

7 Field Regiment Association

Yandoo

Royal Australian Artillery

1993

Vol 1 No 7



7 FD REGT RAA ASSOCIATION  
VARRANE ROAD WILLOUGHBY 2068

## PRESIDENTS REPORT "YANDOO" 1993

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, his extra workload as Treasurer and his never ending assistance, to Barney Flanagan for his assistance whenever requested and to Laurie Hindmarsh (our collector of things!) what can I say, other than a big thank you, and all, keep up the good work.

The year ended 30th June 93 was another busy one;

Your Committee appointed a new Patron, Lt Owen Saville (Retired). Owen joined 7th Field Brigade RAA as a cadet in 1932. He enlisted in the Regular Army in 1938 and served in various Units until his transfer to 7 Field as RSM from 1954 to 1960. Owen took his discharge from the Regular Army and was appointed Lieutenant Retired. Owen, welcome as our Patron and a big thank you to our outgoing Patron, Brig. Arthur Hanson.

In July 1992, our member John Baynie presented to the Association a video of Unit activities during his service. Thank you John.

On Saturday 8th August 1992, representatives of the Association again attended the Artillery Assembly at the School of Artillery. The Assembly was well attended. Many members of the Association and Regiment enjoyed the Gunner Dinner that was held that night.

Another successful reunion was held on Friday 18th September 92 at the Willoughby Legion Club with a good roll-up (4 guests, 43 members) with some new faces attending. Non attenders missed a great night.

On Saturday 21st November 92 my wife and I were guests at Lodge Ubique, Willoughby for their Remembrance Day address delivered by Maj Gen John Whitelaw AO, CBE, with other Association members present.

On Tuesday night 1st December 92 at Willoughby Depot we presented to Gunner Richard Shunwah of HQ Battery our third award for the "Most Proficient Soldier". Well done Richard.

On Sunday 6th December 92 members attended the RAA Association's Annual Church Service at the Garrison Church.

On Australia Day 26th January 93 Unit member WO2 Alan Ward, BSM 113 Field Battery RAA was awarded the CSM (Conspicuous Service Medal) for exceptional leadership as Instructor Gunnery and Battery Sergeant Major. Congratulations Alan.

On Friday night 19th February 93 various members of the Association and their wives attended the Commanding Officers Reception. Another great night was had by all present. Thanks to LtCol Fairless and Staff.

Our major event for the year had to be the presentation of the Commanding Officers Photo Gallery and this event took place on Tuesday night 18th May 93.

Our special guest for the night was our honorary life member 97 years young Mr(Bdr) Ken Lewis-Hughes. Thank you to the Unit members who collected and delivered Ken safely to and from his Nursing Home.

In all around 110 persons attended. Ex Commanding Officers present were; Col John Crowe, Brig Arthur Hanson, LtCol Neil Hawkins, Col Chris Hogan, Brig John Keefe, Maj Ozzie Rosevear and LtCol Stuart Staziker.

A special plaque was presented to Danny Toplis on your behalf in appreciation of a job well done. Your thanks were also passed on to Barney Flanagan for installing the Board and Mr Keith Gorman of "Pieces of Art" at Baulkham Hills who framed all the photographs. If you have not seen the Gallery a visit to the Regiment at Willoughby would be worthwhile. A big thank you to all who helped to make the night a great one.

It is with regret that I report the passing of 6 members;

Henry Fischer(4/8/92), Ian Hicks(25/11/92), Brig Fred McAlister(23/12/92)  
Phillip Nicholas(18/1/93), Alan Pryor(31/5/93), and Reg Thompson(26/7/93)  
I extend on your behalf heart felt sympathy.

Membership is now 195 (which includes 36 Life Members and 1 honorary Life Member), with 14 Deceased, 1 resigned and 6 un-financial members; in all we have had contact with 216 old friends.

As this is my second, three year term as your President, it is again time for a change.

In conclusion, I thank you again and extend to the incoming President Barney Flanagan and his committee, best wishes and the continuance of my support.

Max Falconer  
President  
28 July 1993



**HONOURS AND AWARDS**

**7TH FIELD ARTILLERY BRIGADE - WORLD WAR 1**

	HQ	25TH BTY	26TH BTY	27TH BTY	107TH BTY	TOTAL
Distinguished Service Order	1	2	1	1	2	7
Military Cross	3	4	4	2	3	14
Distinguished Conduct Medal	2	2	2	2	1	7
Military Medal	7	11	8	12	15	53
Meritorious Service Medal	2	1	1	1	2	7
Belgian Croix De Guerre	-	1	1	1	2	5
Medal Militaire	-	-	-	-	1	1
Mentioned in Despatches	5	4	6	2	9	26
Highly Commended	-	2	4	-	-	6
Total	20	26	26	21	35	126

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**AWARDS TO MEMBERS OF THE 7TH SERVING IN OTHER UNITS  
(As far as is known)**

**WORLD WAR 2**

**VIETNAM**

OBE	2	DSO	2	MC	1
MC	3	MID	3		

**AWARDS TO MEMBERS OF THE 7TH WHILST SERVING IN THE 7TH  
as far as is known (Post 1948)**

OBE	1	MBE	1	OAM	1
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**Laurie Hindmarsh**

### STORAGE OF MEDALS

Storing your medals correctly is the most effective and easiest way of preserving them.

Museums keep their artifacts in stable, carefully regulated conditions all year round. The temperature is kept at 20 - 22 degrees and the humidity at 55%. Light levels are kept low to prevent overheating and fading.

At home, the best we can do is to keep medals clean and dry, away from extremes of temperature, humidity and light. The metal of medals can corrode from damp, and the fabric can rot. High temperature and a very dry environment make them brittle and weak.

Medals are best stored in boxes made of wood or acid-free cardboard (ordinary cardboard is acidic and can harm metals and fabrics). Before use, wooden boxes must be completely coated with three coats of polyurethane resin, then left to dry thoroughly so that no odour remains.

Wrap the medals in acid-free tissue paper or well-washed fabric, preferably undyed. Soft cotton and linen fabrics such as sheeting, handkerchiefs or teatowels are suitable, but other fabrics such as velvet should not be used because some contain acidic dyes.

Acid-free tissue paper as well as boxes made of acid-free cardboard are available from specialist suppliers of library or conservation materials.

Handle the medals as little as possible, as acid from your fingers can harm them. We recommend wearing soft cotton gloves (readily available and inexpensive) when handling medals or any precious article.

REGIMENTAL HISTORY/COLLECTION

Once again I report that no progress has been made with the History. This situation is of course due to my heavy involvement with the RAA Association (NSW) Inc. and to the various stresses and strains in the work place over the last year.

The status of the Project is that I have completed a fair draft of about 8500 words which takes the story of the 7th to the return to Australia in 1919. Since commencing the Project six years ago considerable additional data has come to hand and as a consequence much of the draft will require rewriting. Nevertheless the draft in its present form is a formidable reference document and is serving me well in that regard.

For the future I would think that it will take me at least three to four years to complete the project. The property in the manuscript will remain with me and my family. On current prices, private publication of 500 copies would cost something in the vicinity of \$15,000.00.

Referring now to the valuable collection of Memorabilia collected on the initiative of myself. This was offered to the National Artillery Museum last year, accepted in principle and publicly acknowledged by the Past President of the RAAHS, Col.R.V.McEvoy, in his annual report.

The physical transfer will take place progressively, item by item. The process has been delayed for the reasons stated in the opening paragraph plus reorganisation at the Museum. I am in close communication with the Museum Management.

Naturally, further data is being sought for the History together with items for the collection and I am glad to say that I have not been disappointed. I gratefully acknowledge contributions received from the following;

Major R.M.Corbett	Sundry items located at RHQ 7 FD Regt
Mrs Patricia Grant	Another box of memorabilia from the G.E.Mason Collection
Mr E.Jeffreson	Notes Eastern Command MT Course No 2 Warwick Farm 16 June 1941
Mr R.C.M.Toplis	Further biographical notes of past Commanding Officers
Major P.J.Walton	A video of an 8mm movie film of a weekend Field Firing Exercise in 1950

LAURIE HINDMARSH



**Presentation of Commanders Officers Photo Gallery - 18 May 1993  
Brig Arthur Hanson, Col John Crowe, Col Chris Hogan, Brig John  
Keefe, LtCol Neil Hawkins, LtCol Stuart Staziker, LtCol John Fairless**



**Presentation of Most Proficient Soldier Award - Dec 92  
Laurie Hindmarsh, Keith Leek, Gunner Richard Shunwah  
(HQ Bty)and Max Falconer**

**Graham Elsley, Wal Gresley, Dene Nelson, Allan Jeffreson  
and Brig.Arthur Hanson**

