

7 Field Regiment Association

Yandoo

Royal Australian Artillery

1995

Vol 1 No 9



7 FD REGT RAA ASSOCIATION
WARRAKE ROAD VILLOUGHBY 2068

FROM THE DESK OF LTCOL A.J.KARIKS, RFD
COMMANDING OFFICER, 7TH FIELD REGIMENT RAA

Training in 1995 has been very rewarding. The Regiment started the year with a deployment exercise for the guns at Singleton and CPX for CP and FO parties in February. The usual LFX's at Singleton and participation in the 8 Bde CPX in June were all part of the build-up for the major exercise for the year, Kangaroo 95.

August saw the Regiment deploy a Field Battery (-) and FSCC to RAAF Tindal in order to conduct protective operations in support of 8 Brigade. The vehicles were driven the 8500 km return journey, with most other personnel enjoying the hospitality of a Qantas flight. The lucky few in the advance party were treated to the comforts of transport by Hercules.

The guns were stationary for the exercise giving them the opportunity to develop their position into a formidable defensive location. Gun pits were dug as were rifle pits, sleeping bays etc, right next to the boundary fence of the RAAF base. The FO parties were involved in numerous patrolling activities with 2/17 RNSWR. All this was conducted with temperatures in the mid 30's; training in winter can be terribly unpleasant.

September sees the Regiment conducting a combined Range Practice at Singleton and Escape & Evasion exercise between RAAF Williamtown and Gan Gan. The Escape & Evasion exercise will be conducted in conjunction with the Volunteer Rescue Association (VRA) and State Emergency Service (SES). The Gunners will be released at Williamtown with only their webbing, their wits and a very basic map. The VRA/SES using the resources of their own organisations will be doing their best to locate and capture the escaping Gunners.

In November, training for the year will culminate with an LFX at Singleton. It is hoped that 12/16 Hunter River Lancers will be exercising their APC's with us allowing some combined arms training to be conducted.

113th FIELD BATTERY

This Battery is a sub-unit of 7th Field Regiment RAA and is based at Adamstown. It proudly claims to be the oldest artillery unit in Australia with its genesis in the formation of the Newcastle Volunteer Artillery and Rifle Corps in December 1855. The numeral "3" in the Battery's title appeared in official records in 1869 when First Lieutenant Samuel Holt was promoted to Captain of No.3 battery, Volunteer Artillery, Newcastle.

Since 1869 "3" has continued to appear in the title of the Battery apart from short periods when "2" and "5" made their appearance. The battery was a Coast Defence Battery at Fort Scratchley for most of its life until June 1962 when it became a Light Anti-Aircraft Battery. Subsequently the Battery moved to Adamstown where it was attached to 7th Field Regiment RAA. In 1976 the Battery became a Field Battery and a sub-unit of the 7th thereby creating an unusual situation where the sub-unit is almost twice the age of the parent unit.

113th Battery has the distinction of being the only Coast Defence Battery in the history of Australia to have engaged an enemy warship. The engagement took place in the small hours of the 8th June 1942. At that time the title of the Battery was 113th Heavy Battery.

Courtesy of the Colonel Commandant, the following article is reproduced from the Journal of the Royal Military College of Science, Shrivenham, December 1973. Although a few of the terms may have changed in 20 years, the mystique (as far as other Corps are concerned) remains, and rightly so!

GUNNER GLOSSARY

Overseas students attending the Army Staff Course are given a glossary to help them understand British jargon. This privilege is now extended to all who may have trouble understanding the language known as Gunner Mumbo Jumbo.

- A** Artillery or Arty, or indefinite article.
- B** a prefix often applied to the Gunners. BC, BK or B.....gunners.
- C** C of M. A gunner's reason for missing right (or left) of target.
- D** Dropshort. A term of endearment used by Infantry and Cavalry.
- E** Ethos. A thing gunners say they have.
Excuse. A thing they always have.
Ethics. A thing they seldom have.
- F** FOO. A junior gunner officer whose job is to explain to the infantry that the shells landing on them are not his.
- G** Gunner. The lowest rank (in the Royal Regiment).
- H** Horse. Used in gunner establishment proposals as a means of obtaining extra manpower.
Horse Gunner. A superior being.
- I** IG. A very superior being.
- J** Jump. A gunner's reason for missing, high or low.
- K** Kaptain (sic). As in Battery Kaptain.
- L** Line. A thing gunners are frequently 'off for'.
- M** Meteorology. A gunner's reason for missing high, low, left or right.
Mystique. A gunner's thing, taught on courses at Larkhill.
- N** Neurosis. A thing all gunners acquire.
- O** Observation)
- P** Post) A place where FOO's take cover from their shells.
- Q** Quadrant, or QE. A thing gunners put on to raise a barrell.
- R** Repeat. A word infantry never use on the radio or the gunners hit them again.
- S** Shot. A word gunners use to tell the infantry they are about to be hit.
- T** Tiddles. A little gunner (fire plan).
Typical. A term of affection eg. 'he is a typical gunner'.
- U** Upper Register. High angle.
- V** VT fuze. A mechanical or electrical means of creating prematures.
- W** Win. A thing you can never do with gunners.
- X** A common sort of gunner.
- Y** YO or Young Officer. To learn to be one you go on a course at the Royal School.
- Z** Zig Zag. A thing gunners wear on Friday.

REPORT ON THE ROYAL ARTILLERY ASSEMBLY

UK - MAY 1995

BY CAPT J.E.S.HANSFORD ED RAA

The Royal Artillery Association held its 1995 Assembly in the Ballroom of Artillery House, Royal Artillery Barracks, Woolwich, LONDON UK SE 18 4BH, on Saturday 20 May 1995, commencing at 1030 hours.

The parading of standards of each of the representative Branches was most impressive, a member from each marching down the centre of the ballroom alongside another representative, to music provided by the RA Band. The ballroom being fully lined with chairs facing the dais. Members then turned at the front and the Colours were parked at the sides of the stage. After prayers and commemoration by the Venerable Peter Mallett CB, the Honorary Chaplain, the Chairman of the Board of Management, Maj General MCM Steele MBE, welcomed those present, and in particular made mention of the member from the Royal Australian Artillery Association, Capt JES Hansford, the member from Canada and the member from Mauritius. The large gathering of gunners assembled was in the vicinity of 400. A detailed account was given of the proposal to proceed with the building of the RA Museum onto one site at the Woolwich Royal Arsenal. Maj Gen Ian Durie, CBE MA, Director of the Royal Artillery, proceeded to outline the initiatives of the Regiment, looking to the reorganising of Arty into the 21st century. This included briefly the following ;

Training : Environmental study for all ranks before and during exercises.

Manning & Recruiting : The Army is basically 7% undermanned plus losses to courses and wastage. A study was in hand for the retention of soldiers of all ranks .

Reorganisation : HQRA is moving from Woolwich to Larkhill. Larkhill was the RA Trials and development site. RHQ remains at Woolwich and continues to be responsible for all Arty Affairs.

The regular RA regiments total 16. 19 RA Regt relocating from Germany to Woolwich. Subsequently in June - 19 RA Regt was posted to Bosnia.

Operational Tours: 5RA and 40RA Regts relocated from Ireland to UK. 2 other units, uptrained to 7 days notice to move, have been stood down unless security forces in Ireland are forced to re-engage. A radar troop was in Bosnia mortar tracking. A new sound ranging group HALO (hostile Artillery Locator) has also been posted to Bosnia. 29 (Commando) RA Regt posted to Cyprus.

New Equipment: Warrior OP vehicle(hightech) in service. High velocity missile air defence system now up to 3 Btys. Radar capable of detecting bursts of individual rounds out to 12 km. AS 90 Gun now with 5 Regts. This new weapon is a 155 SP Gun in tracked vehs. This is the worlds most advanced 155 mm sp howitzer. Of 39 calibre it can deliver 136 kg of HE on one target in under 10 seconds, at all angles of elevation up to 70deg in a 360 deg area. Its range without stabilising spades is 24,700m

and 30 km using ER ammunition. Fitted with a 52 calibre barrel the AS 90 can achieve a range of 40 km. Following this address the Assembly was given an update on the RA Association.

A committee has been formed to find jobs for gunners, either out of the service or leaving the service. The aim is now broadened, by using computers, to include all military personnel. For a fee to the RA Assoc Committee running this programme, companies are able to tap into the computer and select the person of interest to them. The funds are used to support the cost of the working staff and Museum. All military personnel are being advised of this facility which according to the reports is doing very well and with a profit.

Another committee - the RA Association Welfare Committee is looking after gunners who have fallen on hard times. This committee asked all present, other gunners and those who knew of gunners in such a situation to report to HQRA for its ongoing assistance in welfare. The Association said that while there had been 750,000 gunners in UK only 17,000 were in the Assoc, so try to get others to join. The results should be exceptional. The Assoc said that it would advertise its existence.

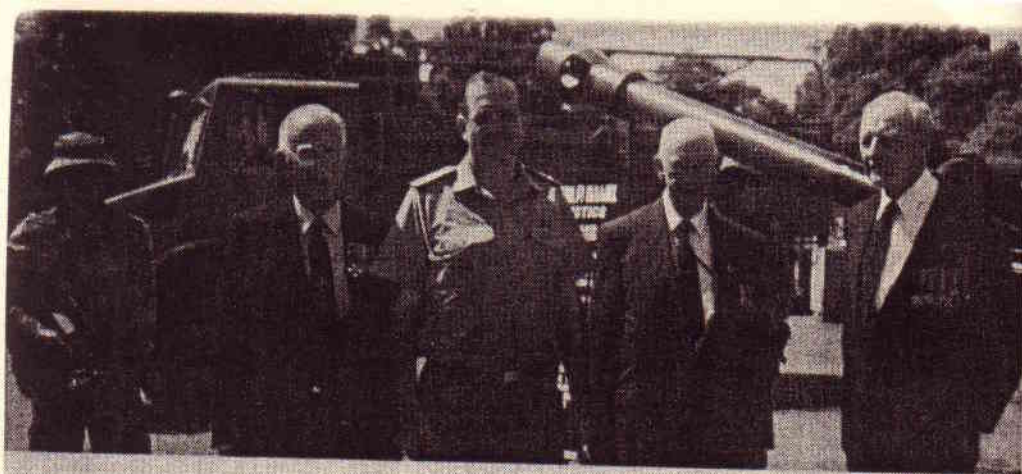
At 1230 hrs lunch was served in the Junior Ranks restaurant to the accompaniment of music provided by the RA Band. A typical British lunch - curry, rice, fish & chips, stews, veg and desserts ("lovely tucker") reported our correspondent.

Four members of the Chelmsford Branch of the RA Assoc, Jim Harrison (Pres), Fred Burden (Chaiman), Tony Harmon (V/Pres) and Peter Dye (Sec) took me on a tour of the premises. The silver, the medals, paintings, in the Officers Mess all have to be seen to be appreciated. A magnificent display. After a few drinks we attended the address by the Master Gunner and the Chairman's closing remarks. Again he referred to the three visiting Arty reps by name and thanked us for attending.

Then followed the retrieval of the Colours of the various branches. Whipping down to the junior ranks restaurant for drinks and the reception, I was able to meet some of the senior officers who personally thanked me for showing interest and also asked questions of our Associations in Australia.

At 1630 hrs on the front parade ground, the largest parade ground in the UK, a musical drive was performed by the Kings Troop, Royal Horse Artillery, together with a massed bands display for the members of the assembly and public. A most memorable display.

During the address to the gathering prior to the RHA and band performance, the public expressed their pleasure at being told that a Regiment of Arty was again in barracks at Woolwich. This was a touching display of acceptance of the army by the public.



**Top - BRIG ARTHUR HANSON, LTCOL ANDI KARIKS,
MAJ ROSS DAVIDSON AND MAJ LAURIE HINDMARSH**

**Centre - BOB OWENS, MAX FALCONER, DOUG COPPARD,
HARRY TAYLOR, IAN HAYLEN & KEVIN FLANAGAN**

Bottom - DANNY TOPLIS, JOHN CARSTENS, IAN HAYLEN & DON MCVAY

