



Artillery WA



Official Newsletter of Royal Australian Artillery Association of WA (Inc), 2/3 Fd Regt RAA, 2/7 Fd Regt, 3 Fd Regt Associations and RAA Historical Society of WA (INC).

WebSite: <http://www.artillerywa.org.au>

Edition 3/ 05

October 2005



**3 Fd Regt Association
Members at LFX
Lancelin
Sep 05**

**One of the Association Members getting
reacquainted with the
“way it was”**



Some of the “Old Age Soldiers” with their new style ‘Mog’



Notice Board

Mark this date in your calendars

Sunday 6 November 2005

Gunners Day

St. Matthew's Garrison Church – Guildford

Reviewing Officer – Brigadier Doug Collins

See Page 4 for details

RAAHS BUSY BEES

The next busy bees at Irwin Barracks are scheduled for:

29 OCT 26 NOV 17 DEC

LEIGHTON BATTERY OPEN DAYS

The Leighton Battery Heritage Site is open on a regular basis on the first Sunday of every month from 10 AM to 3:30 PM with tours of the tunnels every half hour.

COVER

Snaps of 3rd Fd Regt outing to the LFX – Sep 05 –

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 ••••• **Subs to your Association or Society are now due – RAAA / 3 FRAAA - \$ 15 RAAHS - \$ 25** •••••

The Editor gratefully acknowledges the contributions to the newsletter by the members, whose names appear with the corresponding articles. Articles, editorial comment or book reviews for publication should be submitted to the editor, Gabriel D'Uva at: Royal Australian Artillery Association of WA (Inc) PO Box 881, Claremont WA 6910. Phone: 93836544 Fax: 93836370 or E-mail the Editor at info@artillerywa.org.au

ROYAL AUSTRALIAN ARTILLERY ASSOCIATION WA (INC)

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The forthcoming major event "Gunners Day" will be at St. Matthews Square Guildford on Sunday 6th November and the Reviewing Officer will be our Patron Brigadier Doug Collins. We hope to see you all on this important day.

A number of our members attended the Corps Dinner at Irwin Barracks, which commenced with pre dinner drinks in the hall at Hobbs Artillery Park then onto the Mess at Brigade Headquarters. This was hosted by the Battery Commander Major Andrew Dunjey with Brigadier Geoff Hand and the Colonel Commandant Richard Lawler amongst the guests.

We recommend to those who did not have the opportunity to attend to do so in 2006 for an enjoyable and interesting evening for Gunners and their wives and partners.

Bruce G. Campbell
President

ADVERTISING

ANYBODY INTERESTED IN ADVERTISING THEIR BUSINESS IN **ARTILLERY WA** FOR A DONATION OF \$ 10 (TEN) PER YEAR, (FOUR ISSUES), BOTH IN PRINTED AND WEB SITE EDITIONS, PLEASE MAIL OR EMAIL THE EDITOR AT THE ADDRESSES SHOWN FOR THE ASSOCIATION TO DISCUSS OPTIONS.

News Flash

WELFARE OFFICER

John Walsh has generously donated his services to be the Association's Welfare Officer. Anybody that needs to discuss any Welfare Funding can contact John via email at info@artillerywa.org.au or jfxwalsh@bigpond.com.au or by phone on 93836544, Wednesday mornings.

GUNNERS' DAY PARADE SUNDAY 6th OF NOVEMBER 2005

ORDERS FOR MARCH PAST

1415hrs

The Chief Marshall, will call for the markers and give the order, "***Fall in,***" with the Parade facing in the direction of the march. The formation will comprise the Band at the head of the column, followed by the Flag Bearers, followed by the Returned Men and Women, followed by 7 Fd Bty 3Rd Fd Regt and members of the combined Cadet Units. He will call the parade to attention and will hand over to the Parade Commander, Mr. Peter Rowles, who will move to the head of the column immediately behind the band and immediately in front of the Flag Bearers.

1430hrs

The Parade Commander will give the order "***Parade will march past in column of route, by the left, quick march***". After entering Meadow Street and approaching the dais he will give the order, "***Eyes Left,***" followed by, "***Eyes Front***". At the entrance to the park he will give the order, "***Left Wheel***". He will lead the column to a position on the West Side of the War Memorial. 7 Fd Bty, 3Rd Fd Regt will have moved to the East Side with the Band having halted on the open area on the north side. The Parade Commander will give the order, "***Ex Serving Gunners, Halt***". The BC of 7Bty will give the order, "***Serving Members, Halt***". The Parade Commander will order, "***Ex Serving Gunners, Left Turn, Stand at Ease, Stand Easy***". The BC 7Bty will order, "***Serving Members, Right Turn, Stand at Ease, Stand Easy***".

1500hrs

At the end of procedures at the Memorial the Chief Marshall, will call the parade to attention and order, "***Parade will retire to the Garrison Church - Commanders take charge***". The Parade Commander will give the order, "***Ex Serving Gunners, Attention, Right Turn, by the Left, Right Wheel, Quick March,***" and the Battery Commander, 7Fd Bty will order, "***Serving Members, Attention, Left Turn, by the Left, Left Wheel Quick March***".

After proceeding behind the Band to the position alongside the Church (between the Church and the Church Hall) and when the front rank of the returned men and women is in line with the Church entrance, the Parade Commander will give the order, "*Halt, Stand at Ease, Stand Easy*". 7 Fd Bty from its halted position behind the returned men and women will dismiss. The Band will have continued to a position in front of the Church and under the Band Commanders orders will dismiss. The returned men and women will be given the order "*Returned Men and Women left hand file leading, into the church Quick March*". When all the returned Men and Women have entered the Church the VIPs and guests will be ushered into the Church.

At the conclusion of the service everybody is invited to afternoon tea in the Church Hall.

ANZAC MEDALS OF HONOUR

REG STEVENS

It is a fantastic and moving sight to go and watch an Anzac parade and to see the veterans march with all the colour of flags, uniforms and of course medals.

Medals are awarded for many reasons. Mostly veterans receive medals for service in different theatres of war. A soldier who served the entire time of World War II in Europe would receive some different medals to one who served totally in the Pacific area.

The different wars have different medals and it is not uncommon to see veterans of World War II and the Korean War wearing their medals from both conflicts.

In recent times a bar or clasp was issued with the name of the theatre e.g. Korea for service in the gulf war in 1991, and this clasp is sewn onto the ribbon of the Active Service Medal.

Some long serving personnel may have several clasps on the Active Service medal indicating the areas in which they have served.

There are also Long Service And Good Conduct awards issued for serving a certain time in the forces and also in some civilian services such as the Police Service and St. John's Ambulance.

GALLANTRY

Gallantry awards are issued to personnel who have been recommended for such awards by others. Awards such as the Victoria Cross can only be awarded to someone on the recommendation of an officer who has witnessed the particular act of bravery. These are then scrutinized and are either not acted upon or a lesser award may be made.

Australian medals are nearly always named. Most of the circular medals have the naming impressed on the rim of the medals, stars on the back and some of the modern circular medals are also named on the back.

There are always exceptions, for example some World War II Navy and Air Force star medals were issued unnamed.

THE WEARING OF MEDALS

Orders, decorations and medals are worn on the left breast in a single line suspended from a single brooch mount or a rectangular frame, known as 'court mounted', the latter giving a firmer grip which occasions less damage than medals swung mounted which hang more loosely.

The brooch or frame is covered by the medals' ribbons. The most senior medal in the order of precedence is worn furthest from the left shoulder. The obverse of the medals should be shown. If more than five medals are worn they should not be suspended side by side but overlapped. The entire group should not exceed sixteen centimetres wide.

ORDER OF PRECEDENCE

All orders, decorations and medals must be worn in an order as laid down in the order of precedence of honours and awards. Anyone with any queries on this can contact a specialist for further advice.

MINIATURES

Miniatures are small versions of medals designed for formal evening wear. This custom appears to have started in Europe in the 18th century, but is now more or less universal.

Australian miniatures are usually half the size of the full size medals. Miniatures differ in one respect from the full size, whereas the full size are produced by a single contractor, miniatures have been produced by many jewellers and goldsmiths, consequently the quality may vary considerably. Unlike the full size the miniature medals do not bear the name of the recipient.

RIBBON BARS

With the wearing of medals reserved usually for ceremonial occasions such as ANZAC Day parades, the wearing of ribbon bars on uniforms is daily common practice. The ribbon bar has the ribbon colours of awarded medals in order of precedence pinned on the left breast representing medals that have been awarded to that person.

MEDAL RIBBON

The ribbon of each medal is individual. The ribbon colours usually have some significance to the medals concerned.

For example The Air Crew Europe Star, awarded to air crew of planes flying over Europe between the 3rd of September 1939 and the 5th of June 1944 has a light blue ribbon (the sky) with black stripes on the edges (night flying) with a narrow yellow stripe on each side (enemy searchlights).

Medal ribbons are not always in a symmetrical pattern and those ribbons must be mounted in the correct way to have the colours showing as protocol dictates.

BARs AND CLASPS

Bars and clasps are awarded for certain campaigns and also for length of service on long service awards. For example the Defence Force Long Service medal is issued after fifteen years service and a bar is issued for each five years service thereafter. These bars are sewn onto the ribbon of the medal.

A person can be awarded with the same award more than once but only one medal is issued. For the second and any further awards a bar or clasp is issued to be sewn onto the ribbon of the medal.

NEW MEDALS

Three new medals have been mooted, two of them for qualifying personnel who have served in Afghanistan and Iraq and another for qualifying personnel who have served in the Australian forces since the end of World War II.

CARE AND MAINTENANCE

Medals should be kept in a dry cool place. Wipe the medals with a soft cloth to remove dirt and moisture and store them wrapped either in tissue paper or cotton cloth in a plastic sealable bag to prevent moisture damage.

You should never attempt to polish medals once mounted with a harsh metal polish as once on it is almost impossible to remove without taking the medals apart and having them re-mounted. This polish will corrode the medals over time. A simple wipe over with a soft cloth will usually brighten them up.

Never store medals if they have been wet. Dry them naturally and ensure they are completely dry before storing to prevent mould and

mildew attacking the medals and ribbons.

When medals are to be mounted you should always use a reputable person to do the work. You may pay a little more but as they say, you pay for what you get. Ask if the mounter cleans, polishes and coats the medal with a sealer before mounting the medals as this gives the medals a polished look for many years.

Court mounting is preferable to swung mounting as there is far less damage done to the medals by the scraping and banging together of the medals.

ANZAC DAY

With the passing of many of our veterans family members are now encouraged to march on Anzac Day to represent their father, grand father, uncle etc.

It is fantastic to see these people marching proudly wearing the medals awarded to their family member.

The correct way to wear these medals is to pin and wear them on the right breast. It is not correct protocol to wear medals not awarded to you on your left breast.

Many families are having replica sets of family medals mounted so that each child or grandchild can have a part of the family history for themselves and these are also being worn at Anzac Day marches all over Australia.

Courtesy of Reg Stevens Medals

**MEDAL MOUNTING
PROFESSIONAL
COURT MOUNTING
FULL SIZE AND MINIATURES
RIBBON BARS - REPLICAS &
DISPLAY FRAMES AVAILABLE**

REG STEVENS
9622 2819 Northam

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From the 2/7th – by Alf Richards

OCTOBER IS A SPECIAL MONTH FOR THE MEMBERS OF THE 9TH AUSTRALIAN DIVISION, AND THAT INCLUDES OUR OWN 2/7 AUST FD REGT. ON 23 OCTOBER 1942 AT 20 MINUTES TO 10.00hrs OVER 850 FIELD AND 52 MEDIUM GUNS LAID DOWN A BARRAGE ALONG THE 40MILE EL ALAMEIN FRONT FROM THE MEDITERRANEAN COAST IN THE NORTH TO THE IMPASSABLE QATTARA DEPRESSION IN THE SOUTH. FROM THAT MONSTROUS SOUL-SHATTERING (FOR THE AXIS POWERS, AT LEAST) EXPERIENCE TO THE FINAL BREAKTHROUGH ON 5TH NOVEMBER THE BATTLE RAGED BACK AND FORTH WITH THE 9TH DIV PLAYING A PIVOTAL ROLE.

THE AUSTRALIANS DID NOT TAKE PART IN THE PURSUIT. IT WAS BACK TO PALESTINE AND PREPARE FOR THE RETURN HOME AS THE JAPS WERE, BY THIS TIME, PUSHING DANGEROUSLY CLOSE TO AUSTRALIA.

TO COMMEMORATE THIS MOST SIGNIFICANT BATTLE AND VICTORY THE 2/7 AUST FD (W.A.) EX-MEMBERS` ASSN HOLD A LUNCHEON EACH YEAR ON 23 OCTOBER. AT ONE TIME MEMBERS AND WIVES WITH FRIENDS AND GUESTS NUMBERED AROUND 150. NOW WE HAVE AROUND 20 ATTENDING. SUCH IS THE RAVAGE OF TIME!!.

THE OCTOBER BATTLE, ALSO REFERRED TO AS THE "OFFENSIVE" BATTLE RIGHTLY STANDS OUT AS ONE OF THE MAJOR EVENTS - A TURNING POINT, IN THE WAR - AS CHURCHILL SAID "BEFORE EL ALAMEIN WE HAD NEVER WON A BATTLE; AFTER EL ALAMEIN WE NEVER LOST A BATTLE"

WHILE THIS IS TRUE OF THE OFFENSE, THE PERIOD FROM THE BEGINNING OF JULY, ALSO REFERRED TO AS THE "DEFENSIVE" BATTLE SHOULD NOT BE FORGOTTEN. ROMMEL HAD DRIVEN THE BRITISH 8TH ARMY OUT OF LIBYA AND WAS STORMING WITHIN 70 MILES OF ALEXANDRIA. THE 8TH ARMY WAS IN FULL RETREAT AND IT SEEMED NOTHING COULD STOP HIM FROM TAKING OVER CAIRO AND THE SUEZ CANAL. AS IT WAS GENERAL SIR CLAUDE AUCHINLECK COMMANDER OF THE 8TH ARMY DECIDED TO MAKE A STAND AT EL ALAMEIN, SOME 70 MILES FROM ALEXANDRIA. IT WAS OBVIOUS THAT ROMMEL`S SUPPLY LINES WERE STRETCHED TO THE LIMIT AND HIS TROOPS WERE NEAR EXHAUSTION FROM THE FURY OF THE RACE ACROSS NORTH AFRICA. IN ADDITION THE TOPOGRAPHY OF THE LAND AT THIS POINT GAVE AUCHINLECK AN ADVANTAGE. IN THE NORTH WAS THE MEDITERRANEAN AND JUST 40 MILES SOUTH WAS THE QATTARA DEPRESSION, AN EXTENSIVE IMPENETRABLE EXTENSIVE MARSHY AREA THAT COULD NOT BE CROSSED BY "ANYTHING MORE MECHINICAL THAN A CAMEL". AS A FURTHER ADVANTAGE WE HAD AIR SUPERIORITY WITH AIRFIELDS IN CLOSE VICINITY AS COMPARED WITH THE AXIS FORCES. IT WAS AT THIS STAGE THAT THE AUSTRALIAN 9TH DIVISION AND 2ND NEW ZEALAND DIVISION CAME ON THE SCENE.

THE FIRST ATTACK TOOK PLACE ON THE NIGHT OF 9/10 JULY AND INVOLVED MOVES TO TAKE A COUPLE OF POINTS OF HIGH GROUND ALONG THE COAST. THE ACTION WAS A SUCCESS, THE OBJECTIVES WERE REACHED ON TIME, 600 PRISONERS WERE CAPTURED, 90 OF THEM GERMAN, AND 18 TANKS WERE DESTROYED. OUR 2/7TH CASUALTIES; 2 KILLED 4 WOUNDED.

VARIOUS OFFENSIVE AND DEFENSIVE ACTIONS CONTINUED UP TO THE END OF JULY BY WHICH TIME WE MOVED INTO WHAT WAS DESCRIBED AS THE "STATIC" PERIOD. CLEARLY BOTH SIDES WERE REGROUPING AND REBUILDING FOR THE FINAL OFFENSIVE WHICH WAS SURE TO COME..



TAKE POST

3 Field Regiment RAA Association

President's Message:

Welcome to this edition of Artillery WA. I would like to remind all readers that this is your magazine and your contribution of any item of Gunner history or gossip would be most welcome.

The Corp Dinner and Battery birthday was conducted on Saturday 9 July with an attendance of 110 serving and ex serving Gunners in attendance.

I had the privilege of presenting our Associations award for the Best Soldier Award to Cpl Machin for his outstanding contribution in the Q store especially in the absence of the BQMS.

On your behalf I also presented to the Battery a framed photo of the last gun firing at Gallipoli. As you may know the Battery has the actual breach block from this gun and our photo is now displayed in front of the 18 pdr, in the drill hall.

With all this going on we still had time for an update from both the Brigade Commander Brig Geoff Hand and the BC Major Andrew Dunjey, and also time to thoroughly enjoy ourselves. Place this date in you diary for next year.

Our Association has applied for and been accepted for Associate membership of the Hobbs Artillery Memorial Foundation. Our support of the Foundation will help it to become a Pty Ltd Company that will enable it provide protection for our museum and Unit collections at Karrakatta. Tom Arnautovic and myself have been voted on to the board and will keep our membership up dated as we progress.

Our membership was invited to observe an LFX on 17 Sep, but due to the timing of the invitation we could only advise members by email, so if yours is not recorded please advice Secretary Tom. An intrepid band of 12 braved the elements and apart from the usual Lancelin tornado at 0200 Sat, and the ticks, the group enjoyed the experience, thank you BC.

Gunners Day is fast approaching, a separate flyer has been mailed, but if this reaches you before the day please come along as it already promises to be great day.

Ubique

Peter Rowles



3rd Fd Regt Members enjoying the comforts of Lancelin

3 Field Regiment Association Annual Award 2005

Most Outstanding Soldier

5803990 CPL C. Machin

Corporal Craig Machin, Royal Australian Ordnance Corp's, is presented the Most Outstanding Soldier award for exemplary service to 7 Field Battery, 3rd Field Regiment in 2005. Corporal Machin has served with distinction during the year and has consistently produced outstanding results in all his endeavours. Corporal Machin has been heavily relied upon due to the unavailability of the regular staff and has maintained an excellent attendance record despite the heavy demands of his civilian employment. Corporal Machin conducted his duties as a storeman in an extremely professional manner, in the field and in barracks. This is a credit to him and indicative of his dedication and commitment to the Battery. His sound advice and common sense has set the standard for more junior soldiers and has allowed the Battery to continue to conduct effective training. Corporal Machin has also demonstrated high technical and professional competency in his trade and individual soldier skills.

For exemplary service, consistency and determination, Corporal Machin is to be congratulated. He is a credit to his Corps and to the Battery.

A.M.Dunjoy
Major
Battery Commander
9 July 2005

Artillery from around the world



Horses pulling an 18-pound gun, by H. Septimus Power (1919)

- The West Australian Tuesday Apr 21, 2005 -



7 Field Battery SMIG's Report



7 FIELD BATTERY - 3 FIELD REGIMENT

July - September 2005

INTRODUCTION

7 Field Battery SMIG changed hands in August with the arrival of WO2 Yanner, and WO2 Hodgkins resuming the position of BSM. WO2 Hodgkins has been filling the position of SMIG since January 2005 due to WO2 Yanner's overseas deployment to Iraq. 7 Field Battery would like to thank WO2 Hodgkins for fulfilling this position.

Since July of this year, the Battery has been kept busy with the completion of several courses and a LFX. Four students have successfully completed the BCCC and three students have successfully completed the Advance Gunners Course.

RECRUITING

The Battery Recruiting Cell has been busy with three new soldiers recruited and four transfers from the ARA to the Battery. It is great to have new members in the Battery and we look forward to their involvement with us.

DETACHED

LCPL W.R. Cook was promoted to CPL in July and detached to Operation Anode in the Solomon Islands for several months. The Battery wishes him well on his overseas deployment and we await a safe return.

AFX

Over the weekend of the 16th and 17th September, the Battery deployed to Lancelin Range to conduct a AFX. The weekend was broken into two phases with live fire and movement on the Saturday and a medivac with the Western Australian Rescue Helicopter on the Sunday. The live fire and movement exercised the Battery in both their deployment drills and technical gunnery. With an emphasis being played on FO quick fireplans. Two fireplans were fired and the aim of developing the skills of the JOSTs and the CP was achieved. On Saturday, the gun line was visited by several former members of the unit who were impressed with the standard of the newer generation of soldier. The medivac was conducted as the Battery was carrying out a dry, quick action on the Sunday morning. Whilst carrying out quick action drills the position came under attack resulting in several casualties. The RMO and his medics were put through their paces as two members were treated for gunshot wounds. A rescue helicopter was called for, arrived and transported two casualty's back to Perth. The weekend was a success with all elements of the Battery working well and getting realistic training with the use of the helicopter.

QUEEN'S BIRTHDAY SALUTE

The Battery fired a salute in commemoration of the Queen's Birthday on the 24th September at Kings Park, Perth. The salute was a success with many onlookers appreciating the effort of the Battery. The Battery Guide, Sgt Morrow, should be congratulated on having the Battery's salute drills to a high standard.

COMING EVENTS

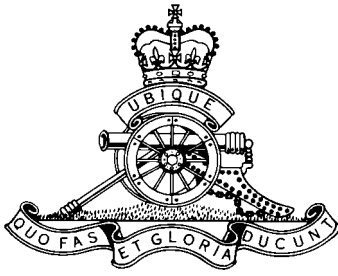
The Battery will deploy in late October for its annual AFX at Lancelin Range. This will be a combination of both dry and live fire and movement in preparation for the ARTEP. The Battery will be conducting a dining in night for all ranks at the conclusion of the AFX. 7 Field Battery is looking forward to the challenges that lie ahead in the upcoming AFX.

WO2 YANNER
SMIG
7 Fd Bty

Artillery from around the world



Australian Gunners in action – 1915 -



THE AIMING POST

The Royal Australian Artillery Historical Society Of Western Australia (Inc) Newsletter

President's Report:

The Annual Society's Breakfast, by the time of publication would have been held at the Athol Hobbs Room at the Freshwater Bay Club Inc.

This event offers the opportunity for members and their partners to once again meet up.

The Workshop programme continues at full pace and the Mortar 170mm piece being restored is receiving the final touches and will shortly be returned to South Perth for repositioning on the mounting plinth in Labouchere Road.

All those concerned with the project are to be commended for the dedication on this restoration.

It is pleasing to report that the Leighton Battery Historical Site is receiving strong support by the public and the planning committees are projecting additional improvements for the future. No doubt an upgrade on progress will be made from time to time to keep all members informed.

Bruce G. Campbell
President

From Don Rae

BREAKFAST ON THE SWAN

The Annual Sunday morning Breakfast was held on 25th September 2005 in the Athol Hobbs Room at Royal Freshwater Bay Yacht Club Peppermint Grove.

In stunning surroundings on a perfect morning Members enjoyed a hearty breakfast overlooking the Club Moorings with a backdrop rivalling that of Sydney Harbour!

It was a great pleasure to welcome Roger Fitzhardinge who, at the age of 94 is the most senior member of the Society and who managed to mount the stairway to the Athol Hobbs Room unaided!

Roger, among other appointments in 3 Field Regiment, was Battery Commander of "Q" Battery (8 Bty in today's language) in 1951 and was seated with Andrew Dunjey, the current BC 7 Battery, joining us for the first time since his appointment earlier in 2005. Their conversation should have been recorded!

Members are indebted to the Society President Bruce Campbell, a past Commodore of the Club, who was responsible for arranging the venue for yet another year.

WELCOME TO COLIN YANNER

Warrant Officer Colin Yanner was welcomed at a morning tea by the Wednesday Action Group when he arrived at 7 Field Battery as Sergeant Major Instructor Gunnery (SMIG) in late August 2005. Colin has settled in to his appointment quickly and has joined the Society for which we are most pleased.

Colin's wife and two children have accompanied him and are "sampling" WA hospitality. Apart from one child succumbing to chicken pox soon after arriving in Perth (as a result preventing the Yanners from joining us at Breakfast) "all is well" reports Colin.

We wish Colin and his family the very best throughout his appointment.



LAST POST

**JOHN QUINN
KEVIN RICHARDS
COLIN JOHN TURNER**

BEREAVEMENT

Members will be saddened to learn of the demise of John Quinn who passed away on 7th August 2005 as the result of a long standing illness.

John was a Foundation Member of the Society who donated many items of memorabilia he had accumulated during his long service in the Australian Regular Army from which he retired as a Warrant Officer in the appointment of Regimental Quartermaster Sergeant 3 Field Regiment RAA. He was the recipient of the Long Service and Good Conduct Medal and the Meritorious Service Medal.

John devoted much of his post service life in support of RAA Association WA, The Returned & Services League, 3 Field Regiment RAA Association and for years was a Marshal with the Royal Agricultural Society.

John is survived by his wife, Margot and two sons.

UBIQUE

BEREAVEMENT

Kevin Richards was a less well known Member of the Society who was attracted to join through his friend of 52 years, Rob Eggleston, in January 1999. A highly qualified Electrical Fitter, Kevin became an invaluable member of the Team maintaining Leighton Battery Heritage Site and was responsible for the installation of special lighting in the Bessell-Browne Display Room at Karrakatta. For years he conducted the Occupational Health & Safety (OH&S) examination of the Society's considerable collection of electrical equipment. He will be missed but not forgotten.

Kevin is survived by his wife Kaye, a son and two daughters.

UBIQUE

Soldier with heart of gold

COLIN JOHN TURNER

Born: Fremantle, December 1950
Died: Perth, June 2005

On Wednesday afternoons he could be seen on the touchline, barracking for his artillery team in their weekly game of touch football. "Go the Guns!" he'd bellow.

Quartermasters have a reputation for being tough characters, and every now and then, Warrant Officer Class Two Col Turner would prove he was no exception to the quartermaster rule. But come half-time, he would carry orange quarters on to the field to re-energise his team and urge them on for the second half.

"I think he had appointed himself as our coach," one of his colleagues reminisced. "But because he cared, he just had this way of making you feel extremely proud and privileged to be a part of the unit, the corps and the army. I always used to say he had a heart of gold."

A tough exterior, but the kind of person who would do anything for a mate.

Says Capt. Geoff Palmer, a former battery captain of 7 Forward Battery, 3rd Field Regiment: "To me as an officer, Col had always been a professional and helpful person, and was particularly helpful to young officers who were willing to accept the benefit of his experience. Woe betide any young officer who was not willing, though!"

Son Brenten confirmed the two sides to his father in a poem he penned, one verse of which reads:

*A giant of 5'6" with a heart of gold
A Ganner from way back, tough as nails,
my Dad
A big softy and a prankster, truth be told
Thanks for all the great times we had.*

Brenten's poem was read out at the military service conducted at Karrakatta Cemetery.

It was befitting someone who had twice received recognition for his contribution to the army with an Australia Day Medallion and who had been presented with his Royal Australian Artillery 20-year long-service certificate last year.

Befitting also one whose military pedigree ran so deep. Col was a descendant of Edward Barron, who arrived in the Swan River Colony on



His Majesty's Sloop Sulphur in June 1829.

Barron was an Irish-born colour sergeant in the 1st Company of the 63rd Regiment of the British Army. His pregnant wife, Jane, is thought by some to have been the first white woman to have set foot on mainland West Australia, and their son, Edward George Barron, the first boy of Catholic parentage to be born in the colony.

Col Turner was the eldest of four children born to Betty and Joseph "Bronk" Turner, who now live in Pinjarra. The family lived first in Beaconsfield, then Hamilton Hill, where the children attended school.

The Turners had a neighbour who was a lobster fisherman and, after going on a fishing trip, Colin became hooked on the sea. Indeed, he became so enamoured of the job and lifestyle that he left school at 15 to become a full-time fisherman.

He had other jobs, too, before being conscripted into the army in 1971. He spent about 18 months as a national serviceman. By then he was married, to Paula. He left the army and returned to fishing.

Col and Paula had two children; when the marriage was dissolved he returned to the army, in November 1976. He looked at entering the army's water force but was allocated to the Royal Australian Artillery. More

than a job, the army became his life. "He lived for the army, and the artillery was his love," Betty Turner says.

He found love with Jennifer Hofman, an army cook, in Sydney. They married in 1982 and had two children.

Col spent most of his army service in the Eastern States. He progressed through the ranks of the 8/12 Medium Regiment to Gun Detachment Commander before being posted to 108 Field Battery, 4 Field Regiment, as the signals sergeant. He completed storeman's courses, and was posted to the 107 Field Battery, 4 Field Regiment as the battery quartermaster. In 1995, he was promoted to warrant officer and posted back to WA, where he assumed the role of battery quartermaster sergeant (BQMS) for 7 Field Battery, 3rd Field Regiment.

He also had a posting with the WA University Regiment, before returning as BQMS to 7 Field Battery in January 2002.

Last year, Col was asked to give a speech at an army birthday dinner. He decided to include a poem, the *Thunder of the Guns*, written during World War II by a gunner, which became a favourite. "It took him months to memorise it," Jenni Turner recalls. Its final verse goes:

*In the valley of the shadows
When his comrades are as one
Their hearts will surely gladden
For they're the only ones
That understand the music;
That's the thunder of the guns*

Col Turner is survived by wife Jennifer; children Amanda and Ryan from his first marriage, and Verity and Brenten with Jenni; four grandchildren; his parents, Joseph and Betty; his siblings, Michael, Jo Anne Finn and Peta Green.

One citation for his Australia Day Medallion came from Major Scott Sullivan. In part it read: "Your leadership in general has been exemplary. Your commitment and professionalism is a credit to the Army, 7 Field Battery and yourself."

As another mark of affection and respect with which he was held, the trophy room within the barracks of 7 Field Battery at Irwin Barracks is to be renamed the Col Turner Room.

MARK IRVING

VISIT BY DISTINGUISHED AUTHOR

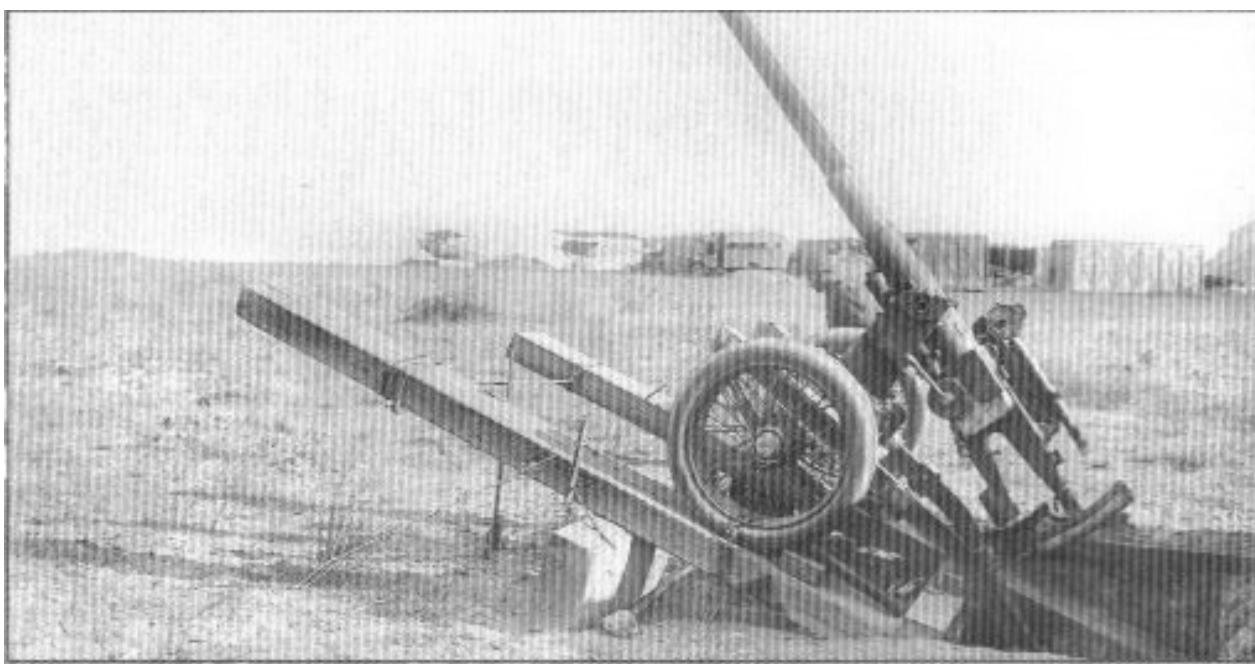
Dr David Coombes, a graduate of Flinders University South Australia now resident in Tasmania, has been commissioned by the Army History Unit to research the career of World War 1 military commander Lieutenant General Sir J. J. Talbot Hobbs. In the course of his research Dr Coombes has visited Western Australia on a number of occasions, the most recent in mid-September.

He spent time at Hobbs Artillery Park and was able to examine papers donated to the Society by the Hobbs family. He was most impressed with the Hobbs display in the Bessell-Browne Room and particularly the marble plaque set into the Wall of Remembrance that came from the General's Peppermint Grove home "The Bungalow". Digital images of the plaque have been sent to Dr Coombes who may include its detail in the concluding chapter of his biography.

Dr Coombes' other military biography published in 2001 is that of Lieutenant General Sir Leslie Morshead, hero of Tobruk and El Alamein.

Don Rae

Artillery from around the world



A home made gun carriage for firing at Turkish aircraft on Gallipoli, AWM G00524

Note from the Editor:

**If any member from any of the Associations or Society would like to contribute any comments, war stories or book reviews, please send them in to the Editor at the address shown in Page 2.
All contributions will be greatly appreciated!**



The real problem was that Allied artillery and naval guns could not knock out Turkish machine-guns and trenches.

Men of the 1st
Divisional Signal
Company about
to land at ANZAC
Cove at 6 am.
AWM A02781

New style of fighting


By Tim Travers

First, how many Australian divisions were involved at Gallipoli? Partly because of the Australian film *Gallipoli* (1981), it is often thought that Australian troops were the primary allied force on the peninsula. In fact, in August 1915 British land forces consisted of ten divisions, while the Australian contingent comprised two Australian divisions, plus half the NZ & A Division (Australia and New Zealand), together with artillery – and two brigades of Light Horse. Thus it is apparent that Britain supplied many more troops to Gallipoli than did the Australian Imperial Force.

Next, it was significant for the allied plan on 25 April that the landing at Z Beach (later called ANZAC), by 1 Australian Division and the ANZAC Division, be successful, because the landing was expected to move inland and disrupt Turkish defenses. The landing took place at an unexpected location, but still progressed inland amid fierce fighting in difficult country. Certain Australian command decisions (Bridges, Hobbs), led to lack of artillery support on 25 April, the navy failed to land troops on schedule, the Turks defended strongly, and a mixed bag of Australian bravery, general confusion, and some commanders' inexperience, led to suggestions of evacuation on the evening of 25 April. This did not

happen, but the Australian experience on 25 April was mixed – courage and confusion, together with some command problems.

For the rest of 1915, stalemate at ANZAC showed Australian trench-fighting qualities to be high (example, the periscope rifle). Then, in August a new break-out plan to capture the heights inland started from the ANZAC area. However, the attack faltered, and this also happened to the 4th Australian Brigade, which lost direction at night, while the commander, Monash, lacked decisiveness. Connected to the August break-out plan was the Australian attack at the Nek. The *Gallipoli* film blamed poor command decisions for the unnecessary loss of men. This was correct, but the real problem was that Allied artillery and naval guns could not knock out Turkish machine-guns and trenches. Hence it was lack of technical ability and poor staff work as much as command decisions that produced the severe casualties.

In conclusion: 1915 was too early in the war for good combined arms use, and for staff/command efficiency. Yet Australians showed that individualism and informal officer – man relations worked well, and this produced a new style of fighting that looked forward to the successes of 1918. 

AUTHOR

Dr Tim Travers, Professor Emeritus, University of Calgary, has written widely on British military history. His publications include *The killing ground: the British Army, the Western Front and the emergence of modern warfare, 1900–1918* (1987); *How the war was won: command and technology in the British Army on the Western Front, 1917–1918* (1992); and *Gallipoli 1915* (2001).

TRACKERS 2005 PERTH TO ALICE SPRINGS

This event, which was planned and hosted by the Military Section of the Veteran Car Club (VCC), was attended, inter alia, by two RAAHS members, Jack McRoberts and Tony Arrigo, together with a regular Wednesday observer of RAAHS practices, Murray Connell. Generally speaking, VCC events are single day activities or, at the most are maybe extended to a wild weekend. This one was always going to be different and not only from the viewpoint of time.

Firstly a little -

Background. The whole idea commenced ten years ago, with a re-enactment of the military supply runs from Alice Springs to Darwin which the Army undertook during World War 2, well before these two cities were linked by rail. It was part of the 1945-95 Australia Remembers year and was in part, funded by the Commonwealth Government. Those who participated in this event thought it too good an opportunity to let pass and agreed to meet again for the same sort of fun, at five year intervals.

Well it got harder (and more expensive!).

The 2000 run saw mostly WW2 era vehicles from all over the country, converge on South Australia and head north to the Alice via the Old Ghan railway line (see

http://www.wilmap.com.au/alice_springs/as_railway.html). The impressions left behind (pun intended) by days of driving over regularly spaced railway sleepers, germinated some fanciful ideas in the brain cells of the planner of the 2005 epic (Bob Dimer had 'volunteered' for this pivotal role).

So it came to pass, that the 2005 Trackers Run planning started early and was based on a gathering of vehicles in Perth prior to departure for Alice Springs via Shark Bay, Monkey Mia, Mt Augustus, Meekatharra, Wiluna, the fearful Gunbarrel Highway to Giles and a variety of other places in between the start point and the Alice. The departure date (6 Aug) was worked back from the need to be in Alice Springs and at the Transport Hall of Fame for their 10th Anniversary celebrations over the period of 24-28 Aug.

No epic of this nature would be complete without reference to a few -

Statistics. The 2005 event saw the mobilisation and assembly in Perth, of 31 military vehicles from all over the country. This figure included 16 from WA. Four more military vehicles were to rendezvous with the convoy later in Wiluna. Add to this green group, another nine civilian support vehicles and the total number of wheels was 194 (excludes spares and trailers). For the mathematically inclined - remember that the three GMCs sit above 10 each!

The route from Perth to the Alice totalled 4108km, of which almost 2500km was dirt, mud and/or the deepest corrugations seen by modern homo sapiens. Those from the eastern states of course, travelled significantly further to join us in Perth for the start. So the convoy averaged around 205 kms per day.



Figure 1 Sign at Wiluna to the Gunbarrel (there weren't many options)

The vehicles crossed the Line of Departure (outside the Forrestfield Pony Club) on 6 Aug and rolled into the Alice on 25 Aug - a total of 20 days on the road. Could this be the longest VCC event to date?

To finish this paragraph, it is appropriate that we acknowledge the amount we paid in fool tax. The best price we paid (and the lowest tax) was in Perth at around \$1.20/litre, while the hardest slug was in Carnegie at \$1.80/litre. With all that tax money, wouldn't you think the roads might have been better?



Figure 2. The Len Beadell theodolite memorial west of Warburton

A good deal of effort was given to the selection and planning of the-

Route. The chief planner (Bob Dimer - for those who might have skimmed the first part of the story) wanted to give both local and visiting participants, a good look at what WA has to offer and routed the convoy 800 km north to the Shark Bay area, then north east to Mt Augustus (1105 metres above sea level), south east to Meekatharra, east to Wiluna, Carnegie, the real Gunbarrel Highway to Warburton and Giles, then onto Docker River, Ayres Rock and Alice Springs.

Bob Dimer had negotiated robustly with the Ngaanyatjarra Land Council to gain permission to travel along the "abandoned" section of the Gunbarrel Highway.



Figure 3 Tony Arrigo's Chev Blitz on the abandoned section of the Gunbarrel

This took the majority of the 4WD vehicles to the north of the main track on a very scenic route to join up with the rest of the convoy at Giles on 21 Aug.

From there it was on, on to Ayres Rock (including a little bit of trouble with a cranky Ranger), Yulara, a visit to the Henbury Meteorite Craters, just off the Stuart Highway and at last, into the Alice.

Then there were the-

People. Mention has already been made of the planner Bob Dimer. His efforts deserve further mention however, as the organisation of the event was a mammoth task which was near enough flawless in its execution and consumed a great deal of time and money. Almost every morning the bugle call Reveille (vaguely recognisable) was sounded by bugle boy Alan Carpenter (not the WA State Minister). While the timing of the call varied, the quality did not.

Quite a number of husbands accompanied their wives on the trip and three families brought children on this trip of a lifetime. On 19 Aug we spent an extra day at Carnegie Station due to unexpected rain (more to follow later), and a South Australian Hugh Davis, staged a Kangaroo Court, to catch up with those who had committed major offences and administer justice. A variety of heinous crimes and offenders were despatched in good Rumpole style.

We were also fortunate to have a pint sized poet on the trip in the form of Lochie Davies, the 8 year old son of Rick and Veronica Davies from Three Springs. Lochy captivated the audience with his repertoire of bush poetry at Carnegie and Henbury Craters. Rick was involved in the planning and positioning of the Coorow 25 pounder, last century.

Now onto the-

Vehicles and Weather. A broad cross section of WW2 and later vehicles took part, with the oldest being Mal Guerin's 1941 Ford Blitz monkey face - the newest was the 1969 Dodge Power Wagon piloted by Steve and Marlene Webb. Types and quantities were:

- Ford and Chev Blitzes (8)
- GMC 6 wheelers (3)
- Dodge Weapons Carrier and Power Wagon
- Toyota 2FQ15 (2)
- International 3 tonner(Acco)
- Austin K9
- Bedford QL
- Lend Lease Chevs
- International M34
- Landrovers, and
- Jeeps

The weather was for the most part cool and ideal for travel. The planned single night stop at Carnegie was involuntarily doubled due to rain, which forced the closure of the road east towards Warburton. The various clay pans we traversed after leaving Carnegie, became much more of a

test of driving skill. While we were in the Alice we heard that a further 75mm had fallen in the same area.

So after 20 days in the wilderness, we came to-
The Alice. Arrived here on 25 Aug and joined an amazing array of vehicles of every size and description, in town to help celebrate the 10th Anniversary of the Transport Hall of Fame. Almost 1000 vehicles representing almost all facets of Australian motoring, took part in the truck parade on 28 Aug.

Then it was-

The Return Home. We left our interstate colleagues to find their own way home and having had our fill of dirt roads, agreed to head south and west via the Stuart and Eyre Highways (our fool tax dollars at work at long last). The WA contingent split into sub groups mainly formed on the basis of speed or lack of it and most were in Perth by the weekend of 3/4 Sep.

Lastly a tale about a-

Vehicle Recovery. While in the Docker River area (close to the NT border), some of the group heard tell about an ex Army International truck (a Mk 5 6x6) and on investigation, found that while it was a bargain at \$300, no one was available to tow it out to Alice Springs some 300 kms away. So despite the pleading of Hugh Davis (mentioned before), for a vehicle to return to tow the Inter, we pushed on to the Alice. Obviously the size of the bargain preyed on Hugh's mind and not to be denied, he returned to Docker River with his Series 2A Landrover (remember this is a relatively small vehicle with a 2.25l motor), to recover the Inter (a big vehicle of twice the tonnage). After lots of negotiations and suggestions that he leave soon, Hugh paid his money and A-framed the Inter behind the Landy, over some of the nastiest corrugations and, with a number of adventures in between, steamed into his destination where the truck was loaded onto something far more appropriate for the journey to Adelaide. Those who know Hugh will not find this story surprising.

And now-
The End



Figure 4 Jim Sewell, the bottom half of Merv Piggott and Herb Farlow, attending to Merv's GMC