

JOURNAL OF THE ROYAL AUSTRALIAN ARTILLERY HISTORICAL COMPANY 



ANNONBALL

NUMBER 53

November 2003



A Dugout of the 105th Howitzer Battery in France.
Seated Centre is Sergeant John Carr Ewen
(see his story page 10)

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**How many Allied aircraft did German AA
shoot down in World War I?**

653? 1206? 2971? 4682?

Next Issue

Interrupted Journey Part 3
Badges and Insignia - Officer
Gunner Historian
Ken Fullford
Anti Aircraft in World War I - The German Way

CANNONBALL

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**Chairman's Report
to the
Annual General Meeting
of the
Royal Australian Artillery Historical Company
Saturday 25th October 2003**

Introduction. The 2002/03 year has been another successful one for the Company in operational terms. Our financial performance shows a loss of approx \$1400, but this has been caused by underwriting the continuing costs of the construction of the Memorial Walk. These will be recovered over time as more plaques and pavers are ordered. The Company continues to perform well in its principle role of providing support to the North Fort Detachment of the Army History Unit in the conduct of the Royal Australian Artillery National Museum. In addition, our role in communicating with members and providing advice and assistance across the country remains strong.

In short, the place of North Fort as a Museum within the Army Museum Network, as the collector and keeper of regimental history, and as a tourist attraction on the Peninsula continues to improve.

Appreciation. At the AGM last year, the former Chairman and CEO Don Tait stood down after more than 6 years of sterling service to the Museum, the Company and its predecessor. He assumed a CEO role at the request of the Director of Artillery and played a very significant role in creating the Company after the closure of the Royal Australian Historical Society, the departure of the School of Artillery and the transfer of the Museum to Army Museum Network. His efforts are very much appreciated, and he continues to have an active role in undertaking several tasks at the request of the Board.

The Board. The Board has met on 12 occasions for normal and extraordinary business. By invitation, the Museum Manager and Business Manager attend most Board meetings. In addition, Kevin Browning and I represent the

Company on the Museum Management Committee while Kevin, John Saltwell and Linda Graham represent the Company on the Museum Acquisitions Committee. I express my appreciation to Board members for their continued interest and support, and their acceptance of duties in some instances that go well beyond the norms of corporate governance. In particular I thank Cliff Dodds for assuming the role of Senior Tour Guide, and chairing the Board during my absence overseas, Nick Durrant for the extraordinary job done in the marketing and publicity fields and Mick Crawford for his part in the drafting and production of the plaques that are mounted in the Peacekeeping monument on the Memorial Walk.

Terry Waters resigned from the Board in July 2003 and Allan Piercy has regrettably tendered his resignation to take effect immediately. Both served the Board with great effect despite their short tenure. Terry Waters deserves the Company's commendation for his initiative in drafting the early stages of the Strategic Plan, while more recently he has steered the small team of dedicated workers who have brought the Memorial Walk to near completion. Terry has agreed to continue in a liaison role with the Manly Chamber of Commerce on our behalf. While having been on the Board for only a few months, Allan Piercy has been very helpful in the drafting and eventual completion of a User Requirement for a purpose designed Museum building. Allan has agreed to continue with the development of this important document having regard to a great deal of work done by Professor Peter Oppenheim.

Most will be aware that Peter Oppenheim has been of great assistance to North Fort for many years as a consultant architect.

Regrettably Peter stood aside from that position early in the reporting year, and I record our appreciation for his assistance and professional guidance over the years. He continues to support the Museum in other areas, and has also been retained by the Army History Unit as a consultant on several issues pertaining to fortifications in the Sydney area. Peter has been succeeded by a former gunner, now architect Jeff Madden.

We have also been fortunate to have access to honorary legal advice through the good offices of Colin Dunston. His advice in the long running saga of the Operating Agreement is greatly appreciated.

Sydney Harbour Federation Trust. During this year a good rapport has developed between the Company and the Sydney Harbour Federation Trust. At their request, members of the Board were briefed by officers of the Trust on plans to develop North Head as a sanctuary. In short, the plans paid due regard to the existence of the Museum, its particular relevance to the overall site and the Fort's relationship to the former School Barracks. Subsequently the Company made two written submissions to the Trust viz;

Draft Plan - Foreshore of Sydney Harbour (Defence and Harbour Lands)
Draft Discussion Paper - Car-rangel A 21st Century Sanctuary for North Head

Both submissions emphasised the need for purpose designed museum buildings in the future, continued access to admission fees irrespective of the eventual corporate structure that might control North Head, and the necessity for a long overdue upgrade of the services infrastructure.

These developments and a very recent request to include North Fort

in a series of tours of North Head to be conducted by the Trust give the Board some comfort as to the place that the Museum can take in the future development of the North Head Sanctuary.

Memorial Walk. The pavement is now complete, and includes a foot bridge that crosses the gap between the Colonial and World War 1 monuments. Engraved pavers, large and small continue to be ordered. The edging remains incomplete while sandstone facing and bronze plaques are yet to be applied to four of the monuments. All monuments are yet to have the Rising Sun placed on the floor. The Peacekeeping monument was unveiled by Major General Tim Ford on 26th April 2003. That we have reached this stage so quickly is due to the outstanding efforts of Terry Waters, Kevin Browning, Jeff Evans, Roy Clausen, Wolfgang Stiller, Steve Crawford and Corrective Services personnel. In particular I thank Terry Waters for his excellent management of the project, and Business manager Dennis Sherris for his assistance in the administration of the project.

The Unveiling of the Peacekeeping monument by General Ford was a low key activity designed to keep momentum going, and give visitors an indication of a major development within the Museum. Now that the pavement is finished, visitors can see the scope of the whole project as they walk from the Observation Platform to the entrance to the Tunnels.

669 small pavers and 14 large pavers have been donated to date. This equates to income of approximately \$51,000. The estimate to complete the Walk is in excess of \$20,000.

I mention here the splendid effort of David Davies who submitted a small article to the Department of Veteran Affairs Newsletter which resulted in over 100 pavers being ordered.

And we have just been advised that a sponsor has been found to fund the provision of sandstone and cladding of the Colonial monument, and the construction of an entrance wall adjacent to the Sydney Remembers monument.

Guides and Tours. Without visitors the museum has no function other

than as a 'collection' of equipment, tunnels and two gun emplacements. The Museum is one Sydney's best kept secrets. With this in mind action has continued to increase the number of visitors through improved and more widely circulating publicity. To ensure that visitors are well informed guide training has been improved, guide identification improved by the wearing of red shirts, reception procedures have been revised, and a regular schedule of tours introduced. Self guiding of some displays has also been introduced. The Company also provides light lunches for duty guides.

Particular thanks are due to Cliff Dodds and Roy Clausen, and the whole company of the Corps of Guides for their efforts in this vital part of presenting the Museum's shopfront and its interface with visitors.

Volunteers. Given the very limited number of Army staff, the role played by Volunteers in ALL respects is essential to our continuing success. The work done by our willing volunteers is invaluable, and too disparate to allow for individual recognition. Suffice to say that without their singular or combined efforts North Fort would not function.

In addition to our volunteers, the Museum is very fortunate in that the Locating Association provides excellent support, particularly to the locating display. Similarly, detachments from regimental units have provided manpower and other forms of support that have accelerated the completion of some refurbishment and maintenance tasks. De-rusting and re-painting the two 155mm guns are good examples of willing regimental help, while the refurbishment of a 40mm Bofors gun, the twin 6pr, and camouflage painting of the Krupp 155mm gun are excellent examples of the quality of work done for the Museum by skilled volunteers.

When one estimates the amount of support provided by all volunteers the number is very high indeed. For the period January to September 2003, 5104 recorded voluntary hours were provided. This averages at about 567 hours per month. This is a very conservative figure but will serve to show members the extent of the volunteer contribution.

Displays and Benefactions. The ability of a Museum to attract return visitors is a symbol of its success as both a Museum and Tourist attraction. While we are not yet able to use a visitor data base to seek return visits, the scope of our displays has to be such that those who do return are offered a different experience from that enjoyed on the first visit. Displays such as the exceptional 'My Vietnam' display fit that bill. The Fire Support Base Coral diorama is another. Through the generosity of members of the 102 Field Battery Association, \$4300 has been donated to upgrade the display and add sound to make the display more realistic.

With the support and endorsement of Lady Joan Cutler, the Cutler VC display will be enhanced in the near future by the addition of a full size mannequin of Sir Roden dressed in the blue ceremonial uniform he wore when Governor of NSW. Some photos that will reflect on his life will be added to those presently on display.

The very generous gift by the Ewen Family of the medals, portrait and other memorabilia of Major John Carr Ewen, MC, DCM, MM, together with a sizeable donation to assist in meeting the cost of mounting the display adds yet another dimension to the distinctive commemorative component of the Museum.

Notice of another donation in memory of Bryan Luscombe could preface the creation of a display that will highlight the contribution of Air OP to the regiment.

Other items added to the displays this year by donation or through the Army Museum Network include:

- The Port Wakefield collection,
- Sensor equipment from the Infantry Museum,
- Items from the Estate of Professor Bromley (an Applied Mathematician), and
- Air OP memorabilia,

These have filled a number of gaps in the collection. The efforts of the Curator WO2 Steve Crawford in these and other acquisition matters are appreciated.

More recently I have been advised of the intention to offer on permanent loan to the Company, documents and photographs kept by the late Brigadier John WA O'Brien who was Deputy Master General of the Ordinance in the latter stages of WW2. I note in the list of papers, 'Author's preliminary notes on proposed manuscript on the baby 25pr'.

Steps are now in train to provide the School of Artillery with a range of items to create an historical display at Puckapunyal to assist educating today's gunners of their artillery heritage.

Cannonball. The Regiment's premier publication is produced by a small but dedicated team of two. Kevin Browning and Alan Smith deserve our strongest commendation for their outstanding efforts in not only finding suitable material for regular publication, but also the demanding work associated with production and circulation.

Allied to the need for regular communication, the former Guides' Newsletter has had its distribution widened to include all volunteers. Jeff Evans deserves our thanks for his efforts in harvesting contributions and ensuring that relevant news is passed in a timely fashion.

Ultimately, much of what appears in Cannonball and the Volunteer Newsletters will be published on the North Fort website which is yet to be finalised. We hope it will go live by the end of the year. The framework is established, the content exists in many places but needs to be identified, collected and then transferred into electronic form.

Regimental Support. The departure of the School of Artillery and the removal of most regimental units to the north have resulted in a diminution of ready regimental support. I an attempt to redress this, I spoke to the Colonel Artillery at Headquarters Land Command early this year. In particular I sought an expansion of regimental involvement though a programme of units adopting Museum weapons or equipment for refurbishment, encouraging those taking discharge in and around Sydney to become volunteers, and where practical,

allowing groups from regiments to visit the Museum, or assist in local tasks. I am grateful for the positive response to this initiative.

Strategic Plan. The Company's contribution to this important document is complete for the time being. We look forward to the guidance that this document will give to the future development of North Fort through the recently convened Museum Management Committee which is chaired by the Museum Manager, Major Mike Laurence.

Publicity and Marketing. We are indeed very fortunate to have on the Board, Nick Durrant who has brought an extraordinary wealth of expertise and knowledge to this imperative part of the Museum's operations. Improvements have been made to our publicity material, we have increased the range and number of publications in which we advertise and we have been able to take advantage of impromptu opportunities for radio advertising. We now have the possibility of additional tourists visiting the Museum from Manly which is one of several stops on a Matilda Harbour Cruise around the harbour. Allied to this and other similar initiatives in targeting potential visitors is the gathering of information by our guides to assist in determining where and how visitors heard of North Fort.

In April this year we obtained free publicity as part of the National Trust of NSW Heritage Week. Attendance on the weekend almost doubled. The offer will be taken up again next year.

Library and Research. The Army History Unit has provided to the Library copies of 22 books published by Oxford University Press and Australian Military History Publications. The titles will be published in the next Cannonball. A commercial opportunity can present itself in the future as the publishers have offered a generous discount to Museums wishing to sell copies in Museum shops. The Library was also given a small budget for its own use this year, as well as allowing the Library to charge for research in certain circumstances.

Shop. The shop is a critical part of the Museum's operations. Its ability to draw casual visitors to North

Head is important as well as catering for Museum visitors. There is no other café with a view like ours and we have to capitalise on this invaluable asset in the future. I thank Kerry Read and her team for their work and support.

Ancillary Operations. Several of North Fort's facilities lend themselves to alternative uses. We have been able to attract a number of activities that use North Fort for events such as corporate functions, club visits and weddings. This is an aspect to be further developed with income used to improve Museum facilities and supplement the financial and other support provided by the Army History Unit and other Defence elements.

Membership. Membership numbers have remained about static for the reporting year. The Board saw fit to grant Honorary Life Membership to Dorothy Bowler, daughter of Major General W. A. Coxon, on the occasion of her 90th birthday in recognition of her family's significant link to the Artillery and her volunteer work for veterans.

The Future. Notwithstanding any doubts that one might harbour about the future of the Museum on North Head, the Company will continue to work with the Army History Unit for the benefit of the Regiment's Heritage home. We have a site that is unequalled in its relevance to the primary role. Our immediate tasks will be to complete the Memorial Walk, expand the Corps of Guides, attract more visitors, and working with Defence, seek to make the entrance more welcoming. In addition, we will work to seek grants from organisations that do not bar financial or other support to organisations that have a governmental or Defence basis as part of their structure.

In conclusion, I thank all who give so much of their time and effort to running The Home of The National Artillery Museum.

John L Macpherson
Lt Col RAA (Retd)
25th October 2003



MORE KOREAN EXPERIENCES

by
Don Weir



Panorama from my Observation Post.
The enemy occupied the hills across the valley.
(D. Weir)

Immediately after Christmas 1952 and once again in support of B Company, 1st Battalion Durham Light Infantry (1 DLI), I occupied an OP on Pt 210, to the North of my previous OP. It was a prominent conical hill whose vegetation had been removed by gunfire and it was a favourite target of Chinese gunners who used it regularly, whether for harassing fire or as a datum point I never worked out. The approach to it was safe to within about 200 metres of the top, the final bit being exposed to observation and the fire of a 37mm AA gun so you had two choices -use the trench line (safe but awkward with loads) or try to keep ahead of the 37mm.

The company HQ was in a strong well built bunker with an adjoining

space for my OP and sleeping spaces for the company commander and myself. The view to the North and West was great but from the former direction we were overlooked by four large enemy held features which could bring fire on to us from a variety of artillery and mortars but as we were 1100 metres away the risk from small arms was small. About 30 metres from the OP was a Centurion tank from the Royal Tank Regiment, manned initially by an Australian exchange officer who kept fit carrying 20pr rounds up the hill, frequently pursued by the little 37mm shell bursts.

Despite the war, some local wildlife still frequented the area and the bear that blundered into our camouflage net one night frightened hell out of

me and my signaller, who took some convincing that it was not a Chinaman in a fur coat. We were now in the coldest part of the year with temperatures down to minus 30C, padi fields were ice covered and snowfalls frequent. Observation was sometimes impossible and meteor corrections alone amounted often to 1,100 metres so that targets achievable on warmer occasions were out of range on others. The other effect of the denser air was to accentuate the noise of shells in transit making them sound dangerously close despite impacting a kilometre away.

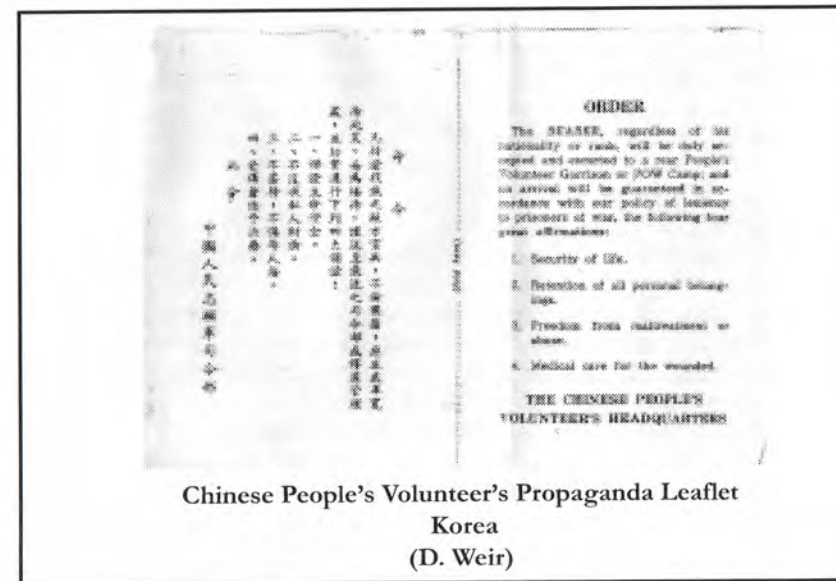
Occasionally the Chinese used high velocity 76mm guns firing direct from tunnels which were very hard to detect. We found one late one



Looking towards the top of Hill 355 from 65
Observation Post
(D. Weir)



United Nations Propaganda Leaflet
dropped over Chinese Troops in Korea
(D. Weir)



Chinese People's Volunteer's Propaganda Leaflet
Korea
(D. Weir)

afternoon (after it had given us a bad day) when the light shifted. It was unlucky enough to be adjacent to a target used regularly by our resident tankie, who soon quietened it down. This was my first experience of a high velocity projectile and to me it was quite eerie. Normally a shell approaches with an increasing whistle culminating with the detonation, but the supersonic round outruns its own sound, so that the detonation comes first then the whistle in reverse, ie, diminishing. Despite other experiences later, I never got used to it.

Although there was only one medium battery and no heavy artillery organic to the Commonwealth Division, we were fortunate to have US weapons in general support and available to us on demand. Accordingly when we acquired a suitable target we asked for the use of the US 8 inch (203mm) howitzer, known as the 'Persuader', a beautifully accurate weapon which moved more earth than a bulldozer and much more quickly. It could adjust consistently to 5 or 10 metres and was ideal for tunnel and bunker busting. The other heavy howitzer we used occasionally was the 240mm, not quite as accurate but devastating especially with a delay or an airburst fuze.

Chinese recce patrols were very good and occasionally exhibited a sense of humour; eg, instead of just scattering propaganda pamphlets where we might find them, they would put them neatly in little letterboxes

within our minefields. On the subject of propaganda pamphlets, our batteries were sometimes tasked with shell-delivery of them. This entailed removing the smoke canisters from a base ejection shell and putting in a bundle of pamphlets. Then the target area was calculated with corrections fed in for height of burst and wind factors and the projectile fired. Our gunners hated this job and like as not stuffed the shells with Readers Digests, Life magazines, pin-ups or toilet rolls. Thinking back on it, they were probably more effective propaganda anyhow.

One bad aspect of supporting a British unit was their rations, which were poor and inadequate by our standards. We supplemented them with both NZ and Australian food, which we shared, with our hosts. To my knowledge, self-heating cans were first introduced to the army menu in Korea. Cans of soup, cocoa, malted milk and similar items included a small cylinder containing a combustible compound which, when ignited, burned slowly and heated the contents effectively. These were a great boon especially to those in exposed positions who could not show lights, naked flames or smoke.

In late January we learned that our division was moving into reserve and being replaced by the US 2nd Division. Our brigade was to be relieved by the 9th Regiment of that division and B Company DLI by K Company of the 3rd Battalion. The bad news was that the 2nd Division

was not bringing its artillery with it so we remained in the line. This is one of the privileges of being a gunner; when the rest of the supported outfit goes into reserve, the gunners never do.

The tactical handover between the units was completed satisfactorily though there were some logistic deficiencies, possibly because of the differing national systems. Suffice it to say that the Americans in our area lacked machine gun ammunition for some time, which was not very reassuring and that it took some days to catch up with normal rationing and provision of water and heating fuel. As expected however, once cranked up, the US system delivered all the necessities in vast quantities. The company staff was impressed with the quiet competence of the DLI, putting it down to the fact that they were all regulars. I don't think they believed us when we told them that 70% of the battalion were National Servicemen.

Compared with the Brits, they did lack experienced leadership; the company commander was a lieutenant, much junior to me and had been in Korea for less time. His executive officer was more experienced, having done a part tour in Korea before being evacuated with his right thumb shot off, making the hand almost useless for most tasks. An enterprising doctor in USA removed his forefinger and reattached it in place of the missing thumb, restoring the hand to its former dexterity. As a reward, the patient was sent back to complete his tour in Korea. Such operations are common today but this was a first and was later written up in the US press.

The patrolling by the 9th Regiment was not as aggressive as that of our 28 Brigade and the enemy gradually dominated the area right up to our forward localities. Not surprisingly, this led to a number of probes on the battalion area. In early February, 37 rounds, mainly 76mm fell between us and 1 Company on Pt 159, which looked suspiciously like registration. The next day some 200 rounds of mixed mortar and 76mm fell in the same area almost sealing off 1 Company from the rest of the

battalion and at about 0200 a heavy bombardment of guns and mortars on 1 Company preceded the over-running of the forward platoon. Many hundreds of rounds were fired by the regiment both as defensive and as counter battery fire. No attempt was made to occupy the area and the enemy withdrew. The 1 Company position was consolidated again during the morning and just to speed up the process, the Chinese put in 30 odd rounds of mixed 120mm mortar and 122mm howitzer. During this little fracas, our Executive Officer (he of the funny thumb) was wounded again and evacuated. I wonder if he ever finished his tour in Korea.

My attachment to 16 RNZA was coming to an end when the CO asked if I would extend my tour by a further 3 months to be adjutant. My choice was to remain as troop commander but he said that was not an option. My knowledge of NZ administration was negligible but that did not matter as my principal job was the fire control of the regiment and I would have an excellent assistant to look after the other aspects. Our unit designator was 'Norwich'; hence I became 'Norwich Seagull'. About the time I took over, there was a most unfortunate accident in my old troop. The detachment of No2 gun was fitting mechanical time fuzes to shells when one detonated, killing three of them.

Most of my time was spent in 'The Box' (the RCP). This was in the back of a 2½ ton truck. In it were the usual communication terminals, radio fire orders nets to divisional artillery (Div Arty) and down to batteries and similar telephone connections plus a line to the



'The Box'
Regimental Command Post of 16th Regiment Royal New Zealand Artillery, set up in the back of a 2½ ton truck
(D. Weir)

switchboard for other uses. We also had our brew jug and radiator powered by a generator outside. The Div Arty net was quite remarkable - the voice procedure was very proficient and rapid, almost incomprehensible to an untrained ear. In addition, it contained a virtual multinational mish mash of English dialects and accents, Scottish, Irish, Canadian, Australian, Kiwi and American. The RCP was manned full time by one officer and two signallers though at crunch times at least one additional officer was called in.

We were fortunate to have plenty of ammunition and it was exceptional to put any restriction on its usage so that aspect posed no problems. The allocation of additional guns was only limited when higher priority tasks existed. Response times for targets were rapid (all plotting was manual) and if sub-units did not report 'shot' or 'ready' on regimental or divisional missions within about one minute after receipt of the grid reference, questions were asked.

March 53 saw an increase in aggression by the Chinese on 9th US Regiment, mainly due to their approach to defensive operations. During this month our regiment fired 54,000 rounds, their second highest monthly total since they arrived in Korea. An enemy probe occurred on 19/20 February on Pt 159, and on 2 and 17 March, heavy attacks on Hill 355, which kept all batteries busy and much of the Div Arty also (to say nothing of a new adjutant).

Apart from defensive fire tasks or those in support of our offensive operations, most of our tasks for Div Arty were related to counter bombardment. Included in these were fireplans in support of air strikes, which put suppressive fire on all known enemy AA positions in the vicinity of the strike target. Periodically our regiment was tasked with smoke-marking of targets for aircraft.

My duties also took me to all parts of the division, the HQ, the brigade HQs, all artillery units including the Air OP Flight and of course our own gun areas and OPs. What I learned from all these served me very well in my subsequent service. I also made

some good friends, one of whom was the adjutant of the UK light regiment, who had the misfortune to be accidentally shot by his CO. When I told my CO of this he murmured quietly "What a great idea".

The regiment occupied the same location during my tour as adjutant, but our CO, quite rightly was determined that the regiment did not lose its other artillery skills. Hence on a few occasions, we re-deployed the lot to alternate day positions, returning home at night, just to ensure the deployment techniques were not rusty.

About this time, all guns of the div arty were calibrated. One gun from every battery was absolutely calibrated under divisional direction and it was then used to comparatively calibrate the rest of its battery. The whole process took a couple of weeks but it was well worth it.



Division Absolute Calibration at Kiwi Park, Korea.
(D. Weir)

Air OP pilots were frequent visitors to our radio net, when directed there by div arty and we provided the guns for their shoots with some excellent results as they could see into the areas dead to ground OPs. An odd technique they used occasionally was to bounce delay fuzed shells off a crest line to get an airburst effect on the reverse slope. Their job was not an enviable one especially in winter; with the doors off their Austers providing an 80-100 knot blizzard and their slow craft offering a tempting target to ground fire.

The CO usually did Fireplanning with the brigade commander but on one noteworthy occasion, he delegated the task to me. Div Arty was generous and we were allotted nine field batteries and one medium from our division and, from US sources,

a further four medium batteries, one heavy battery and a Marine rocket battery. After it was all organised, I got permission to view it from an OP and was very impressed by the result.

Inter-formation boundaries are tempting areas for attacks and at the boundary between us and the US Marine Division to our left was a feature known as "the Hook". In late May, this feature was occupied by the 1st Battalion, Duke of Wellington's Regiment (1 DWR) of

29 Brigade when it was attacked by an estimated enemy regiment. The attack was met by a storm of artillery fire, our mediums hitting their gun and mortar areas and rear echelons and the field guns smashing the infantry, who reportedly suffered 65% casualties. Div arty fired 25,000 rounds, corps 6,000 and our regiment's share some 4,500, requiring major resupply, especially of VT fuzed shell. This was the last major event in which I was involved as I left before the next big assault on "the Hook" in

late July where 2RAR showed its mettle. Korea was very much a gunners' war - good survey, good meteor, mainly good communications, ample ammunition and static lines allowing FOs and command posts ample time to know their zones. It demonstrated the awesome and devastating power of massed artillery and the speed with which it could be applied and switched, given the communications and the flexibility of the right command and control system.



Brigadier Donald David Weir, CBE (Retired) entered the Royal Military College Duntroon in February 1945 and graduated as a lieutenant in the RAA. His first regimental posting was A Field Battery BCOF, Japan. Then followed Adjutant 1 Field Regiment and School of artillery, troop commander and adjutant 16 Field Regiment, RNZA, Korea, Adjutant 3 Field Regiment (CMF). 1954-56 he attended the Long Gunnery Staff Course in the UK, followed by a posting as Senior Instructor, School of Artillery. In 1959 attended Staff College Quetta and on return became battery Commander A Field Battery, followed by BMRA 1 Division Artillery, Joint Services Staff College, UK, and CO/CI School of Artillery. Deputy Commander 1st Australian Task Force, Vietnam (1970-71), DRA, RCDS UK (1974) and Commander 6 Task Force (1975-78). D.D. Weir was decorated with operational awards of MBE for his service in Korea and CBE for service in Vietnam. He retired in 1978.



*Merry Christmas
and
Happy New Year
from
The Korean People's Army
The Chinese People's Volunteers*

KOREA 1952

Christmas Card sent to United Nation Troops from their Enemy Forces, Korea, Christmas 1952

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year
to all our readers
from
Editorial Staff Cannonball

Gunner Personalities



Major John Carr Ewen MC, DCM, MM

By Matross



John Ewen shared the iconic status of his three awards for gallantry on the Western Front with the AIF with six others. To achieve this feat required a cool, fearless head, commitment to Regimental standards, and luck. Born at Digsbury, Manchester on 25 October 1892, John Carr Ewen was the second son of Frederick and Marian (nee Fleetwood). Schooled at nearby Cheadle Hume he joined the Lancashire and Yorkshire Railway and the Territorial Army before emigrating to Australia in 1912 to try his luck.

John Ewen bought a share in a horse and a dairy property on the Bellinger River in northern NSW. In 1915, knowing his motherland needed him he enlisted in the AIF on 21 October 1915, four days before his 23rd birthday. Posted to the 5th AFA Brigade, Gunner Ewen subsequently completed his training in Egypt with his unit before it moved to France with its parent 2nd Division.

Whatever travails he was subjected to before paled into insignificance before the hell on earth that was Pozieres on 3 August 1916. During one ferocious German cannonade

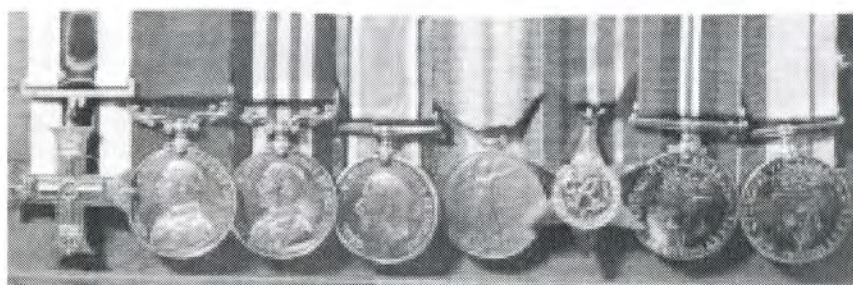
Ewen had to maintain two telephone lines, which he did under constant heavy shell fire. This earned him a Military Medal and promotion to bombardier. Further arduous campaigning was his lot until March next year, when he put up his third stripe as senior section sergeant.

On 17 March 1917, John's battery was on the receiving end of German counter battery fire in the Noreuil Valley. All the battery officers had been wounded. Without hesitation John Ewen took command, withdrew spare personnel to safety and brought his beloved guns back into action. A subordinate, Bombardier Church said that, 'Sergeant Ewen's coolness and bravery under fire was perfectly marvellous'. His superiors thought likewise, and a well merited DCM was awarded him. Recognising leadership material, they packed him off to the RFA Cadet Officers School at St John's Wood. He graduated lieutenant and was posted to 11th Battery, 4th AFA Brigade.

In August 1918, the Anzac Corps was in the van pushing German forces eastwards, thanks to their artillery. On 23rd August John Ewen was in charge of communications for the OP party at Herleville. The observing officer was killed and

Ewen took his place without delay. Throughout the day with utter disregard for his own safety under heavy hostile fire he moved around the captured positions sending back information on our infantry positions and bearings of HBs for them to be promptly engaged. Four days later, John Ewen was in his OP in support of British infantry at Vermandovilliers, near Starry Wood. His guns were 6,000 yards behind him. When the Germans retired during the night, Ewen moved forward with the British, summed up the situation, and asked for a section of (2) guns to be sent forward. He reconnoitred the route, posted signallers as guides and selected the gun position. His use of ground to get guns and ammunition forward was exemplary. Ewen then engaged enemy machine guns at 200 yards range, after which the infantry occupied their objective, Kalmer Wood. He then directed his gunfire onto German batteries and set an ammunition dump alight. He passed vital tactical information to the rear. Ewen was awarded the Military Cross for his work at Herleville.

Soon afterwards John Ewen suffered a grievous wound to his right side between ribs and hip. As was the practice of the day, stretcher bearers assessed his wound – a gaping



The Medal Set of Major John Carr Ewen MC, DCM, MM. Only seven Australians were awarded this combination of Bravery Awards during World War I

shrapnel hole – and decided he was beyond aid. They took his 'dog tag' to the MO at the aid post, who recognised it as that of Ewen. He told the bearers, 'Bring him in, quickly'. They did, and Ewen survived, and was hospitalised in London. Before returning to duty on 31 March 1919 Lieutenant Ewen received his three awards at Buckingham Palace from the hand of King George V. General Birdwood also sent him a congratulatory letter. Back in France post bellum he had rescued a little black dog that became the battery's mascot. He smuggled it back to England under his greatcoat where his mother and sister looked after it.

John Ewen was discharged on 24 July 1919 and in 1925 started a pest control business on Sydney's north shore, a successful venture until his enlistment in the Second AIF on 1 April 1940. In September he was promoted captain and for a year was an instructor at Warwick Farm. Ewen gained his majority on 12 January 1943 as BC, 53rd Battery, 14th

Field Regiment, and served in New Guinea. It was a young man's war and he returned to Australia, did a bit more instructing, before being discharged on 13 March 1944.

His BSM, Warrant Officer F G Hopkins, wrote to him in these terms on his departure from the battery. 'From the practical application of your experience in two wars you have unselfishly imparted to all interested a wealth of knowledge they will forever be thankful for. . . You may rest assured that the men who have served under you . . . appreciate your patience and devotion to duty. Above all, you have been an inspiration. They regard themselves, not as members of 53rd Battery, but members of "Ewen's Battery".'

After discharge, John Ewen sold his home at Asquith and bought a dairy farm at Moss Vale. One Anzac Day he was too ill to march, so his gunners brought food and drink to his home, and had their reunion with their much revered commander.

There was nothing complicated about John Ewen. He was by nature a conservative, he was practical and led by example; saw something to be done, and did it. Decisions came easily to him, and his personality was of a kind that made friends easily. He was a no-nonsense disciplinarian, firm but fair, and would brook no falsity or double-dealing. He had one other distinguishing trait about which many stories were told – he feared neither man nor beast. Ewen was a role model for his two sons, Ken (21st and 2/7th Field Regiments) and his brother Derek (21st Field Regiment and AckAck), his daughters Betty and June. When asked to have his portrait painted for the Australian War Memorial collection, John said, 'On one condition; one for you and one for my family'. Artist Balfour obliged.

John Carr Ewen married Gladys Hamson on 13 October 1919 at St Peters, Neutral Bay. He died on 20 November 1951 and was cremated at Northern Suburbs Crematorium.



Major John Carr Ewen MC, DCM, MM with his twin sons Ken and Derek. All served in the Artillery during World War II (RAAHC)



Gladys Hamson (Volunteer Aid Detachment) John Ewen met Gladys in Australia and corresponded with her throughout the War. They married on his return in 1919.

(RAAHC)

Dress

Badges of Rank and Appointment

K. Browning

The following is a general commentary on the badges of rank used from 1855 to the present. Generally speaking, the artillery of the Colonial and Federal Forces of Australia followed the dress regulations of the Royal Artillery.

Non-commissioned Officers

As was the case with the officers, non-commissioned rank was indicated both by the quantity and quality of the ornamentation, and by the quality of the dress. This was particularly the case with the tunic. It was only in the 1990s that the quality of the material for garments became standardized within the Australian Army.

Non-commissioned rank based on chevrons worn on the sleeve was introduced in 1802. At this time the non-commissioned ranks of the Regiment included Staff Sergeants (Brigade Sergeant Major and Brigade Quarter Master Sergeant), Sergeant, Drum Major, Corporal, Bombardier, Drummer, Fifer, Trumpeter and Gunner. The Artificers included Farrier, Collarmaker, Carriage Smith and Shoeing Smith. Sergeant Majors and Quartermaster Sergeants wore four chevrons in gold lace below the elbow, Sergeants three in gold lace, Corporals two in yellow worsted lace and Bombardiers one in yellow worsted lace. Sergeants and below wore the chevrons above the elbow on the right arm only.

Following the Napoleonic Wars uniform became more ornate and decorative and less suitable for its purpose. In 1855, following the Crimean War, the Board of Ordnance was abolished and the Regiment came under the Commander-in-Chief and the field batteries were organised into self contained batteries, like the RHA. At this time the Regiment, like the rest of the Army, went into tunics similar to those worn today. By 1856 Sergeants were wearing a crown and a gun above their chevrons

In the Dress Regulations of 1864 all the chevrons are of gold and worn on both arms in Full Dress but on the undress jacket of the Field and Garrison Brigades they were worn on the right arm only by all except Brigade Staff Sergeants who wore them on both arms. Rank distinction was also shown in the quality of the collar lace and the Austrian knot lace on the cuff.

The similarity between some ranks led to the chevron system being revised in 1881 and saw the introduction of the rank of Warrant Officer. The non-commissioned officers now raised to that rank included, Master Gunners Class I and II, Brigade Sergeant Majors, Bandmaster and certain specialist and Tradesman NCOs. The order of 1881 laid down that 4-bar chevrons would be worn below the elbow with point upwards and 3-bar chevrons would be worn above the elbow with

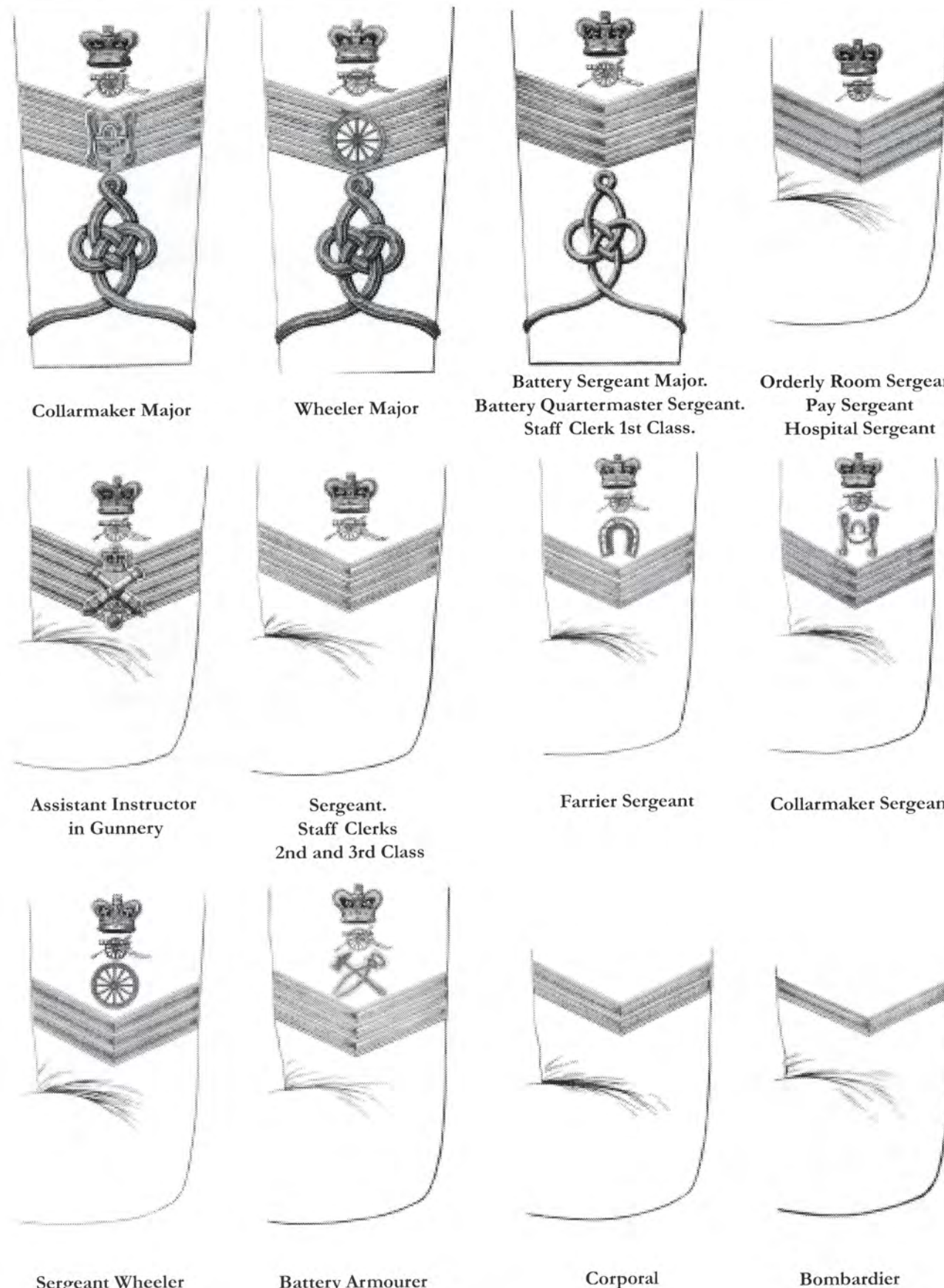


Master Gunner.

Brigade Sergeant Major.
Brigade
Quartermaster Sergeant.

Trumpet Major

Farrier Major



Collarmaker Major

Wheeler Major

Battery Sergeant Major.
Battery Quartermaster Sergeant.
Staff Clerk 1st Class.

Orderly Room Sergeant
Pay Sergeant
Hospital Sergeant

Assistant Instructor
in Gunnery

Sergeant.
Staff Clerks
2nd and 3rd Class

Farrier Sergeant

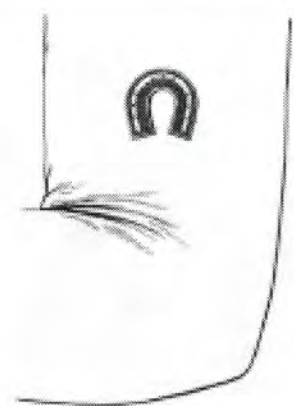
Collarmaker Sergeant

Sergeant Wheeler

Battery Armourer

Corporal

Bombardier



Tradesman
(Farrier)



Trumpeter



Assistant Instructor
in Gunnery (Post 1881)

point downwards. Warrant Officer badges were worn on the forearm. In April 1915 Warrant Officer Class II was introduced into the British Army and Australian Imperial Force abroad, and into the Australian Military Forces on 17 November 1917. Those previously designated Warrant Officer becoming Warrant Officer Class I. Non-commissioned officers becoming Warrant Officer Class II were Master Gunner Class III, Regimental Quartermaster Sergeant, Battery Sergeant Major (Field) and Company Sergeant Major (Coastal). Warrant Officer Class I wore the Royal Arms and Warrant Officer Class II wore the Crown, both on the forearm. In 1920 Corporals in the Royal Regiment became Bombardiers and the previous rank of Bombardier became Lance Bombardier. At the same time the rank of Lance Sergeant was introduced. (the latter rank equates to today's Temporary Sergeant). The rank of Corporal was abolished in the RAA on 1 July 1924, and in the AFA and AGA on 23 March 1925. Personnel holding the rank of Corporal in artillery units were appointed as Lance Sergeants and the rank of Bombardier replaced that of Corporal in artillery units from those dates. At the same time Acting Bombardiers were appointed as Lance Bombardiers.

1947 to Present

At the conclusion of World War II, Australia decided to expand the size of the permanent armed forces. Initially called the Interim Army, it saw for the first time regular infantry units. A Five Year Defence Program was announced in June 1947 and implemented in 1948. Uniform accoutrements for the Army was left very simple with the qualification badges mainly discarded. The rank insignia for the entire Army became standardised and remains so to this day with minor changes. Blues uniform remained as a form of marching

out and Ceremonial Dress until 1967 and in 1967 was replaced by the Battle dress and eventually Service Dress. The Service Dress came in two qualities, one for Officers and Warrant Officers and the second for Other Ranks. In 1977 Warrant Officer Class I badges changed from the Royal Arms to the Australian Coat of Arms. 1984 saw the introduction of the position of Regimental Sergeant Major of the Army (RSM-A) with a badge consisting of the Australian Coat of Arms within a Wreath. Since its inception, one Gunner, Warrant Officer Peter Prewett, has held this appointment. Four levels of RSM have been introduced since 1990. Level 1 is usually associated with an RSM reporting to a Commanding Officer. Level 2 reports to a Brigadier, Level 3 reports to a Major General (these are the Command and Division RSMs), Level 4 is the RSM-A. RSM at Level 3 and 4 lose all Regiment/Corps identity and wear the Rising Sun badge (Collar and Slouch Hat-side) and Australian Coat of Arms (Slouch hat front). In 1994 a standard Service Dress for all ranks was introduced. At the same time the decision was made to move, for the first time, the rank of the Warrant Officers from below the elbow to above the elbow. The reason was one of economy. Each NCO and Warrant rank badge was designed to cover the area of the previous rank. Whilst NCO rank remained unchanged in size the rank of the Warrant Officers increased significantly.

Special thanks to Keith Glyde for the input which made this article possible.

1881-1915	1915-1918	1918-1947
Master Gunner Class I	Master Gunner Class I	Master Gunner Class I
Master Gunner Class II	Master Gunner Class II	Master Gunner Class II
Warrant Officer	Warrant Officer Class I	Warrant Officer Class I
Master Gunner Class III	Master Gunner Class III	Master Gunner Class III
Regimental Quarter Master Sergeant	Regimental Quarter Master Sergeant	Regimental Quarter Master Sergeant
Battery Sergeant Major Company Sergeant Major	Battery Sergeant Major Company Sergeant Major	Battery Sergeant Major Company Sergeant Major



Warrant Officer Class I



Warrant Officer Class II



Warrant Officer Class III



Warrant Officer
Regimental Sergeant Major - Army



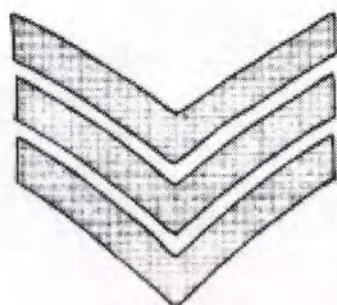
Warrant Officer Class I



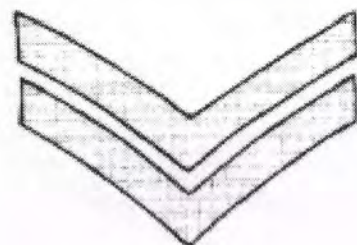
Warrant Officer Class II



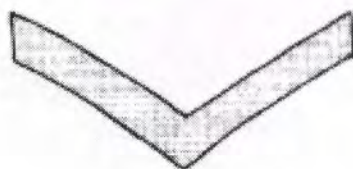
Staff Sergeant



Sergeant



Bombardier



Lance Bombardier

ARTICLES FOR CANNONBALL

Contributions of articles for the Journal are welcome. We are looking for long or short articles and any news that would be of interest to Gunners.

Company Matters



Dorothy Bowlers receiving the RAAHC Certificate from Watson Young at the Mudjimba RSL Sub Branch, QLD

On 28 September Dorothy Bowlers celebrated her 90th Birthday at the Mudjimba RSL Sub Branch. To honour the occasion Dorothy was presented with Honorary Membership of the Royal Australian Artillery Historical Company. We have been informed that "When Watson presented it to Dorothy in front of the Sub Branch meeting on that day she had tears in her eyes and said 'This is the biggest surprise of my life and also the best'. She was very emotional over the receiving of the certificate and was overcome by emotion that you had sent this and that it was a real honour to receive it".

We are delighted to welcome Dorothy as a member. She is the daughter of Major General Walter Adams Coxen CB, CMG, DSO, MID (four times), Croix de Guerre who among many other outstanding appointments was CO/CI School of Gunnery, Commander of the Australian Siege Brigade AIF, General Officer Commanding Royal Artillery (GOCRA) Australian Corps and Chief of the General Staff. As GOCRA Aust Corps he commanded what is thought to have been the greatest concentration of artillery of World War I, when on 1 August 1918 he had under his command 1083 guns.



Ken Ewen (centre) presents his Father's medal set to John Macpherson (left) Chairman RAAHC and Major Mike Laurence (right) Museum Manager. The set includes the MC, DCM and MM, and is a major acquisition for the Museum collection.

Library. Arthur Burke recently requested information from our Library collection and in response sent the following: 'I sincerely thank you and whomever assisted in finding the historical research notes of the RAA in Queensland. These are just what I wanted and will assist in my period research. What a wonderful facility there is down there at the Fort - and such a quick response. I really am most grateful.' The 'whomever' is of course Danny Toplis and the letter highlights the fine job Danny is doing and the extent of our collection

New Members
S. Crotty, A.B. Smith, N. Giumelli

Where Are We
Our request on page 15 of the August edition for information on where the photo the gun was taken had a quick response from David McGrath. He identified the location as Garden Island, Sydney. Maj Gen John Whitelaw and CMD Damien Allen have provided us with the technical information. Many thanks to everyone for your response.

Bequests

Many voluntary organizations depend for their survival upon money from generous supporters who have made bequests in their wills. Our RAA Historical Company, as a registered organization, is no different. Our management respectfully asks you to consider making a bequest to benefit our Museum and Collections in your will. Suggest it to your regimental colleagues who are not members of the Company.

Interrupted Journey (Part 2)

The Story of the 9.2 inch Guns Installed at Port Kembla, NSW and Later Moved to Darwin, Northern Territory

Dr. Peter Oppenheim

The importance of Newcastle-Sydney-Kembla-Lithgow area was again highlighted three days later (18 December 1941) when the Prime Minister referred a letter from the Minister for Home Security to the Chiefs of Staff for comment. One point on which the Minister requested assurance and action was 'The vital importance of the Newcastle-Sydney-Kembla area and the need for every effort to ensure it is protected to the best of our ability'. To this statement the Chiefs of Staff replied as follows:

Newcastle-Sydney-Kembla: In our Paper No. 1 of 15 December, we stated we had given the highest degree of priority to the forces allotted to the defence of the vital Newcastle-Sydney-Kembla-Lithgow area and to those designated for its reinforcement, and set our reasons for so doing. We do not feel it necessary to add to what we there said other than to emphasise the importance of defending Newcastle and Kembla to the limit of our capacity.²⁰

On 7 January 1942 yet another cablegram was sent to the Secretary of State for Dominion Affairs requesting the provision of 9.2 inch guns for the defence of Kembla be again reviewed. One month had passed since the first Japanese onslaught and the situation in the Pacific had deteriorated badly for the Allies. The British battleship HMS Prince of Wales and the battlecruiser HMS Repulse had been sunk by Japanese aircraft off the coast of Malaya, Guam and Wake islands had been captured, Hong Kong had fallen, Penang and Kuala Lumpur in Malaya had been lost, Japanese forces were pressing the Allies hard on their push down the Malay Peninsula, Singapore was

under constant heavy air attack, the Philippines had been overrun, Manila had fallen and the last American forces in the area had been withdrawn to the Bataan Peninsula and the island fortress of Corregidor.

The tone of this cablegram was a conciliatory one and explained again, 'It is impossible to overestimate the importance of Kembla to Australia's war production' and reiterated the particular problems associated with the vulnerability of installations in the area to bombardment from the sea. It also made reference to the fact it was thought the conjunction of the request for 9.2 inch equipments at the same time as a request for consideration of Kembla when deciding the location of the 6 inch guns to be removed from Suva might have led to a misunderstanding of the real problem. The aim was to protect Kembla by an increase in the range of coastal guns and not merely to increase the number of guns in the defences. 'The suggestions additional 6 inch guns should be installed there for the time being was not intended to be understood as anything more than a makeshift arrangement'. The message concluded with the request the decision not to provide 9.2 inch

equipments for Kembla be reconsidered in the light of these comments and the changed circumstances.²¹

What the response to this message was is unknown but events were rapidly overtaking the cosy world of the bureaucrats. In early 1942 a battery of two 6 inch Mk. XI * ex-naval guns was installed on the coast, southeast of the Port Kembla steel works on the slope of Hill 60. This battery, known as the Illowra Battery, was first shown to be in place in a paper dated 4 April 1942 (see Table 1). Breakwater Battery had been mounted in the open and left the gun crews unprotected from air attack, apart from the 'aero' gun shields. Illowra Battery was built deep into the hill, thus affording it protection as well as concealment from the air. Miners, employed by the Department of the Interior, drove two tunnels from the back of the hill out to the seaward facing gun emplacements. This work was delayed by the sandy nature of the area and required extensive concrete tunnel lining to be undertaken. The guns themselves were protected by placing them in heavy concrete emplacements,

Place	Battery	Type and Mounting	DEL
Kembla	Breakwater	2 x 6" Mk. XI* 200-18,600yds (17, 000m)	5
	Illoura (sic)	2 x 6" Mk. XI* 200-18,600yds (17, 000m) 2 x 3 pdr. Hotchkiss	
	(Proposed)	2 x 9.2" ¹	

¹ RAAHC, D 40, Fixed Gun Defences, Royal Australian Navy Department Files released and sent to the RAAHS-September 1989, Unidentified two page list of all Ordinance mounted in the Coast Defence role in Australia, dated 4 April 1942.

complete with side walls, aprons and overhangs. Off the two tunnels were the various shelters for personnel, magazines, shell stores, gun stores, while the plotting room, telephone exchange and offices were in a cross tunnel which linked the two main tunnels. The guns at Illowra Battery, No.'s 2249 and 2250 were both manufactured in 1911 by Vickers Sons and Maxim for the Royal Navy and according to available records were never used by the Royal Australian Navy. In the fight of all the frenzied correspondence and recrimination regarding the supply of additional guns for Kembla their arrival is somewhat of a mystery. The British authorities did supply some other guns to Australia at this time. Amongst these were two ex-naval guns, No.'s 2214 and 2276, which had been mounted aboard Defensively Equipped Merchant Ships during the First World War, emplaced in a temporary anti-invasion battery at Folkestone, Kent, in May 1940 and arrived in Australia in June 1941. They were sent to Koepang in Timor with "Sparrow Force" and were put out of action by air attack on 20 January 1942.²²

A Department of Navy Minute Paper, marked MOST SECRET and dated 9 February 1942, ten days before the first Japanese air raid on Darwin painted a less than optimistic picture of the situation in the north of Australia. The author of this paper, a Naval officer, identified as Commander H.J. Buchanan, Staff Officer (Local Defence), had just returned from an eight day inspection trip to Darwin where he had held discussions with the General Officer Commanding, Major-General Blake, the Fortress Commander, Colonel Veale, the Naval Officer in Charge, Captain Thomas and Group Captain Scherger of the RAAF. During these talks he felt, in view of his task in preparing plans for future offensive operations, it was his duty to 'inquire closely into the question of our ability to hold Darwin until these plans can be developed'. His conclusion was with the forces and equipment now available at Darwin, or known to be available in the near future 'we cannot'. He gave three

reasons for this gloomy prediction:

- (a) The rapid progress of works items on which the whole future development chiefly depends requires uninterrupted sea communications for the supply of materials and labour. Escorting naval and air forces do not appear to be available to ensure this.
- (b) Progress with this work will also depend on a reasonable degree of security from air attack. It is not known what fighter aircraft are likely to be available for the defence of Darwin but, in their absence a very serious degree of interference from enemy air attacks is to be expected in the near future. There is a considerable danger civilian labour may not stay on the job in the face of a heavy scale of air attack.
- (c) The scale of land defences is such that it is not possible to man the beach defences in adequate strength at all the landing places open to the enemy. This means that, if a landing is attempted, it is likely to succeed in crossing the beach line without serious opposition, and the efforts of the defenders will be then turned to dislodging the enemy or, if this is impossible, to hold the immediate vicinity of the base. Under either circumstance the progress with development work must cease.

It is therefore essential as part of the base development scheme, to hold Darwin with forces adequate to ensure the rapid progress of defence works. If we are unable to provide these defences either from our own or Allied resources, we must regard Darwin as a hostage to fortune and make plans accordingly."

The writer then concluded with the statement, 'I must add that all our forces at Darwin are confident of giving a good account of themselves when the time comes'. This was followed by the somewhat terse comment, 'the views given above are purely my own personal conclusions and have not been communicated to any person at Darwin'.²³

Comments in this Paper concerning the supply of materials, morale of the civilian labour force and the need to ensure the rapid progress of defence works were, in part at least, concerned with the construction of the emplacements for the 9.2 inch guns which were due to be delivered from the U.K. in three months time. A number of the Allied Works Council labour force involved in the construction of the 9.2 inch emplacements were later injured during bombing raids on Darwin.

Any further discussion regarding the choice of Darwin or Port Kembla as the final destination of this 9.2 inch battery was abruptly brought to a conclusion at 0958 hours on 19th February 1942 when a force of 188 aircraft from four Imperial Japanese Navy carriers carried out the first of many air attacks on Darwin and the north of Australia. This raid and a second one at 1153 hours on the same day by a further 54 land-based Navy aircraft from bases on Ambon and the Celebes caused extensive damage in which 243 people were killed and approximately 350 injured.²⁴

On 26 February 1942, seven days after the first major raids on Darwin, the Joint Planning Committee on the Development of Fleet Bases in Australia met to review a paper prepared by a technical sub-committee regarding the provision of repair facilities for ships larger than cruisers in Australia. Part of this study was concerned with the state of existing defences and recommended additions for fleet bases. Paragraph 5 of their report read:

"Darwin 9.2 inch battery. Work on the emplacements for two 9.2 inch guns is now in progress. One gun has already been shipped from the United Kingdom and is due to arrive in Australia early in April. The damage to the port facilities in Darwin in the recent air raid makes it at least problematical whether material and labour can be brought to Darwin to complete the project until adequate air defence is given for protection of shipping both enroute to Darwin and while

discharging.

In the meantime we recommend the equipment on the way should be diverted for the defence of Kembla. We have retained reference in the statement to the provision of a three gun 9.2 inch battery at Darwin as a long-term project.²⁵

An Addendum to the Report showed the Committee's recommendations as regarded additions - both immediate and long term in the fixed defences for a number of Fleet Bases in Australia, these included Sydney, Fremantle, Darwin and Hobart. Table 2 shows the proposals for Sydney and Darwin :

On 7 April 1942, Admiral H.F. Leary, Commander of the United States Naval Forces in the Southwest Pacific Area convened a meeting in Melbourne to discuss the

'Reinforcement of Seacoast Defences'. The purpose of the meeting was to consider the relative importance of the various Australian harbours as naval bases and ports of entry for US troops and supplies and the necessity for providing additional sea coast gun defences at those ports where required. In attendance were Major General J.S. Whitelaw, Australian Army, Captain H.J. Ray, USN and Commander H.J. Buchanan of the Australian Navy. The twelve most important ports in Australia and New Guinea were considered in some detail, ranked in relative importance, their existing defences examined and consideration made into the best manner in which to increase their defence capabilities.

The ports studied were:
a. Fremantle
b. Albany

c. Adelaide
d. Port Phillip (Melbourne)
e. Brisbane and Moreton Bay
f. Sydney
g. Townsville
h. Cairns
i. Thursday Island
j. Darwin
k. Port Moresby (New Guinea)
l. Hobart (Tasmania)

Each port was studied under three headings, 'Situation Report', followed by 'Existing Seacoast Armament' and 'Project'. The 'Situation Report' for Darwin makes sober reading. 'This is a northern port to be held, if possible, as a future operating base for offensive action. The absence of land communication routes to the supply bases makes it of little importance at the present time except as an advanced air base. As the situation clears this area will become

Table 2.

Fixed Defences	Table 2.	
	Sydney	Darwin
Counter Bombardment		
Existing Installation	Two 9.2 inch batteries of two guns.	One 6inch battery of two guns.*
Maximum range	29,000 yards. (26,500 metres)	19, 000 yards. (17,300 metres)
Recommended Additions		
a) Immediate	Two 9.2 inch guns to bring existing batteries up to 3-gun standard.	One battery of three 9.2 inch guns. This is now a long range project, equipments for Darwin to be diverted to Kembla.
b) Long Term	Scale of defence at Port Jackson to be increased to 15 inch.	* In the original two has been crossed-out and changed to four.
Close Defences		
Existing Installation Port Jackson and Broken Bay.	8 - 6 inch 2 - 4.7 inch 8 - Naval 3 pdr.	6 - 6 inch* 2 - 4.7 inch Note: 2 - 6 inch to be replaced by 9.2 inch
Recommended Additions	Three 6 pdr. twin equipments awaiting shipment in the UK. No further addition is required.	Four 6 pdr. twin equipments awaiting shipment in the UK No further addition is required. *in the original there is a ? over the number 6.
Garrison Front-line strength, covering force and immediate reserves	26,700 (Newcastle-Sydney-Kembla area).	9,900
Recoinmended Addition		1 Brigade Group ²⁶

Table 3. Existing Armament - Darwin

East Point	4 x 6-inch guns	Range 18,600 yards. (17, 000 metres)
Emery Point	2 x 6-inch guns	Range 18,600 yards. (17, 000 metres)
West point	2 x 4-inch guns	Range 9,000yards. (8,200metres)

important to the Navy for advanced operations'. Table 3 shows the existing seacoast armament.

The 'Project' stated the Darwin area was 'inactive for all operations except air' and considerable damage had been done to the docks and city by aerial bombardment. Reconstruction of port facilities would be required and it would take some time before it could again be used as a naval base. It was therefore suggested no additional protective armament was required at that time.²⁷

On 4 April 1942 the following W/T message, transmitted in Naval Cypher 'C' (2) (GEN), was received by the Navy Office:

SECRET

Your 0005 Z/20 gun ex 'Glenogle' is being discharged at Sydney and will now be installed at Port Kembla. Military authorities have not decided port of discharge of gun in 'Australia Star'. Most probably Sydney. It is not the intention to send this gun to Darwin.²⁸

It is obvious from this message, in view of the precarious situation in Darwin and the desperate need to provide defences for the Port Kembla area, a high level decision had been taken to accept the recommendation of the Joint Planning Committee on the Development of Fleet Bases in Australia to divert the two Darwin 9.2 inch equipments and to emplace them at Port Kembla. The guns referred to in this message were Breech Loading 9.2 inch (234-mm), Mark X, Counter-Bombardment Ordnance mounted on Mark VII Mountings, capable of firing 172 kilogram armour piercing shells. Gun No. L 293, manufactured by the Royal Gun Factory, was first issued for service in 1905 and after three more issues was fitted with a 'A' new tube, proofed and re-issued for a fifth time in 1939. Gun No. L 273

was made by Vickers Sons and Maxim, first issued in 1902, re-tubed, proofed and re-issued for a second time in 1939. The mountings for both guns, No's 43 and 44 were issued early in the century as Mark V mounts. The 9.2 inch Mk X on a Mk V mounting had a maximum elevation of 15°, a maximum range of 18,100 metres and with hand operated laying and loading, a rate of fire of one round per minute. Although the 9.2 inch Mk X on Mk V mounting was in service long before World War One many of these equipments were operational during the Second World War. In 1946 forty one guns on these mountings were in service throughout the British Empire.²⁹

During the 1930's mountings 43 and 44 were converted to Mark VII standard by the Royal Carriage Department. This conversion increased the maximum elevation to 35°, the maximum range to 28,600 metres and with power operated laying, loading and ammunition supply the rate of fire was increased to three rounds per minute.³⁰

The reaction of British authorities to this unilateral move is not recorded, however a Department of the Army Minute Paper signed by the Chief of the General Staff, dated June 1942, suggests they had accepted the fact their express wishes had been over-ruled. It quoted a cable which had been received from the Military Liaison Officer, Australia House, London. The cable read:

'9.2 inch equipments: War Office request confirmation assumption two 9.2 inch equipments are being installed as permanent battery Port Kembla and further two equipments eventually required Darwin. Please advise also (A) whether variable parts for Darwin being held against eventual provision equipments for

that port, (B) order of priority of provision of further 9.2 inch equipments for Australian ports.'

This Minute Paper then stated so far as a purely land defence aspect was concerned no further such batteries appeared necessary. It did concede there were a number of ports which for naval reasons required better cover. These were listed as Darwin, Brisbane and the proposed Naval Base at Cockburn Sound, south of Fremantle. The Paper concluded with the statement 'A 9.2 inch battery with all its accessories costs probably not less than £250,000'.³¹ This figure must have been the cost of supplying the equipments and could not have allowed for installing the guns, as in September 1941 the estimated capital cost of installation of the two 9.2 inch guns at Darwin was £415,000.³²

Two of the major tactical advantages sought for the siting of fixed coastal defences were:

- (1) To site the battery as far in advance of the area to be protected as possible. This area was referred to as the VP or Vulnerable Point.
- (2) To site the battery as high as possible. This gave advantages in range, increased accuracy for visual range finding equipment and increased protection for the battery against hostile return bombardment from the sea.

In certain instances, in areas with suitable terrain, it was possible to achieve both these siting advantages. North Head Battery was one such case, built as it was on the top of the high sandstone cliffs between the Port of Sydney and the open sea. Fort Wallace, at Stockton, near Newcastle, while practically on the beach and well forward of the major industrial area it was built to defend was, due to the flat terrain, very close to sea level. In the case of Drummond Battery at Port Kembla the decision was made to build the emplacements several thousand metres inland and well behind the industrial areas on the slope of Mount Drummond. It would have been impractical to build the battery forward of the steel works as they

were so close to the sea, therefore the advantage of height was selected. The trunnion heights of the guns at these three batteries were:^{33 34}

(a) North Head

No. 1 Gun - 289.6 feet (88 metres)

No. 2 Gun - 292.6 feet (89 metres)

(b) Wallace

No. 1 Gun - 69.2 feet (21 metres)

No. 2 Gun - 64.8 feet (19.7 metres)

(c) Drummond

No. 1 Gun - 224.9 feet (68.5 metres)

No. 2 Gun - 236.8 feet (72 metres)

The first four batteries of 9.2 inch BL Mk. X guns mounted in Australia in the latter part of the 1930's had 360° arcs of fire but the remaining three, Drummond Battery (Port Kembla), East Point Battery (Darwin) and Scriven Battery (Garden Island, Western Australia), all completed after the fall of Singapore, were given heavy concrete housings as protection against air attack. This limited their arcs of traverse and fire at less than 180°. Number 1 gun at Drummond Battery had an arc of fire of 154° while Number 2 gun had an arc of 163°. These guns were mounted under reinforced concrete arched structures, almost a metre in thickness. A separate reinforced concrete upstand was fixed to the outer edge of the main arch to retain the earth covering to the rear of the emplacement. The gun was mounted with its pivot aligned with the front edge of the arch so as to permit the maximum lateral arc of fire while protecting the rear of the mounting. To give additional protection to the gun itself, a semi circular concrete hood was fixed to the apex of the overhead concrete arch and overhung the front of the mounting and barrel which projected in front of the arch. Finally, to further protect the gun and its crew the armoured turret which had been the only source of protection for the earlier guns was retained and rotated with the gun. Preliminary construction work on Drummond Battery began in April 1942 with excavation for the two levels of magazines, shell stores, engine rooms, pump chambers, crew rooms and casualty stations for each emplacement, the plotting room and connecting tunnels. Two huge open-cuts were carved out of the

solid rock to a depth of about 12 metres in the hillside behind Port Kembla and the massive concrete footings, side walls, sub-structures and overhead structures were formed-up and poured for each of the two emplacements. This form of construction was not only more economical and faster than tunnelling, but also allowed a greater control to be exercised over the quality of work. Timber formwork was used in all areas except in the roof structure of the magazine and shell stores and the plotting room. The impact of a projectile, such as a bomb or shell, on a thick concrete slab produced not only a crater on the top face of the slab, but could also cause scabs of concrete to fly off the underside with great force. These scabs could cause serious injuries and damage to both personnel and equipment and for this reason permanent steel formwork was used in these areas to act as scabbing plates. With the construction of the ancillary areas completed the earth was back-filled and work began on the construction of the gun pit. All this work was carried out by the Public Works Department at a cost of £215,000. Once the emplacements had been prepared the two guns and mountings were sent by rail from the docks in Sydney, where they had been stored. Each gun had a total weight of 217 tonnes, of which 186 tonnes rotated on the pivot. The largest single piece was the gun barrel which weighed 27.9 tonnes. The complex installation of the guns and all ancillary equipment was undertaken by work parties from the RAA, RAEME and RAE. On arrival the parts of the mount and gun were brought to the site on low-loaders and the first gun installed, using a huge steel gantry and tackle system which was then moved to the other emplacement. On completion of both emplacements the gantry was dismantled, the earthworks and backfilling completed and the complex hydraulics, electrical and fire control equipment installed. Any part of the emplacements not covered with earth was camouflaged either by painting or with netting. Three colours were generally used in disruptive paint schemes, pink, green

and buff or brown. It was probable at least two would occur in any environment in the Australian landscape and the third colour, even if it did not, would read as a disruptive pattern and help to break up the shape of the object. The camouflage netting with strips of painted hessian tied to it was draped over the emplacement, with care being taken around the edges to ensure rectangular, built shapes were concealed. The two guns were proofed and declared operational on 15 March 1943, some eleven months after their arrival in the country.³⁵ Apart from these three super-charge proofing rounds the Drummond guns were never fired again, either in anger or for practice. Valuable property, liable to blast damage, lay between the guns and the sea, therefore all practice shoots were carried out from the 9.2 inch battery at Cape Banks, which was mounted on an isolated site, in bushland, on

References

the coast, north of Botany Bay.³⁶

²⁰ Ibid., The Defence of Australia and Adjacent Areas, Chiefs of Staff Paper No.2, 18th December 1941, P. 1.

²¹ Australian Commonwealth Archives, A. C. T., A 816, Item 84 1140, Copy of Outwards Teleprinter Message No. D 99, For Secretary, Prime Minister's Department from Secretary, Department of Defence Co-ordination, 7 January 1942.

²² David Brook, (Editor), Roundshot to Rapier: Artillery in South Australia 1840-1984, Investigator Press Pty. Ltd., South Australia, 1986, pp.272-275.

²³ RAAHC, PA-1 126, Department of Navy Minute Paper, Defence of Darwin, 9th January 1942, pp. 1 -2.

²⁴ Even today, nearly 50 years after the event, these figures for casualties are still queried. There are those who claim the number of dead was double that shown in the official reports.

²⁵ AWM, Written Records 1939-45, J. P. C. 29, Report by Joint Planning Committee, Development of Fleet Bases in Australia, 26th February 1942, p.1.

²⁶ Ibid., Appendix, pp. 1-2.

²⁷ RAAHC, D40, Copy of Memorandum on Reinforcement of Seacoast Defences, Melbourne, 1 8th May 1942.

²⁸ RAAHC, D 40, Copy of Message 0801 Z14, to Navy Office, 4th April

1942.

²⁹ Australian Commonwealth Archives, Victoria, MP 4951112024, Review of Fixed Artillery Defences at Defended Ports at Home and Abroad, Defence of Bases Committee, London, 1 st January 1946.

³⁰ Artillery Training, Volume V, Part 1 - Coast Gunnery, The War Office, London, 22nd January 1953, pp. 4,14.

³¹ RAAHC, D 40, Department of the Army Minute Paper No. 261402127, Subject: 9.2 inch Coast Defence Guns, 11 th June 1942.

³² Australian Commonwealth Archives, A.C.T., A816, Item 841140, Minute by Defence Committee, 6th of September 1941, Installation of 9.2 inch Guns at Port Kembla, p.2.

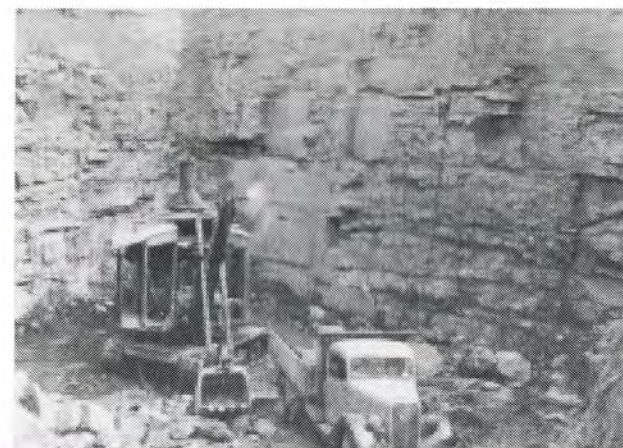
³³ RAAHC, PA 1142 CH, Copy of Report on Coastal Guns Mounted in the South West Pacific Area, 1945.

³⁴ The trunnion height is the height of the trunnions, which are on the centre line of the gun barrel, above Mean Sea Level. Trunnions are horizontal axles protruding from the gun or cradle and resting in curved bearings in the carriage and allow the gun to be elevated and depressed. The trunnions support the weight of the gun and cradle and pass the recoil force to the carriage.

³⁵ Graham, John, The Coastal Defences of New South Wales 1901-1969, B. Arch. Thesis, University of New South Wales, 1969, pp.51, 84-89. These notes on the construction of Drummond Battery are based, in part, on interviews given to John Graham by Colonel John Hendry, the Officer in Charge of mounting the guns in 1942-43.

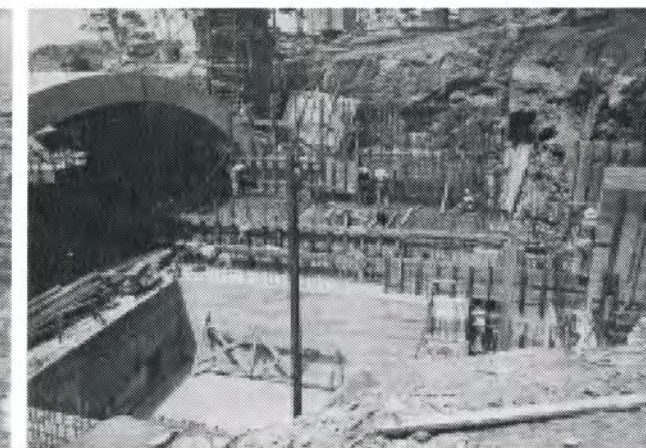
³⁶ Proofing of a gun barrel takes place after manufacture and before it is issued

for service. Proofing of a mount takes place after the gun and mount have been installed in the emplacement. After careful inspection to ensure all is in working order the gun is fired with extra large propelling charges which give a chamber pressure of some 10-15 percent in excess of expected under service conditions. These proof firings, with super-charges, are conducted "under precautions", which means after the gun is loaded, all personnel are removed to a safe place behind cover and the gun fired by remote control. After each proofing round is fired the barrel, mount, holding down bolts and all equipment is carefully checked. If all is found to be in order the gun is declared ready for operational use.

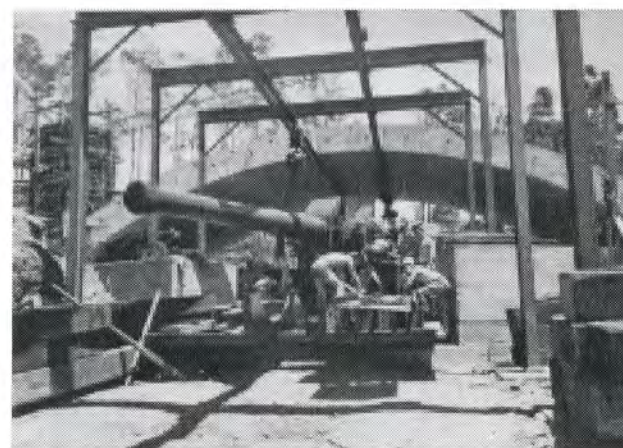


Drummond Battery Construction period 1942 to early 43.

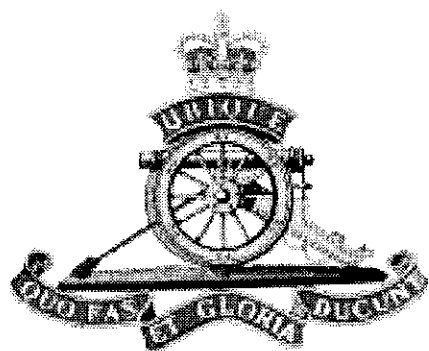
No 2 emplacement excavation in progress 13 June 1942 (RAAHC)



Preparing Magazine and Shell Room for floor pouring 4 November 1942 (RAAHC)



Original installation of the 9.2 at Drummond Battery was carried out under the direction of Capt (AIC) Scotty Alison (RAAHC)



Regimental Update

DEPLOYMENT

The RAA has been posting officers to operation Osier (Bosnia) for 7 years now and the last three have been employed in the battle group at Company level as either 2ICs, Intelligence or Operations Officers. The present UK Battle Group is from 1st Battalion Royal Gurkha Rifles. My job is the Ops Officer for a Coy based in Sipovo. Steve Mott my predecessor was in the same location but had some 2IC duties with 'The Highlanders'.

As part of the Stabilisation Force, we are implementing the GFAP agreement from 1995 and basically keeping the lid on a place that has been waiting to go off since 1995 and the 500 years before that. Change will not come overnight but we are weeding out some of the big boys as we go.

This is a NATO force and other countries including Australia contribute to NATO by invitation. This is mainly so NATO can claim that they try and counter bias. The base in Sipovo has UK, Canadian and Dutch troops here, although in small numbers.

Our operations (remember this is an insecure line) are focussed on the safe and secure environment aspect of the GFAP agreement. Where force, friction or disruption to the rule of law is, we have a mandate to force change. What does that mean to a Gunner Officer? Well, targeting for one thing. The fundamentals of targeting have been critical to keeping the commanders focused and not spreading themselves one inch thick on the ground. I usually find myself being the coordination man to our next level of command and higher. And you can never get enough 'incident (battle field) commentary'. This is a barrel of laughs when none of the radio operators have English as a primary language!

I could crap on about the cold but the fact is that it isn't yet. We get time for PT and there is a half-decent mess here. I am physically dislocated from the other Australians in the contingent and the only Aussie in this town. That leads me to my concluding point. Don't be the guy in

the different uniform during a riot! (Hopefully pictures to follow)

Ubique
CAPT James Francis

RAA CONFERENCE

The Regt Conference was held at Puckapunyal in the period 29-31 Oct and was a good few days of discussions and updates. The key areas examined were:

- Future calibres of weapons to support warfighting
- Sensor to Shooter links and the future
- Personnel development for future systems
- Training priorities and courses of action for Full and Part time soldiers and officer courses
- Forward Air Control training requirements
- Surveillance and Target Acquisition systems improvements
- Tactical Uninhabited Aerial Vehicles
- Land Systems projects
- Future ammunition families
- Force structures of units in the Hardened Army

The Officers and WO/SNCO Farewells were both very successful activities and we farewelled a combined total of some 600 years of experience over the weekend. The details of conference will be out in due course and some of the issues will appear in later sitreps.

UNIT UPDATES

4 FD REGT

4th Field Regiment (4 Fd Regt) conducted lead up training for Exercise CROCODILE 2003 (Ex CROC 03) in June. The Regiment provided operations support to 3rd Brigade by participating in command-post exercises (CPXs) with the Deployable Joint Force Headquarters (DJFHQ) and Headquarters 3rd Brigade (HQ 3 Bde) in Exercise VITAL PROSPECT and Exercise SILICON BROLGA. 107th and 108th Field Battery (107 and 108 Fd Bty) conducted Air Mobile Operations (AMO) training whilst the 108 Fd Bty Tactical Groups

completed an air rappelling course. 108 Fd Bty also supported 2nd Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment, (2 RAR) Live Fire Exercise (LFX) Exercise BLACK WIDOW.

In July the Regiment conducted competitions for the obstacle course and cross-country trophies. These were both hotly contested by all Townsville based batteries, with Operations Support Battery (Ops Spt Bty) winning both events. July also saw the deployment of a significant number of personnel to support Operation ANODE. The Battery Commander (BC) of 108 Fd Bty, Major Charles Weller, was appointed Chief of Staff for Regional Assistance Mission to Solomon Islands (RAMSI), while personnel were deployed to augment Civil Military Cooperation (CIMIC) teams and Combined Task Force Headquarters (CTF HQ). 108 Fd Bty Joint Offensive Support Teams (JOSTs) also deployed in support of the rifle companies while various specialist personnel from Combat Services Support Battery (CSS Bty), including clerks, RAEME elements and medics, were detached to other units for that deployment.

107 Fd Bty received a warning order for Operation RELEX commencing in mid October and began preparations. With both 1 RAR and 2 RAR deployed, 3 RAR and consequently 'A' Field Battery ('A' Fd Bty) comprised the Ready Battalion Group (RBG) for the first time.

The Regiment deployed on Ex CROC 03 with 'A' Fd Bty, CSS Bty, Ops Spt Bty and the remainder of 108 Fd Bty reinforced by 7 Fd Regt, 105 Fd Bty and 107 Fd Bty in September. Ex CROC 03 consisted of a 10 day Field Training Exercise (FTX) followed by a combined LFX with the United States Marine Corps (USMC). The exercise began with the majority of 108 Bty gunline conducting training on HMAS Kanimbla for eight days prior to the start of the FTX. The Bde JOST was deployed as part of the Bde Reconnaissance Surveillance and Intelligence (RSI) plan throughout the FTX and was very successful. Patrols were able to operate within 100 meters of enemy Australian Light Armoured Vehicles (ASLAV) without being detected and were able to identify and engage depth targets including headquarter elements. 'A' Fd Bty conducted one of the largest parachute drops in recent history with five guns being successfully deployed.

4 Fd Regt re-postured for the LFX following the successful occupation of the Air Point Of Disembarkation (APOD) conducting a 210 km road move to end up 25 km from the start point due to

range traffic and MP traffic control. The Tac Gps from 101 and 103 Mdm Btys then joined 4 Fd Regt. The Regiment conducted live firing, covering technical missions to BC's fireplans, to prepare for the combined LFX. The Regiment was able to practice its integration as part of a CTF with the USMC at a higher level. A combined LFX was conducted over two days which highlighted many of the nuances of integrating two similar but separate doctrines into a single Area of Operations (AO) to seize a Brigade objective. This exercise has resulted in many lessons being learned to enable the Army to effectively cooperate with its allies.

7 FD BTY

7 FD REGT deployed 22 members on EX CROCODILE 03 (CROC 03), with 4 FD REGT and three members with 8CSSB during the period 13 - 27 Sep 03. The three members with 8 CSSB were drivers to assist them with their commitment to the 8 BDE Force Protection Company Group (FPCG). The 22 personnel who deployed with 4 FD REGT conducted individual reinforcement

The 22 members conducting individual reinforcement provided the following support:

- One x JOST, (1xOFFR, 1xJNCO, and 3 soldiers);
- One x medic;
- One x driver;
- 13 x Gun numbers, and
- Two x RAA safety officers.

The individual reinforcement gave the PT gunners the opportunity to gain experience working in a collective environment and test their skills working alongside their ARA counterparts. The participating members did very well and the REGT now looks forward to providing similar interaction between the FT and PT members in the future.

16 FD BTY

On Fri 03 Oct 03 Launceston personnel not involved with Reserve Response Force (RRF) training moved to Derwent Barracks in Hobart to commence all corps soldier training. Hobart personnel involved with RRF training deployed to Stony Head Training Area (SHTA) with personnel from Launceston. RRF training at SHTA involved 13 trainees and 2 instructors from 03-09 Oct 03. All corps soldier training was conducted over the same period and involved personnel receiving instruction in GPS, AGLS, navigation, NFE, communications procedures and a CPX. Signals training was conducted on Bruny Island with many teaching points learnt. Personnel were instructed on and qualified in NFE

(ninox) and a navigation exercise was conducted through parts of the national park.

Thu 09 Oct 03 saw members, both north and south, hold a successful recruiting display at the Launceston Show with prospective soldiers completing expressions of interest.

On Fri 10 Oct 03 the whole unit concentrated at Paterson Barracks, Launceston for battle preparations and then deploy to SHTA on the Sat for Detachment training. Sat afternoon and Sun was spent with "Digger for a Day", a total of 19 senior cadets and one civilian were familiarised on the F88 and F89 Minimi as well as an introduction to navigation and NFE. The group watched live firing of the M2A2s from the gun position as well as seeing the rounds burst at the FO's end. Live fire and movement was conducted culminating in a man handling exercise and a direct fire shoot. On Wed 15 Oct LF2

We thank Land command Artillery for providing us with the information contained in the Regimental update. Without their support and that of the units contributing the family of Gunners outside the Service would be denied the information needed to keep us intouch with current events. We are thankful for the inclusion of information on abbreviations

and LF3 practices were conducted along with an F89 practice, Sneaker range and a Snap and Gallery finishing with an IMT activity. Thu 16 Oct 03 saw further fire and movement with a fire planning activity to end with on Friday 17 Oct. It was then back to Paterson Barracks for post exercise maintenance. A varied and interesting AFX that tested a wide range of soldier skills and was enjoyed by all those who participated.

RAA ANNIVERSARIES.

The following RAA units celebrate their anniversaries in Sep/Oct/Nov 03:

1 Sep	- School of Artillery	(1885)
1 Oct	- 16 Fd Bty	(1976)
16 Nov	- 8 th /12 th Medium Regiment	(1973)

Brigadier Vince Williams, former Head of Regiment and present Chief of Staff Training Command - Army is off to London as Defence Attachee. Thank you for your support and may your time in the 'Old Dart' be an enjoyable one. Too all those moving at the end of this year good luck in the new posting.

ST BARBARA'S DAY CHURCH SERVICE.

The annual NSW RAA Church Service will be conducted on Sun 7th Dec 03 at the Garrison Church, Millers Point. The service will commence at 1100 hr.

Guest of Honour will be Colonel Steve Goltz, newly appointed Head of Regiment. The Queens Banner will be paraded by members of 23 Fd Regt RAA and the band of 23 Fd Regt will provide musical entertainment.

Light refreshments will be available after the service.

All gunners and their families are encouraged to support this traditional service.

AND

SOCIAL LUNCH 7TH DECEMBER 2003

Arrangements have been made by the RAA Association with Phillips Foote Restaurant, 101 George St The Rocks for members, their families and friends to enjoy an informal social lunch in pleasant surroundings following the St. Barbara's Day Church Service.

**BOOKING ARE ESSENTIAL AND MUST BE MADE BY FRIDAY
21ST NOVEMBER 2003**

Bookings will be accepted in order of receipt. Payment is to be made on the day by members direct to Phillips Foote restaurant, major credit cards are accepted.

TO BOOK Phone either
Beven Lenni, (02) 9524 5524, or
Phil Easton (02) 4625 6447.

Great Moments in Gunnery No 3

Advance Party and Hygiene

Advance Parties generally find the unexpected in otherwise well planned and executed exercises, or on active service. Regimental histories are replete with incidents that typify the odds against everything going according to plan. One such in the annals of our Regiment occurred in July 1957 when ARA embarked on its first and biggest peace-time Exercise, GRAND SLAM in Queensland.

Now 1st Field Regiment CO was Lieutenant Colonel John Howard, who, as those who knew him would attest, liked everything to appear 'just so' - it was 'style' thing with him. He was leading his unit north from Holsworthy with his Advance Party. As each unit of 1st Brigade headed north they staged through the town of Gin Gin, near Bundaberg. The local citizens ran a dance in the local hall. When it was the Gunners turn they found the girls pretty 'standoffish'. Howard asked the RSM, "Find out what's wrong".

He expected to be told that the lasses were sick of so many dances with strange men. The RSM found that 2nd Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment, who wore black lanyards, and 3rd Battalion, who wore red, had told their dancing partners when they were passing through that white lanyards had to worn by men who had been in hospital with VD.



VALE

WO2 Leonard (Tich) McEwan Berry 1918 - 2003

Len Berry passed away on 5 April 2003, aged 84, after a long illness, at Nambour, Queensland.

He is survived by his wife of 58 years, Alice, 12 grand children and 12 great grand children, all of whom loved and respected him. Short of stature, Len was able to command the respect of all ranks with his happy personality, sense of humour, his drive, and his enthusiasm. He was a great Gunner.

Most of Len's service was with Coast Artillery and post war, with Anti Aircraft, as follows:
AMF 1935 to 1940 6th Hvy Bde (RAA M)
CMF 1940 to 1942 Coast Arty, Darwin
CMF/AIF 1942 to 1943 Coast Arty, Port Phillip
AIF 1943 to 1945 Coast Arty, New Guinea
AIF 1945 9 AA Bty, Darwin
Discharged 1945 - Awarded Efficiency Medal
1949 to 1955 119 LAA Bty
Total service 17 years
During his stint at Port Phillip, Len met his wife Alice Leydon who was an AWAS Signaller. They married in 1945.

Colin Meaker

WANTED

There is always a need at the Museum for household items that you no longer require.

We are seeking old vacuum cleaners that can be used to clean the mess we make in the workshops as well as assist us to keep the display items in good order.

Mannequins are always in demand so if you know someone in the major stores please let them know we would appreciate mannequins they no longer require.

Anyone with typing skills can be used to assist us with the update of records. We have a number of projects that have to be placed on computer.

Sewing skills and some knowledge of dress making would assist us to message uniforms for sizing purposes. If we know the size then it makes it simpler to seek the correct display mannequin.

'Every bit helps'