit Training Centre live firing range on 24th October 2006.

(SGT Miller is currently OPCP SGT 101 Mdm Bty)

**Commander Joint Task Force 631
Commendation**

8253500 CPL Steven David Salleo

Commendation for outstanding achievement as a member of the Defence Detention Facility in the provision of medical support.

(CPL Salleo is currently the RAP CPL)

Promotions January – July 2007

To Lance Bombardier

8298696 J.D. Adam

8229063 T.A. Booker

8298163 T.J. Findlay

8297795 A.L. Gourlay

8296562 D.W. Hill

8494990 L. Newell

8502449 H.J. Rogers

8440714 K.D. Stevens

8250234 A. Wendland

To Bombardier

8220404 M.J. Crosby

8268942 T.J. Fardell

8257074 J.W. Jones

8298775 B.J. Knight

8250295 R.C. Ohnemus

8240666 T.M. Salter

8485524 S.A. Southern

8298158 J.D. Toby

To Lance Corporal

8266919 P.J.B. Rooks

8442444 R. Clifton

To Corporal

8490867 D.N. Seiter

8485404 R.J. Smith

8297616 R. Steinke

8260420 J.M. Colquhoun

Woodside Warriors

The Regiment

*Provided by Lieutenant Colonel Paul McKay
Commanding Officer*

Ubique continues to accurately represent the contribution by the RAA to Army. Throughout 2007, the 16th Air Defence Regiment has supported both operational and training tasks, deploying the Regiment across Australia and individuals around the world. And the challenges of the year continue.

Ubique remains apt, and the Regiment is proud of its contribution.

The 110th Air Defence Battery has supported Ground Based Air Defence (GBAD) training activities in Cultana, Woomera and Shoalwater Bay. They have deployed in mounted and amphibious roles, and have reinforced the unit mission of providing task structured GBAD in order to prevent air threats from attacking deployed forces and critical assets. The 111th Air Defence Battery started the year on Operation Astute in East Timor, returning to Australia in May 2007 following the Timor Leste Presidential Elections.



Lance Bombardier Leighton Kavanagh prepares a UAV for tasking whilst deployed with 20th Surveillance and Target Acquisition Regiment on Operation Catalyst

The Battery will now resume GBAD training and will continue to build on the GBAD foundations developed by 110th Air Defence Battery earlier in the year. As always, Headquarter and Support Batteries continue the challenges of keeping the capability on-line. Alongside our primary task, the Regiment is also committed to operations with the 20th Surveillance and Target Acquisition Regiment, individual reinforcement of other Australia Defence Force operations and training support to the Army Recruit Training Centre at Kapooka. Ubique remains apt, and the Regiment is proud of its contribution. As always, we will strive to achieve our unique mission, and the operational and training tasks expected of us.

Operation Blood Donor

The Regiment continued its ongoing commitment to support the local community by engaging the Red Cross Blood Bank to set up their mobile blood bank in the gymnasium of the Regiment on 3rd August 2007. This was the second time that this activity had been undertaken in the past twelve months. 58 units of blood were donated by the Regiment on this occasion adding to the 66 units provided last year.



Warrant Officer Class Two Neil Welsh Battery Quartermaster Sergeant 111th Air Defence Battery having blood extracted by Red Cross Blood Bank assistant Sarah Errington

110th Air Defence Battery

*Provided by Warrant Officer Class Two Brendan Fox
Battery Sergeant Major 110th Air Defence Battery*

16th Air Defence Regiments contribution to Exercise Talisman Sabre came from the online

battery, 110th Air Defence Battery. Utilising the latest in Australia's air defence technologies, such as PStar ER and Taccs, they were more than up to the challenge of defeating the enemy air threat. The first step was the deployment of forces into the area of operations. Five weapon detachments, the GBAD CC and the CP deployed light scale to Townsville to join up with the Australian forces prior to D Day. They spent these few days training and preparing for their insertion into the Shoalwater Bay Training Area. They conducted HUET and naval ship familiarisation training in preparation for their trip on the HMAS Manoora. During this period the remainder of 110th Air Defence Battery had moved by road to the staging area in Rockhampton.

... they were more than up to the challenge of defeating the enemy air threat.

D Day finally came, and at D Day plus two, 110th Air Defence Battery, deployed light scales carrying all they owned, mounted an LCM8 and headed into shore into an unexpectedly high tide. While the water may have soaked the soldiers it did not dampen their spirits. The Manoora light scales group rejoined the rest of the Battery in Sam Hill the following day, and their contribution to the exercise began in earnest. With new technology up and running, the coordinated air picture provided cueing for the weapon detachments in their defence of Sam Hill.

As the Exercise continued the Battery began to use its mobility to good advantage moving several times to protect vital assets within the area of operations. As the ground war wound down, members of 162nd Reconnaissance Squadron aided in the training of the Battery by conducting a campaign of suppression of enemy air defence (SEAD) attempting to close with the vital assets, and indeed the weapon detachments themselves in order to suppress the deployed air defence assets. The training and equipment held the detachments in good stead as they utilised the cueing provided by the organic troop radar and engaged the aircraft at night utilising the BORG thermal imaging night sight.

The end of Exercise Talisman Sabre found 110th Air Defence Battery once again separating with some lucky few flying back via Hercules and the rest travelling once again by road. There were many lessons learnt from Exercise Talisman Sabre

with the Battery now more readily prepared to deploy with their new equipment and fulfil their role as the GBAD BOS.



RBS-70 Live Fire

111th Air Defence Battery

Provided by Lieutenant Jacob Costello

October 2006 saw the largest deployment from the 16th Air Defence Regiment since the Malayan campaign in 1968. The 111th Air Defence Battery, redesignated G or 'Golf' Coy ANZAC BG, deployed to Timor Leste following a one month long pre-deployment training and mission rehearsal exercise in Townsville.

Once in Dili G Coy promptly took responsibility for the most vital assets in Timor Leste including the Prime Minister and key politicians residences, Becora Prison, the headquarters of the East Timorese police force, as well as the security of Camp Phoenix, the home of the Battle group and Joint Task Force headquarters, to name but a few.

The men of G Coy relished the opportunity to represent the RAA on operations and quickly established a reputation for their can do attitude and positive demeanour. Shortly after arriving in East Timor, small groups were detached to conduct patrols further a field including Liquica, Aileu, Baucau, Ainaro and Ermera.

... redesignated G or 'Golf' Coy ANZAC BG, deployed to Timor Leste ...

The Battery saw in Christmas in style which included two cans of VB and a roast lunch followed by some well earned down time. There was no time for celebration when the New Year was welcomed in; however, those on piquet at the time were treated to an amateur fire works show provided by the Portuguese National Guard (GNR).

G Coy's period in Timor Leste, which ran from October 2006 to May 2007 was a particularly active period for the Joint Task Force, which encompassed the busy Christmas period, the transition from a 6th Battalion Royal Australian Regiment to a 1st Battalion Royal Australian Regiment Battle Group, the operation to capture fugitive Alfredo Reinardo, the Presidential elections as well as the lead up to the nation's Parliamentary elections. Throughout, G Coy was able to participate in a wide range of tasks in a variety of regions, all the while out of their primary role as Air Defenders.

With more time came more responsibility for G Company allowing the establishment of a platoon level forward operating base in Aileu, a platoon operating in Gleno and a platoon securing the United Nations Headquarters at Obrigado Barracks. After a few weeks in the regions the Company was once again reunited in Dili and were allocated an area of operations. The area encompassed most of the diplomatic district as well as the largest markets in Dili, the United Nations Headquarters and many key government buildings. As a result, the company was kept particularly busy, especially in the lead up to the Presidential elections which saw the torching of the ministry of education building and several cars in one night in a spate of gang related violence throughout G Company's area of responsibility.

The deployment was a fantastic learning experience for all members of the Company, the vast majority of which had not deployed to East Timor before. The experience will surely benefit 16th Air Defence Regiment over the next few

years as more and more members of the Regiment are deployed to Iraq and Afghanistan in a wide variety of roles.

G Coy's final task in Timor Leste was to hand over the area of operations to fellow gunners from 107th Field Battery who continued the sterling performance that G Company's are now known for.

The 111th Air Defence Battery continued the Army's proud tradition of excellence overseas as G Coy ANZAC Battle Group and is proud to be amongst the many sub units of 1st Division to successfully get the job done on operations.



Private Sarah Hickling on the Great Wall of China during her recent visit there with the Australian Defence Force female soccer team

Combat Service Support Battery

Provided by Lieutenant Peter Stanton

As far as Combat Service Support (CSS) Battery is concerned, 2007 has been another busy year; however it has also provided numerous opportunities for members to participate in non-military activities. So far this year we have accompanied 110th Air Defence Battery on exercises at Murray Bridge, Cultana, and

Woomera and to Shoalwater Bay for Exercise Talisman Sabre 07. This exercise provided an opportunity for the Battery's transport troop to obtain seven Mack trucks and trailers to move a majority of the Regiment's assets to Shoalwater Bay, as well as deploying RAEME, RAAOC, RAAMC and AACC members in role. As well as in-country exercises, Battery members have also returned from (and been sent on) various deployments to Timor and Iraq in a variety of roles.

Battery members have also participated in Australian Defence force football trips overseas, participated / instructed on ATW ski courses, a sea kayaking course, caving and numerous other non-military activities. With some very talented sporting members, the Battery has provided personnel in almost all sports imaginable both locally and Australia wide.



Lance Corporal Adam Ireson and the 25 Pdr Gun

Battery members have demonstrated their ability to take on the traditions of both the Regiment and RAA, with one example being the Battery's General Engineering Section members, headed by Lance Corporal Adam Ireson, restoring an old 25 Pounder Field Artillery Gun for a local RSL Sub Branch.

Victorian Gunners Embrace the Future

The Indirect Fire Capability within the 2nd Division: Mortar Trial

A recent analysis of the Indirect Fire Capability within the 2nd Division highlighted major Fundamental Inputs into Capability challenges to 2nd Division, Land Command, and Army as a result of the planned withdrawal of 105mm artillery from service and redistribution of M198 155mm artillery to the 2nd Division. The Chief of Army and Land Commander concurred with the 2nd Division preferred course of action from the analysis to convert all 2nd Division artillery regiments and batteries from 105mm calibre to a mortar based capability and endorsed a trial concept. The Land Commander subsequently provided direction to Commander 2nd Division to conduct a trial with 81mm mortar equipment in a 2nd Division artillery battery, using current artillery battery structures, and re-iterated the primacy of sustaining the High Readiness Reserve Joint Offensive Support Team capabilities.

... the planned withdrawal of 105mm artillery from service and redistribution of M198 155mm artillery to the 2nd Division.

The purpose of conducting the mortar trial is to examine the Fundamental Inputs into Capability issues relating to the conversion of all 2nd Division artillery units to 81mm mortar equipment in order to generate a ready, relevant, achievable and sustainable High Readiness Reserve Joint Offensive Support Team capability, while still retaining a 105mm ceremonial capability in each capital city. The trial is being conducted by 2nd/10th Field Regiment over the period 30th July 2007 to 31st March 2008, with the outcomes due to be presented for

consideration at a CASAC, through ACMC, no later than 30th June 2008.

The mortar trial will identify the relevant Fundamental Inputs into Capability issues and a corresponding action plan for endorsement by CASAC that will enable all 2nd Division artillery regiments and batteries to successfully convert from 105mm calibre to 81mm mortar based capability. Once implemented, 2nd Division and Army Reserve Artillery will have an indirect fire capability able to generate a ready, relevant, achievable and sustainable High Readiness Reserve Joint Offensive Support Team capability.

22nd Field Battery

June this year saw 22nd Field Battery conduct an activity that was a little different from the usual gunnery focussed exercise. The Battery undertook an activity to give junior leaders the opportunity to hone their leadership skills in situations that were arduous and out of their comfort zone. The Battery deployed to Lysterfield Park early on a Saturday morning for kayaking, orienteering and a trailer pull.

... the water at 0800 h was very cold (7 degrees).

First was the swim test. Lysterfield Lake in June isn't the warmest destination the Battery could have chosen and the water at 0800 h was very cold (7 degrees). Following that it was on to the Adventure Training instructors to learn the intricacies of kayaking. As many found out, it is not as easy as it looks. Next was a greatly appreciated hot lunch and a chance to warm up slightly, before getting into some orienteering/navigation, both on foot around the park and by kayak. The last event was the trailer push, with the detachments manhandling a trailer up one of the tracks of the park.

The support crew did a magnificent job of preparing the meals and dinner was a highlight. After a quick feed, the night orienteering leg started with a 10 kilometre navigation exercise. The last group made it in with about 15 minutes to spare before it started pelting down with rain.

The aims of the activity were well and truly met, with soldiers from Gunner to Bombardier being tested in relation to their initiative, problem solving and leadership skills and all participants having the opportunity to learn new skills in a challenging and varied environment.



GNR Ronc planning out the next leg of the orienteering activity

38th Field Battery

The highlight for 38th Field Battery in the last year was the opening of the purpose built facility at Geelong. The Newland Barracks as it was named was officially opened by Commander 4th Brigade, Brigadier Steve Aird on the 9th December 2006. The depot was open to the public to inspect the new facilities. A medal presentation for 2nd/10th Field Regiment members was also conducted and the day concluded with the opening of the Jock McNeill Club, named in honour of Major General Jock McNeill who served in 10th Medium Regiment. Mr Andrew McNeill, son of Jock, opened the new facility. Brigadier Doug Perry, Colonel Commandant Southern Region, was also named as the new Patron of the 10th Medium Association on the day. The new year saw the reins of the Battery handed over to new Battery Commander, Major Craig Whitford.

... it was the final live firing of the 105mm M2A2 by the Regiment prior to starting the conversion to mortars.

Exercise Torres, held on 21st-26th May 2007, was the Regimental live fire exercise that culminated in an open day for the family and friends of the Regiment, the various associations, and cadets. The Regiment fired two demonstration shoots from Gun Position 13 to allow spectators to view both gun line and target. At the conclusion the Commanding Officer announced that it was the final live firing of the 105mm M2A2 by the Regiment prior to starting the conversion to mortars. Ironically it took place on Gunners Day,

26th May 2007, 291 years since the formation of the Royal Artillery.

As part of the Regimental conversion to mortars Sergeant Gray from the Battery attended the basic mortar course in July 2007, with Lieutenant Sander and Warrant Officer Class Two Salter, as the first step in the Regiment's conversion to a mortar capability. Their input will be valuable in the conversion courses for the future Gunners of the Regiment.

2nd/10th Field Regiment Band

This year has again been a very busy one for the 2nd/10th Field Regiment Band. The year commenced with the usual Australia Day performances at the Shrine of Remembrance followed by a Flag Lowering Ceremony and Reception at Victoria Barracks. February saw the annual RAA Church Parade, this year back at the St Georges Church beside the St Kilda depot.

... one of the highlight events of the year, the annual Grand Artillery Masquerade Ball.

The highlight of the year came in late March and early April in the form of the FINA World Swimming Championships. The Band performed at both the opening and closing ceremonies. This was a huge commitment for the reservists, with rehearsals during the week prior to the Opening Ceremony running until 0200h, with most having to be at work early the next morning. The Band's performances were very well received, with some of the opening ceremony going live to national and international television. Early April also saw the Band performing at the annual Fort Gelibrand Ball, the first of many Gala Balls for the year. Of course April also means ANZAC Day and the buglers were again kept very busy at the many memorial services conducted on the day. Musician Tricia Rupe had the honour of playing live on national television prior to the Hawthorn v Western Bulldogs AFL game.

Early May saw the Band supporting the local community of St Kilda at the Chabad Youth Festival. This was followed immediately after by bThis year the Ball was moved to the Naval & Military Club for the first time. The Band returned to the same venue in June to perform at a dinner for the Chief of the Defence Force prior to his and the Band's participation in the Reserve Forces Day parade at the Shrine of Remembrance.



WO2 Deakes, CPL Traynor, MUSN Rupe & MUSN Virag fold the FINA flag at the Closing Ceremony of the World Swimming Championships

The Band went into Annual Camp in July. This was conducted in conjunction with 4th/19th Prince of Wales Light Horse Regiment Band. The Band worked hard to develop some new repertoire and skills during Camp. Some of these include the development of a Rock Band and an Andrew Sisters vocal group. Other performances in July included the School of Artillery Ball and the Weary Dunlop Memorial Service and Ball.

The Band worked hard to develop some new repertoire and skills during Camp. Some of these include the development of a Rock Band and an Andrew Sisters vocal group.

The Band has, so far, participated in 33 activities to the end of July. A further 20 are already programmed for the remainder of the year where the Band plans to participate in many different types of activities from memorial services to family concerts, and of course more Gala Balls. November will see the Band performing for the Annual SCMA Ball for the first time and then in December at the 100th anniversary of Intelligence Corps.

Operational Deployments

Captain Wright recently returned from operations in Iraq. At present Warrant Officer Class One Lehr, Corporal Harding, Corporal Burnett, Bombardier Overell, and Private Younan are all deployed to the Solomons on Operation Anode. Major Kelly will deploy on operations to Iraq later in the year.

Joint Proof and Experimental Unit

The Joint Proof and Experimental Unit (JPEU) was established on 1st May 2004. The Headquarters is located at Orchard Hills, NSW and commands the Proof and Experimental Establishments (P&EE) at Port Wakefield, SA (PW) and Graytown, VIC (GT) including the Munitions Test Centre (MTC) located within the Thales Australia facility at Benalla in Victoria and the Small Arms Test Centre (SATC) located within the Thales Australia facility at Mulwala, NSW.

The unit is a Joint, integrated Military and Australian Public Service (APS) organisation with the majority of the Military posted to P&EE PW and P&EE GT. The Military employed within JPEU range from Gunner to Major through a variety of corps including RAA, RAEME and RAAMC. P&EE PW also has a sprinkling of Navy (RAN) personnel.

The unique facilities and test capabilities ... are world class with the focus ... that the weapons and munitions used ... are safe, suitable and reliable for service.

The unique facilities and test capabilities maintained throughout JPEU are world class with the focus continuing to ensure that the weapons and munitions used by the sailors, soldiers and airmen of the Australian Defence Force (ADF) are safe, suitable and reliable for service.

JPEU continues to contribute to four of defence's six capability outputs. To maintain our success for the future, the JPEU undergoes continued change through moving forward in many areas including our capability development and purchase programs, attaining accreditation in the National Association of Testing Agencies (NATA), obtaining increased outputs and efficiencies whilst maintaining and updating our quality accreditations.

Proof and Experimental Establishment Port Wakefield

The P&EE PW facility conducts environmental, dynamic and static proofing, testing and evaluation. The main tasks include the Introduction Into Service (IIS) of various components and munitions, their In Service Surveillance (ISS), and support under the Strategic Agreement for Munitions Supply (SAMS). Weapon systems including platforms and computation and Explosive Ordnance trials including concept demonstrators and future developmental projects are also conducted at the Range.

... conducts environmental, dynamic and static proofing, testing and evaluation.

In 2007, the P&EE PW personnel have been involved in a wide range of testing with some of the highlights including:

- Small Arms Weapons, Ammunition and Target Response trials conducted with DSTO on behalf of TC-A. The imagery and information from this trial will provide users with in-service awareness and the real facts about the differences between cover and concealment.
- The comparison firing trial of 70mm and 2.75in rockets for the ARH project.



- 76mm/62 calibre barrel liner acceptance for the RAN fleet of in-service weapons. 5"54 calibre VT Fuze function testing fired at suspended targets.
- The AHQ tasking to support the Royal Netherlands Artillery in their testing of selected Rhenmetall ammunition from the PzH2000 self propelled 155mm.



- The introduction into service and acceptance of the M577A1(VECP) Fuze purchase and Phase 1 of the 105mm Hirtenberger WP M60 ammunition system.
- Possibly the last of the ISS program for the 105mm Tank APDS and HESH ammunition.
- The coordination of 'flutter flight' testing and aural signature testing with the RAAF.
- Some significant issues on the RAA personnel front for 2007 have included:
- The Master Gunner in 2006, Warrant Officer Class One Phil (Robbo) Robertson suffered a heart attack in late 2006, after much concern he is now recuperating and gaining strength in Sydney whilst awaiting a transplant opportunity. Our best wishes remain with Robbo, Jodie and family.
- The Master Gunner, Warrant Officer Class One Dave (Bear) Rayment was deployed in May 2007 on a six month operational deployment. We look forward to his safe return.
- Bombardier Matt Jones continues to represent Army and the ADF in Basketball, captaining the ADF Basketball team again in 2007. Additionally, he has been recognised for his leadership integrity and commitment to the Norwood ABA Mens Basketball Club through the establishment of the club's leadership award named in his honour. Well done and well deserved.

Proof and Experimental Establishment Graytown

The P&EE GT conducts a wide range of static and dynamic firings on behalf of Defence and commercial entities. The Ranges' functions are diversified, from routine ISS tasks to high profile

test and trial activities in support of DSTO, LEA and DMO. Before a weapon or munition system is brought into service it is subject to a vigorous test and trial regime. This is the P&EE's bread and butter and ensures compliancy of product before introduction.

In 2007 the major proof and test activities have included:

- The proof and test of the Blast Actuation Device to sustain the Denel 81mm mortar munition family.
- DSTO trials for composite armour.
- DSTO blast trials.
- 20mm penetration proof for Phalanx weapon systems.
- Investigative trial F1 grenades.
- First phase of trial for Land 40.
- Assist Australian War Memorial with technical support for filming Long Tan re-enactment.
- Commercial rail hardening.
- Testing Submarine Launch Munitions.
- Routing testing and acceptance proof for Thales Australia.

The progressive change in relation to the high tempo of Defence on operations have impacted both P&EE's and will see a substantial increase in output across all facets of proof, test and evaluation activities. The RAA positions at P&EE's are technically demanding and rewarding and routinely force operators to think 'outside the box'. This instils a true sense of achievement and has embedded the role of JPEU within Defence.

Conclusion

As the silent achiever within the RAA and Defence, JPEU will continue to fulfil its role in providing safe, suitable and reliable weapons and munitions to you, the sailors, soldiers and airmen of the Australian Defence Force.

If after reading this article, you would like to be part of the Proof and Experimental side within the Australian Defence Force then contact your SCMA or DOCM Career Advisor and let them know. We hope to see you soon.

The Commanding Officer, Lieutenant Colonel David Garside and all JPEU staff wish those deployed a safe return to your loved ones. To all, our best wishes for 2007, may you have enjoyed your year and hope that you may all enjoy a safe Christmas and posting cycle.

Gallop to a range of firsts

EXERCISE Predators Gallop 07 featured a first on Australian soil with the integration of F-111s, UAVs, Kiowas and live artillery fire to support a brigade advance and battle group attack.

More than 200 members of 8/12 Mdm Regt took to the range on a 12-day live-fire and manoeuvre exercise at Mount Bundy Training Area (MBTA) last month.

The regiment was supported during 1Bde's annual exercise by 1 Armd Regt, 1CER, 7RAR and 1 Avn Regt as well as the RAAF and DSTO.

CO 8/12 Mdm Regt Lt-Col Craig Furini said he was impressed by the cooperation between each component.

"The successful coming together of Army, RAAF and DSTO elements proved the strength of the joint combined arms team and the adaptability of the soldiers of 1 Bde to meet new challenges and integrate new capabilities with minimal fuss," he said.

"This exercise provided a diverse training experience from which many lessons can be drawn and applied to the future."

This year's exercise included the ongoing development of the joint effects group concept that was trialled during the 1 Bde's CPX in March.

The integration of F-111s, DSTO UAVs, Kiowas and live artillery fire involved the successful use of existing airspace control and offensive support procedures to synchronise all the assets. In particular, the UAV was used to pass tactical information to the Joint Offensive Support Coordination Centre and to engage targets with artillery, including the conduct of missions for close air support, as well as the conduct of bomb damage assessment.

In a raft of other firsts, the regiment held its first successful open day at Mount Bundy Training Area, where families and friends were able to experience the noise, dust and heat of serving the guns in the Top End.

One of the wives, Sally Smith, said: "What a great day. It was hard enough being here for a few hours watching in this heat and dust, let alone doing what you guys do."



Loaded: Gunners from 8/12 Mdm Regt load a 155mm howitzer at the Mount Bundy Training Area.

Photo by AB Bradley Darvill

Also noteworthy was the use of a prototype disposable pop-up target. The expense of pop-up targets had previously prevented artillery from engaging them. However, a little innovation from the regiment's Technical Support Troop and 1CER enabled the new target to be trialled and the reactions of the joint offensive support teams to be fully tested.

The first deployment of the Bushmaster IMV as an artillery command post also occurred during Predators Gallop. Lt Nick Cooper, the Gun Position Officer of 103 Mdm Bty, said the Bushmaster "made an excellent CP; the improvement in our ability to communicate, move and conduct all the drills required of an artillery CP was massive".

'Army - The Soldiers Newspaper', August 9, 2007

Associations & Organisations

winds. Rough seas. Exp. max. temp. City and Liv., 60 deg. N.S.W.; Showers in E. Cold W to S winds, strong on S. Coast.

The Sydney Daily

The Sydney Daily

No. 40,689

Telephone 2 0944

One Hundred and

Dial

Battle toll: nine dead, 17 wounded

SAIGON, Tuesday.—Nine Australians were killed and 17 wounded in the bloody battle north of Saigon yesterday.

The Australians were attacked by North Vietnamese regular troops probably retreating from the fighting in the Saigon area.

AUSTRALIANS DRIVE OFF 400 VIETCONG

NUI DAT, Sunday. — A U.S. helicopter gunship helped repulse 400 Vietcong who launched a combined mortar, rocket and ground attack on an Australian fire support base early today.

GUNNERS
Six Vietcong bodies were found outside the base after the attack, but blood trails and drag marks indicated more had been killed or wounded.
The base, codenamed Balmoral, is in Bien Hoa province, about 27 miles north of Saigon.
The base is 24 miles north of the Coral fire-support base which came under heavy attack twice in the past two weeks.
Soon after midnight, the Vietcong also slammed several mortar rounds into the Coral base, but caused little damage.
At the Balmoral base, Australian troops opened up on the attackers with 50-calibre fire from entrenched Centurion tanks and mortars.
The battle ended when the American helicopter circled the perimeter of the base, spraying withdrawing Vietcong with its 7.62mm "mini gun."
The attack came less than 48 hours after troops from the 3rd Battalion Royal Australian Regiment dug in among jungle saplings after being dropped by helicopter.

FULL LIST OF NAMES

The following is the latest list of nine Australian soldiers killed and 17 wounded in Vietnam:

- KILLED**
- Gunner C. J. Sawtell, 19, single, of Seven Hills, N.S.W., 12th Field Regiment, R.A.A.
 - Private John Alfred O'Brien, 21, single, National Serviceman, of Crow's Nest, N.S.W., 1 R.A.R.
 - Corporal Robert Bernard Hickey, 24, married, of Holsworthy, N.S.W., 1 R.A.R.
 - Private Errol John Bailey, 23, married, National Serviceman, of Abermain, N.S.W., 1 R.A.R.
 - Private Brian Maxwell Trimble, 21, single, National Serviceman, of Bendigo, Victoria, 1 R.A.R.
 - Private Richard Christopher Allan Watson, 20, single, of Mount Martha, Victoria, 1 R.A.R.
 - Gunner Ian James Scott, 21, married, National Serviceman, of Camperdown, Victoria, 12th Field Regiment, R.A.A.
 - Private Robert Leo McNab, 20, single, of Keon Park, Victoria, 1 R.A.R.
 - Sergeant Peter Edward Lewis, 24, single, of Poochera, S.A., 3rd Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment.
- WOUNDED**
- Private Joseph Terrance Griffin, 21, single, National Serviceman, of Clyde, N.S.W., 1 R.A.R., seriously ill.
 - Corporal Michael Ray.
- Cont., Page 4.

Sabres strafe 14 Aust. soldiers

CANBERRA, Friday. — Cannon fire from U.S. Super Sabre aircraft yesterday accidentally wounded 14 Australian soldiers in Vietnam.

A National Serviceman, Private Ivan Charles Tilmouth, 21, of Yagoona, N.S.W., is seriously ill but making progress in the 7th U.S. Surgical Hospital, Blackhorse. The other 13, being treated at the 1st Australian Field Hospital, Vung Tau, are in very satisfactory or satisfactory condition and will return to their unit.
The accident occurred when C Company, 4th Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment, was taking part in a reconnaissance-in-force operation 12 miles north of Nui Dat. Army headquarters said tonight that it occurred in thick jungle during an air strike against an enemy position.
U.S. F-100 Super Sabre fighters had successfully attacked enemy bunkers with 500lb bombs and were strafing adjacent installations with their cannons.
Several 20mm shells fell among C Company, which was more than 1,000 metres from the target.
U.S. and Australian military authorities are investigating the incident.
The Australian battalion was taking part in an operation in which 24 Communist soldiers have been reported killed so far.
The wounded men from N.S.W. are:
Second Lieutenant Kim Rapael Benier, 24, single, of Cremorne, very satisfactory.
Private John Henry Harris, 20, single, of Clovelly, very satisfactory.
Private Thomas Bogunovich, 21, single, National Serviceman, of Warriewood, satisfactory.
• Casualties from other States, Page 6.

ESCAPE ROUTE

An American spokesman said that the base lay along a possible "exfiltration" route from the capital.
The North Vietnamese, identified as members of the 141st Regiment, were possibly making for the Cambodian border, which makes a "V" cut into South Vietnam in the area.
The Australians captured a number of weapons.
The Australian battalions are still operating in the area.

SKIRMISHES

The 1st and 3rd Battalions, Royal Australian Regiment, with armoured personnel carriers of the Third Cavalry Regiment, moved to the area, near the border of Bien Hoa and Binh Duong provinces, on Sunday.
Since then they have killed 59 of the enemy, two in an action on Sunday and five more yesterday in skirmishes.
The major battle was fought four miles north-west of Tan Uyen and north-north-east of Saigon.
The North Vietnamese, estimated at a battalion, hit an Australian fire support base manned by men of the 12th Field Artillery Regiment.

Associations & Organisations Contact List

RAA Regimental Fund

SO2 HOR School of Artillery
Bridges Barracks, Puckapunyal, VIC 3662
Phone: (03) 5735 6465
Email: thomas.adams@defence.gov.au

RAA Historical Company & North Fort Museum

PO Box 1042, Manly, NSW 1655
Phone: (02) 9976 6102 or (02) 9976 3855
Email: northfort@ozemail.com.au
Website: www.northfort.org.au
[Membership form - see page 111]

***Cannonball* (Official Journal)**

RAA Historical Society WA (Inc)

President - Bruce Campbell
Phone: (08) 9221 2494 (Bus)
Secretary - Tom Arnautovic, OAM
P O Box 881, Claremont, WA 6910
Email: info@artillerywa.org.au
Phone: 0419 923 584 (mob)
Website: www.artillerywa.org.au

***Take Post* (Quarterly Newsletter)**

4 Field Regiment (Vietnam) Association

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7 Field Regiment Association

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P O Box 206, Frenchs Forest, NSW 2086
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10 Medium Regiment Association Inc

P O Box 1915, Geelong, VIC 3220
President - Pat Eldridge
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***The Big Gun* (Newsletter)**

12 Field Regiment (Vietnam) Association

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Tiger Rag (Newsletter)

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107 Battery

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Ram - Ramblings (Newsletter)

Editor - Barry Pearce
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108 Battery

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The Journal With No Name (Newsletter)

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Gunline (Newsletter)

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Gunners Gossip (Newsletter)

Email: johnwilson1@bigpond.com
Website: www.ozatwar.com/raa - nqld.htm

RAA Association (NSW) Inc

President - Don Tait
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'Gunfire' (Magazine)

Editor - P O Box 1034, West Cessnock, NSW 2325
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RAA Association (NSW) Newcastle Sub-Branch

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Shot Over (Newletter)

RAA Association (VIC) Inc

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'Cascabel' (Magazine)

The Editor 'Cascabel'
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Artillery WA (On-line Newsletter)

RAA Association (TAS) Inc

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The Artillery News (Newsletter)

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Locating Artillery Association

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LOCREP (Newsletter)

Editor: Major Allan Harrison (see above)

18 Light Anti-Aircraft Regiment Association

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9 HAA/LAA Regiments Association

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41 Battery / 11 Field Regiment RAA Association Inc

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Gunner Ear (Newsletter)

Fort Lytton Historical Association Inc

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Fort Scratchley Historical Society

Website: www.fortscratchley.org.au

Gunner's Net International

Website: <http://gunnersnet.com/gnrs.html>

The Guns (On-line Newsletter)

Website: <http://gunnersnet.com/theguns.html>

RA Association

Website: www.raa.uk.com

The Gunner Magazine (RA Publication)

Website: www.gunnermag.com

RAA Unit Websites

Royal Regiment of Australian Artillery and other unit websites maybe accessed via the Australian Army website.

<http://www.defence.gov.au/army/RRAA>

<http://intranet.defence.gov.au/armyweb/Sites/RRAA>

Editors Note:

If you are aware of more current information than that published, could you advise me. I would appreciate the contact details of any other *Gunner* organisation not listed. To keep current on what is happening around the *Gunner* community, it is requested that units and associations forward me copies of newsletters.

Regimental Fund Benefactors

Correct as at 31st August 2007

LTGEN D.M. Mueller	COL B.M. Armstrong
MAJGEN J.E. Barry	COL R.V. Brown
MAJGEN P.J. Dunn	COL D.L. Byrne
MAJGEN T.R. Ford <i>(see note)</i>	COL D.P. Coghlan
MAJGEN S.N. Gower	COL M.C. Crawford
MAJGEN B.A. Power	COL S.T. Goltz
MAJGEN J.P. Stevens	COL E.D. Hirst
MAJGEN J.D. Stevenson <i>(see note)</i>	COL J.H. Humphrey
MAJGEN J. Whitelaw <i>(see note)</i>	COL C.B.J. Hogan
BRIG M.G. Boyle	COL W.T. Kendall
BRIG J.R. Cox	COL J.C. Kirkwood
BRIG M.P. Crane	COL M.G. Lovell
BRIG G.P. Fogarty	COL I.A. Lynch
BRIG A.G. Hanson	COL R.M. Manton
BRIG J.A.R. Jansen	COL R.B. Mitchell
BRIG P.R. Kilpatrick	COL D. J. Murray
BRIG R.A. Lawler	COL P.R. Patmore
BRIG R.Q. Macarthur- Stranham	COL J.C. Platt
BRIG T.J. McKenna	COL G.G. Potter
BRIG K.B.J. Mellor	COL G.M. Salom
BRIG D. I. Perry	COL B.J. Stark
BRIG K.V. Rossi	COL D.M. Tait
BRIG G.T. Salmon	COL A.D. Watt <i>(see note)</i>
BRIG J.R. Salmon	LTCOL R.M. Baguley
BRIG W.M. Silverstone	LTCOL D.N. Brook
BRIG G.B. Standish	LTCOL A.R. Burke
BRIG R.Q. Stanham	LTCOL M.A. Cameron
BRIG R.A. Sunderland	LTCOL J.H. Catchlove
BRIG P.B. Symon	LTCOL I.D.S. Caverswall
BRIG D.J.P. Tier	LTCOL S.E. Clingan
BRIG P.J. Tys	LTCOL S.G. Condon
BRIG A.G. Warner	LTCOL R.J. Crawford
BRIG V.H. Williams	LTCOL L.D. Ensor
BRIG P.D. Winter	

LTCOL E.P.M. Esmonde
LTCOL J. Findlay
LTCOL G.W. Finney (see note)
LTCOL R.J. Foster
LTCOL R.G. Gibson
LTCOL C. D. Furini
LTCOL K.R. Hall
LTCOL M. Harvey (RNZA)
LTCOL P.L. Hodge
LTCOL M.J. Kingsford
LTCOL S.F. Landherr
LTCOL K.W. McKenzie
LTCOL D.M. Murphy
LTCOL S.W. Nicolls
LTCOL P.L. Overstead
LTCOL A.A. Plant
LTCOL G.F.B. Rickards
LTCOL S.T. Ryan
LTCOL S.M. Saddington
LTCOL C. Taggart
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MAJ J.D. Ashton
MAJ D.T. Brennan
MAJ P. Cimbajjevic
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MAJ M. Dawson
MAJ M. Dutton
MAJ A.O. Fleming
MAJ W.J. Francis
MAJ T.J. Gibbings
MAJ L.P. Hindmarsh
MAJ D.A. Jenkins
MAJ J.B. Kelly
MAJ J.H. McDonagh
MAJ R.S. McDonagh
MAJ M.W. Middleton
MAJ G.K. Milic
MAJ D.R. Morgan

MAJ P.J. Prewett
MAJ V.J. Ray
MAJ S.G. Rohan-Jones
MAJ L.J. Simmons
MAJ A.H. Smith
MAJ A.E.R. Straume
MAJ M. Taggart
MAJ T.W. Vercoe
MAJ M.St C. Walton
MAJ C.V. Wardrop
CAPT P.E. Bertocchi
CAPT S.A. Hompas
CAPT K.F. Schoene
WO1 D.W. Bowman
WO1 M.I. Johnson
WO1 M.A. Pasteur
WO1 R.J. Thompson
WO1 P.T. Washford

WO2 A. Palovich

Deceased Benefactors

Sir Roden Cutler
MAJGEN T.F. Cape
MAJGEN G.D. Carter
MAJGEN P. Falkland
MAJGEN R. G. Fay
BRIG R.K. Fullford (see note)
LTCOL R.H.E. Harvey
LTCOL G.W. Tippetts

Note:

MAJGEN J.D. Stevenson, MAJGEN J. Whitelaw, MAJGEN T.R. Ford, BRIG R.K. Fullford, COL A.D. Watt and LTCOL G.W. Finney have paid two life subscriptions.

Associations

RAA Association (Tasmania)
RAA Association (North Queensland)
105th Field Battery Association
Fort Lytton Historical Association
Royal Australian Artillery Retired Officers of South East Queensland

Regimental Fund – Seeking Your Contribution

Introduction

The RAA Regimental Fund is designed to provide a source of funds that can be utilised for the benefit of all Gunners. One of the most important uses for these funds is to support requests from RAA units and organisations to assist in the ongoing preservation and promotion of the Regimental heritage. Other worthy goals that this funding supports, is not limited to, but includes purchasing:

- Cyphers for presentation to officers, warrant officers and sergeants who retire from service after more than 20 years.
- 30 year service presentations for warrant officers and sergeants.
- Paintings depicting the Regiment in its many campaigns and at peace.

The Regimental Committee cannot achieve these very worthy goals without the support of individual members and organisations within the Gunner community. All officers, warrant officers and sergeants are encouraged to make an annual financial contribution to the Regimental Fund either as individuals or as a mess or organisation/association or take up the option of a 'Life Subscription' which then absolves the subscriber from being asked for any further subscriptions. The list of life subscribers is published in the Liaison Letter.

Recent Projects

Over the years the Regimental Fund has supported a wide range of requests for financial support, including some of which are ongoing such as insurance and maintenance of the AIF and Mount Schank Trophies. It is worth noting that the sums of money requested from the Fund are generally significant and therefore can only realistically have any chance of being provided if each and everyone of us support the Fund. Recent projects supported by the Fund include the allocation of:

- \$2500 to 8th/12th Medium Regiment to assist the Regiment to build a Regimental Memorial to coincide with the Regiments 30th anniversary celebrations;

- \$500 to 131st Surveillance and Target Acquisition Battery to improve the Battery memorial and add a plaque to mark the 50th Anniversary of the unit and its name change from 131st Divisional Locating Battery;
- \$1000 to 1st Field Regiment for its 50th anniversary celebrations;
- \$1000 to 4th Field Regiment for its 40th anniversary celebrations;
- \$1500 for shield to be held by winner of Mount Schanck trophy;
- \$1000 to 1st Field Regiment to mark 50th anniversary of 105th Field Battery, 50th anniversary of commitment to Malaya and 40th anniversary of commitment to South Vietnam;
- \$1,000 to complete the Major General T. Cape Bequest to the Regimental officer's mess;
- \$5,000 to commission a painting to mark the withdrawal from service of Rapier; and
- The on-going Royal Military College Graduation Artillery prize which is approximately \$85 per graduation.

Suggested Level of Contribution

The suggested rate of contribution is currently deemed as \$120 for a life subscription and the following sliding scale based on rank for an annual subscription:

- LTCOL and above – \$25,
- MAJ and CAPT – \$20,
- LT and WO – \$15, and
- SGT – \$10.

It is understood that some individuals may not be in a position to meet the suggested scale, therefore any contribution will be gratefully appreciated in helping to continue the good work the Fund has provided the Regiment over many years.

Without your financial support the Regimental Committee is unable to support the preservation of Regimental history and requests for financial support from units.



**RAA Regimental Fund
ANNUAL CONTRIBUTION**

Name Unit/Association/Individual		BLOCK letters please
Address		
		Postcode

- Please find enclosed my/our contribution to the RAA Regiment Fund
- A receipt is required

Please return to:
 SO2 HOR,
 School of Artillery, Bridges Barracks,
 PUCKAPUNYAL VIC 3662

Life Subscription of \$120
 means you will never be asked to subscribe again
 and your name will be published in the list of Benefactors.

PEACEKEEPING MEMORIAL - AN INVITATION TO BE A SPONSOR OR MEMBER



The Australian Peacekeeping Memorial will commemorate and celebrate Australian peacekeeping. It will honour the sacrifice, service and valour of Australian peacekeepers given in the same spirit as in other conflicts honoured in cenotaphs and memorials across Australia and on ANZAC Parade, Canberra.

Progress to Date

The Federal Government, through the Department of Veterans' Affairs, has provided an initial grant of \$200,000 to assist with the construction of the Memorial, which experience indicates requires about \$2.5 million to fund such a major national memorial in Canberra. A committee for the Australian Peacekeeping Memorial Project has been convened with duly elected office bearers and representatives from the ADF, the AFP, State and Territory Police, and peacekeeping veterans.

The APMP Committee welcomes membership and support from all peacekeeping veterans, interested individuals and organisations.

Full details of the project are listed on our website : www.peacekeepingmemorial.org.au

**ROUNDSHOT
TO RAPIER**

Artillery in South
Australia 1840-1984

EDITED BY LIEUTENANT COLONEL DAVID BROOK
(RETD)

ISBN 0 85864 098 8; PUBLISHED BY RAA
ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH AUSTRALIAN;
HARDCOVER; BLACK AND WHITE PHOTOGRAPHS;
349 PAGES.

The publication 'Roundshot to Rapier',
edited by Lieutenant Colonel David Brook,
was published as part of South Australia's
Sesqui-Centenary celebrations in 1986.

Although published over 20 years ago it
remains an important historical for the
history of artillery in South Australia.
'Roundshot to Rapier' is a valuable
addition for any personal military library. A
specialist military publication today with
the reproduction quality of this book
would retail for at least \$30 to \$40.

*Copies of the book are available from the RAA
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**40TH ANNIVERSARY
OF THE BATTLES OF
CORAL AND BALMORAL
CEREMONIES**

12th and 13th May 2008

Canberra

See program on page 10

**National Gunner
Dinner**

13th May 2008

**To be held in conjunction with the
40th Anniversary of the Battle of
Coral in Canberra**

See advertisement on page 11



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Australians wounded in Vietnam

CANBERRA, Sunday. — Four Australian soldiers have been slightly wounded during operations in Vietnam.

Three of them were wounded while taking part in Operation Complete Victory in the north-west of Bien Hoa Province. They are:

- Corporal Robert Milton Powell, 25, of Geyde Park, in South Australia; gunshot wound in the chest.
- Private Graeme Henry Poole, 21, of Mackay, in Queensland; graze wound.
- Private Michael Hay Sergeant, 21, of Yacka, in South Australia; gunshot wound to the left foot.

TANK ESCAPE

The crew of an Australian 50-ton Centurion tank moving up to support elements of the last force in Operation Complete Victory, about 25 miles from Saigon, escaped injury when it ran over a mine on the busy Route 2 highway. It detonated the mine when it pulled to the side of the road to allow an oncoming civilian vehicle through. The mine blew off the tank's track and suspension unit on the right side. It was towed back one mile to an American base for repairs.

It is believed that the mine, which blew a hole six feet wide and four feet deep in the road, was set to detonate with nothing less than a tank running over it. Army headquarters in Canberra have reported that since the operation began on May 12, Australian forces have killed 134 Vietnamese or North Vietnamese soldiers.

Vietnam list of wounded

- From page one.
- Private James Madden, 25, married, of North Gosford, N.S.W., R.A.R., very satisfactory.
 - Private John Milton Randa, 21, single, National Serviceman, of Temora, R.A.R., very satisfactory.
 - Private Graham Richard Stevens, 22, single, National Serviceman, of Punchbowl, N.S.W., R.A.R., very satisfactory.
 - Gunner Victor John Page, 21, single, National Serviceman, of Cairns, Queensland, 12th Field Regiment, R.A.A., very seriously ill.
 - Private Maxwell John Newham, 21, single, National Serviceman, of Longford, via Sale, Vic., 1 Field Regiment, R.A.A., satisfactory.
 - Private Raymond Ronald Watt, 21, married, National Serviceman, of Geelong, Vic., 1 R.A.R., satisfactory.
 - Private Peter William Fulton, 19, single, of Mount Gravatt, Queensland, 1 R.A.R., satisfactory.
 - Gunner Winston Hedley Grimes, 19, single, of Bundaberg, Queensland, 12th Field Regiment, satisfactory.
 - Private Ian Kenneth Mead, 21, single, National Serviceman, of South Perth, Western Australia, 1 R.A.R., satisfactory.
 - Private Perry Waboo Noll, 21, single, National Serviceman, of Korumburra, Victoria, 1 R.A.R., satisfactory.
 - Private Graeme Arthur Hobley, 21, married, National Serviceman, of Warragul, Victoria, 1 R.A.R., satisfactory.
 - Private Brian Desmond Priest, 19, single, of Grovely, Queensland, 1 R.A.R., very satisfactory.
 - Private John Joseph Williams, 20, single, of Point Elliott, South Australia, 1 R.A.R., very satisfactory.
 - Private Harold Thomas Northwood, 21, National Serviceman, of Victoria Park, Western Australia, 1 R.A.R., very satisfactory.
 - Sergeant Arthur John Penn, 22, single, of Northampton, Western Australia, 12th Field Regiment, R.A.A., very satisfactory.
 - Signaller Rowan Edward Gamble, 22, single, of Ballarat, Victoria, 104th Signal Squadron, shrapnel wound, treated, but not admitted to hospital, condition very satisfactory.
 - All the casualties were caused by shrapnel.

New Red attack on Aust. base repulsed

SAIGON, Thursday. — North Vietnamese troops pierced the defences of an Australian Army fire support base in Bien Hoa province early today before they were driven back in fierce fighting.

The bodies of 37 Communists were found after the attack, the second on the base in four days.

Australian casualties in the four and a half hour action were described as "light". The enemy finally withdrew from the area at 7 a.m. Later Australian forces sweeping through the battle area found 37 enemy dead. Casualties are described as "light" if a unit is able to carry on after an engagement. In Canberra today, Army headquarters released the names of two more Australian soldiers killed in earlier actions, bringing the Australian casualty toll for the week to 14 dead and 38 wounded. (See page 4)

An estimated regiment of North Vietnamese—about 1,600 men—took part in today's assault. They launched two well-coordinated and determined attacks on the fire support base, about two hours apart. The base, codenamed "Coral," is 25 miles north of Saigon and is probably along a route being used by Communist troops as they withdraw from last week's offensive against the capital towards the nearby Cambodian border.

CAMP HIT

The battle began early this morning with a heavy barrage of rockets, artillery and mortar on the base, manned by men of the 12th Field Artillery Regiment. The ground attack started at 2.40 a.m. with an assault on the adjoining camp of the 1st Battalion, R.A.R., and then the fire support base.

An Army spokesman said the first wave of North Vietnamese broke through the perimeter of the Australian camp. The Australians counter-attacked quickly and the enemy were driven out, leaving behind 17 dead. The second attack came as the Australians called in support from American artillery, helicopter gunships and aircraft to repulse the attack.

The North Vietnamese gunners kept the base under steady rocket and mortar fire throughout the attack. The enemy finally withdrew from the area at 7 a.m. Later Australian forces sweeping through the battle area found 37 enemy dead. The Army spokesman said that greater number of enemy had been killed in the action. An Australian Army spokesman said the dead had been identified as belonging to the 141st North Vietnamese Regiment, which made a bloody attack against the base early on Monday.

Fifty-two North Vietnamese were killed in that battle. A total of 107 enemy have now been killed by Australian troops since they moved into the area on Sunday. Another prisoner, taken in this morning's action, brings the number captured to five. Patrols from the 1st Battalion killed 11 North Vietnamese in probing attacks around the base yesterday. American forces in South Vietnam lost 562 men killed last week, their highest death toll for any week of the war. The previous record was 543 killed in the week of February 11 to 17, during the Vietnam Tet offensive. (A.A.P. Special)

Regimental Publications Index

Liaison Letter

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1	Director Royal Artillery Technical Liaison Letter 1/48	Copy held by HOR at School of Artillery
2	Director Royal Artillery Liaison Letter – 3 June 1954	Copy held by Puckapunyal Area Library
3	Director Royal Artillery Liaison Letter – 18 October 1954	Copy held by HOR at School of Artillery
4	Director Royal Artillery Liaison Letter – 24 November 1954	Copy held by HOR at School of Artillery
5	Director Royal Artillery Liaison Letter – February 1955	Copy held by HOR at School of Artillery
6	Director Royal Artillery Liaison Letter – 31 May 1955	Copy held by HOR at School of Artillery
7	Director Royal Artillery Liaison Letter – 30 September 1955	Copy held by Puckapunyal Area Library
8	Director Royal Artillery Liaison Letter – 20 January 1956	Copy held by HOR at School of Artillery
9	Director Royal Artillery Liaison Letter – 18 June 1956	Copy held by HOR at School of Artillery
10	Director Royal Artillery Liaison Letter – 26 November 1956	Copy held by Puckapunyal Area Library
12	Director Royal Australia Artillery Liaison Letter – 24 February 1957	Copy held by HOR at School of Artillery
13	Director Royal Artillery Liaison Letter – 26 November 1957	Copy held by Puckapunyal Area Library
14	Director Royal Artillery Liaison Letter – 30 April 1958	Copy held by Puckapunyal Area Library
15	Director Royal Artillery Liaison Letter – 28 November 1958	Copy held by HOR at School of Artillery
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18	Director Royal Artillery Liaison Letter – 29 July 1960	Copy held by Puckapunyal Area Library
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21	Director Royal Artillery Liaison Letter – July 1962	Copy held by Puckapunyal Area Library
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23	Director Royal Artillery Liaison Letter – February 1971	Copy held by Puckapunyal Area Library
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35	Royal Australian Artillery Personnel Notes – October 1977	Copy held by Puckapunyal Area Library
36	Royal Australian Artillery Liaison Letter – May 1978	Copy held by Puckapunyal Area Library
37	Royal Australian Artillery Personnel Notes – 1978	Copy held by Puckapunyal Area Library
38	Royal Australian Artillery Liaison Letter – March 1980	Not available to HOR at School of Artillery
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40	Royal Australian Artillery Liaison Letter – May 1981	Not available to HOR at School of Artillery
41	Royal Australian Artillery Liaison Letter – November 1981	Not available to HOR at School of Artillery
42	Royal Australian Artillery Liaison Letter – 1982 (Issue One)	Not available to HOR at School of Artillery
43	Royal Australian Artillery Liaison Letter – 1983 (Issue One)	Not available to HOR at School of Artillery
44	Royal Australian Artillery Liaison Letter – 1983 (Issue Two)	Not available to HOR at School of Artillery
45	Royal Australian Artillery Liaison Letter – 1984 (Issue Four)	Not available to HOR at School of Artillery

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47	Royal Australian Artillery Liaison Letter – 1986 (Issue Two) – 4 November 1986	Copy held by Puckapunyal Area Library
48	Royal Australian Artillery Liaison Letter – Issue One – 1987 – 18 June 1987	Copy held by Puckapunyal Area Library
49	Royal Australian Artillery Liaison Letter – Issue Two – 1987 – 11 November 1987	Copy held by Puckapunyal Area Library
50	Royal Australian Artillery Liaison Letter – Edition 1 – 1988 – 23 June 1988	Copy held by Puckapunyal Area Library
51	Royal Australian Artillery Liaison Letter – Edition 2 – 1988 – 14 November 1988	Copy held by Puckapunyal Area Library
44	Royal Australian Artillery Liaison Letter – Edition 1 – 1989	Copy held by Puckapunyal Area Library
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46	Royal Australian Artillery Liaison Letter – Edition 1 – 1990	Copy held by Puckapunyal Area Library
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49	Royal Australian Artillery Liaison Letter – 1992 – First Edition	Copy held by Puckapunyal Area Library
50	Royal Australian Artillery Liaison Letter – 1992 – Second Edition	Copy held by Puckapunyal Area Library
51	Royal Australian Artillery – August 1993 – Liaison Letter	Copy held by Puckapunyal Area Library
52	Royal Australian Artillery Liaison Letter – 1996 – First Edition	Copy held by Puckapunyal Area Library
53	Royal Australian Artillery Liaison Letter – 1996 – Second Edition	Copy held by Puckapunyal Area Library
54	1997 – Royal Australian Artillery Liaison Letter	Copy held by Puckapunyal Area Library
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59	RAA Liaison Letter 2003 – Autumn Edition	Copy held by HOR at School of Artillery
60	RAA Liaison Letter 2003 – Spring Edition	Copy held by HOR at School of Artillery
61	The Royal Australian Artillery Liaison Letter 2004 – Autumn Edition	Copy held by HOR at School of Artillery
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Australian Gunner Magazine

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1	Australian Gunner – Vol. 1 No. 1	Copy held by SO to HOR
2	Australian Gunner – Vol. 1.No. 2	Copy held by SO to HOR
3	Australian Gunner – Vol. 2 No.1 – September 1979	Copy held by SO to HOR
4	Australian Gunner – March 1980	Copy held by SO to HOR
5	Australian Gunner – December 1980	Copy held by SO to HOR
6	Australian Gunner – May 81	Copy held by SO to HOR
7	Australian Gunner – November 81	Copy held by SO to HOR
8	Australian Gunner – The Official Journal of the Royal Regiment of Australian Artillery – March 1997	Copy held by SO to HOR

Miscellaneous Regimental Publications

<i>Ser</i>	<i>Title</i>	<i>Remarks</i>
1	DARTY Personnel Notes – December 1969	Copy held by Puckapunyal Area Library
2	Royal Australian Artillery Personnel Notes – 1978	Copy held by Puckapunyal Area Library

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