

7 Field Regiment Association

Yandoo

Royal Australian Artillery

1992

Vol 1 No 6



7 FD REGT RAA ASSOCIATION
WARRANE ROAD WILLOUGHBY 2068

Dear fellow gunners,

It is with great pleasure that I submit to you my report for the conclusion of another very busy and successful year.

I would like to thank your committee for their loyalty and for the enthusiastic manner in which they have carried out their duties. I especially wish to thank our Secretary WO2 John Balfour for his great support and assistance, to Barney Flanagan for his assistance and to Laurie Hindmarsh (our collector of things!) what can I say?, other than a big thank you and keep up the good work.

On Sunday 28th July 91 members and their families enjoyed a day at the Holsworthy range during the Regiments' direct shooting competition. We had a good roll up and saw some good shooting.

On Friday 2nd August 91 myself, Owen Saville, Barney Flanagan and Keith Leek represented the association at a Dungeon luncheon at the Willoughby depot.

On Saturday 10th August 91 representatives of the association again attended an Artillery Assembly at the School of Artillery. The assembly was well attended and many attendees stayed to enjoy the Gunner dinner.

Another successful reunion was held on Friday 27th September 91 at the Willoughby Legion Club with a good roll up, (5 guests, 46 members) with some new faces attending. Our questionnaire confirmed this function is to your liking.

On Saturday 16th November 91 my wife and I were guests at Lodge Ubique, Willoughby where our member Laurie Hindmarsh gave the Remembrance address and unveiled a fully restored "Cohorn Mortar". We are now exchanging information with the lodge.

On Sunday 1st December 91 members attended the RAA Associations' annual church service at the Garrison Church.

On Australia Day 26th January 92 association member WO2 Peter Muir was awarded the OAM for services rendered. Congratulations Peter.

On Tuesday night 18th February 92 at the Willoughby depot we presented to L/Bdr Anthony Gaspardis of HQ Battery our second award for "The most proficient soldier" for the year ended 31/12/1991.

On Friday night 21st February 92, 24 people from the association attended the Commanding Officers function, to receive the thanks of LtCol Fairless for the support given to the Regiment in 1991.

On Sunday 15th March 92, 22 people from the association, members of the Regiment and other guests attended the associations' first annual church service at St John's Anglican Church, Willoughby. Our oldest member Ken Lewis-Hughes who turned 96 on the day was also in attendance. An enjoyable morning was had by all and my thanks to Mrs Balfour and Mrs Falconer for their assistance with preparing the morning tea.

My wife and I, together with committee members Barney Flanagan and wife Joyce, Keith Leek, Alec Burke, Danny Toplis and Owen Saville represented the association on Sunday the 7th June 92, when our Regiment and especially 113 Field Battery was granted Freedom of Entry to the City of Newcastle.

This day was another unforgettable one, the organisation superb, the weather fine and cool, the council staff outstanding and the ceremonial skills of the Regiment were on full display for all to see.

The 6th August 92 is the 25th anniversary of the award of the MC to our ex unit member N.J. (Nobby) Clarke and Nobby was invited to be guest of honour at the next reunion but due to work commitments he is unable to attend.

Your Association has donated \$100.00 to the RAA Association (NSW) to assist with its programme of supporting the serving gunners.

Congratulations were passed on to Mr Tom Hyslop, President of the Willoughby Legion Club for his receipt of the "Premier of New South Wales Community Service Award".

Membership now stands at 193 with 26 life members, and 1 Hon. life member, please keep trying to locate other interested gunners.

In conclusion, I thank you again and offer the continuance of my support.

Max Falconer President.

YANDOO - 7 FD REGT RAA ASSOCIATION

EDITORIAL AND PHOTOGRAPHS BY J.BALFOUR

FROM THE DESK OF LTCOL J.A.L. FAIRLESS
CO 7 FD REGT

I offer my congratulations to all Gunners past and present on the occasion of the Corp birthday on 1 Aug 92.

1992 started with a rush and has continued ever since. It is hard to believe we are in August with less than two months to AFX. During the first part of the year several live fire exercises have been conducted at both Holsworthy and Singleton ranges. These have varied between Battery and Regimental level.

Also during this period the Regiment celebrated its 76th Anniversary with a Church Service at the Willoughby Church of England Church. The service was followed by tea and coffee back at RHQ. Thankyou to all the association members who worked so hard in the preparation of the morning tea. A new L119 Hamel Gun was on display for the Association members to peruse. A side note to this story is that Reverend Jason Page who conducted the service was so impressed he has enlisted in the Reserve and has officially been posted to the Regiment.

The Regiment once more had a large bill for the commitment to ANZAC Day services. A total of nine catafalque parties and numerous other support tasks were conducted in 11 different locations. Unfortunately the level of support was such that it stretched our resources beyond a reasonable limit. A review is being conduct to establish a priority of effort for our support next year. This lowering of support will be beneficial as I intend to conduct a Regimental Dawn Service in 1993. The venue will probably be 28 Field Battery depot at Dee Why.

Another highlight was the trip by Hercules transport aircraft to Puckapunyal in early May to view the El Alamien fire power demonstration. A party of 13 personnel mainly Officers and SNCO witnessed an awesome display of the ADF's weapon systems.

By far the biggest activity the Regiment has undertaken this year is the Freedom of the City of Newcastle. All personnel especially the Adjutant and RSM in preparing for the parade are to be congratulated. I considered it a great honour to be the Commanding Officer of the Regiment especially during the drive past of the City Hall. The Mayor and Town Clerk were extremely impressed.

A review of the parade card indicates that the remainder of the year is set to be just as busy. The August and September weekends are to be used for the conversion courses to the Hamel Gun. At this stage it is hoped that at least six new guns will be issued by the end of August. (only time will tell as the Q system is fickle). This aside however, the Regiment will deploy to AFX with Hamel. If need be, with borrowed guns from 23 Field Regiment. The camp promises to be enjoyable with the emphasis in the first week on individual soldier skills followed by a Regimental Exercise to familiarise the soldiers with the new Gun.

In closing I would like to wish all the Association members my best for the remainder of the year and thankyou for your continued support, it is truly appreciated.

LIEUTENANT NEVILLE JOHN CLARK MC

1992 is the 25th anniversary of the action by which Lt N.J.(Nobby) Clark (formerly of 7th Field Regiment) was awarded the Military Cross.

Lt Clark joined the CMF (Sydney University Regiment) in October 1958 and served in 7th Field Regiment (Q Battery) from February 1961 to March 1966 where he was promoted Bombardier (Nov 62), Sergeant (Feb 63) and Lieutenant (Feb 64).

In March 1966 he volunteered for full time duty and joined 4th Field Regiment RAA for service in South Vietnam.

The following is an extract from the Citation for the Military Cross;

"On 6th August 1967, during Operation Ballarat, Lieutenant Clark was supporting A Company, 7th Battalion, the Royal Australian Regiment. At about 1100 hours, the Company contacted an enemy force and immediately came under heavy and accurate fire, sustaining several casualties almost at once. Lieutenant Clark, although under fire himself, quickly brought rapid and accurate artillery fire onto the enemy positions. At this stage the enemy continued to press closely on A Company who sustained further casualties.

Lieutenant Clark calmly, methodically and with complete disregard for his own safety, and in the full knowledge of the danger to himself, adjusted the fire of his battery to within 50 metres of his own position. The enemy was forced to break contact and further casualties were prevented.

Lieutenant Clark's bravery, his calmness in action and his professional skill were of the highest order, reflecting great credit upon himself, his Regiment and the Australian Army."

Lt Clark is now the Headmaster of Mentone Grammar School in Victoria and although he will not be able to join us at the Annual Reunion in September as originally planned, we are hopeful that we will be able to meet him and exchange stories in the not too distant future.

Editor

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE FIGHTING OF WORLD WAR ONE

(Continued from last issue)

1915

Jan	8	Germans make slight gains against Allied lines at Soissons.
Jan	31	Germans renew attack on Warsaw.
Feb	12	Germans invade Russia.
Feb	19	Allied naval squadrons bombard Dardenelles; are repulsed.
Feb	26	Heavy fighting at Champagne; the battle is a stand off.
Mar	20	Zeppelin raids on Paris.
Apr	22	Second Battle of Ypres; Germans introduce poisonous gas.
Apr	25	British and ANZAC troops land at Gallipoli.
May	1	Turks attack British beach-heads at Gallipoli.
May	7	Lusitania sunk by German U boat.
May	9	to
Jun	18	Second Battle of Champagne; no gain for either side.
May	23	Australians attack Italian forces.
May	25	Winston Churchill resigns as First Lord of British Admiralty.
May	26-31	Zeppelin raids on London.
Jun	21	to
Jul	1	Heavy fighting at Gallipoli.
Jul	1	Heavy fighting in Argonne sector.
Jul	15	Conquest of German South Africa completed.
Aug	5	Germans take Warsaw.
Aug	12	to
Sep	8	Severe Zeppelin raids on London.
Sep	23	Big Allied offensive opens on Western Front.
Oct	2	Worst Zeppelin raids to date on London.
Oct	13	English nurse Edith Cavell shot as a spy by Germans.
Dec	7	Siege of Kut-al-Imara by Turks.
Dec	8	British begin retreat from Gallipoli

1916

Continued next issue.

(MLF 10/8/92)

CASUALTY

The following article appeared in Jim MacDougall's column in "The Sun" of Wednesday 18 March 1953 after the Annual Field Exercise.

"The CMF in camp at Singleton last week was a typical 1953 Army, geared to all the latest horrors of War.

There was one casualty which stressed the hazards of Military training. A fellow was holding a biscuit out as a target for a bow and arrow shot.

The archer missed the biscuit and all but whipped the finger off"

The Victim would like to know who the archer was. Can anybody help ?

The Scroll



The City of Newcastle

On the Seventh day of June 1992
we extend to the
Commanding Officer and Men of the
7th Field Regiment
Royal Regiment of Australian Artillery

IN GREETINGS

Whereas many of our Citizens have served with pride in your Distinguished Regiment which by its achievements in times of peace and war, has built up honourable traditions the Mayor and Aldermen of the City of Newcastle meeting in Council on the Twenty-sixth day of February 1991 HAVE RESOLVED in appreciation of your great services to Our Sovereign Our Country and Our City to confer upon the Regiment by this Deed and in perpetuity the privilege, honour and distinction of

The Freedom of the City

with the right of entry on Ceremonial Occasions in full parol with guns in train, swords drawn, bayonets fixed, drums beating, bands playing and The Banner flying and that the Common Seal of the Council be affixed to such Deed.



IN WITNESS

whereof the Common Seal of the Council was hereto affixed on the Seventh day of June 1992 in the presence of

J. W. Magill
Lord Mayor

M. R. ...
Town Clerk



The Scroll granting
Freedom of Entry to the
City of Newcastle
to 7th Field Regiment,
Royal Regiment
of Australian Artillery

**THE REGIMENTAL HISTORICAL PROJECT
AND COLLECTION OF REGIMENTAL ARTEFACTS**

Very little progress has been made with the Historical Project since the last issue of Yandoo. I make no apology for this; the reasons are easily explained. One is my continuing involvement in the work force and the other is my involvement with the RAA Association (NSW). This is not to say that the project has lapsed, far from it; research continued in one particular direction during the year and data continues to flow in.

The collection now consists of many valuable and irreplaceable items. Following my strong recommendation to the Committee it was agreed that the collection be offered as a Regimental Collection to the National Artillery Museum. I am pleased to say that the offer has been accepted in principle. Needless we are still collecting data and look forward to your further assistance.

The following contributions to the project and to the collection are gratefully acknowledged;

- Maj R.M. Corbett - A collection of publications which are collectors items plus various papers.
- Mrs F. Cullen-Ward - Extracts from the papers of her Grandfather, the late Brig J.C. Selmes DSO, VD
- Mrs P. Grant - The papers of her father the late Capt G.E. Mason relating to his service in the 7th, 1924-1940
- LtCol C.R. Lord ED - A memoir of his first experience at the OP.
- Mr R.C.M. Toplis - Various historical papers

Laurie Hindmarsh

DECEASED MEMBERS

Michael Sven Arlington RFD - 26 June 1992 - aged 48

Michael was appointed a Lieutenant in the RAAMC (UNSWR) on 1 Jan 1965 and later served for nine years in the ARA before transferring to the ARES. He served with 1 Field Ambulance and was RMO of 7 Field Regiment from Nov 1976 to May 1979 before serving in various other medical appointments. At the time of his death he was a Lieutenant Colonel, in the position of SO1 (Health) Medical HQ 2MD.

To his loved ones and relatives, the members of the Association extend their heart felt sympathy.



ANNUAL REUNION
Sept 1991
(Clockwise from
top left)

Dick Lord,
Harry Taylor,
Jack Gwilym,
Karen Aiston,
Grahame Smith,
Bill Bailey,
Brig Fred McAlister
Col Bob McEvoy,
Gen Rodney Fay,
Dene Nelson,
Fred Bastock

